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The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota June 2018 Notice

Study Group

Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m.

In keeping with tradition, the June discussion will focus on some non-Canonical works. This session might be described as “Holmes in Hiding.”

What did Sherlock Holmes not tell Dr. Watson about himself (besides the stuff we know he didn't tell his Boswell)? Are there Holmes tales where Holmes' identity is disguised? If so, why? Could it be embarrassment? We'll take on two "Apocryphal Holmes" stories, “The Lost Special” and “The Man with the Watches.” A baffling crime is committed and an anonymous detective offers a solution and pertinent questions. A confession purports to tell what really happened. What is the truth? Bring your detecting skills to the Saturday, June 16 meeting to find out. The discussion will take place at the St. Anthony Park Public Library, 2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108, 651-642-0411. See the last page of this Notice for discussion questions to ponder and see the link below for access to the stories. Those receiving this by email should have the stories included as attached documents.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/537/537-h/537-h.htm>

Upcoming Dates and Stories

The group will take its Summer Hiatus and reconvene in September with “The Solitary Cyclist.”

Movies:

“The Lost World” at the Heights Theater Sunday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Karen Ellery is organizing a group to have dinner in advance of the screening and then attend the movie together. If you're interested, meet at 5:30 p.m. at Sarna's Classic Grill, 3939 University Ave. NE Minneapolis, MN 55421, (763) 788-3939. Alternatively, skip dinner and just meet the group at the theater in time for the 7:30 p.m. show, 3951 Central Ave. NE Columbia Heights, MN 55421, (763) 789-4992. There are no extra charges for dinner. Your cost will be what you spend. Movie tickets are \$12. You can purchase tickets in advance online (www.heightstheater.com) and are encouraged to do so, as special screenings can sell out. We are trying to get a rough estimate of the number of people we may have for dinner and the show so if you are planning to participate in either or both please let Karen Ellery know at themadblonde@gmail.com.

Forget the cold CGI of modern dinosaur movies. You haven't seen anything until you've witnessed the stop-motion animated beasts from Harry O. Hoyt's 1925 long-lost silent classic “The Lost World.” Based on the novel by Sherlock Holmes author Arthur Conan Doyle, The Lost World is the story of the eccentric Professor Challenger, convinced of ancient beasts in Venezuela, who forms an expedition that finds itself trapped on an enormous plateau, surrounded by dinosaurs. Willis O'Brien's special effects are so remarkable that they even fooled Harry Houdini, who believed the creatures to be real. Originally, the prints for The Lost World were destroyed four years after its initial release so that no one could screen the film in

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competition with the newly released special effects extravaganza King Kong. Through the efforts of Flicker Alley and Lobster Films, a startling new 2K restoration, involving newly discovered material, was created, and the result is the incredible spectacle you'll see in the Heights Theater on June 24. This special screening will feature Karl Eilers at the keyboard of the Heights Mighty Wurlitzer!

An important mystery has been solved:

"Sherlock Holmes 3" officially has a release date: The upcoming third installment in the Robert Downey Jr. film series will hit theaters Dec. 25, **2020**, according to THR. Like its predecessors, 2009's "Sherlock Holmes" and 2011's "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," the upcoming movie stars Downey Jr. alongside Jude Law. The two play the iconic titular detective and his sidekick, Dr. Watson, respectively.

Theater:

"Postmortem" June 1-24 at Theatre in the Round. It's April, 1922, and actor William Gillette, famous for portraying Sherlock Holmes for 30 years, has invited the cast of his latest play to spend the weekend at his castle home in Connecticut. When a late-night séance reveals a murder, Gillette must solve the case using everything he's learned from playing the great detective. Popular playwright Ken Ludwig mixes suspense and humor in a show that has delighted audiences nationwide.

"Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" at Park Square Theatre June 15 - August 5. The game's afoot in this hilarious thriller that's anything but elementary! From the award-winning mastermind of mayhem, Ken Ludwig, comes a fast-paced comedy about everyone's favorite detective solving his most notorious case. Five actors play over 40 comical characters, filling the stage with suspects, allies and heirs. When the wealthy Henry Baskerville is threatened by the fable of a bloodthirsty hound on the moors, Holmes and Watson are on the case to sniff out the culprit. This particular production is unique in that it features female actors in the roles of both Holmes and Watson.

We've organized a Norwegian Explorers 25% group discount for the July 8 2:00 p.m. matinee performance. This special arrangement also includes a private champagne toast at intermission and a post-show discussion with the cast after the show. Use code "NEX" when ordering online at www.parksquartheatre.org or call the ticket office at 651.291.7005 (Tue-Fri, noon-5:00 p.m.). The offer is subject to availability for standard/premium seats, regularly \$40/\$60, and is not valid with other discounts or on previously purchased tickets.

