

Adventure XXXIV – The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton



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.

Will call at
6:30.
C.A.M.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS MILVERTON,
*Appledore Towers,
Hampstead.*
Agent.

Pictured is Charles Augustus Milverton's calling card, with a note to Holmes, on the back of the card.

As Holmes turned up the lamp the light fell upon a card on the table. He glanced at it, and then, with an ejaculation of disgust, threw it on the floor.

Dear Lady Eva,

Let me take this opportunity to offer my congratulations on your upcoming marriage to the Earl of Dovercourt. After reading your sprightly correspondences with Squire Robert Manning of Lancashire, I am eager to meet you. I do hope you can find a moment from your busy schedule to discuss with me some of your interesting interpretations of the joys of life.

Please send my regards to the Earl.

With deepest sincerity,

Charles A. Milverton
Agent

Pictured is the letter from Milverton to Lady Eva to set up an appointment for a meeting to discuss the blackmail deal.

‘Because an illustrious client has placed her piteous case in my hands. It is the Lady Eva Brackwell, the most beautiful debutante of last season.’

**MILES/DORKING
NUPTIAL
CANCELLED**

**FAMILY
AND FRIENDS
PUZZLED**

A spokesman for Colonel Reginald Dorking of Kensington announced today that the wedding between the Colonel and the Honourable Violet Miles scheduled for this coming Saturday has been called off. The nuptial has been planned for months and muchly anticipated in society circles due to the notoriety of the Colonel in his recent service to the Crown. No one from either of the two families had any comment as to the reason for the abrupt cancellation. Miss Miles was seen as she left the St. Monica's Church where the wedding was to be held. She was obviously terribly upset and was in tears.

**WEDDING DRESS
FOR SALE**

The Morning Post

December 22, 1898

Pictured is the newspaper account of the canceled wedding between Colonel Dorking and Violet Miles, after Miss Miles refused to pay Milverton's blackmail fee.

'Now, you remember the sudden end of the engagement between the Honourable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the wedding there was a paragraph in the *Morning Post* to say that it was all off.'

TRADESMAN'S PROVISIONAL LICENSELicense Number 221-B

The following provisional license for the trade of Plumber-Fitter is hereby issued by Her Majesty's Government and the Ancient Guild of Plumber-Fitters to Thomas Hay Sweet Escott on this 8TH day of the 1ST month of the year of Our Lord 1899. Having met all the requirements as set forth in the Tradesman's Guidelines and having duly paid the following fee of 3s 2p, the following license number 221-B is hereby issued.

This license will be effective for 90 days from the date of signing and is non-renewable under guideline(s) 17s of the Guild's rules.

Thomas Hay Sweet Escott
Applicant

Arthur Danton, AGPF
Supervisor-Foreman

Date: 8 January 1899

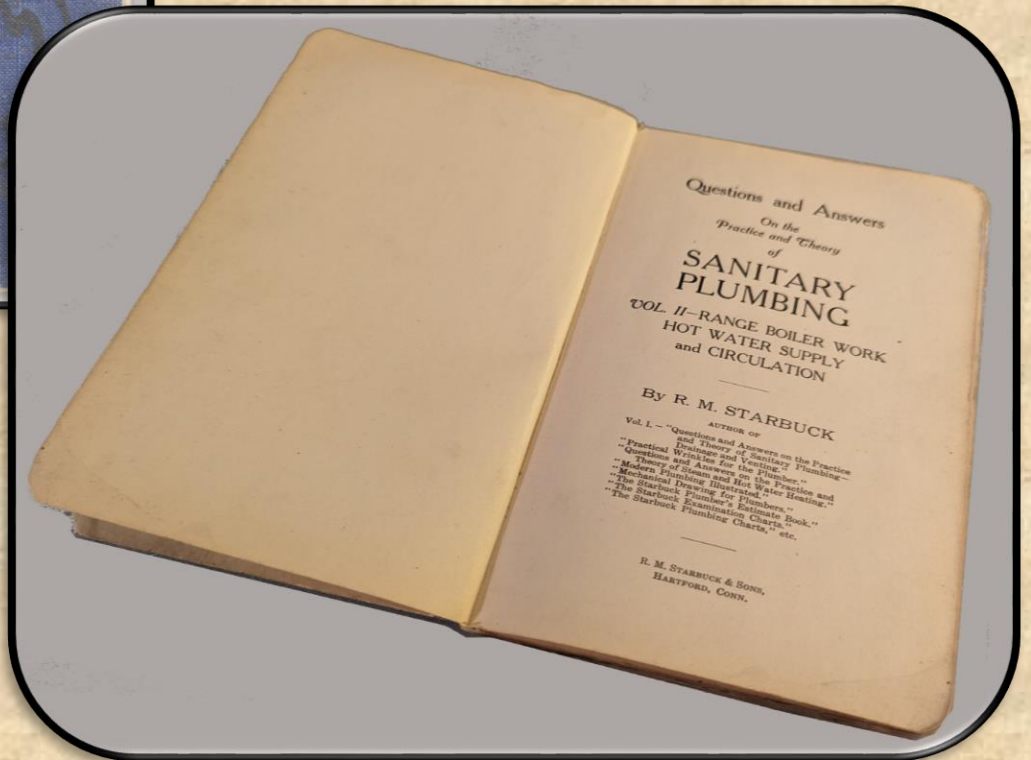
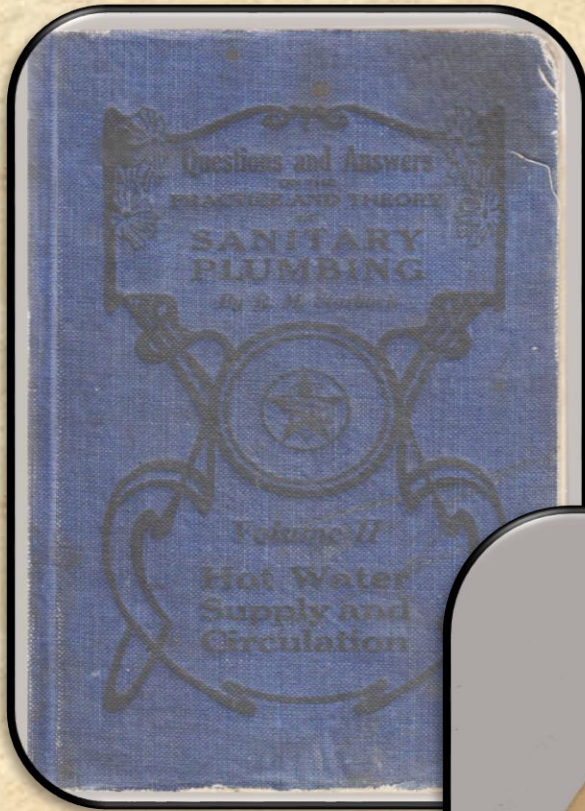
Applicant's Qualifications & Specializations:

1. Master of Three Pipe Problems
2. Master of the Uses of Plumbers' Smoke-Rockets



Pictured is Holmes' plumbing certificate for Thomas Escott, probably created by Holmes, to help with his impersonation as a plumber at Milverton's house. Also pictured is a pipe threading tool Holmes would have employed.

'I am a plumber with a rising business, Escott by name.'



Pictured is a plumbing manual, used by Holmes during his impersonation as Escott, the plumber.

‘I am a plumber with a rising business, Escott by name.’



Pictured is Holmes' burglary kit in a leather roll, which included a glass cutter, file, wrenches, jimmy, and keys.

He took a neat little leather case out of a drawer, and opening it he exhibited a number of shining instruments. 'This is a first-class, up-to-date burgling kit, with nickel-plated jemmy, diamond-tipped glass-cutter, adaptable keys, and every modern improvement which the march of civilization demands.'



Pictured is the dark lantern Holmes and Watson took with them to Milverton's house. A dark lantern has a shutter you can close to darken the lantern.

'Here, too, is my dark lantern. Everything is in order. Have you a pair of silent shoes?'



Pictured are the two silk masks made by Watson for Holmes and him to conceal their face during Milverton's burglary.

