



For the Sake of the Trust

The Baker Street Irregulars Trust Newsletter

Spring, 2013

Now We Are Ten

BY MARSHALL S. BERDAN, BSI

The year 2013 marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the BSI Trust. As such, it seems a singularly appropriate time for us to take stock of where we are with some observations about where we plan on going from here.

As appealing as it would be for the BSI Trust to have had a suitably Canonical conception, perhaps in front of a cheery fire on a foggy October night and accompanied by thought-inducing spirits, the fact of the matter is that no one knows exactly when and where the idea of an archive of Irregularity was first proposed. Vincent Starrett had made a passing reference to Edgar Smith in 1947 about the desirability of having a formal repository of tangible BSI history, but nothing had come of it. And nothing would for another 50 years.

In retelling the BSI Trust birth story in 2005, Mike Whelan explained:

“There are favorable conjunctions of circumstances that, if recognized and acted upon, allow an organization to maximize opportunities. So it was a few years back when it was recognized that the establishment of an archive for the Baker Street Irregulars would only become more difficult to assemble the longer we waited. Further, what a triumph to preserve the papers, artifacts, publications and significant correspondence of our literary society for all time.”

Over the phone recently, Mike expanded upon just what that “favorable conjunction of circumstances” consisted of. First was the imminent completion of Jon Lellenberg’s BSI History series, which brought to light the existence and nature of many of the society’s early documents. Then there was the BSI’s renewed focus on scholarly publications and concomitant decision to formally lift the backdrop veil of the Great Game and give Sir Arthur Conan Doyle his proper due.

The most tangible precipitating event, however, was the demise of Tom Stix’s health in the mid 1990s. Stix, who had begun serving as the BSI’s “Wiggins” in 1986, had generated and accumulated a large amount of BSI material and correspondence, both official and otherwise. Moreover, he had also inherited the official files and correspondence of his predecessor, Julian Wolff. Not wanting to be caught unprepared for his inevitable rendezvous at the Reichenbach, Tom had already se-

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The Way We Were: the first issue of the BSI Trust Newsletter announcing the creation of the BSI Trust Archive.

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From Junk Drawer to Research Resource

BY DON CURTIS, BSI

My Sherlockian career began when I joined the not-too-healthy Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis back in 1986. Founded in 1946, the Clients was one of the first scion societies. In the 1960s, however, it weakened and was brought back by the leadership of the late Ted Schulz. After some more healthy years, it faltered once again and was rescued by Mike Whelan, "Wiggins." By the time I joined, the meetings were mostly about comic-book collecting and Dr. Who. No one stepped up for the annual officers' election so they asked unsuspecting me.

After a quarter of a century and with the help of a couple of dozen rock-solid members with an endless stream of great ideas for club activities, we're one of the country's leading Sherlockian groups. Along the way, I would receive a note or letter or Christmas card from a fellow Sherlockian and toss it in a drawer because I couldn't throw away a nice remembrance of a friend. Likewise, I kept copies of toasts, published pamphlets, quizzes, and little gifts and tossed them in the same drawer. When I was invested in the BSI, I kept dinner menus and programs and photos from scion meetings...of course, they went in what was now known not just as a drawer, but "The Drawer." In due time, any memento or souvenir associated with Sherlock Holmes went into The Drawer.

Needless to tell, The Drawer gradually became a jumbled mess. Time to clean it out. But wait! ...each item I tried

to discard elicited a fond memory, be it of a fun event, a special dinner, or (and most treasured) a kind word from a friend. Maybe even from a friend I could no longer write to or call because he had passed beyond the Reichenbach.

In the early 1990s the Clients published a book that sold well. We decided to use the proceeds to memorialize Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with a granite and bronze memorial to be located in a very public place. Since Sir Arthur had arrived at Indianapolis' Union Station on a visit in 1894, we decided on a Centennial Memorial there. In preparing for this big event we corresponded with Dame Jean Conan Doyle seeking her permission and approval. She, in turn, was quite gracious in her encouragement and excitement for the project. Later, of course, that correspondence went into The Drawer.

