



For the Sake of the Trust

The Baker Street Irregulars Trust Newsletter

Spring, 2014

ISSUE No. 13

BSI Archive Digitization Initiative Displays First Results

BY PETER X. ACCARDO, BSI

"I remember that it was full of papers," Miss Helen Stoner to Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," referring to her stepfather's iron safe.

To better fulfill its mission to support research and instruction and to advance scholarship at Harvard and beyond, the Houghton Library, along with the other libraries within the Harvard Library system, are committed to digitizing more of their collections and making them available online. In accordance with that commitment, last fall the BSI Trust and members of the Houghton Library staff took the first steps toward establishing a virtual BSI Archive, one that takes advantage of new digital technologies to allow greater accessibility to the contents of the archive to Sherlockian researchers and enthusiasts.

With generous support from an anonymous donor, the BSI Trust authorized a pilot project to digitize specific folders in the BSI Archive; namely, the correspondence from Christopher Morley to Edgar W. Smith (MS Am 2717 (148)); the correspondence from Smith to Morley (MS Am 2717 (211)); Annual BSI dinner menus to 1960 (MS Am 2717 (389-407)); BSI meeting minutes, 1940-1960 (MS Am 2717 (306)); and BSI memorandums, 1940-1961 (MS Am 2717 (307)). Totalling over 600 pages, these seminal BSI materials are now available online to Sherlockians worldwide, from Tunbridge Wells to Tim-

buctoo. To identify which folders have been digitized, just look for the phrase "Click for color digital images" in purple next to them in the finding aid.

"The library makes collections such as the BSI Archive available in the reading room and online whenever possible," said Mary Haegert of the library's public services staff. "Digital images created from material in the public domain can be accessed in catalog records or finding aids and made available to a wider public than ever before, free of charge."

Harvard Library's decision to digitize was a logical consequence of the growing expectation of library users to access materials online via laptops, tablets, or smart phones. It also goes back many years. In 1999 the Harvard University Library created the Digital Repository Service (DRS) that provides a stable and secure platform for library-generated digital content which

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Kevin Barton, Imaging Technician at the Harvard Library, scanning a document from the BSI Trust Archive.

Photo: Peter X. Accardo, BSI

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Personal Responsibility

BY DONALD IZBAN, BSI

When I first heard about the BSI Archive at the time it was established, I quickly concluded that the archive was for the preservation of BSI treasures for both present and future generations - and not just for Sherlockians, but for historians of all interests. This is important because it verifies the thoughts and deeds of prominent (and not so prominent, but literary) people about the BSI and the Sherlockian world. In general, we study all kinds of history, which helps us know an age and, to a certain extent, forecast the future. In particular, it is important to know what prominent Sherlockian personages such as Vincent Starrett, Christopher Morley, Elmer Davis, John Bennett Shaw, Tom Stix (Senior and Junior), *et al.* thought. But it is also important to know what present day BSI think. We have such an accomplished group, and one never knows what will be important to historians.

The BSI Archive at Harvard is important and long overdue, and it is absolutely imperative that all Sherlockians understand just how important it is. Its ultimate success, however, depends on every BSI taking personal responsibility, not only for their own papers, but to assist in obtaining the papers of their BSI colleagues who pass beyond the Reichenbach. We need to network with the friends, family, book dealers, and others with whom they had relationships, impressing on them the significance of the BSI Archive and the importance of seeing that all relevant archival material from the deceased's estate ends up safely deposited in the Archive.

My experience is that most of us who possess archive-worthy material don't want to go through it to determine what we should give to Harvard while we are still alive. As a result, we inadvertently end up relying upon our family members who "inherit" such material to do that for us. The consequences are not always happy, because rarely does the BSI's family have any idea how valuable the material can be.

