

# Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



**Reference and contact details:** GB 779 RCSEd GD/21

**Location:** RS L4

**Title:** Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)

**Held at:** The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

**Language of Material:** English.

**Level of Description:** item

**Date(s) of Description:** 2004; revised March 2009

## **Administrative/Biographical History:**

Arthur Conan Doyle was a medical graduate of the University of Edinburgh. He was not a Fellow of this College. He was a medical student who came under the spell of [Dr Joseph Bell](#) (President of this College 1887-1889) and always credited 'Joe' Bell as being his inspiration for the world-famous fictional character of Sherlock Holmes, due in part to the extremely fine diagnostic prowess Bell possessed.

Due to this connection, the College purchased this material at Christie's auction 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004

## **GD/21 Papers of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

[Photographs](#)

[Maps & Magazines](#)

[Notebooks and MSS](#)

**RCSEd Photographs**

**GD 21/1**

**A collection of photographs of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, his family and his homes**

1



Small "flick-book" of 64 monochrome photographs (4cms x 6cms) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, as a man in his sixties, wearing white shirt, light coloured tie, overcoat with velvet collar, is seen, as the pages are flicked, raising his hat with a gloved right hand and replacing it. "a continuous sequence of 64 photographs of Conan Doyle tipping his hat and smiling, by J.B. McDowell, 213 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, arranged in a booklet to be viewed as a motion film, 61 x 38mm, cloth covers, the upper cover stamped 'Greetings A.C.D.!';" [[Christie's](#) notes] n.d. 4cms x 6 cms x 1cm. Cover is beige buckram with "Greetings A.C.D."

2

Brown leather photograph case. Contains two photographs of Innes Doyle: One shows figure on horseback, facing right, uniformed with flag or bayonet Other shows figure seated on horse, facing left, wearing civilian clothes, and small hat. Open, it is 18cms x 20 cms. It has circular cutouts for display of the two sepia prints.

3

Dark green leather small folding photograph case. Contains two images of a child in a sailor suit, each with a hair sample. "Photographs of Adrian and Denis, with cuttings of their hair, arranged in a wallet, 120 x 85mm, green morocco gilt;" [[Christie's](#) notes] 12 cms x 8 cms

4



Photograph of Arthur Conan Doyle with his sons in cricket whites, 60 x 85mm

5

Jean Doyle with her sons, 195 x 250mm

6

2 interiors of Windlesham

7

Particulars for sale of Bignell Wood, Minstead, near Lyndhurst ("home of the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle") no date but post-1930. 5 images, interior and exterior, on foolscap sheet. Sole Agents Messrs Knight, Frank & Rutley, 20 Hanover Square London W.1.



8

Photograph mounted on card:  
The exterior of 12 Tennyson Road, South Norwood

9

5 photographs of stained glass armorial windows

#### **RCSED Maps and magazines**

##### **GD 21/2**

1

A fold out cased 1910 Ordnance Survey-type map by Edward Stanford Ltd, with the position of Bignell Wood indicated.

Green buckram

18cms x 13.5 cms x 1.5cms

2

Lippincott's Monthly Magazine February 1890. Lacks front cover. Pages 147-225 contains "The sign of the four" by A. Conan Doyle.

The Sign of the Four, in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine. London and New York: Ward, Lock & Co., and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, February 1890 (lacking wrappers).

At a dinner in 1889, both Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were commissioned to write a novel, to be published, complete, in Lippincott's Magazine.

Wilde submitted *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and Conan Doyle's novel was first published in the American and English editions of the magazine in 1890 (here in its monthly part, also published complete). [Christie's notes]

3 Parts of various issues of the Strand magazine

a) The Strand Magazine October 1927: Front cover (featuring new serial by Conan Doyle "Thrilling adventures under the Atlantic"

b) The Strand Magazine December 1914 Vol. 48 No. 288. "The valley of fear: a new Sherlock Holmes story by A. Conan Doyle... Part 1: The tragedy of Birlstone" Pages 603-613.

c) The Strand Magazine. Date unknown. 3 pages "The adventure of the dying detective" Pages 610-613.

