



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Date: January 5, 2020

Berth and Port: Two Guys from Italy, 11637 Webb Chapel Road, Dallas, TX 75229

Presiding Officer: Steve Mason, Third Mate

Time Convened: 1:10 p.m.

CREW ON DECK

There were 19 attendees on hand.

INTRODUCTION ROUNDS AT TABLE

OPENING TOAST

- 1) Delivered by: Cindy Brown
- 2) Honoring: Sherlockians Everywhere

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Don Hobbs – January 6th will be the 166th birthday of Sherlock Holmes.

THE QUIZ

- 1) Topic: “A Case of Identity”
- 2) Co-Winners: Eleanor and Thomas Hebert
- 3) Top Score: 10 out of 10

DINNER BREAK

STATE OF THE SOCIETY - 2019

Steve Mason, Third Mate

It was another successful year for the Society...

- We added more members to the fold, with now over 175 members, either local or remote...
- We had many wonderful presentations throughout the year by members of our Society, including Ann Caddell, Rusty Mason, Jen Liang, Julie McKuras, Bonnie MacBird, Angela Lusk, and Cindy Brown.
- As of every year, members of our Society faced health issues, and our members showed appropriate concern and offers of help.
- And of course, we had to change the venue of our monthly meetings, due to the closure of our former meeting location.
- Walter and Linda Pieper continued to open their home to members for our Saturday Movie Night, with Cindy Brown pinch hitting a couple of times.
- Our members attended many of the national conferences, representing the Crew wonderfully. This included the BSI weekend, 221b in Atlanta, the Holmes, Doyle, and Friends in Dayton, the BSI Archive Conference in Bloomington, the Norwegian Explorers in Minneapolis, and Holmes in the Heartland in St. Louis conferences. Cindy Brown gave a wonderful toast at the Minneapolis dinner.



- Our Society participated in the Dallas Public Library Book Festival in June.
- Our Society will be working hard this year toward holding our own national conference in October, 2021.
- Our book this year, The Canon, Five Lines at a Time, focused on limericks developed by the Society's members and other guest authors. It has been extremely popular, downloaded many times off our website. As always, many thanks to Liese Sherwood-Fabre for helping to edit and format the book. All three books from the Society have been published for contributors, and uploaded to our website as readable formats. And congratulations to Liese for continuing to be a published author.
- I have had many people say they enjoyed writing Holmes pastiches, as in A Grimm Holmes and A Grimmer Holmes. Therefore, this year we will publish a book of pastiches based on personal ads run in the agony columns of Victorian newspapers.
- We provided displays at the Allen Library twice this year, and will set up another one on Monday.
- We conducted a movie night at the Half Price Books store, showing *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Thanks to Cindy Brown and Tim Kline for helping put on the event.
- We continued our lending library, offering members a chance to read more Sherlockian books.
- Our members continue to represent our society wonderfully for which I want to thank you.
- I am sure there are other things that we have accomplished, but I hope to have hit the major points.
- For this year, I want to continue the things we did well, and do better on some things.
- As always, I encourage all members to consider doing presentations for our Society. The presentation does not have to be tied to the story of the month, but can cover anything Sherlockian.
- Several members attended Sherlockian plays in various cities in the State of Texas this past year. There are others scheduled this year in Plano, San Antonio, and other venues.
- In closing, I hope we continue to support each other, discuss Sherlock Holmes in an open but friendly atmosphere, and look for opportunities to reach out to our communities with presentations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- B. Steve Mason – For our 50th anniversary, I request that Tim Kline render a specially-designed logo that can be embroidered on a shirt or made into a pin.
- C. Steve Mason – The Irving (Texas) Public Library is presenting SHERLOCKED IRVING COMMUNITY READ ADULT WINTER READING CHALLENGE. It runs January 1st through February 29th. I have reached out to offer our society's support.
- D. Steve Mason – The Beacon Society is considering the implementation of a renewal system with new exams for the Fortescue Scholars program. DISCUSSION.
- E. Steve Mason – The Beacon Society plans to pack Sherlockian materials and a thumb drive of presentations into boxed sets for distribution to new/inexperienced presenters.
- F. Don Hobbs – The symposium will be held in conjunction with the opening of the SMU-archived materials from my library due October of 2021. Peter Blau is expected as the keynote speaker.



- G. Allen Osborne – If we want to hold a program at the Allen Public Library auditorium, we should make contact as soon as possible.
- H. Steve Mason – Consider whether or not we could present the history of the Society in the form of a video presentation. DISCUSSION.
- I. Walter Pieper – With the BSI Weekend coming up, should Movie Night be postponed? (Steve will email information regarding this activity.)

LIGHTNING QUIZ

Rules: Writing Starts and Stops are at the times that Steve calls out. Add 1 point for every correct answer. Subtract 1 point for every incorrect answer.

1. Name as many colors as possible in the titles of the Canon's stories/novels.
2. What are the three colors mentioned in the Canon regarding Sherlock Holmes's robe? Please be specific.

There was a three-way tie between Cindy Brown, Jim Webb, and Don Hobbs. Don won the tie-breaker and took home a Sherlockian crossword puzzle book.

DRAWING FOR THE GANGWAY PRIZE

Herb Linder won a Crack the Case Game.

CLOSING READING/TOAST

- 1) Delivered by: Steve Mason
- 2) "Toast to the Master, Sherlock Holmes" by Jan Cassetta
- 3) Master's Dinner Toasts for 2016

Time Adjourned: 2:30 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Brenda S. Hutchison