

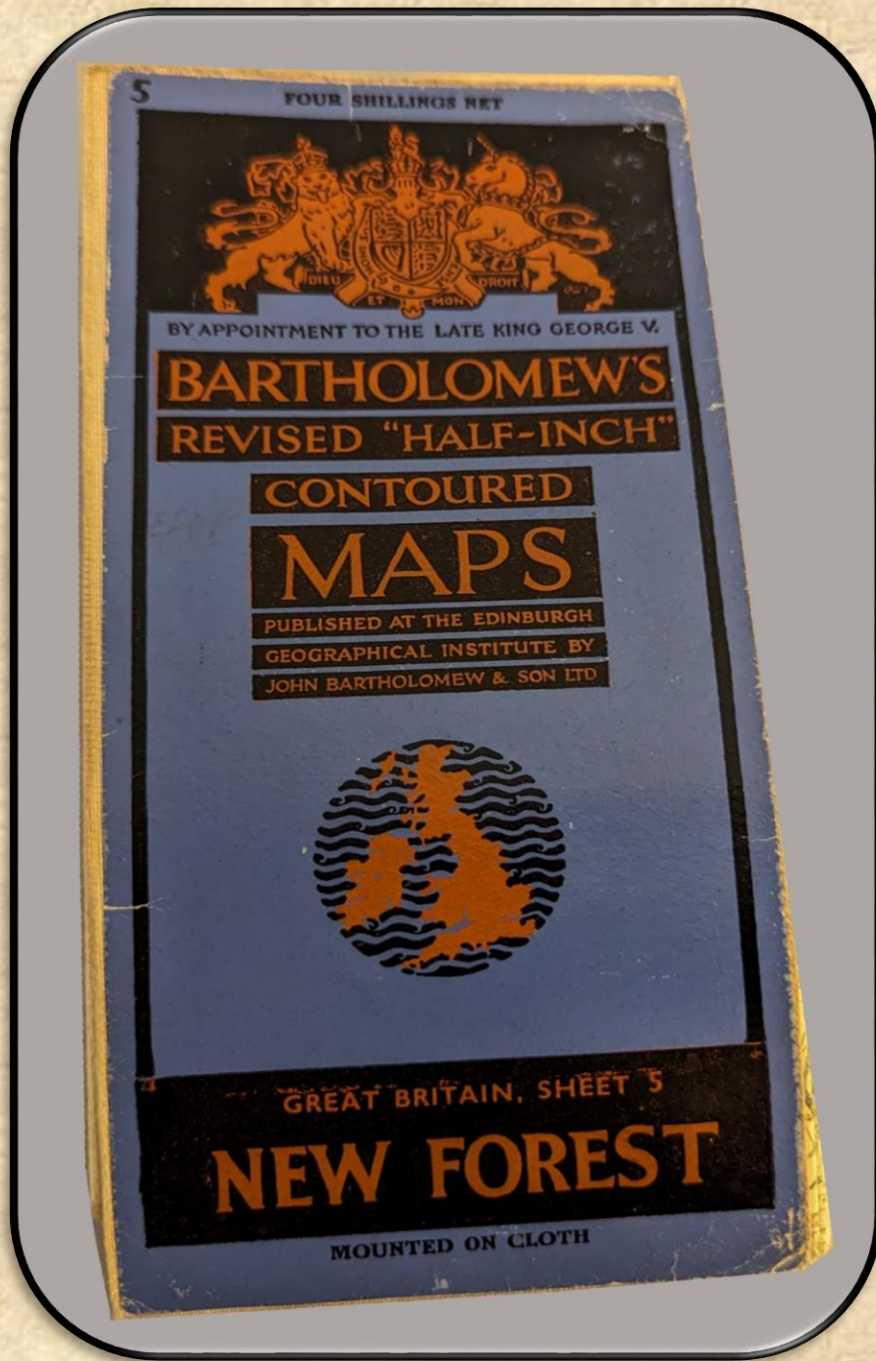
Adventure XVI – The Adventure of the Cardboard Box



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.

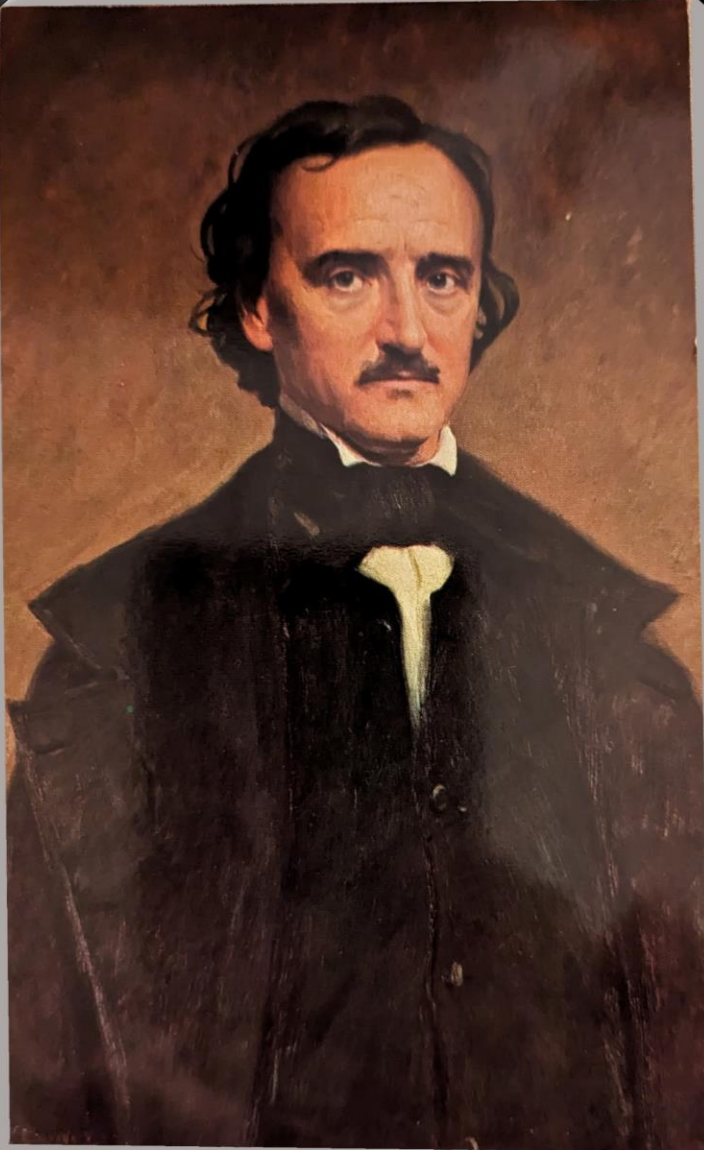
Beth Austin assisted in this effort by photographing, annotating the items, and finding the quotes for many of the items, while Denny Dobry and Rusty Mason supported Paul's efforts by photographing each of the items, as well as developing a comprehensive inventory with notations of item's mentioned in the story. Each of the Boxes is posted with permission of Debbie Clark and Jacquelynn Morris.



Pictured is a map of the New Forest area, which Watson mentioned as a potential vacation location.

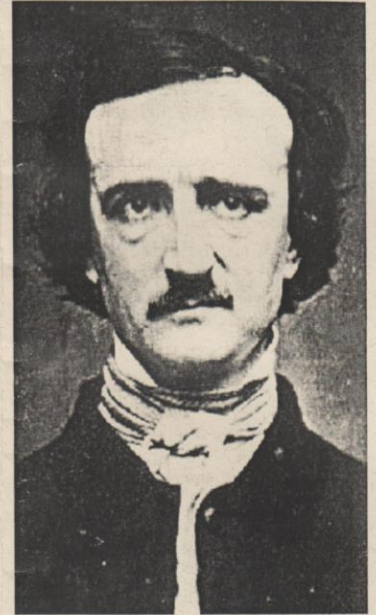
From the story:

Everybody was out of town, and I yearned for the glades of the New Forest or the shingle of Southsea.



