

Adventure II – The Sign of Four



Paul Churchill once quipped he had a hard time studying for Sherlockian quizzes, so inspired by Simon Goodenough's *A Study in Scarlet – A Sherlock Holmes Murder Dossier*, Paul began collecting Canonical artifacts around 1990 to help him remember each story. Over 1,500 artifacts later, Paul's 'Evidence Boxes' became legendary in the Sherlockian world as he displayed them at numerous Scion meetings.

What Paul could not find, he made. He became known as a master forger, and 'created' numerous 'genuine faux' objects, such as letters, documents, and telegrams. Paul was invested in the Baker Street Irregulars in 2006 as "Corot." After Paul's passing, the Evidence Boxes were bequeathed to Watson's Tin Box Scion Society, a Society Paul co-founded in 1989. Debbie Clark has maintained the Boxes and continues the practice of displaying the items from one of the Boxes at each society meeting.

Beth Austin assisted in this effort by photographing, annotating the items, and finding the quotes for many of the items, while Denny Dobry and Rusty Mason supported Paul's efforts by photographing each of the items, as well as developing a comprehensive inventory with notations of item's mentioned in the story. Each of the Boxes is posted with permission of Debbie Clark and Jacquelynn Morris.

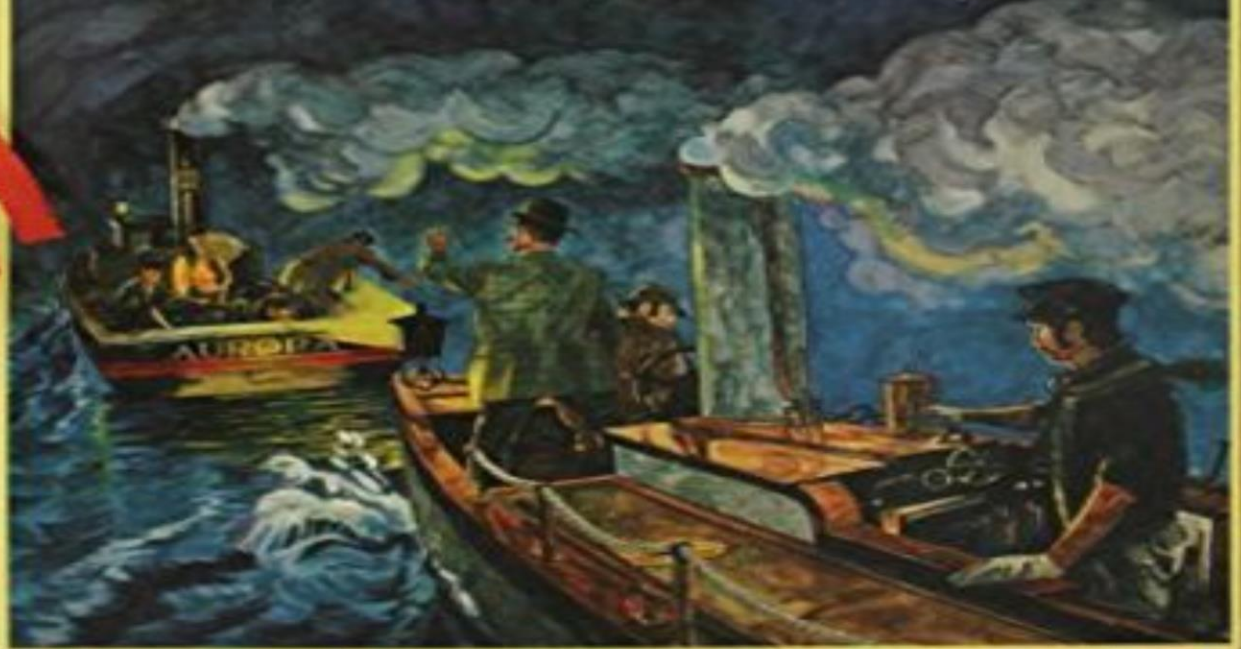
A SHERLOCK HOLMES



MURDER DOSSIER

THE SIGN OF FOUR

Based on the story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



SIMON GOODENOUGH

Pictured is Simon Goodenough's dossier of *The Sign of Four*. It includes Dr. Watson's 100 year-old scrapbook of case files, with newspaper clippings, telegrams, hand-written notes, and photographs bound into a book which is held together by a red ribbon.



Pictured is the hypodermic syringe and Morocco case Holmes would use to self-administer a drug. Watson admonishes Holmes for the use of drugs and their potential damages.

From the story:

Sherlock Holmes took his bottle from the corner of the mantel-piece, and his hypodermic syringe from its neat Morocco case.



Pictured are the Trichinopoly cigar box, as well as a tin of English Bird's Eye tobacco, as Holmes explains to Watson how determining the source of tobacco ash can be very important during an investigation.

From the story:

'To the trained eye there is as much difference between the black ash of a Trichinopoly and the white fluff of bird's-eye as there is between a cabbage and a potato.'



Pictured are the blank post cards and one-penny stamps Watson kept on his desk at Baker Street to correspond with friends, patients, and associates.

From the story:

‘I see also in your open desk there that you have a sheet of stamps and a thick bundle of post-cards.’



Pictured is the watch Watson handed to Holmes, asking him to make deductions based on the condition of the watch. Watson was distressed by what Holmes was able to determine about Watson's family from the watch.

From the story:

'Now, I have here a watch which has recently come into my possession. Would you have the kindness to let me have an opinion upon the character or habits of the late owner?'



Pictured are jeweler's glasses, which Holmes may have used for examining the pocket watch provided by Watson. Each eyepiece has a strong lens for closeup work.

From the story:

He balanced the watch in his hand, gazed hard at the dial, opened the back, and examined the works, first with his naked eyes and then with a powerful convex lens.




Pictured is the calling or visiting card for Mary Morstan. Calling cards were used as a means of introduction when visiting someone for the first time to identify the caller.

From the story:

I had opened my mouth to reply to this tirade, when, with a crisp knock, our landlady entered, bearing a card upon the brass salver.

RIMMEL'S
Elegant Novelties and Choice Perfumery.

RIMMEL'S ORIENTAL ASPERSOR,
for sprinkling scented waters
1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.
RIMMEL'S *Ilang-Ilang*,
(the Flower of Flowers),
Nouvelle Marquise, Grande Duchesse, and other delicious perfumes for the handkerchief
2s. 6d. each, 3 in a box, 7s.



RIMMEL'S TOILET VINEGAR, of world-wide celebrity for its useful and sanitary properties, 1s., 2s. 6d. and 5s.
RIMMEL'S GLYCERINE SOAP, AND LIME CREAM SOAP, highly recommended for the Skin, 6d. and 1s.
RIMMEL'S EXTRACT OF LIME JUICE AND GLYCERINE, the best Preparation for the Hair, 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d. and 5s.
RIMMEL'S PEARLINE, a perfectly harmless White for the Complexion, in boxes, 2s. 6d. and 5s.; Sample packet, 1s. (by post for 18 stamps.)
RIMMEL'S HEBE BLOOM, giving a natural rosy hue to the complexion, in boxes, 2s. 6d. and 5s. Sample packet, 1s. (by post for 18 stamps.)
RIMMEL'S HAIR DYE, for producing instantaneously a natural black or brown shade, without trouble or danger; price with brushes, Brown 5s. 6d.; Black 6s.
Rimmel's Table Fountain, to replace the Rose Water Salver, from 15s.
RIMMEL'S SURPRISE BOUQUET, containing a Screen Fan, Violets, 3s. 6d.; Roses and other Flowers, 5s.
Rimmel's Rose Water Crackers, 2s. per Dozen, One Guinea per gross.
Rimmel's Costume Crackers, each containing some piece of attire, (a most amusing device), 3s. 6d. per dozen, Two Pounds per gross.
Perfumed Illuminated Diner Cards, an indispensable adjunct to fashionable entertainments 1/6 per dozen; by post for 19 stamps.
Rimmel's Perfumed Almanack, richly illuminated, 6d., by post, 7 stamps.
Perfumed Programmes for Balls, Concerts, and Private Theatricals.

EUGENE RIMMEL
Perfumes by Appointment to H.H.H. the Princess of Wales
88, Strand; 128, Regent Street; and 24, Cornhill, London.
17, Boulevard des Italiens, Paris.

The Langham Hotel,
PORTLAND PLACE, W., LONDON.
TABLE D'HOTE, AT 6 P.M.
BILL OF FARE.

SOUPS

Mutton Broth Purée de Pois

FISH

Brochet sauce Italienne.
Anguille à la Tartare.

ENTREES

Palais de Boeuf au gratin.
Poulets au Chasseur.

JOINTS

Gigots de Mouton Rosbif

VEGETABLES

Choux-Fleurs.
Oignons d'Espagne.
Chesse.

ENTREMETS SUCRES

Tartes de Pommes à la Parisienne.

ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.
At 8 o'clock
Monday—*IL TROVATORE*
Tuesday—*LA TRAVIATA*
Thursday—*IL FLAUTO MAGICO*
Friday—*FAUST*
Saturday—*MEDEA*.

