

Adventure IX – The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle



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 the lens Holmes and Watson used to examine Henry Baker's hat to determine if there were any clues by which they could locate the hat's owner.

From the story:

A lens and a forceps lying upon the seat of the chair suggested that the hat had been suspended in this manner for the purpose of examination.



Pictured is the forceps Holmes used to examine Henry Baker's hat to determine if there were any clues by which they could locate the hat's owner.

From the story:

A lens and a forceps lying upon the seat of the chair suggested that the hat had been suspended in this manner for the purpose of examination.



Pictured is “the goose”, used by James Ryder to secret the blue carbuncle away. The goose ended up in the hands of the Commissionaire, who brought it to Sherlock Holmes.

From the story:

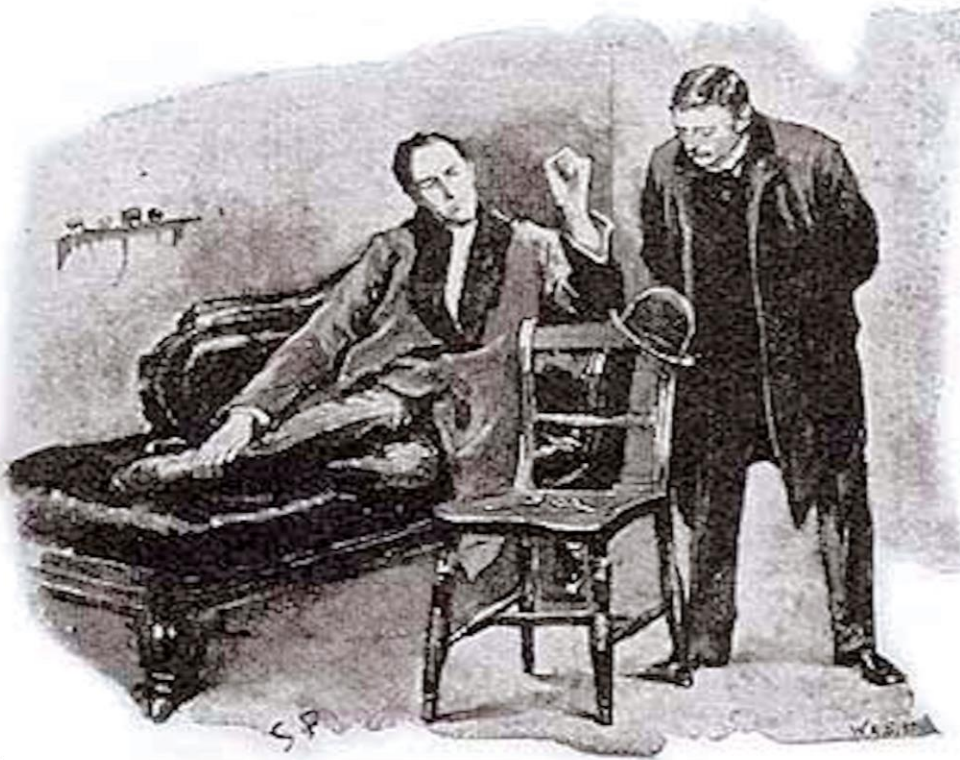
‘It arrived upon Christmas morning, in company with a good fat goose, which is, I have no doubt, roasting at this moment in front of Peterson's fire.’

‘Yes, and a most remarkable bird it proved. I don't wonder you should take an interest in it. It laid an egg after it was dead — the bonniest, brightest little blue egg that ever was seen. I have it here in my museum.’

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

SIDNEY PAGET

The Strand Magazine, January 1892



A VERY SEEDY HARD FELT HAT.

Pictured is the illustration by Sidney Paget for "The Blue Carbuncle." The scene depicted is when Holmes challenges Watson to determine what he can concerning the lost hat.

From the story:

'But you are joking. What can you gather from this old battered felt?'
'Here is my lens. You know my methods. What can you gather yourself as to the individuality of the man who has worn this article?'

The



Times.

