

5- A Toast to Mycroft Holmes

There isn't all that known about Mycroft. He was mentioned in only a few cases. We know he was a few years older than Sherlock, that he belonged to The Diogenes Club, had Pall Mall lodgings and that he was referred to as The British Government. He only visited Baker Street twice, but what intrigued me was that he drove the brougham in which Watson rode to Victoria Station in the Adventure of the Final Problem. Where and when did he get the skills to drive a horse drawn brougham?

Unable to find the answer, I decided to try another source. I dialed the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. The operator said, "May I help you?" I said, "Can I speak to Julian?" The operator said, "Who?" I said, "Don't act stupid, Julian Assange." Julian came on the line and asked who I worked for. I said, "You don't want to know who I used to work for, but I am calling in behalf of the Sons of the Copper Beeches in Philadelphia and I need some information that perhaps you can provide. Can you find any information on a Mycroft Holmes and his knowledge of horses?" He replied that he would get back to me. I asked him that if he found any information on the subject to please not leak it to the U.S. Press Corp.

Several days later I received a call from Julian with the information I needed. He found documentation of a 30 year old jockey named Mycroft riding in The Wessex Cup in 1877. Mycroft was described as a well-developed man wearing size XXXL jockey silks with the number 4. His mount was a Clydesdale horse named "Big Fella". The only other information found was that Mycroft was not listed as finishing the race and that "Big Fella" was later sold to the Anheiser Busch Beer Company for 250 pounds, far less than the weight of his jockey. So there is the answer on Mycroft's interactions with horses. So please raise your glasses to a Victorian Eddie Arcaro or Jerry Bailey, Mycroft Holmes.

Presented on April 21, 2017 at the Spring Meeting of the Sons of the Copper Beeches in Philadelphia, PA by John E. Pforr, BSI and Master Copper Beechsmith