



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

Times noted are U.S. Central Time

OUR SUMMER HIATUS HAS ENDED - WELCOME BACK

Study Group

Saturday September 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Mary Loving will lead the group in a discussion of “**The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax.**” 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=RGNFYW9venRacUFYVkhzNnNlV2tPQT09>

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)

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+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=RGNFYW9venRacUFYVkhzNnNlV2tPQT09>

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 LAST October 19 and LION November 16.

Conferences, Meetings, and Gatherings:

Our most recent conference, “**Sherlock Holmes @ 50: Celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections**” was an unqualified success. We had about 170 attendees from all over the United States and from as far away as Canada, Europe, Australia, and Japan. The related exhibition, featuring a

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“The Adventure of the Empty House”

“Festive Fifty” items from the Collections opened June 3 and runs **through September 20** at the University of Minnesota’s Elmer L. Andersen Library.

Norwegian Explorers and Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections meeting Wednesday September 18 at 6:30 p.m.

As part of his national book tour, author, screen writer, and noted Sherlockian **Nicholas Meyer** (BSI “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution”) will be our guest at the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota. He’ll be discussing his latest book, **“Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell,”** and other Sherlockian topics. The book came out August 27 and will be available for purchase and inscription at the event. See the following link for a writeup of a recent conversation between Nicholas Meyer and Les Klinger about how Nicholas first discovered Sherlock Holmes and the path he took toward writing his many critically acclaimed pastiches. <https://crimereads.com/nicholas-meyer-leslie-klinger-sherlock-telegram-from-hell/>

Christmas Annual – Call for Papers – October 4 Submission Deadline – “The Collection Mania”

Ray Riethmeier and Phil Bergem are once again compiling and editing the Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual and are requesting content for inclusion in this year’s publication. It is distributed each year to attendees of the Norwegian Explorers Annual Dinner in December as well as to those attending the Baker Street Irregulars Annual Dinner and the Gaslight Gala during the Sherlock Holmes Birthday weekend in New York.

This year’s theme will be “The Collecting Mania.” “Collecting” crops up in a variety of forms throughout the canon. Holmes collected the plugs and dottles of the previous day’s pipes to smoke them again, disguised himself as “a collector of obscure volumes,” and stated that his “collection of M’s is a fine one.” John Sholto had “a large collection of valuable curiosities” brought back from India. Stapleton offered to show his collection of Lepidoptera to Watson. Nathan Garrideb had a wide-ranging collection he hoped would make him “the Hans Sloane of [his] age.” In a disturbing set of contrasts, Baron Gruner collected both Chinese pottery and pictures of women he’d ruined. And, of course, Watson collected his notes to write the stories we enjoy so much. Many Sherlockians are known for their collections, and those of us in Minnesota are rightfully proud of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary in 2024. Opportunities abound for topics to cover in this year’s Annual. Whether you write about Sherlockian things that you or others collect, collections found in the canonical tales, a pastiche involving the idea of collecting, or your own relationship with the University’s holdings, we look forward to seeing what you can contribute to the ongoing collection of Explorers’ Christmas Annuals.

The submission deadline is October 4. Use the submission form accompanying this Notice. The form should also be available on the Norwegian Explorers website.

Theater

“Holmes/Poirot” at the Park Square Theatre October 9 – November 3

This world premiere mystery is by Twin Cities playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and Steve Hendrickson. David Ira Goldstein directs the star-studded cast including Steve Hendrickson, Bob Davis, Warren Bowles, Stacia Rice, Becca Hart and Olivia Osol. Sherlock Holmes never lost a case. Or did he? In this new mystery Holmes comes up against his most diabolical adversary in a tale of intrigue, international politics, wine and murder. And he’s stymied. Enter Hercule Poirot 25 years later to investigate a new crime that rhymes with the first . . . Stay tuned as we’ll be sure to plan a Norwegian Explorers’ night possibly including a group rate and other perks.

Norwegian Explorers Book Efforts

Larry Millett

Larry Millett’s latest book, **“Mysterious Tales of Old St. Paul: Three Cases Featuring Shadwell Rafferty”** will be published October 1. Larry Millett is author of ten mystery novels featuring Sherlock Holmes and St.

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Paul detective Shadwell Rafferty, including “Rafferty’s Last Case: A Minnesota Mystery Featuring Sherlock Holmes,” all published by the University of Minnesota Press.

But Shadwell Rafferty is back after all! Or more specifically, in these three novellas, we catch up with Rafferty in the years before he meets the famous detective Sherlock Holmes in a series of three mysterious affairs that all take place in the early 1890s in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota.

In “Death in the News”, St. Paul citizens wake up one morning to find that the sign on downtown’s tallest building that reads PIONEER PRESS has been altered to read LIARS. Of course, suspicion immediately falls on the citizens of Minneapolis, but soon eyes turn towards prominent citizens treated unflatteringly by the paper of late and may have a bone to pick. The sign prank soon takes a back seat, however, when a far worse crime rocks the city.

