



Mobile Holmes: Transportation in the Canon

Edited & introduced by
Walter Jaffee, BSI

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Contributor Biographies

John Baesch, BSI (“State and Merton County Railroad”) was born and grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, the home city of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, America’s first common carrier railroad. He graduated with a B.A. in Latin and Classics from what is now Loyola University Maryland and received a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army (Transportation Corps). The Army assignments took care of his interest in trains in the United States, Europe, and Vietnam. Following military service he was hired the B&O railroad, then by Amtrak, then by an engineering consultancy. His present occupation is enjoying retirement.

Ray Bennett is a retired computer technician with additional experience in directing and producing commercial television broadcasts. His love of Sherlock Holmes dates from his childhood in Oklahoma, and he is a current member of the Diogenes Club of Monterey Bay, California. He resides in Seaside, California.

Catherine Cooke, MA, ALCM, FCLIP, BSI (“The Book of Life”) received an MA in Library and Information Studies from the University of London and is a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. She is Joint Honorary Secretary of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and a member of ASH (“An Idler of the Empire”). She lives in London and manages computer systems and the Sherlock Holmes Collection for Westminster Libraries. She won the BSI’s Morley-Montgomery Award for 2005.

Roger Donway is a professional researcher, writer, and editor who has written more than one hundred articles and edited thirteen books during the last twenty-five years. After joining the Hudson Valley Scionists in 1999, he began presenting talks on the Canon, several of which have been published by the Baker Street Irregulars, including “Who was Gloria Scott?” and “The Hunt for Grandmother Vernet.” He and his wife, Alisan, recently moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where he enjoys tennis and ballroom dancing.

Mobile Holmes

John Durein, BSI (“Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer”) was introduced to Sherlock Holmes at the age of 12 when his father gave him *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* and he began his study of the Canon. In 1977 as a teacher of mathematics at Carmel High School, he became a member of the Diogenes Club of the Monterey Peninsula with the investiture name of “Ian Murdoch.” He is a charter member of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, at which he can visit the Lion’s Mane whenever he wishes. In 2016 he was honored to become a member of the Baker Street Irregulars. He is a numismatist and he also enjoys hiking, fishing, spoiling his grandchildren, indulging in all things Sherlockian, and, of course, training canaries.

Marcus Geiser, RBI, BSI (“Rosenlauri”) was born in Switzerland and has been an active Sherlockian since his teenage years. A humanitarian practitioner with one-and-a-half decades of experiences in conflict zones on three continents, he settled in London in 2015. He is the founding president of The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland. His most recent article is “Who Was Von Bork” published in *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* (summer 2014), various conference papers (“Travel in the Blood,” 2013; and “Submarines, secrets, signals — random reflections about diplomats and spies in the Canon,” 2015). He is the co-organizer of two successful Reichenbach Irregulars conferences (“Alpine Adventures — Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland” in Davos in 2014 and “Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited” in Hasliberg Reuti in 2017).

Walter Jaffee, BSI (“The Resident Patient”) graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, in 1965. He sailed as a licensed deck officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine, receiving his master’s papers (captain’s license) at the age of 26. He has a master’s degree in public administration from California State University at Hayward. Formerly employed as superintendent of the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet, he has been an adjunct professor at the California Maritime Academy and was chief mate (2nd in command) on the SS *Jeremiah O’Brien* during her historic 1994 return voyage to Normandy for the 50th Anniversary of D-Day. He is currently owner/publisher of the Glencannon Press. In addition to authoring 18 books on ships and the sea, he has served as co-editor of *The Diogenes Club Speaks*, was technical consultant to the Atlas Warship Series and contributed to the Virginia Military Institute 3-volume *Encyclopedia of Naval History*.

Candace J. Lewis, Ph.D., has been a member of the Hudson Valley Scientists of Dutchess County, New York, since 1977 along with her husband, Lou Lewis, BSI (“William Whyte”), who has served as its president for the last 28 years. In 2007, she became “The Woman” of the Baker Street Irregulars. She is the editor of *Two Celebrations: The 50th Annual Running of The Chicago Silver Blaze, The Triennial Silver Blaze of The Baker Street Irregulars*, (2009), and *Saratoga Studies: Unraveling Threads from “Silver Blaze,”* and she co-edited with Roger Donway “*The Greek Interpreter*” (2012) and *Saratoga: At the Rail: From “Silver Blaze” to “Shoscombe Old Place”* (2015). Dr. Lewis is an art historian in the field of early Chinese Art with a secondary area of specialty in Nineteenth-Century Art in Europe and America.

