

Joel Senter

Nashville Scholars – Part of a Larger Family

The Nashville Scholars are part of a larger community of like-minded literary friends who enjoy reading the Sherlock Holmes stories, researching the story backgrounds, finding misaligned dates and other gaffes that require explanation, and, in Sherlockian phraseology, “playing the game.” This involves a bit of mind-bending, convincing yourself that Dr. John Watson actually wrote the stories, leaving the publishing to Conan Doyle “the literary agent.” Our British friends find this preposterous, but it’s all in good fun. Having fun is a large part of being Sherlockian, and some seemed to know how to really have fun following Sherlock Holmes.

This issue of *Plugs and Dottles* is dedicated to our friend **Joel Senter** who had more fun than most, and to Carolyn, his beloved wife of 50 years. The Senter’s occasionally attended Nashville Scholars meetings, adding their special touch to the day. On the website Joel designed to facilitate clients wanting Sherlockian books, apparel, and all kinds of items, you will find a brief explanation of what they were all about.

Since 1988, Classic Specialties has been "those Sherlock Holmes people in Cincinnati." We are not only North America's leading distributors of various and sundry items appertaining to Mr. Sherlock Holmes and his times, but we also like to think of ourselves as being purveyors of literary offerings, information, and general news generated by and for Sherlock Holmes fans everywhere.



I met Joel and Carolyn for the first-time way up in Door County, Wisconsin. Don Izban, the famous scion initiator from Chicago, was holding one of his Canonical Convocation and Caper events. (Remember what we said about Sherlockians having fun?) Joel, of course, attended the fun-filled event, and Izban made him the Master of ceremonies! If Joel and Carolyn were going to be there, you knew it would be a fun event. And it was! ...Jim Hawkins

From an interview I did with the Senter’s on our old website.

(Carolyn speaking) “... we don't seem to have enough sense to know that what we are doing can't be done with any reasonable commitment of time and effort, so we just keep doing it anyway. I presume that the most important skills I have brought to **Classic Specialties** boil down to an ability of "making do" with inadequate facilities (and money) and an ability to bring to bear multiple past experiences to confront and solve whatever current problems we might encounter.

(Note from Joel)

Carolyn tends to be overly modest - she has also been a model, a knitting and fabric arts teacher, a karate and tai chi instructor; she holds a master's degree in Special Education, and she is a great life partner for me - I feel intensely lucky to have her in my life."



David Marcum remembers Joel and Carolyn...

Joel and I communicated for years, and he was a wonderful person. My family always knew to get my birthday and Christmas presents from Classic Specialties, and long before the internet I would call him sometimes and ask questions. Later, when I wrote my first book, he helped promote and sell it. He and Carolyn wrote a story for the first set of MX anthologies and was supportive in so many ways over the years. I last emailed him a couple of months ago and wish that I had again.

A final tribute was broadcast by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on their podcast, I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere in 2018. Listen to the love that Sherlockians everywhere had for Joel Senter and still do. <https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2018/07/remembering-joel-senter.html>

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