



The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc.
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The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota December 2020 Notice

Annual Business Meeting and Program, Thursday December 3 at 6:30 p.m.

We will be conducting the event virtually this year via Zoom. We will miss our English Buffet dinner at the Minneapolis Golf Club, but we will still have essentially the same program as in recent years including toasts, Sigerson Awards for contributions to the Christmas Annual, Stand Upon the Terrace, business meeting, Captions Courageous, etc. Our guest speaker, Rob Nunn, will reprise his presentation from the October West Coast Sherlockian Symposium. We hope you can join us as we “Spend a Long Evening with Holmes.” Also, as a special treat this year only, all Norwegian Explorers will receive a copy of the Christmas Annual in late November. Watch your mailbox for your copy. See the link and other information below (same as Study Group meeting).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8282233034?pwd=RGNFYW9venRacUFYVkhzNnNjV2tPQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 223 3034

Passcode: 878937

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Study Group

Saturday December 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Steve Schier will lead a discussion of “**The Illustrious Client.**” See the end of this Notice for discussion questions to ponder. We are still gathering via Zoom. See the link and other information below.

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“The Adventure of the Empty House”

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Upcoming Dates and Stories

The group normally meets the third Saturday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Next up is “The Adventure of the Red Circle” January 16 followed by “The Blanched Soldier” February 20. Zoom instructions will be provided in future Notices.

Baker Street West, Sunday January 31 at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for our traditional celebration of the Master’s birthday. We’ll gather virtually via Zoom and enjoy some good Sherlockian conversation and hear reports from those who attended the Baker Street Irregulars’ virtual New York City extended birthday weekend (January 7-10). Some of those events are open to the public but some are invitation only. See below for more details on the NYC weekend events.

Membership Renewal

It’s not too soon to renew your annual membership for 2021, and some of you already have. Thank you! You can renew online with PayPal or a credit card or use the attached form, which is also available on the web site. Dues are **\$20 per household** 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 to the extent allowed.

Chaska High School Theater Department Performs Meiser Radio Play – Available on YouTube

With COVID-19 not allowing for normal productions and audiences, Meredith Kind, fall musical director, and theater students, pivoted. They obtained rights through the generosity of the University of Minnesota’s library to the original 1936 radio drama, Sherlock Holmes & the Hounds of the Baskervilles. Kind, who has a professional contact in the Sherlockian society, The Red Throated League – a group that performs locally – was able to secure the script to the Edith Meiser adaptation. The performances were recorded in six parts and “aired” from Halloween through November 5. They are available on YouTube at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=chaska+high+school+radio+play+hound+of+the+baskervilles

BSI NYC Weekend – January 6–10

Because many of these events are going virtual this year this could be the perfect opportunity for many Norwegian Explorers who have never traveled to New York for the event to enjoy some of them. The BSI will hold a virtual Dinner meeting and a virtual Distinguished Speaker Lecture. The Lecture is free and open to everyone, but advance registration is required. For details and registration, see the web page at

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[Register for the 2021 BSI Weekend](#). Other Sherlockian groups are also holding virtual events during the BSI Weekend, and most are open to everyone.

From the BSI Newsletter: In other news, the Fortnightly Dispatch wraps up its first season of video interviews on YouTube with a conversation featuring BSI and Sherlockian cinephile Russell Merritt.

Movies:

"Enola Holmes" was released September 23 on Netflix

When Sherlock's teen sister, Enola Holmes, discovers her mother missing, she sets off to find her, becoming a super-sleuth in her own right as she outwits her famous brother and unravels a dangerous conspiracy around a mysterious young Lord. The movie is based on the Nancy Springer novels and stars Millie Bobby Brown, Henry Cavill, and Sam Claflin. I've seen the movie and thought it was terrific and am receiving favorable reviews from others that have seen it as well.

"Sherlock Holmes 3" with Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law will hit theaters in December **2021**. According to a reliable source, it's been pushed out another year from its previously scheduled December 2020 release date. This follows 2009's "Sherlock Holmes" and 2011's "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows." It will take us that long to recover from 2018's **"Holmes and Watson."**

Theater:

"Holmes and Watson" at the Park Square Theatre July 9 - August 15.