About five years ago, when a prominent BSI with whom I was friends passed beyond the Reichenbach, I realized that his family would just throw out his collection of papers, no doubt thinking that the papers had no monetary value anyway and that going through them was just too much of a burden. I knew, however, that those papers had enormous historical value to the BSI Archive at Harvard. I also knew that the deceased had a substantial book collection, so I contacted the local book dealer who would be acquiring that collection. I asked him to ask the family if he could also have the papers, something that the family readily agreed to since it saved them from having to deal with them. I have no doubt that had he not, all those valuable papers would have been discarded and lost forever.

A similar situation arose a couple of years later. Again, I was friends with both the deceased and his wife. Again, I knew that a local bookseller would be helping the family dispose of the collection. I spoke to the widow about his papers, as did the bookseller. In this case, the widow was happy to send the papers and correspondence directly to Harvard. Again, valuable material was saved that otherwise would have been lost forever.

In performing these services, I learned two valuable things that I would like to share. First, it may be necessary for the Trust to contact the heirs to authenticate that the BSI Archive wants the papers and that the intermediary is indeed acting on behalf of the BSI Trust. Second, unless the contributor requests otherwise, I have found it advisable to pick up the material (or, if working with a book dealer, have him or her pick it up) as soon as possible. This avoids the contributor's procrastination in getting the material to the Trust. And be sure that the contributor gets a sincere thank you. In conclusion, let me summarize the key points.

1. Unless you are willing to go through your papers while you are still alive, either tell your family that you want your Sherlockian papers to go to the BSI Trust or put it in your will. Give your family the Trust's contact information.
2. Save your correspondence. You never know who will be a future Wiggins. Also, it is so important to be able to provide a full picture of the breadth of the BSI membership over the years. Far too much correspondence has been lost.
3. Support the Trust both materially and financially. The Trust is doing amazing things making the history of the BSI come alive by preserving our papers, correspondence, photos, and memorabilia for future generations.

Chair's Note: Don Izban has been a consistent and generous supporter of the BSI Trust since its inception. In addition to making generous annual financial contributions, Don has also made several material contributions, most notably his efforts in rescuing historic correspondence and papers from oblivion upon the death of prominent BSI. For his long-standing generosity and activism, the Trust was pleased to award Don its Benefactor Award at the 2014 BSI Dinner. This is Don's second appeal to appear in the pages of *For the Sake of the Trust*, the first having been in the Fall, 2008 issue.



BSI Archive Digitization *continued from page one*

ensures patron access well into the future and within an ever-changing technological environment.

Digitization also serves an important conservation need by minimizing the frequency that fragile materials, especially photographs and manuscripts on wood pulp papers, are handled by library staff and examined by readers. This is particularly pertinent to “high spot” items that receive regular use and show obvious signs of physical degradation. With digitization, the life of these irreplaceable originals is prolonged significantly.

Digital content is generated both by patrons and by library-funded digital initiatives. Once images are deposited in the DRS, the library’s Page Delivery Service (PDS) makes them available to users on web browsers. The PDS also provides the online capabilities to see thumbnail images of each item, to view “next” and

“previous” images within that sequence, and to “zoom” and “pan” a specific image, thus revealing details that are otherwise hard to discern without magnification. If a patron wishes to obtain a publishable quality scan from the DRS, the cost is modest: just \$20 for up to 10 images. The Houghton’s Department of Public Services will handle requests. For more information, visit their website: hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/reproductions.cfm.

The current selection represents only the first phase of the BSI Archive Digitization Initiative. Over time, the BSI Trust will select additional papers and materials from the archive for digitization. Eventually, everything in the archive that can be feasibly digitized will be, thus allowing virtual access to our collected treasures with just a few keystrokes. Unlike Dr. Roylott’s iron safe, however, the BSI Archive itself will remain full of valuable papers, all still ready to be explored in person.



Gifts to the Treasury

The following list of highly-valued donors to The Baker Street Irregulars Trust covers the period from April of 2013 through March of 2014. The BSI Trust is deeply grateful to all Irregulars and friends whose names appear below for their generous and frequently long-standing support.

Anonymous (<i>several</i>)	John Genova	Marsha Pollak
Curtis Armstrong	Clifford Goldfarb	James Ravin
John Baesch	Ralph Hall	Susan Rice
Peter Blau	Evelyn Herzog	Sherry Rose-Bond
Vincent Brosnan (<i>deceased</i>)	Harrison & Linda Hunt	Constantine Rossakis
Jan Burke	Robert Katz	Steven Rothman
Carol Cavalluzzi	Michael Kean	James Saunders
Catherine Cooke	Francine Kitts	Maggie Schpak
Joseph Coppola	Leslie Klinger (<i>in memory of Jerry Wachs</i>)	Joel Schwartz
Susan Diamond	Lou Lewis	Mark Schwartz
Michael Dirda	Donald McDonough	Paul Singleton
William Dorn	Kenneth McQuage	Andrew Solberg
Steven Doyle	Russell Merritt	Gordon Speck
Frank Ferry	Robert Moss	Robert Stek
Thomas Francis	Hartley Nathan	Richard Sveum
Mickey Fromkin	Richard Olken	Ben Vizoskie
Andrew Fusco	Jennie Paton	Burt Wolder

From the Chair

BY ANDREW SOLBERG, BSI

“What is your plan, then?” asked Holmes, as he walked down the dark tree-lined road.”

Like Holmes, I, too, operate my own consulting practice. By the time “The Musgrave Ritual,” the case we at the Trust are particularly fond of quoting, occurred in 1879, Sherlock Holmes had moved into Montague Street, established a consulting practice, and was waiting for the occasional client to come to him. Consequently, by the time Holmes retired in 1903, he had been in active practice for approximately 25 years. Since 1985, I have owned my own strategic planning consultant practice for hospitals and other health care providers. This has been a good match for me because I have always thought strategically.

My Master’s Degree from the Hopkins School of Public Health is in Planning and Administration. I then taught the Health Care Planning course there for eight years. I am a planner. That is how my mind is wired.

So it is not surprising that one of the first things I did when I accepted the Chairmanship of the BSI Trust last year was to embark on a small strategic planning exercise involving all of the Board members

to help guide the Trust over the next few years. Having run planning activities many times before, I knew that the important issues would bubble up to the top, and the Board identified areas that needed improvement as well as some new directions in which we should go. By the time of the January Board of Trustees meeting, the Board had already formally adopted a number of the initiatives that we had come up with, all of which build on the strong foundation that has been established under Tom Francis’s leadership.

For example, one of the new initiatives is to expand the Oral History Project so as to capture the recollections of BSI in Britain and on the Continent. Marsha Pollak, the leader of the Oral History Project, has already made arrangements to begin doing so. Speaking of Marsha, I am pleased to announce that she has accepted a position as a Board member. Another initiative is to expand the Trust’s educational activities. Bob Katz has graciously agreed to assume responsibility for this, and for that, he was also offered – and accepted – a position on the Board. One strategy that we are considering in this capacity is holding a Trust dinner in a different city each year, co-sponsored by local BSI scion societies, and at which an annual BSI Trust Lecture would be given. Bob is

a great choice for this because he also recently accepted an appointment to serve as the BSI Functions Coordinator.

I want to welcome both Marsha and Bob to the Board. Except for me, who joined the Board back in 2012, the other Board members (Peter Blau, Bob Coghil, Tom Francis, Les Klinger, Dan Posnansky, Costa Rossakis, Steve Rothman, Bill Vande Water, and Mike Whelan) have all served pretty much since the inception of the Trust, during which time they have expended endless energy, time, and generosity on behalf of the Trust. I am constantly amazed at the work that they have accomplished.

