

Adventure III -- A Scandal in Bohemia



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.



Pictured is a cabinet photo of Irene Adler, a contralto singer from New Jersey, pursued by the King of Bohemia for a photo of the two. 'The Woman'.

From the story:

And yet there was but one woman to him, and that woman was the late Irene Adler, of dubious and questionable memory.



No. 9791. — Gazogene, for making soda and seltzer water, &c., which can be drawn off in small quantities when the machine is fully charged. Made of thick, clear glass, covered with wicker, and with white metal tap.

Pictured is a gasogene, a device for producing carbonated water. It consists of two linked glass globes: the lower contained the liquid to be made sparkling, the upper a mixture of tartaric acid and sodium bicarbonate that reacts to produce carbon dioxide, which would be mixed with the liquid.

From the story:

With hardly a word spoken, but with a kindly eye, he waved me to an arm-chair, threw across his case of cigars, and indicated a spirit case and a gasogene in the corner.



Pictured is a box gasogene powder, a mixture of tartaric acid and sodium bicarbonate which will react to produce carbon dioxide, which would be mixed with the liquid within a gasogene to produced carbonated water or other liquid.

From the story:

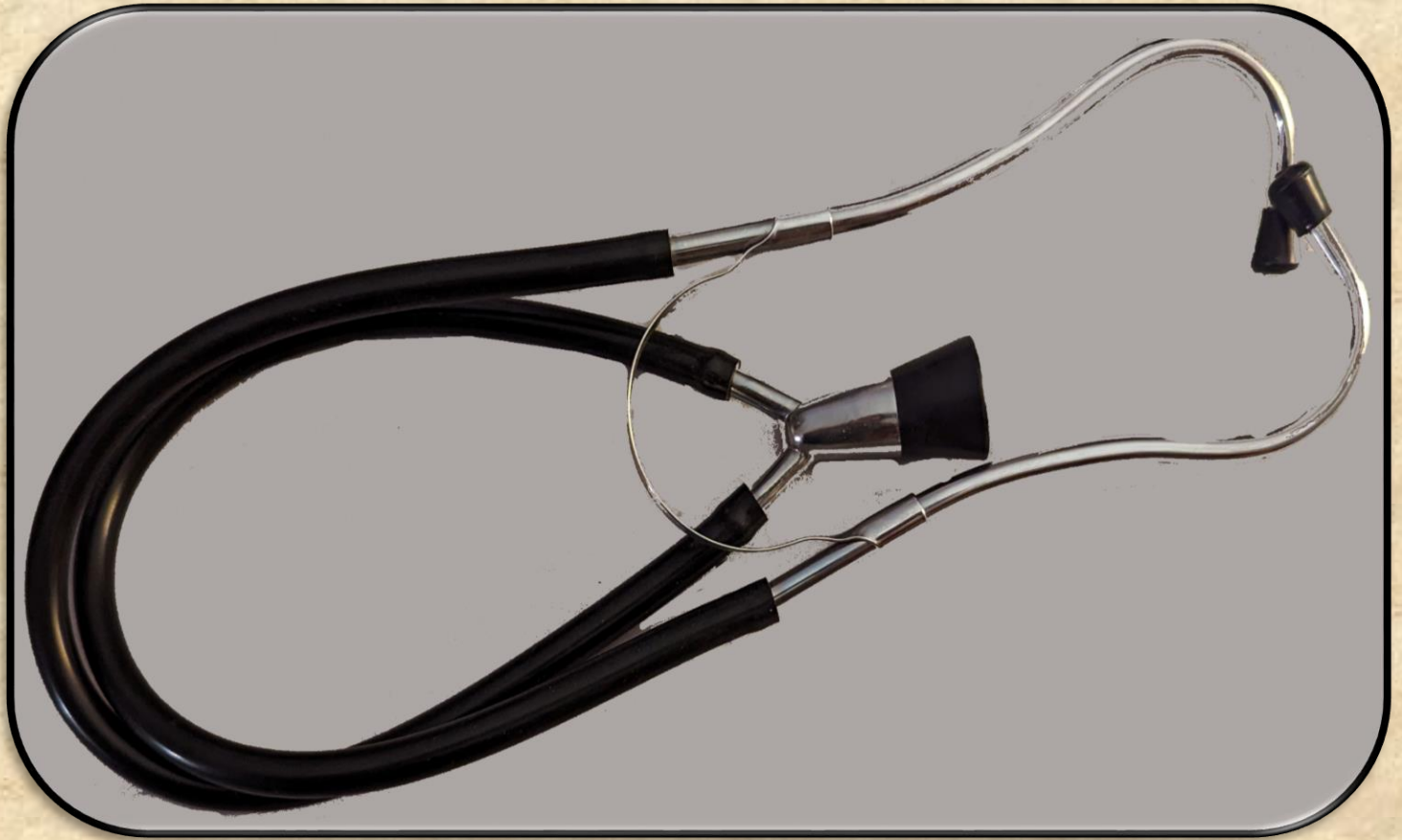
With hardly a word spoken, but with a kindly eye, he waved me to an arm-chair, threw across his case of cigars, and indicated a spirit case and a gasogene in the corner.



Pictured is the stamped envelope addressed to Sherlock Holmes and containing a stiff pink letter announcing the arrival of a “gentleman who desires to consult” with Holmes, and showing uncourteous behaviour toward his verbs.

From the story:

