

# Caxtonian

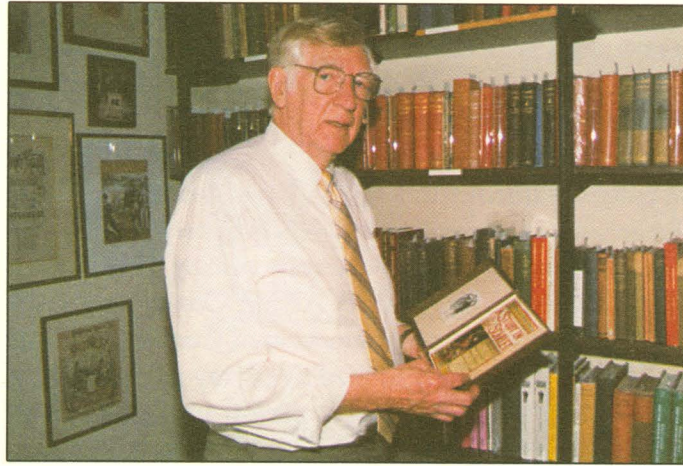
Journal of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume V, No. 3

March 1997

## Dr. Kittle and Dr. Doyle — Kinsmen Through Medicine and Belle Letters

There is a kinship between Caxtonian Fred Kittle and English literature, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, that transcends the usual relationship of collector and the one collected. It is safe to say that few know Dr. Doyle as Dr. Kittle does. Both were trained as physicians, both cultivated broad interests from their earliest years, and both surrounded themselves with the legacies of literary and artistic accomplishment.



Standing in front of his Doyle collection, Kittle holds one of about 12 existing copies of *A Study in Scarlet*, as it appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual (1887). On the wall are an original drawing by Sidney Paget, probably the best known illustrator for the Sherlock Holmes stories, an original drawing by Horace Vernet, great-uncle of Sherlock Holmes, and drawings by Richard Doyle, famous illustrator of Punch.

Kittle's Doyle collection began in the mid-1950s, when he acquired the original manuscript of Doyle's, *The Romance of Medicine*, a 19-page, hand-written medical lecture that Doyle gave on October 3, 1910, at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London. Kittle himself is currently working on his own manuscript of a book that will delineate all of the particulars about *The Romance of Medicine* and that will include in its context a reprinting of Doyle's own hand-written text. The study will be published by the Arthur Conan Doyle Society this spring.

Between the acquisition of his first manuscript and his most recent, Kittle has become, while assembling what is recognized as one of the world's finest Doyle collections, a late-20th-Century comrade of Doyle, a scholar in his own right on the life, times, and work of the world's greatest detective-writer and his family.

Besides first editions of practically all of Doyle's works, Kittle owns the original manuscripts of Doyle's *The White Company* (1890-91), *The Leather Funnel* (1903), *The Homecoming* (1909), *The Last of the Legions* (1910), and one of about 12 extant copies of *Beeton's Christmas Annual* (1887), which contained "A Study in Scarlet," the first published story about Sherlock Holmes. "In case of a fire," Kittle says with a smile, "I'd save *The White Company* first and *Beeton's Christmas Annual* second." He has, as well, 50 to 60 original Doyle letters dated between 1890 and 1930, periodicals containing the first serialization of Doyle's books, seven large loose-leaf notebooks of photographs, and three file drawers of ephemera on the great writer.

The Doyle family itself impresses Kittle: "Here was a whole family of gifted people," he comments as he stands in his library before the splendid Doyle collect-

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## There's More to Doyle Than Holmes

By C. Frederick Kittle, M.D.

Superlatives come easily in describing Sherlock Holmes, the remarkable detective who entered this world in 1887 (*A Study in Scarlet*). He is unquestionably the best-known literary character and the greatest illusion of reality ever created. His popularity is progressive and continues unabated as indicated by the variously named Baker Street Irregular Societies devoted to him and by their increasing number, 416 organizations worldwide at latest count of which 321 are in the United States.

However, I confess that although attracted to and charmed by Sherlock Holmes, I gradually began to wonder about the man himself who invented and nurtured the character of Sherlock Holmes and those 60 delightful tales of the canon. How did all this come about?

Arthur Conan Doyle (actually Arthur **Ignatius** Conan Doyle on his birth certificate) was born May 22, 1859, in a small flat in Edinburgh. Although his ancestry was Irish and his birthplace Scottish, he lived the major part of his life in England and, with his manner and actions, epitomized the typical Victorian English gentleman. During his adult life he was described as big and friendly, over six feet tall, about 225 pounds, and exuding energy and vitality.