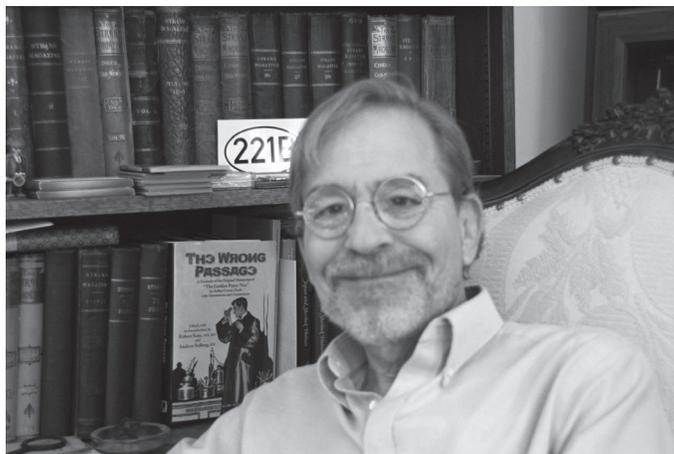
Those were not the only two initiatives. At the January Board meeting, Peter Accardo reported that the Houghton Library had received 80 requests to access the Archive in 2013. The Board believes that an important initiative is to work more closely with the Houghton to catalog and digitize more of our holdings, codify the Houghton guidelines, and see if we can find out more about how the material is being used by researchers.

Another initiative is one that all archives are trying to address, namely, determining how to get people to contribute e-mail correspondence. We do not want our collection of correspondence to be reduced to a trickle as people continue substituting e-mail

for written letters. The Trust views this as very important, and we have been speaking with the Houghton and other libraries about how they address this. If any of you readers have any good ideas on this, please contact me.

All of these initiatives require resources. Over the past 10 years, the Trust has been the beneficiary of some remarkably generous financial supporters. I can’t adequately express how impressed and grateful I am to these people. Despite their ongoing generosity, however, the Trust has only been able to maintain a modest steady state of funds. In order to feel free to take bold steps in expanding the Trust’s activities, we need to know that we have the money to support them. Consequently, the Board has discussed having a fundraising campaign, and we are looking for someone with the expertise to lead it. Again, if any of you have any ideas, please contact me.

The Trust has also benefited from the volunteer efforts of many others. Mike Berdan is the editor of this newsletter and spends many, many hours on it. John Bergquist and Kate Karlson proofread the newsletter. Mary Ann Bradley prepares the tax letters each year and does countless other activities for the Trust. Joe Coppola records the BSI Din-



Andrew Solberg, BSI

ners each year. Peter Crupe does data aggregation. Bob Hess has sold books for the Trust in the Hucksters Room. Michael Pollak and Laurie Manifold staff the BSI Trust book sales table in the Hucksters Room. Paul Singleton collects the written copies of toasts and the manuscripts of presentations given during the course of the annual BSI Weekend. Ben Vizoskie takes photos at the BSI Dinner for the Archive. This list would not be complete without mentioning the late Vinnie Brosnan, who sold books for the Trust and supported us in so many ways. He will be sorely missed. To all of you, the other Board members and I want to say how grateful we are for all of the time and effort you put into preserving our collective Irregular memories for future generations.

“Those two pictures will help you, gentlemen, to understand the story.”

As Peter Accardo explains in his lead article, we are committed to making the BSI Archive as accessible as possible. To see for yourself how we are doing, go to the Trust’s website <http://www.bsitrust.org/>. You will see a tab entitled “The Archive.” Click on it. At the very end of the first paragraph, you will see “Finding Aid for the Baker Street Irregulars Archive (MS Am 2717).” Click on that. It will bring you to the Houghton Library’s list of the BSI Archive collection.

Scroll down to item number 148 (“Morley, Christopher, 1890-1957. Letters to Edgar Wadsworth Smith, 1939-1955.” 2 folders. Click for color digital images.”) Yeah, that’s right! Click for the color digital images. You will see 141 letters from Morley to Smith. Back on the finding aid, keep scrolling down through the list of folders and you will see the other two dozen folders that have been scanned, the net result of which is that you now have visual access to over 600 separate archival items on your computer.

I wish that I could claim responsibility for this, but the decision to obtain Harvard’s agreement and to pay them to do these scans was made under Tom Francis’s leadership. As I wrote in the Fall, 2013 issue of this newsletter, I have been a big supporter of digitizing our collection. But Tom made the decision and led the project, along with the ever-creative and generous Dan Posnansky.

