



The Pink 'Un



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I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

The Hansom Wheels met via the Zoom teleconferencing app on February **18**; coincidentally, **eighteen** people attended! At least, I *think* there were eighteen; **George** and **Sarah Linder's** camera wasn't turned on, so all we could see were their names. So maybe only one of them was there. On the other hand, maybe they had a whole roomful of people watching along with them! Anyway, the other attendees were **Pat**, **Allison**, and **Alan McNeely**; **Linda Robinson**; **Jerred Metz**; **Wayne Scott**; **Resa Haile**; **Joseph Matheson**; **Tom Elmore**; **Carlina de la Cova**; **Becky** and **Kevin Lewis**; **Brenda Rossini**; our speaker, **Liese Sherwood-Fabre**; my wife, **Mary**; and **me**, **The Tantalus**.

After I announced that the game was afoot, we toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler, and I led the group in the responsive reading of the Musgrave Ritual. We then proceeded to the Happy Hour Posers, in which titles of adventures from the Canon are concealed within brilliantly clever puns: 1. I got 75¢ back in change at the store, and now I can't find it = the missing three quarters = "The Missing Three-Quarter," the Assigned Story for the Evening; 2. Amalia in Prague wanted a picture of her Barbie, but she didn't have a camera. So she had her father take it to his office and put it on the Xerox machine = a scanned doll in Bohemia = "A Scandal in Bohemia"; 3. Half of the dozen guests at the Halloween party wore the same costume: a French emperor = "The Six Napoleons"; 4. I must be drunk. I spilled cabernet sauvignon on my shirt a few minutes ago, and now I just did it again = "The Second Stain."

The Featured Presentation was "The Scandalous Canon," by the aforementioned **Liese Sherwood-Fabre**, who was joining us from the icy wastelands of Texas, which was just starting to recover from a major winter storm. We were lucky that her electricity and internet had been restored just in time. She listed fourteen Adventures that include scandals; quoted from Ari Adut's book *On*

Scandal the definition "Scandal is an event of varying duration that starts with the publicization of a real, apparent, or alleged transgression to a negatively oriented audience and lasts as long as there is significant and sustained public interest in it" (whew!); discussed the difference between scandal and crime; and dealt with much else that I don't have the space to go into. One of her statements stimulated a great deal of comment at the meeting and continued to do so among some of the attendees afterward: that gossip is not necessarily a negative thing. She defined "gossip" as "talking about people who aren't present" and said that researchers have found that *everyone* gossips. There was also some lively discussion about the modern-day phenomenon of "cancel culture" and whether the alleged or acknowledged misdeeds of people such as Woody Allen, Louis C.K., Kevin Spacey, Charlie Rose, and Armie Hammer (he played the Lone Ranger!), who is said to fantasize about cannibalizing his girlfriends, should result in their artistic achievements being sent down what George Orwell in *1984* called "the memory hole."



Liese Sherwood-Fabre on Zoom

I ended the evening with an illustrated reading of Vincent Starrett's Sacred Sonnet, "221B," and we all clicked "Leave Meeting" and disappeared into the ether whence we had come. But we didn't go down the memory hole.

For April: We Boldly Go Where No Sherlockian Has Gone Before!

The Hansom Wheels will meet via the Zoom teleconferencing app at **7:45 p.m., Thursday, April 15**. Be sure to have a beverage at hand for toasting *the* woman and anybody or anything else you care to drink to. The Assigned Story is "The Cardboard Box." Happy Hour Posers are on page 2 of this issue. The Featured Presentation will be "To Boldly Go: Mr. Spock, Leonard Nimoy, and Sherlock Holmes," by **Barbara Rusch** of the Canadian Sherlock Holmes society The Bootmakers of Toronto (in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* Holmes finds Sir Henry's stolen boot in the Great Grimpen Mire; it is

labeled "Meyers, Toronto"). If you don't already have the **free** Zoom app, you will need to download it to your PC, laptop, or smartphone, whichever you plan to use. To make sure you don't forget about the meeting, several times in the next few days 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. **Note:** If you don't have any of the devices mentioned above, you can **dial the number in the email and attend via your landline telephone!** If you have any questions, email me at hansomwheels@aol.com. See you there!

Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures):

1. Beatrix Potter's most famous character fell into a vat of tar (he wasn't hurt, though).
2. At the end of *The Wild One*, Johnny Strabler (Marlon Brando) returns to Wrightsville without his gang.
3. What's this on the porch? It's my order from Amazon Prime!
4. I should have taken off my wedding ring before I painted the ceiling. Now it's got little spots all over it.

This is a good article. I myself, however, have no intention of watching either this show or *Enola Holmes*.

Newsweek

'The Irregulars' on Netflix: How the Show Links to Sherlock Holmes

Samuel Spencer 3/29/2021



© Netflix 'The Irregulars' on Netflix is a new take on the Sherlock Holmes characters.

The Irregulars is the latest spin on the Sherlock Holmes story from Netflix. But while the streamer's movie *Enola Holmes* focused on the sister of the Victorian super-sleuth, *The Irregulars* has at its heart a band of street kids who occasionally help him out.

Unlike *Enola*, who is from a series of books by Nancy Springer, *The Irregulars* have their basis in the Sherlock Holmes novels by Arthur Conan Doyle. However, they are very different in these books than they are in the Netflix show.

The group, known as the Baker Street Irregulars among fans of Sherlock, appear in two Conan Doyle novels, and one short story.

The group makes its first appearance in the 1887 book *A Study in Scarlet*, where they are described by Dr. Watson as "half a dozen of the dirtiest and most ragged street Arabs that ever I clapped eyes on...six dirty little scoundrels stood in a line like so many disreputable statuettes."

The group gets their own chapter, meanwhile, in *The Sign of the Four* in 1890. Here, they are described similarly as "a dozen dirty and ragged little street Arabs," led by, "one of their number, taller and older than the others, stood forward with an air of lounging superiority."

Their last appearance is in short story "The Adventure of the Crooked Man," where we meet one of The Irregulars called Simpson. He is one of only two members of the group whose name we get in the books—in the two novels, the group is led by a boy named Wiggins.

The Baker Street Irregulars in the books are all male, but the Netflix drama has made the group a mixture of male and female characters—leader Bea (played by Thaddea Graham), her sister Jessie (Darci Shaw), plus Billy (Jojo Macari), Spike (McKell David) and Leopold (Harrison Osterfield).

A previous version of the characters had Billy as its leader. In the 1899 play *Sherlock Holmes*, Wiggins has been replaced with Billy, who was able to get information for Holmes due to his job as a bellboy.

While The Irregulars are usually portrayed as street kids in Holmes movies and TV shows, the Netflix show adds in a member of royalty to the group in the form of Prince Leopold. This character is based on a real person, the hemophiliac youngest son of Queen Victoria who died aged 30.

Of course, the introduction of Leopold and the female members of *The Irregulars* are not the only changes the show makes to the Sherlock stories. For one, the series features elements of the supernatural, unlike the rational explanations that lay behind even the strangest events in the Arthur Conan Doyle works.

The show, however, is far from the only supernatural take on Sherlock. As the majority of Conan Doyle's Sherlock stories are in the public domain, pulp writers have faced the character off against other free-to-use characters like the supernatural creatures of HP Lovecraft (in the Neil Gaiman story "A Study in Emerald") and Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde (in Loren D. Estleman's book *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Holmes*). Other authors and video game creators have seen the detective battle vampires, ghosts and wizards, while the punningly-titled book *Warlock Holmes* saw the detective himself use magic to solve crimes.

The Irregulars, meanwhile, posits a world in which Sherlock is not the master detective he seems to be but rather someone who takes credits for others' work—an idea also explored by *Enola Holmes*. Speaking to the BBC, the series showrunner Tom Bidwell said, "Sherlock Holmes had a group of street kids he'd use to help him gather clues so our series is what if Sherlock was a drug addict and a delinquent and the kids solve the whole case whilst he takes credit."

The series, however, is not the only new adaptation to give us a new spin on the Baker Street Irregulars. In the BBC and Netflix's *Sherlock*, for example, Holmes relied on a network of homeless people, while in *Elementary* the detective relied on intel from a group of street vendors.

The Irregulars is streaming now on Netflix.