I never did throw out anything from The Drawer. I did organize most of it chronologically and lovingly placed each precious memento in a sheet protector and assembled everything into four binders. After a few years, I wondered if a few items might be of interest to the BSI Trust Archive at Harvard. Maybe they would at least like the Dame Jean letters...?

I was a bit taken aback by the enthusiasm for the whole collection, so now it is all in the archive where it can be accessed by anyone interested in a Sherlockian life, or the doings of a major scion society. Do you or your home society have an archive or a collection that might benefit others? If so, I hope you will consider sharing it with the world through the BSI Trust.



For the Sake of the Trust

The Trust is a special part of the Baker Street Irregulars, the literary society dedicated to the study of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The Trust is designed to collect, archive, and preserve historical documents for the study of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, the Victorian world, and the individuals and organizations like the BSI that have devoted themselves to such studies. The Trust has a special interest in preserving materials related to the history of the BSI, its members, and friends.

The Trust archive is located in the Houghton Library at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The archival material may be used by any qualified Sherlockian, subject to the normal rules and regulations of the library.

Monetary donations should be sent to:

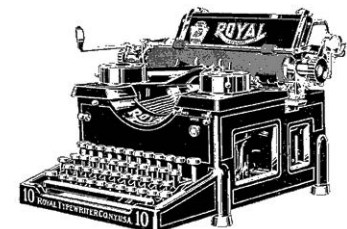
Leslie S. Klinger, BSI
10866 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite # 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90024

If the financial donation is in honor of someone, please indicate the appropriate name.

If you are passing along a contribution from a third party, please include the name and address of the donor so that we can acknowledge the donation with a thank-you letter from the BSI Trust.

Questions regarding **material contributions** to the archives should be directed to:

Thomas J. Francis, BSI
43 Mann Hill Road
Scituate, MA 02066-2110



From the Chair - The Trust at Ten

BY THOMAS J. FRANCIS, BSI

Well, we surely live in exciting times for the world of Sherlock Holmes. Just a year ago we were content to see all the publicity generated by the movies and two television series. This year we have had the web spinning first with conflict and controversy, and now with legal battles.

We are accustomed to being mentioned in the *New York Times*, generally when a member of The Baker Street Irregulars dies or a new movie, play, book or television show appears that requires some sort of "professional" comment. This year, however, the war of words got serious coverage as well as did Les Klinger's pre-emptive suit to remove the shackles that have been hindering artistic expression. These things have run the gamut from titillating to profound. The reader knows which is which.

Where does the Trust stand on all of this? The Trust seeks to capture the history of The Baker Street Irregulars and its members. To the extent that any current or future members are involved in these matters, we hope that the relevant material eventually ends up in the BSI Trust Archive at Harvard University's Houghton Library. As events unfold, however, it is often difficult to judge them in a historical context. We are too close, have biased opinions, often don't possess all the facts and therefore may misinterpret the long-term import or impact of the events and issues. It is only through the lens of history that things are put into their proper perspective. Sometimes it is because it just takes a while for the effect(s) to be noted.

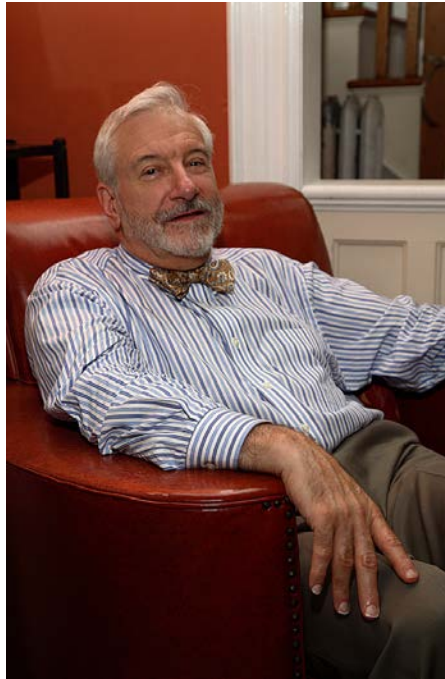
This is true for most things, and not just these current events. Scholars go to the BSI Trust Archive because they are seeking to determine what happened, why it happened, who was involved, how did the event or events alter the future, was there dissent, by whom and why -- questions that beg for answers, and answers that can only be found if the documents are preserved. The BSI Trust Archive exists just for this purpose. Keeping these records in a safe, secure, and accessible environment such as The Houghton Library at Harvard University assures that future generations will be able to go to a solid, reliable source for detailed, comprehensive, and properly preserved documentation.

Mike Berdan assigned me the theme of The Trust at Ten Years, and while it looks like I have not addressed that specifically, I see that the subject is well covered elsewhere in this newsletter. I feel I have not been remiss, as my mission

here is to remind you that the ultimate purpose of The Baker Street Irregular Trust Archive is to capture history.

Ten years is a long time for something that still feels new. But it is a short time vis-à-vis the existence of The Baker Street Irregulars. We constantly worry about what material we may have missed, what lies forgotten in old desks, attics, the bottom of some closet, or that eccentric uncle's files. I have said before, and the opening of this little essay should remind you, that current members' files and correspondence are potentially just as important to save as are those of, say, Edgar Smith. In 10 years we have accumulated much. But we don't know what may still be out there. We need everyone to stay aware and reach out to save as much as possible.

I would like to return to the beginning and add a personal note. Les Klinger is a very hard working member of the Trust. All the articles I have read talk about his work, his writing, and his editing. In addition to all the things they list, you should also know that he is the Secretary AND the Treasurer of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust. He does both of these jobs so well that you would think he is a man of leisure rather than one of the busiest men in North America — if not the world. And I am convinced that what he is doing with this lawsuit is truly important and a valuable service to the universe of Sherlock Holmes.



Tom Francis, BSI

About this Newsletter

You received this copy of *For the Sake of the Trust: The Baker Street Irregulars Trust Newsletter* because you are on the mailing list of *The Baker Street Journal* or are a member of the Baker Street Irregulars. (Please see page 7 of this issue regarding our transition to an electronic format for future issues.) If you are not interested in receiving further issues, or have any comments or suggestions, please contact:



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Or send e-mail to:
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You can access links, current events, and back issues of the newsletter any time at our website:

www.bsitrust.org

Now We Are Ten

—continued from page one

lected Mike Whelan as his successor and his many files of BSI documents had already been sent to Indianapolis, where they had been temporarily and rather unceremoniously stored in Mike's garage.

Knowing that they needed a more appropriate and secure permanent home, Mike enlisted BSI stalwarts Les Klinger and Peter Blau for assistance, and began casting about for suitable repositories. Clearly, only a library would do and a large, readily accessible one was highly preferable. The Lilly Library in Indianapolis, with which Mike already had a relationship, naturally suggested itself, but was eventually discarded for a variety of reasons. Consideration was also given to sending them to the University of Minnesota where John Bennett Shaw's massive personal Sherlockian collection -- the world's largest, in fact, with over 12,000 items -- had gone subsequent to his death in 1994. But the BSI Trust material was deemed to be of a fundamentally different nature and the prevailing thinking was that it would become lost in any general Sherlockian collection.

Enter eminently proper Bostonian Dan Posnansky, who suggested Harvard University's prestigious Houghton Library. Dan had connections with the Houghton, which had received the collection of noted Sherlockian scholar and Harvard alumnus H. W. Bell back in 1948, and had been the home of the manuscript of "The Adventure of the Three Students" since 1925. Under Posnansky's patient but methodical guidance, negotiations with the Houghton began in 2001. It took two years for them to come to fruition, but finally, in August of 2003, a truly symbiotic agreement was reached.

An integral part of that agreement was that the BSI would form a Trust to oversee the collection, submission, and preliminary processing of not only the material already in its possession, but all future acquisitions. This, of course, would save the staff at the Houghton a good deal of work. More importantly, it enabled the BSI to pro-actively filter the inward

flow of material. Duplication would be prevented and the BSI would be able to siphon off valuable non-BSI material that it could sell, the proceeds of which would then be used to purchase BSI material and fund the archival activities of the Trust.