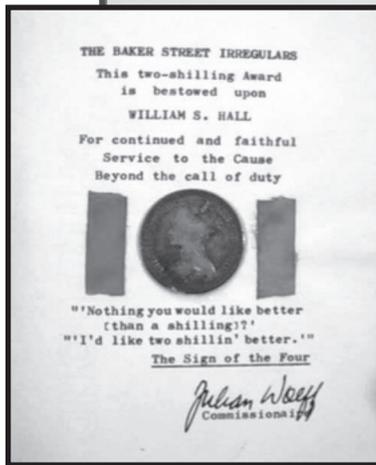
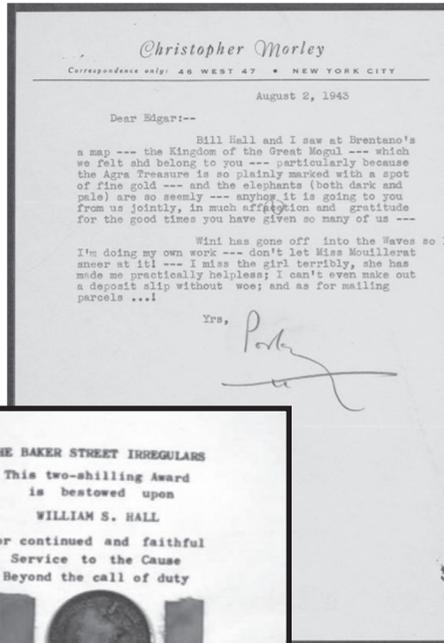
The Trust’s goal is to digitize as much of the collection as is feasibly possible and make it accessible via the web. This applies to letters and documents, Oral History interviews, photos, and other items. Making our collection so accessible, however, has its own implications. For example, our agreement with Harvard rightly states:

The Library’s responsibility for the proper use of archival materials and other manuscripts extends to their publication. Therefore, permission to consult manuscripts (or to obtain a photographic or other facsimile of it) does not imply the right to publish any part of it. For this, permission in writing must be secured from the Custodian of the University Archives or the librarian of the library in which the manuscripts are housed, who will wish to know the nature and purpose of the proposed publication and the exact text to be used, and who will outline to the user the rules of copyright that may apply.

In other words, the Houghton does not want to give up all rights of control over the BSI collection or its use. Nor should it. This is one reason why the Houghton is such a great partner for the BSI. It takes its stewardship role seriously. In addition to the BSI Archive, the Houghton Library holds collections on papyri, medieval manuscripts, John James Audubon, Emily Dickinson, William James, Abraham Lincoln, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and others. The rules for our collection apply to these other collections as well. In addition, the Houghton scrupulously applies copyright rules (and so should you.) So feel free to use these digital holdings for research, education, or your personal enjoyment. However, if you want to publish any of the images or re-broadcast any of the audio content, you must first attain the Houghton’s permission.

If you are still looking at folder number 148, sequence item 20 is a letter in which Morley mentions the old great Sherlockian and BSI, Bill Hall.

This provides a delightful segue into the next piece of good news. The fact that an auction lot was coming up for sale that included BSI-related memorabilia from Bill Hall was brought to the Trust’s attention by Trustee Peter Blau. Among other things, the lot included Bill’s BSI Stock Certificate, his two-shilling award, letters, the Scribner catalog of Vincent Starrett’s collection, and seventeen old BSI Dinner photos, several of which the Trust did not yet own. The Board decided to try to acquire this auction lot with one of the Board members (who prefers to remain anonymous) offering to fund the acquisition. We bid and we won. Thank you to all who helped the Trust acquire this material.



Letter from Christopher Morley to Edgar Smith mentioning Bill Hall and Bill’s two-shilling award, both recent BSI Trust Archive acquisitions.

Added to the Archives

The following material donations have been received since the publication of the Fall, 2013 newsletter.

