



Dancing to Death

A Facsimile of the Original Manuscript of
“The Dancing Men” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
with Annotations and Commentary on the Story

Edited & introduced by
Ray Betzner, BSI and David F. Morrill, BSI

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Contributor Biographies

Ray Betzner, BSI (“The Agony Column”) is Associate Vice President for Executive Communications at Temple University in Philadelphia. A native of the Pittsburgh area, he has been a member of the Scion of the Four in Morgantown, West Virginia, and was co-founder of the Cremona Fiddlers of Williamsburg. He is currently Comptroller of the Kennel for the Sons of the Copper Beeches in Philadelphia. In 1987 he was invested in The Baker Street Irregulars and is a Morley-Montgomery Award winner. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of Vincent Starrett’s seminal *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, Ray edited a new edition for Wessex Press. He has spoken at numerous events about Starrett, and blogs about him at <www.vincentstarrett.com>.

Marshall “Mike” Berdan, BSI (“Henri Murger”) is a freelance travel writer currently residing outside of Hartford, Connecticut. His clubbable Sherlockian career dates back to 1986 when he moved to Washington, D.C. from his native Cleveland and affiliated first with the Red Circle and the Six Napoleons of Baltimore. His contributions to the literature extend over a quarter century and three separate continents, and he has spoken at numerous Sherlockian gatherings — and has occasionally even been invited back. In 2007 he received his BSI investiture, and in 2009 he was awarded the Morley-Montgomery Prize. From 2010 to 2016 he served as editor of the BSI Trust newsletter, and since 2010 as co-gasogene (along with Greg Darak) of the Men on the Tor.

Phillip Bergem, BSI (“Birdy Edwards”) is a Civil Engineer with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He enjoys working on various Sherlockian and Doylean projects, specializing in the *Strand Magazine*, *Beeton’s Christmas Annuals* and the family history and writings of Arthur Conan Doyle. This is the sixth Holmes manuscript he has annotated or co-annotated for The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series, in addition to having annotated the non-Sherlockian story “The Horror of the Heights” for the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota in 2004, working with John Bergquist throughout it all. Phil has been a member of the Norwegian Explorers since 1993.

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Andrew G. Fusco, BSI (“Athelney Jones”) was invested in 1972 and is the current General Editor of The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series; this volume is the sixth under his tenure. The first was *So Painful a Scandal*, edited by John Bergquist and published in 2009. Mr. Fusco’s first published Sherlockian work appeared in the *Baker Street Journal* in 1969, and he has been an avid student of the Canon, commentator and collector for more than 40 years. A practicing attorney in Morgantown, W.V., he has served as informal legal adviser to the last three leaders of the BSI. He is a member of numerous Sherlockian societies, including The Scion of the Four, in which he has served as Commissionaire since 1971.

Timothy Greer, BSI (“The Ragged Shaw”) teaches Detective Fiction, Shakespeare, and rhetoric at Memphis University School in Memphis, Tennessee, where he currently serves as Second Garrideb of the scion The Giant Rats of Sumatra. He received the Morley-Montgomery Award for the article “Murger in Baker Street,” from the Autumn 2014 edition of the *Baker Street Journal* and the 2014 Beacon Award for providing exemplary Sherlockian educational experiences. Tim is also a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Diogenes Club of Washington, D.C., and the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore.

Don Hobbs, BSI (“Inspector Lestrade”) has been collecting Sherlockiana for more than 30 years. Most of that time he has concentrated on collecting foreign translations of the Canon. He has discovered translations in more than 40 languages. He started the Galactic Sherlock Holmes, an Electronic Bibliography for Foreign Translations of the Canon, which lists 106 languages that have at least one Canonical translation. In 2012, he was invested in The Baker Street Irregulars and is the General Editor of the BSI International Series. When not Sherlocking, he works as an applications specialist for a radiology software company. Hobbs resides in Flower Mound, Texas, with his wife, Joyce, and many thousands of books he cannot read.