And so the BSI Trust was duly formed. Glen Miranker and Costa Rossakis agreed to serve as co-chairs of a board that also included Dan Posnansky, Andy Fusco, Les Klinger, Steve Rothman, and Peter Blau. Bob Coghill was recruited to serve as archivist and the

world -- or at least the Sherlockian world -- was deemed prepared to receive the joyous news, which, serendipitously coincided with the upcoming celebration of Sherlock Holmes' 150th birthday.

The birth of the BSI Trust was officially announced in the Winter, 2003 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*. Making the announcement was editor -- and trustee -- Steve Rothman, first in his "The Editor's Gas-Lamp" column, and then,

more informatively in "From the Editor's Commonplace Book," where he confidently (and accurately) predicted that "[t]he BSI Archive will grow to be a center for research into the history of the rise of Sherlockiana in the United States."

In his "The Editor's Gas-Lamp" column, Rothman opined that "[i]t will be interesting to see what papers are deposited in the archives and what future use will be made of them" and exhorted readers to do their duty: "[i]t is the chance for the Sherlockians of today to help build the memories of tomorrow."

"Interesting" however woefully under describes the first set of papers that were deposited in the archive: Glen Miranker's jaw-droppingly generous gift of 510 letters and the BSI business books of Edgar Smith (Buttons-cum-Commissionaire, 1940-1960), the majority of which he had acquired from Marv Epstein in 1984 when Marv's eyesight started failing. Marv himself had acquired them from Smith's son, Edgar P. Smith, in the early 1960s as he was disposing of



Profiles in Trustdom: Founding fathers Glen Miranker, Dan Posnansky, and Mike Whelan listening intently at the ACD at 150 symposium.

Photo: Peter X. Accardo

his father's estate. Suffice it to say that without them, the BSI Trust Archive could never have been built on anywhere near as solid ground as it was.

Actually opening the archive would take another two years. Working diligently to make that happen was Houghton Library Coordinator of Programs (and now BSI) Peter X. Accardo. In order to promote its activities, it was determined that the Trust needed its own newsletter, and so was launched this irregular publication, designed by Glen Miranker and under the editorial leadership of Julie McKuras.

The first issue of *For the Sake of the Trust* came out in the fall of 2005, with the lead story – not surprisingly – being the formal opening of the BSI Trust Archive at the Houghton Library. In it, the purpose of the Trust was restated:

“This project will be an ongoing one and one that will ultimately capture the history and heart of one of the most fascinating literary societies in the United States. The richness of the history of our organization will be preserved for our members and can be of real use to future scholars and Sherlockians.”

Since then, numerous other BSI Trust milestones have been reported in the pages of *For the Sake of the Trust*. Among them:

1. The first accession of the Trust – several boxes including over 5,000 photos amassed by Tom and Dorothy Stix – in 2005. As a result of this acquisition, Bill Vande Water was brought onboard as photo archivist.

2. The launch of the Oral History Project in 2005 under Don Terras' expert leadership. (Andy Solberg would take over for Don in 2009 and become a Trustee.)
3. The establishment of the BSI Trust website under the supervision of exceedingly capable webmaster Randall Stock in 2006.
4. The launch of the BSI Questionnaire Project in 2007.
5. Tom Francis' accession to the chairmanship of the BSI Trust in 2008.
6. The first public exhibit of BSI Trust Archive material as part of the *Ever Westward* exhibit in the Houghton Library's Edison and Newman Room (May-August 2009). The exhibit was a component feature of the Harvard University-sponsored symposium “Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Assessment”, May 7-9, 2009, for which the BSI Trust was an integral partner. The proceedings of the symposium were published as *Papers at an Exhibition: Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Assessment*, edited by Peter X. Accardo, John Bergquist, and Dan Posnansky, while the catalogue of the exhibit, written by exhibit curator Peter X. Accardo, was published as *Ever Westward: Arthur Conan Doyle and American Culture*.
7. The launch of the BSI Biography Series utilizing material from the BSI Trust Archive (to be supplemented by other sources) in 2010.
8. The completion of the BSI Archival Cataloguing Project by Houghton staff member Ashley Nary, the end product of which was a searchable finding aide comprised of 718 separate folders (over 20 linear feet of material all told) available to scholars worldwide in 2011.
9. The inauguration of the BSI Trust Archive's on-line document retrieval system in 2012.