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE
At 7 o'clock.
FRIBUS VIX
AMY DOBSON. A DOMESTIC HERCULES

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.
At 8 o'clock.
THE WOLF AND THE LAMB
THE PALACE OF TRUTH
UNCLES WILL. AN ALARMING SACRIFICE

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
At 7 o'clock.
PEEP OF DAY. HES A LONATIC
THE PRETTY GIRLS OF STILLBORN.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.
At 7 o'clock.
POPFLETON'S FURBLEMENT *NELL
PAUL AND VIRGINIA

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.
This Evening at 7.
TO ORLIGE BENSON. FERNANDE
CHRISTMAS EVE

ROYAL STRAND THEATRE.
At 7 o'clock.
ON AND OFF
LIVING AT EASE
THE IDLE TRENTICK

HOLBORN THEATRE.
At 7 o'clock.
THE MARRIED BACHELOR. TURN HIM OUT
THE ODD

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
At 8 o'clock 7 o'clock.
TWO ROSES
ELIZABETH; or, the Don, the Duke, the Drake and the Invisible Armada.
CHISELLING

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
At 8 o'clock 7 o'clock.
QUEEN STURE
To be followed by ODDS
Concluding with LOCKED IN.

NEW QUEEN'S THEATRE.
At 7 o'clock.
Monday and Saturday—*TRILLER*
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday—*A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*
Preceded Each Evening by AUNT CHARLOTTE'S MAID.

GAIETY THEATRE.
At 7 o'clock.
MICHAEL AND CHRISTINE
FRA TRAVO.
TROMBALAZZARI

GLOBE THEATRE.
At 7 o'clock.
BOARD AND RESIDENCE.
THE THREE ROSES. MARCO SPADA
TAMING OF THE SHEW.

ST. JAMES'S HALL, PICCADILLY.
THE ONLY GENUINE
CHRISTY MINSTRELS
New increased to 25 performers, including all the original members (now surviving) who came from New York in 1857.
EVERY EVENING AT EIGHT.
WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 7 and 8
ALL THE FRANK BUNCH.

Tickets for the above can be obtained by leaving orders at the General Office of the Hotel; or from GEORGE BURN, Bookstiller and Librarian, 167, New Bond Street, W.

Pictured is the bill of fare, or menu, from the Langham Hotel, one of the finer hotels in Victorian London. It is situated in the district of Marylebone on Langham Place and faces up Portland Place towards Regent's Park.

From the story:
‘He telegraphed to me from London that he had arrived all safe, and directed me to come down at once, giving the Langham Hotel as his address.’



Pictured are the handwritten addresses from the packages of pearls sent to Mary Morstan. Mary kept all the addresses.

From the story:

‘There is one other point, however. Is this handwriting the same as that upon the pearl-box addresses?’

‘I have them here,’ she answered, producing half-a-dozen pieces of paper.

Be at the third pillar from
the left outside the Lyceum
Theatre tonight at seven o'clock.

If you are distrustful bring
two friends. You are a wronged
woman, and shall have justice.
Do not bring police. If you
do, all will be in vain.

Your unknown friend

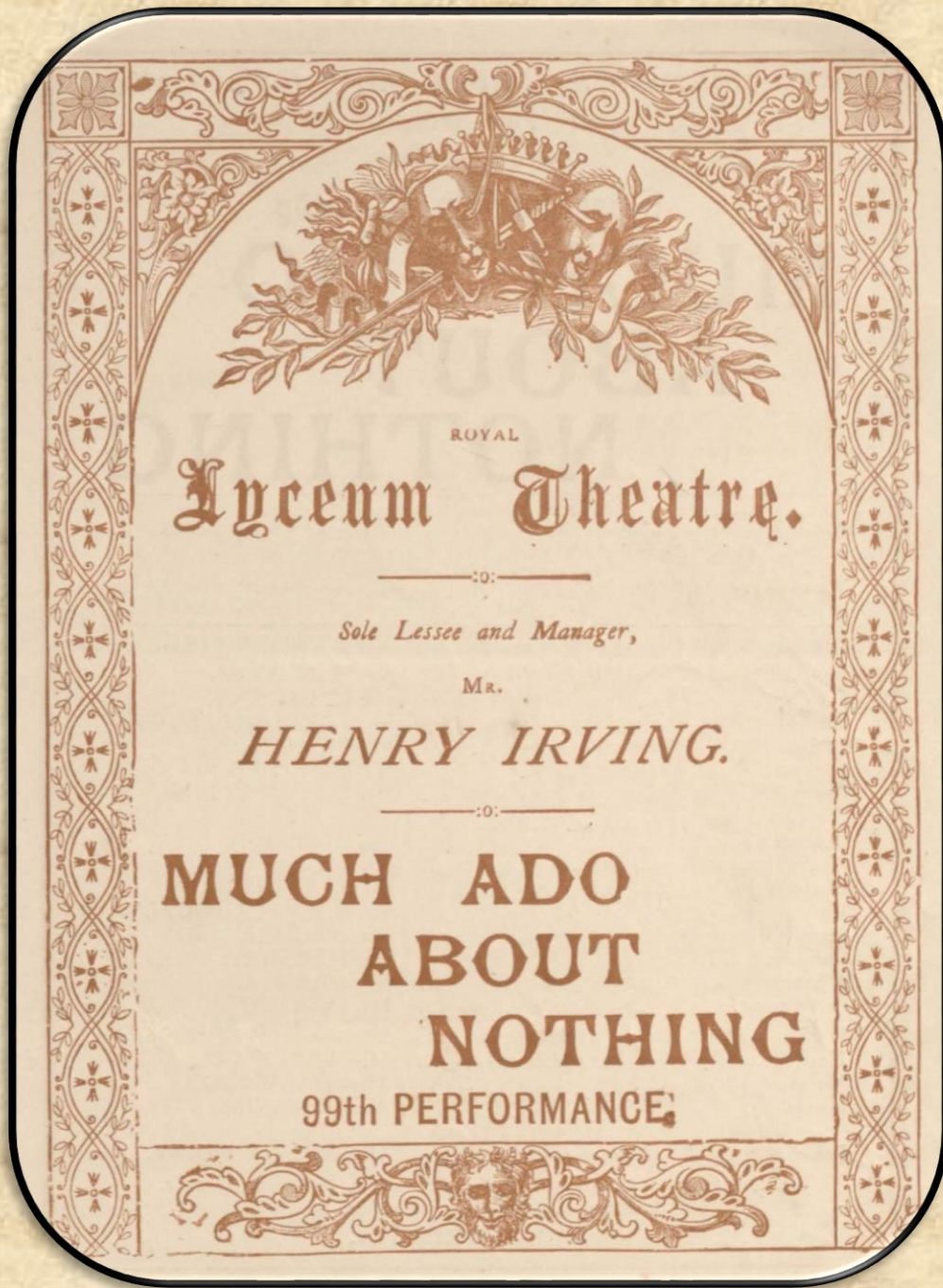
Miss Mary Morstan
% Mrs. Cecil Forrester
Knatchbull Road
Lower Camberwell, S.E. 5

Pictured is the letter summoning Mary Morstan to the 3rd pillar from the left at the Lyceum Theatre to learn more about her father.

From the story:

'This morning I received this letter, which you will perhaps read for yourself.'

Be at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre to-night at seven o'clock. If you are distrustful bring two friends. You are a wronged woman, and shall have justice. Do not bring police. If you do, all will be in vain. Your unknown friend.



Pictured is the playbill from Henry Irving's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Lyceum Theatre in 1882.

From the story:

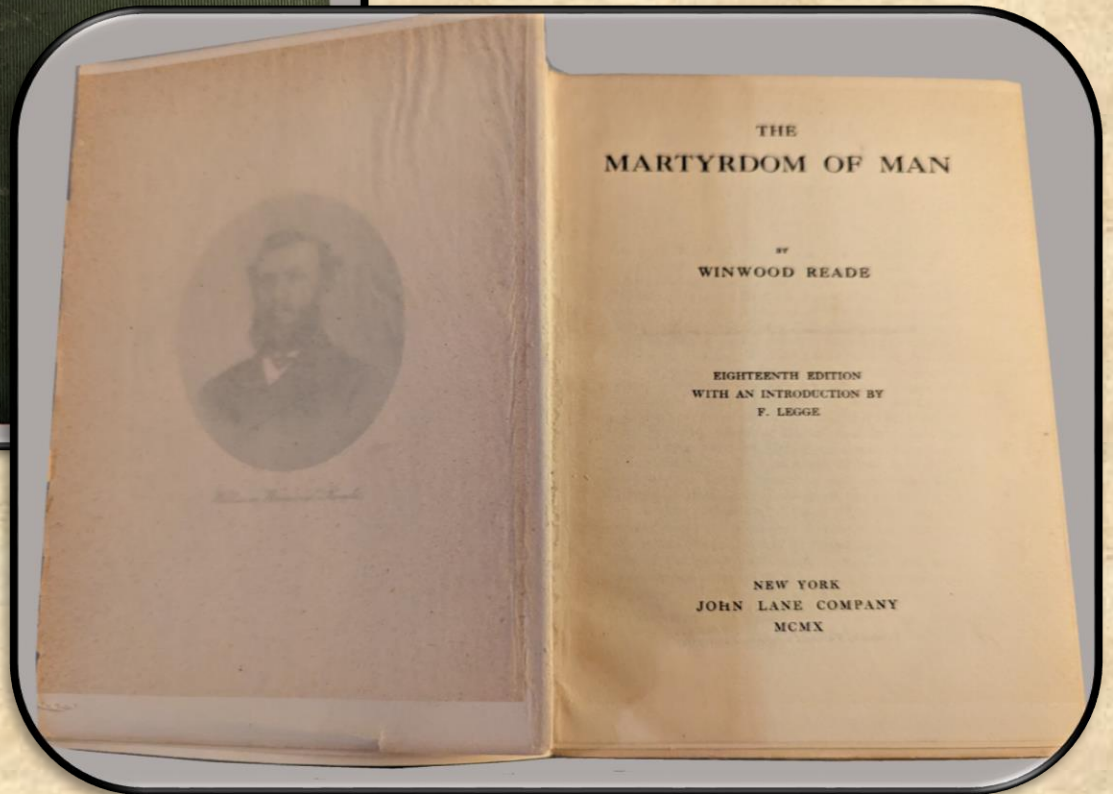
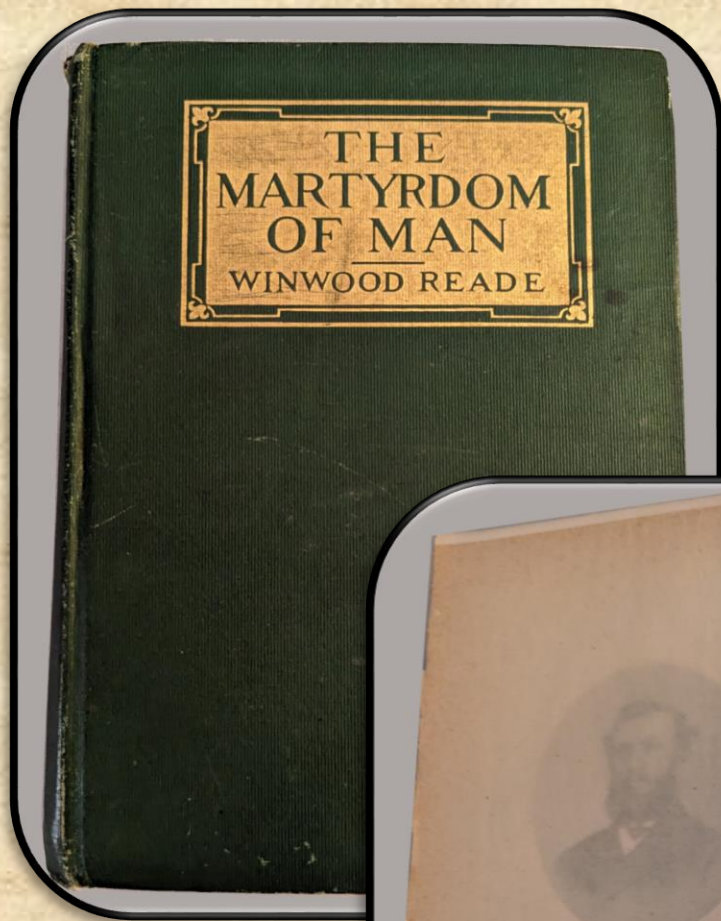
Be at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre to-night at seven o'clock. If you are distrustful bring two friends.



Pictured is the container, described as a flat box, Mary Morstan used to hold the pearls she had received by mail from an anonymous source for the past 6 years.

From the story:

She opened a flat box as she spoke and showed me six of the finest pearls that I had ever seen.



Pictured is *The Martyrdom of Man* by William Reade, a secular, "universal" history of the Western world, discussing 'war', 'religion', 'liberty', and 'intellect.' Holmes refers Watson to the book.

From the story:

'Let me recommend this book - one of the most remarkable ever penned. It is Winwood Reade *Martyrdom of Man*.'



Pictured are bottles of chianti wine, as well as a bottle of Tokay, which was offered by Thaddeus Sholto to Mary, Watson, and Holmes when they arrived at his home.

From the story:

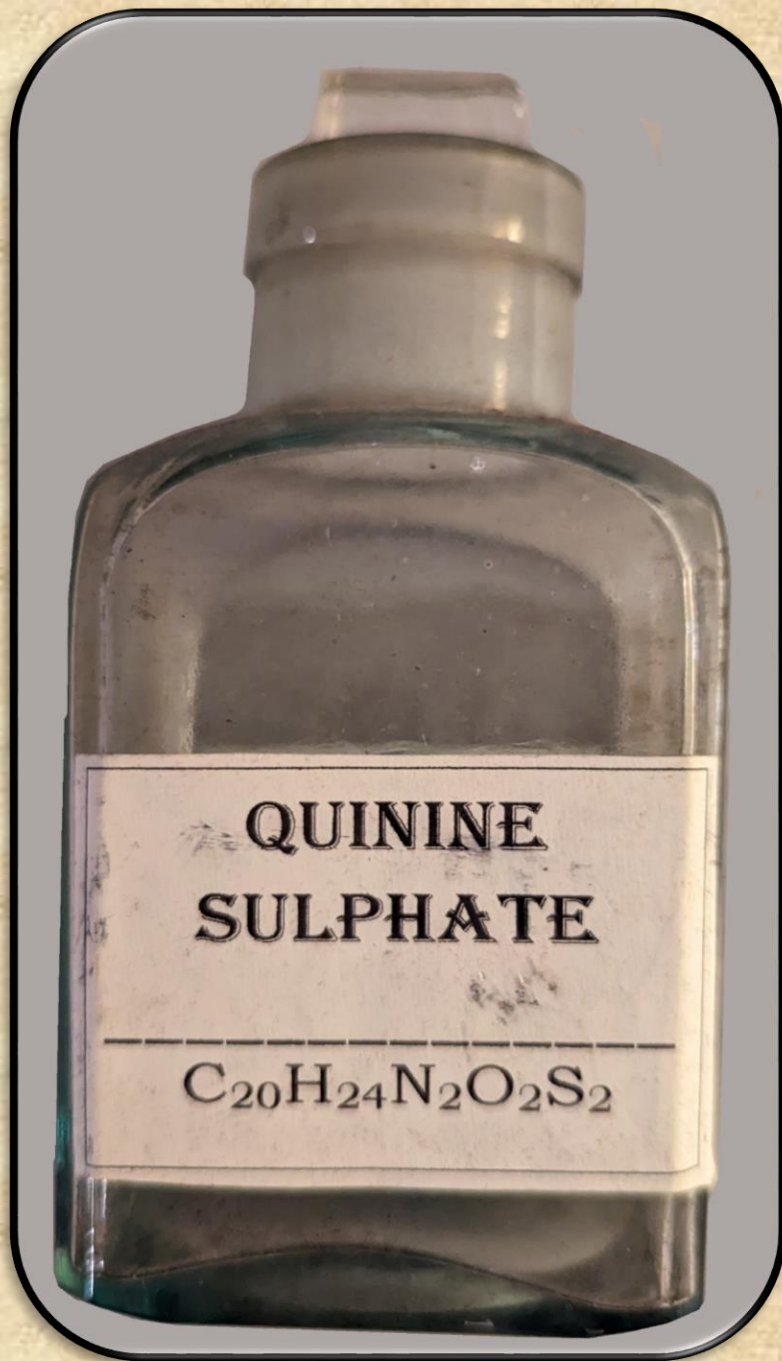
‘That is well! That is well!’ said he. ‘May I offer you a glass of Chianti, Miss Morstan? Or of Tokay? I keep no other wines. Shall I open a flask?’



Pictured are the artworks displayed at Thaddeus Sholto's residence, he claimed he was a patron of the arts, including works by Corot and Bouguereau.

From the story:

'I may call myself a patron of the arts. It is my weakness. The landscape is a genuine Corot, and, though a connoisseur might perhaps throw a doubt upon that Salvator Rosa, there cannot be the least question about the Bouguereau.'



Pictured is the bottle of quinine sulphate Major Sholto kept at his bedside. Quinine was a medication used to treat malaria and babesiosis.

From the story:

