



The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc.  
c/o Tom Gottwalt  
4620 Trenton Circle N.  
Plymouth, MN 55442  
(952) 512-6406  
tgottwal@tcfbank.com    www.norwegianexplorers.org

## **The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota January 2018 Notice**

### **Membership Renewal**

If you've not already done so, please renew your annual membership. You can renew online with PayPal or a credit card or use the form available on the web site. Dues have not changed for 2018 (\$15 single or \$20 family) but additional contributions are always welcome. The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc. is a valid Section 501(c)(3) organization. Any contributions beyond your membership dues should be deductible as charitable contributions.

### **Study Group: Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 2:00 pm**

The group will discuss "Beryl Coronet" at 2:00 pm Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104 (651) 642-0385.

### **Baker Street West: Sunday, January 28 at 5:00 pm**

We will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' birthday at 5:00 pm Sunday, January 28, 2018 at the Cooper Pub and Restaurant, 1607 Park Place Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. We will receive reports from the New York birthday celebrations and other news. We are looking forward to celebrating our 70th year as the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota. Please RSVP to Tom Gottwalt, 4620 Trenton Circle N, Plymouth, MN 55442, [tgottwal@tcfbank.com](mailto:tgottwal@tcfbank.com) or (952) 512-6406. The only cost is your own food and beverages.

### **Study Group: Upcoming Dates and Stories**

The tentative schedule is, as usual, on the third Saturday of the month at 2:00 pm. Next up is "Final Problem" on February 17, 2018 followed by "Empty House" on March 17, 2018. Locations TBD.

### **Red Throated League: Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 4:00 pm**

On Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 4:00 pm the Norwegian Explorers' Red Throated League will again present another Sherlock Holmes radio drama at the Pavek Museum, 3515 Raleigh Ave., St Louis Park, MN 55416. This year's performance, "Death on the Scottish Express," first aired March 6, 1944. A goodwill contribution will be appreciated to help defray our costs for the use of the Pavek space.

### **Triennial Conference in 2019**

Save the date and mark your calendars for August 9-11, 2019 for our next conference hosted jointly by the Norwegian Explorers, Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries. 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.

### **My First Notice as President**

This is my first notice as president so I apologize in advance for any execution errors. We are celebrating 70 years as an organization this year so it is an auspicious time for me to take the helm. I'm looking forward to serving and welcome any suggestions and ideas you may have to keep our society great for 70 more years. Also, many thanks to Gary Thaden for his 11 years of service as President and thanks to Phil Bergem for agreeing to serve as our Vice President.

*You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson..."*

*"The Adventure of the Empty House"*

## The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota January 2018 Study Group

Kristi Iverson will be leading the discussion for this story.  
The Beryl Coronet 2:00 pm Saturday, January 20, 2018  
Merriam Park Library  
1831 Marshall Avenue (at Fairview)  
St. Paul, MN 55104 (651) 642-0385

### Questions to Ponder:

1. In the opening paragraph of the story, Watson states, "It was a bright, crisp February morning," but our chronology indicates it was a weekend in December (Friday 12/19 to Saturday 12/20/1890). How could this wide discrepancy occur?
2. Mr. Holder considers the safe in his office to be too vulnerable to house the coronet, but why would a banker remove something of such value and carry it around in his briefcase, rather than placing it in a safe-deposit box in the bank's vault?
3. In the same vein, once he got the piece home, why would he tell his son and niece that it was there, when he had no intention of showing it off to them? Is he just basically irresponsible?
4. Must the client have been especially obtuse not to notice that Sir George Burnwell was paying court to Mary? Or did his faith in her blind him to the evidence?
5. Does it seem strange that 'little Mary,' who has been such a paragon of virtue, could suddenly lie so convincingly to her beloved uncle?
6. Given that Queen Victoria's family tree is populated with first cousins marrying each other, is it any wonder Mr. Holder sees no problem with his son marrying his brother's daughter?
7. Why wouldn't Arthur have noticed that Sir George Burnwell was interested in his cousin? If he had been in love with her himself, wouldn't he be jealous of Burnwell's attentions?
8. Why didn't the downtrodden son 'rat out' Mary when his father accused him of theft?
9. Isn't Mr. Holder's description of the housemaid - that her only drawback is that she is too pretty - a little odd?  
  
"...Lucy Parr, the second waiting-maid, has only been in my service a few months. She came with an excellent character, however, and has always given me satisfaction. She is a very pretty girl and has attracted admirers who have occasionally hung about the place. That is the only drawback which we have found to her..."
10. Chris Redmond raises the question of a private person using publicly-held property as collateral for a loan. Would anyone try that today with a public artifact or national treasure?

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"The Adventure of the Empty House"