



FREDERIC DORR STEELE MEMORIAL

REPORT TO OUR DONORS

APRIL 23, 2025

Announcing *The Complete Steele Portfolio*

Edited by Mike McSwiggin

Under the leadership of editor Mike McSwiggin, Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial, Inc. has begun a project to produce a book that will bring together every Sherlock Holmes illustration by Frederic Dorr Steele for the first time. Steele created more than 165 drawings of Holmes's cases from 1903 until his death in 1944. *The Complete Steele Portfolio*, projected for publication in 2027, will reproduce Steele's drawings from the surviving original artwork when possible, and from the publications where they first appeared. The book will be published and sold by the Gasogene Press, publishers of *The Complete Paget Portfolio*.

Why Steele?

Steele's life and work provides a unique perspective on the golden age of illustration. Steele is important because his iconic profile of Holmes influenced the work of other artists and the portrayal of the character in popular culture and on the screen. Collectors pursued his work during his lifetime because it delighted readers. Thanks to decades of research by FDSMI board member Andrew Malec, we know much about the passage of Steele's original art as it was acquired by collectors and institutions that include the Library of Congress.

Steele was a popular figure in the news columns and arts community of New York of his day. His essays on art and artists informed and educated readers. He wrote about the work of illustration and its challenges, and his published memories of authors, artists and editors help preserve the history of the golden age of illustration.

Support This Project

Let Mike know confidentially of original FDS art in your collection. Email fdsportfolio@gmail.com.

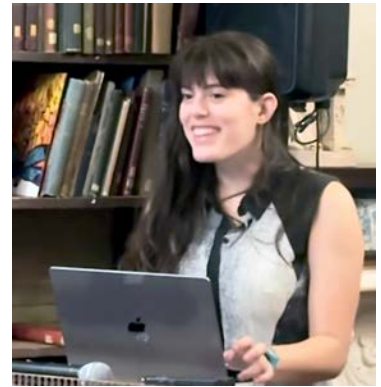
Murder, Mayhem and Masterpieces

FDSMI's illustration seminar at the Salmagundi Club

A standing-room crowd filled the library of the Salmagundi Club at 47 Fifth Avenue on September 13, 2024 to participate in our first illustration seminar. The two-hour program featured three presentations.

- Burt Wolder spoke about *Frederic Dorr Steele and the New York Art Scene of the 1890s*, describing Steele's creation of the American image of Sherlock Holmes and comparing his work to other artists.
- Dr. Olivia Rutigliano, editor at CrimeReads and LitHub, spoke on the subject of *Visualizing Detection*, describing the evolution of the detective in print, on the screen, and in popular culture.
- Jeff Wong, noted illustrator, graphic designer and rare book collector, spoke on the topic of *When Career Collides with Passion: a Rarity*, showing samples of his professional work, including cover art created for the crime and mystery writers whose work he collects.

These presentations will be available on the fdsteele.org website, and on our YouTube channel.



Please support our goals to find, catalog, and share Steele's work.

Your contribution supports our work to

- Produce a portfolio edition of all of Steele's Sherlock Holmes drawings
- Publish an anthology of his essays and pastiches
- Create a census of Steele's work

Donate \$75 or more and receive *all three of our publications* reproducing Steele's classic artwork.

- *FDS, The Crime Doctor, and Everybody's Magazine* - 8 pages, 2023
- *FDS, Outside the Law, and The Metropolitan Magazine* - 12 pages, 2024
- *FDS, "The Lion's Mane," and Monhegan Island* - 8 pages, 2025

Learn more about Steele at fdsteele.org.

Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

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to fredericdorrsteele@gmail.com

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113 North Street

Catskill, NY 12414