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# Caxtonian

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The *Caxtonian* is published monthly by The Caxton Club. The Caxton Club office is located in The Newberry Library, at 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610. Telephone 312/255-3710. Permission to reprint material from the *Caxtonian* is not necessary if copy of reprint is mailed to The Caxton Club office and credit is given to the *Caxtonian*.

The *Caxtonian* is printed by  
River Street Press, Aurora, Illinois  
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# Musings...

Caxtonian Fred Kittle, Arthur Conan Doyle collector *par excellence*, told me recently, "Collecting is a bit like developing a friendship. When you become acquainted with a person, the more points of mutual interest you find and the greater the similarities, the more the friendship — or the collection — develops: a collector wants to see no end to what he's collecting as those who would be friends want to find unlimited dimensions that they can explore with one another."

He was, of course, speaking of the rich human texture he has found in the lives of four generations of the Doyle family — a never-ending resource for study, enlightenment, and surprise. For more than 40 years he has gathered physical elements from his association — paintings, letters, books, photographs, manuscripts — a remarkable collection that will be preserved *in perpetuity* at the Newberry Library through Fred's generosity.

I first came into Fred's library some months ago, curious myself, driven by my own collector-instinct to learn and by a writer's urge to record for others to enjoy. It took me three visits to the Kittle library to fully fathom all that was there.

Sherlockian studies and mystery writing have never been a favorite of mine. But I had no idea that the genius of Arthur Conan Doyle was so comprehensive. I was astounded at the written production of Conan Doyle, the central person in Fred's collection. It took broad reading on my part, much reflection, and several extended conversations with Fred in person and by phone to get to a point I could write an article even approaching appropriateness for such a splendid collection.

And because as a writer I think best with my fingers on the keyboard, I had to come back to my own library to discover what I had learned by shaping it into sentences and paragraphs. I threw away three versions of the piece on the Kittle collection without showing it to anyone.

After the third visit to the library and the fourth draft of the story, I had it. It didn't soar as I'd like to have had it, but it was a competent essay that delineated Fred's collection, and I was ready to share it with him by fax for proofing.

But it's a funny thing. I was drawn back to his library in person — faxing the piece seemed inappropriate. I wanted to hand it to him, to see his reactions as he read it, to hear first-hand and not by phone his comments or any changes he might wish to make. I wanted to sit in the Doyle library and talk with Fred, whom I had come to appreciate, to like, in a very special way.

I find in Fred that vast reservoir of human experience that seems to have no limit. We talk about Dolye, but something said diverts him to a story about his own medical practice. And that reminds me of a story about a famous medical doctor whose leprosarium, Ganta, my family and I visited in Liberia when we lived there in 1971. And so it goes throughout the afternoon.

What I am saying, in case you hadn't already guessed, is that Fred Kittle has become a friend. I sense in his eyes, his hospitable manner, his warm handshake, that he feels similarly toward me. Such new friendship, it seems to me, is not only a good metaphor for collecting, but it is the very soul of The Caxton Club.

Robert Cotner  
Editor

# Dr. Kittle and Dr. Doyle -- Kinsmen in Medicine and Literature

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ion that measures more than 100 linear feet.

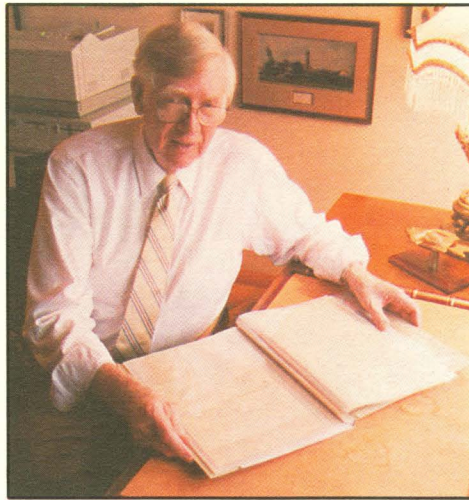
Richard Doyle, Doyle's uncle, illustrated his own and others' childrens books. As we talk, Kittle pulls from the shelf a six-page unpublished manuscript of a story by Victor Hugo, featuring the drawings and paintings by "Dickey" Doyle. Another uncle, James, wrote *A Chronicle of England* (1864), and Charles, Doyle's father, also illustrated children's literature. Kittle's collection contains a rich representation of the work by all of the family members.