Sherlock Holmes is dead, or is he? Dr. Watson receives a telegram from a mental asylum: three patients are claiming to be Sherlock Holmes. Did the world's greatest sleuth fake his own death? Who's the real detective and who are the impostors? Tight, clever and full of suspense, this is Norwegian Explorer Jeffrey Hatcher at his best.

"The Mysterious Affair at Styles" at the Park Square Theatre. Dates postponed.

Hercule Poirot, that clever Belgian detective, returns in this edge-of-your-seat world premier adaptation of Agatha Christie's first novel, written and directed by favorite playwright and Norwegian Explorer Jeffrey Hatcher. Lieutenant Hastings is a guest at Styles Court, an elegant Essex manor, when his hostess is found dead of poison. Her killer could be anyone: her much younger new husband, her ne'er-do-well stepson, or perhaps her female companion. Sift through the clues as Poirot and "his little grey cells" solve the case.

Twin Cities Antiquarian and Rare Book Fair

The Twin Cities Antiquarian and Rare Book Fair will return July 9-10, at the University of St. Thomas.

Conferences:

Holmes in the Heartland

Hosted by The Parallel Case, **"Holmes in the Heartland"** will take place in St. Louis. Details and registration options are available at <https://parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland>.

International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes - October 1, 2021 - March 21, 2022

Plan to attend this premier exhibition as it comes to the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. Several items from the University of Minnesota's Sherlock Holmes Collections are on loan to the exhibition. Its tour started in Portland, Oregon in 2013 and it has circulated throughout the United States as well as to Edmonton, Canada and Sydney, Australia. It is a must-see for any Sherlock Holmes fan. Stay tuned for further details as the dates approach.

New Pins

In conjunction with our 2019 conference, the Norwegian Explorers commissioned a new pin. **Cost is \$10**

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

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/>.

Study Group Discussion Questions

Steve Schier will lead the group in a discussion of “The Illustrious Client” via a Zoom gathering December 19, 2020. Following are some discussion questions to ponder:

1. Holmes’s appointment with Sir James Damery was made by a note written in the third person. Who wrote the note? Sir James? A secretary? The illustrious client?
2. Sir James instantly connected the presence of Dr. Watson with the possibility of violence. Did Watson have such a reputation for handling the rough stuff? Why? Was this an early hint that the illustrious client didn’t much care what might happen to Baron Gruner, as long as he was prevented from marrying Violet de Merville?
3. Why did Holmes visit Gruner at home? He must have known it would be useless to threaten or persuade him from his marriage plans. Did he simply want to see Gruner and the layout of his house? Did he accomplish anything else from this visit?
4. Why didn’t Holmes tell Watson to study Chinese pottery from Gruner’s own book? Did his headache prevent Holmes from thinking straight, or did he have his own reasons for making Watson’s difficult situation even worse?
5. It was Watson who first suggested that Holmes might visit Violet de Merville. Then Holmes jumped to the conclusion that Watson meant for him to try to talk some sense into her. But was that actually Watson’s idea? What else might Watson have had in mind as a reason to see the lady in person?
6. Concerning that visit, Watson wrote that Holmes’s “hard, dry statement needs some little editing to soften it into the terms of real life.” How so? Did Holmes make a fool of himself in front of Miss de Merville? Did Watson have to clean up the account because of the bluntness with which Holmes expressed his warnings? Or was Watson’s editing necessary because Kitty Winter’s remarks couldn’t be repeated verbatim in a family magazine?
7. Holmes’s interviews with Baron Gruner and Violet de Merville attained similar results of annoyance and frustration. Were the engaged couple opposites, as Holmes said, or were the two actually a pretty good match in terms of their personalities?
8. What sort of girl was Kitty Winter before Gruner got hold of her? We think of her as lower class because of her slang, but did she merely learn such speech patterns after her ruin? How old was she at the time Gruner got his hands on her?
9. How much is Holmes to blame for Kitty’s attack on Gruner? Was he simply careless, or was this a case of his silent endorsement of “private revenge?”
10. What do you think became of Gruner? Did he sail for America as planned? Did he ever catch up with Kitty Winter? Would his deformity inspire him to be even more vicious in the future?

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