



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 Hansom Wheels met at The Palmetto Club on October 20 with fifteen attendees: **Richard Blenko**; **Tom Elmore**; **Kevin** and **Becky Lewis**; **George** and **Sarah Linder**; **Jamie McCulloch**; **Wayne Scott**; **Julie Smoak**; **Monte Steedley** and **Twyla Tuten**; **Barbara Yongue** and her guest, **Kay Hensley**; **Mary Dematteis**; and me, **Phil Dematteis** aka **The Tantalus** aka **Your Editor**.

After dinner, I got everyone's attention by speaking through a voice-distorting electronic megaphone that made me sound like a killer robot. In my own voice, I then announced that the game was afoot; we toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler; and **Jamie McCulloch** led the group in the responsive reading of *The Musgrave Ritual*.

Next were the Happy Hour Posers, in which the task is to decode the titles of stories from the Canon from puns. This time they were all old ones from long-ago meetings; the first three were by our late program director, **Bob Robinson**; the last was one of mine. 1. Hot Cutlery = “Silver Blaze.” 2. Electrify a Few Worn-Out Cops = shock some old police = “Shoscombe Old Place.” 3. Quest for the Fountain of Youth = De Leon's mania = “The Lion's Mane.” 4. It's a billboard advertising a performance by the Mills Brothers = *The Sign of the Four*, the Assigned Story for the meeting.

An unusual but welcome feature of the meeting was a door prize: an original Sherlockian painting donated by professional artist and longtime Hansom Wheeler **Barbara Yongue**. People had to write their guesses of what story the painting represented on index cards, fold them over, and give them to me. Only correct answers were eligible for the drawing, but I am happy to report that everybody recognized *The Sign of the Four*, which was, as noted above, the Assigned Story for the meeting. I put the cards into a deerstalker cap, and **Jamie McCulloch** drew **Kevin Lewis's** card. Congratulations!

The Featured Presentation of the Evening was **Tom Elmore's** “The Case of the Thirsty Detective—A ‘Spiritual Guide’ to the Sherlock Holmes Stories.” With illustrations on PowerPoint—a sine qua non for presentations these days—**Tom** went through just about

every form of alcoholic beverage known to man (or woman) and listed the stories from the Canon in which that particular drink makes an appearance. (When I say “went through,” I mean he talked about them—not that he drank them. Doing that would have killed an elephant.) A partial list (all I can remember) includes bourbon, Scotch, Irish whiskey, Scotch whisky (that's not a typo; that's how the Scots spell it), gin, rum, vodka, merlot (of which Paul Giamatti's wine-connoisseur character in the movie *Sideways* said, “*I don't drink f*****g merlot!*”), cabernet sauvignon, pinot noir, rose, pino grigio, chardonnay, “comet wines,” champagne, Madeira, Beaune, lager beer (traditional American beers from big breweries such as Anheuser-Busch and Coors are lagers; **Tom** said that he used to like Schaefer when he was young and naive but has gotten past that now. I will just add that the late Chicago journalist Mike Royko once said that American lager tastes like it has been run through a goat), India Pale Ale (**Your Editor's** favorite beer, by the way, in case you want to buy me a six-pack), stout, brandy (Dr. Watson's remedy for everything), cognac, and God knows what all. He even showed photos of bottles labeled “Sherlock Holmes” and “221B Baker Street.”

Kevin Lewis ended the evening with a reading of Vincent Starrett's Sacred Sonnet, “221B.” Now, I know that **Kevin** was also the person who won the painting, and that **Jamie McCulloch**, who led us in the Musgrave Ritual, also drew the winning card out of the deerstalker, so it might sound as though I was showing favoritism to these two. But I had **Jamie** draw the card because I happened to be standing next to her at the time; and I had asked **Kevin** to read “221B” before the meeting began, and obviously before I knew he was going to win the painting, because I knew that he writes poetry and would be good at reading it. Also, I knew that **Kevin** reads the Assigned Story aloud to his wife, **Becky**, before each meeting, because **Becky**, unfortunately, is illiterate. Just kidding!!! Both of them are retired professors from USC! They do it that way because it allows them to share the experience. Which is kind of sweet, don't you think?

Compliments of the Season!

The Hansom Wheels Christmas Party will commence at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, December 8**, at **The Palmetto Club**, 1231 Sumter Street. The price for dinner will be **\$35.00** per person; adult beverages will be available for an extra charge. There will be door prizes, provided once again by **Richard Blenko** (and if you were there the last time, you will remember that these were expensive and sumptuous items), Christmas music, and a play by **Bob Robinson**! If you have not already made a reservation, please do so at your earliest convenience (if inconvenient,

do it all the same, to paraphrase Sherlock in “The Creeping Man”) at hansomwheels@aol.com. If you will not be able to attend, **please cancel no later than noon on Monday, December 5**; otherwise we will send the marshals out to drag you in. No, not really, but we will be charged for all of the meals we have ordered by that time, whether they are eaten or not. Therefore, if you cancel after the deadline, or just don't show up, we will be forced to ask you (politely) to send us \$35.00 (\$70.00 for a couple) to cover the cost. Thank you! See you there!

Photos from the October Meeting

Courtesy of **Richard Blenko** and **Mary Dematteis**



Toasting *the woman!*



Kay Hensley and Barbara Yongue



Barbara's painting



Jamie McCulloch



Kevin and Becky Lewis



Julie Smoak



George Linder



**Mary Dematteis aka
Mrs. Tantalus**



Tom Elmore presenting



Richard Blenko



Twyla Tuten and Monte Steedley



**The Tantalus feeding his
face**



Wayne Scott



Somehow we didn't get a photo of **Sarah Linder**, and the only one we had from the previous meeting was of her sitting in the dark, listening to **George's** presentation. Sorry about that! We'll do better next time!