

# Meeting Notes

June 24, 2023



The Red Circle assembled at Alfio's La Trattoria in Chevy Chase, Maryland for our second meeting of the year, and we enjoyed Alfio's offered their traditional Italian menu as well as their even more traditional spumoni.

Bev Wolov and Ross Davies explained that our scheduled guest speaker, Paxton Whitehead, had died earlier in June, and introduced our surprise substitute, Peter E Blau, while wearing light blue jackets and Snoopy-embroidered ties, honoring his traditional attire at the Saturday reception during the birthday festivities in New York.

Peter's talk on "The Future Lies Ahead: How We Got Here, and Where We're Going" was a slightly edited repeat of his presentation at the "Lone Star Holmes" conference in Dallas in May. He explained, as he did in Dallas, that it's said that an expert is anyone who's more than a hundred miles from home, and an authority is an expert who has brought slides. He was less than a hundred miles from home, at Alfio's, but he came close to having slides, thanks to Bev Wolov's expertise with PowerPoint. He ended his talk noting that while he had no idea what the Sherlockian world would be like in fifty years, as the 2,000-year-old Sherlockian he planned to be on hand to find out.

We then toasted Paxton Whitehead, and thanks to the Historical Society of the N.Y. Courts, we enjoyed video of his reading a passage from the Canon, and Vincent Starrett's classic sonnet "221B".

Peter then reported on coming events, and Bev and Ross presided over reports on significant goings-on, with Bev reviewing the world premiere in Cleveland of Ken Ludwig's new play "Moriarty" (which we had heard about from Ashley Polasek and Ken at our meeting in December 2023).

They also presented the fiendish quiz on "The Adventure of Black Peter", which honored our guest speaker, whose Investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars is "Black Peter", and bewildered most of those at the meeting, except for the winners: Verna Suit, Steve Solomon, and M. A. Allen, who received our traditional prizes of little of no value.

The meeting concluded with the usual interim announcements, and a raffle for door prizes.