LONDON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1887

PRICE, WITH AN EXT

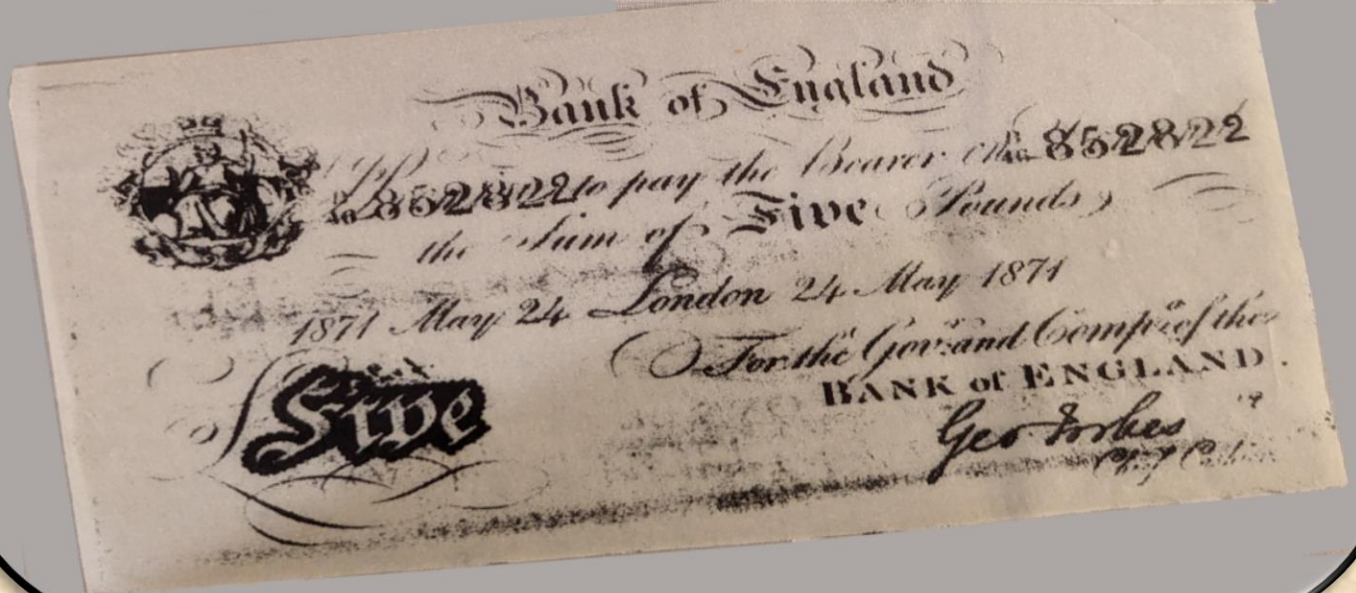
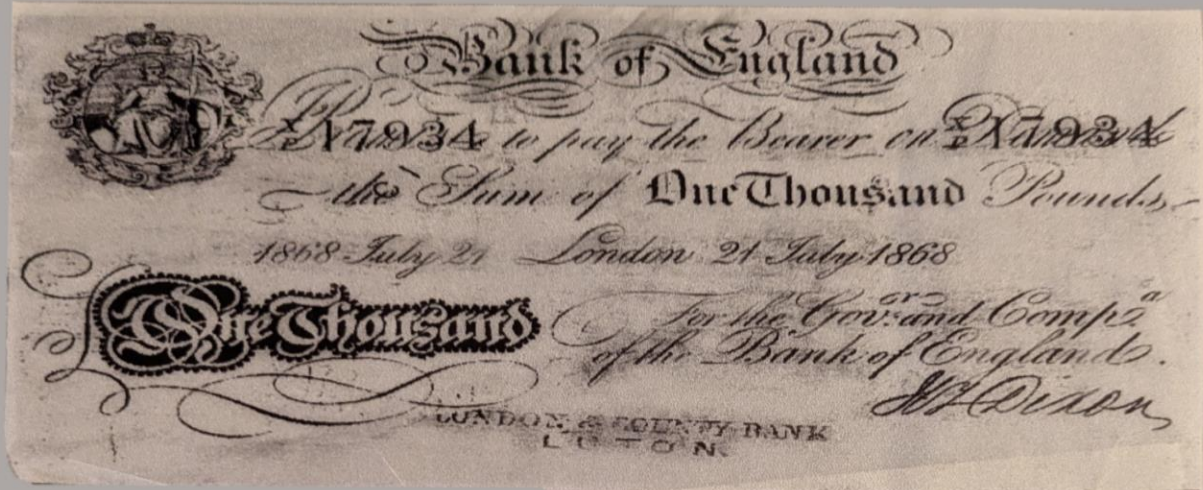
HÔTEL COSMOPOLITAN JEWEL ROBBERY

