



# Pink 'Un



Editor, Program Cochairperson, Tantalus: **Phil Dematteis**, 1817 Belmont Drive, Columbia SC 29206-2813; hansomwheels@aol.com

Program Cochairperson: **Diane Bodie**; dwbodie@gmail.com

Secretary (for change of address or phone number): **Myrtle Robinson**; mtr@lindau.net

Treasurer and Reservations Taker: **Kathy Newman**; katnewman@aol.com; (803) 776-9499

Spokesman Emeritus: **Cap'n Billy Rawl**; (803) 739-8951

Hansom Wheels Website (which includes *The Pink 'Un*): [www.hansomwheels.com](http://www.hansomwheels.com)

---

Volume 40, No. 4, October 2016

---

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

Twenty people came to the Palmetto Club for the August 18 meeting of the Hansom Wheels. After dinner, I blew my kazoo to get everyone's attention, announced that the game was afoot, and commanded everyone to stand to toast *the* woman, Irene Adler, and to continue standing while **Wayne Scott** led us in the Musgrave Ritual.

Next came the Happy Hour Posers, in which the goal is to dope out the titles of Holmes adventures from such clues as: 1. I, Louis, III, Dynamite, Solo, and the pig = "The Six Napoleons." (Now, if you are up on your French history, you might think that I screwed this one up: Louis Napoleon and Napoleon III were the same person, so there are only *five* Napoleons here. But I have learned from an article in *The New Yorker* that a black man named Louis Napoleon was a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad before the Civil War. So, see, *that* is the Louis Napoleon I meant. Yeah, that's the ticket! Even when I'm wrong I'm right! The other Napoleons are Napoleon I, aka Napoleon Bonaparte; Napoleon Dynamite, the nerdy teenage title character played by Jon Heder in the 2004 movie; Napoleon Solo from the 1964–1968 TV series and 2015 movie *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*; and Napoleon the pig from George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.) 2. They've painted the walls of my man cave bright red! = *A Study in Scarlet*. 3. It's a billboard advertising a performance by the Mills Brothers = *The Sign of the Four*, the Assigned Story of the Evening. 4. I left one of my flip-flops in the Czech Republic = a sandal in Bohemia = "A Scandal in Bohemia."

Under "Any and All Other Unavoidable Scionic Business" I beseeched anyone who might have a presentation they could give at a future meeting to please get in touch with me. At that point my program cochairperson **Diane Bodie** and I had nothing lined up. My appeal did result in a couple of volunteers, and **Cap'n Billy Rawl**

later came up with a speaker for the October meeting (see below); but I hereby renew my request. I'm sure there are many members who are just champing (*not* "chomping") at the bit to deliver a scholarly talk, a pastiche, a ventriloquist act—*something*—but are just too shy to speak up. But don't be: the Hansom Wheels are sweet and kindly people who would never criticize or make fun of your effort! At least not to your face.

The Featured Presentation of the Evening was "The Baker Street Irregulars: How They Began," about the origin in 1934 of our New York parent society. It was written by **John Wrisley**, narrated alternately by **Al** and **Pat McNeely**, and illustrated with PowerPoint slides prepared and shown by **your Editor**. It was refreshing to learn that the BSI founding fathers, such as Christopher Morley, Vincent Starrett, and Elmer Davis, were a bunch of drunks—just like us!



Christopher Morley, Vincent Starrett, and Elmer Davis

After the presentation, it was moved by **Wrisley** and decided by acclamation that my title as master of ceremonies would henceforth be "The Tantalus," which was one of the offices in the original BSI.

**Myrtle Robinson** read Vincent Starrett's Sacred Sonnet, "221B," and, like the cowpoke who was headin' for the Last Roundup, we saddled up Old Paint and rode.

## For October: Here, Boy! See the Aristocrat on the Path? Go Fetch!

The Hansom Wheels will meet at **7:00 P.M. Thursday, October 20**, at **The Palmetto Club, 1231 Sumter Street**. The price for dinner will be **\$22.00** per person. There will also be a cash bar.

The Featured Presentation will be a talk by a professional actor who has played Holmes: not Basil Rathbone or Jeremy Brett, because they're dead, or Benedict Cumberbatch or Jonny Lee Miller, because we can't afford them. Instead, it is **George Dinsmore**, who portrayed Holmes in the recent Chapin Theatre Company production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. **Cap'n Billy** impulsively invited him after attending a performance of the play, and Mr. **Dinsmore** graciously accepted. Among the topics

he may discuss are how he prepared for the role, what famous actor or actors (if any) he used as models for his portrayal, and some of the things that went on behind the scenes (nothing scandalous, though! Unless he wants to). He might even perform a Holmes speech from the play. Obviously, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* will be the Assigned Story for the meeting. (We last read it in September 2009.)