Denis Conan Doyle, Doyle's son, lectured in Barrington, IL in 1942 on the topic, "Will This War End Christianity?" and Kittle has a copy of the Barrington *Town-Warming*, (Vol. IV, 1942), to prove it.

Doyle himself, Kittle says, "was a sports enthusiast." He enjoyed boxing when it was not an accepted sport and wrote one of the best books on boxing ever written — *Rodney Stone* (1896) — a first edition of which Kittle fondly shares with his visitor. Doyle played rugby and cricket, shot billiards, raced autos and toboggans, and rode motorcycles and hot air balloons.

Kittle loves to talk of Doyle's skiing exploits in the Alps. In fact, he published an important article, "Down the Slopes with Doyle at Davos" (*Journal of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society*, Vol. 4, 1993), in which he attributes the birth of the sport of downhill skiing to Doyle's much-publicized, 14-mile ski trip across the Mayerfelder-Furka Pass with the Branger brothers on March 23, 1894. The residents of Davos erected a commemorative plaque to Doyle next to their sports arena for his "bringing this new sport [of skiing] and the attraction of the Swiss Alps in winter to the attention of the world."

Kittle pulls from the shelf *The Strand Magazine* (1891), which contained in its



Caxtonian Kittle holds the Arthur Conan Doyle manuscript, *The Romance of Medicine*, the first significant acquisition of his collection.

second volume of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." He has all issues of that magazine, as well as such magazines as *Chambers's Journal* (Sept. 6, 1879), *Temple Bar* (Jan. 1883), *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* (Feb., 1890), and others, all relevant to Doyle writings.

Kittle has organized his collection chronologically and by family members. A visit to his library is a tour of one of the most creative families of the Victorian era — and Kittle knows each intimately and offers insights and elaborations as he provides examples of books, magazines, or art, which adorn the wall of his library not taken up by bookshelves.

Kittle's recently-acquired manuscript of *The White Company* would be one of the more physically impressive items in any book collection. It contains 531 leaves of ledger-ruled foolscap (12.5"x 7.75") with paste-on slips added and written on rectos only. It is bound in a red half-morocco gilt cover and has a calligraphic title page. It is held in a morocco-backed folding case. From the collection of David Gage Joyce of Chicago, the manuscript was acquired by Kittle from Sotheby's in December 1996. He has, as well, an earlier acquired first edition of the three-volume *The White Company* (1891),

which Kittle says Doyle considered his best piece of writing. This first edition has been rebound in full leather.

Doyle created in his lifetime a veritable library of his own writings, and this library is the essence of Kittle's extensive collection. There is Doyle's history (*The British Campaign in France and Flanders* - 6 vols., 1916-20), one of several plays (*Jane Annie* - 1893, with J.M. Barrie), his translations (*The Mystery of Joan of Arc* - 1924, from French), his later works on spiritualism, his books on science fiction (*The Lost World*, 1912) — "Doyle was equal to H.G. Wells," Kittle asserts — and his account (*Through the Magic Door* - 1907, about his personal library). These and additional examples from each category represent the breadth and depth of this magnificent library developed with devotion and thoughtfulness over a period of 40 years.

The good news for Chicago is that Kittle has recently made arrangements to donate his entire Doyle collection to the Newberry Library, where, he commented recently, he hopes his collection will become the heart for Doyleana and expanded by other donors over the years.

When Doyle's only living daughter, Dame Jean Dolye, learned of Kittle's acquisition of *The White Company* and his future plans for the collection, she wrote Kittle on December 12, 1996, saying, I am "joyful to hear ...that you have bought the MSS of 'The White Company' and it will be in the collection you are giving to Newberry."

The Doyleana collection is by all accounts one of the most thorough of any in the United States and, perhaps, in the world. To be shown through the collection by Caxtonian Kittle is tantamount to having Doyle himself revealed by one so closely a kin to him

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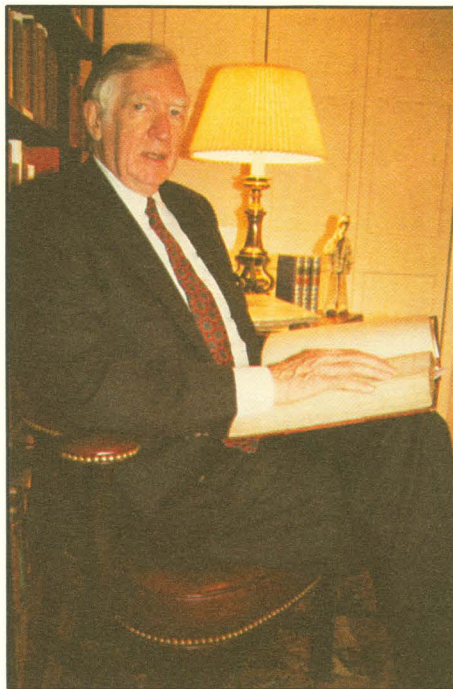
## Doyle Influenced by English and American Literature

Arthur Conan Doyle was exceedingly fortunate in his choice of a mother: she was an Irish-Catholic woman living in the heart of that most Calvinist city — Edinburgh. She was proud of her medieval French ancestors, and early on turned her son into an expert on heraldry. She told and read stories of adventure and chivalry to young Arthur, who also read to her.