John Horner, 26, plumber, was brought up upon the charge of having upon the 22nd inst., abstracted from the jewel-case of the Countess of Morcar the valuable gem known as the blue carbuncle. James Ryder, upper-attendant at the hotel, gave his evidence to the effect that he had shown Horner up to the dressing-room of the Countess of Morcar upon the day of the robbery, in order that he might solder the second bar of the grate, which was loose. He had remained with Horner some little time but had finally been called away. On returning he found that Horner had disappeared, that the bureau had been forced open, and that the small morocco casket in which, as it afterwards transpired, the Countess was accustomed to keep her jewel, was lying empty upon the dressing-table. Ryder instantly gave the alarm, and Horner was arrested the same evening; but the stone could not be found either upon his person or in his rooms. Catherine Cusack, maid to the Countess, deposed to having heard Ryder's cry of dismay on discovering the robbery, and to having rushed into the room, where she found matters were as described by the last witness. Inspector Bradstreet, B Division, gave evidence as to the arrest of Horner, who struggled frantically, and protested his innocence in the strongest terms. Evidence of a previous conviction for robbery having been given against the prisoner, the magistrate refused to deal summarily with the offence, but referred it to the Assizes. Horner, who had shown signs of intense emotion during the proceedings, fainted away at the conclusion, and was carried out of the court.

Pictured is the advertising from The Times, describing the theft of the blue carbuncle, owned by the Countess of Morcar, at the Hotel Cosmopolitan. A reward for its return is offered.

From the story:

'Precisely so. I ought to know its size and shape, seeing that I have read the advertisement about it in The Times every day lately.'



Pictured is the banknote for £1000, the reward offered by the Countess of Morcar for the recovery of the carbuncle. Unknown who was given the reward. Also pictured is the £5 note Holmes had bet with Watson on the origin of the geese.

From the story:

‘...the reward offered of a thousand pounds is certainly not within a twentieth part of the market price.’

‘But I’m always ready to back my opinion on a matter of fowls, and I have a fiver on it that the bird I ate is country bred.’



Pictured are receipts from the Hotel Cosmopolitan, the residence of the Countess of Morcar, whose blue carbuncle was stolen from her rooms while she was out.

From the story:

‘Hotel Cosmopolitan Jewel Robbery. John Horner, 26, plumber, was brought up upon the charge of having upon the 22nd inst., abstracted from the jewel-case of the Countess of Morcar the valuable gem known as the blue carbuncle.’



Pictured is the chest, or casket, and lock, in the Hotel Cosmopolitan. The lock was picked, allowing the thief to remove the carbuncle and escape the room.

From the story:

On returning he found that Horner had disappeared, that the bureau had been forced open, and that the small Morocco casket in which, as it afterwards transpired, the Countess was accustomed to keep her jewel, was lying empty upon the dressing-table.



Pictured is the chest, or casket, in which the Countess of Morcar kept the blue carbuncle while at the Hotel.

From the story:

On returning he found that Horner had disappeared, that the bureau had been forced open, and that the small Morocco casket in which, as it afterwards transpired, the Countess was accustomed to keep her jewel, was lying empty upon the dressing-table.



Pictured is the carbuncle stolen from the Countess of Morcar. The carbuncle has a very troubled past, and has caused heartache to those who have owned it.

From the story:

‘This stone is not yet twenty years old. It was found in the banks of the Amoy River in Southern China, and is remarkable in having every characteristic of the carbuncle, save that it is blue in shade, instead of ruby red.’

Found at the corner of
 Goodge Street, a goose
 and a black felt hat.
 Mr. Henry Baker can have
 the same by applying
 at 6.30 this evening
 at 221B Baker Street.

Wiggins Advertising
 Agency

Echo
 Evening News
 Globe
 Pall Mall
 St James Gazette
 Standard
 Star
 etc.

Pictured is the note Holmes sent to various newspapers as an advertisement for the lost felt hat owned by Henry Baker. On the back of the note was the list of papers running the ad.

From the story:

'Give me a pencil, and that slip of paper. Now, then: "Found at the corner of Goodge Street, a goose and a black felt hat. Mr. Henry Baker can have the same by applying at 6.30 this evening at 221B Baker Street.'

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.

ILFRACOMBE.—ILFRACOMBE HOTEL.—Famous for its high-class cuisine and general comfort. The principal and only hotel on the seashore. An ideal position. 250 rooms. Grounds five acres. Tennis, croquet. Splendid swimming bath. Elegant lounge hall. Passenger lift. Moderate tariff. Terms en pension.—H. R. GROVER, Manager.

FOUND—At the corner of Goodge Street, a goose and a black felt hat. Mr. Henry Baker can have the same by applying at 6:30 this evening at 221B Baker Street.

ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL, FOLKESTONE.

The HANDSOME NEW BUILDINGS

Forming an extensive addition to this

OLD-ESTABLISHED FAVOURITE HOTEL.

Famous for its

HOME-LIKE COMFORT and CUISINE.

Are NOW OPEN for the reception of Visitors.