Please make **reservations** with **Kathy Newman** at **(803) 776-9499** or by email at [katnewman@aol.com](mailto:katnewman@aol.com) as soon as possible, but **no later than October 18**. If you reserve by email and do *not* receive a confirmation within one day, please call the number above. See you there!

## Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures)

1. Definite article; in what way or manner; coordinate conjunction; pigeon; definite article; fish that comes in both fresh-water and marine varieties; nonstraight line; diseases.
2. The Stooges go back to school.
3. Evel Knievel, all by himself.
4. Hotel guest at a Colorado ski resort.

## Your Frontal Development Is Showing

by Liese Sherwood-Fabre

Two very different characters commented on Sherlock Holmes's skull and provided quite diverse interpretations of its shape. In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Dr. Mortimer describes Holmes's skull as "dolichocephalic" with "well-marked supra-orbital development." On the other hand, Professor Moriarty in "The Final Problem" found his frontal development "lacking." Both men referred to the indication of intellectual capacity offered by the pseudoscience of phrenology.<sup>1</sup> While the variation in Sherlock's aptitude might be explained by the person making the observation, the scientific tenets of phrenology suggest another possibility, as well.

Franz Joseph Gall, the founder of phrenology, delineated four basic principles of his work:

- 1) Moral and intellectual dispositions are innate
- 2) The brain is exclusively the organ of the mind and
- 3) Is composed of as many particular and independent organs as there are fundamental powers of the mind<sup>2</sup>
- 4) Because the skull ossifies over the brain during infant development, an external examination of the size and shape of the bumps on the skull will reveal the size of the underlying brain organs<sup>3</sup>

In other words, various areas in the brain govern different intellectual and personality characteristics and by mapping these areas on the skull, certain tendencies—from aggression to perception to intelligence—can be identified.

Johann Kaspar Spruzheim, a disciple of Gall, introduced these concepts into Britain, and by the 1840s, August Comte had incorporated them into his positive psychology, greatly influencing educational and penal reform in the US and Britain.<sup>4</sup> Comte's approach involved the use of phrenology and craniology (the study of skull shapes) in order to identify and adjust deviant behaviors.<sup>5</sup> Detecting certain physical characteristics associated with different behaviors (either appropriate or inappropriate) provided a means to select out specific individuals in need specialized instruction.

By the late 1800s, most scientists rejected the concept of the shape of the skull reflecting psychological characteristics, but Gall's precepts did have two lasting legacies: the idea of a hierarchy of brain development (the most simple organisms having the most basic nervous systems and humans having the most complex) and the relationship between the shape of the skull and intellectual ability.<sup>6</sup>

Anders Retzius, a Swedish anatomist, used these concepts and his own archeological and linguistic research to develop a European racial hierarchy from the short-skulled brachycephalics (primarily Mediterraneans) to the long-skulled dolichocephalics (primarily Germans). This classification became the basis for the concept of the Aryan race and was not completely rejected by the scientific community until a hundred years later.<sup>7</sup>

For the knowledgeable Victorian, Dr. Mortimer's observation of Holmes's dolichocephaly and the supraorbital development would have been recognized as representing both superior intellectual development as well as advanced perceptive skills—certainly well-known attributes of the great detective—and calls into question Professor Moriarty's assessment occurring prior to Sherlock's self-imposed disappearance. For the phrenologist, it would suggest an increase in his already-advanced mental powers and points to the result of at least some of his activities following his "death."

1. <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/phrenology.aspx>

2. Sally Mitchell, *Victorian Britain: an Encyclopedia* (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988), page 600

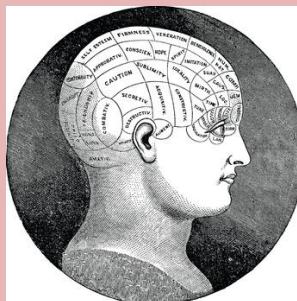
3. <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/phrenology.aspx>

4. Sally Mitchell, *Victorian Britain: an Encyclopedia* (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988), page 601

5. Clarence Ray Jeffery, *The Historical Development of Criminology*, 50 *J. Crim. L. & Criminology* 3 (1959-1960), page 7.

6. Kyllingstad, Jon Røyne. *Measuring the Master Race: Physical Anthropology in Norway, 1890-1945*. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2014. <http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0051>

7. *Ibid.*



Liese Sherwood-Fabre, Ph.D., is a published author and a member of the Napoleons of Crime and the Crew of the Barque Lone Star. More about her publications and sign-up for her personal newsletter can be found on her website, [www.liesesherwoodfabre.com](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com).