



## Spain and Sherlock Holmes

Edited by Maria C. Veiga-Hayzen, BSI,  
and Donald J. Hobbs, BSI

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## Contributor Biographies

### Editors:

**Maria C. Veiga-Hayzen, BSI** (“Isadora Klein”), co-editor of this volume, was born in Galicia, in northwest Spain. After a ten-year pen pal correspondence with Englishman James Hayzen, the two married and she moved with him to his native England, where she and James were both active in the Sherlock Holmes Society of London – he as photographer of Society events and she as treasurer. An accountant by trade, Maria worked at Harrod’s credit office in London for 23 years. After she retired, she went back to university and earned a BA in Art. Upon her husband’s death she returned to her native Spain. An Honorary Member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of France, Maria enjoys classical music, cinema, and all that has to do with art and travelling. She is an avid reader in English, Spanish and French.

**Donald J. Hobbs, BSI** (“Inspector Lestrade”), co-editor of this volume, has been a Sherlockian for more than 35 years and has specialized in foreign translations of the Canon for nearly 30 of them. Don has discovered translations in more than 30 languages, and among the 108 known canonical translations, he owns copies of 105 of them! He was co-founder of Sherlock-Peoria and wrote a weekly column for ten years. Professionally, he has worked in radiology for 40 years and currently works as an Applications Specialist for Agfa Healthcare. He has been married to his wife, Joyce, for 16 years. He enjoys travel, wine, and collecting.

### Authors, Along With Occasional Poets and Cartoonists:

**The Amateur Mendicant Society (AMS)** of Madrid was founded by seven Holmesians in 1993 with the explicit goal of the brotherhood being the multidisciplinary analysis of John H. Watson’s writing, the historical and cultural context of them and their more evident identifying marks. The Society defines itself as a “philanthropical, cultural and occasionally ethical” group.

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**Sergi Colet García** is an occasional resident of the province of Barcelona, where he was born on a date he conceals. A member of Special Forces, his life is devoted to bringing hope and humanitarian aid to conflicts where the Spanish Army is involved. Other members of the Amateur Mendicant Society see him rarely because of this activity and also because his appearance constantly changes. He does not work for Blackwater. A music-lover and specialist in herpetology, he is also an expert in explosives and dog rose cultivation. He wrote several papers for AMS while attending university, where he obtained several degrees in science and liberal arts. For all this, and because he was in Afghanistan, he will always be our eternal Oriental student. Wherever he is at the moment, we recognize him as a brother mendicant. Known in the AMS as Daulat Ras.

**Miguel Ángel Del Rio Dominguez** was born in Madrid on November 1, 1960, and he received his law degree from Universidad Complutense. He plays the piano in a den situated in a bad neighborhood, but attended nevertheless by the best people in arts and science who come to hear his performances. He has never been seen imbibing an alcoholic drink. He married but became a widower with one son. In Holmesian matters, he has been falsely credited with being the creator of the AMS (indolence has prevailed over self-praise in limiting his efforts to correct such absurdity). It's certainly true, however, that he was an AMS initiator, for on a memorable night he presented a paper replete with canonical wisdom. He is also the indisputable father of the very famous(?) *The Stranded* (semi-annual AMS bulletin). This publication featured a short-lived comic strip that he created. Known in AMS as Doctor Percy Trevelyan.

**Manuel Díez-Alegría Frax** is a jurist with a degree in Philosophy. As a philologist, he was a specialist of some repute in ancient Iberian and Celtic tongues but became disenchanted with the small income earned from the Civil Code, Plato, and his linguistic research. He then retired to his ancestral home in a remote place in northern Spain. He now finds time to participate in rallies of vintage cars and to contribute to the Great Game by writing occasional monographs. All this is possible for a man of his means. Known in the AMS as Percy Phelps.

**José Luis Errazquin Rodriguez** was born in Madrid in 1952, and he has been a professional patient since the age of one and a half years. An economist, he earned a bare living in information technology for a multinational corporation. Today he is happily retired and spends his time painting and drawing, reading whatever he can find, and studying the Canon. He has been with the AMS since the beginning. He has been bold enough to speak on Holmes and Watson for radio and TV, and his talks on this subject to live audiences of fifty or more persons have caused them to fall asleep. He designed a card to accompany fellow Mendicant Juan A. Requena's book *El caso de la baraja perversa*, the first canonical tarot card in the world, and he has also written some other monographs of scant importance. Known in the AMS as Hugo Oberstein.

