2024 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 organization's annual dinner in December and to those attending the Baker Street Irregulars Annual Dinner and the Gaslight Gala during the Sherlock Holmes Birthday weekend in New York City. The Sigerson Awards, our light-hearted recognition for contributors, also are presented at the Norwegian Explorers' annual dinner. Every year we challenge our members to submit original works based on a topic we hope will inspire their creativity. Our theme this year is:

THE COLLECTION MANIA

"Collecting" crops up in a variety of forms throughout the canon. Holmes collected the plugs and dottles of the previous day's pipes to smoke them again, disguised himself as "a collector of obscure volumes," and stated that his "collection of M's is a fine one." John Sholto had "a large collection of valuable curiosities" brought back from India. Stapleton offered to show his collection of Lepidoptera to Watson. Nathan Garrideb had a wide-ranging collection that he hoped would make him "the Hans Sloane of [his] age." In a disturbing set of contrasts, Baron Gruner collected both Chinese pottery and pictures of women he'd ruined. And, of course, Watson collected his notes to write the stories we enjoy so much.

Many Sherlockians are known for their collections, and those of us in Minnesota are rightfully proud of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary in 2024. Opportunities abound for topics to cover in this year's Annual. Whether you write about Sherlockian things that you or others collect, collections found in the canonical tales, a pastiche involving the idea of collecting, or your own relationship with the University's holdings, we look forward to seeing what you can contribute to the ongoing collection of Explorers' Christmas Annuals.

Suggested Categories for Submissions (2500 word maximum):

1. Article or essay
2. Poem
3. Cartoon
4. Sherlockian or Doylean review
5. Joke
6. Illustration / Artwork
7. Quiz / Puzzle
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 **Friday, October 4, 2024**.
3. Submit electronic versions of papers (Microsoft Word preferred) by emailing ray@PULPlications.com, with "ATTN: CHRISTMAS ANNUAL" as the subject line.
   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, JPG, or TIFF 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.

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Registration Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____   Email _____