

## Adventure XXVI – The Adventure of the Final Problem

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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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## M. Churchill et les neutres SHERLOCK HOLMES EST MORT

M. Winston Churchill est un meneur d'hommes. Son dynamisme entraîne ses compatriotes. Le principe du *Wait and see*, qui répond au tempérament de bon nombre d'Anglo-Saxons, lui fait horreur: il aime à agir, et à agir vite. Son rôle d'animateur, aux côtés de M. Chamberlain, ressemble à celui que joua M. Lloyd George auprès de M. Asquith dans les débuts de l'ancienne conflagration. Pour ceux qui le questionnent, il est tenté de répondre, comme M. Clemenceau il y a un quart de siècle: « Je fais la guerre. »

Les hommes d'Etat créés pour la lutte directe sont rarement de bons diplomates. Le premier lord civil de l'Amirauté voudrait brûler les étapes. Or, dans l'art de la politique internationale, brûler les étapes n'est pas en général le bon moyen de réussir: le plus souvent, comme il s'agit de convaincre et non d'ordonner, on aboutit au résultat opposé à celui que l'on cherche, et la retraite diplomatique, qui à bref délai s'impose, fait perdre du temps au lieu d'en gagner.

Nous serions fort étonné si M. Winston Churchill ne faisait pas, en ce mois de janvier, l'expérience un peu cuisante. Les Etats-Unis viennent de prodiguer aux Etats

Notre correspondant de Paris nous écrit :

Du débat qui a eu lieu au sujet de la déchéance des élus communistes, une conclusion, très satisfaisante, ressort d'une façon évidente: la nécessité d'extirper complètement le mal communiste est unanimement reconnue. S'il y a des gens qui désireraient encore ménager, sinon le communisme, du moins certains communistes, ils n'osent plus guère se montrer. Jusqu'à tout récemment, un peu de résistance se manifestait par-ci, par-là à la déchéance: il n'y en a plus eu l'ombre au cours de la discussion.

Tout au plus, les socialistes (et certains d'entre eux n'étaient pas du tout de cet avis) ont-ils tenté de soustraire à la sanction quelques députés communistes en demandant que ne soient pas frappés ceux qui auraient rompu avec le parti avant le 9 janvier. Avec raison, la Commission (dont le rapporteur était du reste un socialiste, M. Barthélemy, maire de Puteaux) n'a pas voulu de cette date tardive dont l'adoption aurait accordé une prime aux bolcheviks de la pire mauvaise foi. Elle a seulement consenti à fixer la date-

n'est pas parce qu'ils ont peur, c'est parce qu'aux postes qu'ils occupent, ils servent clandestinement cette propagande.»

La discussion a bien mis en lumière l'erreur que commettent les gens qui, comme M. de Kérillis, demandent avec raison qu'on réprime énergiquement toute propagande nazie, mais qui, en même temps, veulent à tort qu'on ménage dans une certaine mesure les communistes (M. de Kérillis l'a formellement écrit). Ils ont l'air de ne pas voir que les seconds sont actuellement au service de la première et que l'action communiste est, pour toutes sortes de raisons, la plus dangereuse en France. Par conséquent, il est, à tous les points de vue, absurde d'avoir la moindre indulgence pour le communisme, qui présente le maximum de danger et à l'égard duquel tous les patriotes doivent se montrer impitoyables.

Cela paraît heureusement bien compris aujourd'hui, comme en témoigne la loi qui vient d'être votée. Cela est si bien compris que le gouvernement a été invité à prendre sans tarder d'autres mesures encore. Plusieurs orateurs ont constaté qu'il ne suffisait pas de

serpents et les monstres qui grouillent et font un si affreux usage de ses biens disparaissent donc! Sans lui, plus de tentatives, plus de guerre, puisque les hommes capables de goûter la paix ailleurs qu'au lieu de leur tombeau.

Cependant que, dans l'autre camp, s'inquiètent :

— Dites donc, ce soleil qui éclaire, n'est-ce pas bien rassurant! Oui, sans doute, l'astre est passé très loin de nous, mais enfin, ce soleil, qu'il y a quelque chose de dérangé de mécanique céleste. Voyez-vous que notre système ne fantaisie d'en faire autant? Et puis, ceux qui partent à des millions de kilomètres l'heure. Si l'un d'eux allait rencontrer une petite boule qui roule éperdue et de perdre les espaces...