FOLKESTONE ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL.

Music every evening in the Winter Garden.

RAMSGATE.—The GRANVILLE, leading Hotel

ST. BAR

The WINTER

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Students can re-

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The Medical

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FOUND—At the corner of Goodge Street, a goose and a black felt hat. Mr. Henry Baker can have the same by applying at 6:30 this evening at 221B Baker Street.

Pictured is the ad ran in the Times at the request of Holmes, asking for the owner of the hat and goose to come claim them at Baker Street.

From the story:

‘Give me a pencil, and that slip of paper. Now, then: Found at the corner of Goodge Street, a goose and a black felt hat. Mr. Henry Baker can have the same by applying at 6.30 this evening at 221B Baker Street.’



Pictured is the tam, or Scotch bonnet, worn by Henry Baker, when he arrived at Baker Street to retrieve his lost hat and goose from Holmes.

From the story:

As I approached the house I saw a tall man in a Scotch bonnet, with a coat which was buttoned up to his chin, waiting outside in the bright semicircle which was thrown from the fanlight.

*Thank you for finding
my hat and our Christmas
dinner.*
Mr Henry Baker



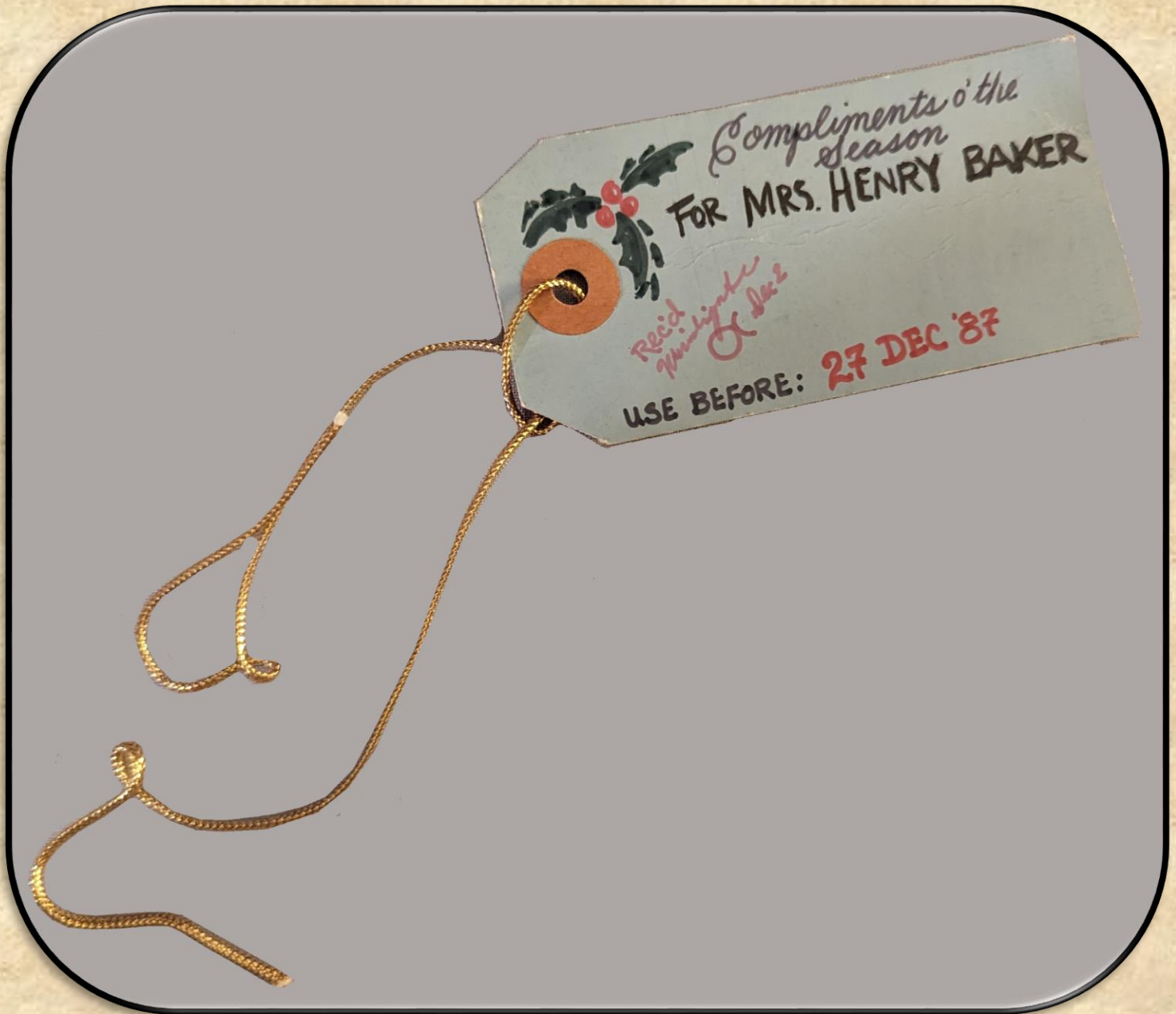
With Christmas Greetings and
every good wish for
the New Year

Pictured is a thank you note sent to Holmes from Henry Baker for the return of his lost hat.