Guy Marriott, BSI (“The Hotel du Louvre”) is a retired English solicitor who worked principally in the music industry, specializing in intellectual property. He currently resides in Spain. He is a former Chairman of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and currently (2017) is honored to serve as the Society’s President. As well as studying Sherlock Holmes, he also has a keen interest in heritage transport and in remote islands. He has been married to Elizabeth for over 40 years, and they have two children.

Mobile Holmes

Mark Mower is a crime writer and historian whose passion for tales about Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson began at the age of twelve, when he watched an early film pairing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. Now a member of the Crime Writers' Association and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, Mark has written numerous books about true crime stories and fictional murder mysteries. His first Holmes and Watson tale, "The Strange Missive of Germaine Wilkes," appeared in *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories — Volume I* (MX Publishing, 2015). His own volume of Holmes pastiches, *A Farewell to Baker Street*, appeared shortly afterward (MX Publishing, 2015). He is now working on a Hollow-up. His non-fiction works have included *Zeppelin Over Suffolk* (Pen & Sword, 2008), the remarkable true story of the destruction of a German airship over East Anglia in 1917. In addition to his writing, Mark lectures on aspects of criminology and runs a course on the history of crime. He lives close to Beccles in the English county of Suffolk.

Richard Olken, BSI ("Bob Carruthers") is a Sherlockian and bicycle professional. He is Poker Emeritus of The Speckled Band of Boston and is active in several other Sherlockian societies, including the Baker Street Irregulars, The Friends of Irene Adler, the Pondicherry Lodgers of 44th Street and Uno Studio in Holmes. He received the BRAINY Award for Lifetime achievement in the Bicycle Industry and The League of American Bicyclists' Dr. Paul Dudley White Award for Lifetime Achievement in Bicycling Advocacy. Olken is also President of the Friends of Spannocchia and serves on the boards of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust and the United States Bicycling Hall of Fame.

John S. Postovit has a variety of interests, including science fiction, drawing, bicycling, and of course the study of the Canon. After working a number of years in the night vision goggle industry, he moved over to teaching and currently teaches physics and upper-level math in Scotts Valley, California. He has been involved with the Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea since 2001 and has presented a variety of Sherlockian research papers since that time.

Jane Weller was born in Chatham, in Kent, home depot of the Royal Engineers and a major naval dockyard. With an honors degree in History from Manchester University and a professional librarianship diploma, she has spent many years as a senior military librarian, working with all three of the U.K. Armed Forces. She has contributed articles to Holmesian journals, under her own name and under the pseudonym of Lomax! and helped Philip run the FMHC society for many years — in particular with organizing the numerous expeditions to canonical locations all over the U.K. and to Italy, Russia, France, Belgium and Switzerland.

Philip Weller was born in Portsmouth, two miles from the birthplace of Sherlock Holmes! His father served in the Royal Navy's Submarine Service throughout World War II, in the Arctic Sea, the Mediterranean and the Far East. Philip served in the Royal Air Force for 32 years, and has separate degrees in Philosophy (Open University), History and War Studies, both from the University of London. He has published a dozen books, scores of monographs and hundreds of articles, mostly connected with Holmes, Conan Doyle and the works of Umberto Eco. Philip's *The Hound of the Baskervilles: Hunting the Dartmoor Legend* is a major contribution to the study of the most famous of the Holmes cases. His previous work (together with Jane) for the BSI was to contribute greatly to the Manuscript Series book *Mandate for Murder* (on "The Red Circle"). Philip and Jane live on the South Coast of Hampshire, a few miles from the Royal Navy Submarine Museum.

Mobile Holmes

Chuck Winge (born three weeks after Charles Lindbergh landed in Paris in 1927, he was named Charles) was born in and grew up in Chicago. He worked as a CPA for Price Waterhouse in Chicago and Los Angeles, including with the Academy Awards group. He next moved to Las Vegas to get into aviation after learning to fly in Los Angeles. Later returning to Los Angeles, he opened his own accounting practice. After his daughter was born, they moved to Carmel, California, where he continued with his own accounting firm until retiring in Monterey, California, in 2015. He read his first Sherlock Holmes story at the age of ten. In 1974 he helped organize the Diogenes Club of Monterey Bay and has been a member ever since with the investiture name, "Mycroft." He has belonged to Mensa, has a commercial multi-engine pilot's license, and is a member of the "Quiet Birdmen." He also plays in two community bands and is founder of the quintet "Class Brass."

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