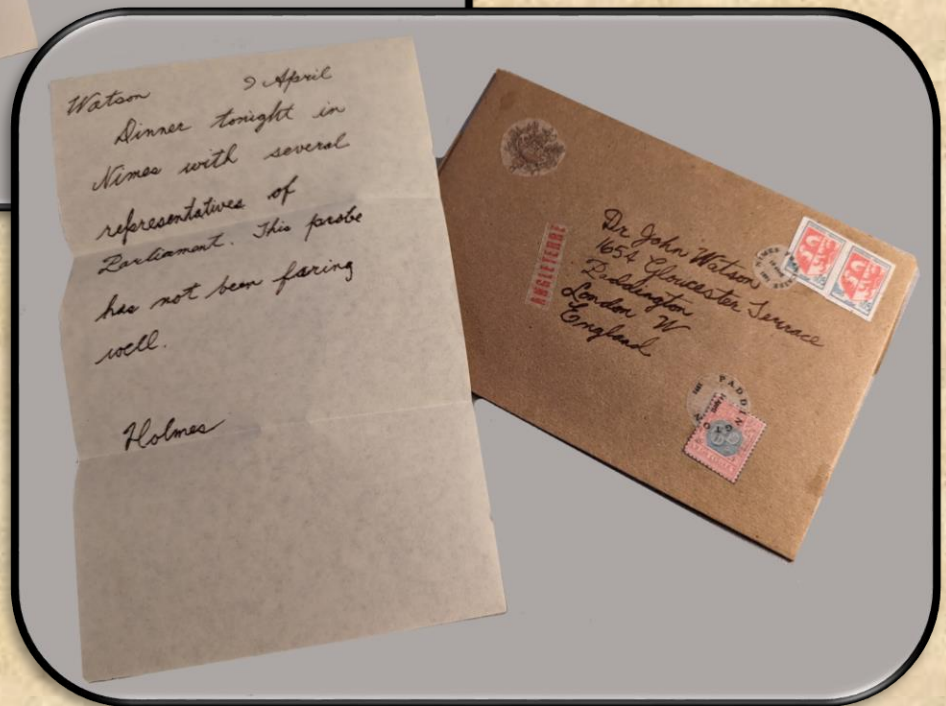
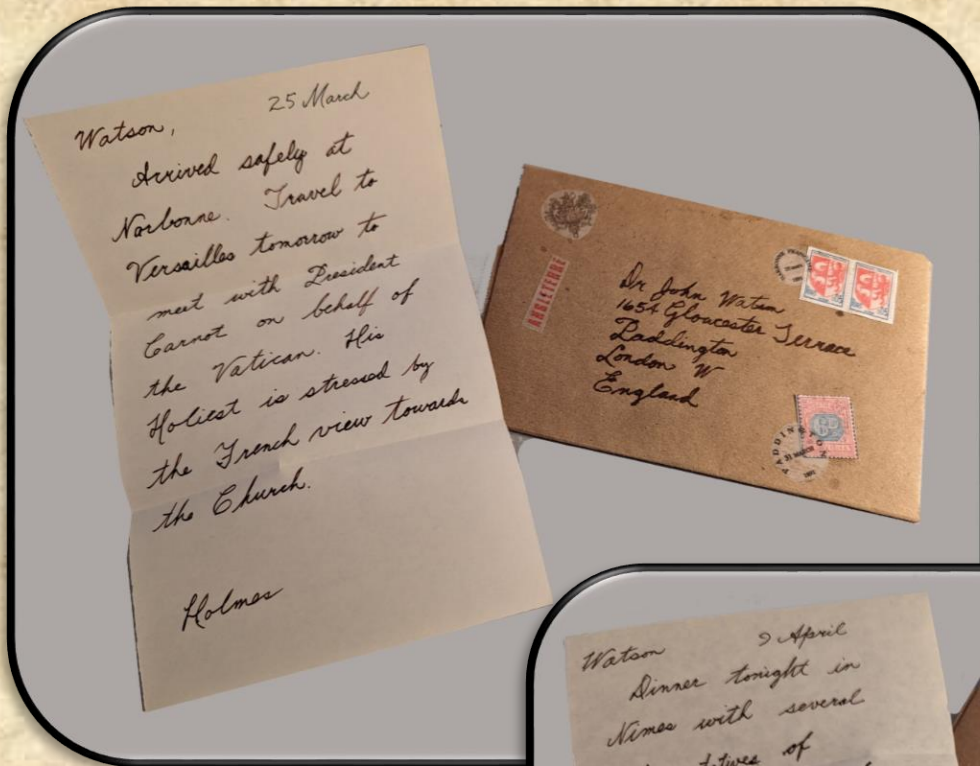
Ainsi l'humanité, comme chaque être, elle deux types d'individus: l'un fait bien de sa vie et l'autre ne songe qu'à la trouver l'abri. Mais tous veulent leur place au même plus que leur place, celle des autres. Pourquoi ils ne s'aiment pas mutuellement? Pourquoi d'un astre dans l'infini nous faisons moins mesurer l'inanité de nos petites haines, et ambitions qui explosent d'un astre périt, cause la catastrophe d'un système de mondes; et nous nous devons de suivre les feux-follets des sions minuscules?

Ah! laissons plutôt...

Pictured is the article posted in *Journal De Geneve*, informing the public of the death of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls.

From the story:

As far as I know, there have been only three accounts in the public Press: that in the *Journal de Genève* upon May 6th, 1891...

