



Out of the Abyss

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

Edited by Andrew Solberg, BSI,
Steven Rothman, BSI, and Robert Katz, MD, BSI

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248 pages, 10" x 7" hardcover, December 2014
With the manuscript reproduction and 19 b&w illustrations

Contributor Biographies

Phillip Bergem, BSI (“Birdy Edwards”) lives in Andover, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis. He received a Mining Engineering degree and an MBA from the University of Minnesota. Phil earns his living working as a Civil Engineer with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He enjoys working on various Sherlockian and Doylean projects. His areas of specialized interest include *The Strand Magazine*, *Beeton’s Christmas Annuals* and the family history and writings of Arthur Conan Doyle. This is the fifth manuscript he has annotated for the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series, in addition to annotating a non-Sherlockian story by Conan Doyle, “The Horror of the Heights,” working with John Bergquist throughout it all. Phil has been a member of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota since 1993.

John Bergquist, BSI (“The King of Scandinavia”) is Co-Publisher (along with Michael Kean) and Production Editor of Baker Street Irregulars Press, the book-publishing venture of the BSI – including the Manuscript Series, for which he edited *So Painful a Scandal* (on “The Three Students”). He received the BSI’s Two-Shilling Award in 2010. He has long been active in the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, having served as co-leader of its study group and as editor of its newsletter, *Explorations*, and of its *Christmas Annual*. He also serves as Vice President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota (his alma mater) and is on the editorial board of its newsletter.

Ray Betzner, BSI (“The Agony Column”) is the 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 2007, he won the Morley–Montgomery Memorial Award for the best article in the *Baker Street Journal* from 2006. 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 about Starrett at numerous events and blogs about him at www.vincentstarrett.com.

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Peter Calamai, M.Bt., BSI (“The Leeds Mercury”) graduated from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, with a BSc (Physics) and with extensive experience in student newspapering. That led to more than 45 years in Canadian daily newspaper journalism, with successive correspondent postings in Ottawa, London, Vancouver, Nairobi, Ottawa (again) and Washington, followed by stints as editorial pages editor of *The Ottawa Citizen* and national science reporter for *The Toronto Star*. Currently a communications consultant and freelance magazine writer, Calamai lives in Ottawa and is an adjunct research professor in the School of Journalism at Carleton University. He has published more than 50 Sherlockian articles and received the Morley–Montgomery Memorial Award in 2012. He is a member-at-large on the executive committee of the Bootmakers of Toronto.

Lindsay Colwell received a BA in Classical Languages from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, as well as a Master of Arts and a Master of Theology both in the New Testament from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. She lives in Rochester, Minnesota, and serves as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Austin, Minnesota. She is a member of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota. Her theological writing includes a study of the person of Christ in the Book of Revelation and a study of financial stewardship in I and II Corinthians. Along with Chris Redmond, she is working on a study of the religious and theological themes in the world of Sherlock Holmes, *Spiritualizing Sherlock*, which can be found at Sherlockian.net. This is her first published Sherlockian article.

Catherine Cooke, ASH, BSI (“The Book of Life”) received a BA(Hons) in French and German from Bedford College, University of London, and an MA in Library and Information Science from University College, University of London. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. She lives in Wimbledon and is a Senior Business Systems Analyst for Westminster Libraries. She has been Librarian of the Sherlock Holmes Collection since 1982 and manages the Archives of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, deposited with the Collection. She is Joint Honorary Secretary of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and received the Society’s Tony Howlett award in 2014. She has published numerous Sherlockian and Doylean articles, including a Morley–Montgomery Memorial Award winning article in 2005.

Lyndsay Faye, ASH, BSI (“Kitty Winter”) is the international bestselling author of the Edgar-nominated Timothy Wilde trilogy; her first novel, *Dust and Shadow*, is a critically acclaimed Sherlock Holmes pastiche. She is featured in *Sherlock Holmes in America, Best American Mystery Stories 2010*, and is a frequent short story contributor to *The Strand Magazine*. As a guest author for the graphic novel series *Watson and Holmes*, Faye also enjoys writing Holmes-related content in comic form, as well as essays playing the time-honored game for the *Baker Street Journal*. Faye is also a Curious Collector and a member of the Baker Street Babes podcast. She lives in Queens with her husband and cats.

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Maria Fleischhack has just completed her Ph.D. about the Representation of Ancient Egypt in Victorian and Edwardian Fantastic Fiction. She works as a lecturer at the Department of British Studies of the University of Leipzig, organizes a film club and reading group for interested students, sings in a jazz choir and spends a lot of time reading. Maria has taught several classes on detective fiction and Sherlock Holmes at university. She has published in both the *Baker Street Journal* and the *Baker Street Chronicle*, the magazine of the German Sherlock Holmes Society. As a member of the Baker Street Babes, she reviews Sherlock Holmes pastiches and records podcasts with the other Babes. She is currently writing an *Introduction to Sherlock Holmes* in German and has been an Undershaw Ambassador for Germany since 2011.

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 fifth under his tenure. His 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 47 years. A practicing attorney in Morgantown, West Virginia, 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.

