

"Light-houses, my boy! Beacons of the future! Capsules with hundreds of bright little seeds in each, out of which will spring the wiser, better England of the future."

THE BEACON SOCIETY

The Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter

(In our world, being irregular is a virtue)

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From the Desk of the Head-Light

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Beacon Society! Two whole decades of supporting educators in their endeavors to introduce students to Sherlock Holmes and his world. If you ever start to wonder about the future of this hobby or how "kids these days" are doing, please take a moment to look over some of the fabulous projects that have been implemented over the years by fantastic educators. I promise it will put a smile on your face!

Over the years, the role of Head Light of the Beacon Society has been held by some really wonderful people. Scott Monty, Joe Coppola, Susan Diamond, Bill Mason, Denny Dobry, and Carla Coupe have all overseen some really great projects and initiatives during their tenures. Thank you to all of them for their time and effort to help the Beacon Society be successful!

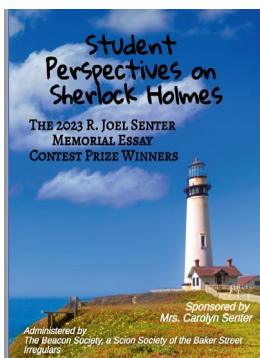


The 2024 group of Jan Stauber grants were filled in record time! We were happy to award over \$10,000 to some really fun and innovative projects. Look for reports of each of these on our Grants page:

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-jan-stauber-grant.html>



The Educational Resources page of the Beacon Society's website (<https://www.beaconsociety.com/educational-resources-teachers-librarians-theaters.html>) continues to be an amazing spot for anyone enjoying the Sherlockian stories. The resources are split into groups for specific educational areas: Elementary School, Middle School, High School, College & University, Library Programs, and Children's Theater. You can also find The Beacon Booklist and The Life and Times of Victorian London to deepen anyone's understanding of the stories we all know and love.



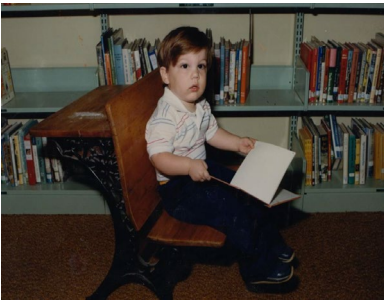
This year's Joel Senter Essay contest was another success! Some amazing submissions were turned in and are very interesting reads. The winners will be announced on the Essay Contest webpage soon. In the meantime, check out some of the past submissions on the page and see just how great some of these young

writers are: <https://www.beaconsociety.com/past-senter-essay-contest-winners.html>

For the past 5 years, the Beacon Society has been the home of the Fortescue Scholarship exam. This year marks the 60th anniversary of Elliot Kimball's original quiz that was sent out to subscribers of The Baker Street Journal and you can now take the historic first quiz as part of the annual recertification of the Fortescue Scholarship exam.

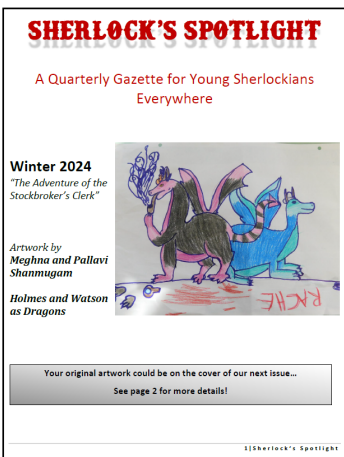


The 2023 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award was issued to Rusty Mason in January for his efforts to support the Beacon Society behind the scenes. In 2016, he oversaw the complete redesign of BeaconSociety.com and has tirelessly kept it up-to-date since then. Rusty is also part of the creative team behind the Baker Street Elementary webcomic that goes out to many Sherlockians every week.



Speaking of the Beacon Society webpage, the Comprehensive Look at the Stories, which has a tremendous amount of information on each story of the Canon. Recently, we were thrilled to add the evidence boxes developed by Paul Churchill. Permission was give by Watson's Tin Box Society and we are grateful for the assistance of Greg Ruby, Debbie Clark, Jacquelynn Morris, Beth Austin, Rusty Mason, and Denny Dobry.

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/comprehensive-stories.html>



If you aren't subscribed to Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette, what are you waiting for? Every 3 months you'll get puzzles, games, story synopses, articles, artwork, and so much more in your inbox. Though the Gazette is focused for younger Sherlockians, everyone will find useful information in its pages. Send an email to mason.steve8080@gmail.com to be added to the Gazette's mailing list today!

As you can see, we've come a long way and have developed a lot of programs in the past 20 years. Who can imagine what the next 20 years will hold for us? Only time will tell, but I think it's a safe bet to say that we have a bright future ahead!

Rob Nunn