Despite coming from a poor family, he still spent most of his lunch money on used books that he bought from old bookshop barrels. “I do not think that life has any joy to offer so complete, so soul-filling as that which comes upon the imaginative lad whose spare time is limited, but who is able to snuggle down into a corner with his book, knowing that the next hour is all his own,” he wrote in his autobiography.

He believed that he got more from good translations of the classics than from his enforced study of Latin and Greek. When his famous “Paris uncle,” Michael Conan, an artist, sent him a copy of *The Lays of Ancient Rome* by Macaulay, he was enchanted. Macaulay was a true literary revelation to him, and from the *Lays*, he developed a passion for verse, learning them by heart. It became his favorite book, along with the novels of Sir Walter Scott, whose tales his mother first read to him.

While Scott, Macaulay, Mayne Reid, and Poe were Doyle's literary tutors, his mentors in history — for he loved history — were Parkman and Gibbon. If he were allowed only one book on a desert island, he said it would be Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, and quickly added that two of the world's greatest novels were Tolstoy's *War and Peace* and Charles Reade's *The Cloister and the Hearth*. Yet his blood was always stirred by the exciting tales of knighthood. Washington Irving's *Conquest of Granada* was



Sitting in the Doyle library of his home, Kittle holds the original manuscript of *The White Company*, recently acquired by him from Sotheby's in New York.

such a tale. Somehow, American writers such as Washington Irving, Bret Harte, and Poe also appealed to Doyle, as did America and Americans generally. There is little doubt that Doyle's earliest short stories and *A Study in Scarlet* show the strong influence of the campfire tales of Bret Harte.

In his student days Doyle made a new literary acquaintance, Oliver Wendell Holmes, whose *Autocrat of the Breakfast Table* absolutely fascinated him. “Never have I so known and loved a man whom I had never seen,” Doyle wrote. “It was one of the ambitions of my lifetime to look upon his face, but by the irony of Fate, I arrived in his native city just in time to lay a wreath upon his newly turned grave.”

Doyle graduated from the University of Edinburgh's Medical School in 1881, and it was in Southsea, an adjunct of Portsmouth, where he was practising medicine and turning out short stories, that he wrote in his notebook: “I have read

Gaboriau's *Lecoq the Detective* and *The Lerouge Case* — both very good. At the time I first thought of a detective.”

It was his historical novel *The White Company* (1891), however, that Doyle thought his masterpiece, and he believed he would be remembered for his historical novels, for which he did extensive research.

From 1892 on, Doyle harked back to far fewer literary figures, but he did pay his literary obeisance to the founding master of the detective story — Edgar Allan Poe: “Not only is Poe the originator of the detective story; all treasure-hunting stories [like his own ‘Musgrave Ritual’] and cryptogram-solving yarns [such as Doyle's ‘The Dancing Men’] trace back to Poe's ‘Goldbug,’ just as all pseudo-scientific Verne-and-Wells' stories have their prototypes in *Voyage to the Moon* and the *Case of Monsieur Valdemar*. If every man who receives a cheque for a story which owes its springs to Poe were to pay a tithe for a monument for the master, he would have a pyramid as big as Cheops.”

Doyle was destined to become famous and relatively prosperous almost overnight — once the first Sherlock Holmes short story, “A Scandal in Bohemia,” appeared in *The Strand Magazine*. In Holmes' first appearance, however, he disparaged Poe and Gaboriau, the French pioneer in detective-fiction, as bunglers. The American poet Arthur Guiterman took Doyle to task in sing-song verse for biting the hand that was feeding him, since it was quite obvious that Doyle owed much to both writers.

Doyle, imitating the sing-song verse, answered Guiterman, and his remarks would serve as a splendid primer for any critic.

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## Kinsmen . . .

(Continued from Page Three)

that you would swear you are in Doyle's very presence. I wonder to myself as I listen whether the good Dr. Doyle has indeed returned in the person of the good Dr. Kittle.