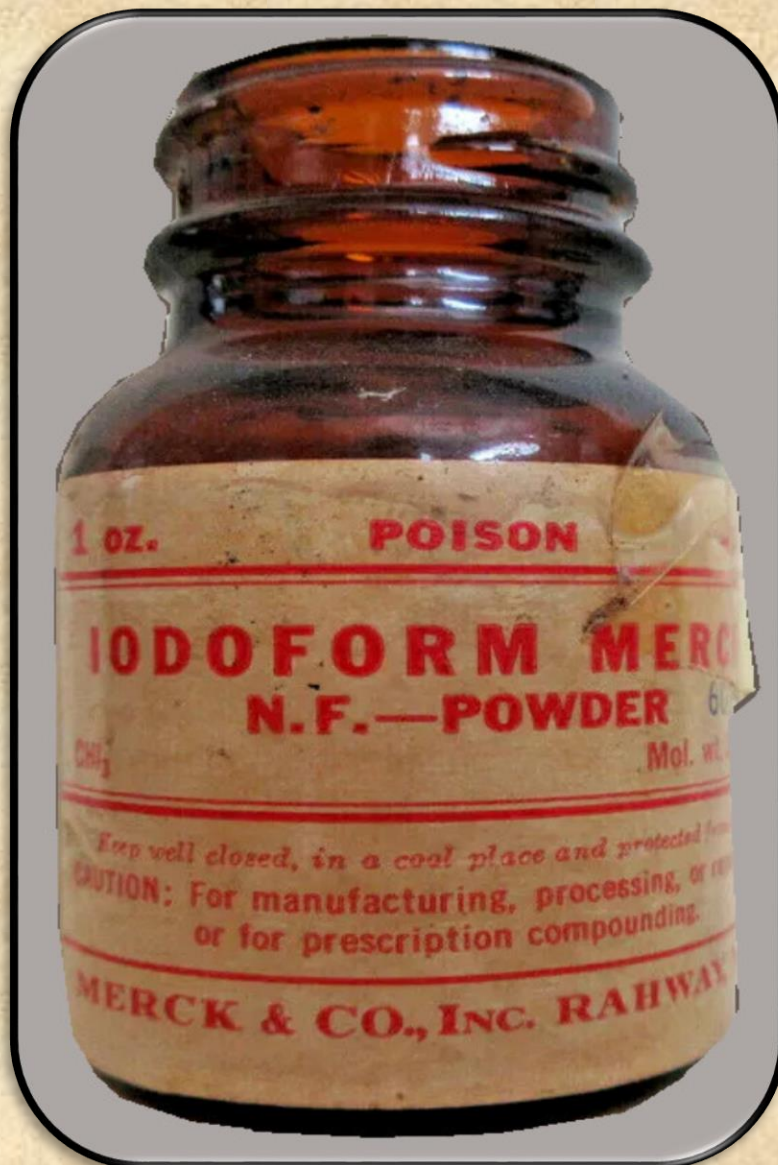
He threw over a sheet of thick pink-tinted note-paper which had been lying open upon the table. ‘It came by the last post,’ said he. ‘Read it aloud.’



Pictured is a stethoscope, a medical device for listening to internal sounds of a human body. It can be used to listen to the heart, lungs, intestines, or other organs.

From the story:

‘As to your practice, if a gentleman walks into my rooms smelling of iodoform, with a black mark of nitrate of silver upon his right forefinger, and a bulge on the side of his top hat to show where he has secreted his stethoscope, I must be dull indeed if I do not pronounce him to be an active member of the medical profession.’



In the late 1800s, iodoform was used in medicine as a healing and antiseptic dressing for wounds and sores. It was also used for packing cavities in teeth.

From the story:

‘As to your practice, if a gentleman walks into my rooms smelling of iodoform, with a black mark of nitrate of silver upon his right forefinger, and a bulge on the side of his top hat to show where he has secreted his stethoscope, I must be dull indeed if I do not pronounce him to be an active member of the medical profession.’



Pictured is a bottle of silver nitrate, which has antiseptic properties. In the late 1800s, it was used in newborn babies' eyes at birth to prevent contraction of gonorrhea from the mother. It was used to cauterize superficial blood vessels in the nose to help prevent nose bleeds.

From the story:

‘As to your practice, if a gentleman walks into my rooms smelling of iodoform, with a black mark of nitrate of silver upon his right forefinger, and a bulge on the side of his top hat to show where he has secreted his stethoscope...’



Pictured is the coat of arms for the King of Bohemia and the Austria-Hungary flag. Bohemia was a duchy of Great Moravia, later an independent principality, a kingdom in the Holy Roman Empire, and subsequently a part of the Habsburg monarchy and the Austrian Empire.

From the story:

'It is in a German-speaking country - in Bohemia, not far from Carlsbad.'



Pictured is the envelope back addressed to Sherlock Holmes, containing the solicitation note from the King of Bohemia. The coat of arms for the King of Bohemia is stamped on the envelope.

From the story:

'It is in a German-speaking country - in Bohemia, not far from Carlsbad.'



Pictured is the Watermark on the paper used by the King soliciting Sherlock Holmes' assistance in recovering the photograph of the King and Irene Adler.

From the story:

I did so, and saw a large E with a small g, a P, and a large G with a small t woven into the texture of the paper.

'The G with the small t stands for Gesellschaft, which is the German for Company. P, of course, stands for Papier. Now for the Eg. Eglow, Eglonitz - here we are, Egria. It is in a German-speaking country - in Bohemia, not far from Carlsbad.'



Pictured is a vizard mask, an oval mask of black velvet, used for disguise of one's identity.

From the story:

He carried a broad-brimmed hat in his hand, while he wore across the upper part of his face, extending down past the cheek-bones, a black vizard mask, which he had apparently adjusted that very moment, for his hand was still raised to as he entered.

