



The Pink 'Un



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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”

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I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

The February meeting of The Hansom Wheels was held at The Palmetto Club on the seventeenth. It was the first time we had ever attempted a combination in-person and Zoom meeting, but I think it worked out pretty well. Attending in person were **Myrtle Robinson; Pat McNeely; Richard Blenko; Jamie McCulloch; Becky and Kevin Lewis; Joann and Ashby Morton; Julie Smoak; Jerred Metz;** my wife, **Mary;** and me, **The Tantalus**. I'm not sure who all attended via Zoom, because I couldn't see everybody, but I do know that those looking on from out in cyberspace included **George and Sarah Linder, Jim and Ceille Welch, Alan and Allison McNeely** (in case you don't know them, they are a brother and sister, not, like the other couples listed, husband and wife; in fact, they weren't even viewing from the same location), **Wayne Scott, Carlina de la Cova, Don Mankowski, Deborah Ingersoll, and Ian Bennett,** and, of course, our Featured Speaker of the evening, **Steve Mason**.

After dinner, 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 goal is to decipher the titles of stories from the Canon from some really disgusting puns after this wise: 1. Eddie Fisher's first wife; the lead singer of Blondie; and Rachel Dratch's pessimistic character on *Saturday Night Live* all dressed up as witches for Halloween = Debbie Reynolds, Debbie Harry, and Debbie Downer = the three scary Debs = “The Three Garridebs” (the Assigned Story for the meeting). 2. Paul Bunyan had a trumpet made out of a metal beer keg so that he could play in the marching band = the barrel cornet = “The Beryl Coronet.” 3. He also had a stove as big as a house = a big range = “The Abbey Grange.” 4. Philip Marlowe went temporarily insane and changed the color of all of his suits to a bright orange = the dyeing detective = “The Dying Detective.”

That took us, and not a moment too soon, to the Featured Presentation of the Evening: “Hey, Didn't You Play Sherlock Holmes?” by the aforementioned **Steve Mason BSI** (investiture name: “The Fortescue Scholarship,” from “The Three Students”) of The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society of Dallas-Fort Worth and The Beacon Society. He told us about his collection of more than 270 (and still growing) collection of autographs and photographs of damn near every professional or amateur actor who has ever played or dressed up like Sherlock Holmes onstage, in the movies, on TV, or even at private gatherings like the Hansom Wheels Christmas Party! He started out by collecting playbills from Sherlock Holmes plays he attended in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and getting the actors to autograph them. Then he purchased the 120-or-so autograph collection of Howard Ostrom, author of the two-volume *Sherlock Holmes Cyclopædia: Sherlock Holmes on Screens, 1929–1959*, and he was off and running. In addition to such familiar portrayals of Holmes as William Gillette, Jeremy Brett, Peter Cushing, Jonny Lee Miller, Robert Downey Jr., Ronald Howard, Benedict Cumberbatch, et al., he found famous actors who are not widely known for the role such as Alec Baldwin (oops!), James Garner, Leonard Nimoy, Jack Benny, John Cleese, Larry Hagman, Kirk Douglas (in a Japanese TV commercial), and Lloyd Bridges (in the background of a political ad). He also has photos and cartoons of people dressed as Holmes, including Rush Limbaugh, Rudolph Giuliani, and J. Edgar Hoover. And he also has **John Wrisley, Al McNeely, and me!** And autographs of all of us! Unfortunately, he was never able to get Basil Rathbone. JUST KIDDING! A small selection of the pictures he showed us can be found on page 2 of this issue.

I ended the evening with an illustrated reading of Vincent Starrett's Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and we all went home to look at our own poor, uninteresting photo albums.

For April: Bad Girls!

The Hansom Wheels will meet for dinner at 6:15 p.m. on April 21 at The Palmetto Club, 1231 Sumter Street. Those who want to attend via Zoom can log in starting at 7:00; the link is below, and no preregistration is required. The meeting proper will start with the call to order (“The game is afoot!”) at 7:15. The price for dinner will be \$35.00 per person; there will also be a cash bar. The Featured Presentation will be **Diane Gilbert Madsen's** “Sherlock Holmes vs. Villainesses in the Canon.” The Assigned Story is “The Adventure of the Three Gables.” If you plan to attend in person,

please **make a reservation as soon as possible at hansomwheels@aol.com**. If you then realize that for some reason you will not be coming after all, **please cancel no later than noon on Monday, April 18;** we will be charged for all of the meals we have ordered by that time, whether they are consumed or not. Therefore, if you cancel after that deadline, or just don't show up, we will be forced to ask you to send us \$35.00 (\$70.00 for a couple) to cover the cost. Thank you!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85474197583>

Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures):

- 1/4, 2/4, 4/4.
- What would you have if the center, the power forward, and the point guard of the Chicago NBA team all came out of the closet? (**Disclaimer to keep me from being sued:** This is only hypothetical; it has not happened, is based on nothing, and probably never will happen. Not that there is anything wrong with it, as Jerry Seinfeld would say.)
- Jeff "The Dude" Lebowski: "Hey, man, can you dig it? In 1995 they quit makin' tan M&Ms! It's _____, _____!"
- Let us sign an agreement to stop fighting about whether innies or outies are better.



Peter Mason BSI

Some of the photos below have been cropped to make them fit. You can see the whole collection, full size, at <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/autographed-portrayals-of-sherlock-holmes.html>