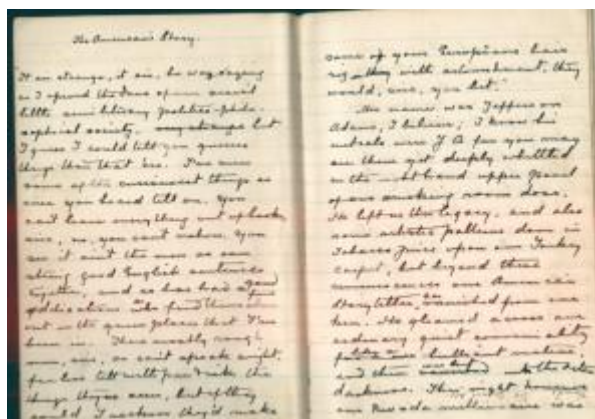
d) The Strand Magazine. Date unknown. Pages 231-236. "His last bow"

e) The Strand Magazine March 1927, containing ['A Sherlock Holmes Competition'](#), set by Conan Doyle



## RCSed Notebooks and MSS GD 21/3

1



1 notebook of clinical notes

*"Notes on medicine Session 1879-80, compiled from the Clinical Class from the infirmary wards, and from epitomes of the Systematic class. A. Conan Doyle"*

MSS in pen includes as below.

### The American Story

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Autograph manuscript of a short story, 'The American's Story', written in pen and pencil with revisions 30 pages, (reversed) in a medical notebook Medicine Session 1879-80. Compiled from the

entitled 'Notes on the Clinical Class from the infirmary wards, and from epitomes of the Systematic class. A. Conan Doyle', with medical notes on 30 pages, humorous verse celebrating the Royal College of Surgeons [of Edinburgh], 23 lines on 1½ pages, verse 'Demagogues once in an Isle of the West' [Ireland], 19 lines, scribbling on 2 pages plus blanks, one gathering of leaves removed, original red and green cloth, worn, 8vo.

The story is narrated by Jefferson Adams who insists that "if you want real interesting facts, some thing a bit juicy, go to your whalers and your frontiersmen and your miners and Hudson Bay men." His subject is the death of Joe Hawkins in Montana ('Alabama Joe as he was called thereabouts. A regular out and outer he was, 'bout the darndest Skunk as ever man clapt eyes on') with a cast of characters including Dawson 'our scientific man'. ... But when they reached the flytrap they stood and gaped in astonishment: "One of the great leaves of the flytrap ... was slowly rollin' back upon its hinges so to speak. There lying like a child in a cradle was Alabama Joe in the hollow o' the leaf.

*The great thorns had been slowly drivin through his heart [crossed through] chest as it shut upon him."*

This was only the second story Conan Doyle sold for publication. It appears in his accounts (Lot 35) for 1879: 'American's Tale (London Society), £1. 10. 0', and was published in the Christmas number of that Journal for 1880. It was reprinted and collected in the American and Continental editions of *Mysteries and Adventures* (Green and Gibson, A4. xi) The medical notes include 'The Constitutional Complications of Gout', 'Treatments of Rheumatism' and clinical notes on named patients and their symptoms. [Christie's notes] Green cover with red spine. 18cms x 12.5cms x 1.5 cms

2

4 items

a) Envelope "Reader's proof "End of Devil Hawker"

b) 70cms x 13cms proof of "The End of Devil Hawker" by A. Conan Doyle.

Sent by the Editor of The Strand Magazine. 1930. Stamped 4 July 1930

c) 70 cms x 13 cms proof of "The fool of Harvey's sluice by Conan Doyle". 5 pages

d) Slip of paper "The Fool of Harvey's Sluice" XII in *Mysteries and Adventures* as "Bones. The April Fool of Harvey's Sluice" London Society 1882 (April)

Sir Arthur CONAN DOYLE. 'The End of Devil Hawker', reader's page proof from The Strand Magazine. 10 pages, stamped '4 July 1930' and with editor's stamp (some browning). Although headed Strand Magazine - September, this story first appeared in vol. 80 in November 1930. 'The Fool of Harvey's Sluice', reader's page proof, 5 pages (lightly spotted). From *Mysteries and Adventures* [1889], this story first appeared as 'Bones. The April Fool of Harvey's Sluice' in London Society in April 1882 (vol 41). It appeared with the present title in the Glasgow Weekly Mail (Dec 1894) and the Western Weekly News (Plymouth, 1895). Green & Gibson A4.[Christie's notes]

#### **RCSED Illustration GD 21/4**

"The Great Northern Diver" – pen and ink illustration of Arthur Conan Doyle aboard the SS Hope, 1880. 14cm by 16cm. Donated by Dianne Sutherland, North East Folklore Archive, July 2006. Transferred to archive November 2009.

"In 1880 Captain John Gray of the Peterhead whaler Hope took Arthur Conan Doyle as ship's surgeon on a Greenland voyage. Conan Doyle was then a medical student in Edinburgh and it was customary for graduates to make at least one voyage as a ship's surgeon. During this voyage, in addition to his surgeon's duties, Conan Doyle took part in the whaling as oarsman aboard one of the whale boats. He fell into the sea three times during the voyage earning the nickname Great Northern Diver." [North East Folklore Archive]

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