

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection Lancelyn Green Bequest

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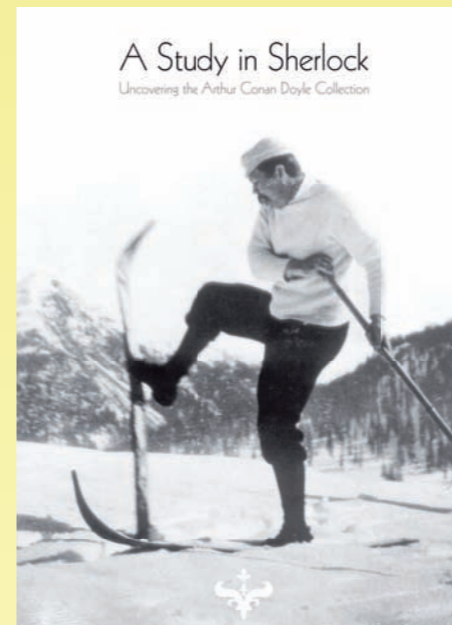
Spring/Summer 2008 Newsletter

Exhibition Images



Front cover images

- Top: *A Study in Sherlock* booklet
 - Middle: *A Study in Sherlock* Exhibition
 - Bottom: *The Case of the Portsmouth Doctor* Exhibition, Hotel de Ville, Caen
- Back cover:
- Top left: *The Case of the Portsmouth Doctor* Exhibition, Hotel de Ville, Caen
 - Others: *A Study in Sherlock* Exhibition at Portsmouth City Museum



This is the fifth newsletter for 'The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, Richard Lancelyn Green Bequest,' and it comes at a very timely moment in the development of the Collection. Over recent months we have reached a number of milestones, and achieved a range of targets, as we work towards the point when the Collection will be fully catalogued and accessible to all.

Progress Report

Since the last newsletter there have been many important successes with regard to the development of the Collection:

A Study in Sherlock Exhibition

This permanent exhibition opened in June 2007 at Portsmouth City Museum, where it will be housed until at least 2009. The work of an extended team of writers, technicians, designers, and curatorial staff, the exhibition features a brand new Sherlock Holmes filmed mystery, a narration by Stephen Fry, as well as a range of interactive activities to appeal across all age ranges. The exhibition secured more than 37,000 visitors by December 2007, and won a local news media award for the most popular local attraction of its kind. In November 2007 an exhibition booklet, 'A Study in Sherlock: Uncovering the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection' was published, and is now on general sale. This is the first of what we hope to be many publications of the newly-formed ACD Collection Press.



The Case of the Portsmouth Doctor: part two

As regular readers of this newsletter will know, the 2006 'taster' exhibition of the Collection was entitled 'The Case of the Portsmouth Doctor.' This exhibition was translated into French and 'toured' to l'Hotel de Ville, Caen (Normandy). Linked to this translated version of the original exhibition there was an open lecture by the Academic Director of the Collection, Dr Neil McCaw, at the Museum of Fine Arts in the city, as well as a linked detective trail for pupils of primary schools in the Normandy region.



You can get this Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 023 9283 4183.

The Collection in Japan

As part of the Japanese celebration of the 120th anniversary of the publication of *A Study in Scarlet*, a delegation from Portsmouth (featuring Cllr Terry Hall, Head of Cultural Services Stephen Baily, and Dr Neil McCaw) visited Japan in January 2008. As well as a public lecture on Holmes and Conan Doyle given by Dr McCaw, and attended by an audience of more than 100 (including members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club who had travelled several hours to attend) discussions took place about the possibility of an exhibition taking place in Japan in Autumn 2008

Landmarks



In January of this year the first tranche of 900 books from the Collection (out of a total of more than 10,000) were made publicly available in an event covered by local press and TV media. These can be freely viewed, on production of some identification, in the historical collections department at Portsmouth Central Library.

In addition, many thousands of pieces of archival material have now been catalogued. Progress has been particularly strong in our five priority areas of the Doyle family papers, dramatisations, the Victorian and Edwardian World, Spiritualism and the phenomena of Sherlock Holmes. Each individual item is being carefully listed and preserved to ensure its long term survival.



