

# Meeting Notes

September 20, 2025



**Reported by Carla Kaessinger Coupe**

A beautiful September day brought more than 40 people to Alfio's La Trattoria in Bethesda to hear Cattleya Concepcion, the Associate Director for Research and User Services at the Georgetown University Law Library. Arriving attendees were immediately drawn into the bustling meeting room to share in greeting old friends and welcoming new ones. Lively discussions continued at our lunch tables as we ate, and the meal was topped off by Alfio's delicious spumoni.



Peter Blau took the mic and introduced Cattleya and her presentation, entitled "Adventures of a Lucky Librarian, with Sherlock Holmes, Rex Stout and Others." She began by explaining that her job involves, among other things, being a researcher, copyright sleuth, decipherer of handwriting, map maker, and videographer. The librarians she admires combine creativity, curiosity and persistence, and she tries to include those attributes in her life. Before assuming her position at the Georgetown University Law Library, she worked for the Green Bag with Ross Davies, who she considers her collaborator on various projects.

Some high points of her career include jumping through various hoops to include two pages of the manuscript of "The Norwood Builder," held at the New York Public Library, in a Green Bag publication. Cattleya described the twists and turns necessary to get permission. She also ended up hand-coloring 20 maps showing the locations of places mentioned in the story.

For a video accompanying the bobblehead of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Cattleya crafted a paper stage, as well as creating a storyboard and filming the video. The bobblehead ended up in Justice Ginsburg's office and is now in the Smithsonian. You can see an annotated image [here](#) and the video [here](#).

In the 1940's, Judge Learned Hand, a well-regarded figure, recorded several folk tunes. Cattleya had them digitized and then created a vinyl record of the songs, as well as a music video medley. As Ira Matetsky joked, he was an excellent judge, but not much of a singer. The video is available [here](#).

Serendipity often accompanies research, especially when Cattleya was searching for a missing work of Rex Stout that had been published in the *Strand*. When the microfilm she wanted to look at wasn't available, she instead tried the copyright office and found a different missing work—"Last Drive," in the *Golfer's Magazine*.

Regarding her unusual first name, she's proud to be named after the genus of an orchid, which is another tie to Rex Stout and his orchid-raising sleuth, Nero Wolfe.

Turning from Stout to Doyle, she shared copies of a hand-written letter from one Jesuit priest to another regarding Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to the US, which is in the Georgetown University Law Library. One word was unclear, and she asked for the group's help in puzzling it out. Within a few minutes, we had an answer! Kudos to Matt Hall for solving the mystery.

Cattleya's engaging presentation ended with hearty applause, and then Ross Davies reminded us that all that the Green Bag's *Baker Street Almanacs* are online, except for the current year. That one will be uploaded next year, when the new issue comes out.

Peter announced that The Red Circle's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will take place on November 15 at the American Film Institute in Silver Spring. The AFI will show three restored Eille Norwood short films, and afterward everyone is invited to join in a celebratory dinner at J. Hollinger's Waterman's Chophouse, directly across the street from the theatre. For more information, visit [here](#) .

Our next formal meeting will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Matt Hall will be our speaker.