"No," I say to myself as I study Kittle's solemn grace, the aquiline profile, his clear, resonant voice, and his studied and sure deliberation on things of the mind. "He's more Sherlock Holmes than Arthur Conan Doyle."

RC

*Editor's Note: Caxtonian Kittle is a retired Professor and Head of Thoracic Surgery, Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, Chicago*

## Doyle Influenced . . .

(Continued from Page Five)

*Here is a critic who says as a platitude  
That I am guilty because in "ingratitude"  
Sherlock the sleuth-hound, with motives  
ulterior,  
Sneers at Poe's Dupin as very "inferior."  
So please grip this fact with your cerebral  
tentacle:  
The doll and its maker are never  
identical.*

And to echo Doyle's pyramid-praise of Poe, in 1977, *The Saturday Review*, in its Silver Jubilee Edition, allowed Lord C.P. Snow to pay tribute to the truly great in English literature. After giving Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, and others their due, suddenly this line appears: "Only the stupidest of intellectuals wouldn't realize that Alice in Wonderland and the great Sherlock Holmes are among the blessings that English writing in its many forms has given to the world."

Eli Liebow

*Editor's Note: Caxtonian Liebow teaches English at Northeastern Illinois University, including a course in detective fiction. He is the author of Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes (1982).*

## A Chronology of Books by Arthur Conan Doyle

1859-1930

### Fiction and Poetry

*A Study in Scarlet*, 1888  
*The Mystery of Cloomber*, 1889  
*Micah Clarke*, 1889  
*Mysteries and Adventures*, 1890  
*The Captain of the Polestar*, 1890  
*The Firm Girdlestone*, 1890  
*The Sign of Four*, 1890  
*The White Company*, 1891  
*The Doings of Raffles Haw*, 1892  
*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, 1892  
*The Great Shadow*, 1892  
*The Refugees*, 1893  
*The Great Shadow and Beyond the City*, 1893  
*The Memories of Sherlock Holmes*, 1893  
*An Actor's Duel and the Winning Shot*, 1894  
*Round the Red Lamp*, 1894  
*The Parasite*, 1894  
*The Stark-Munro Letters*, 1895  
*The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard*, 1896  
*Rodney Stone*, 1896  
*Uncle Bernac*, 1897  
*The Tragedy of the Korosko*, 1898  
*Songs of Action* (poetry), 1898  
*A Duet with an Occasional Chorus*, 1899  
*The Green Flag and Other Stories of War and Sport*, 1900  
*The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 1902  
*The Adventures of Gerard*, 1903  
*A Duet (Duologue)*, 1903  
*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, 1905  
*Sir Nigel*, 1906  
*The Croxley Master*, 1907  
*Waterloo*, 1907  
*Round the Fire Stories*, 1908  
*Songs of the Road* (poetry), 1911  
*The Last Galley*, 1911  
*The Speckled Band*, 1912  
*The Lost World*, 1912  
*The Poison Belt*, 1913  
*The Valley of Fear*, 1915  
*His Last Bow*, 1917  
*Danger! and Other Stories*, 1918  
*The Guards Came Through and Other Poems*, 1919  
*The Poems of Arthur Conan Doyle, Collected Edition*, 1922  
*Tales of the Ring and Camp*, 1922  
*Tales of Pirates and Blue Water*, 1922  
*Tales of Terror and Mystery*, 1922  
*Tales of Twilight and the Unseen*, 1922  
*Tales of Adventure and Medical Life*, 1922  
*Tales of Long Ago*, 1922  
*Three of Them*, 1923  
*The Land of Mist*, 1926  
*The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*, 1927  
*The Complete Sherlock Holmes, Short Stories*, 1928  
*The Complete Sherlock Holmes, Long Stories*, 1928  
*The Maracot Deep and Other Stories*, 1929

