

2023 Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual and Sigerson Awards

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota publishes a Christmas Annual which has gained international recognition within the Sherlockian community. This publication is distributed each year to attendees of our organization's annual dinner in December and to those attending the Baker Street Irregulars Annual Dinner and the Gaslight Gala during the Sherlock Holmes Birthday weekend in New York City. The Sigerson Awards, our light-hearted recognition for contributors, also will be presented at the Norwegian Explorers' annual dinner. Every year our members are challenged to submit original works based on a topic we hope will inspire their creativity.

There are many numbers that are significant to Sherlockians. Numbers such as "221" and "17" mean something to us. Other numbers such as "three" and "four" appear in many canonical titles. For the Norwegian Explorers there is a number that has not been mentioned very much yet this year but should be of great significance: *seventy-five!*

The Norwegian Explorers' first formal meeting was held on January 23, 1948, making 2023 the group's diamond jubilee. In recognition of this momentous achievement, the theme for this year's Christmas Annual is:

75!

Our Christmas Annual will be a celebration of the first seventy-five years of the Norwegian Explorers, and we invite members to discuss their memories, how the group activities have affected their lives, the role the Explorers have played in the larger Sherlockian community, or something that touches on the history of the Explorers since its founding in 1948. Alternatively, contributors to this issue might incorporate the number into an article or a pastiche, perhaps about something Holmes did at the age of seventy-five or an investigation in which the number is significant. Taking another approach toward the Norwegian Explorers as a topic, perhaps an inquiry into Sherlock Holmes's activities during his hiatus while masquerading as our group's namesake... or anything else that involves the Norwegian Explorers at 75! We look forward to seeing how you join in the celebration....

Suggested Categories for Submissions (2500 word maximum):

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| 1. Article or essay | 5. Joke |
| 2. Poem | 6. Illustration / Artwork |
| 3. Cartoon | 7. Quiz / Puzzle |
| 4. Sherlockian or Doylean review | 8. Pastiche |

Rules for Submissions:

1. You must be a member of The Norwegian Explorers (local or corresponding). If you are not yet a member, a link to our membership form is located on our website: www.norwegianexplorers.org
2. Entries must be received no later than **Friday, October 6, 2023**.
3. Submit electronic versions of papers (Microsoft Word preferred) by emailing ray@PULPlications.com, with "ATTN: CHRISTMAS ANNUAL" as the subject line.
You should receive a reply e-mail within two days from one of the editors, Ray Riethmeier or Phil Bergem, acknowledging the successful receipt of your submission. Please include the registration information (below) with your submission. Mailing a paper copy of your entry is not required, but if you prefer to do so, use this address: Ray Riethmeier, 12015 Townview Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343.
4. Artwork or illustrations may be submitted by PDF, JPG, or TIFF scan, or by mail (the original or a good copy). The Norwegian Explorers accept no responsibility for the safety of a submitted original illustration or cartoon.
5. All entries must be the original work of the contributor, and must not have had any prior publication.
6. Contributors with submissions published in our Christmas Annual will continue to retain all rights to have their work published elsewhere.
7. Physical entries will be returned only if return postage is provided by the contributor, or if other arrangements are made.
8. Multiple entries may be submitted for each category.
9. Judges for the Sigerson Awards will be selected by the Norwegian Explorers. Decisions of the judges are final.
10. Winners of the Sigerson Awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting in December. Absentees will be notified by email.



Registration Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____