



# The Pink 'Un



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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 . . .

The Hansom Wheels met at The Palmetto Club on October 17. Nineteen good buddies attended: **Mary Dematteis, Tom Elmore, Becky and Kevin Lewis, George and Sarah Linder, Jamie McCulloch, Pat McNeely, Joyce Crout, Jerred Metz, Julie Smoak, Monte Steedley, Twyla Tuten, Carl Johnson, Elaine Johnson, Nadia Eileen Mostafa, Wayne Scott** and his sister, **Shirley Scott**, and last and least, Your Editor, **Phil Dematteis aka The Tantalus aka me**.

After dinner, I announced that the game was afoot; we toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler; and **Twyla** led us in the responsive reading of The Musgrave Ritual. We then moved to the Happy Hour Posers, where the object is to deduce the titles of Holmes stories from a series of puns: 1. My tree service guy has one more dead branch to cut off of my tree = his last bough = “His Last Bow,” the Assigned Story of the evening (**Tom Elmore** guessed “The Final Problem,” which was good but not quite good enough). 2. Theodor Geisel wrote a book about Max Schreck, who never repeated his most famous film role = the Seuss ex-vampire = “The Sussex Vampire” (Theodore Geisel wrote under the pen name “Dr. Seuss”; Max Schreck played the title character in the silent film *Nosferatu*, which is about a vampire). 3. I once played against Roger Federer, and he hit the ball back so hard that it scared the hell out of me = the volley of fear = “The Valley of Fear.” 4. They’re doing a reboot of the old detective series, with Idris Elba instead of Craig Stevens in the title role = “Black Peter [Gunn].”

The Featured Presentation was **Jerred Metz's** “Why and How I Made Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes Characters in My World War I *Angel of Mons* Novels.” Those novels are *The Angel of Mons* (2013) and its sequel, *Bellicourt Tunnel* (2017). The first one deals with the Battle of Mons in Belgium on August 23, 1914, in which, according to legend, the outnumbered British

troops were saved when St. George and a bunch of angels descended from the sky and pushed the Germans back. (**Jerred** researched this and found out that the accounts of this phenomenon did not come from the soldiers but from British writers who made it up.) Arthur Conan Doyle's brother-in-law, Malcolm Leckie, was wounded in the battle and died three days later. On the evening of that day, the Doyles, who did not know anything about his death, and some guests were being entertained by Lilly Loder-Simmons, who was doing “automatic writing,” a spiritualist practice in which the writer supposedly receives messages from beyond the grave, when her handwriting suddenly changed to that of Malcolm and announced that he was “dead but alive in spirit.” (All of this is true.) One of the guests was Sherlock Holmes, who was skeptical (this may not be true). Later on, Holmes has a private meeting with Winston Churchill. Other characters who appear in the book include William Butler Yeats and the prototypical British soldier Tommy Atkins, who gets killed and comes back to life and gets killed again. The second novel deals with the battle of Bellicourt Tunnel in France in September 1918, in which Allied troops broke through the Germans' Hindenburg Line. Doyle was there as a war correspondent for the Australian High Command (this is true). But so was Holmes, disguised as a dead German soldier! In a church he touched a statue of Joan of Arc, which came to life and took him up into the sky over the tunnel, where he descended into a German trench and then broke into German HQ, where he stole the battle plans and, in an American uniform he took from a dead soldier, carried them back to the British lines (these things may not be true). Good old Tommy Atkins shows up in this book, too.

We ended with our group recitation of the Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and went home to contemplate the idea of Sherlock Holmes as a dead German.

## For December: Compliments of the Season!\*

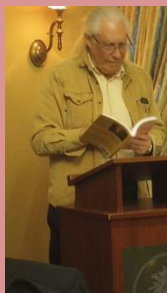
The Hansom Wheels Christmas Party will begin at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, December 5**, at **The Palmetto Club**, 1231 Sumter Street. There will be Christmas music, fabulous door prizes provided by **Richard Blenko**, and a play: **Bob Robinson's** *The Lauriston Gardens Mystery*. The price for dinner will be **\$40.00** per person; “adult beverages” will be available for an extra charge. If you have not already made your reservation(s), please do so by emailing us at [hansomwheels@aol.com](mailto:hansomwheels@aol.com)

**by 12:00 noon on Monday, December 2.** If you have made a reservation and find that you will not be able to attend, **noon on Monday, December 2**, is also the deadline for canceling. We will be charged for all the meals we have ordered by that day, whether they are consumed or not. Therefore, if you cancel after the deadline or just don't show up, we will regretfully be forced to ask you to kindly pay that \$40.00 (\$80.00 for a couple) anyway. OK? See you there!

\* From “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”: “I had called upon my friend Sherlock Holmes upon the second morning after Christmas, with the intention of wishing him the compliments of the season.” But you knew that.

## Photos from the October Meeting

Courtesy of The Tantalus, showing what happens when Richard Blenko is not at the meeting to take the pictures



**Jerred Metz** giving his presentation



**Jerred with Kevin Lewis**



**Tom Elmore** and a bit out-of-focus **Mary Dematteis (Mrs. Tantalus)**



**Becky Lewis and Jerred** (more focus problems)



**Joyce Crout and Pat McNeely**



**Jamie McCulloch with Sarah and George Linder**



**Twyla Tuten and Monte Steedley** (minus the top of his head)



**Elaine Johnson** (minus the top of *her* head) and **Carl Johnson** (*completely* out of focus!)



**The Tantalus**, silently vowing to never take another photo



**Nadia Eileen Mostafa** (with a teeny bit of her head cut off)



**Wayne Scott** (a little bit of his head gone) and his sister, **Shirley Scott**



**Julie Smoak** (all there and in focus!)

**Sorry about that! You all looked good in real life!**