

Canada and Sherlock Holmes

presentation. *Singalong with Sherlock Holmes*, a collection of his songs, was published in 1995 by the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library/Battered Silicon Dispatch Box. He is currently working on collection of songs from each of the 60 stories, publication decade uncertain. In 1999 he emigrated, perhaps unwisely, against the rotation of the earth, to accept a scientific position in Cambridge, U.K., and later in London.

Nancy Beiman, who has illustrated several Sherlockian works, graduated in the first class of the Character Animation Program at the California Institute of the Arts in 1979. She has worked as a supervising animator, character designer, storyboard and concept artist for commercial, feature and television productions at Walt Disney Feature and Television Animation, Warner Brothers Animation, and other studios in six countries. Nancy has produced animation and storyboard with her own company, illustrated books and magazines, and created two short independent films. She currently teaches storyboard at Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Oakville, Ontario. Nancy's first book, *Prepare to Board!*, is the standard text on storyboard. A second edition of her second book, *Animated Performance*, was published in 2015. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the National Cartoonists Society.

S. Tupper Bigelow, BSI ("The Five Orange Pips," Two-Shilling Award), (d. 1993) was Canada's most prominent early Sherlockian and the first Canadian to attend, in 1957, the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars. He served as a magistrate (later provincial court judge) in Toronto from 1945 to 1976. In addition he was the chairman of the Ontario Racing Commission, the first of its kind in Canada, and also president of the Royal Canadian Military Institute. Tupper was an active member of the Baker Street Squires in the 1960s and was inducted as the first honorary member of The Bootmakers of Toronto in 1973. His seminal writings in various journals were collected and published posthumously as *The Baker Street Briefs* in 1993. He also penned the classic *An Irregular Anglo-American Glossary* and created the Bigelow Index (See The Last Card File by Donald Redmond in this collection). Bigelow's collection of Sherlockian books and other materials, acquired in 1970, form one of the four "pillars" of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library.

Alan Bradley is the author of the best-selling mystery series featuring Flavia de Luce, a pre-teen girl in a 1950s English village with her own chemical lab and other Sherlockian leanings. Bradley's first book, long before Flavia, was the notorious *Ms. Holmes of Baker Street*, co-authored amidst much humor with William Sarjeant, when both were working at the University of Saskatchewan and the mainstays of The Casebook of Saskatoon scion society. (See transcript of interview in this volume.) The authors defended their thesis during a spirited public meeting in Toronto in 1989. In January 2015, as the BSI Distinguished Speaker, Alan discussed the importance of weather in the settings of many Conan Doyle stories (talk published in the Spring 2015 BSJ). He lives on the Isle of Man where he is working on the ninth de Luce book. Director Sam Mendes has optioned the series for TV movies.

Peter Calamai, C.M., MBt, BSI ("The Leeds Mercury") graduated from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario with extensive experience in student newspapering and, incidentally, a BSc in Physics. More than 45 years in Canadian daily newspaper journalism ensued, with correspondent postings in Ottawa, London, Vancouver, Nairobi, and Washington, followed by stints as editorial pages editor of *The Ottawa Citizen* and national science reporter for *The Toronto Star*. Currently a

Canada and Sherlock Holmes

freelance magazine writer, he lives in Ottawa and is an adjunct research professor in the School of Journalism at Carleton University. He has published roughly 8,000 newspaper articles, more than 50 Sherlockian articles and was given the BSI's Morley-Montgomery award in 2012. He is a member-at-large on the executive of the Bootmakers. In 2014 Peter was made a Member of the Order of Canada "for his achievements as a science journalist and his contributions to the cause of literacy."

Karen Campbell, MBt has been a Sherlockian and a member of The Bootmakers of Toronto since high school. She now teaches high school and declares that Sherlock Holmes is definitely on the syllabus in her English classes. Accompanied by pianist Craig Brtnik (MBt), Karen has written and performed Sherlockian song parodies for the Bootmakers, winning the Warren Carleton Award for best presentation multiple times. For *The Baker Street Journal* she examined the love theme in "The Devil's Foot" and for *Canadian Holmes* penned a pastiche, "The Adventure of the Anonymous Caller." But without a doubt, she says, the greatest reward for being a part of this wonderful following for 32 years has been the enduring friendships, which is only fitting, as these stories celebrate one of the greatest friendships in all of literature.