CHAP/POE House
417 East Fayette Street
Suite 1037
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

*The Edgar Allan Poe
House and Museum*



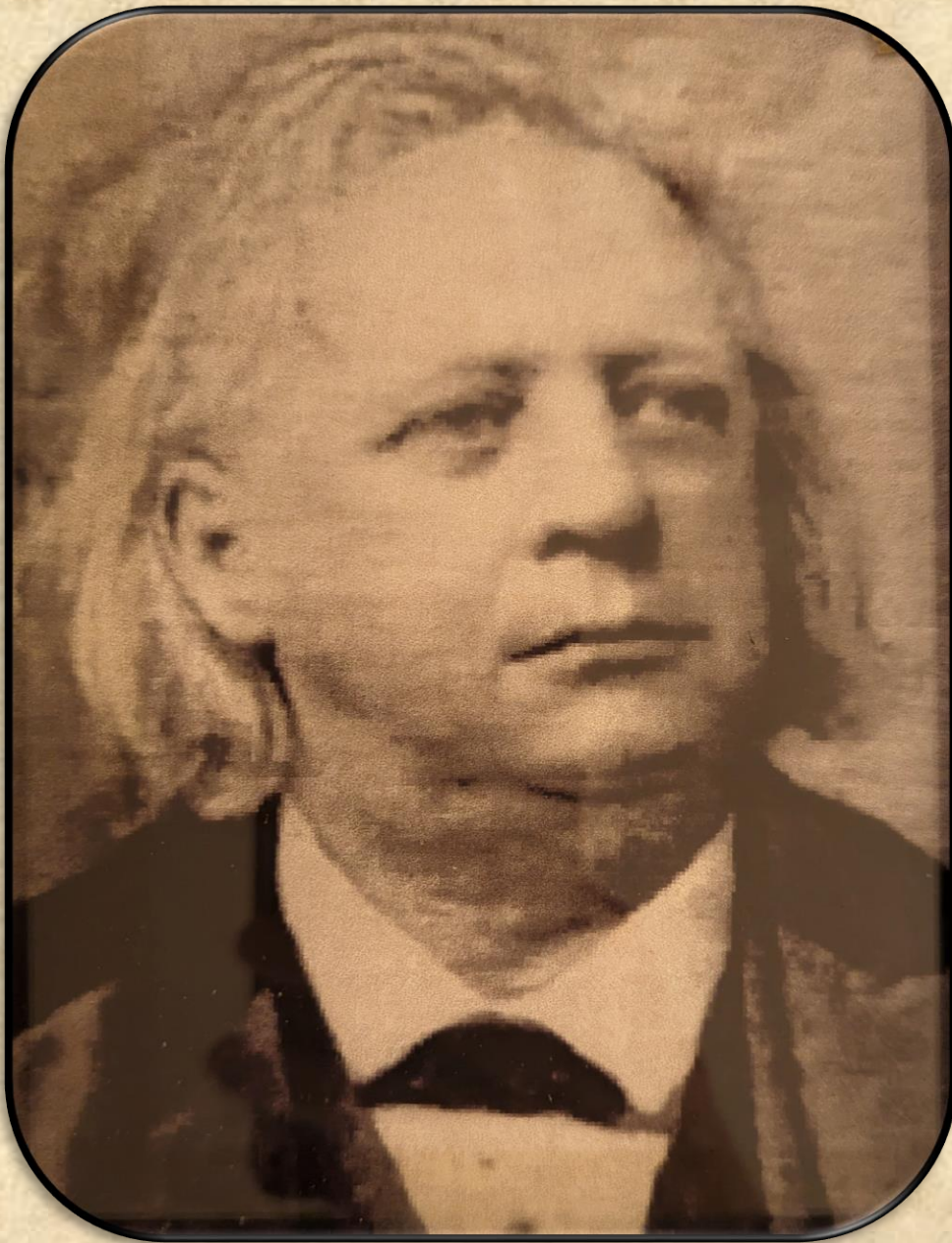
*"This place gives me
the creeps!"*

Vincent Price, 1977

Pictured is a post card of Edgar Allen Poe, as well as a brochure for the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Baltimore, MD.

From the story:

'You remember,' said he, 'that some little time ago when I read you the passage in one of Poe's sketches in which a close reasoner follows the unspoken thoughts of his companion, you were inclined to treat the matter as a mere tour-de-force of the author.'



Pictured is the unframed photograph of Henry Ward Beecher, which was located over Watson's desk. Henry Ward Beecher was an American Congregationalist clergyman, social reformer, and speaker, known for his support of the abolition of slavery.

From the story:

'Your eyes flashed across to the unframed portrait of Henry Ward Beecher which stands upon the top of your books.'



Pictured is framed picture of General Gordon over Watson 's desk at Baker Street. Gordon was a British Officer who died at Khartoum.

From the story:

'Then your eyes fixed themselves upon your newly-framed picture of General Gordon, and I saw by the alteration in your face that a train of thought had been started.'



Pictured is the postmark from the package sent by Jim Browner to S. Cushing in Croydon. The package originated in Belfast.

From the story:

‘On emptying this, Miss Cushing was horrified to find two human ears, apparently quite freshly severed. The box had been sent by parcel post from Belfast upon the morning before.’

A GRUESOME PACKET

Croydon-- Miss Susan Cushing, living at Cross Street, Croydon, has been made the victim of what must be regarded as a peculiarly revolting practical joke, unless some more sinister meaning should prove to be attached to the incident. At two o'clock yesterday afternoon a small packet, wrapped in brown paper, was handed in by the postman. A cardboard box was inside, which was filled with coarse salt. On emptying this, Miss Cushing was horrified to find two human ears, apparently quite freshly severed. The box had been sent by parcel post from Belfast upon the morning before. There is no indication as to the sender, and the matter is the more mysterious as Miss Cushing, who is a maiden lady of fifty, has led a most retired life, and has so few acquaintances or correspondents that it is a rare event for her to receive anything through the post. Some years ago, however, when she resided at Penge, she let apartments in her house to three young medical students, whom she was obliged to get rid of on account of their noisy and irregular habits. The police are of opinion that this outrage may have been perpetrated upon Miss Cushing by these youths, who owed her a grudge, and who hoped to frighten her by sending her these relics of the dissecting-room theory by the from the North. Cushing's belief in the matter is Lestrade, one of the officers, being

The Daily Chronicle

No. 10,816.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1889

12 PAGES—ONE PENNY

SPECIAL NOTICES

ENTERTAINMENTS

SALES AND PURCHASES

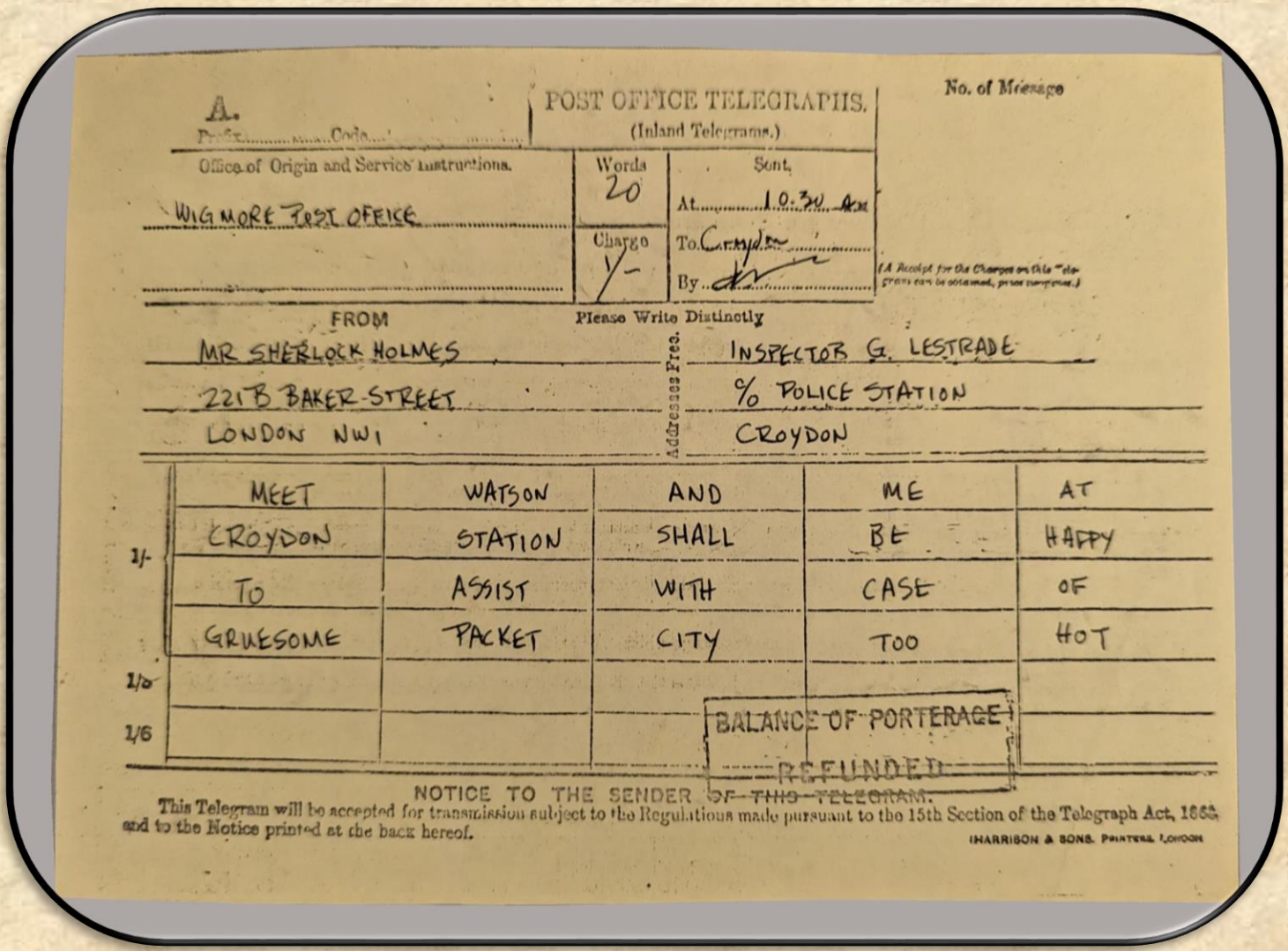
ADVERTISEMENTS

CLIPPING

Pictured is the newspaper article from the *Daily Chronicle* concerning the discover by Miss Cushing of the horrible package.