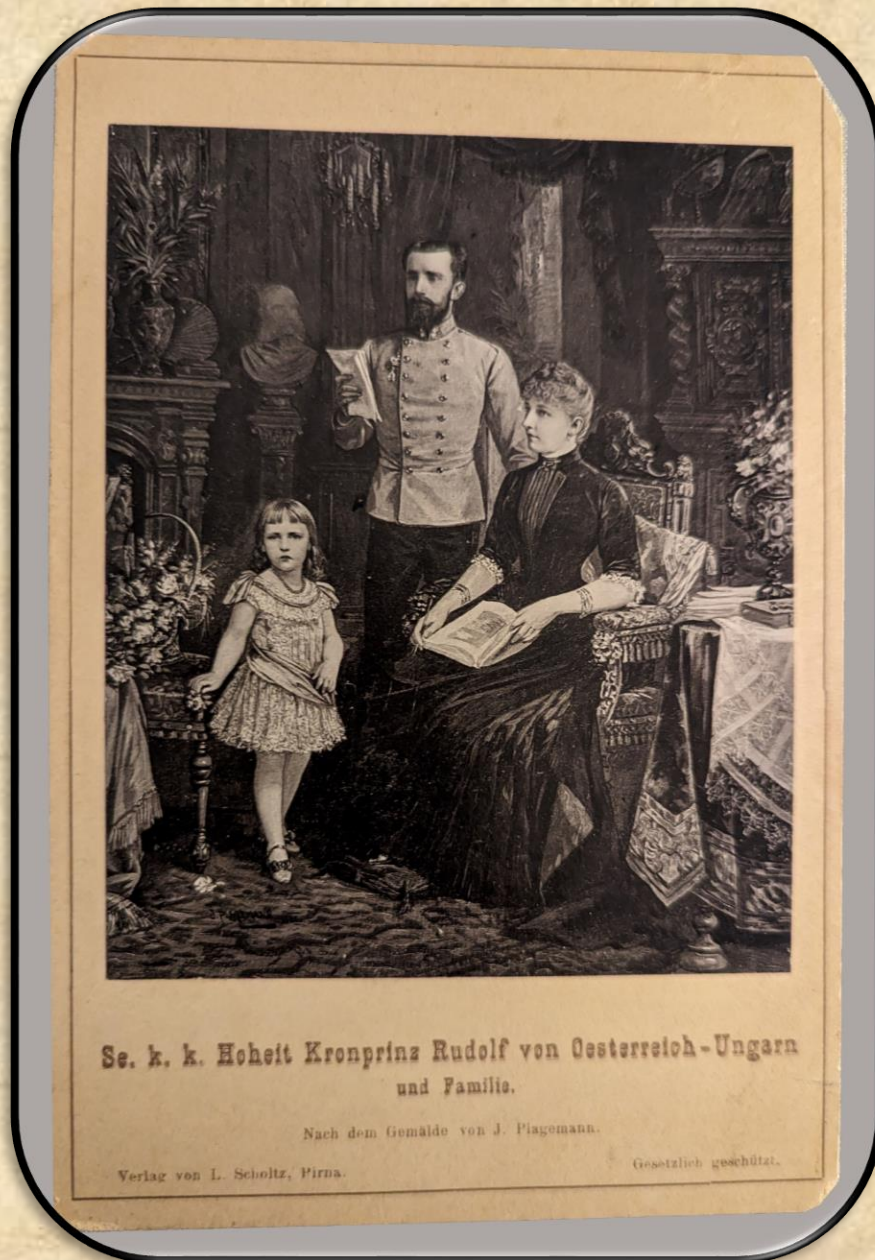


*Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismond von Ormstein
Grand Duke of Cassel-Felstein*

Pictured is a photo of the hereditary king of Bohemia, who asked for Sherlock Holmes' assistance in recovering a photograph from Irene Adler.

From the story:

'Why, indeed?' murmured Holmes. 'Your Majesty had not spoken before I was aware that I was addressing Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismond von Ormstein, Grand Duke of Cassel-Falstein, and hereditary King of Bohemia.'



Pictured is Prince Rudolf and his family. Rudolf von Oesterreich-Ungarn was the heir apparent to the throne of Austria-Hungary until he committed suicide in January 1889. Could he be the King of Bohemia of this story?

From the story:

‘Your Majesty had not spoken before I was aware that I was addressing Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismund von Ormstein, Grand Duke of Cassel-Falstein, and hereditary King of Bohemia.’

**THE
NEWLY REFURBISHED
EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES
LEICESTER SQ.**

PRESENTS THE AMAZING OPERATIC STYLINGS OF

IRENE ADLER

FRIDAY
APRIL
22

FOR TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY!

SATURDAY
APRIL
23

An Evening of Wonderful Entertainment for Ladies and Gentlemen
also presenting the following artistes for your enjoyment

THE ALL-NEW LONDON BALLET TROUPE REVUE

To celebrate the new season of performances at the new Empire Theatre of the Varieties, with delightful sets from the craftsmanship of C. Wilhelm, we proudly introduce the spectacular London Ballet Troupe, performing scenes from the ballet shows from all across the globe. Marvel at their poise, their grace, their exquisite costumes, their remarkable talent, but – above all – become enchanted with their beauty!

THE MINIATURE MALTESE PIANIST

Under the teachings of R Shearmann, this amazing feat of nature and music combines to show a rousing rendition of some of the world's most complex piano symphonies. A pigmy man from the depths of the British Empire, on the boat passage to India, was discovered with a remarkable talent on the ivories – he truly needs to be seen to be believed!

MADAME BRODY AND HER SINGING DOG

A brand-new variety act sure to amuse and amaze! Madame Brody, plucked from a fine East-End public house with her amazing performing beagle hound, Napoleon, sing such classic tavern favourites as 'Knees up Mother Brown' and 'Roll Out The Barrel' – sure to get every patron singing and applauding with joy!

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LEICESTER SQ.

Pictured is an advertisement for the operatic stylings of Irene Adler, performing at the Empire Theatre of Varieties in Leicester.

From the story:

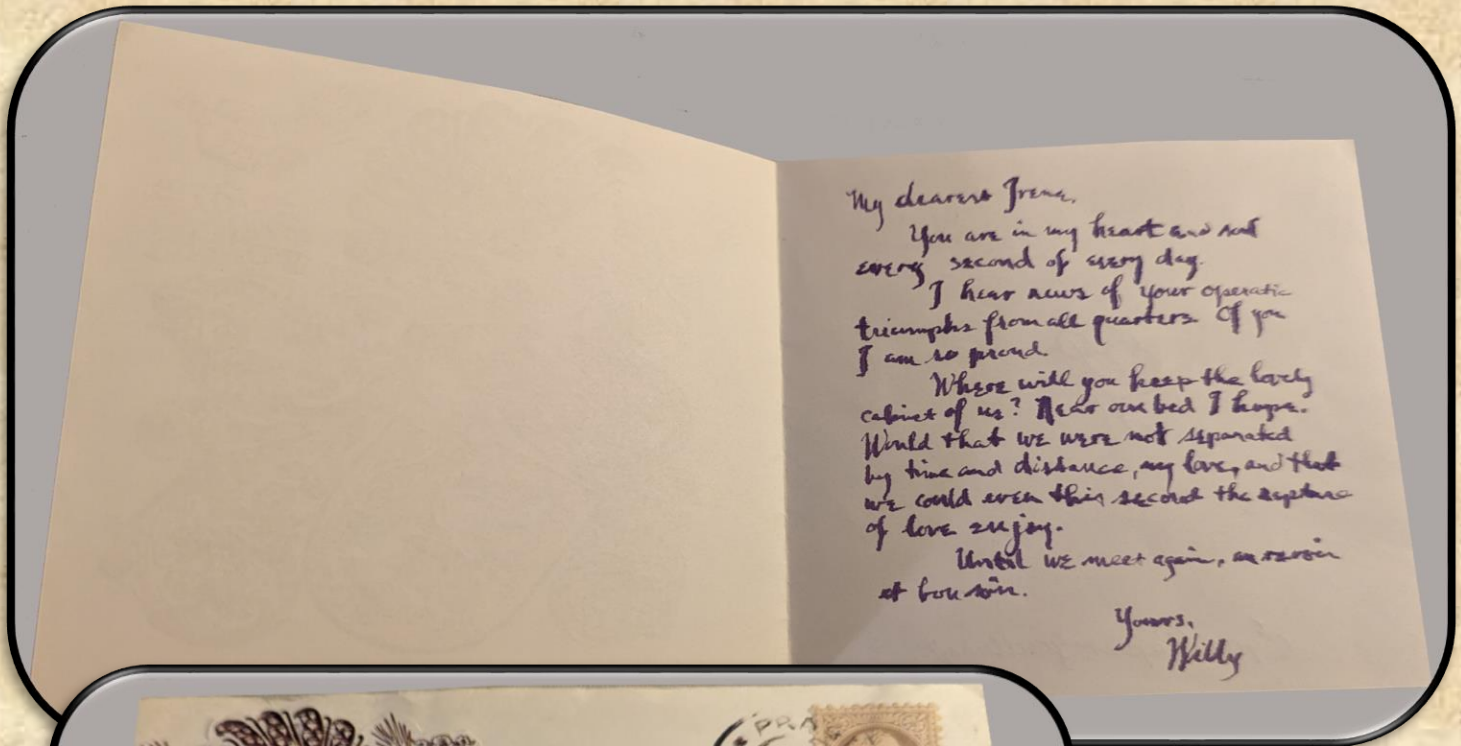
‘Contralto - hum! La Scala, hum! Prima donna Imperial Opera of Warsaw
- Yes! Retired from operatic stage - ha! Living in London - quite so!’



Pictured is a carte-de-visite of a young Sigismund, while in Wein. A carte-de-visite was a photograph the size of a visiting card and were commonly traded among friends and visitors in the 1860s and later.

From the story:

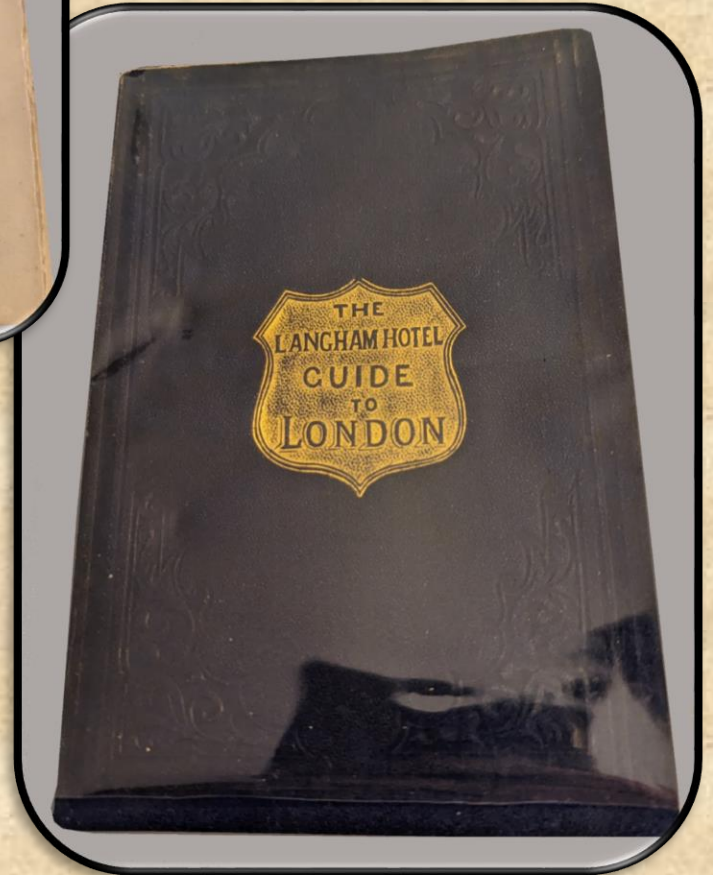
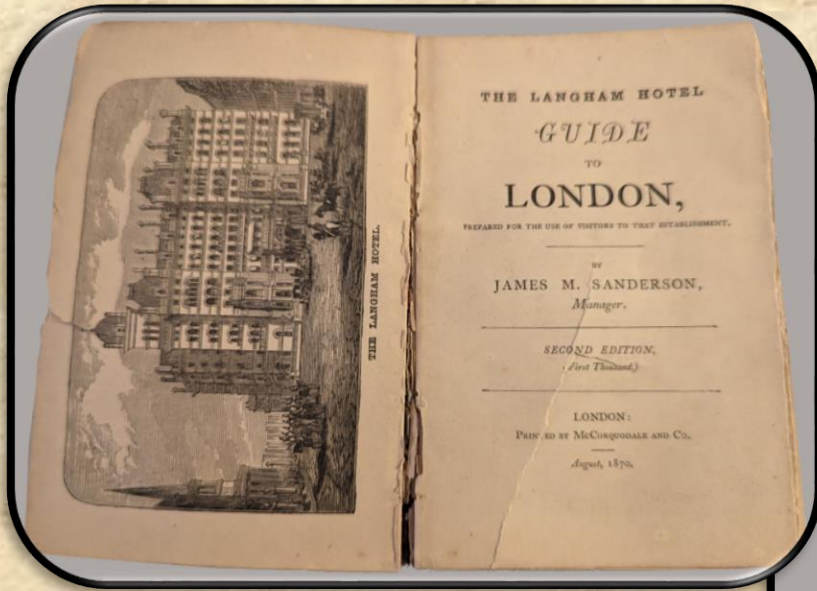
‘Your Majesty had not spoken before I was aware that I was addressing Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismund von Ormstein, Grand Duke of Cassel-Falstein, and hereditary King of Bohemia.’



Pictured is a love letter from the King of Bohemia to Irene Adler, apparently before the King became desperate to recover their photo together. The stamped envelope bears the King of Bohemia's coat of arms addressed to Irene Adler at the Imperial Opera at Warsaw.

