



## From the Chair

By Thomas A. Horrocks, BSI

On October 2, 2021, the BSI Trust inaugurated its first annual lecture with a virtual presentation on “The Adventure of the Mutable Detective” by Roberta Pearson, professor of film and television studies in the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham.



Almost 350 actors have played Sherlock Holmes on the screen since the silent film era. Each actor brings his (and sometimes her) unique interpretation to the role. But as Dr. Pearson pointed out in her fine lecture, it’s not only the actors that account for the differences in the representation of the Master over the decades of his screen existence. She discussed the multiple factors such as genre and production

circumstances that have resulted in the Mutable Detective. I want to express my thanks to her for inaugurating our annual lecture series, the purpose of which is to promote and support the activities of the BSI Trust. For those of you who missed the lecture, it will soon be available for viewing on the BSI Trust website.

The BSI Trust Lecture program included remarks by Erika Dowell, associate director and curator of modern books and manuscripts at the Lilly Library, home of the BSI Archives. Ms. Dowell presented an update on the Lilly, illustrated with images of the newly renovated library. I want to thank Erika for her article on the Lilly in this newsletter. With the completion of the major renovation, the Lilly is now open for business and those wishing to consult the BSI Archives can do so.

With the reopening of the Lilly, the BSI Trust is instituting new procedures for sending materials to the archives. Materials for the archives will now be sent directly to the Lilly Library. The rationale for this new procedure is to protect archival collections from additional handling and travel, as well as eliminating storage costs. In our next newsletter (Spring 2022), I will share with readers updated collection guidelines for archival

materials, which will indicate which types of materials are appropriate for the BSI Archives. In the meantime, before sending items to the Lilly, please contact me at <[TrustChair@bakerstreetjournal.com](mailto:TrustChair@bakerstreetjournal.com)> if you have materials you think belong in the archives.

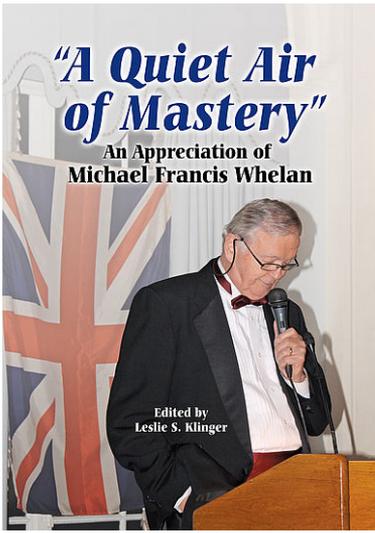
I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Bob Coghill for his years of service to the BSI Trust. His pre-cataloging of archival materials has been a tremendous help to librarians at Harvard and at the Lilly who were and are responsible for these important records. I also want to thank Dan Polvere for his valuable contribution concerning the storage of these materials in the state of Washington.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the magnificent donation of books by Costa Rossakis, appraised at approximately \$75,000, that the BSI Trust will sell to support the BSI archives at the Lilly Library. The BSI Trust has consigned the books with Heritage Auctions, which will sell the books at its Rare Books auction on December 9-10 in Dallas. The BSI Trust web page about the sale <<http://www.bsitrust.org/2021/11/auction-2021.html>> has links to the Heritage Auction website where one can view—and bid on—the items.

Speaking of book sales, Denny Dobry hosted an open house in Reading, Pennsylvania, in which visitors could buy Sherlockian books, proceeds of which help support the BSI Trust, and view Denny's remarkable recreation of the 221b Baker Street sitting room. See Denny's article in this newsletter. Denny deserves our gratitude for all of the work he's done selling books on behalf of the BSI Trust. Anyone who has books they want to contribute for sale, please contact Denny at <[dendobry@ptd.net](mailto:dendobry@ptd.net)>.

As you will see in Michael Pollak's article below, this is his last issue as editor of this newsletter. I want to thank Mike for reviving the newsletter after a multi-year hiatus and for his stellar work as editor. Thank you, Mike. As Mike indicates in his article, Ray Betzner will assume the duties as editor beginning with the Spring 2022 issue. We are delighted that Ray has agreed to take on the editorship.