From the story:

I picked up the paper which he had thrown back to me, and read the paragraph indicated. It was headed, 'A Gruesome Packet.'



Pictured is the telegram, or wire, sent by Holmes to Inspector Lestrade, accepting his invitation to become involved in the investigation of the severed ears.

From the story:
 Holmes had sent on a wire, so that Lestrade, as wiry, as dapper, and as ferret-like as ever, was waiting for us at the station.

HONEY DEW

one of the oldest brands of the house, for a long time appearing before the public in a buff paper package; it is now ALSO offered in foil, with gold label, an elegant package, and carefully prepared. Dr. CHILTON in his analysis dated 1842, says, "I have analyzed a sample of Mr. JOHN ANDERSON'S Fine-Cut Tobacco, and find it to be Pure Tobacco without any of the admixture of those substances with which the ordinary tobacco is contaminated."

HONEY DEW

For Five Cents can be reached by all consumers of Tobacco for a fair trial only, to assure all of its excellence.



Pictured is the label on the honey dew box carrying the severed ears which were mailed to Susan Cushing. Both the front and back of the label is shown.

From the story:

'The box is a half-pound box of honeydew tobacco, and does not help us in any way.'



Pictured is another potential version of the tobacco box which was delivered to Susan Cushing containing the severed ears.

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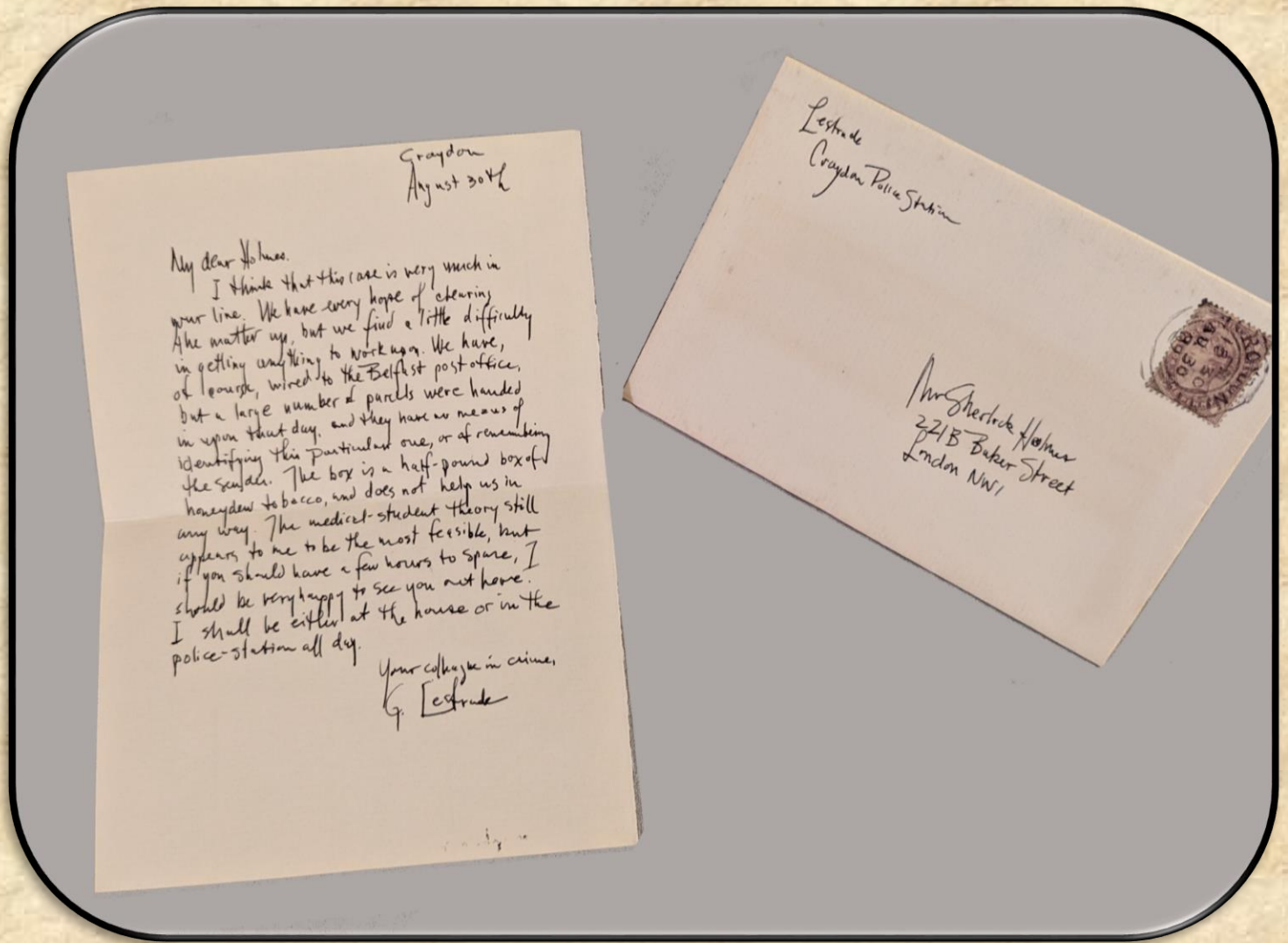
‘The box is a half-pound box of honeydew tobacco, and does not help us in any way.’



Pictured is the antimacassar Susan Cushing was making when interviewed by Holmes and Watson. An antimacassar is a small cloth placed over the backs or arms of chairs, or the head or cushions of a sofa, to prevent soiling of the permanent fabric underneath.

From the story:

A worked antimacassar lay upon her lap and a basket of coloured silks stood upon a stool beside her.



Pictured is the letter from Inspector Lestrade requesting Holmes' assistance in his current investigation.

From the story:

'Now for our friend Lestrade. I had a note from him this morning, in which he says: 'I think that this case is very much in your line. Can you rise superior to the heat, and run down to Croydon with me on the off chance of a case for your annals?'



Pictured is the cigar case Holmes filled and took with him to Croydon to assist Lestrade in his investigation.

From the story:

‘You shall have it, then. Ring for our boots, and tell them to order a cab. I’ll be back in a moment, when I have changed my dressing-gown and filled my cigar-case.’



Pictured are the scissors which Susan Cushing used to cut the twine which was wrapped around the box containing the severed ears.

From the story:

‘It is a piece of tarred twine. You have also, no doubt, remarked that Miss Cushing has cut the cord with a scissors, as can be seen by the double fray on each side. This is of importance.’

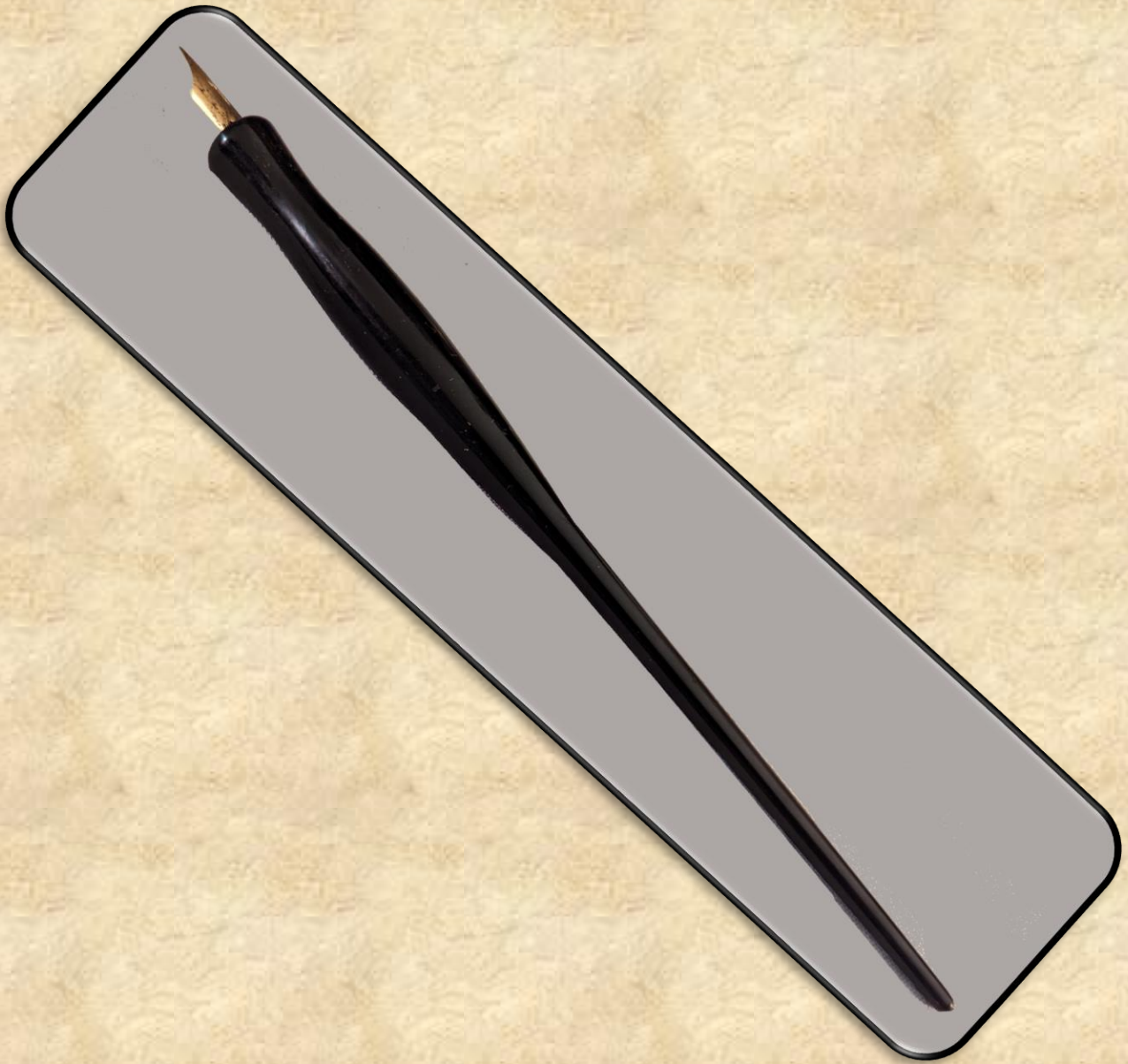


Pictured is the wrapping and twine which contained the tobacco box with the severed ears. The package was addressed to S. Cushing of Croydon.

