



Sherlockian Saturdays at the Pratt

Three Decades of Canonical Scholarship
Papers given at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore

Edited by William Hyder

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Contributor Biographies

Sandra J. Ailiff, now Sandra Ailiff Thomas, earned her master's degree at the University of Baltimore and served as personnel and credit manager of a local lighting equipment distributor. As a founding member of the Carlton Club of Baltimore she decided it was necessary to visit Sherlock Holmes's London and tread the paths of his adventures there. Today, when not on the golf course, she enjoys returning to the Canon for a quiet reading of an adventure or two.

James H. Arva, Napoleon CLXXXI, got his introduction to the Sherlockian world in the 1970s at the Master's Class in Philadelphia and soon afterward joined the Six Napoleons, of which he is a past Gasogene and now handles membership records and mailings. He is also a member of the Denizens of the Bar of Gold (Cambridge, MD.) and the White Rose Irregulars (York, PA.). A fan of old-time radio, he has an extensive audio/video library and enjoys giving presentations on Sherlock Holmes in the media.

Beth Austin, a past Gasogene and past Tantalus of Watson's Tin Box (Ellicott City, MD.), is the founder and editor of the scion's magazine, *Irene's Cabinet*, and presently serves as Torquemada (deviser of quizzes). A graduate of Frostburg State College, she is network administrator for an interior design firm. Her hobby (after Sherlockian studies) is photography.

John Baesch, BSI ("State and Merton Railroad"), Napoleon CCXLIV, was born and raised in Baltimore and had his first encounters with Sherlock Holmes in high school at Loyola Blakefield, a place that reminds him of Baskerville Hall to this day. As a consequence of having chosen a railroad career, he lived in many places before returning to Baltimore in quasi-retirement and marrying a fellow BSI, Evelyn Herzog. He occasionally writes and speaks about transportation in the Sherlockian Canon.

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Marshall S. (Mike) Berdan, BSI (“Henri Murger”), Napoleon CC, is a freelance travel writer living in Glastonbury, CT. During his 18 years in the Washington, DC, area he was active in the Six Napoleons and three times (2002-2004) hosted the annual Weekend with Sherlock Holmes. Mike’s Sherlockian writings have appeared in *The Baker Street Journal*, *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, *The Shoso-In Bulletin*, *Prescott’s Press* and *Irene’s Cabinet*.

Peter Calamai, BSI (“The Leeds Mercury”), despite living minutes from two temples of Sherlockian lore — the Marylebone Library (four years in the 1970s) and the Toronto Reference Library (eight months in 1982-1983) — was never lured inside, but in the mid-1990s the Hounds of the Internet reawakened his childhood fascination with Holmes. As a newspaper man he combined that fascination with an interest in the press of late Victorian England. Now retired in Ottawa, Ontario, he writes freelance magazine articles, edits scientific reports, pens speeches and consults on communications strategy — all to generate income for photographic equipment, Sherlockian gatherings and travel with Mary, his bride of more than four decades.

Deborah Clark, D.Ed., retired from the Maryland School for the Deaf after 34 years and is currently teaching graduate students in education at Goucher College. She is a longtime member and past Gasogene of Watson’s Tin Box (Ellicott City, Md.) and a contributor to *Irene’s Cabinet*, that society’s literary magazine. Her Sherlockian work also appears in the anthology *Violets and Vitriol*.

Evelyn Herzog, BSI (“The Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet”), received her investiture in 1991, the first year in which women were inducted into the B.S.I. She is the Principal Unprincipled Adventuress of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (ASH), and actively attends and supports many scion societies on the East Coast and beyond. Originally from Connecticut and a resident of New York City for many years, she now lives in Baltimore with her husband, John Baesch, and Briony, a calico.

William Hyder, BSI (“A Most Valuable Institution”), Napoleon LXXVI, is the author of *From Baltimore to Baker Street* and *Introducing Sherlock Holmes*. He edited and contributed essays to *The Napoleon Bust Business Again* (Volume 4 in the BSI Manuscript Series) and his writings have appeared in *The Baker Street Journal*, *Baker Street Miscellanea* and Sherlockian publications in the United Kingdom. A retired editor and columnist of the Baltimore *Sun*, he has served the Six Napoleons as Commissionaire, Gasogene and Harker.

Robert S. Katz, M.D., BSI (“Dr. Ainstree”), Napoleon CLXIX, lived in Baltimore during the 1980s and currently resides in Morristown, N.J. He has been active in the Sherlockian world for nearly forty years, serving as Gasogene of the Six Napoleons and receiving the BSI’s Two-Shilling Award in 1995. One of his fondest Sherlockian recollections is presiding over the 40th anniversary meeting of the Six Napoleons in 1986.

W. Glenn Lieske, Napoleon CCXXXV, was born and raised in the Pimlico section of Baltimore and served for 25 years in the Maryland State Police, retiring as a first sergeant. Originally a Sherlockian of the Basil Rathbone-Nigel Bruce persuasion, he graduated to the Canon in the 1970s. He is a past Gasogene of the Six Napoleons.

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John Pforr, BSI (“Police Constable Cook”), Napoleon CCVII, is a former sleuth, having pursued a career in the U.S. Secret Service. A longtime follower of the Master Detective, he has served as Gasogene of the Six Napoleons and belongs to several other East Coast scion societies. He is a frequent speaker at Sherlockian conferences and society meetings.

Dana Richards, BSI (“*The Priory School*”), Napoleon CCXXIII, is a professor of computer science at George Mason University and a member of many scion societies. He has contributed to *The Baker Street Journal*, *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, *Canadian Holmes* and other publications that keep the memory green.

Steven Rothman, BSI (“*The Valley of Fear*”), Napoleon CXCIX, has edited *The Baker Street Journal* since 2000. A member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, he is the editor of *The Standard Doyle Company: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes* and other Sherlockian volumes. He is working on a biography of Morley.

Andrew L. Solberg, BSI (“Professor Coram”), Napoleon CLIX, joined the Maryland Sherlockian community in 1976. A co-editor of *The Wrong Passage*, the BSI Manuscript Series volume on “The Golden Pince-Nez,” he also assists in administering the BSI oral history project. He is a member of Watson’s Tin Box (Ellicott City, Md.) and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (again with the investiture of “Professor Coram”).

Daniel F. Thomas, BSI (“Robert Ferguson”), Napoleon CLXIII, is a trial attorney practicing in the Baltimore metropolitan area, specializing in complex family law litigation. Reintroduced to Sherlock Holmes in the 1980s by the beloved Sherlockian Philip Sherman, he served as Gasogene of the Six Napoleons. In the tradition of Ronald Knox he plays the Great Game and has embarked upon a campaign to instill in followers of the Canon the conviction that Sherlock Holmes lived and still lives, tending his bees on the slopes of the Sussex Downs.

Philip K. Wilson, Ph.D. (London), Napoleon CXCIV, is a historian of science and medicine who has taught at the University of Hawai’i – Manoa, Truman State University and Shimer College, and has served as the biomedical and health editor of *Encyclopædia Britannica*. He is currently professor of medical humanities and science, technology and society at Penn State’s College of Medicine and is director of the Doctors Kienle Center for Humanistic Medicine.

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