

## Adventure XI – The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb

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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.



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Pictured is the handkerchief which Hatherley used to wrap his hand after his thumb was severed by the cleaver.

From the story:

Round one of his hands he had a handkerchief wrapped, which was mottled all over with bloodstains.

He unwound the handkerchief and held out his hand.

**Mr. Victor Hatherley**  
**Hydraulic Engineer**

16A Victoria (3rd Floor)

London

*Colonel Lysander Stark*

*Eyford, Berkshire*

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Pictured are the visiting, or calling, cards for Victor Hatherley, a hydraulic engineer, as well as Colonel Lysander Stark, who sought out Hatherley's assistance on a mechanical issue.

From the story:

'He brought up a card, too, with the name of 'Colonel Lysander Stark' engraved upon it.'

'I gave the maid a card, but I see that she has left it upon the side table.'

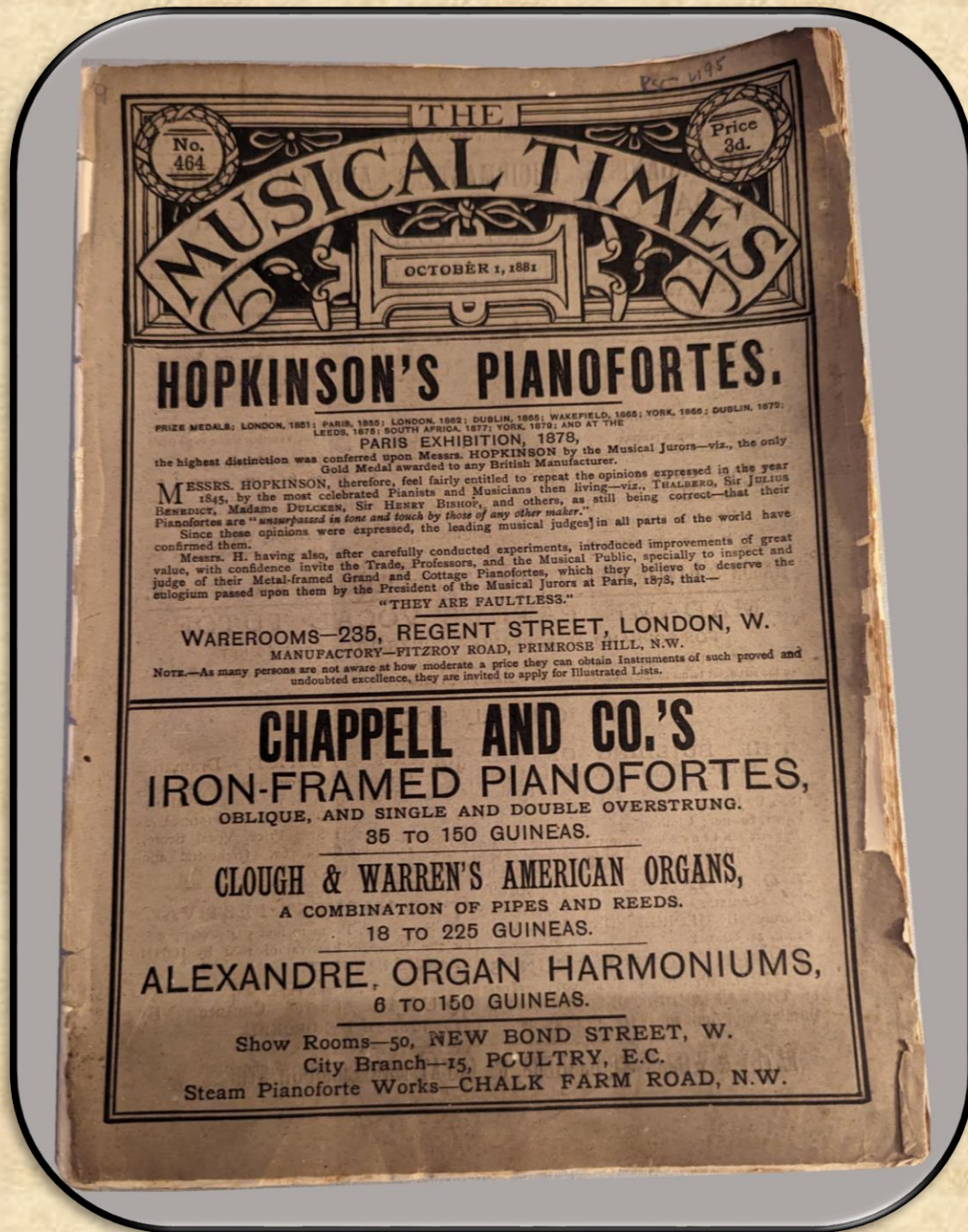


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Pictured is a container of “Matthew’s Sterilised Fuller’s Earth for Nursery & Toilet, which has many uses including absorbent or bleaching agent.

