

March 2025

THE PRIORY SCHOLARS OF NEW YORK CITY



Dear Scholars,

We are delighted to invite you to the (early) Spring 2025 session of the Priory Scholars. Class will be held on **Saturday, March 29, 12pm-4pm EDT**. We will see what wild, dark business absorbs us at THE CHURCHILL TAVERN, 45 East 28th Street, New York, NY 10016, located between Madison and Park Avenues and around the corner from the 28th Street subway station for the 4 & 6 trains.

Our meeting will be centered around *The Sign of the Four*. We will be challenged by another of Prof. Raj Pandravada's quizzes, which impress by kindness and skill. Other possible topics of discussion include:

- **“you have yourself had some experience of my methods”** – This is only the second Sherlock Holmes story, and perhaps the first one that many people would have read. What insights might be gained if you read the novel with this perspective? Consider it as the introduction of a “new literary hero.”
- **“Count the cost!”** – Holmes' cocaine use is now well-known to us, but it is prominently featured in this story, including the opening and closing bookend scenes. How does this affect the reader's view of this “new literary hero” Sherlock Holmes? Or the reader's view of Holmes's friend, a doctor, and their relationship?
- **“The Strange Story of Jonathan Small”** – In the first two Holmes novels, the villain comes from overseas to wreak havoc upon England. What is the effect of this narrative choice?

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, March 22** 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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