From the story:

‘Precisely. It is a piece of tarred twine.’

‘So much for the string then,’ said Holmes, smiling; ‘now for the box wrapper. Brown paper, with a distinct smell of coffee.’



Pictured is the large nibbed pen used by Jim Browner to address the package to 'S. Cushing' of Croyden, containing the severed ears.

From the story:

'Done with a broad pointed pen, probably a 'J', and with very inferior ink.'



Pictured are post cards for New Brighton, a seaside resort in England. This was the destination for Mary Cushing and Alec Fairbairn.

From the story:

‘There was a good crowd round the booking-office, so I got quite close to them without being seen. They took tickets for New Brighton.’



Pictured are photos of James Browner and his wife Mary Cushing, in happier days.

From the story:

‘And here at my elbow is another portrait, taken at Liverpool, of your younger sister, in the company of a man who appears to be a steward by his uniform. I observe that she was unmarried at the time.’

‘Well, you are quite right. But she was married to Mr Browner a few days afterwards.’



Pictured are three young ladies -- the Cushing sisters -- Susan, Sarah, and Mary. Mary married James Browner.

From the story:

'I observed the very instant that I entered the room that you have a portrait group of three ladies upon the mantelpiece, one of whom is undoubtedly yourself, while the others are so exceedingly like you that there could be no doubt of the relationship.'

Mr. Sherlock Holmes

*221b. Baker Street
London.*

*Consulting
Detective*

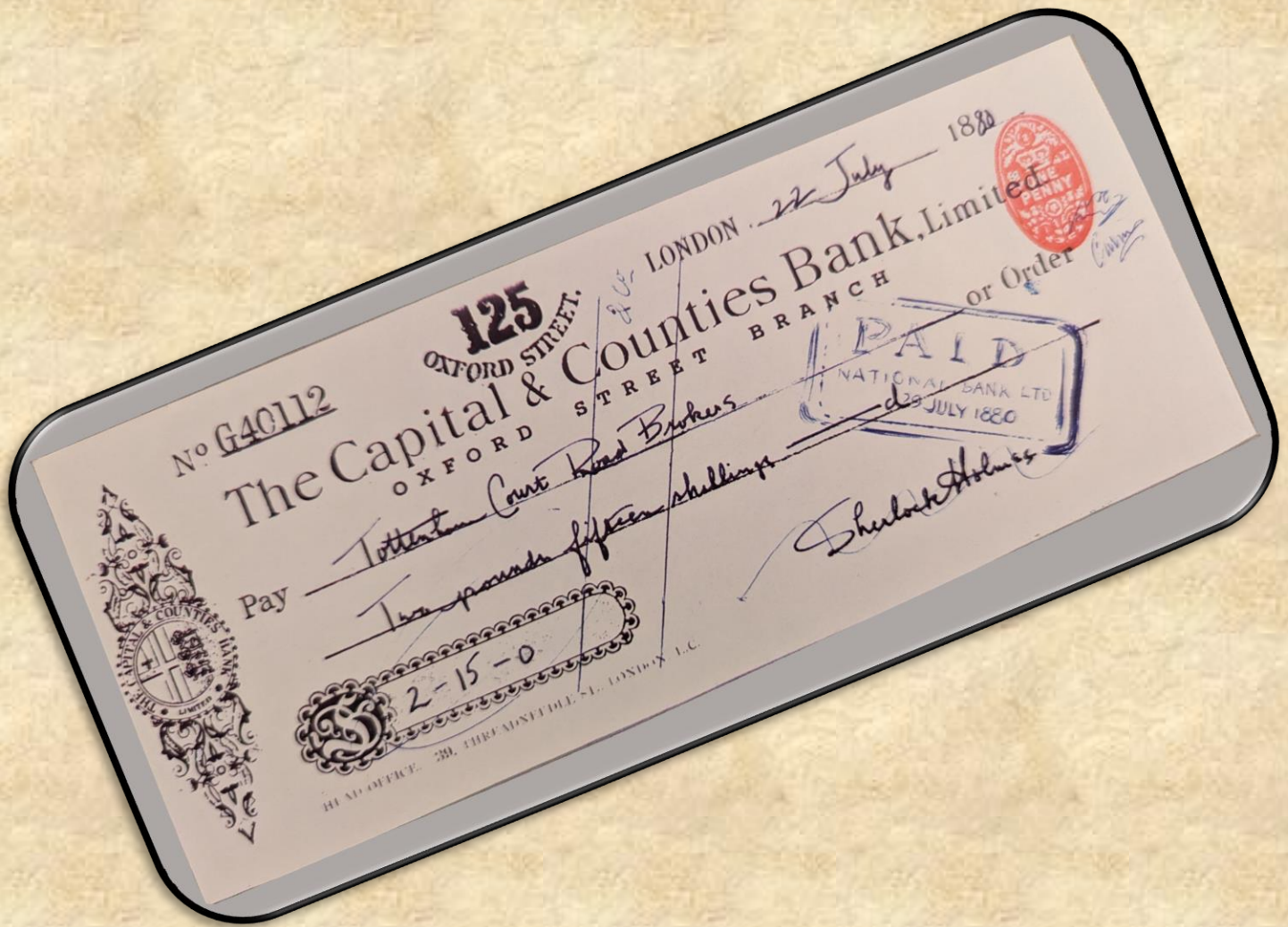
*Jim Browner,
Susan's brother-in-law*

Pictured is Sherlock Holmes' calling, or visiting, card with a note on the back concerning Jim Browner.

From the story:

Holmes scribbled a few words upon the back of one of his visiting cards and threw it over to Lestrade.

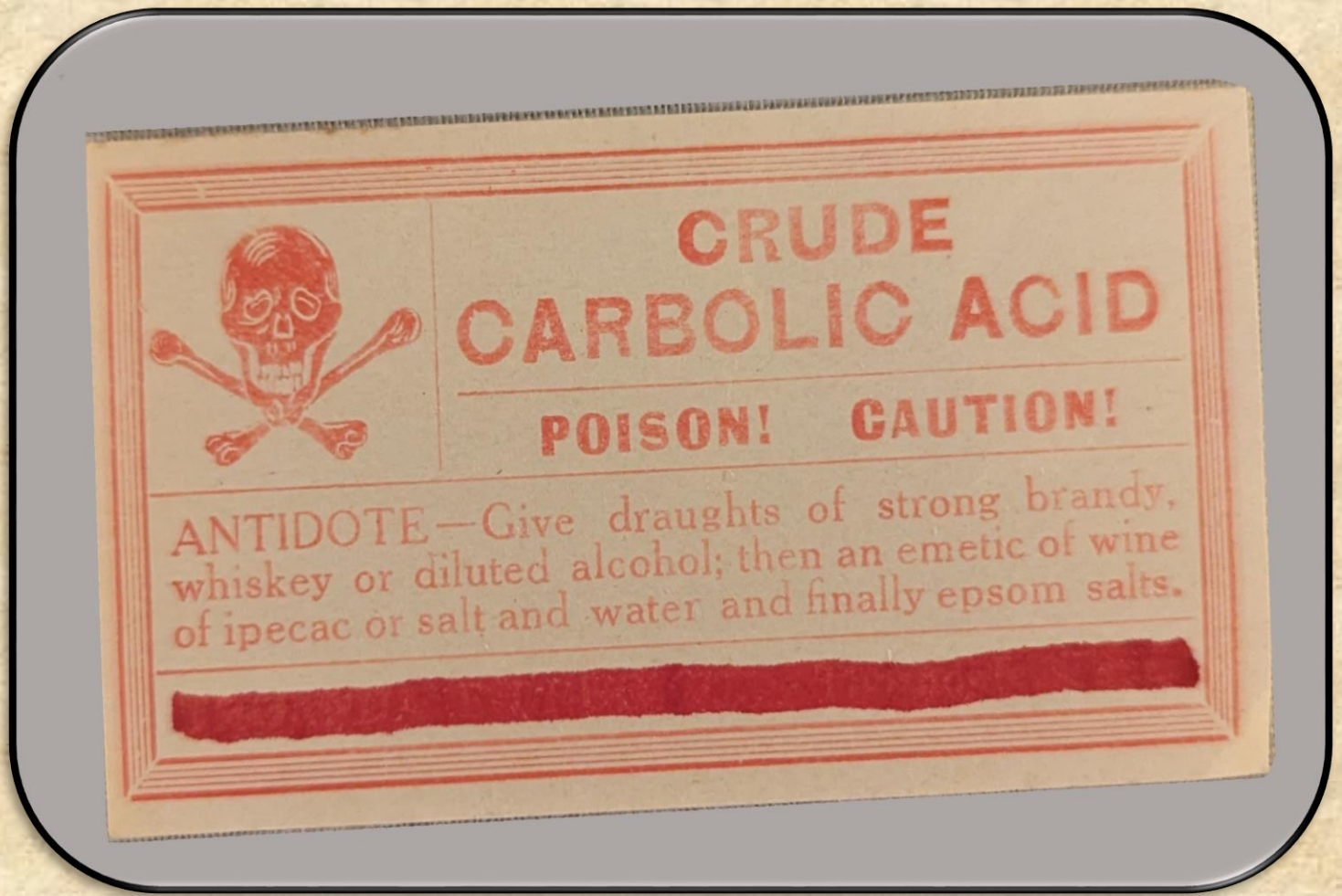
We strode off together to the station, leaving Lestrade still staring with a delighted face at the card which Holmes had thrown him.