From the story:

‘I quite follow you,’ said I. ‘The only point which I could not quite understand, was what use you could make of a hydraulic press in excavating fuller's earth, which, as I understand, is dug out like gravel from a pit.’



Pictured is *The Musical Times Magazine*, containing an ad for a harmonium like one spotted by Hatherley in the Eyford House.

From the story:

'Colonel Stark laid down the lamp on the top of a harmonium beside the door.'



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Pictured is the weapon, a meat cleaver, used by Lysander Stark to remove Victor Hatherley's thumb while he hung from the window.

From the story:

'As she spoke a light sprang into view at the further end of the passage, and I saw the lean figure of Colonel Lysander Stark rushing forward with a lantern in one hand, and a weapon like a butcher's cleaver in the other.'

'He dashed her to one side, and, rushing to the window, cut at me with his heavy weapon.'



Pictured is a sheet of stationery from Jeremiah Hayling, who disappeared after assisting Stark with his mechanical press. Also pictured is the burned receipt for work done on the press, presented by Hayling to Stark before he disappeared.

From the story:

‘Here is an advertisement which will interest you,’ said he. ‘It appeared in all the papers about a year ago. Listen to this – Lost on the 9th inst., Mr Jeremiah Hayling, aged 26, a hydraulic engineer. Left his lodgings at ten o'clock at night, and has not been heard of since.’



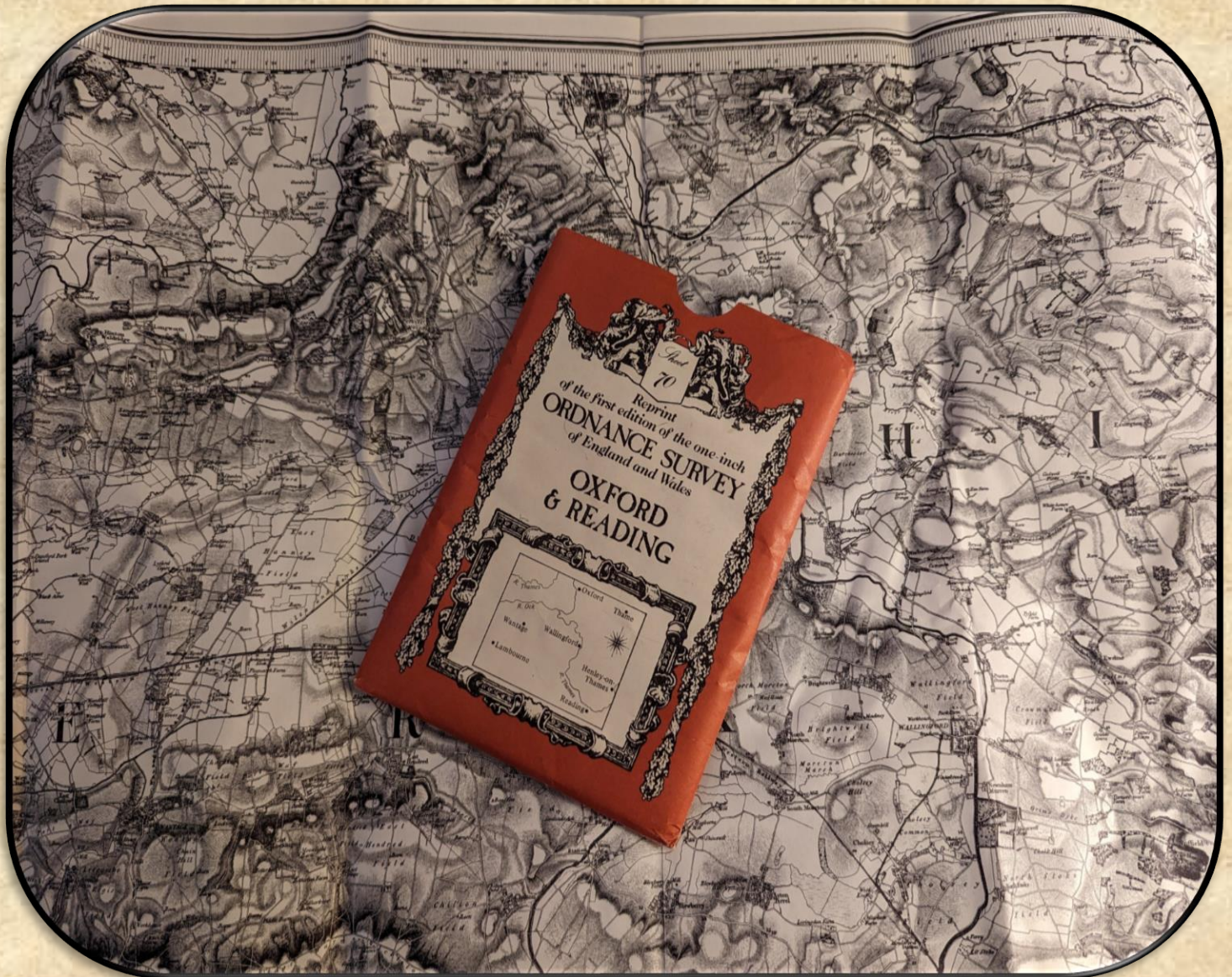
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Pictured is the compass used by Inspector Bradshaw while he, Holmes, Watson, and Hatherley headed to Eyford to investigate the house used by Stark and Ferguson.

From the story:

Bradstreet had spread an ordnance map of the county out upon the seat, and was busy with his compasses drawing a circle with Eyford for its centre.





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Pictured is the ordnance survey for Oxford and Reading used by Inspector Bradshaw in an attempt to discover where the house of counterfeiters was located. The Ordnance Survey is the national mapping agency for Great Britain.

From the story:

Bradstreet had spread an ordnance map of the county out upon the seat, and was busy with his compasses drawing a circle with Eyford for its centre.



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Pictured is a key chain belonging to one of the fireman responding to the Eyford House fire, where Hatherley had been held captive and lost his thumb.

From the story:

The road topped a low hill, and there was a great widespread whitewashed building in front of us, spouting fire at every chink and window, while in the garden in front three fire-engines were vainly striving to keep the flames under.



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Pictured is a toy model fire engine, depicting a fire engine used in the Victorian period, and which probably was sent to the scene of the fire in Eyord.

From the story:

The road topped a low hill, and there was a great widespread whitewashed building in front of us, spouting fire at every chink and window, while in the garden in front three fire-engines were vainly striving to keep the flames under.



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Pictured is a postcard of a fire wagon like one that responded to the Eyford House fire.

From the story:

The road topped a low hill, and there was a great widespread whitewashed building in front of us, spouting fire at every chink and window, while in the garden in front three fire-engines were vainly striving to keep the flames under.



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Pictured are samples of the counterfeit coins produced by Stark, Ferguson, and others at the house in Eyford. These survived the fire but melted into the amalgam.

From the story:

‘They are coiners on a large scale, and have used the machine to form the amalgam which has taken the place of silver.’



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Pictured is the severed thumb of Victor Hatherley, kept in a small jar of formaldehyde, kept as a memento of the case by Sherlock Holmes.

From the story:

The firemen had been much perturbed at the strange arrangements which they found within, and still more so by discovering a newly severed human thumb upon a windowsill of the second floor.

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Additional items of interest  
in “The Adventure of the  
Engineer's Thumb” not  
included in the original  
Evidence Box.



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Pictured is the materials Watson used to treat Hatherley's wounded hand – carbolized dressing and cotton wadding.

From the story:

I sponged the wound, cleaned it, dressed it; and, finally, covered it over with *cotton* wadding and carbolized bandages. He lay back without wincing, though he bit his lip from time to time.





Pictured are books observed by Hatherley at Stark's house – German science treatises and poetry books.

From the story:

'I glanced at the books upon the table, and in spite of my ignorance of German I could see that two of them were treatises on science, the others being volumes of poetry.'



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Pictured is the harmonium, a type of musical organ, observed by Victor Hatherley at the house in Eyford.

From the story:

‘Colonel Stark laid down the lamp on the top of a harmonium beside the door.’



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Pictured is the rubber band Victor Hatherley correctly determined had loosened and was allowing leakage in the hydraulic press.

From the story:

‘An examination showed that one of the india-rubber bands which was round the head of a driving-rod had shrunk so as not quite to fill the socket along which it worked.’

# Times.

**DOVER.—DIVER'S CASTLE HOTEL**, on the Quay, near both railway stations and Admiralty Pier, whence boats depart. Views of sea, Castle, and cliffs. Coffee and reading room. Terms moderate. Best attention. Night porter. Wire or write.

**HOTEL BURLINGTON** in DOVER BAY.

**SATURDAY to MONDAY, £2 2s.**

Including rail and hotel accommodation. Available for one journey on Saturdays and Mondays only by any train.

**COUPONS** may be obtained through Messrs. THOMAS COOK and SONS and their Branch Office; Chief Offices, Ludgate-circus, London; also on application to the Manager, Hotel Burlington, Dover.

**INCLUSIVE TERMS:** One week from £3 10s., According to position of rooms.

The Hotel is situated opposite the Promenade Pier, where Military Bands Perform regularly. The prettiest illuminated sea front on the coast. General Steam Navigation Company's steamers from Tilbury arrive within 50 yards of the Hotel. Burlington String Band every night in the lounge.

**EASTBOURNE.—ALEXANDER HOTEL**, facing sea, close to Devonshire-park and baths. Unexceptionable cuisine. Choice vintage wines. Home comforts. Sanitary certificate.—M. E. Harrison, Proprietress. Telephone 132.

**LOST** — on the 9th inst., Mr. Jeremiah Hayling, aged 26, a Hydraulic Engineer. Left his lodging at ten o'clock at night, and has not been seen or heard from since. Was dressed in black frock coat over a grey waistcoat and grey striped trousers. He was bare-headed and last seen heading in the general direction of the Paddington Rail Station. Mister Hayling is approximately 6-feet in height and of slender build. If seen, contact Inspector Bradstreet at Scotland Yard.

**ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL, FOLKESTONE.**

The HANDSOME NEW FORMING an OLD-ESTABLISHED FASHIONED HOME-LIKE CO.

**FOLKESTONE ROYAL** Music every evening

**RAMSGATE.**—The Cuisine unexcelled. Telephone 111

**ST. BAR**

The WINTER

ber, 1898. Students can re-ject to the col-lege. The Hospital Prizes of the ag-ricultural. The Medical appointed labora-tories, museum. A large recreat-ion to members of the For further par-ticulars of the Col-lege, see A Handbook for

**THE L**

The WINTER The Annual D

day, Oct. 3, Mr. The Hospital is constant use, an

pital for East Lo-dice is immense. accidents, 14,781

**APPOINTME** more appointme- than at any of made annually, appointed every

holders of resid- SCHOLARSH Prizes are given will be offered in SPECIAL CL other higher Ex- grant 1898. A reduction of

**LOST** — on the 9th inst., Mr. Jeremiah Hayling, aged 26, a Hydraulic Engineer. Left his lodging at ten o'clock at night, and has not been seen or heard from since. Was dressed in black frock coat over a grey waistcoat and grey striped trousers. He was bare-headed and last seen heading in the general direction of the Paddington Rail Station. Mister Hayling is approximately 6-feet in height and of slender build. If seen, contact Inspector Bradstreet at Scotland Yard.

Pictured is the advertisement ran in the London Times concerning the disappearance of Jeremiah Hayling. Holmes shows the ad to Hatherley.

From the story:

'Here is an advertisement which will interest you,' said he. 'It appeared in all the papers about a year ago. Listen to this - Lost on the 9th inst., Mr Jeremiah Hayling, aged 26, a hydraulic engineer.'