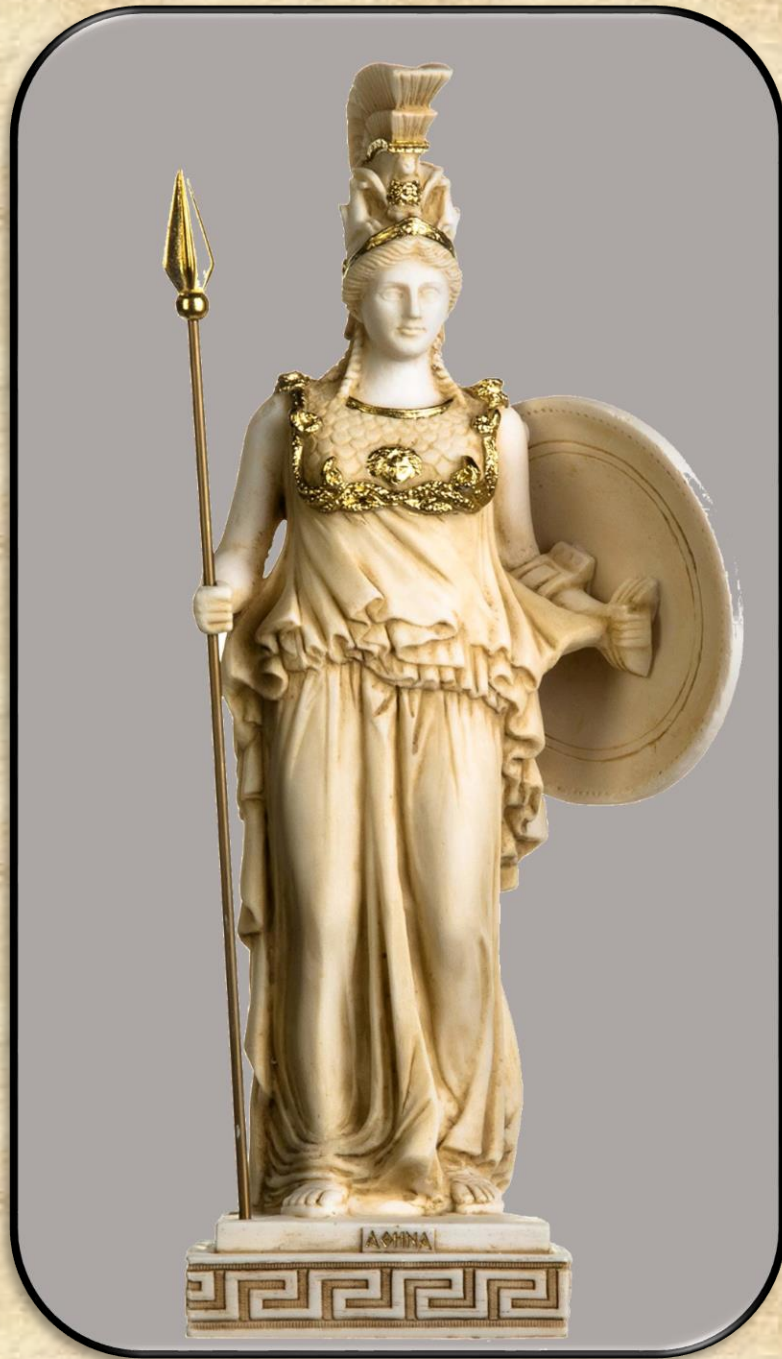
'Excellent. And a mask?'

'I can make a couple out of black silk.'

MISSING: Rakish young worker with a goatee beard. Smokes a clay pipe. Walks with swagger. Tall. Thin. Grey eyes. Owner of rising plumbing business. Goes by the name of Escott. Please notify the housemaid at Milverton House, Hampstead of any information pertaining to said gentleman. All is forgiven.

Pictured is a missing person's advertisement run by Agatha, the maid Holmes became engaged with while impersonating a plumber at Milverton's residence.

'Agatha — that's my fiancé — says it is a joke in the servants' hall that it's impossible to wake the master.'



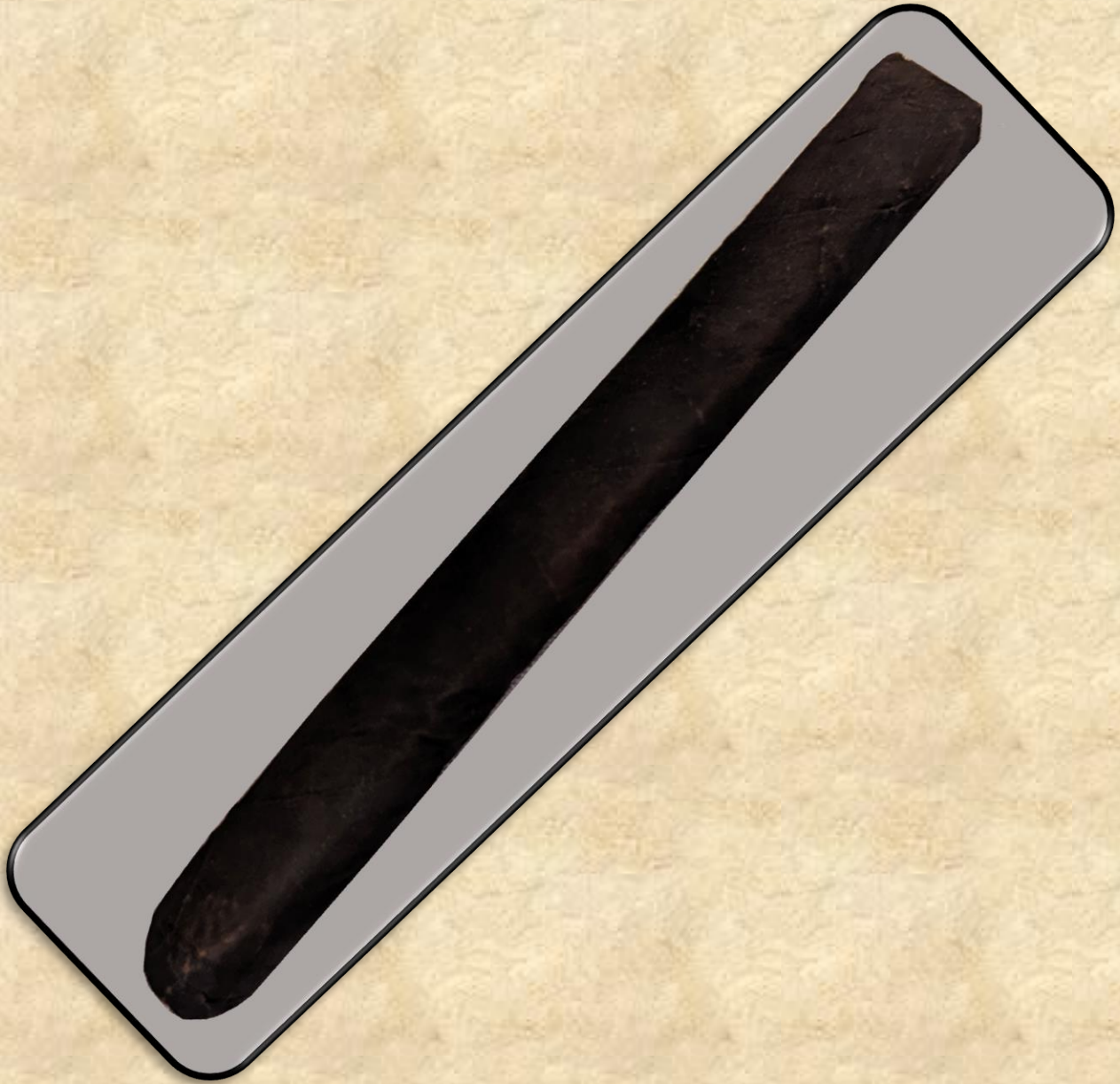
Pictured is the marble bust of Athene, which Milverton had on a shelf in his study.

Opposite was a large bookcase, with a marble burst of Athene on the top.



Pictured is a suction cup for removing glass during break-in. The cup was part of Holmes' burglary kit.

The place was locked, but Holmes removed a circle of glass and turned the key from the inside.



Pictured is the black cigar Charles Augustus Milverton was enjoying when he met his fate.

He was leaning far back in the red leather chair, his legs outstretched, a long black cigar projecting at an angle from his mouth.

