

Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem

Investiture
November 18, 2000

The man standing before you today entered our Canonical world quietly on a typical Saturday afternoon much like today. He gently seated himself among us in an unassuming manner carefully observing as we went about our normal meeting routine. Over the next few months, he rose from his quiet beginning to become a fine example of one who places high value on scholarship. He modeled what all Sherlockians should do with respect to the study of Holmes and Watson.

Professor Coram has provided Sherlockians with great mystery over the years. In the Canon, we see this Professor as follows:

“The story, so far as I can make it out, is like this. Some years ago this country house, Yoxley Old Place, was taken by an elderly man, who gave the name of Professor Coram. He was an invalid, keeping his bed half the time, and the other half hobbling round the house with a stick or being pushed about the grounds by the gardener in a Bath chair. He was well liked by the few neighbours who called upon him, and he has the reputation down there of being a very learned man.”

In Nashville, we have a “Professor Coram”, but ours is one very different from the one described in the Canon. Nashville’s Professor is as brilliant and as studious, but that is where the comparison ends.

In Nashville, there is a true Scholar among us who gives us vision and insight into the world of Sherlock Holmes. His professional work in the world of academia gives him standing among the best and brightest throughout the land while his Sherlockian scholarship propels him to the highest plateaus among those who are diligently keeping the Master’s memory green.

Today, I am pleased to formally ask Marino C. Alvarez to join the ranks of the Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem.