



# The Pink 'Un



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## I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

We had a whopping big turnout for the Hansom Wheels Christmas Party at the Palmetto Club on December 5, 2019: **Myrtle Robinson**; **David and Carol Cranford**; **Carol and Barbara Belding**; **Pat and Allison McNeely**; **Harry and Joyce Crout**; **Kevin and Becky Lewis**; **Heather Harkins**; **Nancy Washington**; **Wayne and Lucy Scott**; **Julie Smoak**; **Hannah Timmons**; **Manuel and Lucero Mesa**; **Diana Lima**; **Jamie McCulloch**; **Carl and Elaine Johnson**; **John Wrisley**; **Jimmy, Judy, Ellys, Kayla, Copeland, Leigha**, and **John Eric Haynes**; **Sarah McLeod**; **Jerred Metz**; **Ashby and Joanne Morton**; **Anna Flynn**; **Hyun Jung Im**; **Mary Snead Dematteis (Mrs. Tantalus)**; and **your Editor**.

After dinner, I, in my official capacity as **The Tantalus**, usually blow the Gold Kazoo (which used to be blue) to call the group to order, but nobody ever pays attention until somebody taps on a glass with a spoon. I don't want to do that, because it's such a cliché. So this time I pulled out a megaphone that can make your voice sound like (A) a ghost, (B) a space alien, or (C) a robot and called on everyone to stop yakking and pay attention to me. Nobody did until somebody tapped on a glass with a spoon. So I give up. From now on, it's the old spoon-on-a-glass trick for me.

I announced that the game was afoot, and we toasted *the* woman—Irene Adler—and the “other” woman, **Myrtle Robinson**, who had been named *the* woman for the 1995 meeting of the Baker Street Irregulars in New York. We also toasted her late husband and our former Program Director, **Bob Robinson**. After all that toasting, we were pretty drunk. I hadn't selected anybody in advance to lead the group in the Musgrave Ritual, so I did it myself.

The first event of the evening was the drawing for Sherlockian door prizes, conducted by **Myrtle Robinson**, who also supplied most of the prizes; **Jerred Metz** donated a copy of his new novel, *Bellicourt Tunnel: The Crowning Battle of the Great War*, in which Holmes appears. The winners included **Wayne Scott**, **Joanne Morton**, **Julie Smoak**, **Manual Mesa**, **Pat McNeely**, **Hannah Timmons**, **Elaine Johnson**, **Anna Flynn**, **Jimmy Haynes**, **David Cranford**, and **Heather Harkins**. They did *not* include *me*, but then they almost never do.

We were then treated to a concert of holiday songs by our special guests, soprano **Anna Flynn** and pianist **Hyun**

**Im**. **Anna's** soaring voice and **Hyun Jung's** skillful playing were so beautiful that if you closed your eyes, you would have thought that Scotty from *Star Trek* had used his transporter to beam you to the Metropolitan Opera House.

Under “Any and All Other Unavoidable Scion Business,” I mentioned that the Town Theatre would be presenting the play *Baskerville*, by Ken Ludwig, from January 17 through February 2, 2020. It's a comedy in which two actors play Holmes and Watson, and three other actors and/or actresses play *forty* other roles!



The cast of *The Copper Beeches*: from left, **Julie Smoak**, **Allison McNeely**, **Pat McNeely**, **your Editor**, **John Wrisley**, **Wayne Scott**

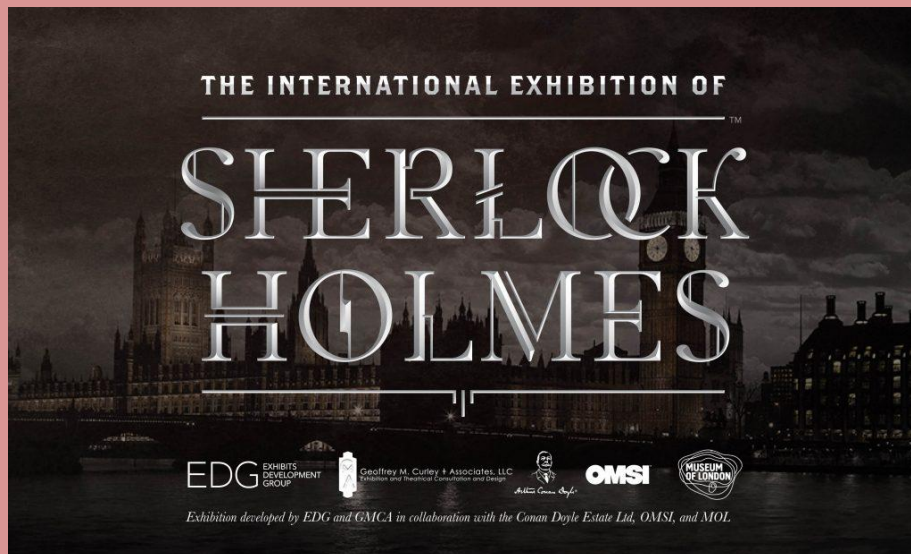
That brought us to our own play, with six performers in six roles: *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches*, adapted by **Bob Robinson** from the true account by Dr. John H. Watson, with additional material by **your Editor**, directed by **Allison McNeely**, with **Wayne Scott** as Jephro Rucastle, **Julie Smoak** as Miss Lily Stoper and announcer, **Allison McNeely** as Violet Hunter, **Pat McNeely** as Eustasia Rucastle, **John Wrisley** as Sherlock Holmes, and **your Editor** as Dr. John H. Watson. We had a nice wide space at one end of the room to use as our stage; but between it and the audience were some columns that would have blocked their view. So we moved to the opposite end, which meant that we were almost on top of the folks at the front tables. But it went well; at least, nobody threw any food at us. (Of course, the tables had been cleared by then.)

**Becky Lewis** concluded the festivities by reading the Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and we all went home to open our Christmas presents, only to discover to our disgust that Christmas was still twenty days away!

## For February: A Night (Well, an Evening) at the Museum!

The Hansom Wheels will meet at **6:00 p.m.**, **Tuesday, February 18**, in the **Green Room** at **The South Carolina State Museum**, **301 Gervais Street** in Columbia. The price will be **\$27.00 per person**, which includes a **box lunch** and admission to **The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes**. Please make **reservations** at **(803) 787-2219**; by email at **hansomwheels@aol.com**; or click “Reply” on the

message to which this newsletter is attached. When you do, choose a sandwich (pimento cheese with bacon, lettuce and tomato; chicken salad with lettuce and tomato; or turkey with cheddar cheese, lettuce and tomato), a side order (fruit cup or kettle cooked regular chips); and a drink (bottled water, bottled Coke, or bottled diet Coke). Please reserve **as soon as possible** but **no later than Tuesday, February 11**. See you there!



*The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes* offers an interactive experience combining science with history and culture to bring to life the historic underpinnings of author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's rich and vibrant stories.

Museum visitors will learn how Sherlock Holmes, a scientific expert ahead of his time, used seemingly trivial observations of clues others missed to solve some of his era's most puzzling mysteries. His practices and techniques, created in the mind of doctor-turned-author Conan Doyle, encouraged a change in the way police work was conducted, and remain in practice today.

Guests will be transported into Sherlock Holmes's London to solve a mystery in a world newly introduced to his groundbreaking methods, and then transported back into present day with a pop culture gallery that shows Sherlock Holmes in all his manifestations from books to movies.

Featuring:

- A visit to author **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's study**, where guests can explore his world and life from medical student to practicing physician to literary genius.
- A chance to **become a detective and solve a mystery** as you investigate clues and use scientific crime-solving methods throughout the exhibit gallery.
- Hands-on **interactive stations** exploring the science behind crime-solving.
- More than **100 objects and artifacts**, including original manuscripts and more.
- Authentic **recreation of Holmes's 221B Sitting Room**.
- More than **50 images from the Museum of London Archives**, some never displayed before.
- Props from the Warner Bros.' current **Sherlock Holmes movies** and behind the scenes tools from the hit **CBS television show *Elementary*** and the **BBC's *Sherlock***.
- And more!

*The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes* was developed by Exhibits Development Group and Geoffrey M. Curley + Associates in collaboration with the Conan Doyle Estate Limited, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, and the Museum of London.