

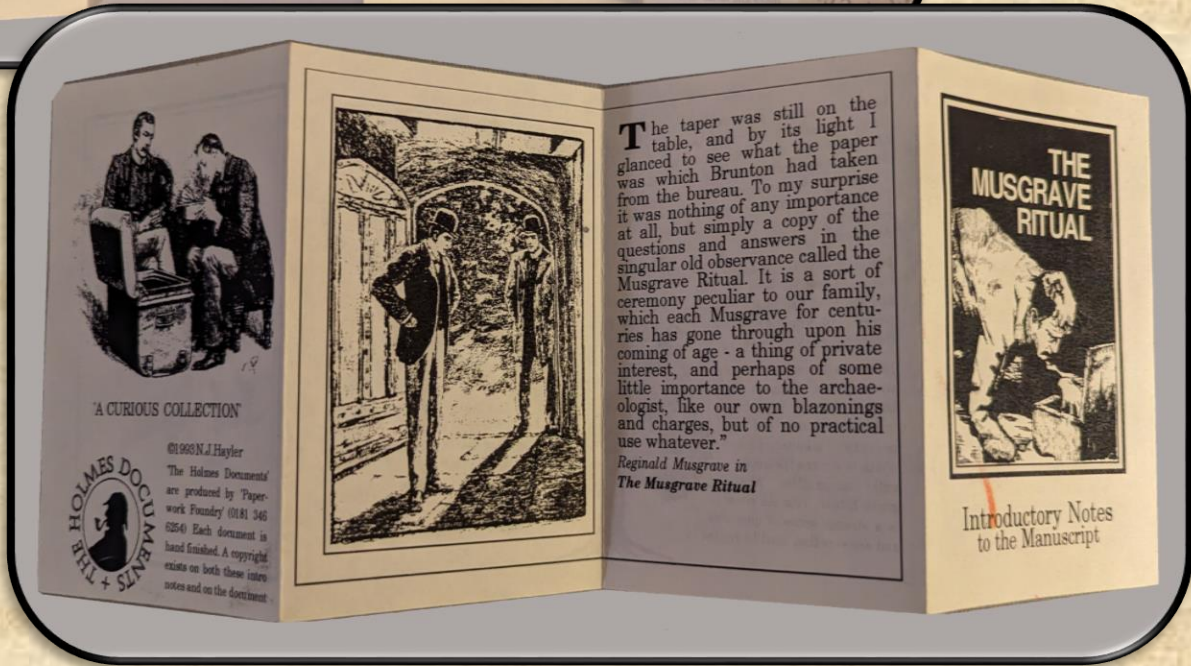
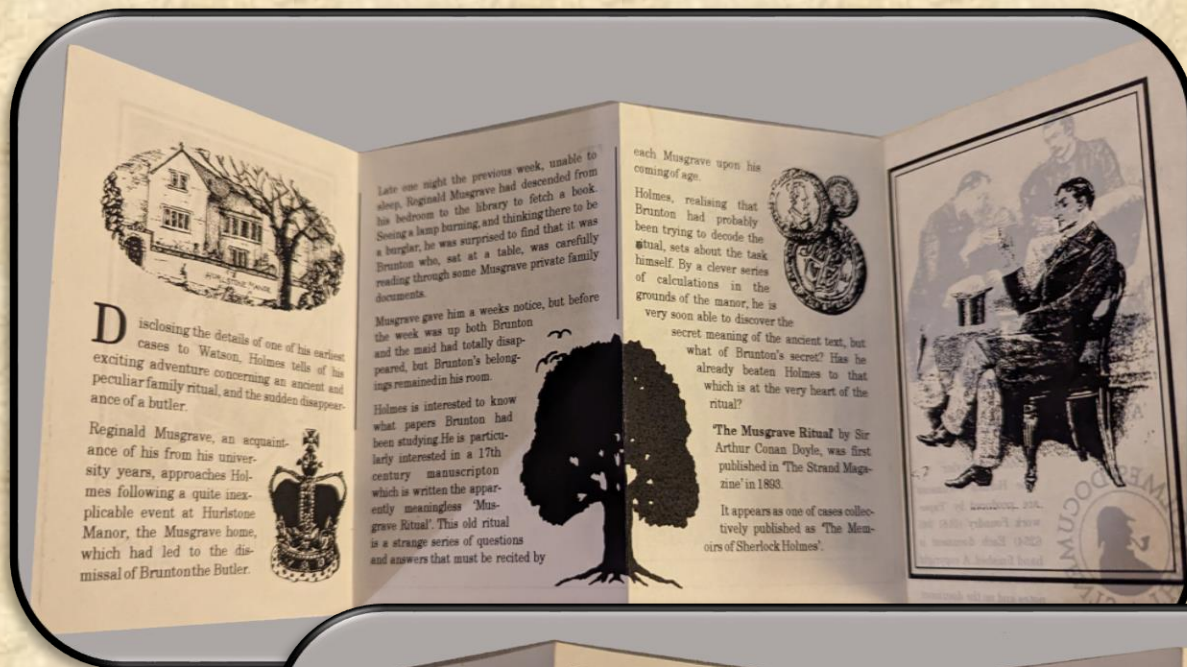
Adventure XX – The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual



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 are introductory notes of 'The Musgrave Ritual' produced by N. J. Hayler.



Pictured is the revolver Holmes used to adorn Baker Street with the initials on the wall. Also pictured is a cartridge which would have been used with the pistol.

From the story:

I have always held, too, that pistol practice should distinctly be an open-air pastime; and when Holmes in one of his queer humours would sit in an arm-chair, with his hair-trigger and a hundred Boxer cartridges, and proceed to adorn the opposite wall with a patriotic V.R. done in bullet-pocks, I felt strongly that neither the atmosphere nor the appearance of our room was improved by it.



Pictured is the tin box Holmes used to store notes and mementos of his past adventures.

From the story:

He could not deny the justice of my request, so with a rather rueful face he went off to his bedroom, from which he returned presently pulling a large tin box behind him. This he placed in the middle of the floor, and squatting down upon a stool in front of it he threw back the lid. I could see that it was already a third full of bundles of paper tied up with red tape into separate packages.



Pictured is the key and 3 coins found in the squat, brass-bound, wooden box in the Subterranean chamber at Hurlstone Manor.

From the story:

He dived his arm down to the bottom of the chest, and brought up a small wooden box, with a sliding lid, such as children's toys are kept in. From within he produced a crumpled piece of paper, an old-fashioned brass key, a peg of wood with a ball of string attached to it, and three rusty old discs of metal.



Pictured is the wooden box in which Holmes kept the mementos of the Musgrave Ritual. The wooden box was at the bottom of the tin box.

From the story:

He dived his arm down to the bottom of the chest, and brought up a small wooden box, with a sliding lid, such as children's toys are kept in.



Pictured is the peg of wood and ball of string which Holmes used during his following of the Musgrave Ritual.

From the story:

He dived his arm down to the bottom of the chest, and brought up a small wooden box, with a sliding lid, such as children's toys are kept in. From within he produced a crumpled piece of paper, an old-fashioned brass key, a peg of wood with a ball of string attached to it, and three rusty old discs of metal.

The Musgrave Ritual

Whose was it?

His who is gone.

Who shall have it?

He who will come.

What was the monthe?

The sixth from the first.

Where was the surge?

Over the oke.

Where was the shadow?

Under the elme.

How was it stept?

North by ten and by ten,
east by five and by five,
south by two and by two,
west by one and by one,
and so under.

What shall we give for it?

All that is ours.

Why sholde we give it?

For the sake of the trust.

Pictured is the Musgrave Ritual, a family secret, which contained the directions to find the Musgrave Treasure.

