

# *Meeting Notes*

*December 16, 2023*



## **Reported by Carla Coupe**

After a convivial hour of socializing at Alfio's La Trattoria, The Red Circle's usual haunt, the thirty-plus attendees took our places and Peter Blau gave his traditional warm welcome. We were also treated with programs from Bouchercon XI, held in October 1980 in Washington DC. Peter and Jon Lellenberg hosted the convention, and the program contains Peter's article about William Gillette's playlet "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes". What a fascinating piece of ephemera!

Folks who didn't make the meeting lost out on the chance to win some wonderful door prizes. The star of the prizes was a one-of-a-kind Sherlockian plaque from Julie Snell's collection, donated by her daughter, Nancy Anselm. Our first winner was Peter Blau, who gallantly disqualified himself, leaving the opportunity open for Roz Blogier to take home this unique prize.

After a delicious lunch, we settled in for our speaker's Zoom presentation. Harrison "Terry" Hunt is a retired history museum curator and is invested in the Baker Street Irregulars as "The Something Hunt". He spoke about "That Dreadful Chasm—Alternatives to the Canonical Narrative of the Fateful Day at the Reichenbach Falls". Terry's arguments for re-interpreting Dr. Watson's account of the incidents at Reichenbach were persuasive and illuminating. He opened the audiences' minds to the question of the role of the Swiss boy, to the reasons Colonel Moran took certain actions at the Falls, and to Moran's decision to keep 221B Baker Street under surveillance during the time that Holmes resurfaced among the living. Terry's talk will be made available right here on the Red Circle website. Look for it at the "Writings and Videos" link.

A lively question-and-answer exchange finished up Terry's presentation. Peter reminded attendees about upcoming events, a list of which is available on The Red Circle website.

Fond farewells and holiday wishes were exchanged as we left Alfio's. Many attendees look forward to meeting again in New York City for the January Birthday festivities.

Compliments of the season from The Red Circle!