As if that were not enough, you might be interested in this event:

Behind the Curtain: Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery at the Saint Anthony Park Library, Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 p.m. Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at this evening of mayhem and mystery with cast members McKenna Kelly-Eiding (Sherlock Holmes), Sara Richardson (Watson), and set designer Eli Schlatter. The event is sponsored by The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library. Tickets are complimentary but registration is required. For more information and to register go the Friends' website at <https://thefriends.org/>. An added benefit for registrants is the opportunity to receive a code to purchase up to four standard seat tickets for any of the shows at half off the regular price. However, you **must call** the theatre at 651.291.7005 (Tue-Fri, noon-5:00 p.m.) to get the discount **and** you must pick up the tickets in person at the June 27 "Behind the Curtain" event at the Saint Anthony Park Library. The discount is not available for online purchases.

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“Holmes and Watson,” Jeffrey Hatcher’s latest play, opened at Pittsburgh’s Kinetic Theatre February 16 and ran through March 4. It’s now scheduled to run at Indianapolis’ Indiana Repertory Theater September 25 – October 21. Can a trip to a Minneapolis stage be far behind? “Summoned to a remote asylum on a rocky island, Dr. Watson investigates three inmates who all claim to be the late master sleuth Sherlock Holmes. This eerie new puzzler by award-winning playwright Jeffrey Hatcher will stir your blood and tease your mind.”

“The Play That Goes Wrong,” at the Orpheum Theater May 7-12, **2019**. Broadway’s funniest and longest-running play is a hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes. Welcome to opening night of ‘The Murder at Haversham Manor’ where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. With an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can’t play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines), it’s “A Riotous Explosion of Comedy!” (The Daily Beast) and “Tons of Fun for All Ages!” (HuffPost).

CALL FOR PAPERS: Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual

It’s not too early to starting thinking about penning an article, poem, review, joke or other writing for the 2018 Christmas Annual. This annual compilation of Norwegian Explorers’ writing is distributed exclusively to attendees at the Norwegian Explorers Annual Dinner, the Baker Street Irregulars Annual Dinner, and the Gaslight Gala. This year’s theme is “War and Peace.” See the attached flyer for more information.

HELP NEEDED: Movie and Theater Group Organizer

We’re seeking a person interested in organizing group outings to movies and theater events. Activities would consist of communicating with venues and arranging for a group opportunity to sit together, obtain any group pricing discounts, or provide a chance for a discussion after the show with actors or gather as a group in a nearby pub before or after the show. Communication would be coordinated via this Notice or other email distributed by me. Coordinating dates, locations, RSVPs and headcounts would also be included. If you have interest please contact me. We did this a few years ago for the movie “Mr. Holmes” with a fairly large group and it made the experience more enjoyable seeing it with fellow Sherlockians. We’re also doing it with the Heights Theater’s screening of “The Lost World” and the Park Square Theatre’s production of “Ken Ludwig’s Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery.” Assistance to continue to offer these opportunities will be much appreciated.

BSI Weekend January 9-13, 2019

It’s not too soon to start planning for the Baker Street Irregulars New York City “BSI Weekend.” The events begin on Wednesday and run through Sunday. The only event not open to all is the Friday night BSI dinner, which is limited to BSI members and invited guests. It’s a great series of events and a chance to take in non-Sherlockian New York City sights, plays and other events as well. For more information go to www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend/schedule.html. A contingent of Norwegian Explorers typically attends so you will be among good company. See the latest edition of *Explorations* for two articles by first time attendees at the 2018 weekend for a good summary of the experience.

Triennial Conference August 9-11, 2019

Save the date and mark your calendars for our next conference hosted jointly by the Norwegian Explorers, Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries. The conference theme, quoting from some words and phrases in the Canon, is **“Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences.”** Gary Thaden and Julie McKuras are co-chairing the planning committee and will be looking for volunteers for a variety of tasks and projects. Please let them know if you’re interested in assisting.

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“The Lost Special” and “The Man with the Watches” - Questions to Ponder

1. Do the two stories work as mysteries? Why or why not?
2. Is the anonymous detective and his theories add to the tales? Could we have done without him (or her)? Might the detective be Miss Marple in her younger days?
3. If the detective is Holmes, is he at his best? Is there a reason Watson did not include them in his published stories?
4. Why do criminals find it necessary to confess their evil deeds at great length? Even if convicted of other crimes, should they not keep their mouths shut?
5. Are these stories a way for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (or Dr. Watson) to get revenge on Sherlock? Are these Doyle’s own Sherlockian pastiches? If so, are they good pastiches?
6. If these stories had been included in the book “About Sixty, Why Every Sherlock Holmes Story is the Best,” edited by Christopher Redmond, what could be said for them?

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