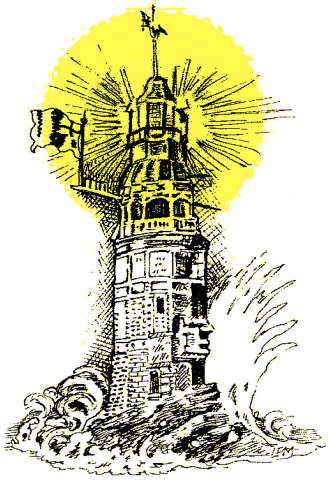
"Light-houses, my boy! Beacons of the future! Capsules with hundreds of bright little seeds in each, out of which will spring the wiser, better England of the future."

THE BEACON SOCIETY

The Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter
(In our world, being irregular is a virtue)
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1 – February 2025

The Beacon Society began in 2003 with the goal of supporting educational opportunities that introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. In 2013, a committee was formed to provide grants to educators that would help them in this endeavor. Over the past 12 years, we have given out over $79,000 to support that initiative!



This would not be possible without two important groups of people: donors who support The Beacon Society and our Grants Committee.

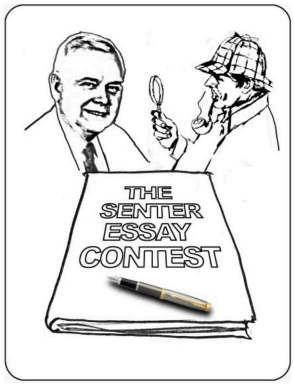
I can never say this enough but thank you to everyone who supports The Beacon Society financially. None of what we do would be possible without the financial support you have given us over the years. If you would like to donate to The Beacon Society, you can find information on how to do so at https://www.beaconsociety.com/how-to-support-the-society.html

And while The Beacon Society is funded by monetary donations, it is run by donations of time and effort from many people, and members of our Grants Committee put in a lot of time reviewing grant proposals, communicating with applicants, and submitting these proposals to the

board for approval. Our current Grants Committee is staffed by Heather Holloway, BSI, Chrys Kegley, BSI, Dick Kitts, BSI, and Steve Mason, BSI, and is overseen by Cindy Brown, BSI.

Cindy will be retiring from this position after the current batch of grants has been shepherded through this process and Beth Gallego, BSI, will be taking over as the new Grants Chair. I would like to take this moment to thank Cindy for all of her hard work over the six years. Under her guidance, The Beacon Society has given educators more than $54,000 to implement Sherlockian programs for students. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for the seeds she has helped to plant for the future of Sherlockiana!

The Beacon Society continues to encourage and reward young people who deepen their interest in Sherlock Holmes through different avenues. The R. Joel Senter Essay Contest continues to show us just how bright students are with their perspectives on Sherlock Holmes. 2024's award recipients were from Texas, California, Ohio and Alberta, Canada. Their topics include Holmes's methods, mood in "The Speckled Band," partnership, deduction, justice, morality, and truth. These are not just simple book reports, but thought-out essays that can stand next to contributions that appear in many Sherlockian journals. To read these amazing essays and find out more about this contest, visit https://www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html



2024 saw the beginning of a new contest for students as well: The Nancy Springer Pastiche Contest. Judging is underway for the 2025 applicants, and you can read last year's winner, "The Adventure of the White Canary" by high school student Avery Piatt https://www.beaconsociety.com/past-nancy-springer-story-contest-winners.html

As you can see, The Beacon Society is busy helping young people learn about Sherlock Holmes and encouraging them in their deeper explorations into the world of Sherlockiana. This work can only be done because of monetary donations to the society and the volunteer efforts of our officers, chairs, and committee members. If you are not active in The Beacon Society, there is always room for you! We would love for you to contribute, whether it be financially or with your time. Come along, the game is afoot!

Rob Nunn, BSI
Headlight