*The Field Bazaar*, 1934  
*The Crown Diamond*, 1958

### Histories and Other Non-Fiction

*The Great Boer War*, 1900  
*The Immortal Memory*, 1901  
*The War in South Africa, Its Cause and Conduct*, 1902  
*The Fiscal Question*, 1905  
*An Incursion into Diplomacy*, 1906  
*The Story of Mr. George Edalji*, 1907  
*Through the Magic Door*, 1907  
*The Crime of the Congo*, 1909  
*Divorce Law Reform: An Essay*, 1909  
*Why He Is Now in Favour of Home Rule*, 1910  
*The Case of Oscar Slater*, 1912  
*Civilian National Reserve*, 1914  
*To Arms!*, 1914  
*The World War Conspiracy*, 1914  
*The German War*, 1914  
*Western Wanderings*, 1915  
*The Outlook on the War*, 1915  
*An Appreciation of Sir John French*, 1916  
*A Visit to Three Fronts*, 1920  
*The British Campaign in France and Flanders* (six vols.), 1916-20  
*Supremacy of the British Soldier*, 1917  
*The New Revelation*, 1918  
*Life After Death (A Form Letter)*, 1918  
*A Vital Message*, 1919  
*Our Reply to the Cleric*, 1920  
*Spiritualism and Rationalism*, 1920  
*The Wanderings of a Spiritualist*, 1921  
*The Coming of the Fairies*, 1922  
*Spiritualism - Some Straight Questions and Direct Answers*, 1922  
*The Cast for Spiritual Photography*, 1922  
*Our American Adventure*, 1923  
*Our Second American Adventure*, 1924  
*Memories and Adventures*, 1924  
*The Early Christian Church and Modern Spiritualism*, 1925  
*Psychic Experiences*, 1925  
*The History of Spiritualism*, 1926  
*Pheneas Speaks*, 1927  
*Spiritualism*, 1927  
*What Does Spiritualism Actually Teach and Stand For?*, 1928  
*A Word of Warning*, 1928  
*An Open Letter to Those of My Generation*, 1929  
*Our African Winter*, 1929  
*The Roman Catholic Church, A Rejoinder*, 1929  
*(A Form Letter)*, 1930  
*(A Second Form Letter)*, 1930  
*The Edge of the Unknown*, 1930  
*Strange Studies from Life*, 1963

C. Frederick Kittle

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## Annual Club Summary for 1996 Says Outlook Optimistic

The 1995-1996 club year was another banner year for The Caxton Club, in keeping with the exceptional centennial year. After the celebration, the club embarked on its second century financially sound and growing vigorously, and it has remained so.

A careful financial analysis prompted the Council to find new sources of income to pay for escalating operating expenses. They instituted an initiation fee for new members, raised the annual dues, raised the price of luncheons and dinners to reflect actual costs, and initiated a realistic pricing policy for drinks at the meetings. These changes now allow the club to operate with a balanced operating budget. In spite of the anxiety of some Caxtonians, the members did not rebel.

The membership has not changed significantly in the past year. An examination of the recently published directory for 1996 reveals a diverse list of Caxtonians, representing broad interests in all aspects of the book arts, distributed geographically from Florida and New Hampshire to California and Washington, and from as far as Germany and Italy. Our ranks were diminished by the death of several loyal members. About a dozen new members joined the club, more than enough to balance the 10 resignations that were received in response to the increase in dues. Several non-resident members commented negatively about the increase without resigning, which prompted the Council to approve the sale of subscriptions to the *Caxtonian* to non-members. One sour note regarding membership must be faced promptly. Thirty members have not yet paid their dues for 1996. Some of these may resign in response to the forthcoming dues notice for 1997. Others may have to be dropped for non-payment of dues.

Attendance at the Friday luncheons and dinner meetings remains at a high level.

This attests primarily to the continuing interest in the wide variety of book-related programs offered at the dinner meetings. The impressive list of dinner speakers included Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, the granddaughter of Robert Frost, Chicago Alderman Edward Burke, and a visiting book-binder from England, as well as several Caxtonians. They spoke on topics ranging from bookbinding and collecting to communications and local history. Caxtonians spoke informally at the Friday luncheons about their own personal specialties and rich experiences in the world of books. The attendance at meetings reflects the general satisfaction on the part of the members with the quality of the food served, the ambiance of the Mid-Day Club, and the convenience of the parking facilities.

The *Caxtonian* is the most important carryover from the centennial year. It continues to inform the members of coming activities, and it publishes scholarly and interesting essays on a variety of book-related topics. The *Caxtonian* received several accolades for its quality and content from sister book clubs and other readers. In the past year, the editor created an advisory board to assure continued high quality in a format that is both pleasing to members and also consistent with Caxton Club publication standards of the past.

The club also acted in 1996 to make information about its activities available to the general public in two innovative ways. Thanks to the generous and professional efforts of one of our members, The Caxton Club now has its own Worldwide Web Site to disseminate information about the club's history and activities to surfers on the Internet. Initial response to this offering is being monitored to determine whether the club will continue to incur the expense of maintaining it in the future. In a more traditional action, the

club donated its archives to the Newberry Library, where a volunteer from the club is sorting and preparing them for permanent archiving. Eventually they will be made available to readers at the library, and to the general academic community by way of the Newberry computer catalogue.