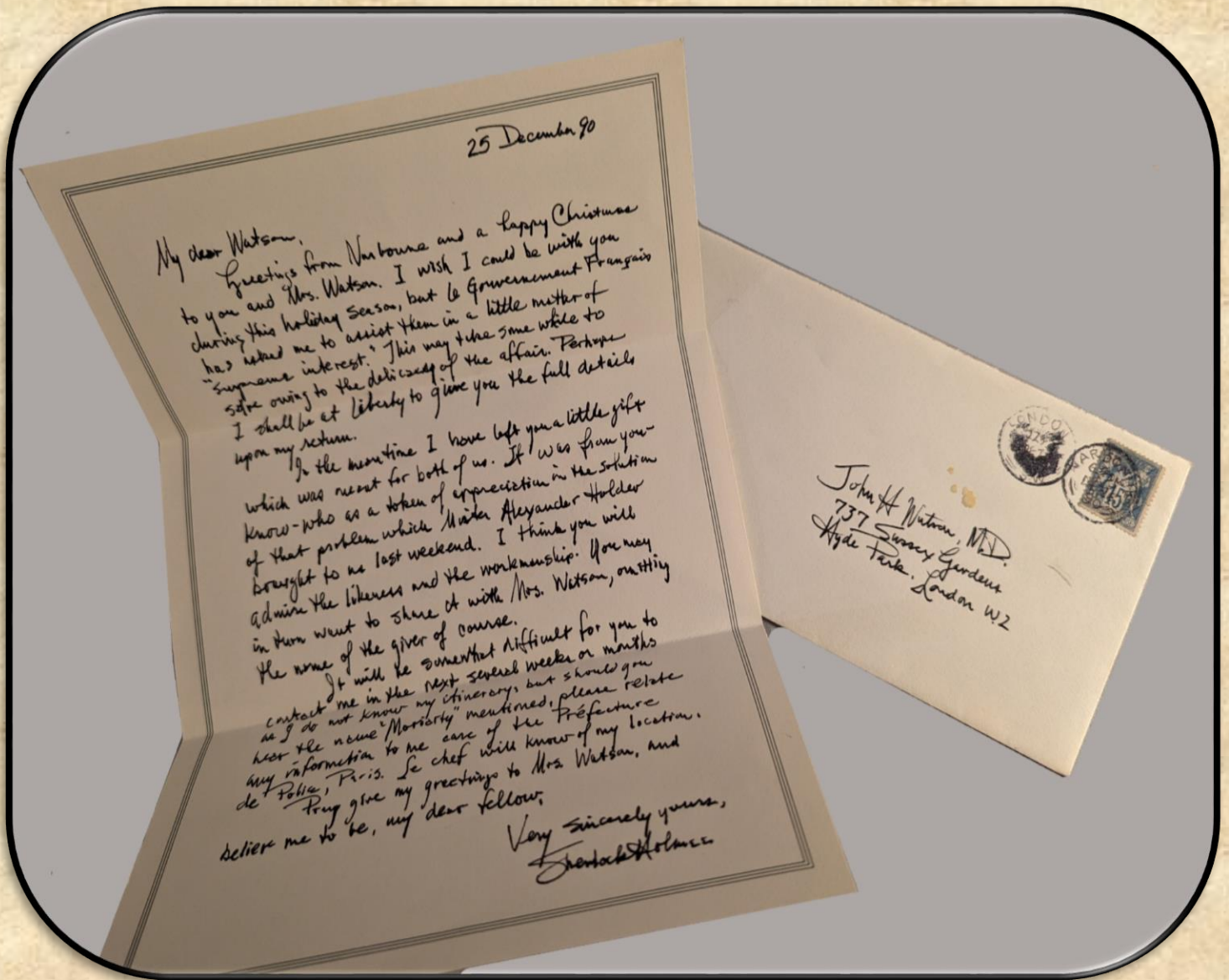


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Pictured are the notes sent by Holmes to Watson describing the events in France.

From the story:

I saw in the papers that he had been engaged by the French Government upon a matter of supreme importance, and I received two notes from Holmes, dated from Narbonne and from Nîmes, from which I gathered that his stay in France was likely to be a long one.



Pictured is a longer note sent by Holmes to Watson describing the events in France in which he was engaged by the French Government.

From the story:

I saw in the papers that he had been engaged by the French Government upon a matter of supreme importance, and I received two notes from Holmes, dated from Narbonne and from Nîmes, from which I gathered that his stay in France was likely to be a long one.



Pictured are the postmarks for the letters and notes Holmes forwarded to Watson from Nimes, Narbonne, and Paddington.

From the story:

I received two notes from Holmes, dated from Narbonne and from Nîmes, from which I gathered that his stay in France was likely to be a long one.



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Pictured is the May 1891 edition of Bradshaw's Continental Railway Guide, which Holmes and Watson would have made good use of during their travels through Europe.

From the story:

'It is obvious, therefore, than I cannot do better than get away for the few days which remain before the police are at liberty to act. It would be a great pleasure to me, therefore, if you could come on to the Continent with me.'



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Pictured is a *Michelin Guide*, which Holmes and Watson would have made good use of during their travels through Europe.

From the story:

‘It is obvious, therefore, than I cannot do better than get away for the few days which remain before the police are at liberty to act. It would be a great pleasure to me, therefore, if you could come on to the Continent with me.’

