



The Pink 'Un



Editor, Webmaster, Tantalus, Program Chair: **Phil Dematteis**, 1817 Belmont Drive, Columbia SC 29206-2813; hansomwheels@aol.com

Follow us on **Tom Elmore's** Hansom Wheels Facebook Page

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

“When you see a man with whiskers of that cut and the ‘Pink ‘Un’ protruding out of his pocket, you can always draw him by a bet”—
Sherlock Holmes, “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

Volume 45, No. 4, October 2021

I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

Because of the COVID-19 delta variant, The Hansom Wheels met again via the Zoom teleconferencing app on August 19. Twenty-five people attended: **George and Sarah Linder; Pat, Allison, and Alan McNeely; Jerred Metz; Wayne Scott; Tom Elmore; Becky and Kevin Lewis; Brenda Rossini; Philip Cunningham; Diane Madsen; Don Mankowski; Robert Sharfman; George Vanderburgh; Ron Levitsky; Edith Pouden; Mikkel Lund; Jamie McCulloch; Elana Ernst; Mel Berger;** our speaker, **Dr. Franklin Saksena BSI;** my wife, **Mary;** and me, **The Tantalus.**

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. That brought us to the Happy Hour Posers, in which the titles of Adventures from the Canon are concealed in puns: 1. He said that he would neither buy a new boat, _____ = nor would build her = “The Norwood Builder”; 2. His twelve-inch ruler is burning in Hell! = “The Devil’s Foot”; 3. She is enrolled in an online educational institution; before that, she attended a different one = the prior e-school = “The Priory School,” the Assigned Reading for the meeting; 4. In the old days, at a certain time of the evening many radio and TV stations would play “The Star-Spangled Banner” and shut down until the next morning = the sign-off hour = *The Sign of Four*.

The Featured Presentation was “Bicycles in the Canon.” The speaker, **Dr. Franklin Saksena BSI**, is the head honcho of the Criterion Bar Association of Chicago, with the title of “Young Stamford”; as the “BSI” after his name indicates, he is also a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, where his investiture name is “Jonathan Small.” He is a cardiologist and an attending physician at

Cook County Hospital, where he applies Sherlockian methods to bedside diagnoses (that’s better than applying Watsonian methods: in that case, he’d give his patients a swig of brandy and send them home).



Slide from “Bicycles in the Canon”; **Dr. Franklin Saksena**

In his presentation **Dr. Saksena** discussed the evolution of the bicycle; garments worn by Victorian female cyclists; and bicycles in “The Five Orange Pips,” “The Solitary Cyclist,” “The Priory School” (including Holmes’s ability to recognize the treads of forty-two brands of tires, and the notorious problem of whether it’s possible to tell which direction a bicycle is traveling from the fact that the track of the rear wheel overlays that of the front wheel), and *The Valley of Fear*. Fascinatingly, he then recounted several crimes committed with bicycles in (what the uninformed masses, who don’t realize that everything in the Canon is true, would refer to as) “real life”: a murder in 1919, a combined murder/arson in 2008, and an arson case in 2011 in which the criminal rode for at least *sixteen miles* setting houses on fire! Who would’a thunk it?

I ended the evening with an illustrated reading of Vincent Starrett’s Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and we all pedaled off to bed.

The members of The Hansom Wheels extend our deepest sympathy to **Jim and Ceille Welch** and their family on the death from COVID-19 of their daughter, **Kerri Lynn Welch Davis**, on September 30, 2021.

For October: Investigating Investigating Women! (Is There an Echo in Here?)

We had hoped to be able to gather in person, but because of the COVID-19 delta variant, The Hansom Wheels will meet once again via the Zoom teleconferencing app at **7:45 pm Thursday, October 21**. Be sure to have a beverage nearby for toasting *the* woman! Happy Hour Posers are on page 2 of this issue. The Assigned Reading is “A Scandal in Bohemia.” The Featured Presentation will be “Investigating Investigating Women: Female Predecessors and Successors to Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes,” by **Donny Zaldin** of the Bootmakers of Toronto scion. If you don’t already

have the **free** Zoom app, you will need to download it to your PC, laptop, or smartphone. Several times over 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 one of those messages and wait to be admitted. You do *not* have to preregister the way you do with some other organizations. **Note:** If you don’t have any of the devices mentioned above, you can dial the number in the invitation and attend via your landline telephone (audio only, of course)! If you have any questions, email me at hansomwheels@aol.com. See (or at least hear) you there!

Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures):

1. Gregory (played by Hugh Laurie): "I haven't had a thing to eat all day!"
2. The Three Stooges and the Marx Brothers (minus Gummo and Zeppo) each ate an oblong pastry with a cream filling.
3. Marie-Henri Beyle wrote *The Red and the Black* while living in Prague.
4. At last! I've finished the damn math test!

The 2022 R. Joel Senter Sr. Essay Contest

Submitted by

Steve Mason ASH, BSI

Third Mate, The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society of Dallas-Fort Worth

Do you know a student between 4th and 12th grades who has an interest in or passion for Sherlock Holmes? It could be a family member, family friend, student in your class, or simply a student you know!

Students could win \$100, \$200, or even \$300 (and a lovely plaque)!

Carolyn Senter and **The Beacon Society** are sponsoring a contest for students to submit essays concerning selected stories authored by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The contest is a memorial to the late **R. Joel Senter Sr.**, a wonderful Sherlockian who devoted his life to teaching students and adults alike about the lives of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The essay contest brings together two worlds that meant so much to **R. Joel Senter Sr.**: education and The Great Detective.



Carolyn and R. Joel Senter Sr.

The primary rules for entering the contest are:

Students in 4th to 12th grade in the United States and Canada are eligible to participate.

Each entrant must have an adult sponsor, 21 years of age or older (parent, teacher or family friend).

Sponsors may not write or edit the essay for entrants. The essays must be entirely the work of the students.

The entrant must complete and submit the cover sheet/entry-consent form (located on our website) and include it with the essay.

Full instructions/rules are on **The Beacon Society** website, <https://www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html>.

Essays must be emailed and received by **The Beacon Society**, in care of **Dan Andriacco** at doctordan@fuse.net by February 1, 2022, to be eligible for the prizes. If you have additional questions, please email **Dr. Andriacco** at the same address.

You can see the 2020 and 2021 prizewinning essays at <https://www.beaconsociety.com/past-senter-essay-contest-winners.html>.

The contest is divided into three categories:

4th to 6th Grade: Essay based on "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," or "The Adventure of the Red-Headed League." Essay Length: 300–500 words.

7th to 9th Grade: Essay based on "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," "The Adventure of the Red-Headed League," or "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange." Essay Length: 500–700 words.

10th to 12th Grade: Essay based on "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton," or "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot." Essay Length: 750–1,000 words.

In each category, the prizes are:

1st Place: a plaque and \$300

2nd Place: a plaque and \$200

3rd Place: a plaque and \$100

Sponsors and entrants should read the instructions for each age level, which can be found at <https://www.beaconsociety.com/essay-contest----age-levels.html>.

The winners will be announced shortly after the contest deadline. If possible, **The Beacon Society** will have a member of the Society present the Senter Prizes at the contest winners' schools. If an in-person presentation is not possible, the Senter Prizes will be mailed to the winners.

Online versions of the stories can be found at https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php?title=The_62_Sherlock_Holmes_stories_written_by_Arthur_Conan_Doyle.

We hope you will help **Carolyn** and us to honor one of the finest Sherlockians, **Joel**, by helping to spread the word about **The R. Joel Senter Sr. Essay Contest** and consider sponsoring a student who wants to participate.