David F. Morrill, BSI (“Count Von Kramm”) was raised in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and now resides in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he is a communications guru at William & Mary Law School by day and Shakespearean actor, artist, film historian, and roaring bohemian by night. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of New Hampshire and holds a master’s degree in English Literature from the College of William & Mary. He has been known to lecture on Poe, Shelley, Stoker, Conan Doyle, et al., when the fit is upon him, and his writings on Sherlock Holmes have been published in the *Baker Street Journal*, *Scarlet Street* magazine, *Van Helsing’s Journal*, and *The Holmes and Watson Report*. In 2008 he was invested in The Baker Street Irregulars, and that year he wrote and designed the BSJ Christmas Annual, *Reading the Signs: Some Observations and Aperçus on Film and Television Adaptations of The Sign of Four*.

Ashley D. Polasek is an internationally recognized expert in the study of Sherlock Holmes adaptations. Both her MA thesis and doctoral dissertation interrogated the subject of Holmes on screen, and she has published several academic articles in leading journals and presented numerous papers exploring various aspects of Sherlockian film and television throughout the US, UK, and Europe. As a frequent reviewer for Oxford UP’s *Adaptation*, and a member of both the Association of Adaptation Studies and the Literature/Film Association, she is proud to be a point of contact for scholars seeking to publish about Holmes’s screen afterlives. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a fellow of the Centre for Adaptations at De Montfort University, and is a member of the Baker

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Street Babes and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. Ashley is the co-editor of *Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen*, published in 2015 by BSI Press.

Susan Rice, BSI (“Beeswing”), a Sherlockian for more than 50 years, has been active in scion societies in Michigan, Illinois, and now in the New York metropolitan area. She has been published widely in Holmesian journals, and has written two books, *A Compound of Excelsior* in 1991 and *The Somnambulist and the Detective* in 2000. Her most frequent subjects are beekeeping, Vincent Starrett, and women in the Canon and in the Sherlockian world. Susan is active in ASH where she holds the lengthy investiture of “A Practical Handbook of Bee Culture With Some Observations Upon the Segregation of the Queen.” She was one of the first six women invested in the BSI in 1991, where her less clumsy investiture is “Beeswing.” She won the Gaslight Award in 1984 and the Morley-Montgomery Award in 1997. Her real world career was in travel, primarily in cruising; she has been happily retired for 10 years.

Dana Richards, BSI (“The Priory School”) is a professor of Computer Science at George Mason University. His first Sherlockian publication was as a graduate student in 1979. Since then he has published in the *Baker Street Journal*, *Canadian Holmes*, *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, *Baker Street Miscellanea* and numerous other places. Also, since 1979 he has been a member of the National Puzzler’s League and has often tried to combine his interest in puzzles and Holmes. He is a member of many scion societies and was invested into The Baker Street Irregulars in 2008.

Randall Stock, BSI (“South African Securities”) is a product marketing consultant in Silicon Valley, and has presented papers at Harvard and the University of Minnesota on Conan Doyle rarities. He has written manuscript histories for five prior volumes of the BSI Manuscript Series and produces a website, The Best of Sherlock Holmes <www.bestofsherlock.com>, that provides news and information about rare Sherlockiana. Invested into The Baker Street Irregulars in 2008, Randall manages the BSI’s websites. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University and an MBA from UCLA.

Donny Zaldin, BSI, (“John Hector McFarlane”) has served The Bootmakers of Toronto in multiple leadership roles over the past quarter century, as its President (Meyers), Colonel Ross, Quizmaster, Diarist and Copy-Editor of its quarterly journal. A Master Bootmaker (MBt,) he has won numerous BOT awards for best formal and informal meeting presentations and best journal article, and he is a recipient of the society’s “Emerald Tie-Pin” award. Donny has contributed articles to the *Baker Street Journal*, *The Serpentine Muse*, *Canadian Holmes*, *Explorations*, *The Magic Door*, and British, American and Canadian anthologies and websites. He is an invested member of The Baker Street Irregulars and serves as “Colonel Ross” of the Triennial Can-Am BOT-BSI Silver Blaze Race and Conference at Toronto. In his non-Sherlockian life, Donny is a barrister-at-law in the field of family law and is married to the Bootmakers’ “certain gracious lady” Barbara Rusch, with six children and 15 grandchildren.

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