*Lowther Arcade  
at the Strand End*

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Pictured is the slip of paper Watson handed the cab driver at Lowther Arcade at the Strand, as instructed by Holmes.

From the story:

‘Into this hansom you will jump, and you will drive to the Strand end of the Lowther Arcade, handing the address to the cabman upon a slip of paper, with a request that he will not throw it away.’





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Pictured is the disguise Holmes used to reach the train at Victoria Station, that of an elderly clergy.

From the story:

There was no sign of him. I spent a few minutes in assisting a venerable Italian priest... Then, having taken another look round, I returned to my carriage, where I found that the porter, in spite of the ticket, had given me my decrepit Italian friend as a travelling companion.



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Pictured is Holmes' hand, traveling, bag which he carried with him across the European continent.

From the story:

With all our precautions, you see that we have cut it rather fine,' said Holmes, laughing. He rose, and throwing off the black cassock and hat which had formed his disguise, he packed them away in a hand-bag.

## SUSPICIOUS FIRE AT BAKER STREET

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The report of smoke pouring from the first floor at 221b Baker Street in Westminster brought a response from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. The smoke was found to be being emitted from a knot of rags wrapped around a rock. The Metro Brigade's Fire inspector surmised that someone had thrown the device through the front window, but luckily the observant eye of a neighbor raised the alarm bringing the Brigade. Fortunately, the 'fire bomb' landed in the coal scuttle igniting some cigars that seemed to have been stored there. The damage to the flat was described as minimal.

The flat is the residence of the amateur detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was believed to be traveling on the continent at the time of the incident.

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Pictured is the article describing the small fire at Holmes's rooms at Baker Street. The article surmises the fire was deliberately set.

From the story:

'Have you seen the morning paper, Watson?'

'No.'

'You haven't seen about Baker Street, then?'

'Baker Street?'

'They set fire to our rooms last night. No great harm was done.'



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Pictured is the calling, or visiting card, for Mycroft Holmes, basing him at the Diogenes Club. Note it indicates one of his vocations is coach driver. He drove Watson in a brougham to Victoria Station.

From the story:

‘Did you find your brougham?’

‘Yes, it was waiting.’

‘It was my brother Mycroft. It is an advantage to get about in such a case without taking a mercenary into your confidence.’

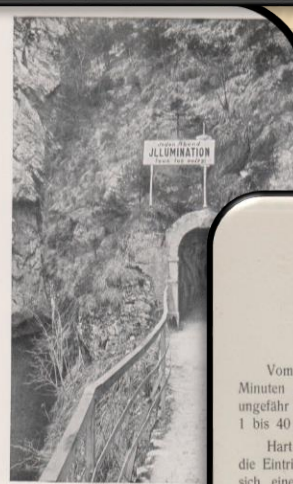
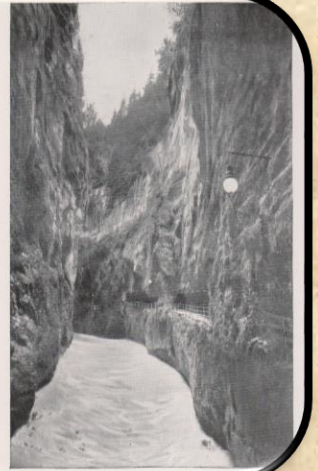


Pictured is the map Holmes and Watson used to traverse Switzerland on their way to Meiringen.

From the story:

‘In the meantime we shall treat ourselves to a couple of carpet bags, encourage the manufactures of the countries through which we travel, and make our way at our leisure into Switzerland, via Luxembourg and Basle.’

Aareschlucht<sup>2</sup>  
Gorges de l'Aar



Aareschlucht.

Vom Bahnhof Meiringen in zirka 30 Minuten zu erreichen. Die Schlucht ist ungefähr 2 km lang, 100 bis 300 m hoch, 1 bis 40 m weit.

Hart am Eingang der Schlucht, wo die Eintrittskarten gelöst werden, befindet sich eine gute und billige Restauration, sowie ein Holzwarengeschäft mit ganz feinen Schnitzereien. Photographien und Ansichtspostkarten sind dort in naturgetreuer Ausführung billig zu haben.



Pictured is the booklet, *Aareschlucht, Gorges de l'Aar*, showing various pictures of the Reichenbach Falls, including areas through which Holmes and Watson passed through on the way to Meiringen.

From the story:

For a charming week we wandered up the Valley of the Rhône, and then, branching off at Leuk, we made our way over the Gemmi Pass, still deep in snow, and so, by way of Interlaken, to Meiringen.

# THE PENNY MAGAZINE

OF THE  
Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

397.]

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

[JUNE 9, 1838.]

THE PASS OF THE GEMMI, AND THE BATHS OF LEUK.



[The Pass of the Gemmi, and the Baths of Leuk.]