Pictured is the cancelled cheque issued by Holmes cheque for his Stradivarius violin for 2/15 (or 55 Shillings).

From the story:

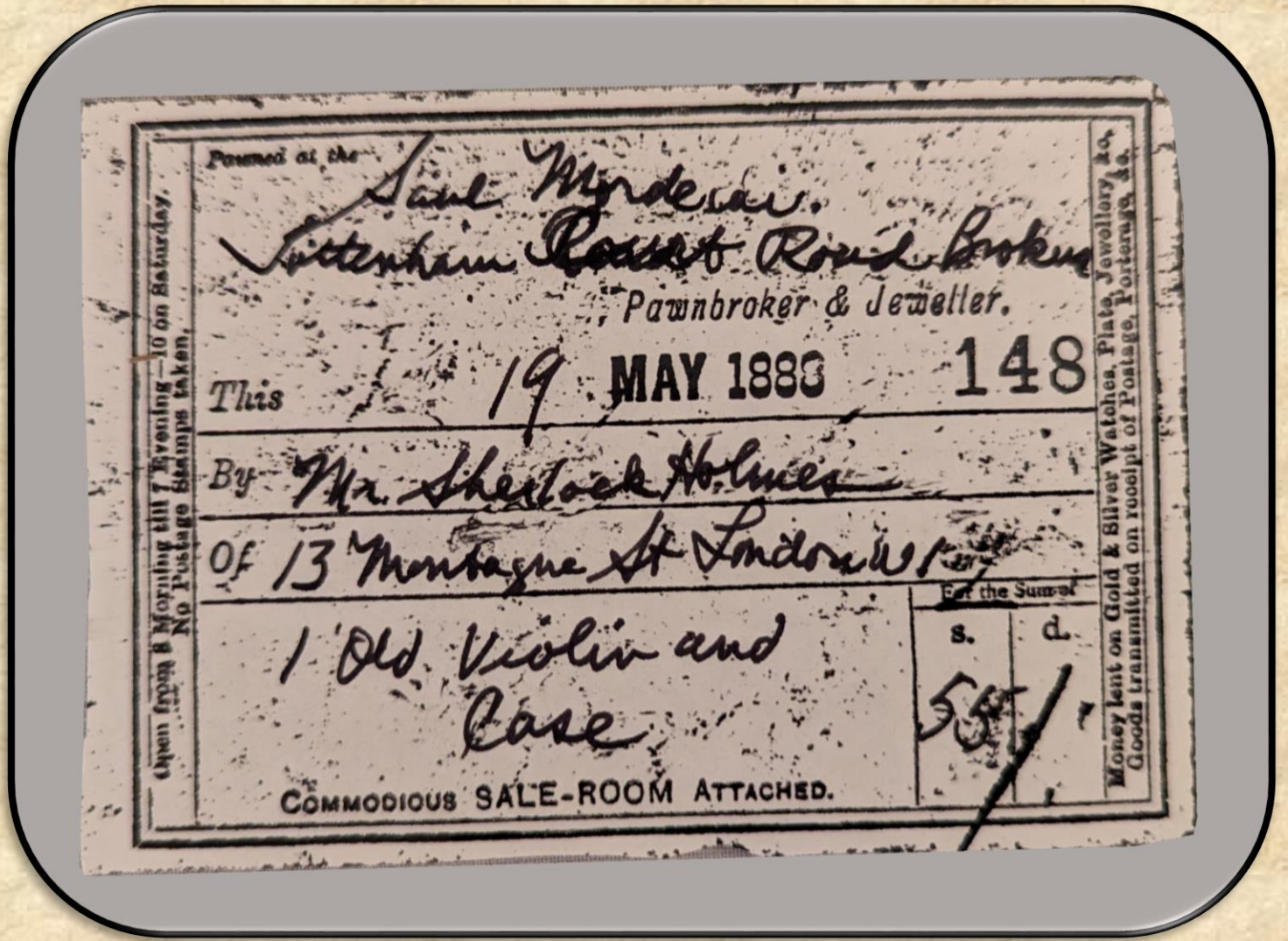
We had a pleasant little meal together, during which Holmes would talk about nothing but violins, narrating with great exultation how he had purchased his own Stradivarius, which was worth at least five hundred guineas, at a Jew broker's in Tottenham Court Road for fifty-five shillings.



Pictured is a label for carbolic acid, which was used in medical schools as a preservative. Holmes deduced if the removed ears had been a medical student's practical joke, carbolic acid would have been used to preserve them.

From the story:

'Again, carbolic or rectified spirits would be the preservatives which would suggest themselves to the medical mind, certainly not rough salt.'



Pictured is the receipt Holmes received for his purchase of the Stradivarius violin for 55 shillings from the Tottenham Road Pawn Shop.

From the story:

We had a pleasant little meal together, during which Holmes would talk about nothing but violins, narrating with great exultation how he had purchased his own Stradivarius, which was worth at least five hundred guineas, at a Jew broker's in Tottenham Court Road for fifty-five shillings.

A CHAPTER ON EARS.

and also as a reservoir of sound before it passes into the drum of the ear. The smaller the concha, therefore, the more sensitive the



MOZART'S EAR. NONSICAL EAR.
From a Photograph by F. Ferlicke & Spunkler of a Drawing in the
Museum.



CARDINAL

organ to sound, as there is less medium to receive the current and distribute it.

The size of an ear is generally believed by many well-intentioned persons to be in inverse proportion to the size of the brain or amount of intellectual faculties. We see no reason to differ from this theory. The only eulogy of large ears most people have come across is that of Queen Titania, who praised the "fair, large ears" of Bottom, the weaver.

If the reader will accurately contemplate the ears of celebrities which appear in conjunction with these articles, they will become the possessors of some very curious facts. One of these facts is that to be great it is above

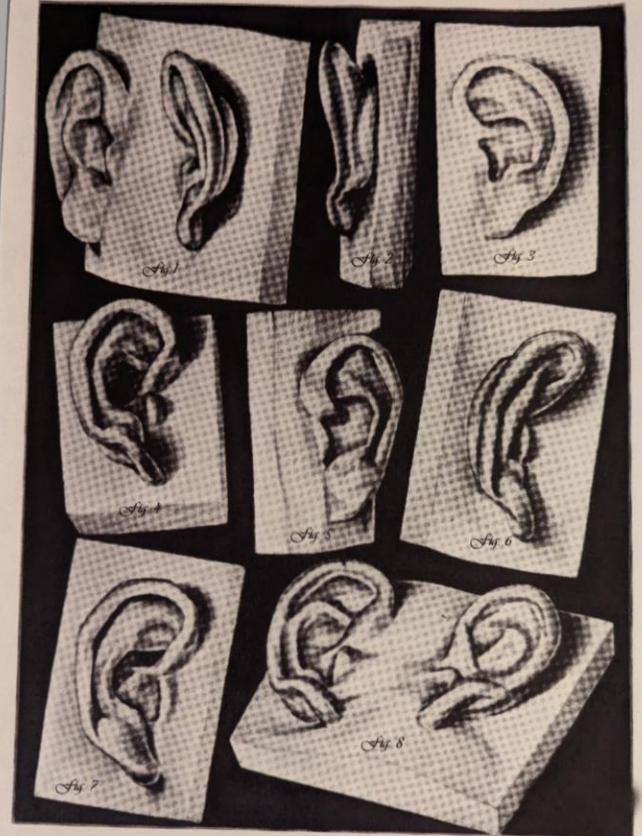


CHARLES DICKENS'S EAR.

all things to have an abridged

cate. It is true theory into the mind not pernicious, at least ing themselves to be of an abridged helix, e be tempted to neglect for the food which sh wake score

But boon, is just who prided a pro even e her fr placen to bri —not might in the burea



Anthropological Journal, September, 1885 'On the Shape of the Human Ear' by Oberlock Holmes

Pictured are two pages from Holmes' monograph on the similarities and differences of ear lobes, particularly useful in identifying dead persons.