- From John Stevens Berry, program of the Golden Anniversary of the Maiwand Jezails and a booklet about Richard Lesh and the Maiwand Jezails in the 1960s.
- From the late Vincent Brosnan, Ted Shulz correspondence (1959-1996), photos from Pebble Beach, negatives from Notre Dame, and various newspaper clippings.
- From Clifford Goldfarb, four letters, including one from Cliff Goldfarb to Jacques Barzun (1997), Barzun's reply (undated), Cliff Goldfarb's response (1997), and a letter from Goldfarb to Mike Whelan donating the letters to the Trust (2006).
- From the collection of William Hall, more than 60 items including his two-shilling award in a red cardboard cover, his BSI Stock certificate, 17 BSI Dinner photos, the catalogue for the 1951 Abbey House Exhibition on Sherlock Holmes, numerous letters, and artifacts from The Sons of the Copper Beeches.
- From Jeffrey R. Kaplan, MD, Lord Donegall's Operation Reichenbach Christmas Card with Julian Wolff's name and address on the inside page, signed "The Compliments of the Season Eleanor & Julian Wolff."
- From Francine Kitts, three letters from Kate Karlson (1979), Andrew Peck (1983) and Bob Hahn (1980) to Francine Kitts.
- From Charles Press, cut out letter printed in the January 31, 1987 *New York Times* written by Bill Rabe regarding Holmes's Birthday and the origins of the BSI.
- From James Saunders, invitation from Julian Wolff to the 1983 BSI Dinner.
- From Patricia M. Smith, her late husband Jim's correspondence (1990-2010), Six Napoleons memorabilia, and various presentations.
- From Joel Wachs, thirteen boxes of his father, Jerry Wachs's books, memorabilia, papers, and collectables.
- From Peter Crupe, Peter's toast to Debra Ann Hall on her selection as "The Woman" at the 2005 BSI Dinner.

From the 2014 BSI Birthday Weekend, Paul Singleton has collected (or will shortly) the following items:

- The text of James O'Brien's 2014 Distinguished Speaker Lecture, "Reassessing Holmes the Scientist."
- The script of Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, and Paul Singleton's comedy sketch "Our Old Holmes," presented at the William Gillette Luncheon.
- John Linsenmeyer's toast to The Woman.
- Marilyn Nathan's reply from The Woman.
- The text of Andy Solberg's presentation of the BSI Trust's Benefactor Medal to Don Izban.
- Mike Whelan's podium notes.
- Mike Berdan's toast to Mrs. Hudson.
- Teddie Niver's toast to Mycroft.
- Glen Miranker's toast to the Second Mrs. Watson.
- Mark Levy's toast to Sherlock Holmes.
- Sonia Fetherston's toast to an Old Irregular (Bliss Austin).
- The text of Jan Burke's presentation "The Scientific Wiggins."

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 Collections 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.



- Lou Lewis, Andy Fusco, John Linsenmeyer, Andrew Peck, Les Klinger, and Betsy Rosenblatt's proposed amendments, rebuttals, and summations (one each), presented during the course of the "An Irregular Convention" comedy sketch.
- The play list and lyrics of Henry Boote's musical tribute to Bliss Austin.
- The text of Francine Kitts' annual rendition of "Stand with me here upon the terrace."
- The script of Jerome Coopersmith's radio play "Pipe Dream," presented at the BSI Cocktail Party.
- The text of Betsy and Al Rosenblatt's annual rendition of "The Year in Sherlockian Verse," presented at the BSI Cocktail Party.



Bob Katz, BSI

Pollak and Katz Join the Board of Trustees

Following the January meeting of the BSI Trust Board of Trustees in New York, Marsha Pollak and Bob Katz both agreed to become new members of the board. Marsha, who took over as head of the Oral History Project last fall, will continue in that capacity. Bob will assume responsibility for the Trust’s new educational program initiative, which is to feature a dinner lecture in a different city each year.