ONE of the principal passes in that great chain of the Alps, which, branching off to the north-east from Mont Blanc, is separated from the main chain by the valley of the Rhone till it unites with it again near the St. Gothard, is the pass over the Gemmi. This mountain is so called from the Latin word Gemini, or twins, an appellation very applicable to its peculiar appearance at the summit, which consists of two precisely similar peaks. The view from thence to the south extends over the valley of the Rhone into Piedmont, its principal feature being Monte Rosa, a mountain second only to Mont Blanc among the mountains of Europe. To the west rise the peaks of Strübel and Razi, whence descend two enormous glaciers which

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pour their torrents into the lake of Daube, which is at the very summit of the Gemmi Pass. This lake is about a mile and a half in length, and half that width; and is frozen during eight months of the year; but its most remarkable characteristic is, that though fed by several considerable streams from the annual melting of the snow and ice, it has no visible outlet. The probability is, that there exists some subterranean channel which conveys the water into the Dala, which afterwards joins the Rhone. This lake is situated about 7400 feet, nearly twice the height of any of our British mountains, above the level of the sea.

The Gemmi is chiefly celebrated for the wonderful

2 F

Pictured is *The Penny Magazine*, June 9, 1838, with an article on the pass of the Gemmi and the baths of Leuk.

From the story:

For a charming week we wandered up the Valley of the Rhône, and then, branching off at Leuk, we made our way over the Gemmi Pass, still deep in snow, and so, by way of Interlaken, to Meiringen.



Pictured are postal cards depicting the public square at Interlaken, the mountain stream in the Alps near Meiringen, areas which Holmes and Watson visited on their route to Meiringen.

From the story:

For a charming week we wandered up the Valley of the Rhône, and then, branching off at Leuk, we made our way over the Gemmi Pass, still deep in snow, and so, by way of Interlaken, to Meiringen.





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Pictured is a postal card for the Englischer Hof Hotel, where Holmes and Watson stayed while at Meiringen.

From the story:

It was upon the 3rd of May that we reached the little village of Meiringen, where we put up at the Englischer Hof, then kept by Peter Steiler the elder.



**Englischer Hof Hotel**

4. May 1891

My Dear Doctor Watson,

Soon after you and Mr. Holmes left the hotel, I was faced with a very difficult situation. An English woman registered with us. She had been wintering at Davos Platz and was on her way to join friends at Lucerne. Shortly after she was settled in her suite, she was overtaken by a sudden hemorrhage. It was only then that I learned that she was suffering from consumption, and I would not be surprised if she only has a short time to live.

Dr. Watson, I am besides myself with anguish! I hate to impose upon you, but could you please return to the hotel to console this woman.

Peter Steiler

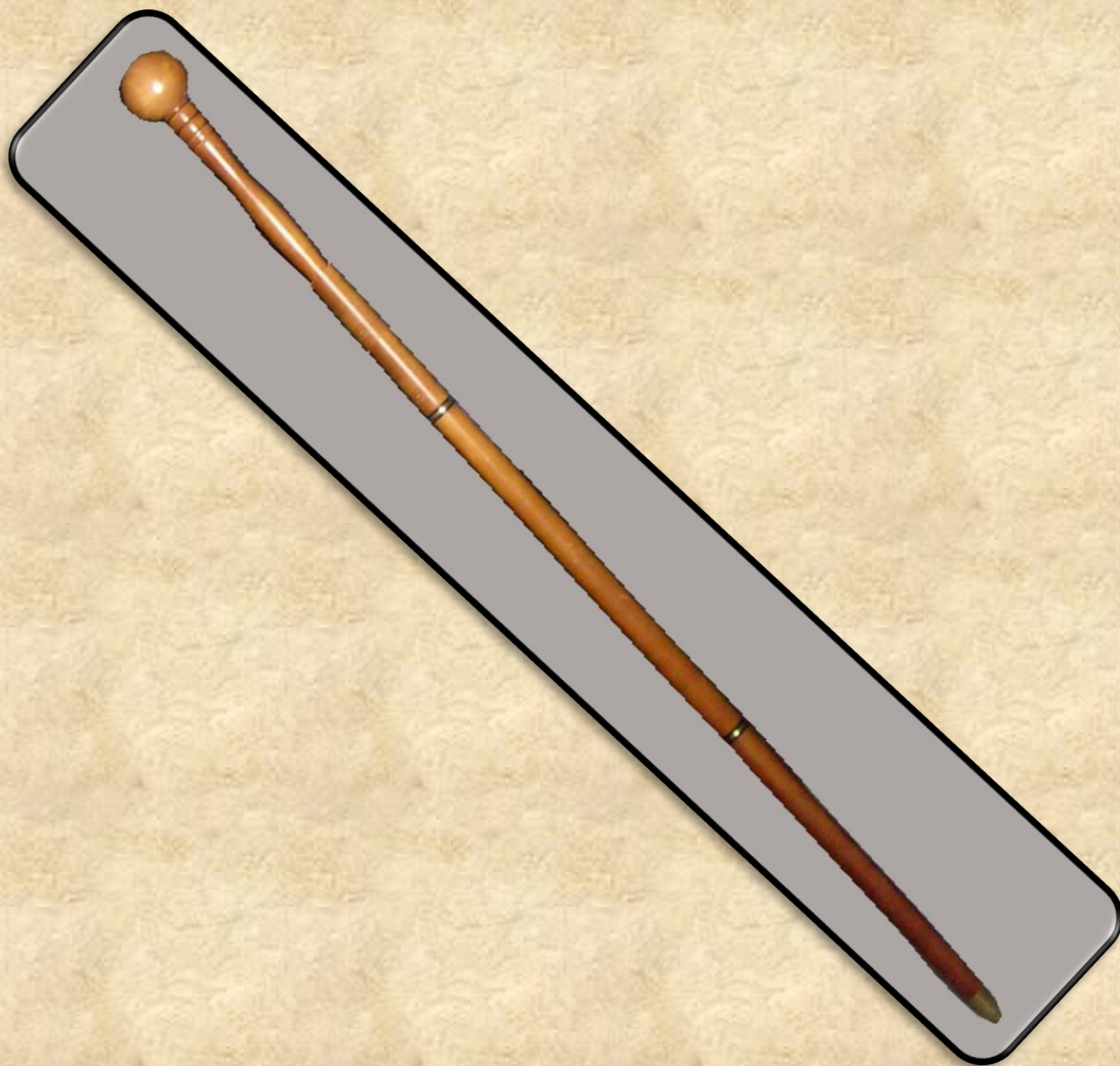
P.S. I have told the woman that our Swiss physician could tend to her, but she has refused! I would be forever in your debt, Doctor, if you could help to relieve this great responsibility that has to thrust upon me.

