



The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc.  
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## The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota November 2018 Notice

### Study Group

**Saturday, November 17 at 2:00 p.m.**

Steve Schier will lead the group in a discussion of "The Norwood Builder" 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.

### Upcoming Dates and Stories

The group normally meets the third Saturday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Next up is "The Bruce-Partington Plans" December 15 followed by "The Veiled Lodger" January 19. Locations TBD.

### Annual Business Meeting and Dinner, Thursday December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

We'll celebrate the season, hold a brief business meeting and enjoy a traditional English dinner. We'll also enjoy Canonical Toasts, poems, limericks, carols, etc. Attendees will receive a limited edition copy of the much anticipated and coveted Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual (the October 5 deadline for paper submissions has passed). Join us at the Minneapolis Golf Club, 2001 Flag Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55426 (952) 544-4471. The cost is \$35 per person. You can pay by check using the form included with this Notice or go on line at our web site and use PayPal.

### Baker Street West, Sunday January 27, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for our traditional celebration of the Master's birthday. We'll enjoy dinner, drinks and conversation as we hear reports from some of our more intrepid traveling members' trips to the Baker Street Irregulars' New York City extended birthday weekend (January 9-13). This year's event will be at Fitzgerald's on Cathedral Hill. The address is 173 Western Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55102, (651) 219-4013. 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.

### Membership Renewal

It's not too soon to renew your annual membership for 2019. You can renew online with PayPal or a credit card or use the attached form available on the web site. Dues remain the same (\$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.

*You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson..."*  
"The Adventure of the Empty House"

### Theater:

“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).

### Movies:

#### **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.

### 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 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](http://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 Adventure of the Empty House”

The November Study Group will meet at the St. Anthony Park Public Library, 2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108, 651-642-0411. Steve Schier will lead the discussion of “**The Norwood Builder**” as the group addresses these questions:

1. Watson mentioned that Holmes had “bound me in the most stringent terms to say no further word of himself, his methods, or his successes” after his return. But was this a practical idea?
2. Can anyone explain why Holmes didn’t seem to want Watson to come with him to Blackheath? Since when did Watson only go along when there was danger?
3. Holmes seems to have taken an instant dislike to Mrs. Lexington, the housekeeper. But how much did she really know, and when did she know it? For instance, is it possible that Oldacre told her that the whole affair was a practical joke, and that he intended to reappear before things got too serious? If she did know the whole truth of the plot, what would be her motivation for helping to get McFarlane hanged - and for taking the risk if the plot didn’t come off? Would mere money be enough to get her to cooperate with her employer?
4. Does anyone know if the science of the day would have permitted an accurate analysis of the remains in the fire? If so, why didn’t Holmes think to suggest this to the police? And a follow-up to that question: When did Holmes first realize that Oldacre was not the body in the fire?
5. The Granada television series beefed up “The Norwood Builder” by having Oldacre murder a passing tramp in order to get a convincing body for his fire. Setting aside the inherent sacredness of the Canon for a moment, what do you think of this change? Does it make the story better? Are there any problems with the idea of a murdered tramp?
6. Christian Peccei's survey of experts' story ratings finds this story merited three of five stars from them. His statistical analysis of text traits also gives it a three star rating. What is your view? Rate this story on a one to five scale with one the lowest and five the highest.

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