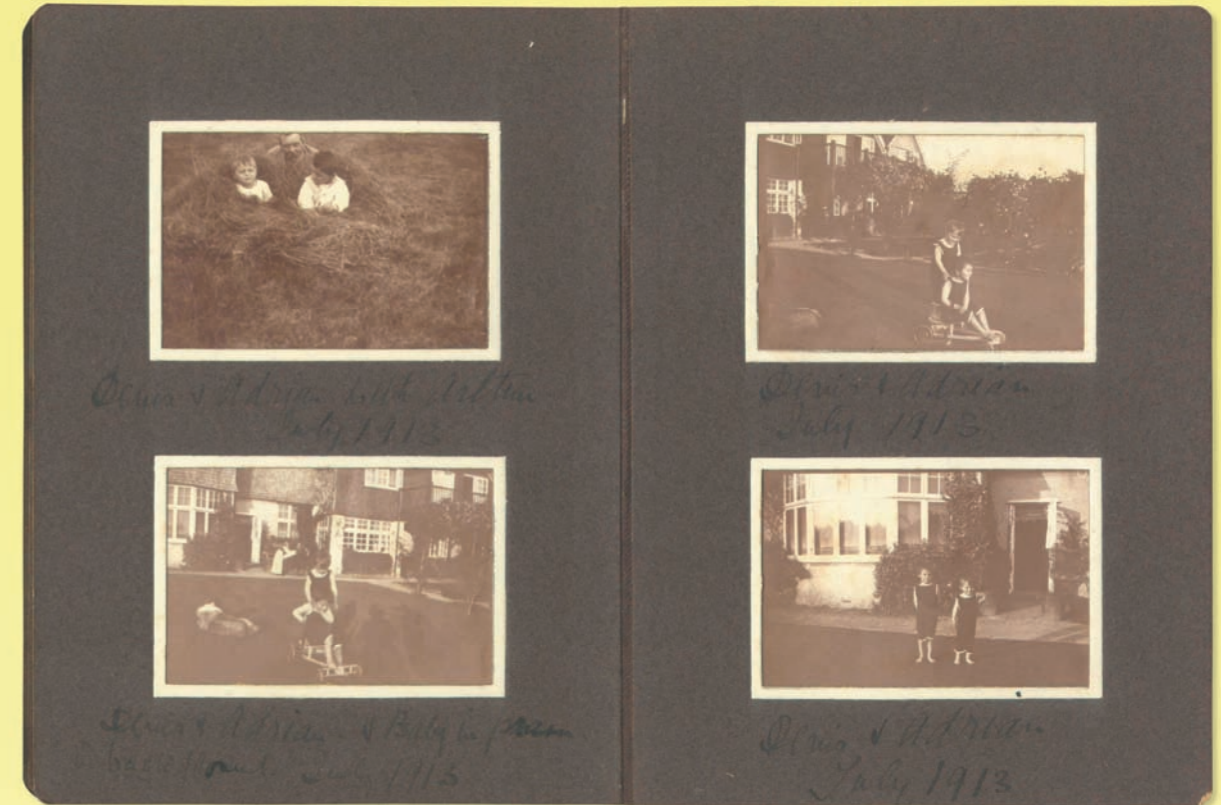
An enormous programme of scanning the often fragile and irreplaceable photographs in the Collection has also been successfully started. These images are linked to the appropriate catalogue entry and it is hoped that this will ultimately allow access for everybody, regardless of their location.

The team of staff and volunteers have enjoyed uncovering the many directions in which this extraordinary collection stretches. Among the many highlights are:

- original Doyle family photographs albums, many with annotations by Arthur and his second wife Jean
- a wide range of papers and photographs regarding spiritualism including original letters written to Conan Doyle describing various people's psychic experiences
- a vast array of material regarding the many Sherlock Holmes dramatisations (stage productions, radio plays, feature length films and television adaptations) including 366 different scripts and screenplays.
- family papers and cuttings regarding Sidney Paget, the original illustrator of Sherlock Holmes
- Extraordinary memorabilia regarding the life and times of Sherlock Holmes such as calendars, book plates, greetings cards, letters, stamps, cartoons and pamphlets.

Top: Staff from Portsmouth City Council celebrating winning 'The News' Guide Award for Best Exhibition of 2007.

Bottom: Volunteers working hard cataloguing archival material from the Collection.



Just one of the many pages of original photographs in the Conan Doyle family albums.

Other Developments

The Conan Doyle Collection Detective Fiction Prize, which was initiated in the Autumn of 2007, will be awarded in May 2008. The competition attracted a healthy number of stories, and the final adjudication will be made by author Michelle Spring.

A presentation related to the Collection will be made at the Crime Cultures: Figuring Criminality in Literature, Media and Film Conference being organised by the University of Portsmouth from 14 - 16th July.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will be visiting Portsmouth in September 2008 for its annual gathering.

The Collection website has been revised and is regularly updated with new 'finds' as well as featuring forthcoming talks, walks and other associated events. www.conandoyllection.co.uk

We will continue to update you all about the progress of our work, both through new format newsletters and also on the website, but if you have any questions about any aspect of the Collection (or related issues) please email to: lancelyngreencollection@portsmouthcc.gov.uk