



# The Pink 'Un



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Palmetto Club Liaisons: **George and Sarah Linder**

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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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Volume 48, No. 1, February 2024

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

The Hansom Wheels 2023 Christmas Party was held at The Palmetto Club on December 7. Turnout was a bit lighter than usual for these events, but what we lacked in quantity we more than made up for in quality: **Richard Blenko, Carol Cranford, David Cranford, Robert Cranford, Will Cranford, Joyce Crout, Mary Dematteis, Kay Hensley, Carl and Elaine Johnson, Becky and Kevin Lewis, George and Sarah Linder, Jamie McCulloch, Mark McGill, Pat McNeely, Ashby and Joann Morton, Myrtle Robinson, Monte Steedley and Twyla Tuten, Wayne and Lucy Scott, Barbara Yongue, and Your Editor, Phil Dematteis aka The Tantalus aka me.**

After we finished our dinner, I forgot to announce that the game was afoot—my first mistake of the evening—but I jingled some jingle bells, and everybody snapped to order anyway. We toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler, and did the responsive reading of The Musgrave Ritual.

The next order of business was the drawing for door prizes, which were, for the third year in a row, selected and provided at his own expense by **Richard Blenko**. This time, to make sure that the prizes were widely distributed, **Richard** stipulated that each married couple would draw one chance between them, while single folks would each get a chance of their own. On hearing this, one of the couples got on their cell phone and instructed their lawyer to file for divorce so that they could each get a chance. No, just kidding, but as it worked out, every couple and single person wound up with a prize. And when I say “prize,” I mean “prizes,” because **Richard** always packages several items together for each gift.

Next up was—or was supposed to be—a selection of

Christmas music, but because we had to clear out of the room by 9:00 p.m., and still had the Christmas play to put on, we ran out of time after **George Linder** had played only two of the selections on his laptop: “Jingle Bells,” provided by **Pat McNeely**, and “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer,” which I supplied and which some people thought was not exactly in the spirit of the joyful season of peace. It wasn't **George's** fault; he just ran the playlist I had given him. Mistake number 2 on my part.

The play was **Bob Robinson's** adaptation of *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*; the cast, in order of appearance, consisted of **Elaine Johnson** as Helen Stoner, **Sarah Linder** as Julia Stoner (I had gotten the actresses switched around in the printed program—my third screw-up of the night), **Wayne Scott** as Dr. Grimesby Roylott, **George Linder** as Henry Wadsworth the blacksmith, **Robert Cranford** as Ygor the Gypsy leader, **Will Cranford** as Zsu Zsu the gorilla, **Carl Johnson** as Percy Armitage, **The Tantalus** as Sherlock Holmes, and **Richard Blenko** as Dr. John H. Watson. The action included **George** being wrestled to the ground by **Wayne**, **Wayne** being coldcocked by **Will**, and **Wayne** dying in a chair with a snake wrapped around his head. As you all will have noticed, being experts in Sherlockiana, some of these characters and events do not appear in the original tale as recorded by Watson. But that's what you call your dramatic license.

We brought the proceedings to a conclusion with a group recitation of the Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and went home and lay down for a long winter's nap with visions of sugarplums dancing in our heads. Then we went to sleep and had nightmares about our grandmothers being trampled by caribou.

## For February: Hounded!

The Hansom Wheels will meet at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, February 15**, at **The Palmetto Club**, 1231 Sumter Street. The Featured Presentation will be **Jennie Paton's** “*The Hound of the Baskervilles* On-Screen.” Therefore, the Assigned Reading for the meeting will, obviously, be “The Veiled Lodger.” No, just kidding, it's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The price for dinner will be **\$40.00** per person; adult beverages will be available. If you have not already made your reservation(s), please do so by emailing [hansomwheels@aol.com](mailto:hansomwheels@aol.com) by **noon on Monday, February 12**. If you have made a reservation and need to **cancel, the deadline for that is the same as for making the reservation in the first place.** We will

be charged for all the meals we have ordered by that day, whether they are consumed or not; so if you cancel after the deadline or just don't show up, we will regrettably be forced to ask you to fork over that \$40.00 (\$80.00 for a couple) anyway, so that you do not leave us holding the bag. We know you wouldn't want to do that, because, as a follower of Sherlock Holmes, you must be an upright, moral person. See you there!

By the way, if you want to know what *really* happened on the night that Sir Henry met the Hound, I invite you to read “The True Ending of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at

[http://www.hansomwheels.com/newhound\\_001.htm](http://www.hansomwheels.com/newhound_001.htm)

## Bob Robinson Papers Donated to the University of Minnesota and Indiana University



A collection of **Bob Robinson BSI's** Sherlockian correspondence has been donated to the Andersen Library of the University of Minnesota by **Myrtle Robinson**. Bob's collection comprises approximately five hundred documents. In his reply of acceptance, Timothy J. Johnson BSI, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collection, stated that the items will be housed in the collection under **Bob's** name, and an archival guide/finding aid for this collection will be available online to researchers around the world in the near future. The library will maintain the collection in its entirety. As donor, **Myrtle** has been invited to apply a name to the collection, and Hansom Wheelers are invited to make suggestions.

It is quite an honor to have the collection accepted. The Andersen collection houses the collections of John Bennett Shaw BSI, Jon Lellenberg BSI, Christopher Morley BSI, and many other well-known Sherlockians and is known worldwide as one of the superb Sherlockian collections. In the December 2023 issue of *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, a newsletter published by the University of Minnesota, Timothy Johnson states that the library is working on creating archival guides for Jon Lellenberg and **Bob Robinson**. The late Mr. Lellenberg represented the Doyle estate in the United States for many years. Another fifteen documents were donated to the Baker Street Irregulars collection in the Eli Lilly Library at Indiana University.

In honor of the above, we are going back this month to some of **Bob's** old  
**Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures):**

1. Recent trends in French auto production.
2. The entertainer's greatest dread.
3. Caress the nudist's calves.
4. The pancake chef.

### Photos from the Christmas Party and the Play, *The Speckled Band*



**The Tantalus** forgets to announce that the game is afoot



**Richard Blenko** distributes door prizes



**Julia Stoner** tells her sister, **Helen**, about weird noises in the night



**Julia** lies dead, as **Dr. Grimesby Roylott** and **Helen** look on



**Roylott** threatens blacksmith **Henry Wadsworth** with a cane



**Wadsworth** tells the **Gypsy Ygor** how he wrestled **Roylott** to the ground



**Zsu Zsu** the gorilla clobbers **Wadsworth** on **Ygor's** command



**Helen Stoner** consults **Sherlock Holmes** at Baker Street



**Roylott** threatens **Holmes** with cane, as **Watson**, in dressing gown, checks his script



**Holmes** straightens the fireplace poker that **Roylott** bent before he left



**Roylott** lies dead with a swamp adder wrapped around his head as **Ygor**, **Watson**, and **Holmes** stand around and gloat