

2020 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.

This year we find ourselves living in unusual times, with people rightfully concerned about illness and loss. Social distancing and cancelled events are affecting people worldwide. Still, we carry on as best we can. In carrying on, let us keep calm and consider the 2020 *Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual*, the theme of which we now reveal to be:

GAMES ARE AFOOT

“The game is afoot” is one of the most iconic phrases of the Canon. This year, as we are well aware, games have been postponed or cancelled throughout the world. These include the Final Four of college basketball, Major League Baseball, and the Olympics. In looking forward to a time when the current crisis is past, we ask you to consider **Games in the Canon**. These can be sports; rugby and horse racing featured prominently in two stories. There are oblique references to other games, such as cricket, croquet, billiards, and whist. Some games that were afoot in the Canon were political games, of which Mycroft Holmes was a master. Another topic could be “playing the Game” in the Sherlockian world. One could even reach back to the origins of the phrase and write about Shakespearean references. So, to paraphrase, “Come, Explorer, come! Games are afoot!”

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 2, 2020**.
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 _____