



The Pink 'Un



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

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”

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I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

Sixteen people attended The Hansom Wheels meeting at The Palmetto Club on February 19: **Pat McNeely, Joyce Crout, John Hudgens, George and Sarah Linder, Wayne Scott, Monte Steedley and Twyla Tuten, Barbara Yongue, Kay Hensley, Michelle Taylor, Joann Morton, Julie Smoak, Carlina de la Cova, Mary Dematteis, and Phil Dematteis, aka The Tantalus, aka your Editor.**

Before dinner, in keeping with the precedent established at the Christmas meeting, grace was said, this time by **George Linder**. After dinner, I announced that the game was afoot; we toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler; and **Michelle Taylor** led us in the responsive reading of The Musgrave Ritual.

We had all felt blessed by the saying of grace, but that feeling dissipated quickly when we turned to the next order of business: the Happy Hour Posers, wherein the object is to decipher the titles of Canonical Adventures from clues in the form of puns: 1. At a country club for deaf people, golfers indicate that they are about to hit the ball by using hand signals = the sign of “fore” = *The Sign of Four*. 2. In the movie *The Adventures of Don Juan*, Errol Flynn wore a red costume = a stud in scarlet = *A Study in Scarlet* (the Assigned Story for the meeting). 3. The Catholic cardinal who served as chief minister to Kings Louis XIII and XIV felt a sudden pain in his kidney = the Mazarin (kidney) stone = “The Mazarin Stone.” 4. For some reason, young boy serving as an apprentice in a printing establishment always left off his right shoe and sock = the (printer’s) devil’s (bare) foot = “The Devil’s Foot.”

Under the heading of “Any and All Other Unavoidable Scionic Business,” I showed the group two documents given to me by **Myrtle and Linda Robinson**: the certification of The Hansom Wheels as an official

scion society of The Baker Street Irregulars, dated December 20, 1994 (we had been meeting since April 1977 and had mistakenly believed ourselves to be an official scion most of that time) and a diploma from “Camford University” dated January 20, 1983, certifying our former program director, the late **Bob Robinson**, as a Doctor of Sherlockiana.

The Featured Presentation of the evening was by University of South Carolina Anthropology Professor and Deputy Richland County (S.C.) coroner **Dr. Carlina de la Cova BSI**: “Sherlock Holmes and His Resonating Impact on Criminology and Forensic Science.” She showed how Holmes pioneered many of the methods and techniques of modern scientific criminal investigation, including fingerprints (before Sir Francis Galton), crime scene analysis (before *CSI*), trace evidence analysis with magnifying glass and microscope, transfer evidence (the idea that criminals unwittingly leave bits of themselves, like hairs, and pick up bits of their environment as they move through it to do their dirty deeds), document examination, identification of impressions of shoes and tires (e.g., in Holmes’s day, bicycle tires, as in “The Priory School”), closing off and preservation of crime scenes, and collection and storage of evidence (including skeletons). She brought in such historical forensic scientists as Galton, Edmond Locard, Alphonse Bertillon, and Ales Hrdlicka. And she showed how all of this crime stuff contributed to the development of modern physical anthropology. It was such a comprehensive discussion that I felt that by the end of it, we had all earned at least a bachelor’s degree in anthropology.

We ended the meeting with a group reading of Vincent Starrett’s Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and went home, being careful not to leave behind any evidence that could connect us to the scene of the crime—I mean, meeting.

For April: A Journey through the Past with *The Pink 'Un*!

The Hansom Wheels will meet at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16**, at The Palmetto Club, 1231 Sumter Street. The Featured Presentation will be **Your Editor** reading passages from past issues of *The Pink 'Un* that he finds amusing and hopes you will, too. The Assigned Story is “The Solitary Cyclist.” The price for dinner will be **\$45.00 per person**; adult beverages will be available for purchase. If you have not already made reservation(s), please do so by replying to the email to which this issue is attached, or at hansomwheels@aol.com, by **12:00 noon on Monday, April 13**. If you want to add anyone to your

party after you reserve, please email that same address. If you have already made a reservation, **the deadline to cancel is also noon on the 13th**. We will be charged for all the meals we have ordered by that time, whether they are consumed or not; so if you cancel after the deadline or just don’t show up, we will be forced to politely ask you to cough up the scratch, because otherwise we will have to pay for your meal(s), and we know that would make you feel very, very bad. And we would not want that for you, because we are kindhearted and empathetic people. See you there!

Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures):

1. When he got home, he discovered that his wife had left him and taken with her everything they owned.
2. He didn't have a very good poker face: he bellowed with joy when he was dealt the highest card in the deck.
3. The prisoner in isolation walked around and around in his cell.
4. "I say, Holmes, what are you going to do with all those hardboiled eggs?" "You know my methods, my dear Watson. Apply them. Today is Easter."

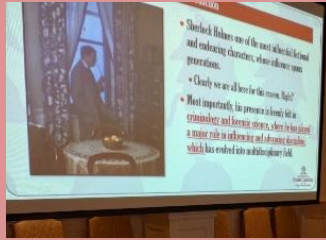
Photos from the Meeting



Michelle Johnson leads the group in The Musgrave Ritual



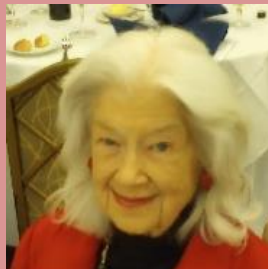
Carlina de la Cova gives her PowerPoint presentation



Mr. and Mrs. Tanatalus
(Phil and Mary Dematteis)



George and Sarah Linder



Julie Smoak



Joann Morton



Twyla Tuten and Monte Steedley



Pat McNeely



Joyce Crout



John Hudgens



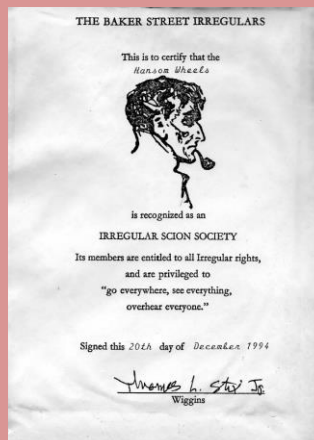
Barbara Yongue



Michelle Johnson



Kay Hensley



The Hansom Wheels' belated certification by the BSI