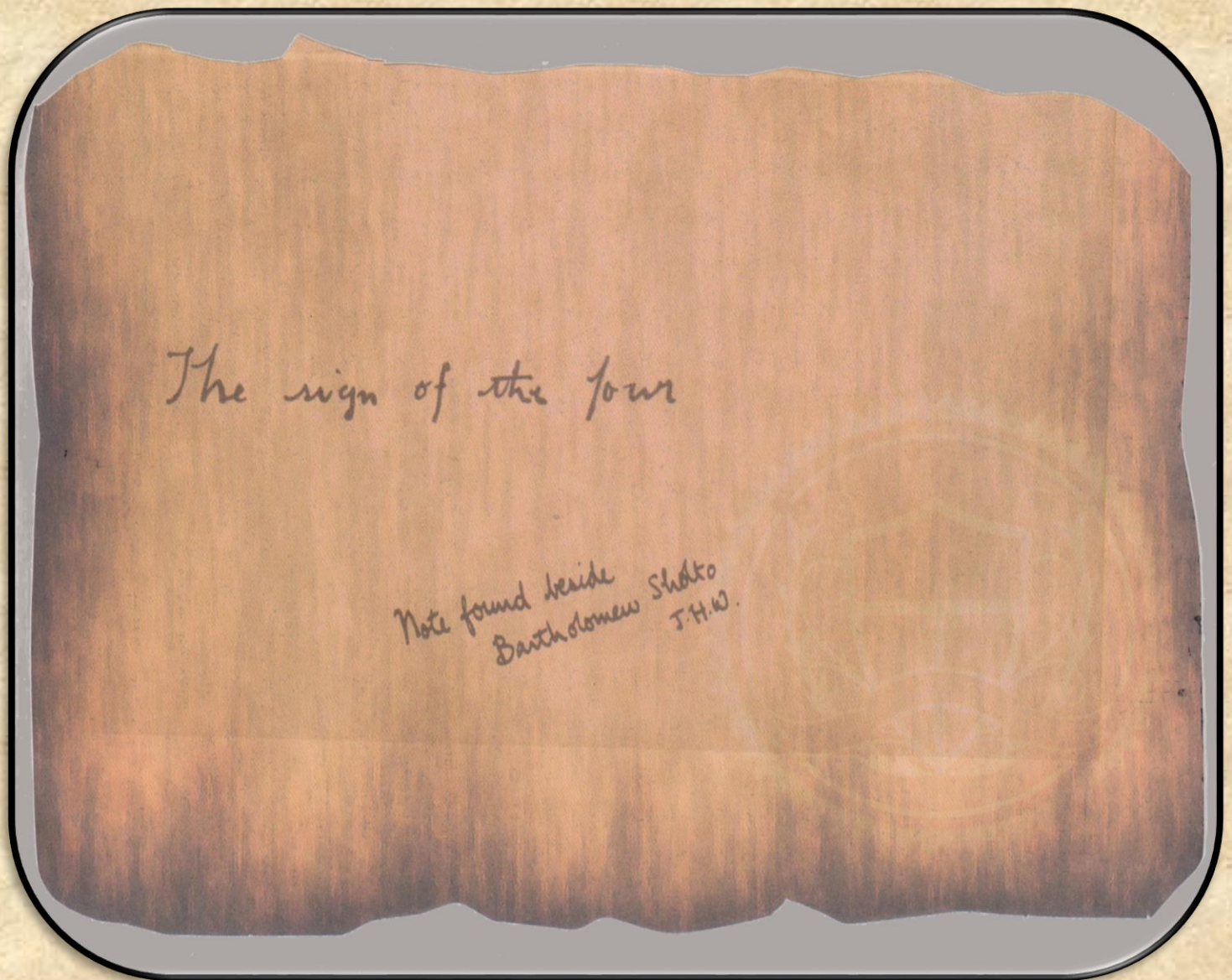
‘See that chaplet tipped with pearls beside the quinine-bottle? Even that I could not bear to part with, although I had got it out with the design of sending it to her.’



Pictured is the chaplet of pearls, which was part of the Agra Treasure. The Sholto brothers removed one pearl each year and mailed it to Mary Morstan after Major Sholto passed away.

From the story:

‘The mere feeling of possession has been so dear to me that I could not bear to share it with another. See that chaplet tipped with pearls beside the quinine-bottle?’



Pictured is the note which was discovered next to the dead Bartholomew Sholto.

From the story:

Beside it was a torn sheet of note-paper with some words scrawled upon it.

‘You see,’ he said, with a significant raising of the eyebrows.

In the light of the lantern I read, with a thrill of horror, ‘The sign of the four.’



The room in which Bartholomew Sholto was found dead was set up as a chemistry laboratory, including several carboys of liquid in the corner.

From the story:

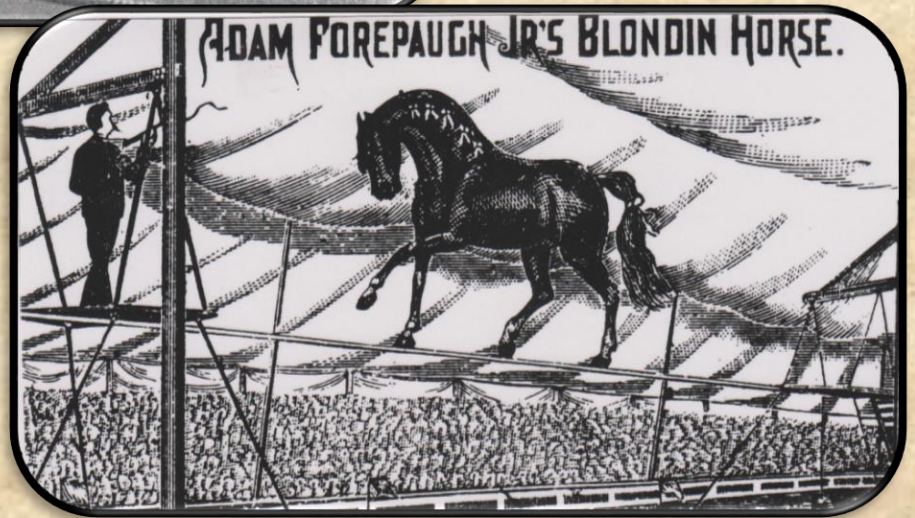
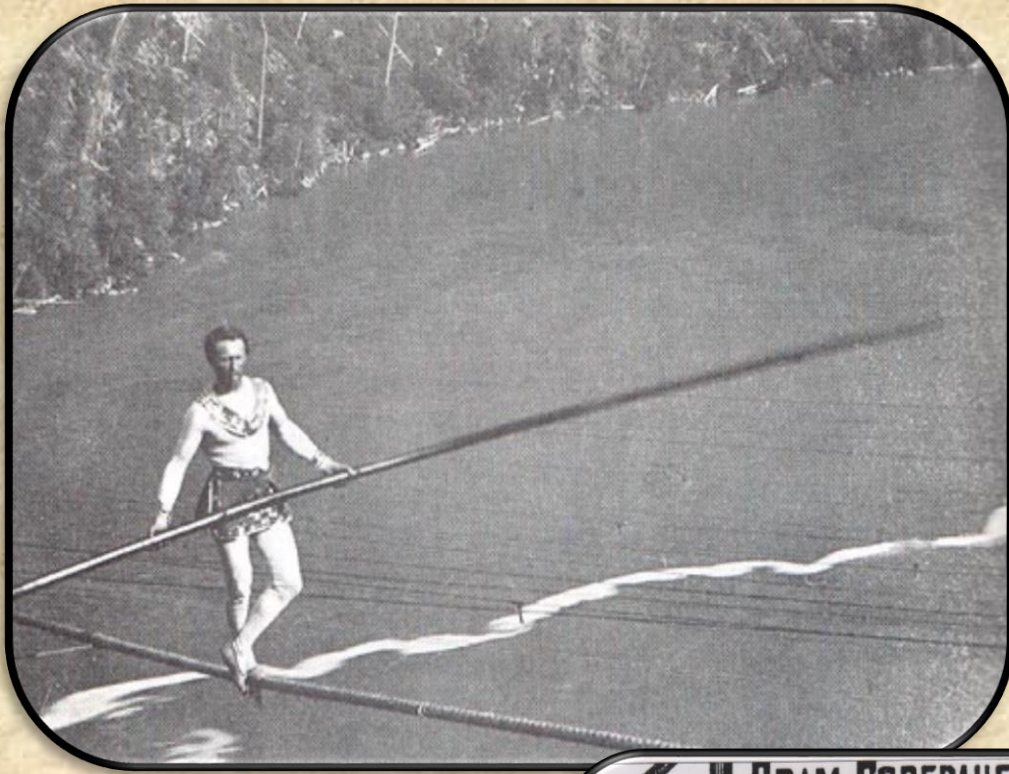
‘Number One has had the misfortune to tread in the creosote. You can see the outline of the edge of his small foot here at the side of this evil-smelling mess. The carboy has been cracked, you see, and the stuff has leaked out.’



Holmes dispatched Watson to obtain Toby, a dog with a great scent of smell from Mr. Sherman. Though not technically considered sunglasses, it was thought blue or green lenses within glasses would correct vision impairments and alleviate discomfort caused by glare.

From the story:

Mr. Sherman was a lanky, lean old man, with stooping shoulders, a stringy neck, and blue-tinted glasses.



Pictured are images of Charles Blondin, a French tight-rope artist who crossed Niagara Falls.

From the story:

‘Now run downstairs, loose the dog, and look out for Blondin.’

By the time that I got out into the grounds Sherlock Holmes was on the roof, and I could see him like an enormous glow-worm crawling very slowly along the ridge.