In “The Birdman of Summit Avenue” it’s 1892, and cats are turning up dead in the yards of prominent St. Paulites, including James J. and Mary Hill, and suspicion swiftly falls on the wealthy avian enthusiast Ambrose Harriman, the “Birdman of Summit Avenue” who made no secret his hatred of cats and whose bird, Webster, can recite portions of the Gettysburg Address and Poe’s “The Raven.” And so, as the news of these odd affairs begins circulating in the Pioneer Press, our good friend Shad Rafferty and his partner George Washington Thomas fly to the (hoped for) rescue when Shad is summoned to a meeting by James J. Hill. But Harriman’s mysterious employee, Eli Tuttle, has his own past and the tracks to the heart of the mystery may not be so obvious after all, especially when a neighborhood boy is found tragically murdered in Harriman’s yard.

In “The Gold King”, an enigmatic and big talking stranger arrives in town, calling himself the Gold King, and who soon begins announcing that he’s arrived to search for a great treasure hidden in the city. Soon another wealthy person arrives in Arthur Hopewell, whose presence and progressive beliefs inspire many and unsettle many as well.

These interlocking stories, all steeped in the mystery and history of nineteenth-century St. Paul, show Rafferty becoming the consummate detective whose exploits have delighted readers again and again. Another mystery gem from Larry Millett!

There will be a launch event for the book hosted by SubText Books at Saint City Catering (218 7th St E Suite 100, St Paul, MN 55101) on October 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Jeff Falkingham

Making its debut at the recent Sherlock @ 50 Conference in Minneapolis was the 2nd Edition of Jeff Falkingham’s “**Focusing the Lens on Doyle & Holmes**” essay collection. Since a 1st Edition was published in 2021, Jeff’s writings have won 3 more Sigerson Awards from the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota! Those 3 essays join 3 earlier award-winners to form the heart of this 2nd Edition. Also included are several newer entries including Jeff’s insightful observations and explorations, book and film reviews, plus his Sherlockian dinner toasts, limericks, and even a Holmes & Doyle trivia quiz. Cover by Amanda Downs Champlin, who also did the two frontispiece drawings in ‘Murder in Minnesota! Two Sherlockian Tales’ – a 2-in-1 bundling of pastiches set in Minnesota in the late 1800s. Both books are available at Amazon.com. For signed copies, contact Jeff directly via his website at www.cccaper.com.

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.

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Red Throated League Recorded Performances Available on YouTube

We're in the process of editing and making available the recording of the radio play "221A" by Jeffrey Hatcher and it should be available on YouTube soon.

Movies and Television:

Movie and television activity continues to percolate in many areas, nearly too many to mention. Things may be coming into clearer focus as the fall and winter progress. Stay tuned for specific developments as they become available.

Norwegian Explorers Wikipedia Entry?

Thanks to Gary Thaden for pointing out that, while the Baker Street Irregulars have a Wikipedia entry (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Baker_Street_Irregulars), the Norwegian Explorers do not. If anyone has Wikipedia experience and is interested in getting our group its well-deserved entry, please let me know.

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.

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:

Mary Loving will lead the group in a discussion of **“The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax”** via a Zoom gathering. See discussion questions below.

1. Watson says a Turkish bath “is what we call an alternative in medicine — a fresh starting point, a cleanser of the system.” Based on his personality, do you think Watson would advocate the alternative treatments practiced these days?
2. Holmes accused Watson of bungling his end of the investigation, yet he sent Watson to Lausanne while the real source of pertinent information, Susan Dobney, was in England. In the absence of the assistance Miss Dobney could provide, how else could Watson have proceeded, other than as he did? And why did Holmes praise Mr. Green's investigative efforts yet disparage Watson's?
3. Was Green a stalker? By his account, he was nothing more than a very determined suitor, but Lady Frances seems to have been frightened of him, and it seems fairly certain that she went off with the “Shlessingers” at least in part to escape Green’s pursuit of her. Holmes described Lady Frances as “a stray chicken in a world of foxes,” but was Holmes letting a fox into the chicken coop by trusting Green? And why did Holmes trust him? Do you think she and Green ever got together?
4. How does "Holy Peters" rank as a Holmesian villain?
5. In GREE Holmes loses valuable time waiting for a warrant to search for Mr. Melas. In LADY, when asked for a warrant, Holmes draws a revolver and says "This will have to serve until a better one comes." Do you think perhaps he learned from almost losing Mr. Melas that sometimes it's better to break the law if it saves a life?
6. When the coffin was brought out of the house on Poultney Square, Watson says that it was “supported by three men.” That seems to be an unusual number of pallbearers. And, given that the coffin actually contained not only the wasted body of Rose Spender but of Lady Frances also, might the combined weight of coffin and contents have been greater than could be borne by only three men?

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