

May 2024

THE PRIORY SCHOLARS OF NEW YORK CITY



Dear Scholars,

We are delighted to invite you to the Spring 2024 session of the Priory Scholars. Class will be held on **Saturday, May 4, 12pm-4pm EDT**. Leave your Alpine-stocks and cigarette cases behind, and meet at THE CHURCHILL TAVERN, 45 East 28th Street, New York, NY 10016, located between Madison and Park Avenues, around the corner from the 28th Street subway station for the 4 & 6 trains.

Our meeting will be centered around **“The Final Problem,”** which could be one of the most-often-studied canonical stories. When you prepare for our meeting, I would ask you to consider this story in two contradictory ways:

- 1) **This is the final story.** These events happen as described, and the Holmes/Watson partnership ends at the Reichenbach Falls.
- 2) **This is not the final story.** These events happen as described, and Sherlock Holmes returns to London a few years later in “The Empty House.”

I think it will be interesting to discuss the story under both approaches; and please note that both involve taking Watson at his word as to the events of the tale. In addition to this discussion, we will be challenged by another of Prof. Raj Pandravada’s binomial quizzes, which has had a European vogue. Other possible topics of discussion include:

- **“the genius and the wonder of the thing”** – How does Watson make Moriarty dangerous and thrilling? Especially considering this is the character’s introduction.
- **“a charming week”** – Consider Watson’s use of place and atmosphere in this story. Is this adventure more a travelogue than a mystery?
- **“your memoirs will draw to an end”** –What observations come to mind when this story is considered in light of the fact that it was envisioned as a series conclusion?

Our dining room can comfortably seat approx. 35 people, and we are asking that students pay for class at the time of enrollment; we will otherwise not be able to hold your place. Please send your RSVP and **tuition fee of \$40** no later than **Saturday, April 27** to our Bursar, Prof. Christopher Zordan, via Paypal to **cazordan@aim.com**; choose the “send money to friends” option. You may also send a check payable to Christopher Zordan, 242 Rooney Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816. If you have any questions, please email PrioryNYC@gmail.com. If financial challenges may prevent you from attending, please contact the Headmaster directly at NickMartorelli@gmail.com to inquire about our scholarship program.

As always, **if you feel sick, please do not attend.** Kindly let us know via email, and we can discuss how your payment can be transferred.

In addition to a spirited discussion and prizes for quiz winners, there will be toasts, chit-chat, and more! As usual, if you are interested in offering a toast, please inquire of Prof. Tamar Zeffren (tamar.zeffren@gmail.com) or the Headmaster.

Yours with milk and biscuits,

Nick Martorelli, Headmaster

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