From the story:

‘Yes, sir, that is undoubtedly my hat.’

‘I had no doubt that the gang of roughs who assaulted me had carried off both my hat and the bird. I did not care to spend more money in a hopeless attempt at recovering them.’



Pictured is tag placed on the infamous goose that ate the blue carbuncle, by the Alpha Inn, as part of their annual goose-club program.

From the story:

‘This year our good host, Windigate by name, instituted a goose-club, by which, on consideration of some few pence every week, we were to receive a bird at Christmas.’



Pictured is a bottle of ale from the Alpha Inn, similar to the ale served to Holmes and Watson. Alpha Inn is where the goose-club was conducted from which Henry Baker received his goose.

From the story:

Holmes pushed open the door of the private bar, and ordered *two glasses of beer* from the ruddy-faced, white-aproned landlord.

‘Your beer should be excellent if it is as good as your geese,’ he said.



Pictured is the sovereign Holmes offered as a bet on the origin of the geese sold at Breckinridge's stall.

From the story:

'It's merely taking your money, for I know that I am right. But I'll have a sovereign on with you, just to teach you not to be obstinate.'



Pictured is the ledger, or books, used by Breckinridge, to keep an accounting of all the birds that went through his stall for sale.

From the story:

The salesman chuckled grimly. 'Bring me the books, Bill,' said he.

Jos Darnley
 Wm Samuels
 Jos Wiggins
 J. M. Thomas
 2 Parker

City Super

J. Foster 89, 2
Thos. Inglesbrook, 7
Mrs. Papeshott, 117
Miss Clark 14, 2
D. Dohy, 54 Res
L. Morsworth, 72
P. Dinsworth 59
D. Pritchett 16 Jo
W. Goodrich 222
J. Bootley 97
K. Bramley 13
A. Vecchioni 6
H. Greenling 9
J. Horslam 42
G. Ainsworth 17
A. Weyner 19
J. Ryder 27
Mrs. Statham 13
R. Plunkett XII
A. B. Plank 47
K. Boukha 13
J. Freeman 32
Miss Austin 12
Miss Savage 118
G. Smith 18
W. G. Lawrence 92
D. Plunkett 28
U. Grant 12
G. Romney 14
E. Ford 17
Wm. Jones 28
W. Atkins 50

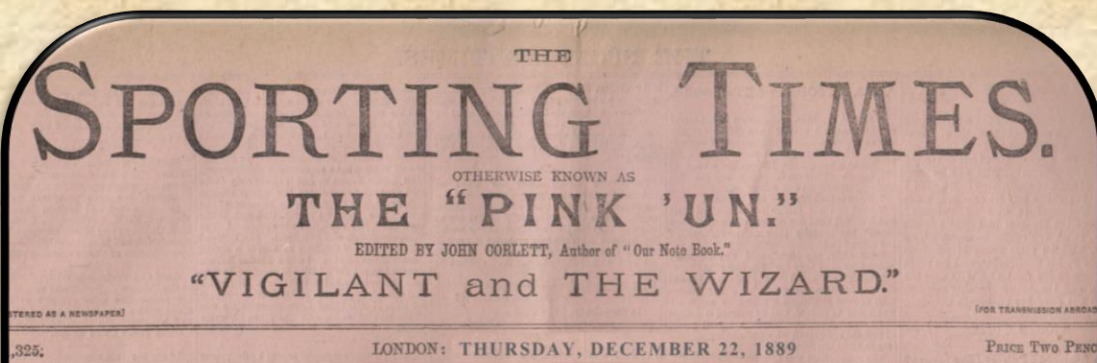
Miss Greeley 12
H Washburn 15
N. Macgrove 3
Mrs. Healey 4
K. Wilkinson
J. Frisner 9
H. Hunter 16
N. Mohr 12
V Graham 17
O. O'Gabright 1
A. Stoner 2-B
Y. Li 9
Z. Colonona 14
B. Roberts 19
K. Browne
O. Reynolds 2
E. Benze 2
Wentworth
O. Kennedy
In. Whyte
H. Blythton
Z. Joes-bullman
F. White 5
B. Reed
N. Crashman
M. Marsh
R. Savinzhett
J. Rysert
L. St. Stearns 5
G. Churchill
J. Wigham
J. Worlitt