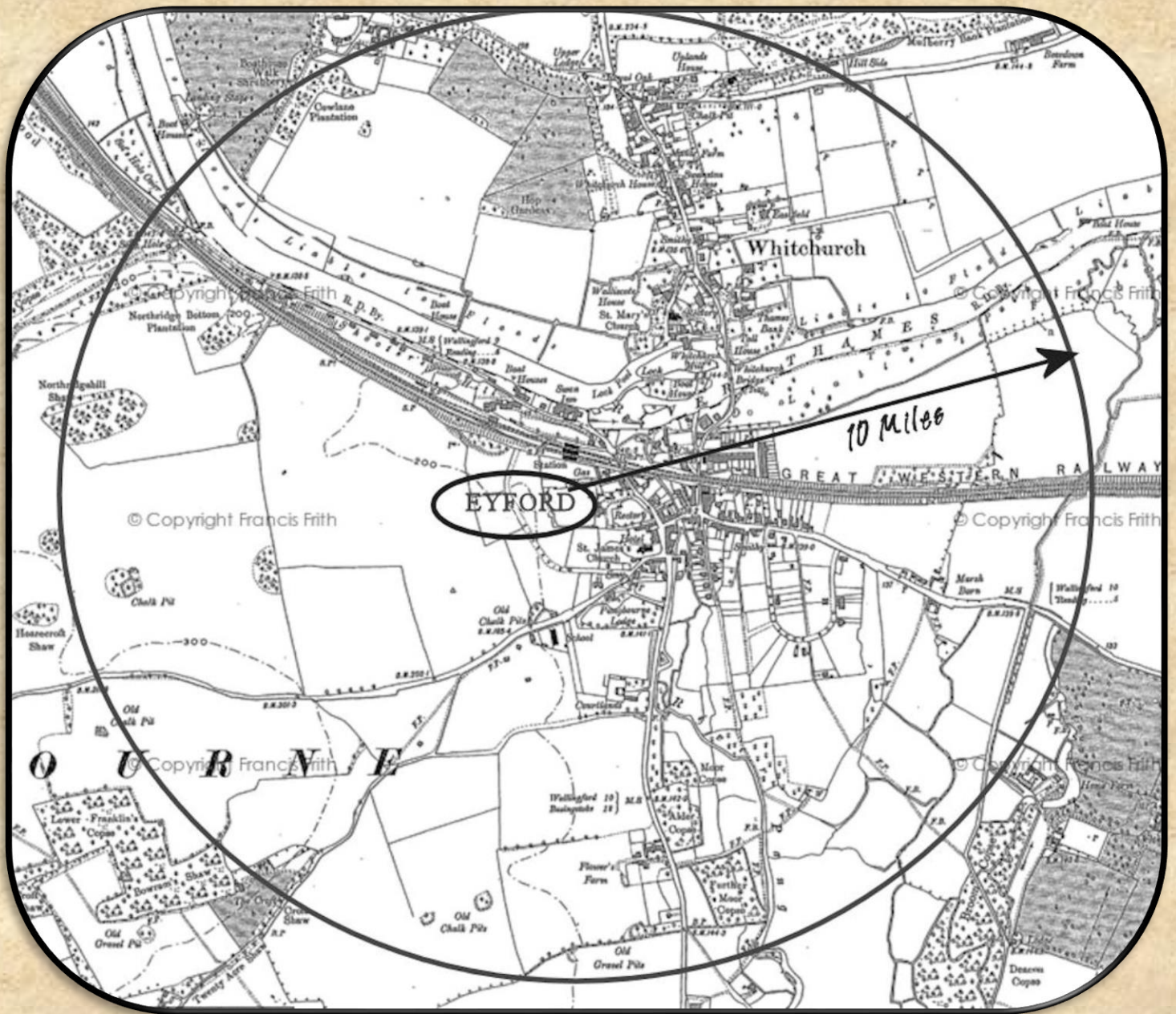


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Pictured is one of the roses Victor Hatherley landed on when he fell unconscious after having his thumb severed by Lysander Stark.

From the story:

‘I endeavoured to tie my handkerchief round it, but there came a sudden buzzing in my ears, and next moment I fell in a dead faint among the rose-bushes.’



Pictured is the Ordnance map used by Inspector Bradshaw to attempt to determine the location of the house. He used a compass to draw the potential location.

From the story:

Bradstreet had spread an Ordnance map of the county out upon the seat, and was busy with his compasses drawing a circle with Exford for its centre.



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Pictured is the helmet and badge worn by the fire brigade sent from Reading to assist in fighting the fire at the house in Eyford.

From the story:

The road topped a low hill, and there was a great widespread whitewashed building in front of us, spouting fire at every chink and window, while in the garden in front three fire-engines were vainly striving to keep the flames under.