From the story:

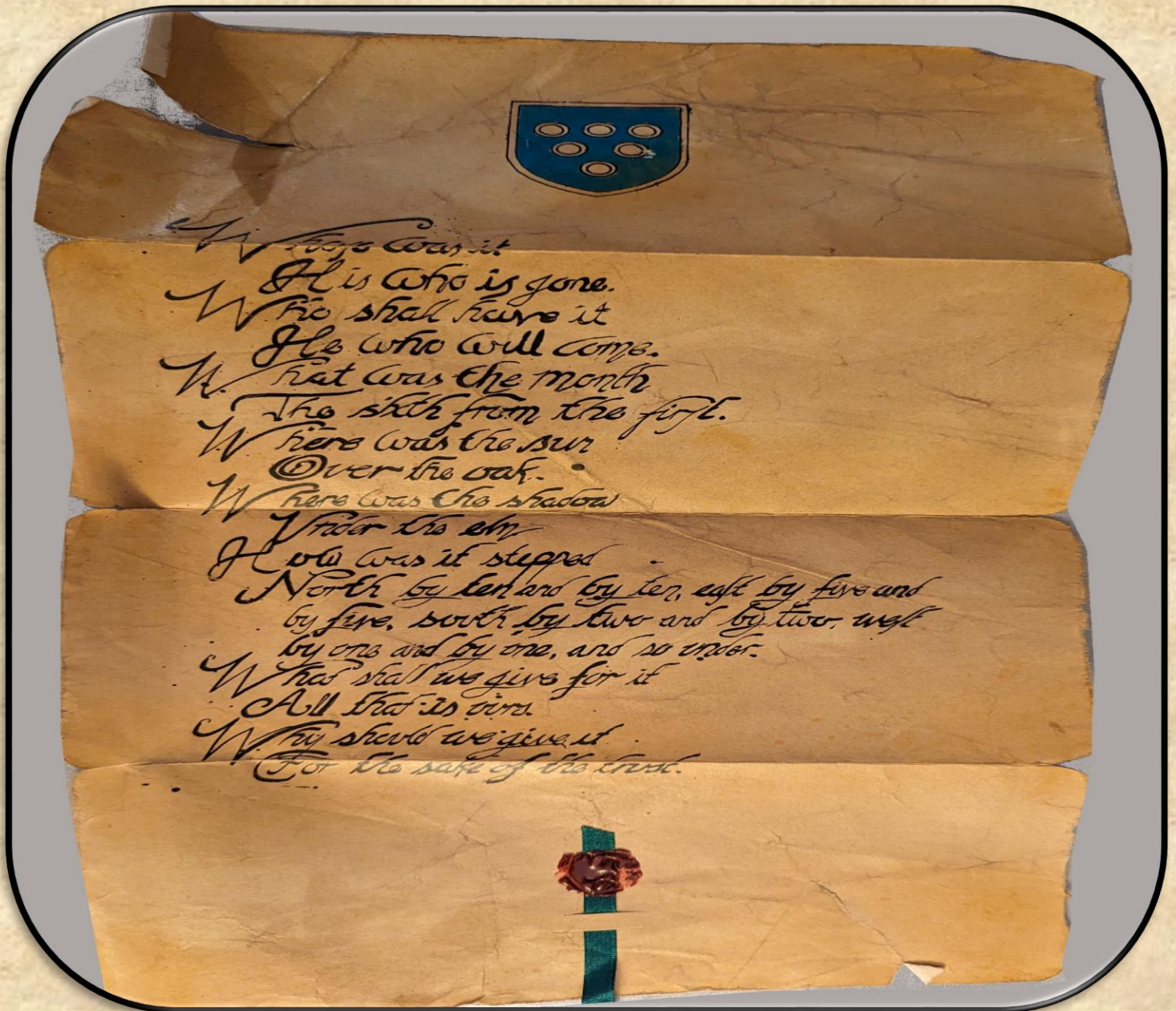
‘The taper was still on the table, and by its light I glanced to see what the paper was which Brunton had taken from the bureau. To my surprise it was nothing of any importance at all, but simply a copy of the questions and answers in the singular old observance called the Musgrave Ritual.’



Pictured is the linen bag which Rachel Howells threw in the pond. The bag contained the Musgrave treasure which Brunton had lost his life in obtaining.

From the story:

On the other hand, we brought to the surface an object of a most unexpected kind. It was a linen bag, which contained within it a mass of old rusted and discoloured metal and several dull-coloured pieces of pebble or glass.



Pictured is the Musgrave Ritual, a family secret, which contained the directions to find the Musgrave Treasure.

From the story:

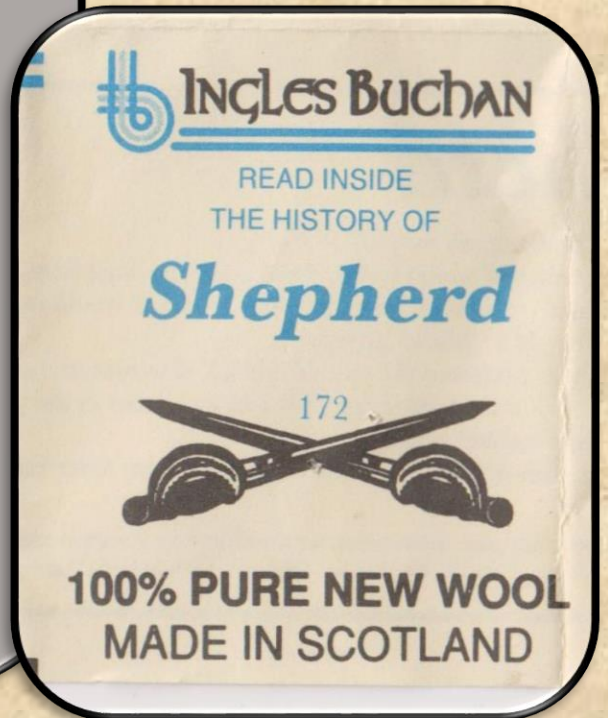
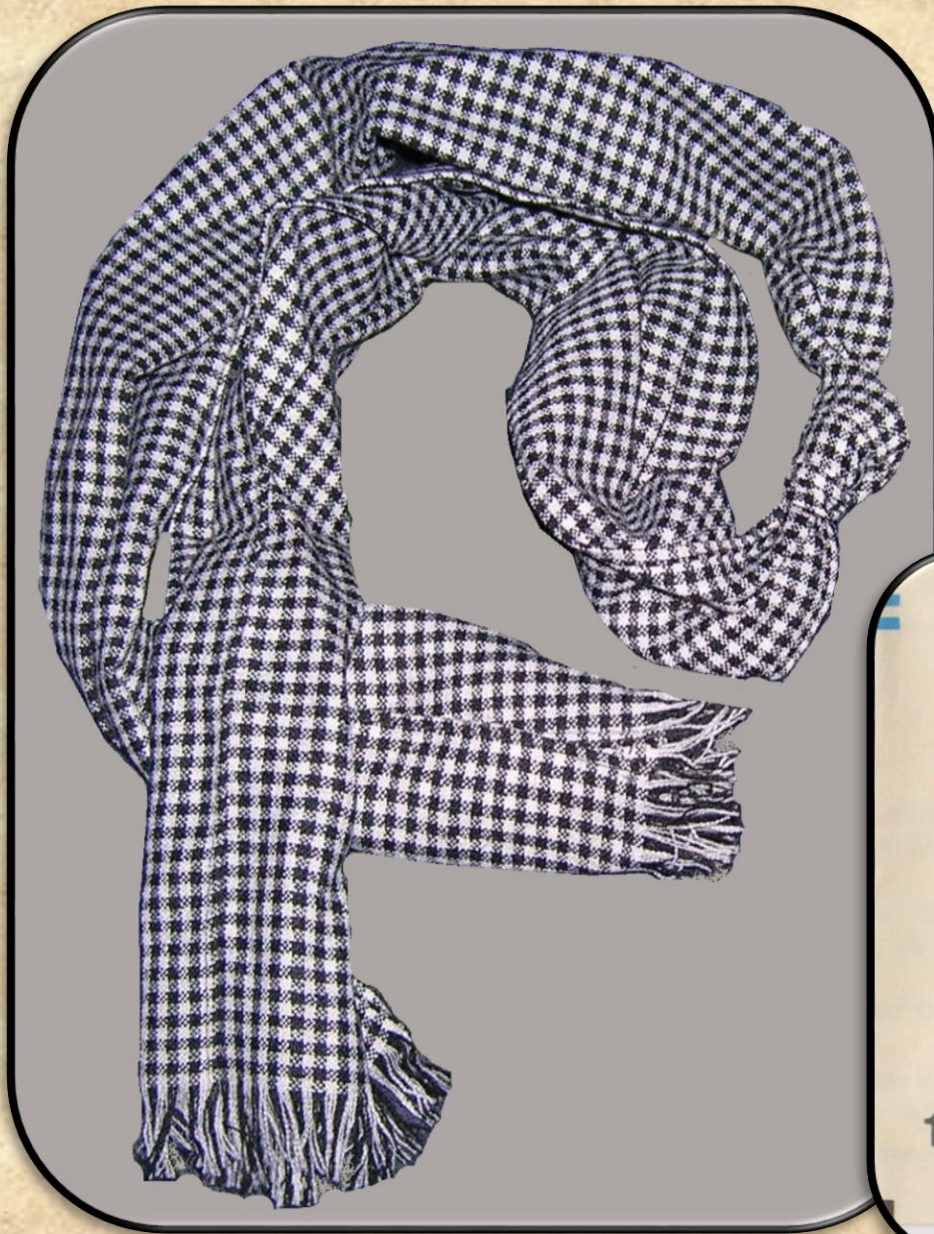
'It is rather an absurd business, this Ritual of ours,' he answered, 'but it has at least the saving grace of antiquity to excuse it. I have a copy of the questions and answers here, if you care to run your eye over them.'