J. Thomas Dalby is a forensic psychologist and long-time Sherlockian who lives in Calgary, Alberta, and Mesa, Arizona. He has provided expert opinions to courts across Canada and the U.S. for thirty-eight years. He is the author of more than 100 articles, chapters and books in medical, legal and psychological forums. He is also the author of short fiction and co-author of an award-winning screenplay on a key insanity case in London from 1843. He is Adjunct Professor of Psychology at the University of Calgary and was on the faculty of medicine for 26 years. He is a member of The Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen in Calgary and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

True Davidson, C.M. (d. 1978) was an early stalwart of the Bootmakers and its second Meyers (President). For more than two decades Davidson was one of Metropolitan Toronto's most colorful politicians. She was the first mayor of the borough of East York, Ontario, after serving as an alderwoman, reeve and school trustee; she was victorious in eleven local elections but lost in her one bid for the provincial legislature. A writer and an editor, True garnered headlines across the country when she proposed in a 1972 Bootmakers presentation that Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes were born in Canada. She was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1973 "for a career in the service of the public and as a columnist, lecturer and devoted friend to Sherlock Holmes."

Graeme Decarie is emeritus Professor of History at Concordia University, Montreal, and father of five. After retiring from Concordia he moved to New Brunswick.

Karen Gold joined The Bootmakers of Toronto in 2013 and became a director-at-large as Lassus in December, 2014. In this position, she writes and performs a song parody at every story meeting. Most recently, Gold appeared with the actor R.H. Thomson and others in a reading of Conan Doyle's play, *Waterloo*, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Long before she became a Sherlockian, Karen performed at Canada's Stratford Festival with an underground theatre company. Soon after, she landed a singing role in the National Rock Opera production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and then went on to a feature role in the Salome Bey musical *Sweetmama*. In 2008, she released a CD of original songs and is currently lead singer in the classic-rock band The Neckties.

Canada and Sherlock Holmes

Paul Gouett (d. 1999) was an early member of the Spence Munros, the scion society in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Gouett won a Distinguished Community Service Award from Saint Mary's University in 1989. He used to joke about multiple sclerosis, with which he lived for almost two decades, that at least it was a disease whose mascot was a dog in Sherlock Holmes attire. Paul dedicated the last 15 years of his life to the disabled community in Halifax. He was a member of the board of the Canadian Paraplegic Society (Nova Scotia) for many years and worked with other groups such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the National Social Action Committee.

L.B. (Beth) Greenwood of Kelowna, British Columbia, is the author of the much-admired Sherlockian novels *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Raleigh Legacy* (1986), *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Sabrina Hall* (1988), and *Sherlock Holmes and the Thistle of Scotland* (1989). Greenwood said she stopped writing her Sherlockian novels after warnings by the Doyle copyright holders. However, the 83-year-old author told the editors of this book late in 2015 that she is pondering another novel featuring Holmes and Watson "but not just another pastiche."

Ted Gurr, MBt (d. 2006) was a long-time Bootmaker, and Meyers (President) in 2001. He was also an executive member of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, which he actively promoted through presentations. As an active member of a Brampton PROBUS Club, Gurr shared his technological expertise with fellow members. His car licence plate was "GURR8."

Len Haffenden, MBt (aka Ellay Aitchison) is a long-time and endlessly enthusiastic member of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, where he edited the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Petrel Flyer*, for two decades. Born in London, he emigrated to Canada at 16, joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1952 for six years and settled in Vancouver where he took a degree in international relations from the University of British Columbia. A long-time senior English teacher, Len is the author of *The Adventure of the Awful Apparition* (a three-act play), *The Priory School Tyre Directional Guide*, an artwork-only version of *A Study in Scarlet* and many feature articles and poems, especially sonnets, whose precise structure he admires. He is also a chartered arbitrator, material appraiser, automotive historian writer, bandsman in a naval veterans band, and jovial spirit.

Michael Higgs, a long-time member of the Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, is a retired commercial pilot who flew overseas routes for Canadian Pacific Airlines for 35 years. Born and raised in Rugby, U.K., he did his Royal Air Force flight training in Claresholm, Alberta. Canada beckoned after the RAF, and he emigrated to Vancouver, flying with the RCAF Auxiliary before joining CP Air.

Cameron Hollyer, MBt, BSI ("The Three Students") (d 2000) was one of the staff members of the Toronto Public Library who, starting in 1969, engineered the major acquisitions that formed the basis of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, which opened two years later. For the next 20 years he served as the Curator of the ever-growing Collection. Equally important, he quietly put his great knowledge in matters Sherlockian and Doylean at the service of a stream of inquiring scholars and biographers, continuing long after his official retirement. The Buffalo-born Cameron, a Harvard graduate, is universally considered one of the giants among the founding members of the Bootmakers of Toronto. The issue of *Canadian Holmes* after his death (Vol. 24, No. 1) is replete

Canada and Sherlock Holmes

with tributes to his gentleness, modesty, wit and erudition. Since 2002, the Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture has been presented annually by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

Janice McNabb, MBt, ASH (“L.L.”) worked in the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library’s Arthur Conan Doyle Collection from 1982 to 1986 as assistant to curator Cameron Hollyer. Although she came into the job without any former connection to the world of Sherlock Holmes, Cameron proved a brilliant mentor, a blend of Wizard and Dungeon Master as he guided her through the labyrinths of Sherlockian history and scholarship. Her main tasks were clerical: organizing, indexing and cataloguing. As she became familiar with the material in the Collection, Janice began to research and write papers for presentation to the Bootmakers and for *Canadian Holmes*, and to present papers at various Sherlockian and American Popular Culture Association conferences. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* always held special fascination for her, with its complex sub-plots and the provocative treatment of women’s roles in Edwardian society.

