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## The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota September 2023 Notice

### Study Group

**Saturday September 16 at 2:00 p.m.**

Steve Schier will lead the group in a discussion of “**The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb.**” 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 FINA October 21 and FIVE November 18.

### Conferences:

**“Sherlock Holmes @ 50: Celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections”**

**Friday July 26 to Sunday July 28, 2024**

Proudly sponsored by the University of Minnesota Libraries, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, our perennially popular triennial conference returns from hiatus just in time to celebrate some truly remarkable milestones. First, we’re raising a glass to 50 years of our beloved Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Library – the world’s largest gathering of material related to Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. We’ll

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*“The Adventure of the Empty House”*

also explore other famous 50s in Sherlockian lore, including the 50-year span in which the Canon was published, and highlights from the great detective's first 50 years of life.

Note that the conference location is changing from recent years with a return to the Givens Suites at the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota, and a Saturday banquet at the nearby Courtyard by Marriott in Minneapolis. Plans are underway for an unforgettable lineup of guest speakers, special exhibits, social events, and even a few surprises! More details are available on FaceBook #SHMN2024 and on the Norwegian Explorers website at [www.NorwegianExplorers.org](http://www.NorwegianExplorers.org). Watch both locations for more information and registration materials as they become available. A "Save the Date" flyer is included with this issue of the Notice.

### **Red Throated League Recorded Performances Available on YouTube**

The recordings of the February 4, 2023 performances of "The Case of the Missing Heiress" are now available on YouTube. The link to the 1 p.m. show is <https://youtu.be/PBbMPtAKXfk> and the link to the 2 p.m. show is <https://youtu.be/9YDfmRmINxU>.

### **Norwegian Explorers Book Efforts**

Our own **Ray Riethmeier** has compiled a new anthology of original pastiches for Belanger Books. Instead of focusing on the usual mysteries in which Holmes is the primary investigator, "**The Consultations of Sherlock Holmes**" puts a spotlight on an oft-overlooked part of his career in detection, placing the emphasis on his role as a consultant. This volume collects sixteen delightfully varied mysteries from some of today's top Sherlockian authors in which Holmes serves as a last resort for other detectives – both private investigators and those from the official police force – who come to him for his unique perspective and aid as "the only unofficial consulting detective" in the world. The book is now available from Amazon (and other booksellers) in paperback, hardcover, and eBook editions: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C9SBXQNR>.

Norwegian Explorer **Brenda Rossini** has authored "**Oscar Slater: a Killer Exposed,**" now available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

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.

### **Theater:**

"**Dial M for Murder**" opens January 20, **2024** at the Guthrie Theater.

### **Christmas Annual – Call for Papers – October 6 Submission Deadline**

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 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 Norwegian Explorers' first formal meeting was held January 23, 1948, making 2023 the group's diamond jubilee. In recognition of this momentous achievement, the theme for this year's Christmas Annual is: **75!**

Our Christmas Annual will be a celebration of the first seventy-five years of the Norwegian Explorers. We invite members to discuss their memories, how the group activities have affected their lives, the role the Explorers have played in the larger Sherlockian community, or something that touches on the history of the Explorers since its founding in 1948. Alternatively, contributors might incorporate the number 75 into an article or a pastiche, perhaps about something Holmes did at the age of seventy-five or an investigation in which the number 75 is significant. Taking another approach toward the Norwegian Explorers as a topic,

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perhaps an inquiry into Sherlock Holmes's activities during his hiatus while masquerading as our group's namesake... or anything else that involves the Norwegian Explorers at 75! The submission deadline is October 6. Use the submission form accompanying this Notice. The form should also be available on the Norwegian Explorers website.

### **Movies and Television:**

#### **Robert Downey Doing Sherlock?**

There is a rumor afoot that Robert Downey Jr's production company is developing a new Holmes and Watson TV spinoff show. Details and confirmation are scarce but stay tuned for more updates.

#### **Dr. Watson Drama Series Sans Sherlock in Works at CBS - air date unknown**

Sidekick no more. CBS is going for a fresh take on Arthur Conan Doyle's classic mystery franchise with *Watson*, from Aaron Kaplan's Kapital Entertainment and CBS Studios. The medical drama with detective elements, in development at the broadcast network, is written by Craig Sweeny, who spent five years on CBS' Sherlock Holmes/Dr. Watson procedural *Elementary*, most of them as executive producer.

In *Watson*, a year after the death of his friend and partner Sherlock Holmes at the hands of Moriarty, Dr. John Watson 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 addressing the greatest mystery of all: illness, and the ways it disrupts our lives.

**Enola Holmes 3?** There is speculation that Milly Bobby Brown may be reprising her role for a third installment to be released in the fall of 2024. Stay tuned.

#### **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 Updates Available Free**

Get News from the Baker Street Irregulars via email! Free for all Sherlockians: Get notified by email when the Irregulars schedule an event, publish a new book, or issue of the *Baker Street Journal*, or have other news. To sign up, go to <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email/>.

#### **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 Engineer’s Thumb.**” via a Zoom gathering. See discussion questions below.

1. Victor Hatherley must be one of the dimmer bulbs ever to consult Sherlock Holmes for advice. He kept himself in an office for two years without doing much work, but he couldn’t resist the lure of fifty guineas for one night’s work even though he was suspicious of “Lysander Stark” from the very beginning.
2. Would you have gone on the trip to Eyford if you had been in Hatherley’s shoes?
3. What precautions might Hatherley have taken to minimize his risks?
4. Do you believe any of this story? Was Hatherley lying, or was he just so upset that he couldn’t get the facts straight?
5. What had Colonel Stark been doing with the hydraulic press and why did he want to keep it a secret? What was wrong with the hydraulic press?
6. Why did Stark feel compelled to attempt to kill Hatherley?
7. Do you think any of Sherlock Holmes’ comments might lead us to believe he doubted at least some parts of the story?
8. What is your evaluation of Holmes’ work on this case? Was it a challenge for him? What did he contribute to the solution?
9. Does this plot resemble those of any other Holmes stories? Why or why not?

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