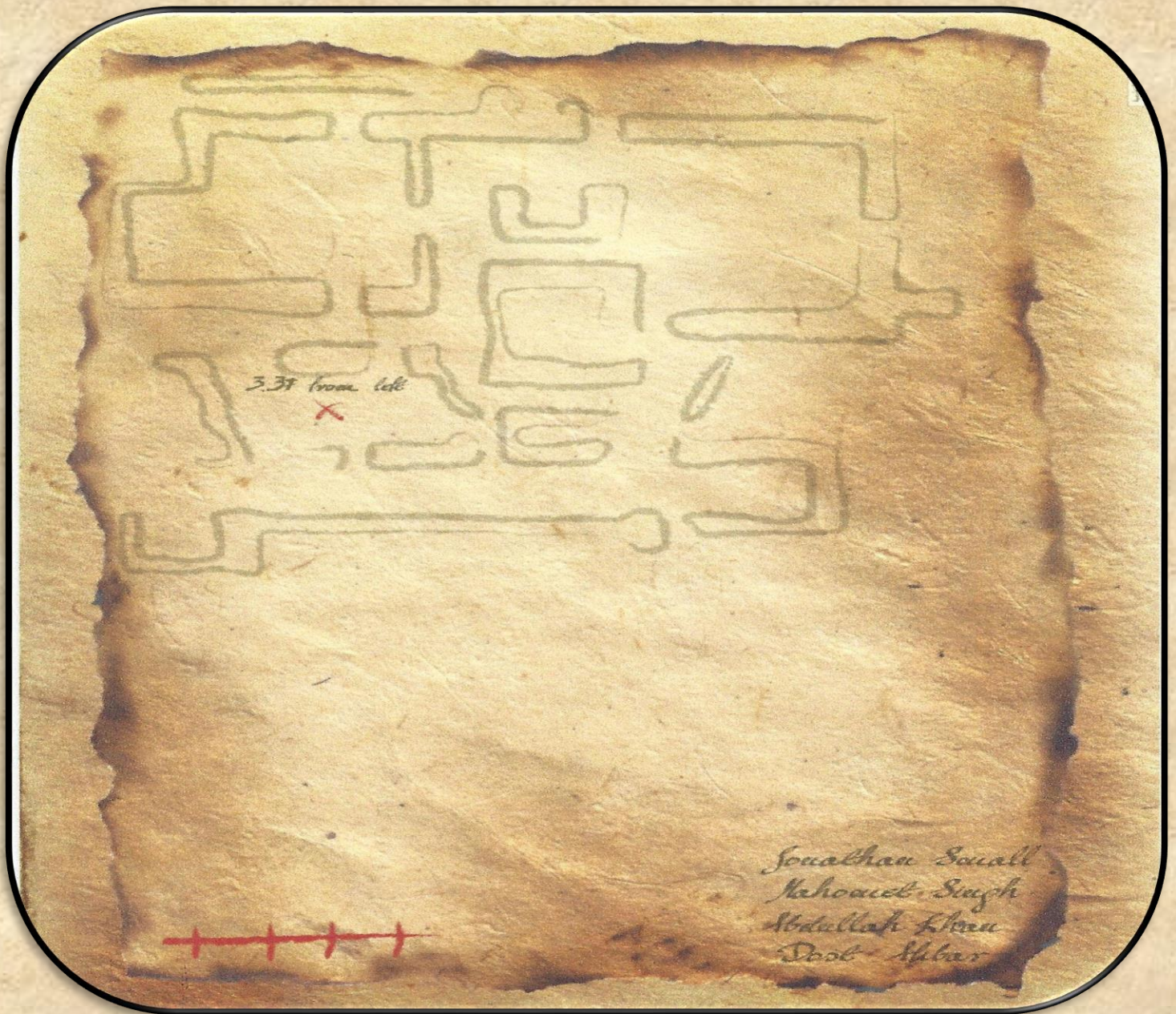


Pictured is the handkerchief Holmes uses to get a sample of the creosote spilled at Bartholomew Sholto's residence. This will be used to allow Toby to get a scent of the creosote.

From the story:

'I am going to do a little climbing. And dip my handkerchief into the creosote.'

He pushed the creosote handkerchief under the dog's nose.



Pictured is the map drawn by Jonathan Small to determine where the Treasure of Agra had been hidden until the thieves could safely retrieve it. Each of the 4 signed the document.

From the story:

‘A map is drawn for them by an Englishman named Jonathan Small. He had signed it in behalf of himself and his associates - the sign of the four, as he somewhat dramatically called it.’

A. S. P. POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. (Inland Telegrams.)

Prefix..... Code.....

No. of Message
19 Sept Report

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.
Great Peter Street P.O.

Words *13* Sent At *8.15* M

Charge *1/-* To *London*

By *HEE*

Urgent

FROM *Sherlock Holmes Esq,*
221 B Baker Street
London W.1

Please Write Distinctly.

Addresses Free. *Wiggins*
of the London
Cafe Royal

	URGENT	REQUIRE	ASSISTANCE	IRREGULARS	USUAL
1/-	RATES	REPORT	BAKER	STREET	IMMEDIATELY
	HOLMES				
1/3					
1/6					

BALANCE OF PORTERAGE
REFUNDED

NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM.
This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1866, and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.

(HARRISON & SONS, PRINTERS, LONDON)

Pictured is the telegram Sherlock Holmes dispatched to Wiggins, head of the Baker Street Irregulars, asking them to gather to assist him in the investigation.

From the story:

‘This is just the case where they might be invaluable. If they fail, I have other resources; but I shall try them first. That wire was to my dirty little lieutenant, Wiggins, and I expect that he and his gang will be with us before we have finished our breakfast.’

THE AMERICAN MARKETS.

(Through Reuters' Agency.)

NEW YORK, Sept. 11. The Stock Market to-day opened active and strong with heavy foreign purchases and covering by shorts. The bears offered some resistance, but in the afternoon Delaware and New England led an extensive upward movement, which caused advances of 1 to 2. Some speculation afterwards ceased prior to decline from the best, but the closing was strong, as figures closed to the highest. The day's business amounted to \$83,838 Shares, including—Delaware and Louisiana, 37,707; Lake Shore, 14,878; Chicago and North-Western Ordinary, 21,181; Northern Pacific Preferred, 6900; New England, 50,600; Oregon and Trans-Continental, 6923; Philadelphia and Reading, 45,800; Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul, 83,827; Union Pacific, 8162; and Western Union Telegraph, 14,027. Money was at 2 to 3, and the last loan was done at 2.

Wheat opened weaker at 4c, decline, with early sales of December at 101 1/2, and May 103 1/2 to 103 1/4. There were few sales for long and foreign account, and the market gave sharply. The demand for shipment was moderate, and at the close the tone is weak, at a decline of 1/4c to 1/2c.

Corn opened 1/4c lower, and has been depressed and somewhat irregular on heavy liquidating by holders. A fair demand for shipment was experienced, but the closing is weak, at 1/2c to 1/4c.

Lard opened firm, and has been again active on speculative buying. There was, however, only a light cash trade, and the closing is firm at some advance for most portions.

CHICAGO, Sept. 11. Wheat opened weak at 1/2c, fall on distant trading, but current month was slightly stronger in trading. The market was down at 101 1/2 to 101 1/4, and 103 1/2 to 103 1/4, and the market broke heavily for current month, and covering of short contracts for this month, and the closing is weak, 1/2 to 1/4c, and the closing is firm at some advance for most portions.

Corn opened 1/4c decline, and in sympathy with depressing effect. Favorable crop prospects has depressing effect, and the closing is weak, 1/2 to 1/4c.

Table with columns for various commodities and their prices. Includes items like Call Money, U.S. Gov Bonds, Cash Treasury, etc.

Vertical text on the right side of the page, partially obscured by the newspaper clipping.

MYSTERIOUS BUSINESS AT UPPER NORWOOD

About twelve o'clock last night, Mr. Bartholomew Sholto, of Pondicherry Lodge, Upper Norwood, was found dead in his room under circumstances which point to foul play. As far as we can learn, no actual traces of violence were found upon Mr. Sholto's person, but a valuable collection of Indian gems which the deceased gentleman had inherited from his father had been carried off. The discovery was first made by Mr. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, who had called at the house with Mr. Thaddeus Sholto, brother of the deceased. By a singular piece of good fortune, Mr. Athelney Jones, the well-known member of the detective police force, happened to be at the Norwood police station and was on the ground within half an hour of the first alarm. His trained and experienced faculties were at once directed towards the detection of the criminals, with the gratifying result that the brother, Thaddeus Sholto, has already been arrested, together with the housekeeper, Mrs. Bernstone, and the Indian butler, named Lal Rao, and a porter, or gate-keeper, named McMurdo. It is quite certain that the thief or thieves were well acquainted with the house, for Mr. Jones's well-known technical knowledge and his powers of minute observation have enabled him to prove conclusively that the miscreants could not have entered by the door or by the window but must have made their way across the roof of the building, and so through a trapdoor into a room which communicated with that in which the body was found. This fact, which has been very clearly made out, proves conclusively that it was no mere haphazard burglary. The prompt and energetic action of the officers of the law shows the great advantage of the presence on such occasions of a single vigorous and masterful mind. We cannot but think that it supplies an argument to those who would wish to see our detectives more de-centralized, and so brought into closer and more effective touch with the cases which it is their duty to investigate.

...furnished it with plates... attractions, and opened... ready-made stock pur-... the Passage at Bemson... generally having for a time... Smith made an arrangement... which, on receipt of four... he was to find himself to... Theatre shut during the... in this Mr. Smith made a... called by Mr. Mapleson, he... the services of Adeline Patti... only unknown on this side of... Smith having taken his four... Mr. Mapleson made an... Patti and with Strakos, her... and Mapleson, by which the... of the future was to sing for... went abroad to make some... had just secured a com-... on his return to London, which... had made terms for his... with Mr. Gye. Mr. Mapleson... Thelma Groun and other... company. But he had a hard... and he finished his season... fifteen hundred pounds. He... this money back, and then... and his career into which he... himself to be tempted. But... ten years have passed since... time Mr. Mapleson has... ively employed as Opera... through, he has characteris-... lopes to do so.

MYSTERIOUS BUSINESS AT UPPER NORWOOD

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MURKIN IN BERKHAMPTON, FRANKS, AND GEMMELL... BY RECENTLY WAS SEEN ONE OF THE BERKHAMPTON... AND FRANKS'S BROTHER, OR INTERESTED PARTY, JOHN... MR. HARRISON ATTENDS AT BERKHAMPTON, AT ONE ON WEDNESDAY... CONSIDERED OR PROSECUTED IN THE MIDDLE WEST FOR THE...

Pictured is an article from The Evening Standard describing the death of Bartholomew Sholto, with the body being discovered by Sherlock Holmes and Athelney Jones.

From the story: 'Here it is,' said he, laughing and pointing to an open newspaper. 'The energetic Jones and the ubiquitous reporter have fixed it up between them.'



