



The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc.
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The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota April 2024 Notice

Times noted are U.S. Central Time

Study Group

Saturday April 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Steve Schier will lead the group in a discussion of “**A Case of Identity.**” See the end of this Notice for discussion questions to ponder. We continue to gather via Zoom, primarily to accommodate participants from around the country and around the world. See the link and other information below and please forward to any interested Sherlockian friends and colleagues who may not be Norwegian Explorers.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8282233034?pwd=RGNFYW9venRacUFYVkhzNnNJV2tPQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 223 3034

Passcode: 878937

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,8282233034#,,,,,0#,,878937# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,8282233034#,,,,,0#,,878937# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 828 223 3034

Passcode: 878937

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8282233034?pwd=RGNFYW9venRacUFYVkhzNnNJV2tPQT09>

Upcoming Dates and Stories

The group normally meets on the third Saturday of the month at 2:00 p.m. We’re following the Jay Finley Christ four-letter abbreviations of the tales in alphabetic order. Thus, we will take on ILLU May 18 and will take our non-Canonical detour June 15 with “The Little Old Man of Batignolles” by Émile Gaboriau. The story features the detective, Monsieur Lecoq, who is employed by the French Sûreté. The character is one of the pioneers of the genre and a major influence on Sherlock Holmes (who, in “A Study in Scarlet,” calls him “a miserable bungler”), laying the groundwork for the methodical, scientifically minded Holmes.

“Conferment by Needle” Census Opportunity

Inspired by Randall Stock's census of The Unique Hamlet, Phil Cunningham is trying to compile a census of Michael Murphy's “Conferment by Needle.” It's a pamphlet Michael printed in 1980 reproducing Vincent Starrett's letter to T.S. Eliot offering him honorary membership in The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) and Eliot's affirmative response.

You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson...

“The Adventure of the Empty House”

There are 230 copies. Copies 1-221 are numbered and nine are unnumbered. Phil has tracked 23 copies to university and public libraries, and 11 to individuals. (The University of Minnesota Libraries Special Collections holds three.)

If you own a copy or know someone who does, please note some of the data Phil is trying to gather and let him know. What is the copy number and where is the copy located? Is it inscribed and, if so, what does the inscription read? Michael Murphy signed some copies in black or green ink. Is the copy signed and, if so, is it signed in black or green ink? Phil's contact information is below.

Philip Cunningham
9412 S. Springfield Ave.
Evergreen Park, IL 60805-2015
pjc121@comcast.net

Conferences:

**“Sherlock Holmes @ 50: Celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections”
Friday July 26 to Sunday July 28**

REGISTER NOW! SPOTS ARE GOING FAST AND WE'RE APPROACHING CAPACITY.

Proudly sponsored by the University of Minnesota Libraries, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, our perennially popular triennial conference returns from hiatus just in time to celebrate some truly remarkable milestones. First, we're raising a glass to 50 years of our beloved Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Library – the world's largest gathering of material related to Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. We'll also explore other famous 50s in Sherlockian lore, including the 50-year span in which the Canon was published, and highlights from the great detective's first 50 years of life.

Note that the conference location is changing from recent years with a return to the Givens Suites at the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota, and a Saturday banquet at the nearby Courtyard by Marriott in Minneapolis. Plans are underway for an unforgettable lineup of guest speakers, special exhibits, social events, and even a few surprises! Registration and more details are available on the Norwegian Explorers website at www.NorwegianExplorers.org and on FaceBook #SHMN2024.

Minnesota Antiquarian Book Fair July 12-13

This year's Book Fair is moving from the University of St. Thomas to Hamline University's Ridgway Central Forum at its Anderson Center. The address is 774 Snelling Ave N, St Paul, MN 55104. Hours are Friday: 3 - 7 p.m. / Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visit www.minnesotabookfair.com for more information.

Murder Mystery Weekend Opportunity May 3-5

One of our members asked that I let you know of this opportunity at the Sugar Lake Lodge near Grand Rapids that's "to die for." Details available at the following link:

<https://www.murdermystery.com/weekend-events/sugar-lake-lodge-mn>

Podcasts, etc.

Our own **Monica Schmidt** is one of the rotating co-hosts of the Rosenbach Museum and Library's "Sherlock Mondays" video podcast. See the following link to the YouTube recordings:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_WfU3WRzr0&list=PLWR9Pkh4eGAnl1qEKhM_lwJ_IqXLbmk7Y

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A new Sherlock Holmes podcast launched October 10, 2023. “**Sherlock & Co.**” is hosted by **John Watson**, a British doctor who was in Afghanistan and the Ukraine. John is a true crime podcaster living in London. You can find the first few episodes at the following link:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sherlock-co/id1710121792>

Red Throated League Recorded Performances Available on YouTube

The recordings of the February 4, 2023 performances of “The Case of the Missing Heiress” are now available on YouTube. The link to the 1 p.m. show is <https://youtu.be/PBbMPtAKXfk> and the link to the 2 p.m. show is <https://youtu.be/9YDfnRmINxU>.

