



The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc.
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The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota March 2025 Notice

Times noted are U.S. Central Time

Last Membership Renewal Reminder

Thank you to all those who have already renewed your membership for 2025. If you've not already done so, please renew as soon as possible. You can renew online with PayPal or a credit card or use the attached form available on the website. Dues are **\$25 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.

Study Group

Saturday March 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Mary Loving will lead the group in a discussion of **"The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual."** 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/kEQn1t05j>

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 NAVA April 19 and NOBL May 17. Then get ready for our non-Canonical detour on June 21.

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"The Adventure of the Empty House"

Conferences, Meetings, and Gatherings:

Norwegian Explorers Presenting at Legion of Zoom Annual Conference March 16

Our own Erica Fair and Julie McKuras will be speaking at the 4th Annual Legion of Zoom Conference March 16. Other speakers include Fabienne Courouge, Bob Sharfman, Bruno Stenson, and Randall Stock. The theme is "The Sitting Zoom at 221B Baker Street. The meeting takes place at 1:00 p.m. Note that you don't need to be a member of the Legion of Zoom to attend. Register for the event at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ovYP7ytdRUCdxX0kvd7IOw>

The Midwest BSI Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies April 26 in Indianapolis, IN

The BSI Canonical Conclave is an event made up of multiple BSI Scion Societies – a scion society meeting of scion societies – brought together under the official recognition of The Baker Street Irregulars. This event is meant to connect scion societies and their members. Attendees will also share ideas and best practices with other scions to increase their engagement and effectiveness. Any Sherlockian who is a member of a Sherlockian scion society may attend. A full schedule of activities (talks, presentations, music, scion reports, and other activities) are being planned. Additional information and registration are available at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/BSIMWConclave25>.

Baker Street West Well Attended – Big Hit with Explorers

Nearly 30 Explorers attended our Baker Street West event to hear all about the doings at the New York City weekend. Ably hosted once again by Melissa Aho, speakers included New York Weekend "first timers" Erica Fair and Tom Gottwalt. Dick Sveum gave a report on the Friday night BSI Dinner. Highlights of the weekend included Julie McKuras receiving the Susan Rice Mentorship Award and Gary Thaden being invested into the BSI as "Augusto Barelli." You can read more details of the week's activities in the upcoming issue of *Explorations*.

Explorations

Our print publication, currently edited by Phil Bergem, is published irregularly three times a year. We are always looking for materials to publish. Any article or material you wish to contribute will be appreciated. Please let Phil know at pgbergem@gmail.com if you'd like to contribute an article.

Theater

Agatha Christie's "**The Mousetrap**" premieres March 15 at the Guthrie Theatre and runs through May 18. Though non-Canonical, this iconic murder mystery should enjoy great success and I'm sure many Explorers will attend. Here's the link:

<https://www.guthrietheater.org/shows-and-tickets/2024-2025-season/the-mousetrap/>

Norwegian Explorers Book and Other Efforts

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.

Movies and Television:

Sherlock & Daughter was to air on the CW network January 1, 2025 but I'd been unable to find it. Now it appears it is going to air in the U.S. on the CW network April 16. Find more information about the show and other Sherlockian television possibilities at the following link:

<https://search.app/hWFnVHJRImmPcYWm6>

"Watson," premiered January 26 on ABC. The series' events take place six months after the death of the titular character's friend and partner Sherlock Holmes at the hands of Moriarty. The show stars Morris Chestnut as Dr. John Watson, who resumes his medical career as the head of a clinic dedicated to treating rare disorders. Watson's old life isn't done with him, though - Moriarty and Watson are set to write their own chapter of a story that has fascinated audiences for more than a century. Watson is a medical show with

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a strong investigative spine, featuring a modern version of one of history's greatest detectives as he turns his attention from solving crimes to solving medical mysteries.

Additional movie and television activity continues to percolate in many areas, nearly too many to mention. As some of those items come into focus, I'll attempt to note specific developments as they become available.

Podcasts & Other

Please send details about any new podcasts or other Sherlockian items of interest and I'll include the relevant information in the next Notice.

Norwegian Explorers Wikipedia Entry

Melissa Aho has bravely agreed to attempt to create a Norwegian Explorers Wikipedia entry, modeled on the format of the Baker Street Irregulars Wikipedia entry. With the help of Gary Thaden and Kerry McCartney, she has begun to make some progress. Stay tuned for a future link to the finished product.

Christmas Annuals

For the collecting completists, extra copies of most out-of-print Annuals are 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 Email Updates Available Free

The BSI has suspended its News from the BSI emails and is NOT currently sending any news updates. However, you can still sign up on the BSI website and you will get messages in the future when the BSI reactivates News from the BSI via email. Until that time, you can always get news updates via RSS.

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 Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual**” via a Zoom gathering. See discussion questions below.

1. This story gives us quite a description of the rooms at 221B. If you were able to visit, not knowing who lived there, what would you be able to deduce about the occupants just from the state of the flat?
2. How many bullets does it take to outline a VR on the wall? And what do you think Mrs. Hudson's reaction was when she saw/heard it?
3. The **Blanchard Soldier** and **The Lionel Lincoln** are also cases told by Holmes, but they are not nearly as compelling as this one. What is the difference here? Is it because while Holmes wrote the latter two stories himself, Watson put down the narrative for **MUSG** as given by Holmes? Is it possible Watson "embellished" some of the facts to make the story more interesting?
4. Holmes says that at school, Musgrave “more than once... expressed a keen interest in my methods.” Does that strike you as odd for a man of Musgrave’s station in life? But what was Musgrave really like? Was he a basically decent man?
5. What does **Reginald Musgrave** mean when he calls **Brunton** a “**Don Juan**”? How does this behavior affect what happens to **Brunton** in the end?
6. How does Holmes manage to solve/perform the Musgrave ritual, despite being hung up a few times? Don't trees grow taller in 200 years?
7. What was the cause of **Brunton**’s death? The butler’s body was discovered about a week after he disappeared. Holmes seems to have believed that **Brunton** suffocated, but did a postmortem confirm this? Was the chamber airtight when the stone was in place?
8. Why did “some months” elapse between **Brunton**’s question about the elm tree and his descent into the treasure chamber? Did it take him that long to figure out the rest of the Ritual? Did it take him that long to patch things up with **Rachel Howells**?
9. Why were the county police summoned by Holmes prior to raising the stone? Holmes said that he expected to find all the answers to the mystery once the stone was lifted and the body discovered, and he was disappointed when that did not prove to be the case. Did Holmes suspect Musgrave at any time? Was Holmes completely satisfied with his logically deduced solution to the case?
10. Two days after **Brunton**'s disappearance, **Rachel Howells** silently slipped out of her sick bed and vanished. Her footprints were found leading up to the edge of a nearby lake but dragging failed to produce her body. What do you think happened to her?
11. What is **Reginald Musgrave**’s connection to **Charles the Second**?
12. How did the crown of the **Stuarts**, placed in a box and undisturbed for 200-odd years, become bent and twisted out of its original shape? Even the damaged **Beryl Coronet** still looked crown-like, but the description of the **Stuart** crown bears no resemblance to anything a king might have worn.

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