Pictured are coins of the Victorian period – a shilling, a florin, and a sovereign. Holmes paid his Baker Street Irregulars a regular fee for their services.

From the story:

‘The old scale of pay, and a guinea to the boy who finds the boat. Here's a day in advance. Now, off you go!’

He handed them a shilling each, and away they buzzed down the stairs, and I saw them a moment later streaming down the street.



Pictured are the blow pipe and beaded/woven grass container for darts used by Tonga to dispatch his victims.

From the story:

‘These little darts, too, could only be shot in one way. They are from a blowpipe. Now, then, where are we to find our savage?’



Pictured is the stone axe inadvertently left behind by Tonga at Bartholomew Sholto's residence after the murder of the Sholto brother.

From the story:

'Diminutive footmarks, toes never fettered by boots, naked feet, stone-headed wooden mace, great agility, small poisoned darts. What do you make of all this?'

ZELL'S
POPULAR ENCYCLOPEDIA,

A
UNIVERSAL DICTIONARY

OF
ENGLISH LANGUAGE, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND ART.

BY
L. COLANGE, LL.D.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

Illustrated by over One Thousand Wood-Cuts.

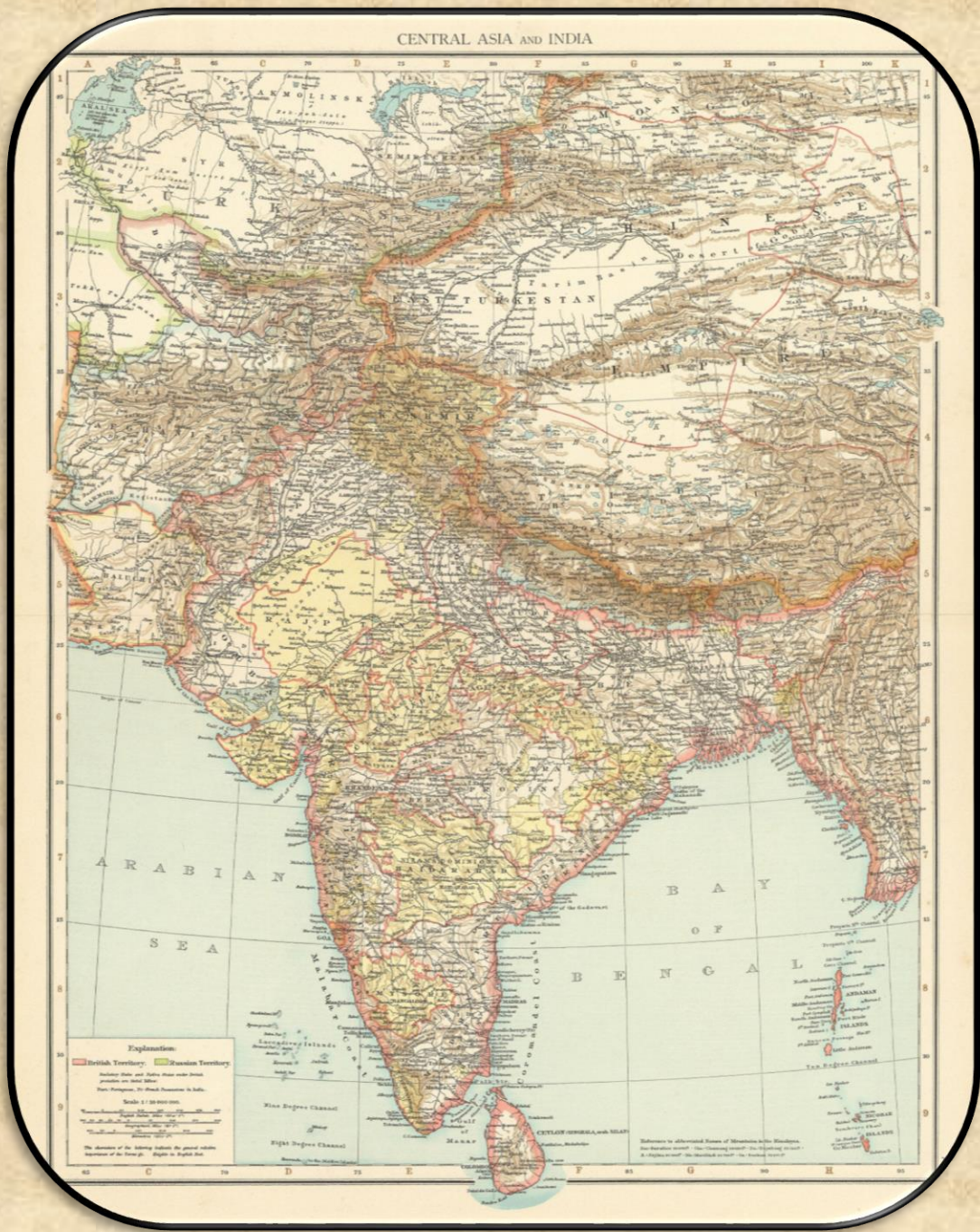
VOL. I.

PHILADELPHIA:
T. ELLWOOD ZELL.
1870.

Pictured is Zell's *Popular Encyclopedia*, a Complete Dictionary of the English Language with a Pronouncing Vocabulary and a Gazetteer of the World. This source described the Andaman Islanders as cannibals!

From the story:

'This is the first volume of a gazetteer. They are naturally hideous, having large, misshapen heads, small, fierce eyes, and distorted features. These massacres are invariably concluded by a cannibal feast.'



Pictured is a *London Times* 1895 map of India, showing the Andaman Islands.

From the story:

‘Since, however, we had already determined that Small had come from the Andamans, it is not so very wonderful that this islander should be with him.’

No. of Message

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
(Inland Telegrams.)

Prefix A. W Code MIP

Office of Origin and Service Instructions: Poplar

Words 30 Sent At 12.00

Charge 1/6 To SY

By BIG

To account of
Scotland Yard
21st Sept
1888

(A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, please apply for it.)

FROM Sholto Holmes Esq. Please Write Distinctly.

221B Baker Street

Address Recd. Athelny Jones Esq.

London W Scotland Yard

4 Whitehall Place

1/16	GO	BAKER	STREET	AT	ONCE
1/8	IF	NOT	RETURNED	WHIT	FOR
1/8	ME	AM	CLOSE	ON	TRACK
1/8	OF	SHOLTO	GANG	COME	WITH
1/8	US	TONIGHT	IF	YOU	WANT
1/8	TO	BE	IN	BALANCE OF PORTERAGE AT REFUNDED	FINISH

NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM.

This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1866, and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.

(HARRISON & SONS, PRINTERS, LONDON)

Pictured is the telegram Sherlock Holmes dispatched to Athelny Jones, asking Jones to meet him at Baker Street.

From the story:
 He took the telegram out of his pocket, and handed it to me. It was dated from Poplar at twelve o'clock. 'Go to Baker Street at once,' it said. 'If I have not returned, wait for me. I am close on the track of the Sholto gang. You can come with us to-night if you want to be in at the finish.'



Pictured is the white wig Holmes used as part of his disguise as an old man.

From the story:

He was an aged man, clad in seafaring garb, with an old pea-jacket buttoned up to his throat. His back was bowed, his knees were shaky, and his breathing was painfully asthmatic.

‘Here is the old man,’ said he, holding out a heap of white hair. ‘Here he is - wig, whiskers, eyebrows, and all.’



Pictured are two collar lugs for the Thames River Police Branch of Scotland Yard. The Thames River Police was formed in 1800 to tackle theft and looting from ships anchored in the Pool of London and in the lower reaches and docks of the Thames.

From the story:

Jones, Holmes, and I sat in the stern. There was one man at the rudder, one to tend the engines, and two burly police-inspectors forward.



Pictured are the night glasses Holmes used while on watch at Jacobson's Yard.

From the story:

'Cruise gently up and down here under cover of this string of lighters.'
He took a pair of night-glasses from his pocket and gazed some time at the shore.



As Holmes, Watson, and Jones pursued Small and Tonga down the Thames River, several iconic sites were passed by the police boat.

From the story:

While this conversation had been proceeding, we had been shooting the long series of bridges which span the Thames. As we passed the City the last rays of the sun were gilding the cross upon the summit of St. Paul's. It was twilight before we reached the Tower.



Pictured is a post card of the Thames River with St. Paul's seen in the background. Holmes and Watson passed St. Paul's while pursuing Small and Tonga on the River.

From the story:

'While this conversation had been proceeding, we had been shooting the long series of bridges which span the Thames. As we passed the City the last rays of the sun were gilding the cross upon the summit of St. Paul's.'



Pictured is the flask carried by Holmes. Hip flasks were normally made of pewter or silver. The hip flask began to appear in the 18th century, initially used by members of the gentry.

From the story:

‘Have a cigar,’ said Holmes; ‘and you had best take a pull out of *my flask*, for you are very wet.’

‘I think I shall have a pull at that flask, Holmes.’



Pictured is the Benares work chest which held the Agra treasure. Benares was an Indian city famous for iron works. The hasp of the chest was an image of Buddha.

From the story:

‘What a pretty box!’ she said, stooping over it. ‘This is Indian work, I suppose?’

‘Yes; it is Benares metal-work.’

There was in the front a thick and broad hasp, wrought in the image of a sitting Buddha.



Pictured is the cap badge for the Buffs, formerly the 3rd Regiment of Foot, a line infantry regiment of the British Army traditionally raised in the English county of Kent and garrisoned at Canterbury.

