



The Pink 'Un



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The Hansom Wheels Website (which includes *The Pink 'Un*): <http://www.hansomwheels.com>

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I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the October meeting of the Hansom Wheels, like the August meeting, was held via the Zoom teleconferencing app. Attending from the comfort of their own homes (or wherever they might have been at the time) were **Carlina de la Cova**; **Tom Elmore**; **Resa Haile**; **Nancy Hill**; **Ronald Levitsky**; **Becky** and **Kevin Lewis**; **George Linder**; **Louise Lingle**; **Joseph Matheson**; **Pat**, **Allison**, and **Alan McNeely**; **Myrtle** and **Linda Robinson**; **Brenda Rossini**; **Wayne Scott**; **Liese Sherwood-Fabre**; **Mary Dematteis** (Mrs. **Tantalus**); and **me** (**The Tantalus**).

When it looked like everybody who was coming had arrived, I announced that the game was afoot; we toasted *the woman*, *Irene Adler*; and **Myrtle Robinson** led us in the *Musgrave Ritual*.

Then we moved on to the Happy Hour Posers, where the idea is to suss out the titles of adventures from extremely clever clues (I say, because I'm the one who creates them): 1. He has to stay away from electricity when he is wearing those pants, because they're made out of a material that is an excellent conductor = the copper breeches (or britches) = "The Copper Beeches." 2. Well, I never! Can you believe it? That supermodel stays so slender by sticking her finger down her throat after she eats to make herself throw up! It's outrageous! = a scandal in bulimia = "A Scandal in Bohemia." (At this point, having realized after I had sent out the clues that bulimia and anorexia are serious psychological problems and can be life-threatening, I put the number of the National Eating Disorders Association Helpline on the screen: 800-931-2237.) 3. There are ten of these little reddish-yellow marshmallow ducks. I'll take half = the five orange Peeps = "The Five Orange Pips." 4. The elderly beekeeper wears a cover over his head and face to avoid getting stung = the veiled codger = "The Veiled Lodger." Contrary to usual practice, none of the Posers related to the Assigned Story for the meeting, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, because I had pretty well shot my wad on that for the October 2019 meeting, when *all* of the Posers were based on it, and I had to resort to such nonsense as "the mound of the basketballs," "the sound of the musket balls," and "the

clown of the casket falls."

Under "Any and All Other Unavoidable Scionic Business," I noted the date of the next meeting, which will be the annual Hansom Wheels Christmas Party; details are below.



Carlina de la Cova in front of a bunch of skulls (*not numbskulls*)

The Featured Presentation was by University of South Carolina anthropology professor **Carlina de la Cova BSI**: "I Covet Your Skull . . .": Anthropology's Bumpy Ride in the Canon." The quotation, as all of you would know instantly, is what Dr. Mortimer says to Sherlock Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which is why that was the Assigned Story for the meeting. **Carlina** told us about the history and the main subdivisions of the science of anthropology (sociological, archaeological, linguistic, and physical) and then showed us what a surprisingly large role it plays in the Canon—unfortunately, most of it wrong! Among the fallacies promoted in the stories are the notion of the "born criminal" (criminality is inherited; criminals have certain physical features such as scanty beards and "monkey ears"), phrenology, and racism (the worst example probably being Steve Dixie, "the bruiser," a black prize fighter who speaks in minstrel-show dialect and even addresses the detective as "Masser Holmes.")

Liese Sherwood-Fabre wrapped up the evening with a splendid reading of the Sacred Sonnet, Vincent Starrett's "221B," and we all clicked our little clickers and evaporated back into the ether out of which we had materialized a couple of hours earlier.

For December: (Virtual) Compliments of the Season!