Finally, like many Sherlockians, I was stunned at the news of the death of Mike Whelan. I was invested in 2013 under Mike's long reign as Wiggins, an event I will never forget. But more than this, Mike became a dear friend and mentor. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to contribute to the published tribute to Mike, "*A Quiet Air of Mastery*": *An Appreciation of Michael Francis Whelan*, published in 2020. I will forever cherish the words he wrote in my copy of the book: "Working with you has been such

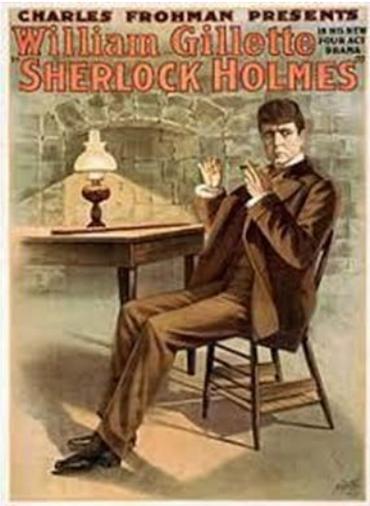


a pure pleasure and an education for me to boot.” I can truly say the same thing for Mike. For me, working alongside Mike was pure pleasure as well as an education. As I had written in “*A Quiet Air of Mastery*,” “I found it inconceivable to ever consider turning him down when asked to volunteer my own time. As far as I was concerned, when the big guy asked you to do your part for the BSI, saying ‘no’ was not an option.” I will miss Mike’s warm friendship, strong leadership, and generous support.



## From the Editor

By Michael Pollak, BSI



This is my last issue of the newsletter. I want to thank Ray Betzner, who will be taking over for the Spring issue; Erika Dowell, who has taken time out, amid her awesome responsibilities in helping get the Lilly Library back into shape after the double whammy of renovation and Covid, to keep us informed about the library’s progress; Tom Horrocks, a steady hand as chairman and guide; and Randall Stock, without whose technical support I simply could not have done this. I also want to

thank the many contributors who have enlivened these pages and made this job fun.

And a special thanks to the late Wiggins, Mike Whelan, who in addition to his myriad other services to the BSI, including the investiture of yours truly, was instrumental in the successful move of the Archive to Indianapolis from Cambridge. I can’t think of a better tribute to Mike than a contribution in his memory to the Archive.

In the Spring issue, I included a small quiz about springtime quotes in the Canon. This time, the passages are all about the fall. Please match the quote with the story. Answers are farther down.

1. *It was a wild morning in October, and I observed as I was dressing how the last remaining leaves were being whirled from the solitary plane tree which graces the yard behind our house.*

2. *It was the end of November, and Holmes and I sat, upon a raw and foggy night, on either side of a blazing fire in our sitting-room in Baker Street.*

3. *It was in the latter days of September, and the equinoctial gales had set in with exceptional violence. All day the wind had screamed and the rain had beaten against the windows, so that even here in the heart of great, hand-made London we were forced to raise our minds for the instant from the routine of life, and to recognize the presence of those great elemental forces which shriek at mankind through the bars of his civilization, like untamed beasts in a cage.*

4. *It was a wild, tempestuous night towards the close of November. Holmes and I sat together in silence all the evening, he engaged with a powerful lens deciphering the remains of the original inscription upon a palimpsest, I deep in a recent treatise on surgery.*

5. *It had been a close, rainy day in October. "Unhealthy weather, Watson," said my friend. "But the evening has brought a breeze with it. What do you say to a ramble through London?"*

6. *I had remained indoors all day, for the weather had taken a sudden turn to rain, with high autumnal winds, and the jezail bullet which I had brought back in one of my limbs as a relic of my Afghan campaign, throbbed with dull persistency."*

7. *In the third week of November, in the year 1895, a dense yellow fog settled down upon London. From the Monday to the Thursday I doubt whether it was ever possible from our windows in Baker Street to see the loom of the opposite houses.*



# Lilly Library and BSI Archives Reopen

By Erika Dowell

Associate Director and Curator of Modern Books & Manuscripts

On August 16, 2021, the Lilly Library reopened its doors to the campus and the world after an approximately 18-month renovation. The reopening coincided with a return to campus and in-person instruction for Indiana University's students, faculty and staff.