From the story:

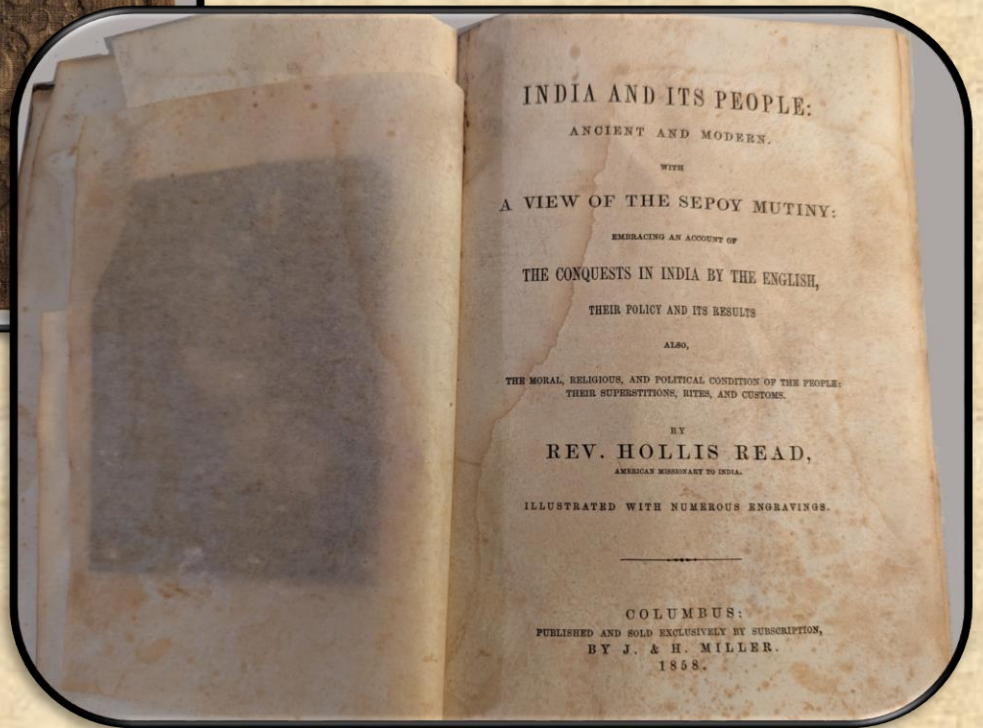
I got into a mess over a girl, and could only get out of it again by taking the Queen's shilling and joining the 3rd Buffs, which was just starting for India.



Pictured is the ribbon issued to those British soldiers who participated in the Sepoy Mutiny, also known as the Indian Mutiny, which occurred from 1857-1859.

From the story:

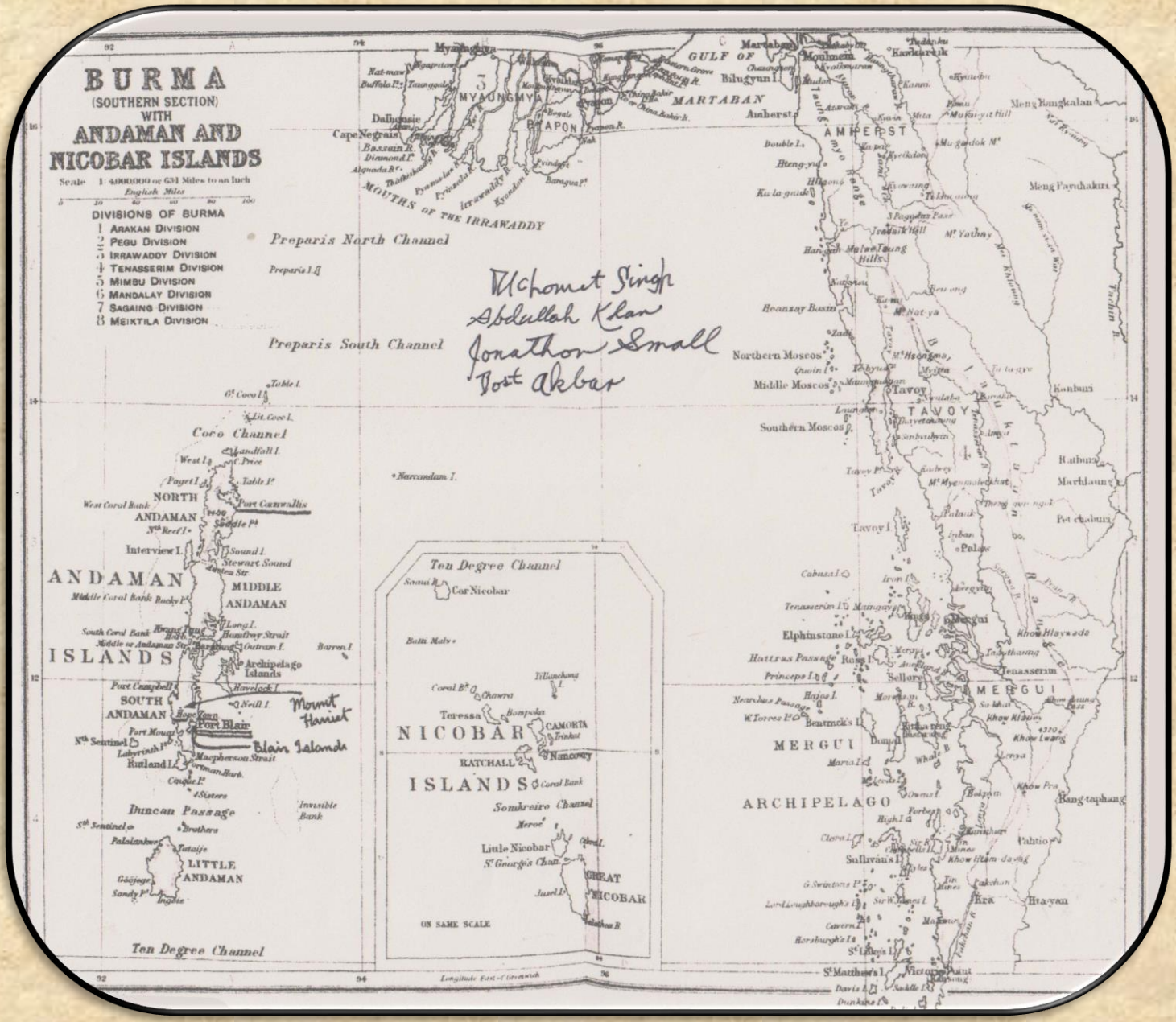
‘Suddenly, without a note of warning, the great mutiny broke upon us. One month India lay as still and peaceful, to all appearance, as Surrey or Kent; the next there were two hundred thousand black devils let loose, and the country was a perfect hell.’



Pictured is *India and her People: Ancient and Modern, with a View of the Sepoy Mutiny*. The provides a comprehensive look at Indian history, which would figure into the fate of Jonathan Small.

From the story:

‘Well, there's no use my telling you gentlemen what came of the Indian Mutiny.’



Pictured is a map of the Andaman Islands where Jonathan Small was held prisoner and where he met Tonga.

From the story:
 ‘At last it seemed to me to have come. I was changed from Agra to Madras, and from there to Blair Island Bank in the Andamans.’

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MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of St. Martin
in the Fields, in the County of MIDDLESEX, in the Year

1888

John Hamish Watson and Mary Morstan
both of this parish

were Married in this Church by Banns
this 21st Day of November in the Year
One Thousand Eight Hundred and eighty-eight
by me John Jellicoe Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us

In the Presence of

Shubert Holmes
Johns Grogan
H. Lestrade

Audley Stamford
Hudson Cholton

The above is a COPY from the REGISTER BOOK of MARRIAGES
belonging to this CHURCH.

Witness my Hand this 7th Day of December 1888

J. H. Jellicoe

Pictured is a page from the Middlesex County register, showing evidence of the marriage between John H. Watson and Mary Morstan on November 21st of 1888.

From the story:

'I fear that it may be the last investigation in which I shall have the chance of studying your methods. Miss Morstan has done me the honour to accept me as a husband in prospective.'

Additional items of interest
in *The Sign of Four* not
included in the original
Evidence Box.

**OBSERVATION ON
THE INFLUENCE OF
A TRADE UPON
THE FORM OF THE
HAND**

*with lithotypes of the
hands of slaters,
sailors, corkcutters,
compositors, weavers,
and diamond-polishers.*

**UPON THE
DISTINCTION
BETWEEN THE
ASHES OF THE
VARIOUS
TOBACCOS.**

*Identification of one
hundred and forty
forms of cigar,
cigarette, and pipe
tobacco, with coloured
plates illustrating the
difference in the ash.*

**OBSERVATION ON
FOOTSTEPS WITH
SOME REMARKS
UPON THE USES
OF PLASTER OF
PARIS AS A
PRESERVER OF
IMPRESSES**

Pictured are the monographs Holmes has written on various technical subjects, and provided to Watson as examples of the work he is interested in.

From the story:

‘Yes, I have been guilty of several monographs. Here, for example, is one ‘Upon the Distinction Between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos.’ Here is my monograph upon the tracing of footsteps. Here, too, is a curious little work upon the influence of a trade upon the form of the hand.’



Pictured is the Jezail bullet which wounded Watson during the Battle of Maiwand. The bullet hit Watson in the leg, causing him pain for years to come.

