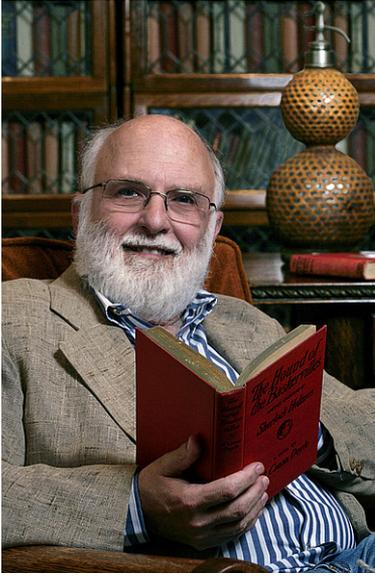




‘Holmes in 221 Objects’

Exhibit at Lilly Library through mid-December



After a blockbuster debut in New York City in January, one of the most talked about displays of Sherlockian material ever assembled is available to view at the home of the Baker Street Irregulars Archive for a very short time. The second venue for the “[Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects](#)” is the [Lilly Library](#) on the Indiana University, Bloomington, campus. Convenient for those in the American Midwest, the exhibit is open to visitors through December 16.

“Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects” draws upon the Sherlock Holmes collection of

Baker Street Irregular Glen S. Miranker (“*The Origin of Tree Worship*”). Miranker a founding member of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, put together a display that is rich in bibliographic rarities, manuscripts, books, correspondence, and artwork, all with intriguing stories to tell beyond their significance as literary and cultural landmarks.

After a [highly publicized](#) run at the Grolier Club in New York which drew raves from [The New York Times](#), [CBS Sunday Morning](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#) and other media outlets, the opportunity to have the exhibit at the Lilly Library was a natural move.

“The exhibit has been open since August 1, and has drawn great interest from those who love Sherlock Holmes as well as the general public,” said Erika Dowell, associate director and curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts at the Lilly Library. “We’re thrilled the exhibit is here.”

Bringing Miranker’s exhibit to the Lilly Library seemed like a natural move, since the library already has a substantial and growing collection of BSI materials through the Trust. Lilly Library Director Joel Silver and Dowell were aware of the exhibit before it opened at the Grolier and had

worked with Miranker while putting together the Lilly’s BSI exhibit in 2019. Working with Miranker to bring the exhibit west to the Lilly was a natural move.

Dowell noted that in the last few years, the Lilly Library’s exhibition space has been renovated and updated to better accommodate exhibits like “Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects.”

“Our new exhibition space is made for a major exhibition just like this. We are so excited to be able to show off the new space and this impressive exhibit at the same time,” she said.

Highlights of the exhibit include rare leaves from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; four short story manuscripts; original artwork by the British and American illustrators who created Sherlock’s iconic look for readers; a wealth of holograph letters from Arthur Conan Doyle to friends, colleagues, and well-wishers.



There is also a fascinating cache of pirated editions; the only known salesman’s dummy for the US *Hound*; and an “idea book” of Conan Doyle’s private musings in which he (in)famously penned “Killed Holmes” on his calendar for December 1893.

Also on view is a handwritten speech—rarely displayed—with the author’s explanation for killing Holmes: “I have been much blamed for doing that gentleman to death but I hold that it was not murder but justifiable homicide in self defence [*sic*] since if I had not killed him he would certainly have killed me.”

Though they are not on current display, the Lilly Library collections include Sherlockian rarities such as a copy of *Beeton's Christmas Annual* for 1887 and original illustrations of Sherlock Holmes stories made by G. K. Chesterton.

In addition to the materials from the Baker Street Irregular Trust, the Lilly Library is home to one of the nation's foremost collections of rare books, manuscripts, and literary and historic artifacts. Its holdings include more than 450,000 rare books, 8.5 million manuscripts, the world's largest collection of mechanical puzzles, and 150,000 pieces of sheet music.



From the Chair

By Thomas A. Horrocks, BSI

In the previous newsletter I mentioned various new initiatives the BSI Trust is pursuing to promote the BSI Archives. These initiatives and others that are to come, however, will have little impact if few people know about them.