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Gifts to the Treasury

The following list of highly-valued donors to The Baker Street Irregulars Trust covers the period from January of 2012 through March of 2013. The BSI Trust is deeply grateful to all Irregulars and friends whose names appear below for their generous and frequently long-standing support.

Anonymous (several)	T. Michelle Fromkin	Don McDonough	Constantine Rossakis
Gordon Adelman	Marcus Geisser	Russell Merritt	Steven Rothman
John Baesch	John Genova	Charles Meyer	Barbara Rusch
John Bergquist	Cliff Goldfarb	Glen Miranker	James Saunders
Peter Blau	Ralph Hall	Robert Moss	Maggie Schpak
Mattias Boström	Evelyn Herzog	Hartley Nathan	Paul Singleton
Mary Ann Bradley	Yuichi Hirayama	Bruce Parker	Andy Solberg
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Joe Coppola	Robert Katz	Marsha Pollak	Robert Stek
David Stuart Davies	Michael Kean	Dan Polvere	Sally Sugarman
Susan Diamond	Francine Kitts	Trevor Raymond	Richard Sveum
Michael Dirda	Lou Lewis	Susan Rice	Michael Whelan
Frank Ferry	C. Paul Martin	Sherry Rose-Bond	Burt Wolder
James Franzel	Bonnie MacBird		

Added to the Archives

The following material donations have been received since the publication of the Fall, 2012 newsletter.

- From John F. Baesch, Order of Service for the Memorial Service of James Edgar Smith II, BSI and a brief report on the memorial service.
- From Richard M. Caplan, a copy of his toast to Holmes delivered at the 1981 BSI Annual Dinner.
- Don Curtis' toast to Mycroft from the 2001 BSI dinner.
- From Don Hobbs, obituary notice for Dr. George John, BSI with a letter from his wife and the original manuscript of "Emily Lucca's Story" by Daniel Griffin, BSI, published in *The Baker Street Journal*, June, 1965.
- From Michael H. Kean, the material from the "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" conference.
- From Leslie S. Klinger, "Report of the Gasogene of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Akron" by Clifton R. Andrew, a detailed account of Andrew's trip to the 1948 annual dinner.
- From Bruce R. Parker, a collection of Sherlockian correspondence, ephemera, books, and photos.
- From Jennie Paton, DVD of the annual BSI & ASH Dinners of 1984 and the raw autobiography manuscript of Ely Liebow, BSI.
- From Otto Penzler, correspondence between Irving Fenton and Edgar Smith, several essays by Fenton, and Fenton's letter to *The New York Times* regarding their review of Baring-Gould's *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*.

And from the 2013 BSI Birthday Weekend, Paul Singleton has collected (or will shortly) the following items:

- The text of Kim Newman's 2013 Distinguished Speaker Lecture, "Manifold Moriarty."
- The script of the scenes from Greg Oliver Bodine's "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" that were presented at the William Gillette Luncheon.
- The text of Tyke and Teddie Niver's musical production presented at the William Gillette Luncheon.
- Sue Vizoskie's toast to The Woman.
- Elaine Coppola's reply from The Woman.
- John Linsenmeyer's exegesis on the BSI Constitution and Buy-Laws.
- Dan Polvere's toast to Mrs. Hudson.
- Maggie Schpak's toast to Mycroft.
- Don Hobbs' toast to the Second Mrs. Watson.
- Peggy Perdue's toast to Sherlock Holmes.
- Julie McKuras' toast to an Old Irregular (E. W. McDiarmid).
- Steve Rothman's presentation on Christopher Morley.
- Greg Darak's presentation on Edgar Smith.
- Peter Blau's presentation on Julian Wolff.
- Susan Rice and Evelyn Herzog's presentation on Tom Stix.
- Russell Merritt's presentation on Sherlock Holmes and the Great Silent Film Mutiny.
- The text of Francine Kitts' annual rendition of "Standing on the Terrace."

- The text of Betsy and Al Rosenblatt's annual rendition of "The Year in Sherlockian Verse."

