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Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

# Portsmouth City Council

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## News

### Sherlock Holmes inspired 'Dancing Men' eggs gifted to museum

A stunning set of decorated eggs inspired by Sherlock Holmes and created by a USA expert in folk art has been donated to Portsmouth's City Museum and Records Office.



During her life Ramute Plioplys perfected techniques of Lithuanian decorated eggs (Easter eggs) despite being disabled through contracting polio as a child. A great Sherlock Holmes fan, Ramute was a member of the South Downers in Chicago, one of the many American Sherlock Holmes societies, and an expert in the Lithuanian language and culture.

As part of her artistic work Ramute created a series of Dancing Men eggs based on one of Doyle's stories 'The Adventure of the Dancing Men', in which messages were written using dancing figures and each distinct figure corresponded to a letter of the alphabet.

Ramute died in 2007 and her brother Audrius Plioplys, a renowned neurologist and artist in the USA, got in touch with Portsmouth's City Museum to offer a set of the decorated

eggs for display. The Conan Doyle exhibition ' A Study In Sherlock: Uncovering the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection' is on permanent display at the City Museum.

Katy Ball from the city council's museums service said: "These eggs are very special and were made by a well known artist in the USA as a result of her keen interest in Sherlock Holmes.

"We feel honoured that Ramute's brother Audrius has donated these to our collection and hope that they will generate a lot of interest at the City Museum when they go on display later this year."

### **Websites with more information**

[www.portsmouthcitymuseums.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthcitymuseums.co.uk)

<http://ramute-plierplys.com>

[www.plioplys.com](http://www.plioplys.com)

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