Thoughts on a Three-Pipe Problem:

Warren Hall
Ingenuef

My dearest M.: only the intense distress of a cold has prevented my writing in order that you might soon get a letter instead of solitude but I de- when this reaches you it will not be returned. I am glad he has a little holiday & only wish you cd be having the same. My feelings towards you last h

in his last letter here
bringing you which she because shd greatly like. Think abt. it. My only was whether the climate Highmorn to you as the I happily don't feel it, I many of Still any change might do you good. wd be very nice having you. I expect



canale 192 ©

John M. James Esq.
Dear Sir,

I saw my uncle Robert yesterday he informed me that drawing out the marriage contract, you leaving £1700 of my uncle's patrimony an in question for the next two years hence he to settle it upon sister or hand it over to Mr Addison. My Uncle Robert thinks the whole should be once settled upon me, and I have all my hold the same

Warren Hall
Ingenuef
My dearest M.: only the intense distress of a cold has prevented my writing in order that you might soon get a letter instead of solitude but I de- when this reaches you it will not be returned. I am glad he has a little holiday & only wish you cd be having the same. My feelings towards you last h
in his last letter here
bringing you which she because shd greatly like. Think abt. it. My only was whether the climate Highmorn to you as the I happily don't feel it, I many of Still any change might do you good. wd be very nice having you. I expect

Pictured are just three of the letters used by Milverton to blackmail several men and women, including Mrs Morris, Mr McInnes, and Mrs Thomas, part of the bundles Holmes burned after Milverton's death.

With perfect coolness Holmes slipped across to the safe, filled his two arms with bundles of letters, and poured them all into the fire.



Pictured is small pistol used by the mysterious woman to kill Milverton, who was attempting to blackmail her.

She had drawn a little gleaming revolver, and emptied barrel after barrel into Milverton's body, the muzzle within two feet of his shirt front.



Pictured is a photo of the couple in the shop window seen by Holmes and Watson after the killing of Milverton. The woman in the photo had the same features as the murderess, a delicately curved nose, the marked eyebrows, and the straight mouth.

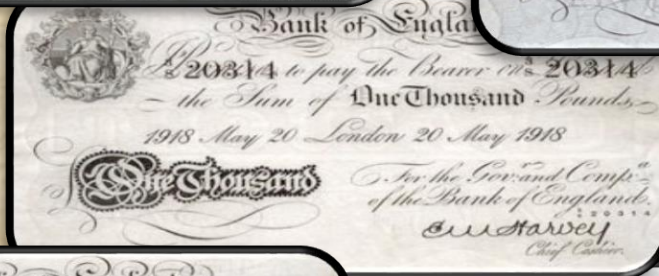
I looked at that delicately curved nose, at the marked eyebrows, at the straight mouth, and the strong little chin beneath it.

Additional items of interest
in “The Adventure of
Charles Augustus
Milverton” not included in
the original Evidence Box.



Pictured is an 1899 illustration of Mr. Pickwick, who Watson compares Charles Augustus Milverton with.

There was something of Mr Pickwick's benevolence in his appearance, marred only by the insincerity of the fixed smile and by the hard glitter of those restless and penetrating eyes.



Pictured is 7000 pounds, the amount Charles Milverton was demanding for the return of the letters written by Lady Eva Brackenstall.

‘Then we can proceed to business. You say that you are acting for Lady Eva. Has she empowered you to accept my terms?’