In addition, Paul has collected the original copies of the following papers from "Saratoga Studies: Unraveling Threads from "Silver Blaze" and "the Greek Interpreter", The Baker Street Irregulars, 2012, issued as part of the running of the Silver Blaze horse race in Saratoga Springs, New York, on August 4, 2012.

- Candace J. Lewis and Roger Donway's introduction.
- Candace J. Lewis' paper, "Art in the Blood is Liable to Take the Strangest Forms: The Vernet Connection."
- Roger Donway's paper, "The Hunt for Grandmother Vernet."
- Sue Vizoskie's paper, "On the Beeton Path."
- Ben Vizoskie's paper, "The Calculation is a Simple One, Using Guzzintas and S'poses."
- Al Rosenblatt's paper on "The Greek Interpreter." (Previously delivered at a meeting of the Hudson Valley Scionists.)



About Donations to the Trust

The Trust seeks primary materials about the history of the BSI and the Irregulars. These may consist of correspondence, photographic and audio materials, manuscripts of historical documents, biographical material, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles. It can also accept valuable Sherlockian books that can be sold to raise funds for the Trust.

The Trust does not intend to create a collection that duplicates the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the University of Minnesota or the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Metropolitan Reference Library, and so does not actively seek editions of the Canon or scholarly works unless the material has a direct bearing on the history of the BSI or the Irregulars.

The Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions are tax-deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Service Code.



To deduct a non-cash donation of \$5,000 or more, the owner must arrange and pay for a qualified appraisal. Contributions of \$250 or more will be publicly acknowledged; for non-cash items, however, tax regulations prohibit the Trust from acknowledging the dollar value of the donation in this newsletter or *The Baker Street Journal*.

The initial step in making a donation is to contact one of the trustees. You can find contact information on the Baker Street Irregulars Trust website: www.bsitrust.org.

The BSI Trust Newsletter Goes Electronic

For all its flaws, the BSI Trust Newsletter is still a most valuable institution. In addition to keeping readers informed of innovations and activities at the BSI Trust, it is an established fact that the mere receipt of it jogs memories, the inevitable result of which is that additional material is soon on its way to the BSI Trust Archive.

Unfortunately, the cost of printing and mailing some 800 copies of the newsletter twice a year has become an unjustifiably large expense for the Trust's somewhat modest coffers. We would much rather put that money into things like accelerating the cataloging process, new acquisitions, and providing on-line image viewing.

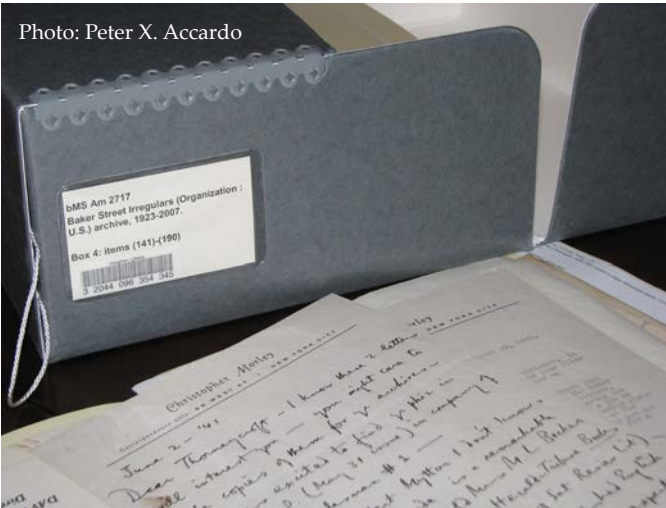


Photo: Peter X. Accardo

Extended Shelf Life: The BSI correspondence of Chris Morley, part of Glen Miranker's original bequest to the BSI Trust Archive.

So the trustees have decided to have the newsletter go electronic as much as possible. The first step in that transition is to send this issue out both ways – the traditional printed copy to everyone and an e-mail copy to those of you for whom we have what we think is a valid e-mail address on a “for approval” basis. Please note that one of the advantages of the electronic version is that some of the photos will be in color.

We do not, however, wish to compel anyone to receive future copies via e-mail. So for those of you who received both versions this time and would like to continue receiving the printed version, please send us an E-mail to that effect at BSITrust@gmail.com. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you are content receiving only the electronic version, and all future issues of *For the Sake of the Trust* will be sent to you that way. (NB. If you are content receiving the newsletter electronically, but wish it sent to a different e-mail address, please let us know that address.)

If you did not also receive an electronic version of this issue of the BSI Trust newsletter, the logical deduction is that we do not have a current e-mail address for you on file. If you would be willing to switch to electronic versions from here on out, please send us that address, again at BSITrust@gmail.com.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.
The Trustees



The Cardinal Points

BY MARSHALL S. BERDAN, BSI



Marshall S. Berdan, BSI

As you may have observed, this issue of *For the Sake of the Trust* celebrates and commemorates the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. It is altogether appropriate that we should do so, but not just to pat ourselves on the back for all that the Trust, singularly and collectively, has accomplished in its inaugural decade, impressive and prodigious as that has been. It is equally important that we remind our members – and especially our newer members – of how we came to be and what exactly our mission continues to be. To be sure, the groundwork has been laid – and well laid – by the Trust's founding fathers, most of whom continue to serve the cause – the preservation of our history – that they fervently believe in. But for the Trust to fully live up to the great expectations its founding was greeted with in the summer of 2003, it will be up to the rest of us to enlist in the cause and get in step behind them. And so it is onwards BSI, by ten and by ten.

To be sure, it has been a busy and productive ten years. And it will be this newsletter’s honor and pleasure to record the next decade’s set of milestones.

So just where is it exactly that the BSI Trust plans to go from here? The short answer to that is further down the same roads – and a couple of additional ones as well.

First and foremost, the BSI Trust will continue to gather and process materials related to our illustrious history. Since the completion of the original archival catalogue in July of 2011, a second separate, but roughly equal, amount of material has been received. Much of this second harvest has already been pre-catalogued by Bob Coghill and is now at the Houghton Library awaiting a second major cataloguing effort there. That project, which is scheduled to begin later this year, will be funded from recent financial donations to the Trust.



Richard Olken addresses the audience at the ACD at 150 symposium.

Photo: Ben Vizoskie.

In the meantime, additional material continues to arrive at Bob’s doorstep. Because of his full-time job, Bob is not able to get to it quite as fast as he would like. But not to worry – or postpone any pending donations. Get to it all he most certainly will. Progress also continues apace on the Oral History Project, now under the capable leadership of Trustee Andy Solberg, as does cooperation with our sister Sherlockian libraries.

At the vanguard of the new avenues of pursuit category will be the selection and recruitment of a “solicitor general,” an individual blessed with the twin gifts of persuasion and persistence whose mission it will be to pro-actively identify and systematically pursue significant gaps in BSI history. Not surprisingly, the first priority of the Trust was to gather as much relevant material as it could. It was, after all, getting off to a late start. But now that some 40 linear feet of material have been collected, the Trust has a

much better idea of both what it still needs and what still might be out there somewhere. Leads will be solicited and clues actively followed up on. Eventually, we would like to have all living Irregulars represented in the archive and as many deceased members as possible.

And who knows what new and currently unforeseeable opportunities may present themselves? One of the Trust’s objectives has always been to be ready for them, and thanks to the ongoing generosity of our members and friends, we think that we are.

But wherever the road leads us, the BSI Trust is committed to moving forward with as much energy and alacrity as it can collectively muster. A significant

part of that energy will be spent continuing to foment awareness of the Trust and its acquisitional objectives among Irregulars, many of whom remain only minimally aware of our existence and purpose. The BSI Trust may have gotten off to a late start, but it has gotten off to a good one. Before too many more years pass, it is hoped that consciousness of the Trust will completely permeate the organization and become an integral part of the rich 80-year culture.

the BSI’s proud and

BSI Trust Officers

- Peter E. Blau
- Bob Coghill, *Archivist*
- Thomas Francis, *Chair*
- Leslie S. Klinger, *Secretary-Treasurer*
- Daniel Posnansky
- Constantine Rossakis
- Steven Rothman
- Andrew Solberg
- Bill Vande Water, *Archivist*
- Michael F. Whelan, *Wiggins*