The Hansom Wheels Christmas Party will commence via the Zoom teleconferencing app at **7:45 p.m., Thursday, December 3**. Obviously, there won't be door prizes this year (we can't afford to have people stationed outside everybody's homes, ready to deliver the prizes to the winners, like they did at the Emmys this year), but **there will be a play** (yes, a play over Zoom! I'm told that it has been done), and we will also have some **Christmas music**. Dinner and drinks will be on you. If you don't already have the free Zoom app, you will

need to download it to your desktop PC, laptop, or smartphone, whichever you plan to use. It will ask you to sign up and create a password. To make sure you don't forget the meeting (although some of you probably will; it happened in October), several times over the week or so before the meeting I will email you an invitation; at meeting time, all you will have to do is click on the link in any of those messages and wait to be admitted. If you have any questions, email me at hansomwheels@aol.com. See you there!

A Christmas Present for Your Kids (or Grandkids, as the Case May Be)!

The Beacon Society, a national scion society, is excited to announce the start of a Sherlock Holmes gazette for younger Sherlockians, which will be produced and distributed on a quarterly basis.

The ***Sherlock's Spotlight***, inspired by earlier efforts by Michael McClure and the Chester Baskerville Society, will hopefully be both educational and entertaining for students.

We will email the gazette to all Beacon Society members, as well as other scion society members.

We are asking you to share ***Sherlock's Spotlight*** with children, grandchildren, students you may know (and of course their parents), as well as other society members, teachers, and anyone else you believe would enjoy the gazette or be able to share with younger Sherlockians.

Additionally, Sherlockians who would like to help us in this effort are welcome to provide us with stories, articles, artwork, etc., which is age-appropriate, for us to use in future issues of the gazette.

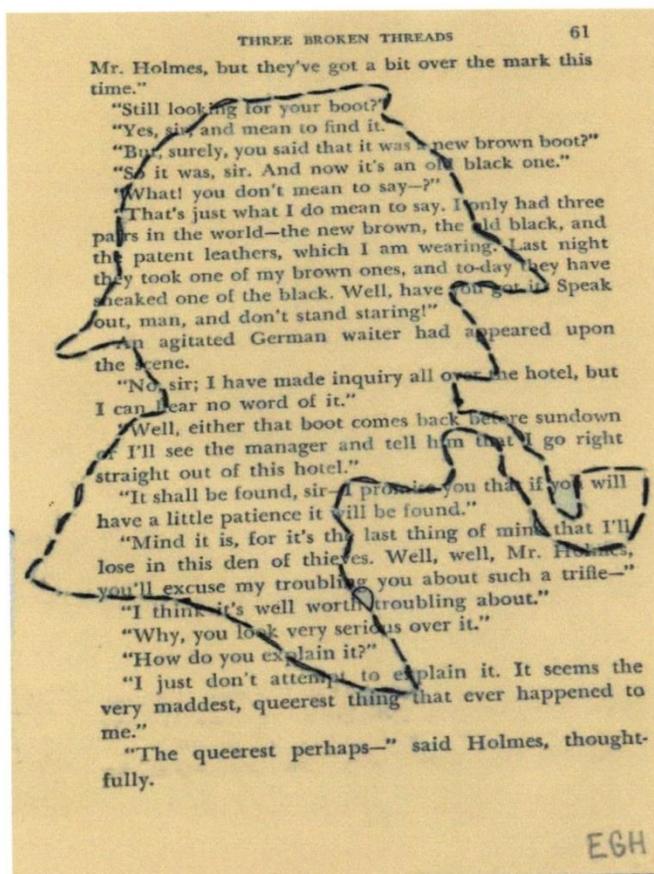
Anyone who would like to receive the gazette directly from us in the future can send an email to mason.steve8080@gmail.com to be added to the emailing list. Any younger Sherlockian under 18 will have to provide a parent/guardian email who will also receive the emailings.

With Regards,

Steve

SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

A Quarterly Gazette for Young Sherlockians Everywhere



Fall, 2020
A Scandal
in Bohemia

Artwork by Eleanor Hébert,
Texas

Your original artwork could be on the cover of our next issue...

See the bottom of page 4 for more details !