Izban Receives Benefactor Medal

In appreciation for his long-standing generosity and activism on behalf of the BSI Trust, Andy Solberg presented Don Izban with the BSI Trust’s Benefactor Medal at the BSI Dinner on January 17. (Please see Don’s article, “Personal Responsibility” and the Chair’s note on page two)

Upcoming BSI Trust-sponsored Conference in Boston

Mark your calendars now for the 2015 BSI Trust conference to be held on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 5-7. The theme of the conference, which will be similar in design and execution to the “Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Assessment” conference held there in May of 2009, will be “Bibliophilic Aspects of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle.” More information will be posted here – as well as in other Sherlockian publications – as it becomes available.

For the Sake of the Trust Still Going Electronic

Since the initial notification in the Spring, 2013 issue of this newsletter, more than 60 subscribers have agreed to receive their copy of *For the Sake of the Trust* electronically, thus saving the Trust valuable financial resources. All other subscribers will continue to receive the traditional hard copy. Should any of you wish to convert to the electronic format (and thus save us even more financial resources), you can still send us an e-mail to that effect along with the e-mail address to which you would like all future copies of *For the Sake of the Trust* sent. Our address is Trust221b@gmail.com. This offer remains open indefinitely.

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 the repository of the Irregulars’ collective memory, and its purpose is to collect, archive, and preserve historical documents, correspondence, papers, photos, recordings, and memorabilia relating to the BSI and 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. The BSI Trust welcomes all monetary gifts as well as material contributions to the archive.

Monetary donations should be sent to:

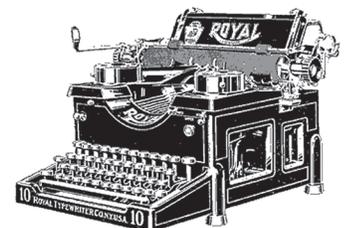
Leslie S. Klinger, BSI
10866 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite # 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90024

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 archive should be directed to:

Andrew Solberg, BSI
5612 Thicket Lane
Columbia, MD 21044



The Cardinal Points

BY MARSHALL S. BERDAN, BSI



Marshall S. Berdan, BSI

As the old real estate adage has it, it's all about location, location, location. And at the time of the BSI Trust Archive's founding, it was the consensus that the Houghton Library, located on the campus of Harvard University, one of the nation's pre-eminent educational institutions, itself located just across the river from Boston, Massachusetts, one of the

country's most popular and beloved cities, was a very good location indeed. But even the self-defined "Hub of the Universe" isn't all that convenient to everybody, so the Trust set about making its archive more accessible to everyone.

The first step in that process was the BSI Archive cataloguing project, the tangible result of which was the development of a finding aid so that researchers could arrive in Cambridge already knowing what they were looking for and not having to just wait and find out what all was available.

Next up was a document retrieval system by which copies of items from the archive could be ordered and sent directly to your home or office. As a result, it was no longer absolutely necessary for researchers or other interested parties to actually come to Boston.

As welcome a development as that was, there was still the inconvenience of having to wait to receive your order in the mail and the expense of having to pay for its reproduction. But now, even those "problems" are on their way to being solved via the wonder of digitization. If all continues as planned, eventually almost the entire BSI Archive will be accessible practically instantaneously on your PC screen. But we do hope that you will still "please come to Boston" whenever it is convenient. The Houghton Library continues to be a most impressive institution physically, and there is still nothing quite like seeing and holding the BSI's original artifacts for yourself. And if memory serves me well, I do recall that there are one or two points of non-Sherlockian interest to be encountered in the general area. Trust me, your time will not be misspent.

From the Chair *continued from page five*

As a result of the acquisition of these "new" BSI Dinner photos, we have decided that one goal will be to have as complete a set of these photos as possible accessible on the Houghton website within the year. We still need original BSI Dinner photos from the following years: 1940, 1946, 1949, 1951, 1957, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1998. If you have any of these

pictures and are willing to donate them to the Trust so that they may be part of our historical collection and be shared with the Sherlockian world, researchers, and educators, please contact me at solberg@bsitrust.org.

The Trust is doing remarkable things. Please be part of them.

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 seven 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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