

Minutes of Meeting  
Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs  
San Francisco International Headquarters

Maya Restaurant  
San Francisco, California  
Thursday, May 5, 2005  
Cinco de Mayo

I'll tell you right out, I'm a man who likes talking to a man who likes to talk.

Caspar Gutman in THE MALTESE FALCON

Spring was in the air during the May meeting of the Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs. It was Cinco de Mayo, and the DHSOS fittingly met at a Mexican restaurant, drank margaritas and Corona beer, and ordered enchiladas and mole. The bar was packed with beauties of a youngish nature, crammed into tight jeans like sausages in casings, and their tequila-laden voices rose to a shrill roar. We waded through the din to our table, attracting as much attention as a flea on an elephant. The Procurer of Venues had secured a round table, as is his custom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by President Diefenbach. All Studs were present. Schlepper Monk was sicker than a dog and looked like he had been dragged by a Hyde Street cable car.

We got straight down to business.

Communications Czar Noakes handed out DHSOS business cards and CD copies of the KQED interview. The business cards replaced those given out during weaker moments of the Maltese Falcon anniversary celebration, and admonishments were given to use better judgment during future distributions. THE PREZ reported continued contacts regarding the interview, and the Procurer of Venues described a recent encounter with a woman he met during that event. All Studs' marriages and employments are still intact, at least at this point, so the fallout from that orgy appears to be contained.

Congratulations were extended to the Schlepper of Concoctions on his new employment, at Carter-Burgess.

A discussion was held on the manly topic of gas grills, including a heated debate over the ideal number of burners. The final tally was two votes for three burners, one vote for two and one vote for four. The Procurer of Venues offered to deliver and assemble a grill at the Schlepper's residence.

The Schlepper's newly renovated kitchen is done, and interior and exterior painting is underway. The Studs discussed how to remove a "Shedduscrappus" Eucalapus tree and install a swimming pool in its place. All work must be completed prior to the Labor Day party, which was planned by and for the Society.

THE PREZ reported on his recent purchase of a new, Targa 911 silver Porsche, and indicated that he "nearly wet himself" when he saw it. Interestingly, he stated that he made the purchase prior to informing his spouse and that her comment when told was, "OK, dawlin' ... whatever you want." That evoked the following dialog:

Schlepper: "Gee, I couldn't even buy a pair of pants without telling Vicki."

Procurer: "I bought a new golf club once and had to tell Misty ahead of time. She has never said 'OK dawlin' ... whatever you want.'"

Schlepper: "I might have bought a new golf club once and not told Vicki."

Having completely missed the point, the Schlepper and Procurer then proceeded to compare new golf clubs.

Archivist of Knowledge Fehringer informed the group that he was leaving the next day for a cruise to Alaska. There was a discussion of why he was going to Alaska, when he had taken that same cruise a year ago, but the explanation made little sense. Perhaps he should take up drinking.

There was a discussion surrounding Future Stud Diefenbach's impending drive from Illinois to SF with his "girl friend" and the various possible sleeping arrangements at 273 29<sup>th</sup> Ave. The Procurer reiterated his prank regarding driving with the love birds, and he expressed his unhappiness at THE PREZ's revelation of his hoax. THE PREZ expressed his regret for spilling the Procurer's beans, and said, "I deserve a sanction."

The Communication Czar, who appears to be living vicariously through his daughter's sports exploits, reported that Katharine's basketball team is undefeated and promised to send the schedule for her final game to Society members. (Note: That game will be Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 PM at Epiphany, at 45 Vienna in SF).

The Procurer reported yet another reason why he will always be faithful to Misty. He was in Scottsdale recently to attend Spring Training and carouse with his AT&T buddies and found himself alone for an evening ("which I like, because I'm

a nice guy to be with.”) He headed to the Pink Pony (a Giants hangout) and seated himself on a barstool next to a rather attractive blond. One thing led to another, he revealed his name to her, and her response was, “Oh, are you Misty’s husband?”

A discussion ensued on the Communication Czar’s real estate investments, which are looking increasingly good since the stock market is teetering like a one-legged drunk. He promised to send information to the rest of the Studs.

The Procurer of Venues ordered another Corona, and then launched into a tiresome discussion of earthquake kits, which fell on deaf ears. This led to a conversation about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the 1906 earthquake. The idea of a Society meeting to celebrate the anniversary was raised -- the DHSOS would get together at Lotta’s Fountain at 5:12 AM on April 18, 2006. There were heads nodding during the discussion, but that may have been the hour rather than an indication of agreement, as the Schlepper has since weighed in against it. To be precise, he said, “Since regaining my health and thinking with a clear head, I would like to say you will never see me at 5 am on the streets of SF no matter what the cause of celebration unless it is stumbling out of the Mitchell Bros. on my 80th birthday.”

That lead to a presidential suggestion of a DHSOS dinner the night before, go to the Mitchell Brother(s) all night long, then show up at Lotta’s. He guaranteed the Schlepper would feel 80 when he got there.

Unfortunately, the Schlepper of Concoctions’ bout of heebie-jeebies forced him to depart early, which cast a pall on the conversation. The meeting adjourned and Society members made their way through the tequila-sodden streets to their homes.