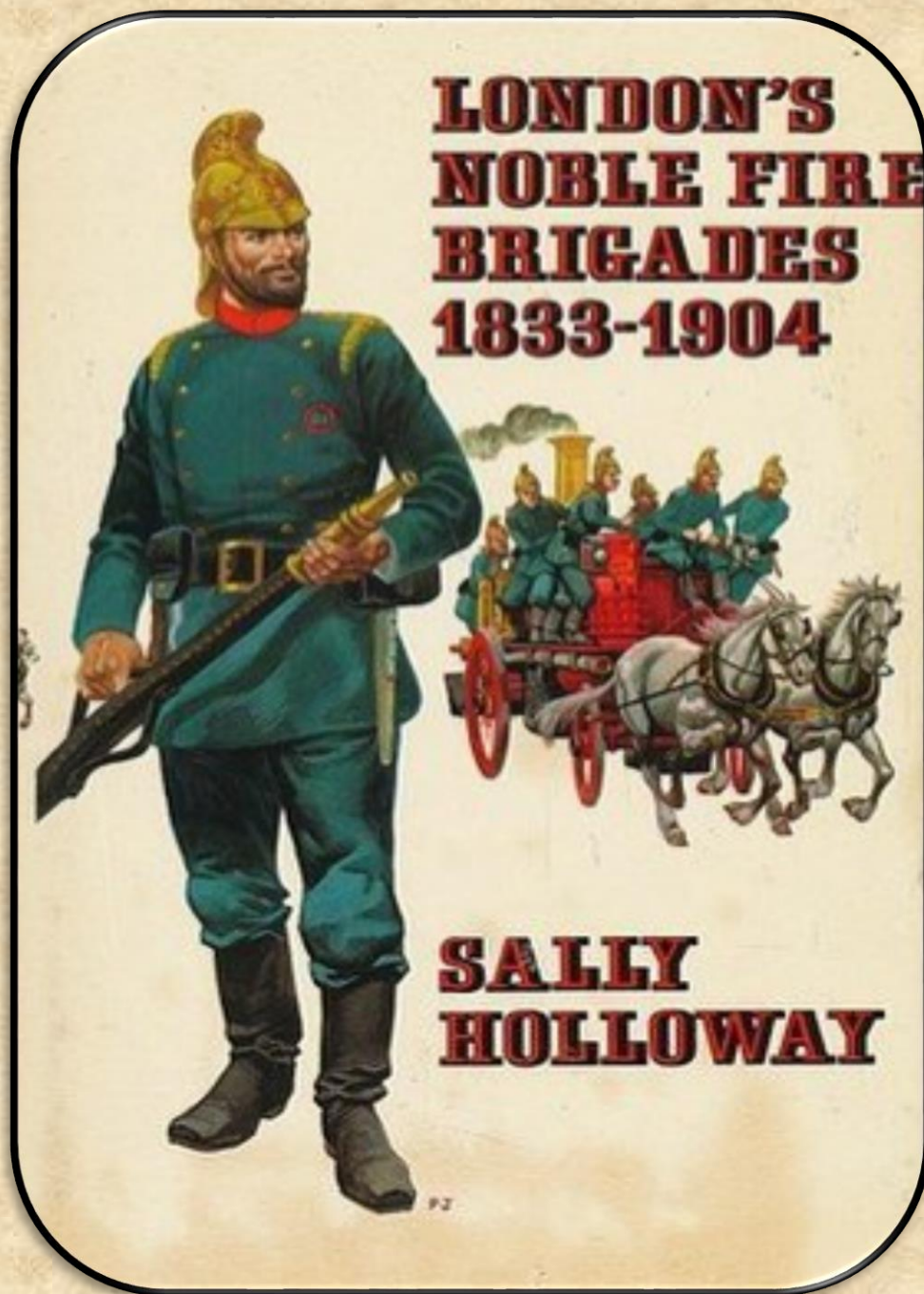
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Pictured is a directional compass used by Holmes during investigations to ensure the direction he was traveling.

From the story:

‘Oh, yes, you can. This is my point,’ he placed his finger on the centre of the circle. ‘This is where we shall find them.’





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Pictured is a guide to the fire brigades in London and surrounding communities, fighting fires such as the one in Eyford.

From the story:

The road topped a low hill, and there was a great widespread whitewashed building in front of us, spouting fire at every chink and window, while in the garden in front three fire-engines were vainly striving to keep the flames under.



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Pictured is the lamp carried by Stark, which was placed in the press with Hatherley. Hatherley knocked it over while escaping the press, which may have started the fire which destroyed the house.

From the story:

‘There can be no question that it was your oil lamp which, when it was crushed in the press, set fire to the wooden walls, though no doubt they were too excited in the chase after you to observe it at the time.’