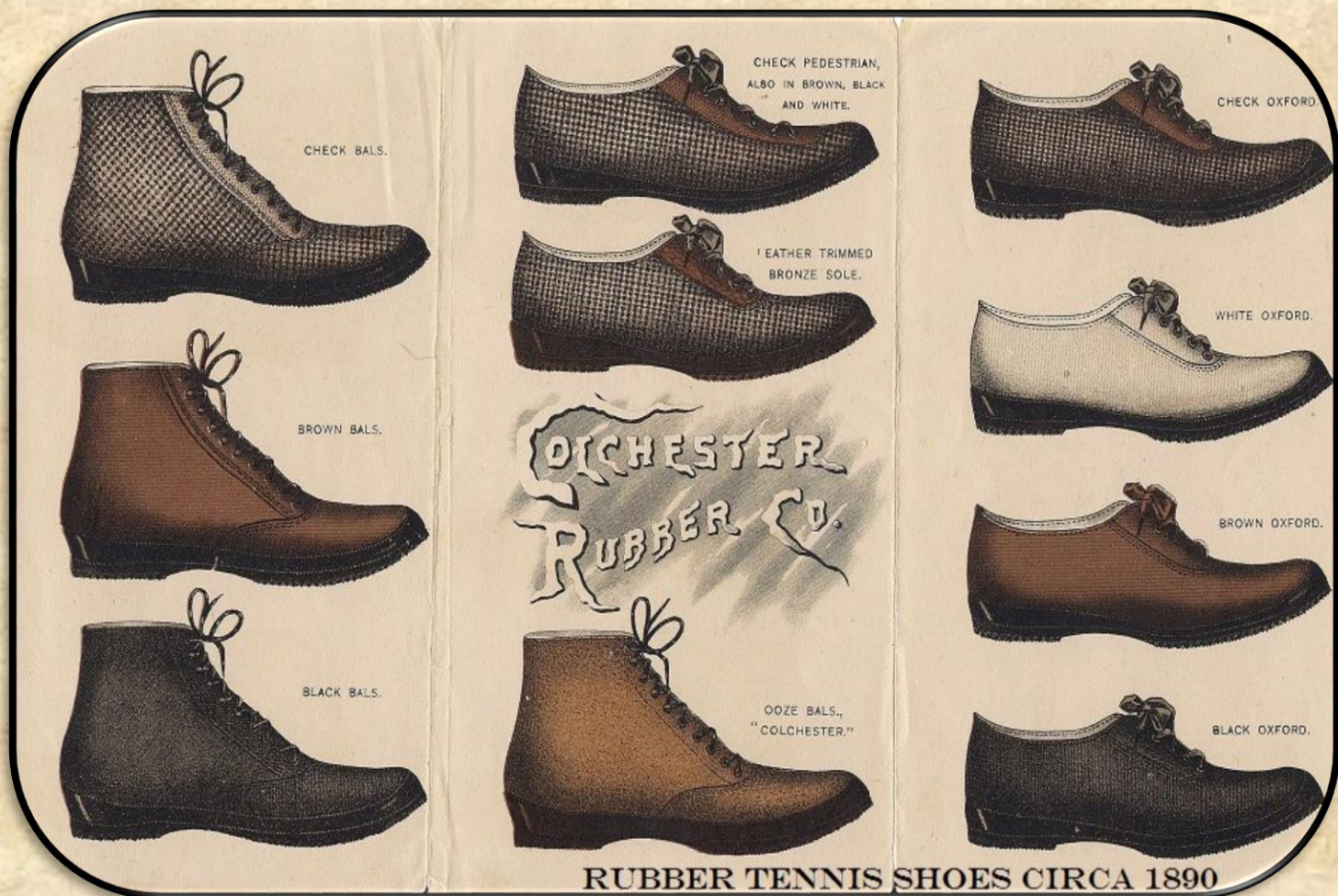
What are your terms?’

‘Seven thousand pounds.’



Pictured is his Holmes' oily clay pipe, which was one of his favorite pipes, and was used as part of his costume as a plumber.

A little later a rakish young workman with a goatee beard and a swagger lit his clay pipe at the lamp before descending into the street.



Pictured is an 1890 advertisement for tennis shoes, such as Watson wore during their burglary of Milverton's residence.

'Here, too, is my dark lantern. Everything is in order. Have you a pair of silent shoes?'

'I have rubber-soled tennis shoes.'



Pictured is the green-doored safe in Milverton's study in which he kept the letters he used to blackmail his victims.

In the corner between the bookcase and the wall there stood a tall green safe, the firelight flashing back from the polished brass knobs upon its face.



Pictured is the veil and mantle worn by the killer of Milverton. A mantle was a loose outer coat worn over a dress.

The woman without a word had raised her veil and dropped the mantle from her chin.



Pictured is a bundle of letters, such as found in Milverton's safe, and which Holmes burned once Milverton was dead.

With perfect coolness Holmes slipped across to the safe, filled his two arms with bundles of letters, and poured them all into the fire.