Hartley R. Nathan, MBt, BSI (“The Penang Lawyer”) is a founding member and twice Meyers (President) of The Bootmakers of Toronto. He is on the board of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. Nathan frequently speaks at meetings of the Bootmakers, and many of his papers have been published in *The Baker Street Journal* and *Canadian Holmes*. In 2011 Hartley published a monograph titled *Who Was Jack The Ripper?* and in 2014 co-authored *Sherlock Holmes Investigates: Solved and Unsolved Mysteries* with Cliff Goldfarb. In his spare time he practices corporate law in Toronto with Minden Gross LLP and was made a Queen’s Counsel in 1982. He is the author of textbooks on the law of corporate meetings in Canada and is a frequent lecturer on this topic.

Peggy Perdue, MBt, BSI (“Violet Westbury”) is curator of the Toronto Public Library’s Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. She feels fortunate to have a full-time job working with Mr. Sherlock Holmes and his creator, and loves sharing the Collection’s resources with researchers and fans. Prior to joining the Toronto Public Library, she honed her librarian skills at the Royal Ontario Museum, United Nations University, and the Japan Foundation. Peggy has received the Beacon Society award for teaching Sherlock Holmes, and the BSI Eddy Award for the 2009 Christmas Annual on the use of Holmes in advertising. When not pursuing Sherlockian studies as vocation and avocation, Peggy can usually be found working on her long-term goal of becoming a hyperpolyglot.

Jamie Portman first became a Sherlock Holmes devotee as a child growing up in Manitoba. After graduating from St. John’s College, University of Manitoba, he began his daily newspaper career at *The Calgary Herald*, where he worked as an arts writer and member of the editorial board. He became that newspaper’s first entertainment editor before becoming a travelling arts writer for Canada’s Southam newspapers. He continues to write on books and the arts for that group’s successor, Postmedia, and has received four Nathan Cohen awards for critical writing.

Christopher Redmond, MBt, ASH (“The Glamour of his Convictions”), **BSI** (“Billy”) is the editor of Sherlockian.Net and author of *A Sherlock Holmes Handbook* and other writings, including the most recent, *Lives Beyond Baker Street*. He is a member of The Bootmakers of Toronto, the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and a good few other societies. He lives in Waterloo, Ontario, where he retired from a career in university communications and now spends his time on Sherlockian activities, grandchildren and drinking coffee.

Canada and Sherlock Holmes

Donald Redmond, MBt, BSI (“Good Old Index,” Two-Shilling Award) (d 2014) served as an academic librarian in Nova Scotia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Kansas, and eventually at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. He was the author of *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Sources* and *Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates* and was an internationally known Sherlockian indexer, as well as a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada.

Christopher Roden, MBt, BSI (“Sir Henry Baskerville”) is the proud recipient of the BSI’s Eddy Award for the 2001 BSJ Christmas Annual: *On The Shoulders Of Giants: Jack Tracy And The Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana*. Christopher founded The Arthur Conan Doyle Society in 1989 and, together with his wife Barbara, hosted society conferences in Edinburgh and Toronto. He operates the Sherlockian Calabash Press and its parent Ash-Tree Press, which has garnered a World Fantasy award, International Horror Guild awards and Bram Stoker awards. He edited two volumes of the *Oxford Sherlock Holmes* series, and has contributed countless introductions and articles on Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes to a variety of publications. Being an editor and publisher, Chris enjoys the occasional glass of the amber nectar as he looks out over the beautiful mountain landscape from his home in the Interior of British Columbia.

Barbara Rusch, MBt, BSI (“The Mazarin Stone”) has been a member of the Bootmakers of Toronto since 1983, serving as Meyers (President) in 2002. She has been the recipient of Bootmaker awards for best paper and best presentation as well as the Emerald Tie Pin, for sustained, varied and lasting contributions. Her articles have appeared in *The Baker Street Journal*, *Canadian Holmes*, and *The Magic Door*. She is vice-chair of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. Barbara also chaired the 2011 conference “SinS —Arthur Conan Doyle: A Study in Scandal.” A lecturer on Victorian social history, she has written a play and a novella related to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle. A collector of ephemera and other 19th-century artifacts, she counts amongst her treasures one of Houdini’s handcuff keys and a pair of Queen Victoria’s knickers. In 2012 she was the recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