It is imperative for the Trust to do all it can to effectively communicate what it is doing, why and how it is doing it, and ways people can assist its mission, either through donations of materials to the archives or financial contributions. The development of a communications strategy is in order, and I am pleased to announce that Ray Betzner (“The Agony Column”), Trust board member and editor of this newsletter, has volunteered to lead the effort to shape this strategy.

Ray will be working with several small focus groups to review the current communications process and develop a strategy that will assist the BSI Trust in ensuring that the BSI Archive is useful for Irregulars, Sherlockians, and researchers in general. I want to thank all of those who volunteered their time to serve on a focus group. If you would like to be part of our communications effort, contact Ray directly at [<rlbetzner@mac.com>](mailto:rlbetzner@mac.com).

As we approach the end of the year, I hope you will consider supporting the BSI Archive with a financial donation or a gift-in-kind of materials for sale to support the various activities of the BSI Trust. Past financial support has enabled the Trust to purchase collection materials for the

archives and to promote the archives through such programs as a Research Fellowship program, a student internship at the Lilly Library to assist library staff in digitizing and cataloging of BSI archival material, and the production of a BSI Trust brochure.

Gifts-in-kind in the form of books, periodicals and ephemera also generate much needed funding through the tireless salesmanship of Denny Dobry (“A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room”). Contact Denny at if you have items to donate for resale. He can be reached at <dendobry@ptd.net>.

Finally, the BSI Trust always seeks donations of material for the BSI Archive. The Trust recently revised its Collection Guidelines for archival material to aid those who are considering donating their correspondence and other material relating to the BSI. Anyone considering a donation of material should consult the BSI Trust website for the revised Collection Guidelines at <<http://files.bsitrust.org/pdf/docs/bsi-archive-want-list.pdf>>, and contact Tom Horrocks at <TrustChair@bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

On September 17, 2022 the BSI Trust sponsored its second annual BSI Trust Lecture, which featured Ray Betzner, who spoke on “‘221B’: The Story of a Sherlockian Sonnet.” This excellent lecture, presented via Zoom for an audience of 200+ will be available soon via video, as will last year’s lecture by Roberta Pearson. Please watch the BSI Trust website at <www.bsitrust.org> for further details.

I extend my warmest holiday wishes to all of our readers.



From the Editor

By Ray Betzner, BSI

For the friends of Sherlock Holmes, this is the best time of year. The winter holidays hold the promise of family gatherings and the warmth of familiar and friendly traditions.

One tradition that I eagerly anticipate is participating in the plethora of activities surrounding the Baker Street Irregulars Dinner in early January. There is literally something for everyone during the Sherlockian festivities that take place in New York, from small, intimate gatherings of a few friends to large luncheons and dinners with full programs of Holmes-

related activities. You can find a full list of BSI and related events at the BSI website page about [Plans for the 2023 BSI Weekend](#).

Speaking for myself, I love all the various versions of the weekend's festivities. Over the decades, I have taken as much delight in the quick-drink-at-the-bar conversations as I have at the grand events with formal programs. And by the end of my New York sojourn, I've always made new friends, affirmed old associations and found renewed pleasure in the whimsical nature of our shared fascination.

Chronicling these gatherings is an important part of the Archive and I hope you've taken the chance to look at our photos and records of previous events. There is a lot to learn here, from the impressive lists of guests to the ongoing evolution of the BSI from a largely New York-based society to its current role as an international home for Holmes fans of all backgrounds. You can learn a lot more by visiting the [BSI Trust website](#) and roaming its [BSI Dinner photo archives](#).

A final note: As you plan your holiday gift buying, don't forget about the many Holmes/Conan Doyle books available at Denny Dobry's Basement Bookshop of Wonder. You can find out if he has that special book you've been hunting for yourself or a Sherlockian friend just by emailing Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. All proceeds from these sales go to support the work of the Trust.

And with that, let me offer you Compliments of the Season from everyone at the Trust.



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

You may also donate using a credit card or PayPal via the BSI Trust website at <<http://www.bsitrust.org/2015/01/donations.html>>.

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