

2019 Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual and Sigerson Awards

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota publishes a Christmas Annual which has gained international recognition within the Sherlockian community. This publication is distributed each year to attendees of our 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. The Sigerson Awards, our light-hearted recognition for contributors, will also be presented at the Norwegian Explorers' annual dinner. Every year our members are challenged to submit original works based on a topic we hope will inspire their creativity.

We all love the sense of mystery that the Sherlock Holmes stories provide us, sparking our imagination and, at times, provoking reactions of horror. And those three elements of the Canon suggested the theme for the 2019 *Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual*. This year we ask you to consider:

MYSTERY, IMAGINATION, AND HORROR

Although only one of the sixty Canonical tales has the word "mystery" in the title, mysteries abound throughout them, many of which exhibit a variety of gothic elements or horrific actions to puzzle both the willing reader and the Master Detective. Moving into the realm of the pastiche, there is much to provide inspiration, as many recent publications have taken Holmes and Watson into mysterious and horrific worlds, indeed, where ghosts seem to ignore Holmes's assertion that they need not apply! With the 2019 Triennial Conference being held August 8–11 under the title of DARK PLACES, WICKED COMPANIONS, AND STRANGE EXPERIENCES, we hope your creativity will be sparked along these lines. So now is the time, *if you dare*, to delve deep into the mysterious, let your imagination run wild, and succumb to the horrors within the world of Sherlock Holmes!

We expect that there is much that could fit our theme, but we will also consider submissions that fall outside of the topic. We look forward to seeing where your creativity takes you....

Suggested Categories for Submissions (2000 word maximum):

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| 1. Article or essay | 5. Joke |
| 2. Poem | 6. Illustration / Artwork |
| 3. Cartoon | 7. Quiz / Puzzle |
| 4. Sherlockian or Doylean review | 8. Pastiche |

Rules for Submissions:

1. You must be a member of The Norwegian Explorers (local or corresponding). If you are not yet a member, a link to our membership form is located on our website: www.norwegianexplorers.org
2. Entries must be received no later than **October 4, 2019**.
3. Submit electronic versions of papers (Microsoft Word preferred) to: ray@PULPlications.com
You should receive a reply e-mail within two days from one of the editors, Ray Riethmeier or Phil Bergem, acknowledging the successful receipt of your submission. Please include the registration information (below) with your submission. Mailing a paper copy of your entry is not required, but if you prefer to do so, use this address: Ray Riethmeier, 12015 Townview Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343.
4. Artwork or illustrations may be submitted by pdf or jpg scan, or by mail (the original or a good copy). The Norwegian Explorers accept no responsibility for the safety of a submitted original illustration or cartoon.
5. All entries must be the original work of the contributor, and must not have had any prior publication.
6. Contributors with submissions published in our Christmas Annual will continue to retain all rights to have their work published elsewhere.
7. Physical entries will be returned only if return postage is provided by the contributor, or if other arrangements are made.
8. Multiple entries may be submitted for each category.
9. Judges for the Sigerson Awards will be selected by the Norwegian Explorers. Decisions of the judges are final.
10. Winners of the Sigerson Awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting in December. Absentees will be notified by email.



Registration Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____