Recent events also brought two important and unresolved issues to the attention of Caxtonians. First, a substantial monetary donation by one of the members opened the issue of acquiring club rooms, as reported in the December issue of the *Caxtonian*. The Council and the membership at large will have to act promptly to commit to the concept of attaining once more its own club rooms if it is to keep this donation. Deliberations on such a course of action should be made after a careful review of the history of the club that reveals that all previous attempts to maintain Caxton Club rooms ended in failure.

The second unresolved issue relates to the club's dedication to publishing. The successful publication of the club's history in 1995 brought an end to a 10-year dry spell of publishing. The Publications Committee embarked on a vigorous plan for the future, and the Council approved a new policy for guiding the program. Plans for the next publication were proceeding, when the resignation of the chair of the committee brought the program to a halt at midyear. The chair remains unfilled at year's end, and the publication program remains dormant.

All in all, the 1995-1996 club year has been a great one for The Caxton Club. The momentum created by the centennial celebration has not been lost, and there is every reason to look forward to the second century with continued optimism.

Frank J. Piehl  
Historian

## There's More to Doyle ...

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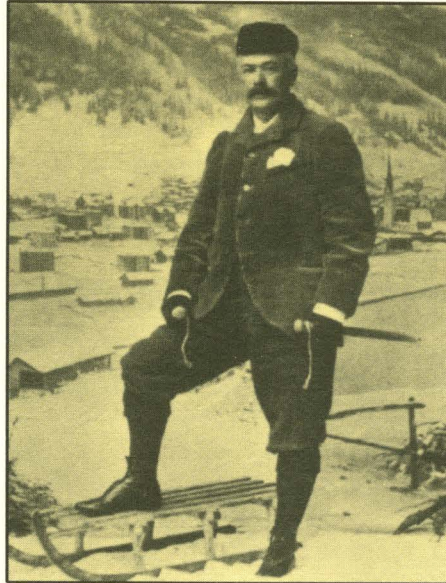
His ancestry is important because of his father's devotion to Catholicism and his artistic ability. The grandfather John Doyle, a portrait painter and caricaturist, moved from Ireland to London in the early part of the 19th Century. To the public his art, under the *nom de crayon* "H.B.," was a welcome relief from the harsh and caustic sketches of James Gillray and Thomas Rowlandson.

Grandfather's talent passed to the next generation in his four sons — three of whom achieved notable success in the art world. James became an artist and historian. The next son Richard, "Dicky Doyle," was best known as the artist for *Punch* magazine. He also designed its cover, which persisted for many years, and illustrated many children's books. Henry, another son, became the director of the National Gallery of Ireland.

Success and recognition, however, were not so apparent with the fourth son, Charles Altamont Doyle, Arthur Conan Doyle's father. At the age of 19 he left London and moved to Edinburgh for a minor civil job at the Office of Works. He painted but in a unique, whimsical, and penetrating manner — dainty, child-like figures amidst large animals in pastel colors. They were imaginative, wild-like, often supernatural, and did much to establish a new art genre in child art.

Grandfather John, the three uncles James, Richard, and Henry, and Arthur Conan Doyle gained additional and further distinction by their inclusion in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and daughter Dame Jean is listed in *Who's Who* six -- members of the same lineage so-designated in four generations!

*Editor's Note: From a paper presented by Dr. Kittle at a Caxton Club dinner meeting, May 15, 1991.*



*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle at Davos, Switzerland, 1894, the year Doyle and the Branger brothers made their famous 14-mile ski trip across the Mayerfelder-Furka Pass.*

## Caxtonian's Classic Poem Salutes Holmes and Watson

Chicago's Hounds of the Baskerville and other Sherlockian groups around the world regularly close their meetings with the recitation of "Sonnet 221B" by famed Caxtonian Vincent Starrett, who composed the poem in 1942. The poem salutes the spirit of the Hounds and all others of the Sherlockian persuasion who cast a fond eye back to the heart and soul of Victorian England.

### Sonnet 221B

*Here dwell together still two men of note  
Who never lived and so can never die;  
How very near they seem yet how remote  
That age before the world went all awry.*

*But still the game's afoot for those with ears  
Attuned to catch the distant view —halloa;  
England is England yet, for all our fears —  
Only those things the heart believe are true.*

*A yellow fog swirls past the window pane  
As night descends upon this fabled street;  
A lonely hansom splashes through the rain,  
The ghostly gas lamps fail at 20 feet.*

*Here, though the world explode, these two  
survive,  
And it is always 1895.*

Vincent Starrett

## Newberry Says "Thanks" For Caxton Club Archives

Dear Tom,

Thank you very much for the club's official gift of its archives to the Newberry Library. I am glad this could be done and visibly in the [December] meeting. The library is pleased and proud to be the recipient of these important papers. We will help ensure their preservation, their orderly use, and public notice of their existence. Given the mission of The Caxton Club, this is a natural and mutually beneficial union.

