



The Pink 'Un



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The Hansom Wheels Website (which includes *The Pink 'Un*) is at www.hansomwheels.com

Volume 41, No. 1, February 2017

I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

Thirty-eight people attended the Hansom Wheels Christmas Party on December 8, 2016. Apparently that was more than the Palmetto Club was expecting, because they had assigned us not to the ballroom but to a smaller facility on the third floor called The Holding Room. When I heard that, I was a bit apprehensive: it sounded like something in a police station. When I got off the elevator, however, I saw a plaque stating that the room was named for Fred or Frank Holding or somebody like that, who must have been an important member of the club. It was nice enough, but a little cramped, especially when it came time to do our play.

Anyway, after dinner, I, in my official capacity of The Tantalus, rang some jingle bells to get everyone's attention and announced that the game was afoot. We toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler, and **Linda Robinson** led us in the Musgrave Ritual.

Next, **Myrtle Robinson** conducted the drawing for door prizes. We hadn't had a drawing last year, because **Myrtle** had been forced out of her house by the Great Flood of October 2015 and couldn't get at the collection of Sherlockian items she usually provides for prizes. Among those who won were **Wayne Scott**, **Cap'n Billy Rawl**, **Pat McNeely**, **Becky Lewis**, **Tim Robinson** . . . and **me!** My prize turned out to be Anthony Boucher's novel *The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars*, which I already owned and had read; so I swapped it with **Tim** for his prize, James Edward Holroyd's *Baker Street Byways*. A non-Sherlockian prize was won by **Ann Saylor**, **D'Michelle DuPre's** mother: a hand-blown Blenko Glass carafe, originally created for the U.S. Bicentennial, donated by **Richard Blenko**.

Next we were led in the singing of Christmas carols by **Alida Rawl**, accompanied by **John Wrisley** on the

ukulele. That brought us to the play, which, appropriately for the season, was *The Blue Carbuncle*. It was written by our late Program Chairman, **Bob Robinson**, with some embellishments by **your Editor**. It starred **John Wrisley** as Sherlock Holmes, **Al McNeely** as Dr. John H. Watson, **Richard Blenko** as Commissionaire Peterson, **your Editor** as the goose- and hat-losing Henry Baker, **D'Michelle DuPre** as a Covent Garden flower seller (a character not found in the original story), **Wayne Scott** as the obstreperous Covent Garden goose seller Breckinridge, and **Ellys Haynes** as the pusillanimous jewel thief John Ryder. The *Blue Carbuncle* was played by a drawer knob, which beat out a golf ball for the part. The small size of the room, noted above, made for a particularly intimate performance; the actors could have sat on the laps of audience members in the front row, and maybe some of them did.



More photos of the festivities can be found on our website, www.hansomwheels.com.

Kevin Lewis read Vincent Starrett's Sacred Sonnet, "221B," and we went a-wassailing out of there. Whatever that means.

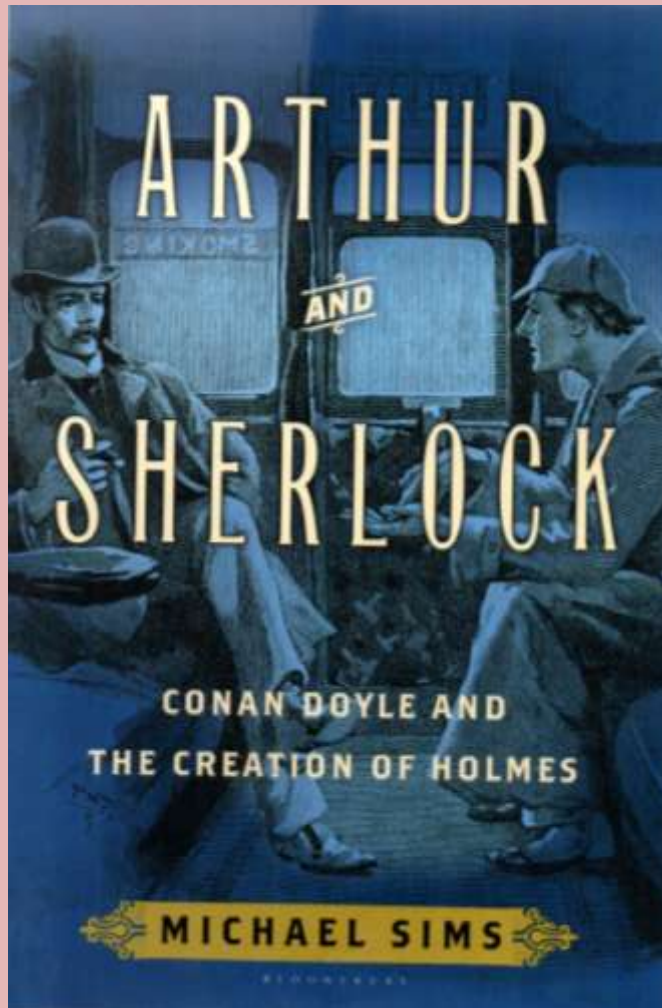
For February: "You Would Have Made an Actor, and a Rare One"!

The Hansom Wheels will meet at **7:00 P.M. Thursday, February 16**, at **The Palmetto Club, 1231 Sumter Street**. The price for dinner will be **\$22.00** per person. There will also be a cash bar. Of course.

We all know Gillette, Rathbone, Brett, Downey, Cumberbatch, Miller, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen . . . whoops! I got carried away there. The Featured Presentation will be **Tom Elmore's** illustrated talk on some lesser-known actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes. We should read a story that has something to do with acting; the quotation in the headline above is from Athelney Jones, speaking to Holmes in *The Sign of*

the Four, but we read that work last August. In "**A Scandal in Bohemia**," however, Watson says about Holmes: "The stage lost a fine actor, even as science lost an acute reasoner, when he became a specialist in crime." The last time we read *that* one was July 2011, so let's make it the Assigned Story for this month. OK?

Please make **reservations** with **Kathy Newman** at **(803) 776-9499** or by email at katnewman@aol.com just **as soon as possible**, but **no later than February 14** (Valentine's Day!). If you reserve by email and do *not* receive a confirmation within one day, please call the number above. See you there!



As you can see from the title, this book perpetuates the myth that Sherlock Holmes was a fictional character created by Arthur Conan Doyle. We, of course, know that Holmes was a real person, that most of his cases were chronicled by Dr. Watson (with two by Holmes himself and two others by an anonymous author or authors), and that Doyle was the literary agent who got them published; the only way Doyle could have “created” Holmes would have been if he were Holmes’s father, but the chronology makes that impossible. But the book is well written and includes an enormous amount of factual information. For example, Sims not only discusses Dr. Joseph Bell, the supposed “model” for Holmes; he even goes back to Bell’s mentor, Professor James Syme. He also tracks down possible sources for the names of characters in the stories: Patrick Sherlock, a classmate of Doyle’s at Stonyhurst boarding school; the seventeenth-century church leader William Sherlock, about whom Doyle read in Macaulay’s *History of England*; Carmel Sherlock in Sheridan Le Fanu’s novel *A Lost Name*; two unrelated Scotland Yard chief inspectors, William Sherlock and James Sherlock; Edinburgh physician Patrick Heron Watson; James Watson, a friend of Doyle’s in Southsea; the Scottish lawyer William Watson; Queen Victoria’s physician, Sir Thomas Watson; Joseph Alexandre Lestrade, a fellow alumnus of both Stonyhurst and the University of Edinburgh; the missionary and Southsea neighbor Reverend J. Gelsen Gregson; and so on. Descriptions of places are colorful and vivid, making it seem as though Sims has visited them (and maybe he has). The price is \$27.00 (\$36.00 Canadian).