



# 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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Volume 50, No. 1, February 2026

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

The Hansom Wheels Christmas Party was held at The Palmetto Club on December 4 with twenty-three celebrants—no, wait, that’s a priest celebrating the Eucharist; I mean *celebrators*: **Richard Blenko, Pat McNeely, Joyce Crout, John Hudgens, Becky and Kevin Lewis, George and Sarah Linder, Wayne Scott, Monte Steedley and Twyla Tuten, Barbara Yongue, Michelle Taylor, Carl and Elaine Johnson, Ashby and Joann Morton, Carlina de la Cova, Allison McNeely, Alan McNeely, Nadia Mostafa, Mary Dematteis, and Phil Dematteis, aka The Tantalus, aka me.**

Before dinner, with it being a Christmas event and all, **Sarah Linder** asked **Twyla Tuten** to say grace; something I don’t recall our ever having done before. After dinner, I announced that the game was afoot; we toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler; and we were led in the responsive reading of The Musgrave Ritual by **Carlina de la Cova**.

We proceeded to the drawing for the door prizes, supplied, as they have been for several years now, by **Richard Blenko**, who succeeded **Myrtle Robinson** in the role. As always, each prize was a large basket of goodies, including books, wine, food, trinkets, and all kinds of treasures. We made it a rule that married couples would draw one chance between them, while singletons would each get their own. Next year, we might find that some couples have gotten divorced so that they each can get a prize and then remarry afterward.

**Pat McNeely** supplied Christmas music while the cast donned their costumes for the Christmas play, *Silver Blaze*, adapted from Dr. Watson’s account by the late, great **Bob Robinson** and directed by **Allison McNeely**. Sound effects were supplied by **Pat McNeely**. The players, in order of appearance, were **Alan McNeely** as

Fitzroy Simpson, the racetrack tout; **Elaine McNeely**—no, wait, I just typed that name out of force of habit—**Elaine Johnson** as Edith Straker (in the original story Mrs. Straker’s first name is not given; in the play she is conflated with the cook, Edith Baxter, which meant one fewer actor we had to cast), the widow of the horse trainer John Straker, who was thought to have been murdered but in fact was kicked in the head by Silver Blaze, whom he (Straker) was attempting to lame out on the moor so that he (Straker) could bet against him (Silver Blaze) in the Wessex Cup to get money so that he (Straker) could carry on an affair he was having in London under the name William Darbyshire; **Carl Johnson** as Inspector Gregory; **George Linder** as Colonel Gordon Ross, the owner of Silver Blaze (his first name is not given in the story); **Phil Dematteis** as Sherlock Holmes; **Richard Blenko** as Dr. Watson; and **Wayne Scott** as Colonel Silas Brown, who has been hiding the disguised Silver Blaze at his (Brown’s) stable, Mapleton (in the original story he’s not a colonel). We didn’t have any horses, so in the climactic race Holmes, Watson, and Ross looked out at the audience and moved their heads back and forth as if watching a bunch of steeds running around the track. In the original stage directions, **Bob** had indicated that the William Tell Overture should be played during the race; we did that, but we used the version by Spike Jones and His City Slickers, in which Doodles Weaver calls the race, and the winner is Feetlebaum. We made Feetlebaum the name the disguised Silver Blaze ran under.

We ended the meeting with a group reading of Vincent Starrett’s Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and went home and waited for Santa Claus to arrive, so suffused with the Christmas spirit that we did not realize that Christmas Eve was still twenty days away.

## For February: Sherlock Holmes’s Crime-Fighting Legacy!

The Hansom Wheels 2025 will meet at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 19**, at **The Palmetto Club**, 1231 Sumter Street. The Featured Presentation will be by **Carlina de la Cova BSI**: “Sherlock Holmes and His Resonating Impact on Criminology and Forensic Science.” The Assigned Story is *A Study in Scarlet*; it’s kind of long, so you can skip the Utah part, which isn’t really relevant to the topic. 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](mailto:hansomwheels@aol.com), by **12:00 noon on Monday, February 16**. 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 16th**. We will be charged for all the meals we have ordered by that time, whether they are eaten or not; so if you cancel after the deadline or just don’t show up, we will be forced to ask you kindly to pay up anyway, because otherwise we will have to do it, and we are not made of money, despite our prosperous-looking, upscale appearance. See you there!

## Happy Hour Posers:

1. At a country club for deaf people, golfers indicate that they are about to hit the ball by using hand signals.
2. In the movie *The Adventures of Don Juan*, Errol Flynn wore a red costume.
3. The Catholic cardinal who served as chief minister to Kings Louis XIII and XIV felt a sudden pain in his kidney.
4. For some reason, young boy serving as an apprentice in a printing establishment always left off his right shoe and sock.

## Photos from the Play (courtesy of Mary Dematteis)



Fitzroy Simpson (**Alan McNeely**) confronts Edith Straker (**Elaine Johnson**) on her way to the stable  
With the grooms' supper



Colonel Ross (**George Linder**, left) greets inspector Gregory (**Carl Johnson**)



Sherlock Holmes (**Phil Dematteis**) and Dr. Watson (**Richard Blenko**) talk things over with Ross and Gregory



Holmes tips his deerstalker



Holmes and Gregory study their scripts as Ross looks on quizzically



Holmes confronts the nasty old horse thief Colonel Silas Brown (**Wayne Scott**)



Ross at the Essex cup, not yet realizing that the winner, Feetlebaum, is actually his own Silver Blaze



Director **Allison McNeely**, wondering what she got herself into with this bunch of actors



The cast takes "Its Last Bow" (get it?). Left to right: **Wayne Scott**, **Carl Johnson**, **Phil Dematteis**, **Richard Blenko**, **George Linder**, **Alan McNeely**, and **Elaine Johnson**