Norwegian Explorers Book Efforts

Though not Sherlockian, **Ruth Berman** has a book out from Black Coat Press. “The Tales of King Cambrinus,” is a translation of French author Charles Deulin's fairy tales from both of his two collections, “Tales of a Beer Drinker” as well as “Tales of King Cambrinus.” Also a fairy tale, “Pipette's Paradise,” from, “Small Town Stories,” Deulin's collection of mostly non-fantasy stories. Deulin's work is little known in English (some of his stories were included – somewhat abridged – in Andrew Lang's Color Fairy Books), but he has a wry, dry humor that I find very attractive. See the following link for The Black Coat Press website <https://www.blackcoatpress.com/forthcoming-tales-of-king-cambrinus.html>

Our own **Ray Riethmeier** has compiled a new anthology of original pastiches for Belanger Books. Instead of focusing on the usual mysteries in which Holmes is the primary investigator, “**The Consultations of Sherlock Holmes**” puts a spotlight on an oft-overlooked part of his career in detection, placing the emphasis on his role as a consultant. This volume collects sixteen delightfully varied mysteries from some of today’s top Sherlockian authors in which Holmes serves as a last resort for other detectives – both private investigators and those from the official police force – who come to him for his unique perspective and aid as “the only unofficial consulting detective” in the world. The book is available from Amazon (and other booksellers) in paperback, hardcover, and eBook editions:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C9SBXQNR>.

Norwegian Explorer **Brenda Rossini** has authored “**Oscar Slater: a Killer Exposed,**” now available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Julie McKuras, BSI, ASH, and **Bill Mason**, BSI, ASH, have accepted an invitation from **Michael Kean**, BSI to write the History of the Baker Street Irregulars for the 1950s.

Please send details about any books you’re authoring, editing, publishing, etc. to me and I’ll include the relevant information in the next Notice.

Christmas Annuals

Attendees at the Annual Dinner received a limited-edition copy of the much anticipated and coveted Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual. Extra copies are still available for a small fee. Contact Phil Bergem at pgbergem@gmail.com if you want a copy.

Movies and Television:

See the following link for updates on no less than five upcoming movie and TV projects involving U.S. based Sherlock Holmes releases. <https://screenrant.com/sherlock-holmes-upcoming-movies-shows/>

And across the pond the BBC’s “**Sherlock**” co-creator **Mark Gatiss** has adapted **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's short story Lot No. 249** in a new ghost (or mummy) story Christmas special, which has a more supernatural element to it than the usual adaptations of the author's works. Lot No. 249 revolves around a pair of Oxford University students - Abercrombie Smith (Kit Harington) and Edward Bellingham (Freddie Fox). The

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former notices some strange goings-on around the latter's Ancient Egypt research, which seemingly includes re-animating a mummy. It's one of the first mummy horror stories, and a major influence on Universal's *The Mummy* movie with Boris Karloff, among many other movies, books, and more. It aired December 24, 2023, on the BBC Two network in the U.K. but may not make it to U.S. audiences for several more months. See a review at the following link: <https://www.denofgeek.com/tv/mark-gatiss-lot-no-249-is-a-sneaky-sherlock-prequel/>

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections - Membership Opportunity

The University of Minnesota Libraries houses the world's largest collection of Sherlock Holmes related materials and is supported by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Many Explorers are already members of this organization which, along with the University Libraries and the Norwegian Explorers, hosts our triennial conferences and other events. If you're not already a member, please consider joining to support its ongoing work of collecting, cataloging, and exhibiting the collection's materials for the public and private researchers. A basic annual membership is only \$30. You can learn more and join at the following link: <https://www.lib.umn.edu/collections/special/holmes/become-friend-holmes>.

Lapel Pins

Please let Tom Gottwalt know if you wish to purchase one. **Cost is \$15** in person, \$20 if mailed.

Baker Street Irregulars Updates Available Free

Get News from the Baker Street Irregulars via email! Free for all Sherlockians: Get notified by email when the Irregulars schedule an event, publish a new book, or issue of the *Baker Street Journal*, or have other news. To sign up, go to <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email/>.

Request for News & Event Information

If you know of upcoming events, publications, or news of interest to Explorers please send it my way and I'll publish it in the next monthly Notice.

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Study Group Discussion Questions:

Steve Schier will lead the group in a discussion of “A Case of Identity.” via a Zoom gathering. See discussion questions below.

1. How could Mary Sutherland be fooled by her stepfather’s disguise?
2. Why didn’t Holmes tell her the truth about Hosmer Angel? What do you make of his deductions and behavior in this case?
3. Would the Windibank/Sutherland household have been headed for rough waters even without young Mary’s inheritance from her Uncle Ned? What else was going on in that family?
4. Was Windibank secretly (or openly) attracted to Mary all along? If so, then why didn’t he marry her in the first place, instead of her mother?
5. An abusive husband will sometimes choose to torment his spouse through her children. Was Windibank’s Hosmer Angel scheme part of his on-going abuse of both women? Did Mary’s mother go along with the “joke” because she was afraid?
6. Was Windibank merely a greedy and selfish fool, a man who concocted what seemed (to him) a harmless way to keep Mary and her income at home for a bit longer? Did Windibank's own scheme run away with him?
7. Do you think Holmes was right or wrong in his assessment of Windibank as a felon in the making? Do you think his contact with Holmes frightened him into better behavior?
8. Where does Windibank rank among the villains Holmes encountered? Formidable or not so formidable?
9. What is your view of the quality of this mystery and its ranking among the 56 stories in the canon?

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