Pictured is the pocket compass used by Holmes when measuring out the dimensions from the Ritual.

From the story:

From this starting point I proceeded to step, having first taken the cardinal points by my pocket compass.



Pictured is the Shepherd muffer, or scarf, worn by the butler, Brunton, and which he used to help retrieve the Musgrave treasure.

From the story:

In this space lay a large and heavy flagstone, with a rusted iron ring in the centre, to which a thick shepherd's check muffer was attached.

'By Jove!' cried my client, 'that's Brunton's muffer. I have seen it on him, and could swear to it. What has the villain been doing here?'



CHARLES II Cypher Ornament

One of four ornaments hand-cast for our 1988 series, this one honors Charles II. This 17th century king of England issued the land grants covering the site of Charleston, South Carolina and thus was the city named for him. The ornament features a decorative motif created from the initial "C" and Roman numeral II.

Virginia Metalcrafters
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980



Pictured is the cypher for Charles II. The cypher is the Sovereign's monogram, consisting of the initials of the monarch's name.

From the story:

'My ancestor, Sir Ralph Musgrave, was a prominent Cavalier, and the right-hand man of Charles II in his wanderings,' said my friend.

Additional items of interest
in “The Adventure of
Musgrave Ritual” not
included in the original
Evidence Box.

The Musgrave Ritual

Whose was it?

His who is gone.

Who shall have it?

He who will come.

What was the month?

The sixth from the first.

Where was the sun?

Over the oak.

Where was the shadow?

Under the elm.

How was it stepped?

North by ten and by ten, east by five and by five, south by two and by two, west by one and by one, and so under.

What shall we give for it?

All that is ours.

Why should we give it?

For the sake of the trust.



Pictured is the aluminum crutch, and the shoe of the club-footed man, both early Holmes' adventures.

From the story:

'Here's the record of the Tarleton murders and the case of Vamberry, the wine merchant, and the adventure of the old Russian woman, and the singular affair of the aluminium crutch, as well as a full account of Ricoletti of the club foot and his abominable wife.'



Pictured is a postal card of the British Museum, close to Montague Street where Holmes resided.

From the story:

‘When I first came up to London I had rooms in Montague Street, just round the corner from the British Museum, and there I waited, filling in my too abundant leisure time by studying all those branches of science which might make me more efficient.’



Pictured is a photo of Brunton, the butler, and Howells, one of the maids, at Hurlstone.

From the story:

‘Of these servants the one who had been longest in our service was Brunton, the butler.’

‘A few months ago we were in hopes that he was about to settle down again, for he became engaged to Rachel Howells, our second housemaid.’



Pictured is a drawing of Charles II, king of Great Britain from 1660–85. Musgrave’s ancestor was an aide to Charles.

From the story:

‘My ancestor, Sir Ralph Musgrave, was a prominent Cavalier, and the right-hand man of Charles II in his wanderings,’ said my friend.