We wish also to express our deep appreciation for the club's generosity in contributing \$500 toward the transfer and maintenance of these materials. We will be good stewards of this money.

I look forward to many years of continued close collaboration and shared enjoyment in the appreciation of books and the world of printing.

*Charles T. Cullen  
President and Librarian  
The Newberry Library*

## Archives Committee Seeks Member and Group Photos

Black-and-white portrait-photos of individual Caxton Club members are being sought by the Archives Committee. Members should submit their photos to Dan Crawford at the Newberry Library.

The Archives Committee also desires group shots made at Caxton Club events — dinner meetings, luncheon meetings, the Centennial Gala, and other events of the club. These may be submitted to Dan Crawford, as well.

*Alonan Doyle.*

# Book Marks

## Luncheon Programs

All luncheon meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th floor of the First National Bank of Chicago, Madison & Clark, Chicago. Luncheon and discussion, 12:30 p.m.

### March 14.

Caxtonian Lynn Martin, who began her career as a graphic designer hand-setting type for her Chandler & Price press, will speak on "Back to Gutenberg: Designing With the Computer."

### April 11.

New Caxtonian Howard Will, a trainer for 35 years in the Great Books Foundation, will talk about his new role working with Chicago public school children, grades 1 through 12, in teaching them literature and music.

*Ed Quattrocchi  
Leonard Freedman*

*Important Note: Members planning to attend luncheons must make advance reservations by phoning either the Caxton number, 312/255-3710, or Quattrocchi at 708/475-4653. Luncheon for members and guests, \$20.*

## The Caxton Club on The Web

Internet users may communicate with The Caxton Club at the following address:

<http://www.caxtonclub.org/>  
Webmaster of the Caxton website is Caxtonian Paul Baker.

## Caxtonians to Hit Road On Wisconsin Outing

On Saturday, June 7, Caxtonians will board a bus at the Newberry Library to journey to Wisconsin for a cultural outing that will take them to Beloit, Janesville, and Lake Geneva.

Planned by Caxtonians Richard Hartung and John Notz, the trip will feature tours of Beloit College Library, the Hedberg Public Library and the Rotary International Gardens both in Janesville, and Lake Geneva Country Club.

Rock County, Wisconsin, where the principle part of the trip will be held, contains 20 percent of the National Register sites in Wisconsin. One of the stops will be at the Tallman House of Janesville, built in 1857 and the largest pre-Civil War home in the Upper Midwest. In Beloit, Caxtonians will see the site of an Abraham Lincoln speech in 1859.

The trip will conclude with cocktails and dinner at the country club. Details of the trip and costs will be sent to each club member shortly. Reservations should be made by telephoning The Caxton Club at 312/255-3710.

*"My only drug is a good long slug  
Of tincture of Conan Doyle."*

from "Te Deum Laudanum"  
Caxtonian Christopher Morley

## Dinner Programs

All dinner meetings, unless otherwise noted are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th Floor of the First National Bank, Madison & Clark streets, Chicago. Spirits, 5 p.m., dinner, 6 p.m., lecture, 7 p.m.

### March 19.

Kate Ridler Wilson will read the poetry of her mother, British poet Anne Ridler, the only living poet represented in the *Oxford Book of English Poetry*. Anne Ridler, a Yorkshire native, is, as well, the god-daughter of T.S. Eliot.

### April 16.

Because of a last-minute cancellation of the scheduled speaker, this dinner program will be announced at a later time.

*Karen Skubish*

*Advance reservations, which are absolutely necessary, may be made by phoning the Caxton office at 312/255-3710. Any special meal requirements (such as vegetarian) need to be made in advance. Members and guests, \$35.*

*The First National Bank of Chicago's parking garage, 40 S. Clark Street, offers a special parking rate after 5 p.m. to guests of the Mid-Day Club. When you leave, please tell the parking attendant you were at the Mid-Day Club, and your parking fee will be \$5.25*



The Caxton Club  
60 West Walton Street  
Chicago, IL 60610

*The Caxton Club ... Acclaiming the book arts and literature in society*