From the story:

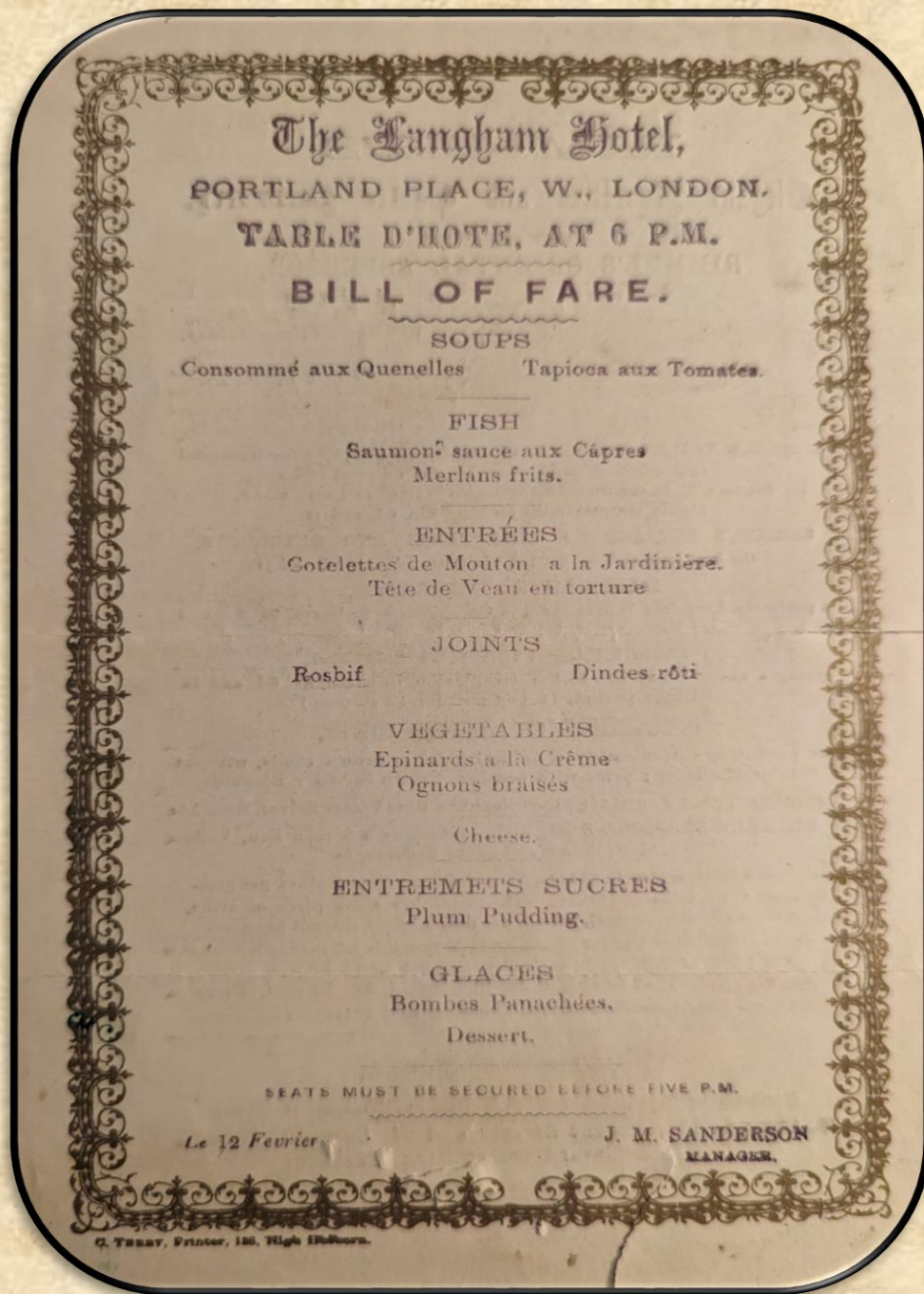
'Some five years ago, during a lengthy visit to Warsaw, I made the acquaintance of the well-known adventuress Irene Adler. The name is no doubt familiar to you.'



Pictured is an example of a guide, issued by the better hotels in London, to assist visitors to the City in finding their way around. The guide would include maps, dining recommendations, and other useful information.

From the story:

‘Certainly. You will find me at the Langham, under the name of the Count von Kramm.’



Pictured is a bill of fare from the Langham Hotel. A bill of fare was the menu of the hotel restaurant, which focused on à la carte items.

From the story:

‘Certainly. You will find me at the Langham, under the name of the Count von Kramm.’



Pictured is a stereocard of The Langham Hotel, London. It is situated in the district of Marylebone on Langham Place and faces up Portland Place towards Regent's Park. A stereoscope is a device for viewing a stereoscopic pair of separate images, the stereocard, depicting left-eye and right-eye views of the same scene, as a single three-dimensional image.

From the story:

‘Certainly. You will find me at the Langham, under the name of the Count von Kramm.’

London Sheet 48

OLD ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

St John's Wood 1893



THE GODFREY EDITION

Pictured is an Ordnance Survey map of St John's Wood 1893, the location of Irene Adler's residence.

From the story:

'And mademoiselle's address?' he asked.

'Is Briony Lodge, Serpentine Avenue, St. John's Wood.'



Pictured is a chamois leather pouch. Chamois leather is a type of porous leather, traditionally the skin of the chamois, a type of European mountain goat, but today made almost exclusively from sheepskin.

From the story:

The King took a heavy chamois leather bag from under his cloak and laid it on the table.



Pictured is a cabinet photo of Godfrey Norton, the fiancé of Irene Adler.

From the story:

This Godfrey Norton was evidently an important factor in the matter. He was a lawyer.



Pictured is a Victorian window latch.

From the story:

Large sitting-room on the right side, well furnished, with long windows almost to the floor, and those preposterous English window fasteners which a child could open.



Pictured is a typical chubb lock and key used for doors, and usually not susceptible to being picked open.