From the story:

'Each ear is as a rule quite distinctive, and differs from an other ones. In last year's *Anthropological Journal* you will find two short monographs from my pen upon the subject.'



Pictured is the knife used by Jim Browner to sever the ear from his wife, Mary Cushing, and her lover, Alec Fairbairn, which he then mailed to the sister in Croydon.

From the story:

We brought him along to the cells, and his box as well, for we thought there might be something incriminating; but, bar a big sharp knife, such as most sailors have, we got nothing for our trouble.

‘I pulled out my knife, and - well, there! I've said enough.’

My dear Mr Holmes. —

2 September 89

In accordance with the scheme which we had formed in order to test our theories I went down to the Albert Dock yesterday at 6 pm. and boarded the S.S. May Day, belonging to the Liverpool, Dublin, and London Steam Packet Company. On inquiry I found that there was a steward on board of the name James Browner and that he had acted during the voyage in such an extraordinary manner that the captain had been compelled to relieve him of his duties. On descending to his berth, I found him seated upon a chest with his head sunk upon his hands, rocking himself to and fro. He is a big, powerful chap, clean-shaven, and very swartly — something like Aldridge who helped us in the bogus laundry affair. He jumped up when he heard my business, and I had my whistle to my lips to call a couple of river police, who were round the corner, but he seemed to have no heart in him, and he held out his hands quietly enough for the darbies. We brought him along to the cells, and his boy as well, for we thought there might be something incriminating; but, bar a big sharp knife such as most sailors have, we got nothing for our trouble. However, we find that we shall want no more evidence, for on being brought before the inspector at the station, he asked leave to make a statement, which was, of course, taken down, just as he made it, by our shorthand men. We had three copies typewritten, one of which I enclose. The affair proves, as I always thought it would, to be an extremely simple one, but I am obliged to you for assisting me in my investigation.

With kind regards,
Yours very truly,
C. Lestrade

Trade
Southwark Yard



Mr Sherlock Holmes
221 B Baker Street
London NW1

Pictured is Lestrade's letter to Holmes at the conclusion of the investigation, once Jim Browner had been arrested and confessed.

From the story:

Sherlock Holmes was not disappointed in his expectations. Two days later he received a bulky envelope, which contained a short note from the detective, and a type-written document, which covered several pages of foolscap.



Pictured is a post card depicting the s.s. May Day, the steam ship which Jim Browner was employed as a steward.

From the story:

It had been ascertained at the shipping offices that Browner had left aboard of the *May Day*.



POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

2 Broad Street, London.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1/2d. being reckoned as 1/2d.; and if it be found that there was an error in accuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

5784

Charges } £ s. d.
to pay }

Office Stamp.
CROYDON
4 25 P M
AU 31
89
OFFICE

at } LIVERPOOL TELEGRAPH OFFICE

at 4.15 P.M.

Received } here at 4.25 P.M.

TO } MR SHERLOCK HOLMES % CROYDON POLICE STATION

MRS. BROWNER'S HOUSE HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS - NEIGHBOURS ARE OF OPINION THAT SHE HAS GONE SOUTH TO SEE HER RELATIVES - IT HAS BEEN ASCERTAINED AT SHIPPING OFFICES THAT BROWNER HAS INDEED LEFT HERE ABOARD OF THE MAY DAY. GOOD LUCK ALGAR

H.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Pictured is the telegram sent to Holmes from Algar, a Liverpool police officer, on the whereabouts of Mrs. Browner.

From the story:

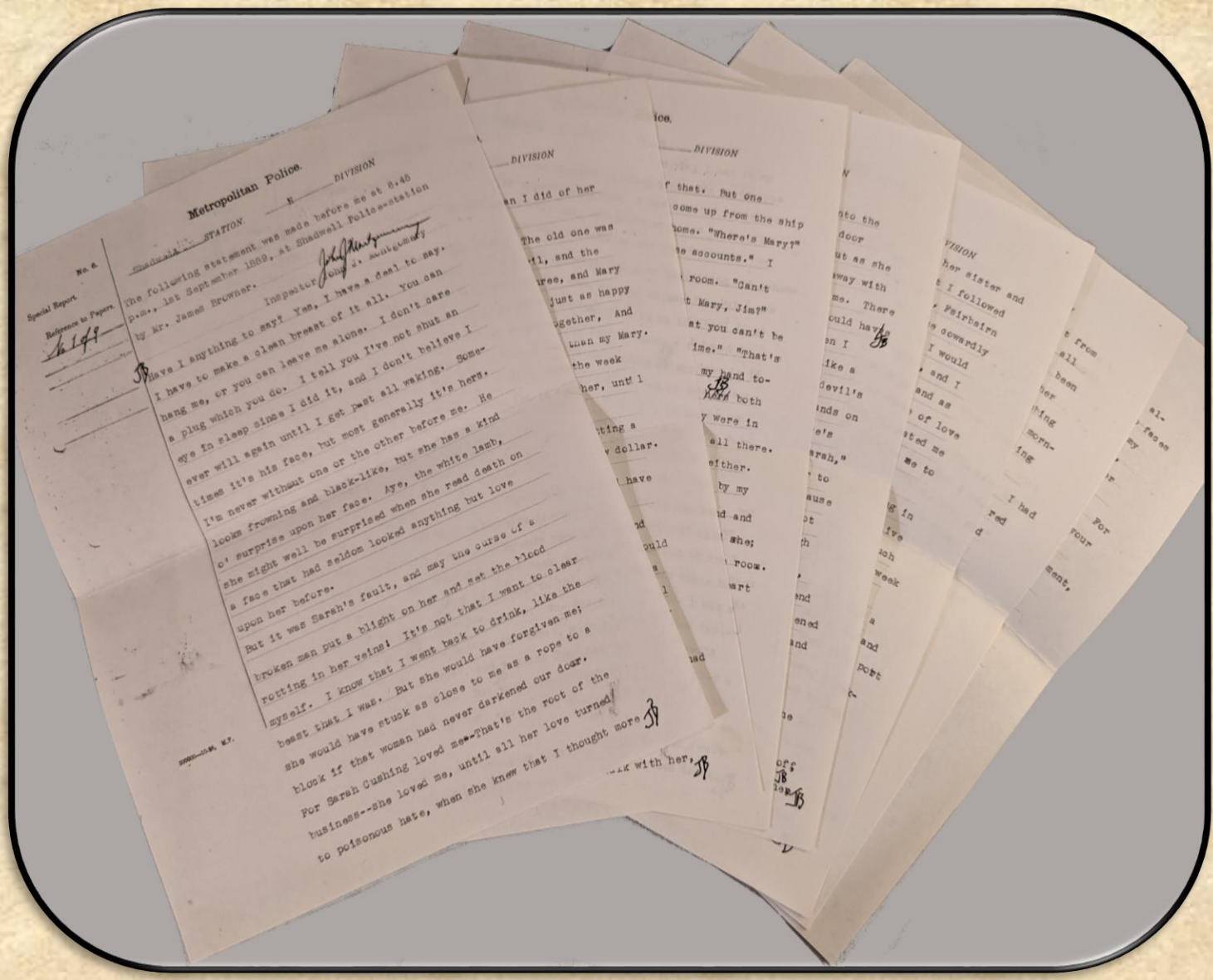
'However, we were really independent of her help. Our answers were waiting for us at the police-station, where I had directed Algar to send them. Nothing could be more conclusive.'



Pictured is the Certificate of Discharge of Jim Browner from the May Day Steam Ship, and Alec Fairbairn from the Conqueror.

From the story:

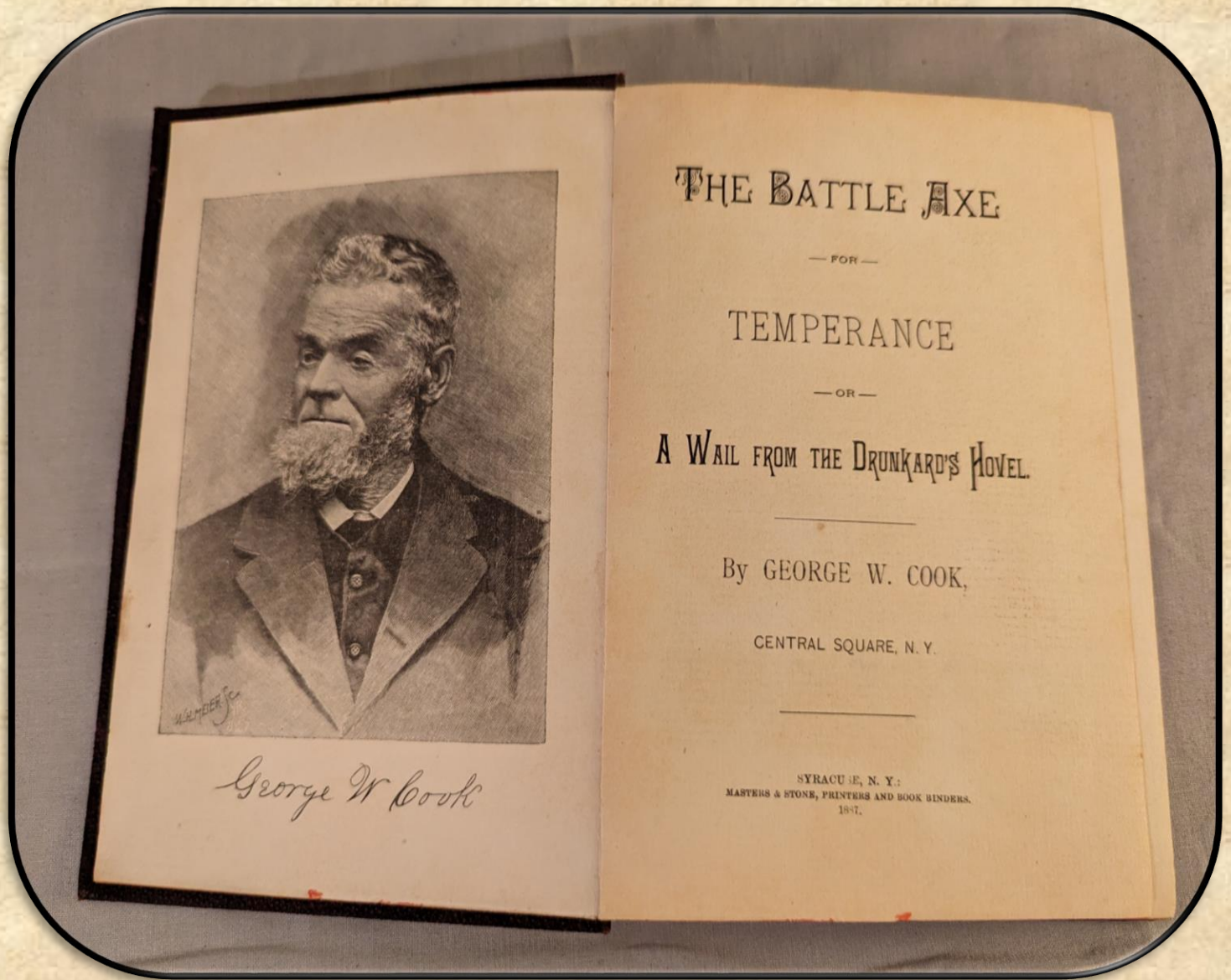
‘I went down to the Albert Dock yesterday at 6 p.m, and boarded the s.s. *May Day*. On inquiry, I found that there was a steward on board of the name of James Browner, and that he had acted during the voyage in such an extraordinary manner that the captain had been compelled to relieve him of his duties.’



Pictured is the confession, or statement, of James Browner to the murder of Mary Cushing Browner and Alec Fairbairn.

From the story:

However, we find that we shall want no more evidence, for, on being brought before the inspector at the station, he asked leave to make a statement, which was, of course, taken down, just as he made it, by our shorthand man.



Pictured is a temperance book, *The Battle Axe and Temperance*, that advocated the establishment of a blue ribbon army in the mid-1800s. The book may have influenced Browner's ability to stop drinking.

From the story:

'I was blue ribbon at that time, and we were putting a little money by, and all was as bright as a new dollar.'

THE BLUE RIBBON BALL.

1. Come all ye true friends of the nation,
Attend to humanity's call ;
Come aid in our country's salvation,
And roll on the Blue Ribbon Ball.
2. And when we have formed the blest union,
We'll boldly march on one and all ;
We'll shout when we meet in communion,
And keep rolling the Blue Ribbon Ball.
3. The Blue Ribbon army's advancing,
The powers of rum to destroy,
The glad eye of beauty is dancing,
Her heart 's overflowing with joy.
4. The wife on her infant is gazing,
But not now in sorrow alone,
A husband her virtue is praising,
The dark cloud of sorrow is gone.
5. The maiden now truly delighted,
Her heart beating wildly with joy,
Confides in the vow that is plighted,
Her youth is a Blue Ribbon Boy.
6. The drunkard, our pledge is now keeping,
No more reeling boldly about,
The old broken bottle is weeping,
The last drop of misery is out.

7. How can you stand halting while beauty
Is loudly appealing to all,
To come to the standard of duty,
And roll on the Blue Ribbon Ball.

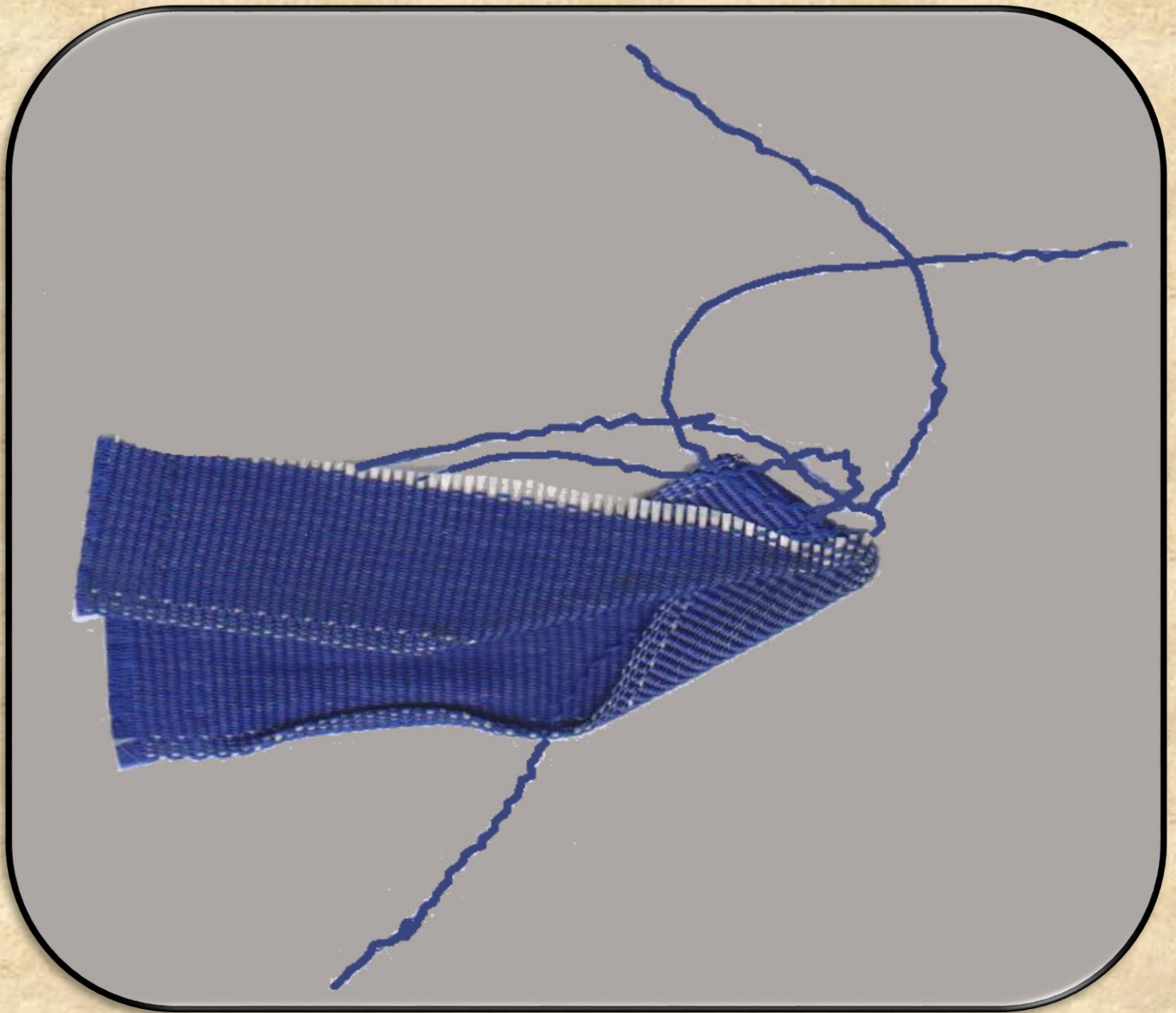
RING THE BELLS OF HEAVEN.

1. Ring the bells of heaven, there is joy to-day;
Father is returning from the wild;
See the wife she meets him out upon the way,
Holding up her darling little child.
Chorus.—Glory, glory, how the children sing;
Glory, glory, how their voices ring.
'Tis the temperance army like a mighty sea,
Pealing forth the anthems of the free.
2. Ring the bells of heaven, sing the joyful lay;
The poor man now no longer is beguiled;
Yes, he now is rescued from his sinful way,
And is now a new and reformed child.
Chorus.—Glory, glory, how the children sing, etc.
3. Ring the bells of heaven, sign the pledge to-day;
Angels swell the glad triumphant strain;
Spread the joyful tidings, bear it far away,
For the drunkard now is free again.
Chorus.—Glory, glory, how the children sing, etc.

Pictured is a book of Temperance Songs, including 'The Blue Ribbon Ball,' alluding to the blue ribbons advocates of abstinence wore.

