



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

Times noted are U.S. Central Time

Study Group

Saturday April 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Steve Schier will lead the group in a discussion of **“The Adventure of the Naval Treaty.”** 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 NOBL May 17. Our June 21 Noncanonical detour will be two stories by Arthur Conan Doyle: **“The Black Doctor”** and **“The Jew's Breastplate.”** Both are in *Tales of Terror and Mystery* and in other collections. *Tales of Terror and Mystery* is free on Project Gutenberg at the following link: www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/537.

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

“The Adventure of the Empty House”

Norwegian Explorers Book and Other Efforts

Ray Riethmeier has edited and penned the afterword for “**Sherlock Holmes: 5-Minute Mysteries**” by **Kel Richards**. It contains fifty ‘you-solve-it’ puzzlers of the fair-play tradition, with an emphasis on Christian faith. These Sherlockian brain teasers were written in the early 2000s and thought lost for over twenty years, but now an improbable bit of digital archæology brings them to print for the first time (a story shared in Ray’s afterword). Now available on Kickstarter through April 21 at:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/belangerbooks/sherlock-holmes-5-minute-mysteries>

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.

Conferences, Meetings, and Gatherings:

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>. Thus far, known Norwegian Explorers attendees include Tom Gottwalt, Karen Ellery, and Julie and Mike McKuras.

Christmas Annual – Call for Papers – September 5 Submission Deadline – “Holmes in Motion”

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, and additional copies are made available to interested Sherlockians around the world.

This year’s theme will be “**Holmes in Motion.**” Transportation plays a significant role in the Sherlock Holmes stories. Travel by train to adventures away from London is an iconic scene for our heroes, as are rides in hansom cabs, or going out for a stroll. The stories also involve a fair number of ships, bicycles, and even the Underground, which – though seldom mentioned – was readily available. Another way we find Holmes in motion is through performance, be it on stage, television, or motion pictures. The Christmas Annual for this year will explore a wide avenue of possible topics derived from locomotion in the sixty Canonical tales, or presentations on stage and screen. We are looking for articles, pastiches, poems, puzzles, or artwork exploring anything from a specific way Holmes or Watson may have travelled, something about transportation in the Victorian era in general, or the way we remember the characters from performances over the years. However Holmes manages to move us, we want you to share it!

The submission deadline is September 5. Use the submission form accompanying this Notice. The form should also be available on the Norwegian Explorers website.

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**” premiered March 15 at the Guthrie Theatre and runs through May 18. Though non-Canonical, this iconic murder mystery is enjoying great success. Here’s the link:

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

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Movies and Television:

Sherlock & Daughter airs 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/hWFnVHJRJnmPcYWm6>

“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 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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"The Adventure of the Empty House"

Study Group Discussion Questions:

Steve Schier will lead the group in a discussion of “**The Adventure of the Naval Treaty**” via a Zoom gathering. See discussion questions below.

1. At 12,701 words, this tale is the longest of all 56 Canonical short stories – some 50 percent longer than the average, in fact. What does it have, by way of plot, character, atmosphere or skill in storytelling, to justify such verbosity?
2. Could you shorten the text to increase the impact of the story? If so, how?
3. To Holmes, do you think Percy Phelps’ sudden ability to remember details of the night nine weeks ago would have been suspicious? Why or why not?
4. Would the commissionaire have witnessed Joseph fleeing with the document? If so, why didn’t she give him away?
5. Why might Watson have been reluctant to suspect Lord Holdhurst despite Holmes’ observations?
6. Why would Joseph have carried the knife into the bedroom if he assumed Percy was still bedridden? Do you think Joseph would have killed Percy?
7. What role, if any, did Annie have in the theft and scheme?
8. Surprisingly, Percy Phelps doesn't smoke or drink. Most of his contemporaries did. Is there evidence in the story of Percy enjoying other "vices?"
9. Is Holmes' digression on the beauty of a moss rose a high point in the Canon or mere gratuitous sentimentality and a distraction to the reader?
10. Holmes said that in the course of his interview with Percy he'd been furnished with seven clues to test. What are those seven clues?
11. "Watson here will tell you that I never can resist a touch of the dramatic," Holmes told Percy. I like to think Mrs. Hudson has some dramatic tendencies herself, being an apparently willing participant in the little joke played on Percy. In the name of drama, however, wasn't the treaty exposed to some risk in the kitchens of 221B? Would you entrust Mediterranean security and world peace to your landlady?
12. How satisfied are you with the difficulty and solution of this mystery? Where does it rank among the quality of the stories in the Canon?

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