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|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 2 | Zycktenbush | 12 | Min-han road | 41 |
| 1 | Brower | 19 | Hambley street | 66 |
| 2 | Thornton | 42 | Leigh-on-stone | 2 |
| Miss | Mycroft | 12 | Burley - road | 47 |
| Wm | Filk | 27 | St. Jacques street | 64 |
| B | Burns | 42 | Reading - lane | 22 |
| 2 | Reck | 16 | Paultley square | 80 |
| 1 | Spaide | 38 | Lexington - street | 5 |
| 1 | Schulman | 58 | Zugunne avenue | 126 |
| K | Frye | 14 | Hope - road | 151 |
| 1 | Ng | 68 | Hopkins street | 101 |
| A | Clarke | 52 | Market - lane | 76 |
| 2 | Phang | 18 | Church street | 51 |
| W | Motticello | 4 | Hammer - lane | 55 |
| W | Jackson | 19 | Oliver - street | 7 |
| W | Henson | 12 | Adgeson - street | 78 |
| Mrs | Darmley | 23 | Garden - road | 77 |
| B | Becker | 6 | Portman - road | 2 |
| P | Elyde | 42 | Espleton - street | 60 |
| G | Booke | 27 | Spencer road | 69 |
| G | Gledy | 3 | Berkely square | 64 |
| L | Donch | 12 | Dundee - road | 75 |
| U | Cooken | 47 | Skelton - lane | 87 |
| M | Wilder | 112 | Hemepin - lane | 74 |
| X | Johannson | 148 | Ryder - street | 100 |
| S | Wissenthaler | 9 | Lyson - road | 90 |
| F | Stevens | 8 | Pinchin - lane | 82 |
| W | Davidson | 17 | Burlington - road | 84 |
| W | Robbison | 16 | Ekster - lane | 85 |
| A | Wigley | 14 | Kitt - lane | 94 |
| M | Dale | 27 | Nottingham lane | 96 |
| V | Calavelli | 38 | Bolton - street | 98 |

Pictured are the ledger pages from the Breckinridge stall, tracking all geese sales. Breckinridge uses the sheets to prove to Holmes the goose in question was city bought.

From the story:

‘Well, then, here on this page are the country folk, and the numbers after their names are where their accounts are in the big ledger. Now, then! You see this other page in red ink? Well, that is a list of my town suppliers.’



SPORTING NOTES.

As Astley likes our name so much as got one as nearly like it as he can, this son, who, one of these days by the day he far distant—will be as Astley-Corbett, Bart.

With Lord Randolph Churchill's retort boots, which the magisterial him to take off at Monte Carlo, Mr. O'Brien's breeches at this may be said to have been a coat and breeches.

Man who sent to back Johnny for the Lincolnshire Handicap, Harry Morgan for the Grand has landed himself into a rare tangle.

Not generally known that the "There you see, you know," was by Teddy Brayley, and used by what in the following manner:—person asked him if he fancied for such and such a race, Teddy would reply: "I can't ride him; I've backed him; he's sure to win all round. And there you see."

Miss at Oxford, and of the first

The following are some of the headings of those Irish newspapers which, owing to their careful preparations, were able to give the earliest accounts of the Battle of the Breeches at Chomel:—
O'BRIEN WITHOUT HIS BREECHES.

HORRIBLE DISCLOSURES.

BRITISH VAGRANCY.

THE HONORER WASHED.

HIS HEALTH CAN'T STAND IT.

HORRIBLE OUTRAGE—IRISH BLOOD FLOWS—A FIMBLE REMOVED WHILE SHAVING.

STARTLING DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT DRAWERS.

THE BISHOPS HORRIFIED.

BASE PLAGIARISM—BALFOUR ADOPTS THE PHRASOLOGY OF UNITED IRELAND.

THE STAR-SPANGLED NIGHT-SHIRT. O'BRIEN IN BED! ENGLAND TREMBLES!

TERRIBLE DISCOVERY! A DAEN IN O'BRIEN'S SHEETS.

POST-CARD FROM THE G.O.M.

GETTING YOUR OWN BACK. SEE PAGE 5.

MOTORS & MOTOR MATTERS.

Talks and Trials: How to Keep Down Petrol Consumption; Leave the Engine Running.

By J. HARRISON, A.M.I.Mech.E., A.M.I.A.E.

LARGEST KUT-STOP RUN.

