



The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc.
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The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota December 2018 Notice

Annual Business Meeting and Dinner, Thursday December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

We'll celebrate the season, hold a brief business meeting and enjoy a traditional English dinner. We'll also enjoy Canonical Toasts, poems, limericks, carols, etc. Attendees will receive a limited edition copy of the much anticipated and coveted Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual. Join us at the Minneapolis Golf Club, 2001 Flag Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55426 (952) 544-4471. The cost is \$35 per person. You can pay by check using the form included with this Notice or go on line at our web site and use PayPal. The Payment Form indicates payment must be received by November 28 but there are still openings and you can register as late as Monday December 3.

Membership Renewal

If you've not yet done so, please renew your annual membership for 2019. You can renew online with PayPal or a credit card or use the attached form available on the web site. Dues remain the same (\$15 single or \$20 family) but additional contributions are always welcome. The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc. is a valid Section 501(c)(3) organization. Any contributions beyond your membership dues should be deductible as charitable contributions.

Study Group

Saturday December 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Steve Miller will lead the group in a discussion of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" at the St. Anthony Park Public Library, 2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108, 651-642-0411. See the last page of this Notice for discussion questions to ponder.

Upcoming Dates and Stories

The group normally meets the third Saturday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Next up is "The Veiled Lodger" January 19 followed by "The Sussex Vampire" February 19. Locations TBD.

Baker Street West, Sunday January 27 at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for our traditional celebration of the Master's birthday. We'll enjoy dinner, drinks and conversation as we hear reports from some of our more intrepid traveling members' trips to the Baker Street Irregulars' New York City extended birthday weekend (January 9-13). This year's event will be at Fitzgerald's on Cathedral Hill. The address is 173 Western Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55102, (651) 219-4013. Please RSVP to Tom Gottwalt, 4620 Trenton Circle N, Plymouth, MN 55442, tgottwal@tcfbank.com or (952) 512-6406. The only cost is your own food and beverages.

You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson..."
"The Adventure of the Empty House"

Movies:

"Holmes and Watson" opens in theaters December 21. The Sherlockian spoof starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly (of Step Brothers and Talladega Nights fame) involves the pair solving crimes across England, including a case about killer bees. The comedy also has a great supporting cast including Rebecca Hall, Kelly Macdonald, Ralph Fiennes, Hugh Laurie, Rob Brydon, and Lauren Lapkus. We are working to coordinate a date to attend as a Sherlockian group. Stay tuned for more details.

Movie Mystery Solved:

"Sherlock Holmes 3" officially has a release date: The upcoming third installment in the Robert Downey Jr. film series will hit theaters Dec. 25, **2020**, according to THR. Like its predecessors, 2009's "Sherlock Holmes" and 2011's "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," the upcoming movie stars Downey Jr. alongside Jude Law. The two play the iconic titular detective and his sidekick, Dr. Watson, respectively.

Theater:

"The Play That Goes Wrong," at the Orpheum Theater May 7-12. Broadway's funniest and longest-running play is a hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes. Welcome to opening night of "The Murder at Haversham Manor" where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. With an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines), it's "A Riotous Explosion of Comedy!" (The Daily Beast) and "Tons of Fun for All Ages!" (HuffPost).

HELP NEEDED: Movie and Theater Group Organizer

We're seeking a person interested in organizing group outings to movies and theater events. Activities would consist of communicating with venues and arranging for a group opportunity to sit together, obtain any group pricing discounts, or provide a chance for a discussion after the show with actors or gather as a group in a nearby pub before or after the show. Communication would be coordinated via this Notice or other email distributed by me. Coordinating dates, locations, RSVPs and headcounts would also be included. If you have interest please contact me. We did this with the Heights Theater's screening of "The Lost World" and the Park Square Theatre's production of "Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery." Assistance to continue to offer these opportunities will be much appreciated.

BSI Weekend January 9-13, 2019

It's not too soon to start planning for the Baker Street Irregulars New York City "BSI Weekend." The events begin on Wednesday and run through Sunday. The only event not open to all is the Friday night BSI dinner, which is limited to BSI members and invited guests. It's a great series of events and a chance to take in non-Sherlockian New York City sights, plays and other events as well. For more information go to www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend/schedule.html. A contingent of Norwegian Explorers typically attends so you will be among good company. See the latest edition of *Explorations* for two articles by first time attendees at the 2018 weekend for a good summary of the experience.

Triennial Conference August 9-11, 2019

Save the date and mark your calendars for our next conference hosted jointly by the Norwegian Explorers, Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries. The conference theme, quoting from some words and phrases in the Canon, is **"Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences."** Gary Thaden and Julie McKuras are co-chairing the planning committee and will be looking for volunteers for a variety of tasks and projects. Please let them know if you're interested in assisting.

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The December Study Group will meet at the St. Anthony Park Public Library, 2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108, 651-642-0411. Steve Miller will lead the discussion of “**The Bruce Partington Plans**” as the group addresses these questions:

1. Mycroft Holmes is a major figure in pastiches but is mentioned in only four canonical stories. What is the fascination with Sherlock Holmes' smarter older brother?
2. Lestrade also makes an appearance in the story. Sherlock can sometimes be snide, snarky, and sarcastic in his byplay with Scotland Yard's finest. How does he treat Lestrade here?
3. Once again, as in *The Naval Treaty*, Holmes is called upon to find stolen secret documents. In the world of espionage how does Holmes compare with James Bond?
4. The Watson-Holmes relationship is further developed in this story. Does Holmes need Watson to be Holmes?
5. Of Holmes' deductions in the case Watson says, "A masterpiece. You have never risen to a greater height." Holmes disagrees and says that after an initial deduction which was not "very abstruse" all the rest was inevitable. Who is right?
6. Was justice done in this case? Were the guilty sufficiently punished? What about the actions of Holmes and Watson? Should they be in jail? Were Mycroft and Lestrade accessories after the fact?
7. Should Victorian England have slept soundly considering the type of security arrangements for important secret weapons like the Bruce-Partington submarine shown in this story?

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