

06/1/24

Subject: Indianapolis Literary Club Essays in the 21st Century

Dear Friends,

In our club's 148 year history, an estimated 4,000 papers have been presented. In the old days, before TV changed our culture, the club met every week. Many of these papers have been archived at the Indiana Historical Society. Many have been lost to posterity. Our quaint tradition of giving our essays clever, but uninformative titles, makes it difficult to determine what the real topic of the essays might be.

In about 2007, The IHS Informed us that they no longer had space to store our stuff. Since then, the papers have been saved in digital form on the club's website. Not every reader forwards his essay to the webmaster so there are some holes in the coverage.

Over the last few years I have attempted (a little at a time) to construct a data base of ILC lectures delivered from January 3, 2000 through May 6, 2024. Thirteen essays are scheduled each year. Approximately 302 papers have been read by 161 members. Only two meetings were cancelled due to inclement weather: January 7, 2014 and January 22, 2024. Four essays were cancelled due to COVID from March 16, 2020 to May 4, 2020.

Through research at the IHS and recently on the ILC website, I have been able to write short descriptions of the topics of these papers. The Secretary's Letters have also been helpful.

About one third of the essays are memorials or biographical sketches, more or less.. I have made up an imperfect list of the subjects of those essays.

I hope you will find these lists interesting and amusing, if not useful.

Dave Young