Was a sensation under official observation, and was witnessed by an Army and Navy staff, on the 11th inst. The distance was 100 miles, and the engine was driven by a team of horses and a man. The engine was kept running all the time, and the team was changed only once during the run.

TALKING TO THE

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THE SPORTING TIMES

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PINK 'UN."

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1907.

THE Gillette SAFETY RAZOR
No Shaving! No Sticking!
Make your razor shave
true instead of the usual
cheap razor that cuts, pulls,
and irritates the skin.

Price Ten Pence

SPORTS DIARY.

20-21 OCTOBER, OCTOBER 21.

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10 APRIL, APRIL 6.

11 APRIL, APRIL 7.

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29 APRIL, APRIL 25.

30 APRIL, APRIL 26.

31 APRIL, APRIL 27.

1 MAY, APRIL 28.

2 MAY, APRIL 29.

3 MAY, APRIL 30.

4 MAY, APRIL 31.

5 MAY, MAY 1.

6 MAY, MAY 2.

7 MAY, MAY 3.

8 MAY, MAY 4.

9 MAY, MAY 5.

10 MAY, MAY 6.

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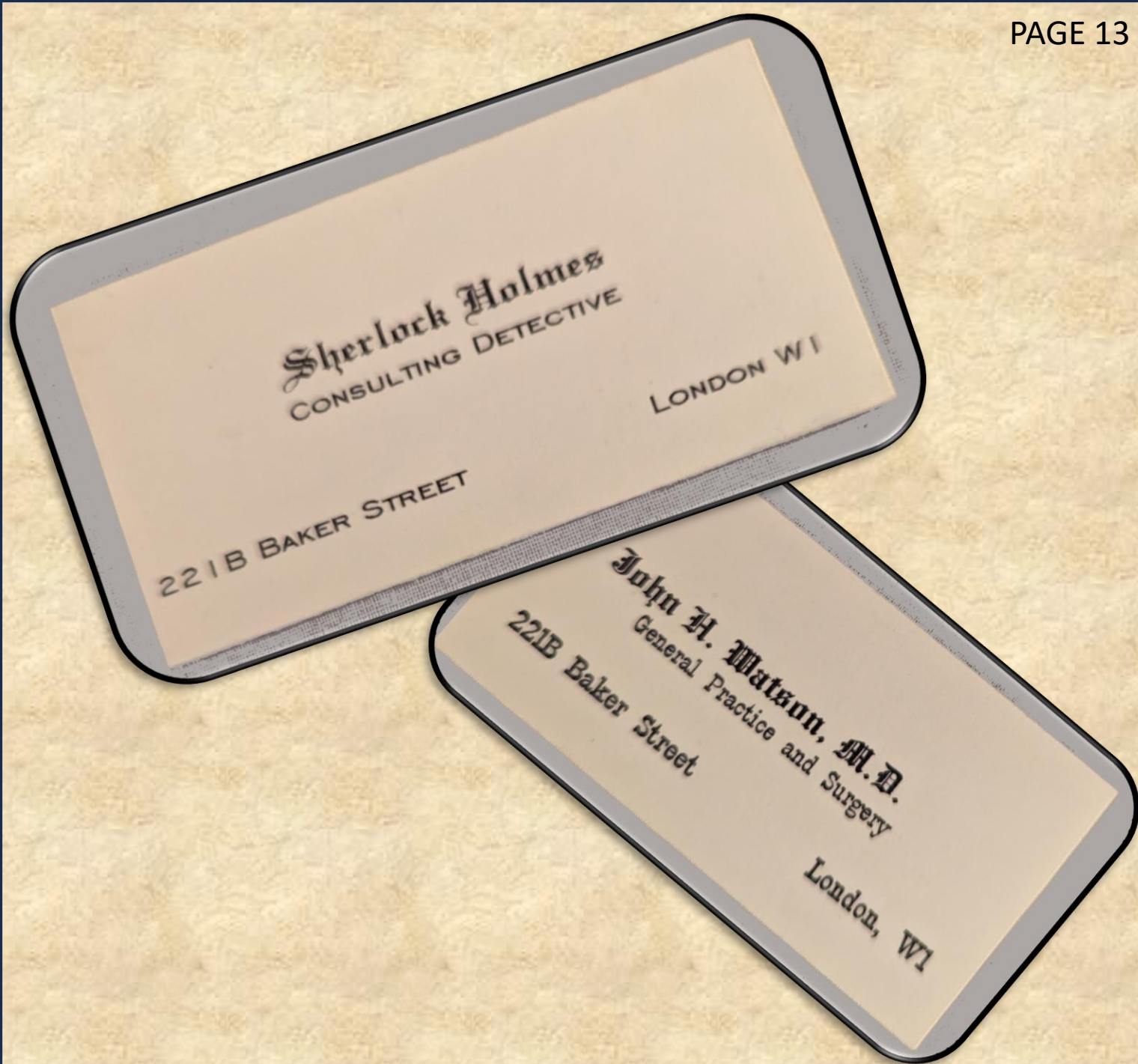
18 MAY, MAY 14.