**Meiringen, Switzerland**

Pictured is the fake letter from the hotel, delivered to Holmes and Watson, asking for Watson's assistance. The letter was designed to separate the men.

From the story:

We had turned to do so, when we saw a Swiss lad come running along it with a letter in his hand. It bore the mark of the hotel which we had just left, and was addressed to me by the landlord.



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Pictured is the Alpine stock Holmes used during his ascent to the Reichenbach Falls.

From the story:

There was Holmes's Alpine-stock still leaning against the rock by which I had left him. But there was no sign of him, and it was in vain that I shouted.

It was the sight of that Alpine-stock which turned me cold and sick.



---

Pictured is a stone from Reichenbach Falls, the place where Holmes and Moriarty met their demise together.

From the story:

For all my efforts, two more had passed before I found myself at the fall of Reichenbach once more. But there was no sign of him, and it was in vain that I shouted. My only answer was my own voice reverberating in a rolling echo from the cliffs around me.

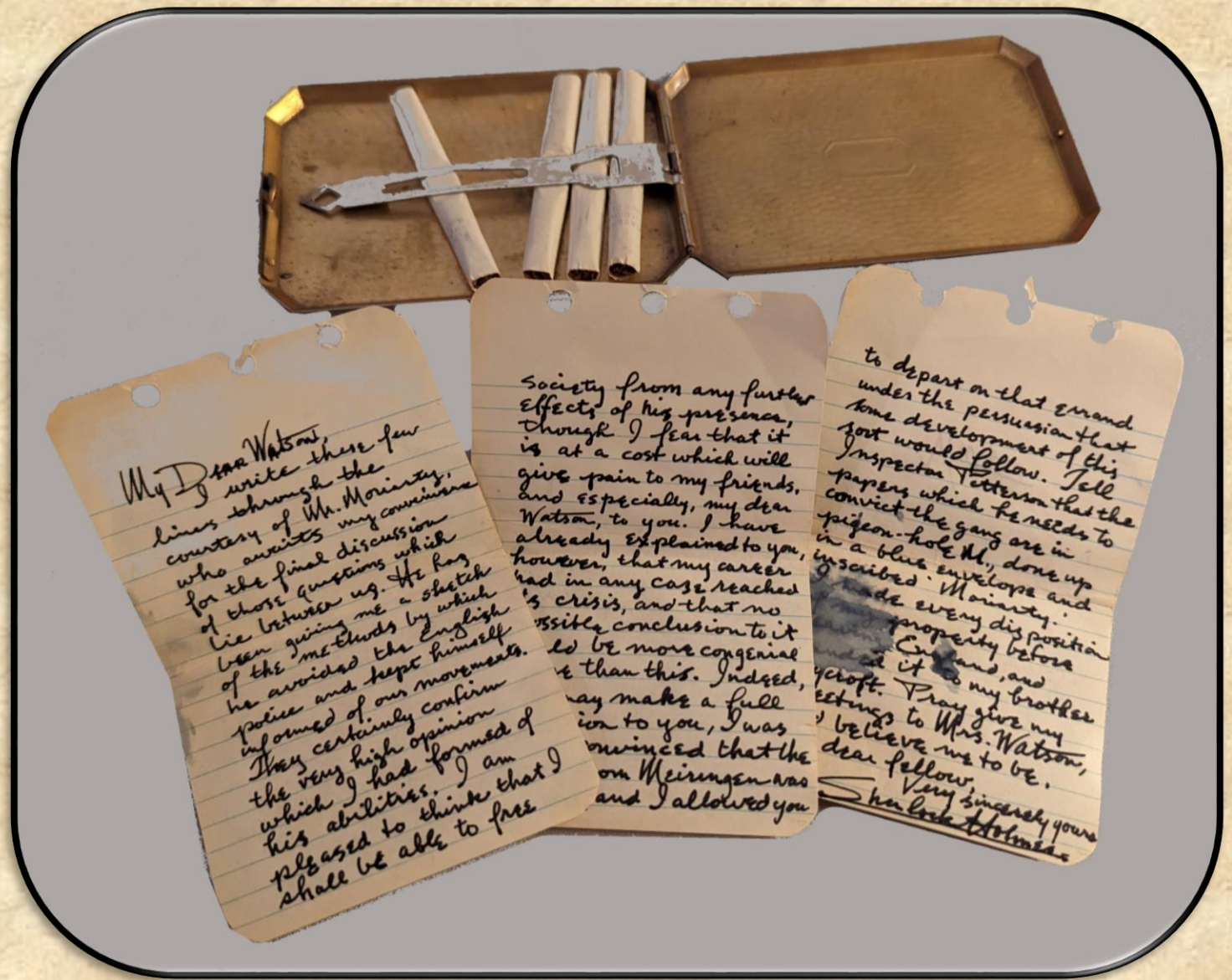


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Pictured is a stereoscope card depicting the Gorges of the Aare. The Aare Gorge between Meiringen and Innertkirchen is nearly 200 meters deep and barely more than a meter wide at its narrowest point. It is known for narrow paths.

From the story:

He had remained on that three-foot path, with sheer wall on one side and sheer drop upon the other, until his enemy had overtaken him.



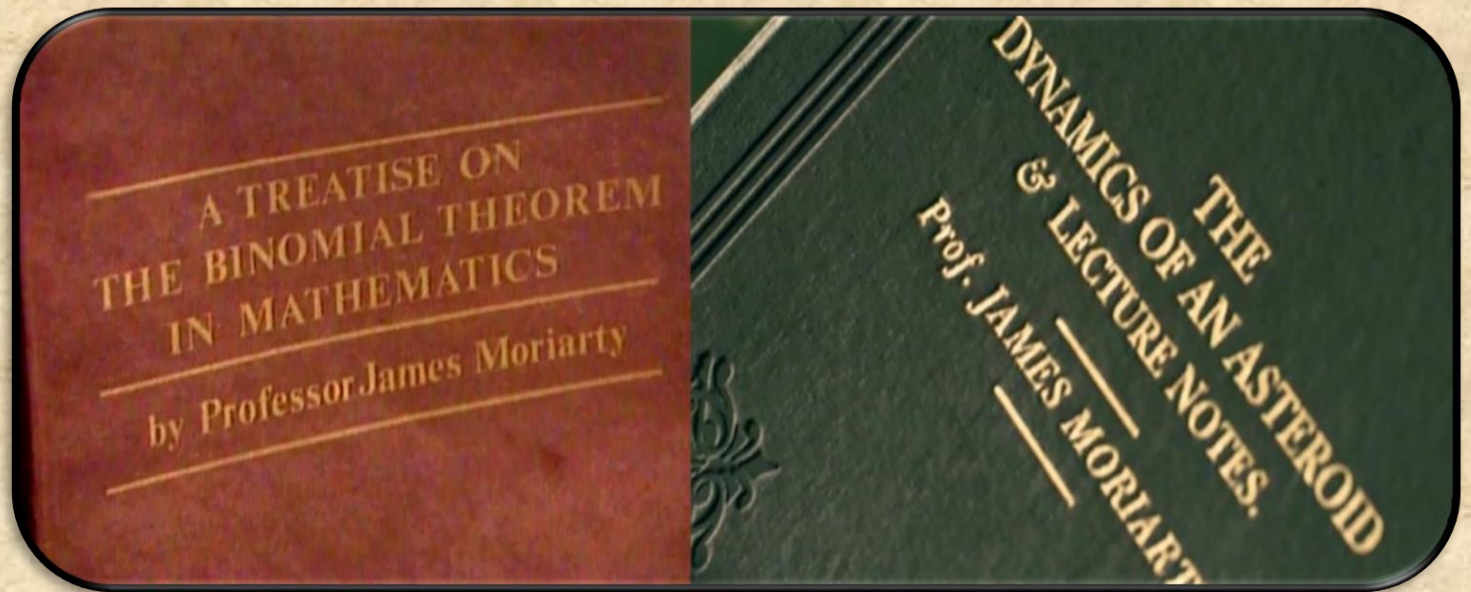
Pictured is Holmes' monogrammed silver cigarette case containing cigarettes and 3 pages addressed to Watson, wherein Holmes makes his last thoughts known to his friend.

From the story:

From the top of this boulder the gleam of something bright caught my eye, and, raising my hand, I found that it came from the silver cigarette-case which he used to carry. As I took it up a small square of paper, upon which it had lain, fluttered down on to the ground. Unfolding it I found that it consisted of three pages torn from his note-book and addressed to me.