**Antonio J. Iriarte**, born in Madrid, in 1960, is an economist, civil servant and translator of J.P. Shiel. He first read Watson's accounts of Holmes's adventures in French, then in Spanish, before finally enjoying the real thing. He has always believed that no actor has portrayed Holmes as superbly as the great Peter Cushing. He is a founding member of the Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid, an associate member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and was very active in the now dormant Franco-Midland Hardware Company. He contributed as much as he could, both seriously and tongue in cheek, to the writings upon the writings, but he has felt for quite some time

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that he has nothing more to add to the cause and is content to take his last bow on scene with this illustrious anthology. In the AMS: Fred Porlock, ambassador of the literary Realm of Redonda at Baker Street.

**Miguel Ángel Moreno Huart** was born in Madrid in 1945 near La Moncloa, which was the last line of defense for the Republican cause. He grew up playing in the battlefield, since converted into a park to the greater glory of the victors. This may be why he loves lost causes, and why he already was an amateur mendicant before joining AMS. He married Lady St. Clair (although she doesn't ignore his double life). He was employed by others, had two daughters, wrote some poems on lost Ithacas and drank plenty of wine. Retired from almost everything except marriage, he keeps up with the Canon and lives in Copper Beeches, where he keeps on drinking wine like an amiable Polyphemus. Known in the AMS as Jephro Rucastle.

**Juan A. Requena**, born in Madrid in 1959, is married with two children. A lawyer and a lackey of capitalism, he works for a multinational corporation where he serves as Human Resources Director; unworthy of being a mendicant if defined as a human without resources. A founding member of the AMS, he discovered Holmes in his youth, as have so many others. His contributions to canonical science are rare and of marginal value. A lover of symbolism, fin de siècle dandyism and painting, he is the author of *El caso de la baraja perversa* (2009), an ingenious, erudite and leaden study on Tarot influence in the Holmesian corpus. A Parisian at heart, he lives several leagues south of Oporto for economic reasons. Known in the AMS as Baron Maupertuis.

**Rafael Rojo González** was born in Madrid in 1959 near the Prado Museum. As a child he attended a school that fostered literature, and those first readings of Sherlock Holmes evidently made an unforgettable impression on him, lasting to this day. That first encounter with the Holmes stories constituted a minimum and necessary 7% of his reading. Later, the monthly AMS meetings provided a way of reliving those childhood experiences in the company of fellow experts on the Canon, all of them irregular and proudly so. A graduate in Physical Science, he is married with two sons. He still enjoys books and painting, especially Vermeer and Velazquez, plus being a Real Madrid soccer fan and an expert on Mahou beer. Sometimes he receives envelopes containing five orange pips. Known in the AMS as Colonel Elias Openshaw.

### **Translators (the unsung heroes of this project):**

**Montse Latre Solé** is a Spanish philologist. She was born in Alicante, Spain, in 1975 and studied Spanish Language and Literature in the University of Granada, followed by a MA in Education and another in Technical Translation and E-tools in the University Rovira I Virgili. She has worked as a high school teacher of Spanish Literature and currently teaches Spanish as a Foreign Language at the Escuela Oficial de Idiomas in Tarragona, Spain. She discovered Sherlock Holmes at the early age of six, when her uncle gave her older sister a compilation of short stories of Sherlock Holmes ... that she proceeded to read first! Since then, Holmes has been her favorite fictional [sic] character of all times.

**Kenneth Carr** is a retired electrical engineer from Lucent Technologies and lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with his wife, Irene, where they both enjoy grandparent duties. He is a founding member

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and past Gasogene of The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge, the Atlanta scion society established in 1970. He regularly presents papers at the Gathering of Southern Sherlockians, an annual regional meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Ken was born in Havana, son of a British father and a Cuban mother, and he grew up in a bilingual, bicultural home. He attended St. George's School (Class of 1957), a bilingual private school.

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