Robert S. Katz, MD, ASH, BSI (“Dr. Ainstree”) received his BA from Haverford College and his MD from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He resides in Morristown, New Jersey, and recently retired after 35 years of practicing pathology. He has been a Sherlockian for longer than he can remember, receiving the Irregular Shilling in 1983 and the Two-Shilling Award in 1995. His articles have appeared in numerous Sherlockian publications, and he has been a speaker at many scion society and BSI dinners. He co-edited the BSI Manuscript Series books *The Wrong Passage* (on “The Golden Pince-Nez”) and *Irregular Stain* (on “The Second Stain”), both with Andy Solberg. He has been active in many of the scion societies on the East Coast, served as Gasogene of the Six Napoleons, is the current Headmastiff of the Sons of the Copper Beeches and founded the Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes in New Jersey in 1990.

Russell Merritt, BSI (“The Trepoff Murder”) received a BA from Northwestern University and an MA and PhD in English Lit from Harvard University. He is a Professor in the Film and Media Department at the University of California, Berkeley, where he writes mainly on European and American film history. *Walt in Wonderland: The Silent Films of Walt Disney*, co-authored with J.B. Kaufman, published in English and Italian, has won several book awards. He also co-wrote *D.W. Griffith: Father of Film*, a three-part series produced by Kevin Brownlow and David Gill for *American Masters*, nominated for an Emmy Award. Most recently, he has produced *The Great Nickelodeon Show*, recreating a 1910 entertainment when movies were combined live vaudeville acts. The *Show* has toured major U.S. film festivals and been performed at the Pordenone [Italy] Silent Film Festival. In recent Sherlockian writings and talks for the BSI Annual Dinner, the Norwegian Explorers, the Scowrers, the Knights of the Gnomon and the 2012 UCLA Conference; he also trolls his film background.

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S. Brent Morris has a BS from Southern Methodist University, an AM and PhD from Duke University, all in mathematics, and an MS from Johns Hopkins University in computer science. He worked his way through school as a magician and wrote his doctoral dissertation on the mathematics of card shuffling. He worked for 25 years as a cryptographer for the National Security Agency and has taught at Duke, Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities. He edits *The Scottish Rite Journal*, the largest circulation Freemasonry magazine in the world and has written or edited over 30 books on Freemasonry. He is former Gasogene of Watson's Tin Box and has published several articles in its annual, *Irene's Cabinet*.

Chris Redmond, BSI ("Billy") is a graduate of Queen's University (Kingston) and the University of Waterloo, and spent his career working in institutional communications at the latter university, retiring in 2012. He is the author of many Sherlockian articles and several books, including *In Bed with Sherlock Holmes*, *Welcome to America, Mr. Sherlock Holmes*, and two editions of *A Sherlock Holmes Handbook*. He is also editor of the extensive website *Sherlockian.net* and a partner in the *Spiritualizing Sherlock* project. A member of the Bootmakers of Toronto since its inception, he holds the rank of Master Bootmaker. He is an active lay member of the United Church of Canada.

Steven Rothman, BSI ("The Valley of Fear") has edited the *Baker Street Journal* since 2000 and holds the Two-Shilling Award. He writes and talks about the works of Christopher Morley and edited *The Standard Doyle Company: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes* (1990) and "*A Remarkable Mixture*": *Award-Winning Articles from the Baker Street Journal* (2008). He co-edited with Nicholas Utechin, the former editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, *To Keep the Memory Green: Reflections on the Life of Richard Lancelyn Green, 1953–2004* (2007). He delivered the 2008 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture to the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Public Library. A dedicated book collector since the age of 12, he is also the President (apparently for life) of the Philobiblon Club of Philadelphia, as was Dr. Rosenbach (1922–1952) before him.

Andrew Solberg, ASH, BSI ("Professor Coram") received a BA in philosophy from Brandeis University and an MHS in Health Planning and Administration from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He lives in Maryland and operates a strategic planning consulting practice for healthcare providers. He has been a healthcare regulator and an adjunct faculty at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He has published more than 25 Sherlockian articles, including a Morley–Montgomery Memorial Award winning article in 2003 (with Donald K. Pollock), and co-edited *The Wrong Passage* and *Irregular Stain* (both with Bob Katz). A former Gasogene of Watson's Tin Box and a member of many other Sherlockian groups, he also is Chairman of the Board of the BSI Trust.

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 in four prior volumes of the BSI Manuscript Series and produces *The Best of Sherlock Holmes* <www.bestofsherlock.com>, a website that provides news and information about rare Sherlockiana. Randall also manages the websites for the *Baker Street Journal* and the BSI Trust. He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University and an MBA from UCLA.

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Nicholas Utechin, BSI (“The Ancient British Barrow”), SHSL (Hon. Member), Sons of the Copper Beeches, John H. Watson Society, is an MA (Oxon) in Modern History and lives in Oxford, U.K. He is effectively retired, having worked as a producer and presenter in (mostly BBC) radio from 1973–2005. He edited *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* for 30 years (1976–2006) and co-edited (with Steven Rothman) *To Keep the Memory Green: Reflections on the Life of Richard Lancelyn Green*. He has written/compiled three *Baker Street Journal Christmas Annuals* and is the author of *Amazing & Extraordinary Facts: Sherlock Holmes*. At the last count, he was within sniffing distance of having published 500 items of Sherlockian import.

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The Baker Street Irregulars, the literary society focused on Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, publishes the BSI Manuscript Series, the International Series, the History Series, *The Baker Street Journal*, and select non-series works. All of these can be ordered at our website:

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