The Bloomington campus welcomed its largest number (8,097) of first-year students ever! Last year the campus was eerily empty, and it is good to see the place brimming with life again. And though many pandemic mitigation measures are still in effect, our library operations have returned to something close to normal.



*The Main Gallery from the front entryway.  
Audubon's "Birds of America" is on display.*

Researchers are back in the Reading Room, a room now adorned with beautiful murals by artist Ralph Gilbert. Researchers can enjoy all new lighting and furniture, including height-adjustable chairs with wheels.

We ask that researchers make an appointment at least two weeks in advance, and masks are required while in the building according to county and university policy.



*The Reading Room of the Lilly Library.*

The two-week head start allows us to make sure we can find the materials you want to use. Our renovated library has more space for people, but less space for collections, so many books and manuscripts are off-site and can require extra effort to locate right now.

The library is also scheduling online consultations and fulfilling digitization orders if you are not able to travel to Bloomington. Start the process with our Ask a Question form at <https://libraries.indiana.edu/lilly-library/ask>.



*The American Room.*

We are now able to accept new materials to add to the BSI archive. In fact, we have received two small additions already this fall. You may have heard that there is a new process for sending materials to the archive. Start with Tom Horrocks at [TrustChair@bakerstreetjournal.com](mailto:TrustChair@bakerstreetjournal.com).

If you have something you'd like to donate, let him know. If Tom thinks the donation is a good fit, he will put you in touch with me. Then we will work out how to get the materials to the Lilly Library.

We are so happy to be back at work in our lovely building. Our exhibition galleries are especially beautiful now with refinished wood paneling and all new lighting and exhibition cases. I hope to see some of you here in the coming year, whether you are taking up a postponed research project or just planning a visit to see our refreshed spaces.



## 2021 Book Fair/Open House

By Denny Dobry, BSI

On August 21, 2021, forty fully-vaccinated Sherlockians from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia, Ohio, Connecticut, Missouri and Texas descended upon the home of Joann and Denny Dobry in Reading, Pennsylvania.

The occasion was the first multi-scion function to be held since the start of the pandemic. The attraction was an opportunity to tour the 221B Baker Street Sitting Room re-creation assembled by Denny Dobry, and a Book Fair featuring Sherlockiana donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust and discounted titles published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press. The attendees from across the country were anxious to mix with other Holmes devotees after the long absence of face-to-face Sherlockian gatherings.

The items available for sale from the BSI Trust donations' inventory included many editions of the Canon, Sherlockian Scholarship, non-Sherlockian titles by Doyle, pastiches, parodies and Sherlockian statuettes and posters. Also available were non-Sherlockian mysteries, Christopher Morley titles, P. G. Wodehouse titles and Vincent Starrett titles.

Denny's wife, Joann, and his daughter, Nikki, served lunch to the gathered throng. The event was a financial success for the BSI Trust and Press and the Sherlockian social event of the year.



Answers to the quiz

1. The Problem of Thor Bridge
2. *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
3. The Five Orange Pips
4. The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez
5. The Resident Patient
6. The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor
7. The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans

## Support the BSI Trust!

Thank you for donating to support of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. Every tax-deductible dollar helps to collect, maintain and disseminate our Irregular history. By making a tax-deductible contribution, you can help ensure that BSI history will be available to our historians, researchers and the Sherlockian community. Please donate now by filling out the form below and mailing it to:

Leslie S. Klinger, BSI, c/o Kopple, Klinger & Elbaz LLP, 10866 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90024-4357

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