From the story:

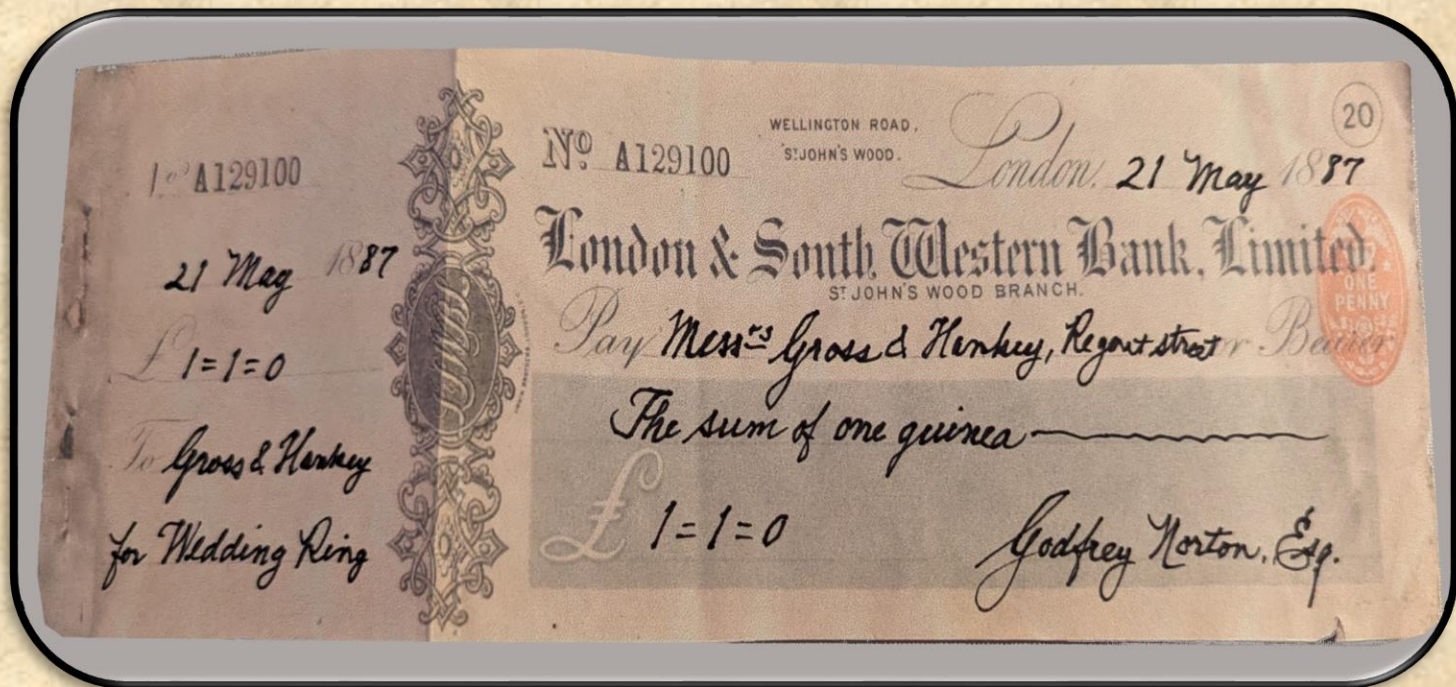
‘It is a bijou villa, with a garden at the back, but built out in front right up to the road, two stories. Chubb lock to the door.’



Pictured is a WA & AC Churchman cigarette card depicting the door knocker of the Inner Temple, Gatehouse.

From the story:

'He is a Mr. Godfrey Norton, of the Inner Temple.'



Pictured is a cheque drawn on the London & South Western Bank, Ltd, St John's Wood Branch, to Messrs. Gross & Hankey, Regent Street and signed by Godfrey Norton, Esq, dated 21 May 1887. Presumed to be a jeweler where Godfrey Norton would have purchased a wedding ring for Irene Adler.

From the story:

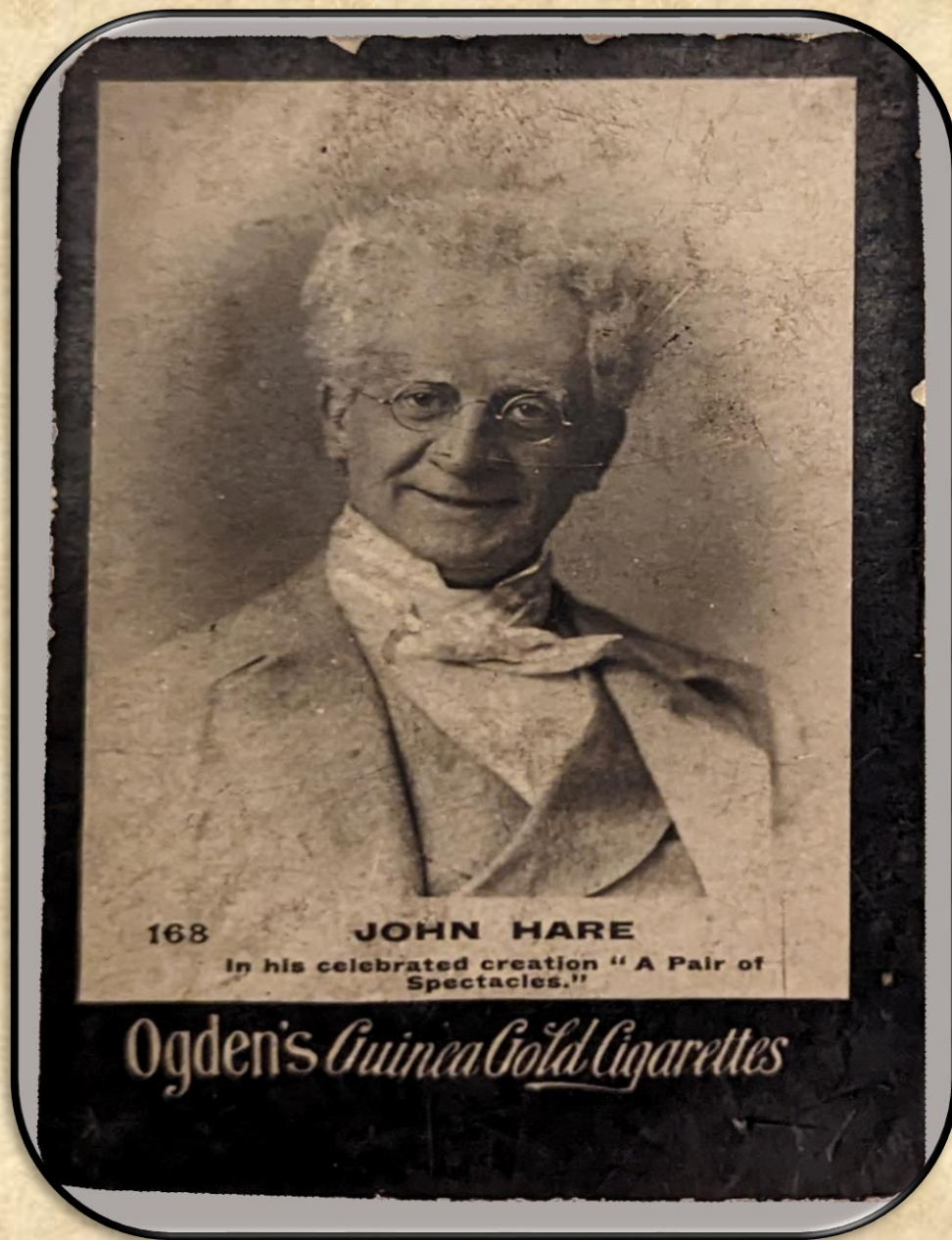
'Drive like the devil,' he shouted, 'first to Gross and Hankey's in Regent Street, and then to the church of St. Monica in the Edgware Road.'