David Sanders, MBt says that, with a Welsh mother singing is in his blood, so it was only natural that he began to write Sherlock Holmes songs based on well-known tunes. First, however, came “The Speckled Band” in a book of mysteries from the school library when in Grade 5. Not until his teen years did he really get into the Canon and then discovered the pastiches. In 1987 Dave had the happy fortune to see Don Redmond interviewed on television and learned about Sherlock Holmes societies, including the Bootmakers in Toronto. He has been a member since then, serving as Meyers (President) in 1999 and 2012 and also for 10 years as “Tongue,” or Quiz Master. Another great passion is Ancient Egypt, and he is a life member of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities.

Doug Wrigglesworth, MBt, BSI (“The Retired Colourman”) masqueraded as a scientist for several years while introducing his students to the wonders of chemical reactions and the laboratory in Toronto area secondary schools. During the last several years of his active educational career, Wrigglesworth worked on science curriculum and on national and international large-scale student assessment initiatives. On retirement he has taken the opportunity to explore his true passions — the history and literature of late Victorian and Edwardian Britain. One of several windows into this area

Canada and Sherlock Holmes

of study is through the world of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle. Doug is the founding Chair of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library and a long-time Bootmaker. He is also on the Board of Trustees of the East Gwillimbury Library Board, a member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute and active in PROBUS Club activities.

Table of Contents

PREFACE by Donald J. Hobbs	ix
PART 1: INTRODUCTION	1
Through the Magic Door by Mark Alberstat and Peter Calamai	3
<i>A Mari Usque ad Mare</i> with Holmes (and Conan Doyle) by Peter Calamai	5
We Always Mention Our Sherlock by David Sanders	27
PART 2: THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION	31
A Closer Look at the Four Pillars of the Collection by Hartley Nathan	33
Hidden Ephemera Treasures in Toronto by Barbara Rusch	39
What's Canadian in the Canadian Collection by Peggy Perdue	47
The Last Card File by Donald Redmond	55
It Is Good to Have Friends by Doug Wrigglesworth	59
The Darkness that Surrounds the Angels by Christopher Roden	65
Notes from a Man of Letters by Cameron Hollyer	71

Canada and Sherlock Holmes

PART 3: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN CANADA	77
Welcome to Canada, Mr, Sherlock Holmes: Arthur Conan Doyle in Canada by Christopher Redmond	79
Photos from Doyle’s own album taken in Canada and promotional reprint of Conan Doyle’s poem “The Athabaska Trail.”	
PART 4: THE CANADIAN CONNECTION	87
A Very Canadian Murder Mystery by Jamie Portman	89
Birth and Scandal — Ms. Holmes of Baker Street by Alan Bradley (transcript of interview)	97
The Sleazy Truth by Paul Gouett	109
“I Could Concoct a Better Plot,” and More by L.B. Greenwood	111
<i>Cardinal Tosca</i> — It Was a Dark and Stormy Night By Jamie Portman	117
PART 5: SCHOLARSHIP IN THE GREAT WHITE NORTH	123
The Adler Commission on Porn in the Canon by True Davidson	125
In Bed With Sherlock Holmes by Jim Ballinger	131
A Glass of Wine with Sherlock by Tony Aspler	133
If We Have to Be Whimsical by S. Tupper Bigelow	141
Professor Moriarty: the Criminal Crammer by Peter Calamai	145
A Remarkable Worm Said to be Unknown to Science by Frederick Aldrich	153
The Lure Of the Chase by Christopher Redmond	157

Canada and Sherlock Holmes

ACD Sonnet XXII — Charles Augustus Milverton by Len Haffenden	159
Quick Watson, the Needle by J. Thomas Dalby	161
The Two Worlds of Holmes and Watson by Graeme Decarie	167
His Last Bow by Karen Gold	171
The Wicked Colonel's Canadian Connection by Mark Alberstat	173
A Case of Fine China by Ted Gurr	177
The Course Prescribed for Surgeons: Netley Observed by Michael Higgs	185
Laura Lyons – Typist or Temptress? by Janice McNabb	193
Bad, Bad Silas Brown by Karen Campbell	205
CONTRIBUTORS	207

About the BSI International Series

The Baker Street Irregulars, the literary society dedicated to the study of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, publishes the International Series to bring more exposure to the best Sherlockian scholarship from around the world. The series also includes *Japan and Sherlock Holmes*, *Scandinavia and Sherlock Holmes*, *Australia and Sherlock Holmes*, *Italy and Sherlock Holmes*, and *Spain and Sherlock Holmes*

Other BSI Publications

The BSI also publishes *The Baker Street Journal*, the Manuscript Series, and select non-series works. All of these can be ordered at our website.

<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>