Pictured is a post card touting *The Sporting Times*, held by Sir Davy Stephens. The Times was a weekly British newspaper devoted chiefly to sport, and in particular to horse racing. It was informally known as The Pink 'Un, as it was printed on salmon-coloured paper.

From the story:

‘When you see a man with whiskers of that cut and *the Pink 'Un* protruding out of his pocket, you can always draw him by a bet,’ said he.



Pictured is the calling, or business, cards for Holmes and Watson, both listing their addresses at Baker Street. Holmes is listed as a consulting detective, and Watson as a doctor.

From the story:

‘My name is Sherlock Holmes. It is my business to know what other people don't know.’

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

(No Model.)

H. ASTRICH.
HAT SECURER.

No. 534,989.

Patented Mar. 5, 1895.

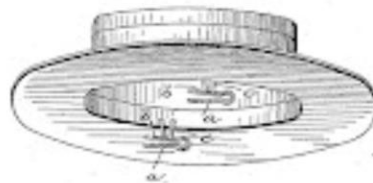
FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.



Witnesses
Harry L. Amer.
D. R. Owens.

By His Attorneys.

Inventor
Herman Astrich.

Chas. H. Snow & Co.

Pictured is a patent drawing from 1895 for a hat securer, similar to that used by Henry Baker.

From the story:

Sherlock Holmes laughed. 'Here is the foresight,' said he, putting his finger upon the little disc and loop of the hat-securer.



Pictured is a set of barber's scissors used to trim Henry Baker's hair, probably done on an infrequent basis, as funds were scarce.

From the story:

'The further points, that he is middle-aged, that his hair is grizzled, that it has been recently cut, and that he uses lime-cream, are all to be gathered from a close examination of the lower part of the lining. The lens discloses a large number of hair-ends, clean cut by the scissors of the barber.'



Pictured is Henry Baker's black felt hat, spotted with several tallow stains, which Mr. Baker tried to conceal with black ink.

From the story:

It was a very ordinary black hat of the usual round shape, hard and much the worse for wear.

'One tallow stain, or even two, might come by chance; but, when I see no less than five...'



Pictured are plumbing tools which would have been used by John Horner, plumber, in his trade.

From the story:

John Horner, 26, plumber, was brought up upon the charge of having upon the 22nd inst., abstracted from the jewel-case of the Countess of Morcar the valuable gem known as the blue carbuncle.

The Globe.

THE STAR

THE
PALL MALL GAZETTE
An Evening Newspaper and Review.

THE
ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE
An Evening Review and Record of News.

The Evening News.

The Echo.

Pictured are the leaders to most of the newspapers of London at the time of the theft of the blue carbuncle. Holmes advertised Henry Baker's hat and goose in each of these.

From the story:

'Here you are, Peterson, run down to the advertising agency, and have this put in the evening papers.'

'In which, sir?'

'Oh, in the *Globe*, *Star*, *Pall Mall*, *St. James's Gazette*, *Evening News*, *Standard*, *Echo*, and any others that occur to you.'



Pictured is a post card of the British Museum in London. The Alpha Inn, where the goose-club was conducted, was near the Museum.

From the story:

‘There are a few of us who frequent the Alpha Inn near the Museum — we are to be found in the Museum itself during the day, you understand.’



Pictured is a post card of the Covent Garden Market, where Breckinridge's stall was located. Breckinridge sold the goose to Windigate to offer in the goose-club at the Alpha Inn.

From the story:

We passed across Holborn, down Endell Street, and so through a zigzag of slums to Covent Garden Market. One of the largest stalls bore the name of Breckinridge upon it...



Pictured is Holmes' strongbox, in which he kept his most valuable items. Holmes had placed the blue carbuncle into the strongbox, until the gem could be returned to the Countess of Morcar.

From the story:

Holmes unlocked his strong-box, and held up the blue carbuncle, which shone out like a star, with a cold, brilliant, many-pointed radiance.



Pictured is one of Holmes' favorite pipes, the clay pipe, which he often used during an adventure.

From the story:

'After all, Watson,' said Holmes, reaching up his hand for his clay pipe, 'I am not retained by the police to supply their deficiencies.'