Pictured is a pocket watch and chain with a Victorian sovereign in a bezel. The Sovereign was Irene's gift to Holmes disguised as a Groom for serving as a witness at her wedding.

From the story:

'The bride gave me a sovereign, and I mean to wear it on my watch-chain in memory of the occasion.'



Pictured is Sir John Hare (16 May 1844 – 28 December 1921), an English actor and theatre manager of the later 19th– and early 20th centuries. Hare was admired for his carefully observed characterizations, his comedic flair and his handsomely-mounted productions.

From the story:

His broad black hat, his baggy trousers, his white tie, his sympathetic smile, and general look of peering and benevolent curiosity, were such as Mr. John Hare alone could have equaled.



Pictured is a plumber's rocket from the Victorian period. Before the era of pressure testing, plumbers used a smoke rocket to detect leaks in pipes. The smoking device was inserted into a pipe and lit up. Smoke would come out from whichever leaks there were in the pipe.

From the story:

'It is nothing very formidable,' he said, taking a long cigar-shaped roll from his pocket. 'It is an ordinary plumber's smoke rocket, fitted with a cap at either end to make it self-lighting.'



Pictured is a simple non-conformist clergyman's robe and collar. Holmes used such a costume when he deceived Irene Adler into letting him into her house to discover the location of the photograph sought by the King of Bohemia.

From the story:

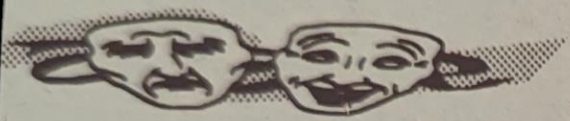
He disappeared into his bedroom, and returned in a few minutes in the character of an amiable and simple-minded Nonconformist clergyman.



Pictured is an Irish Guards cap badge. The Irish Guards (IG) is one of the Foot Guards regiments of the British Army and is part of the Guards Division. Together with the Royal Irish Regiment, it is one of the two Irish infantry regiments in the British Army.

From the story:

There was a group of shabbily-dressed men smoking and laughing in a corner, a scissors-grinder with his wheel, two guardsmen who were flirting with a nurse-girl, and several well-dressed young men who were lounging up and down with cigars in their mouths.



Agony Column

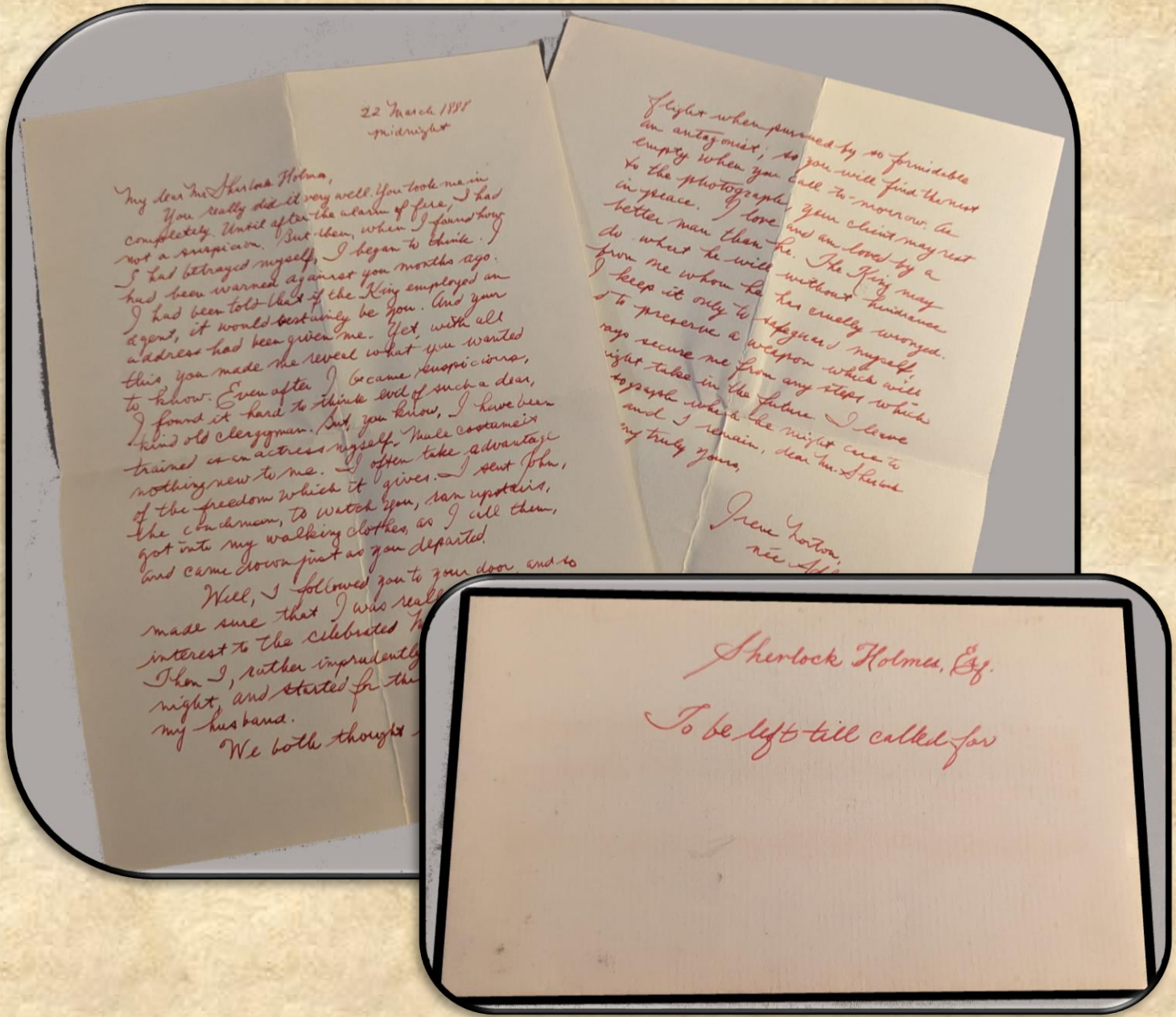
WANTED: Ostler helpers. Duties include rubbing down horses. Pay set at twopence, a glass of half-and-half and two fills of shag tobacco. Apply at mews in lane by garden wall behind Briony Lodge