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



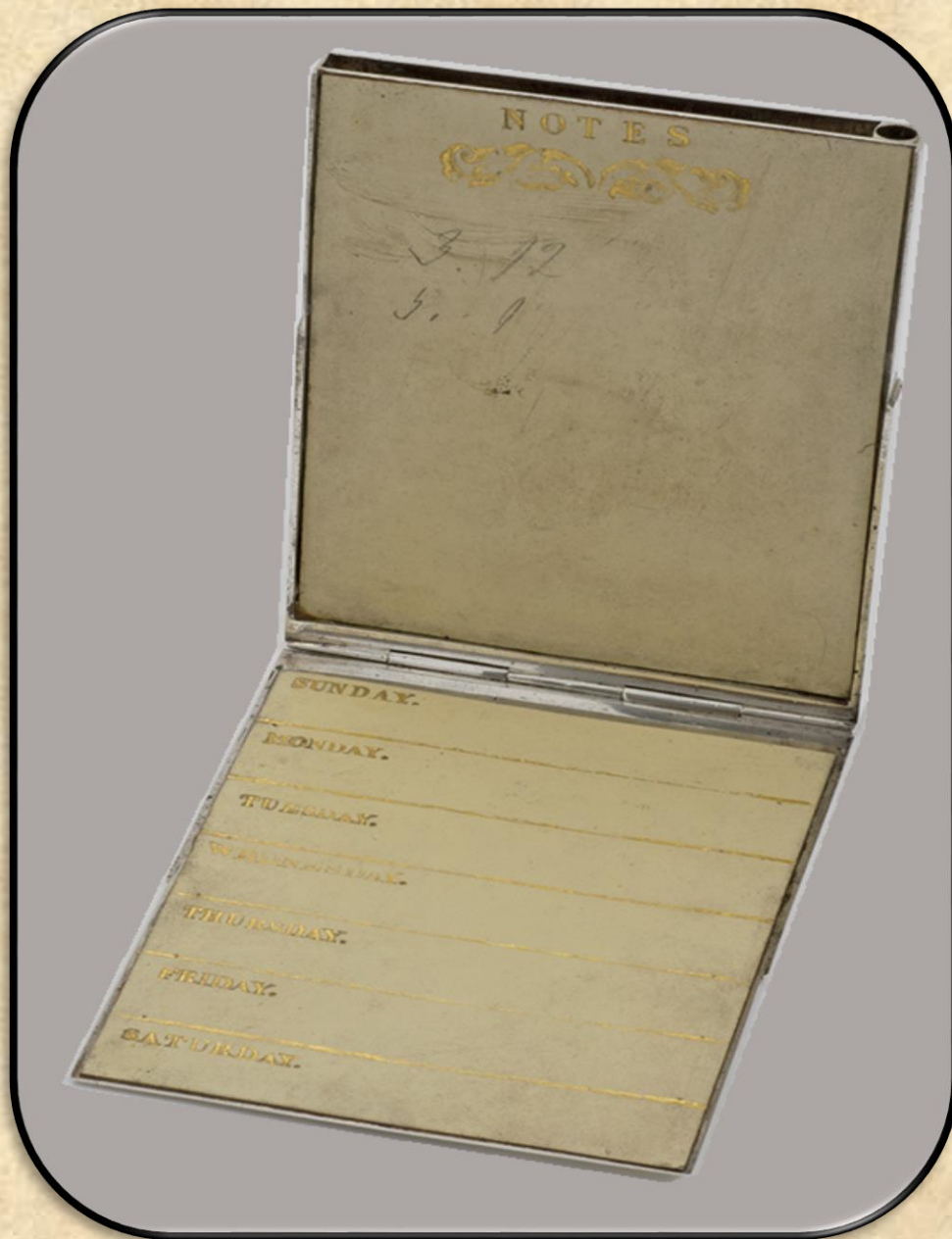
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Pictured are the two books which Moriarty authored on higher mathematics and physics.

From the story:

‘At the age of twenty-one he wrote a treatise upon the Binomial Theorem, which has had a European vogue.’





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Pictured is the memorandum book Moriarty drew from his pocket to review dates in which Holmes had crossed his path.

From the story:

‘He clapped his hand into his pocket, and I raised the pistol from the table. But he merely drew out a memorandum-book in which he had scribbled some dates.’



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Pictured are the broken fragments of the brick which fell from a building, almost killing Holmes as he walked down the street.

From the story:

‘I kept to the pavement after that, Watson, but as I walked down Vere Street a brick came down from the roof of one of the houses and was shattered to fragments at my feet.’



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Pictured is handkerchief Holmes used to bandage his bloodied knuckles, as well as the bludgeon the rough person attempted to use on Holmes.

From the story:

‘On my way I was attacked by a rough with a bludgeon. I knocked him down... whose front teeth I have barked my knuckles...’



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Pictured is a postal card from Dieppe France, the landing point for Holmes and Watson after departing England.

From the story:

‘Well, then we must make a cross-country journey to Newhaven, and so over to Dieppe.’



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Pictured is the rail station at Canterbury, where Holmes and Watson departed their train and watched Moriarty trail them.

From the story:

At Canterbury, therefore, we alighted, only to find that we should have to wait an hour before we could get a train to Newhaven.