From the story:

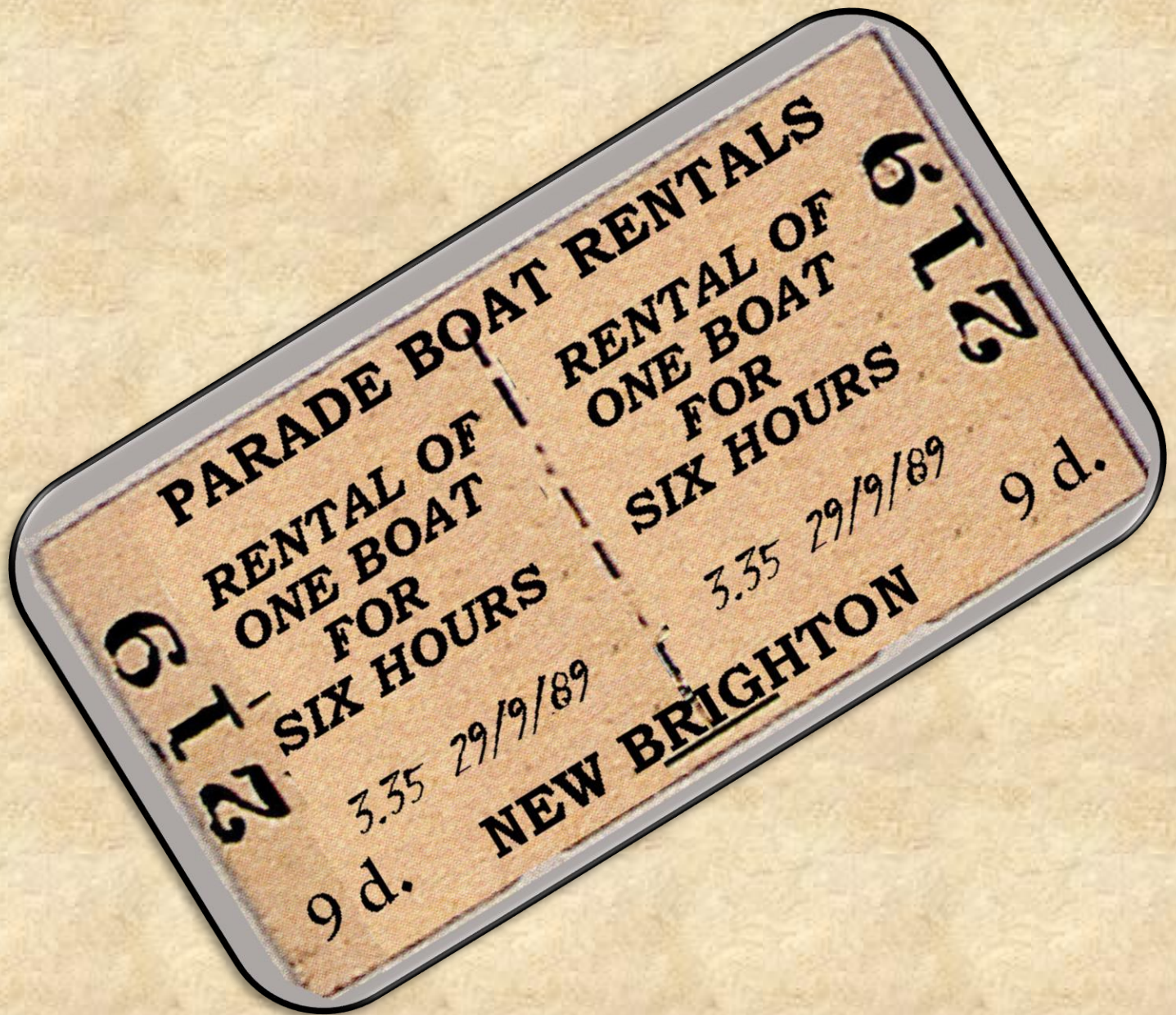
'I was blue ribbon at that time, and we were putting a little money by, and all was as bright as a new dollar.'



Pictured is James Browner's blue ribbon. The blue ribbon badge was a symbol of the temperance movement, worn by those who agreed with a pledge of abstinence from alcohol consumption as a beverage.

From the story:

'I was blue ribbon at that time, and we were putting a little money by, and all was as bright as a new dollar.'



Pictured is the ticket Jim Browner received when renting a boat in which to follow Mary Cushing and Alec Fairbain into the lake, where he murdered the two.

From the story:

‘At last I saw them hire a boat and start for a row, for it was a very hot day, and they thought no doubt that it would be cooler on the water.’

‘I hired a boat for myself, and I pulled after them.’

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



Pictured is a postcard from the town of Croydon, where Susan Cushing resided.

From the story:

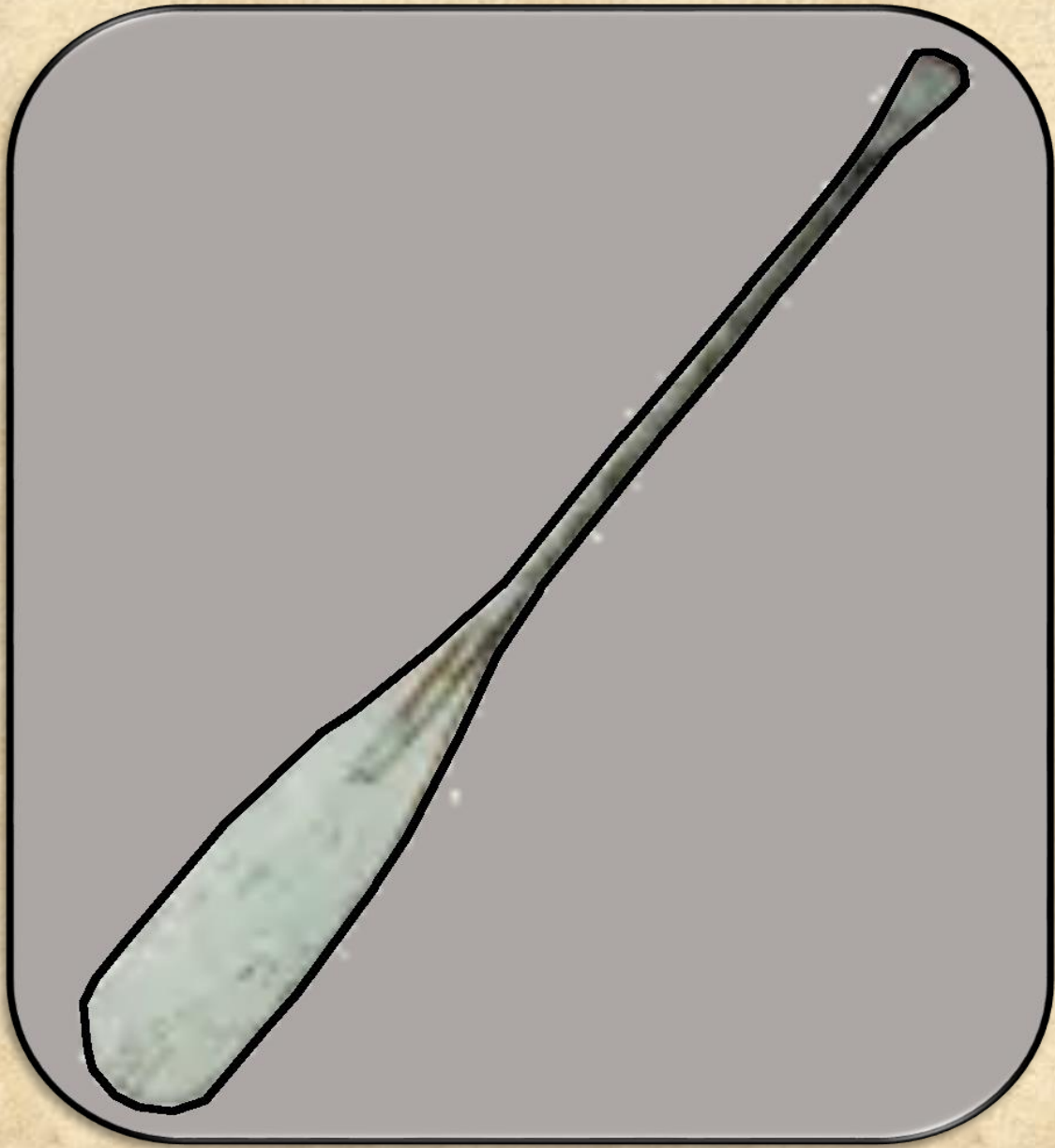
‘What say you, Watson? Can you rise superior to the heat, and run down to Croydon with me on the off chance of a case for your annals?’



Pictured is a cigarette card with a portrait of Paganini, an Italian composer and violinist. He was the most celebrated violin virtuoso of his time, and left his mark as one of the pillars of modern violin technique.

From the story:

This led him to Paganini, and we sat for an hour over a bottle of claret while he told me anecdote after anecdote of that extraordinary man.



Pictured is the oar, or stick, Jim Browner used to murder Alec Fairbairn and Mary Cushing after he caught up to them in their boat.

From the story:

‘He swore like a madman, and jabbed at me with an oar, for he must have seen death in my eyes. I got past it and got one in with my stick, that crushed his head like an egg. I struck again, and she lay stretched beside him.’