WANTED: ACTORS to partake in "practical joke." Must supply own costumes: 2 loafers, 2 guardsmen, 1 scissors grinder, several better-dressed people. Apply Sherlock Holmes, 221B Baker Street, London.

Pictured are the advertisements Holmes ran in the agony column of a newspaper. The agony column was the section of a newspaper offering advice on personal problems to readers who write in or an advertisement for goods or services. Holmes hired actors to pull off his ruse to gain entry in front of Briony Lodge.

From the story:

‘I do not wish to make a mystery,’ said he, laughing. ‘The matter was perfectly simple. You, of course, saw that every one in the street was an accomplice. They were all engaged for the evening.’



22 March 1888
midnight

My dear Mr. Sherlock Holmes,
You really did it very well. You took me in completely. Until after the alarm of fire, I had not a suspicion. But then, when I found that I had betrayed myself, I began to think. I had been warned against you months ago. I had been told that if the King employed an agent, it would certainly be you. And your address had been given me. Yet, with all this, you made me reveal what you wanted to know. Even after I became suspicious, I found it hard to think evil of such a dear, kind old clergyman. But, you know, I have been trained as an actress myself. Made costumes nothing new to me. I often take advantage of the freedom which it gives. I sent John, the coachman, to watch you, ran up stairs, got into my walking clothes, as I call them, and came down just as you departed.

Well, I followed you to your door, and so made sure that I was really of interest to the celebrated Holmes.
Then I, rather imprudently, went out one night, and started for the theatre with my husband.
We both thought

flight when pursued by so formidable an antagonist; so you will find the nest empty when you call to-morrow. In the photograph, your client may rest in peace. I love and am loved by a better man than he. He King may do what he will without hindrance from me whom he has cruelly wronged. I keep it only to reassure myself, to preserve a weapon which will save me from any steps which might take in the future. I leave to you the right which he might care to and I remain, dear Mr. Sherlock, my truly yours,

Irene Adler,
née Adler

Sherlock Holmes, Esq.
To be left till called for

Pictured is the letter Irene Adler wrote to Sherlock Holmes, which explained her actions. It was left for Holmes at her residence given to him by Adler's housekeeper.

From the story:

Holmes rushed at the bell-pull, tore back a small sliding shutter, and, plunging in his hand, pulled out a photograph and a letter.



Pictured are snake rings, one of which has emerald eyes, in the possession of the King of Bohemia.

From the story:

'I am immensely indebted to you. Pray tell me in what way I can reward you. This ring--.' He slipped an emerald snake ring from his finger and held it out upon the palm of his hand.



Pictured is a cabinet photograph of Irene Adler at a little more advanced age.

From the story:

'Irene's photograph!' he cried. 'Certainly, if you wish it.'

Additional items of interest
in “A Scandal in Bohemia”
not included in the original
Evidence Box.



Pictured is a spirit case, normally made of wood or leather, designed to protect decanters of liquor, as well as drinking glasses.

From the story:

With hardly a word spoken, but with a kindly eye, he waved me to an arm-chair, threw across his case of cigars, and indicated a spirit case and a gasogene in the corner.



James Boswell was a Scottish biographer, diarist, and lawyer, born in Edinburgh. He is best known for his biography of his friend and older contemporary, the English writer Samuel Johnson, which is commonly said to be the greatest biography written in the English language.

From the story:

‘Not a bit, Doctor. Stay where you are. I am lost without my Boswell. And this promises to be interesting. It would be a pity to miss it.’



Pictured is a brougham, a light, four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage built in the 19th century. It was named after the politician and jurist Lord Brougham. It had an enclosed body with two doors, it sat two, sometimes with an extra pair of fold-away seats in the front corners, and with a box seat in front for the driver and a footman or passenger.

From the story:

‘A nice little brougham and a pair of beauties. A hundred and fifty guineas apiece. There's money in this case, Watson, if there is nothing else.’



Pictured is brooch, a decorative pin, commonly used to secure a piece of clothing over other garments. A beryl is a precious gemstone. Pure beryl is colorless, but it is frequently tinted by impurities; possible colors are green, blue, yellow, pink, and red (the rarest).

From the story:

Heavy bands of astrakhan were slashed across the sleeves and fronts of his double-breasted coat, while the deep blue cloak which was thrown over his shoulders was lined with flame-coloured silk, and secured at the neck with a brooch which consisted of a single flaming beryl.



Pictured is a pint of half and half. In Victorian Britain, a half and half consisted of a mixture of mild ale and bitter.

From the story:

‘I lent the ostlers a hand in rubbing down their horses, and I received in exchange twopence, a glass of half-and-half, two fills of shag tobacco and as much information as I could desire about Miss Adler...’



Pictured is the interior of St. Monica Church of Hoxton, completed in 1866, and located off of Edgware Road.

From the story:

‘Drive like the devil,’ he shouted, ‘first to Gross and Hankey's in Regent Street, and then to the church of St. Monica in the Edgware Road.’



Pictured is a Victorian scissor grinder, a sharpener of scissors, knives, and other cutting implements.

From the story:

There was a group of shabbily-dressed men smoking and laughing in a corner, a scissors-grinder with his wheel...



Pictured is a map showing the routes from Charing Cross, a London Underground station at Charing Cross in the City of Westminster. The station opened in 1864.

From the story:

‘Indeed! My mistress told me that you were likely to call. She left this morning with her husband, by the 5.15 train from Charing Cross, for the Continent.’