From the story:

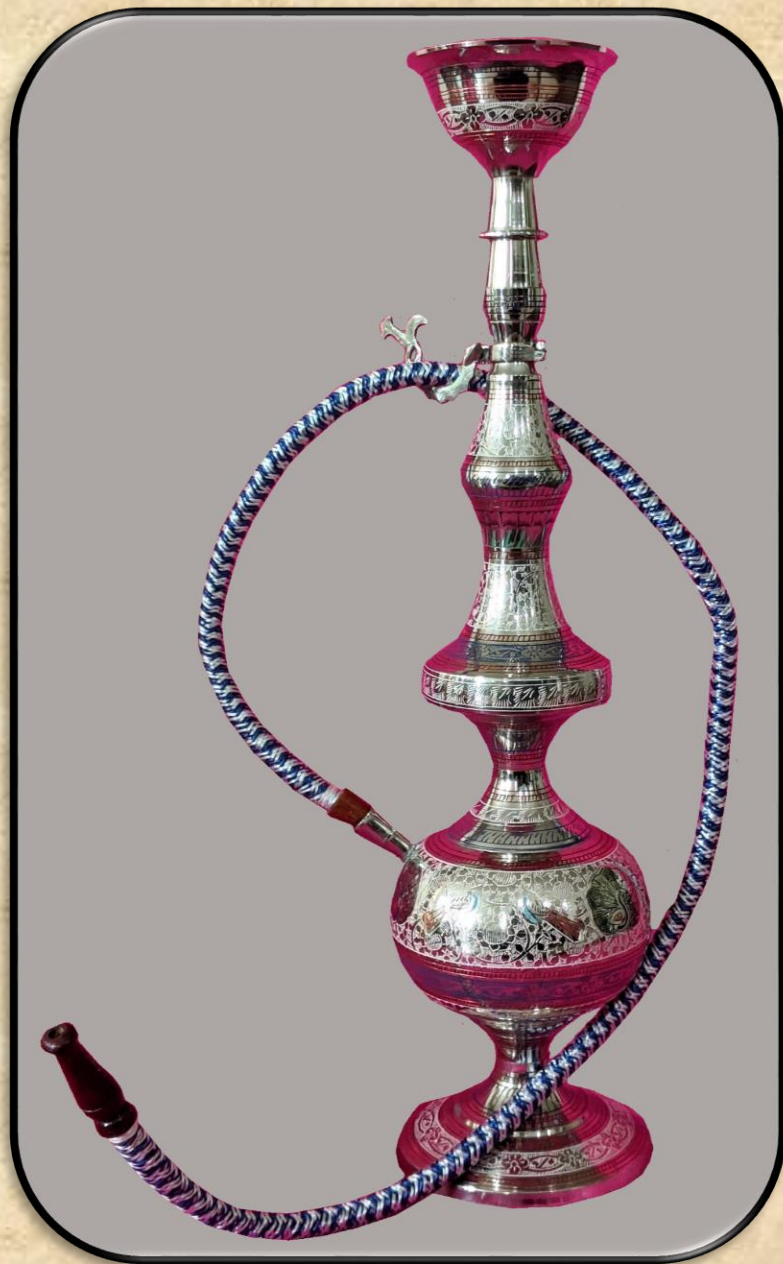
I made no remark, however, but sat nursing my wounded leg. I had had a Jezail bullet through it some time before, and, though it did not prevent me from walking, it ached wearily at every change of the weather.



Pictured is the pistol Holmes was accustomed to carrying, and may have adorned his wall at Baker Street with bullet marks. The pistol is a Webley R.I.C. Metropolitan and County Police No. 1, very popular with police forces in the 1880s.

From the story:


I picked up my hat and my heaviest stick, but I observed that Holmes took his revolver from his drawer and slipped it into his pocket. It was clear that he thought that our night's work might be a serious one.



Pictured is the hookah used by Thaddeus Sholto when visited by Holmes, Watson, and Mary Morstan. A hookah, or waterpipe is a single- or multi-stemmed instrument for vaporizing and then smoking tobacco. The smoke is passed through a water basin before inhalation.

From the story:

‘Then, I trust that you have no objection to tobacco smoke, to the balsamic odour of the Eastern tobacco. I am a little nervous, and I find my hookah an invaluable sedative.’



We are coming for the treasure.
Count your days as numbered.

Pictured is the short letter received by Major Sholto in early 1882 from India which forced him to bed and quickened his demise.

From the story:

He nearly fainted at the breakfast-table when he opened it, and from that day he sickened to his death. What was in the letter we could never discover, but I could see as he held it that it was short and written in a scrawling hand.



Pictured is the lantern held by McMurdo when he opened the door to Watson, Holmes, Morstan, and Thaddeus Sholto at Pondicherry Lodge.

From the story:

Our guide had left us the lantern. Holmes swung it slowly round, and peered keenly at the house, and at the great rubbish-heaps which cumbered the grounds.

Sherlock Holmes took the lamp and led the way.



Pictured is a “bull’s-eye” lantern carried by London police officers. Holmes borrows such a lantern when he ascends to the roof of Pondicherry Lodge.

From the story:

‘Lend me your bull's-eye, sergeant,’ said my companion. ‘Now tie this bit of card round my neck, so as to hang it in front of me. Thank you.’



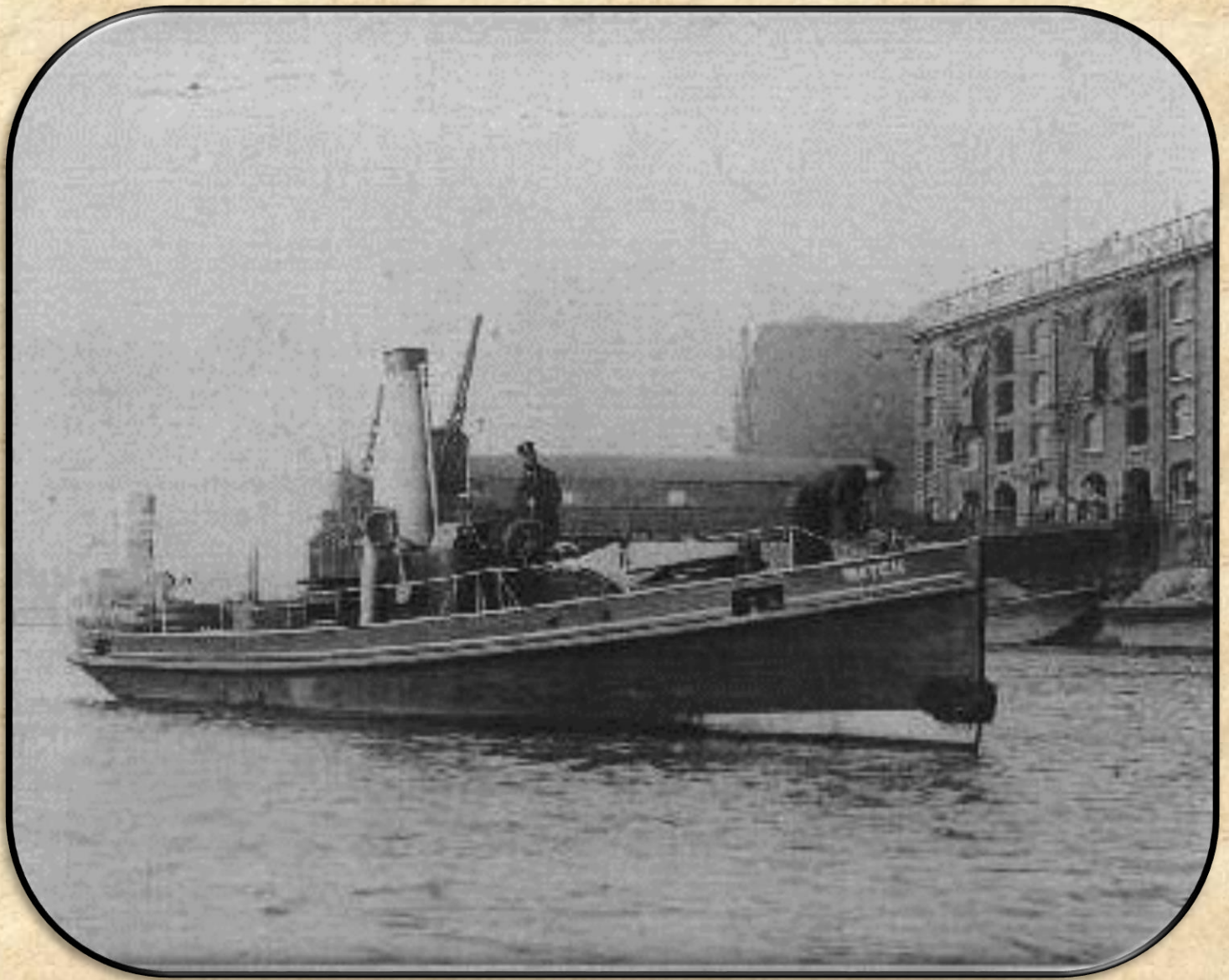
Pictured is the service revolver issued to Watson when he served in the British Army, an Adams Mark II Model 1892.

From the story:

‘Have you a pistol, Watson?’

‘I have my old service-revolver in my desk.’

‘You had best take it, then. It is well to be prepared.’



Pictured is a postcard of a Thames River Police Steam launch, such as the vessel Jones, Holmes, and Watson used to pursue Small and Tonga down the River.

From the story:

It was a little past seven before we reached the Westminster Wharf, and found our launch awaiting us. Holmes eyed it critically.