

Adventure XXVIII – The Adventure of the Empty House



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 two 10-pound notes found on the desk of Ronald Adair's room, where he had been shot, presumably part of his winnings at cards earlier in the evening.

From the story:

On the table lay two bank-notes for £10 each and £17 10s. in silver and gold, the money arranged in little piles of varying amount.



Pictured are casino cards for Ronald Adair and Sebastian Moran for entry into a casino in Monaco, which the two favored when they were not attending card clubs.

From the story:

‘Ronald Adair was fond of cards, playing continually, but never for such stakes as would hurt him. He was a member of the Baldwin, the Cavendish, and the Bagatelle Card Clubs.’

The Bagatelle Card Club
Pall Mall, London, W.1



✓
+ £ 17-10-0
+ £ 32-12-6
- £ 4-18-6
+ £ 420-0-0
- £ 6-4-2
+ £ 3-6-8
+ £ 7-8-0
- £ 2-7-6
+ £ 10-0-0
+ £ 25-6-3

Murray
Sir John Hardy
Colonel Moran
Frederic Michor
Lord Belmont
Major Frensham
Longdale Pike
Cedric Hawkenworth
Winston Churchill
Wm. Rumsden
Chas. Dingle

Pictured is the tally sheet Ronald Adair had brought home from the Bagatelle Card Club, showing the other players and their winnings/losses.

From the story:

‘There were some figures also upon a sheet of paper with the names of some club friends opposite to them, from which it was conjectured that before his death he was endeavouring to make out his losses or winnings at cards.’



Pictured are the tinted glasses worn by a tall, thin man whom Watson surmised was a detective, possibly with Scotland Yard.

From the story:

A tall, thin man with coloured glasses, whom I strongly suspected of being a plain-clothes detective, was pointing out some theory of his own, while the others crowded round to listen to what he said.



Pictured is part of the white hair Holmes used as a beard and wig to disguise himself as an aged book seller when returning to London.

From the story:

To my astonishment, it was none other than my strange old book-collector, his sharp, wizened face peering out from a frame of white hair, and his precious volumes, a dozen of them at least, wedged under his right arm.

British Birds in Colour

Advisory Editor: R. S. R. FITTER

Contributors

PHILIP E. BROWN · BRUCE CAMPBELL
R. M. LOCKLEY · E. R. PARRINDER
RICHARD PERRY

Illustrated with 108 plates in colour from
JOHN GOULD'S *The Birds of Great Britain*

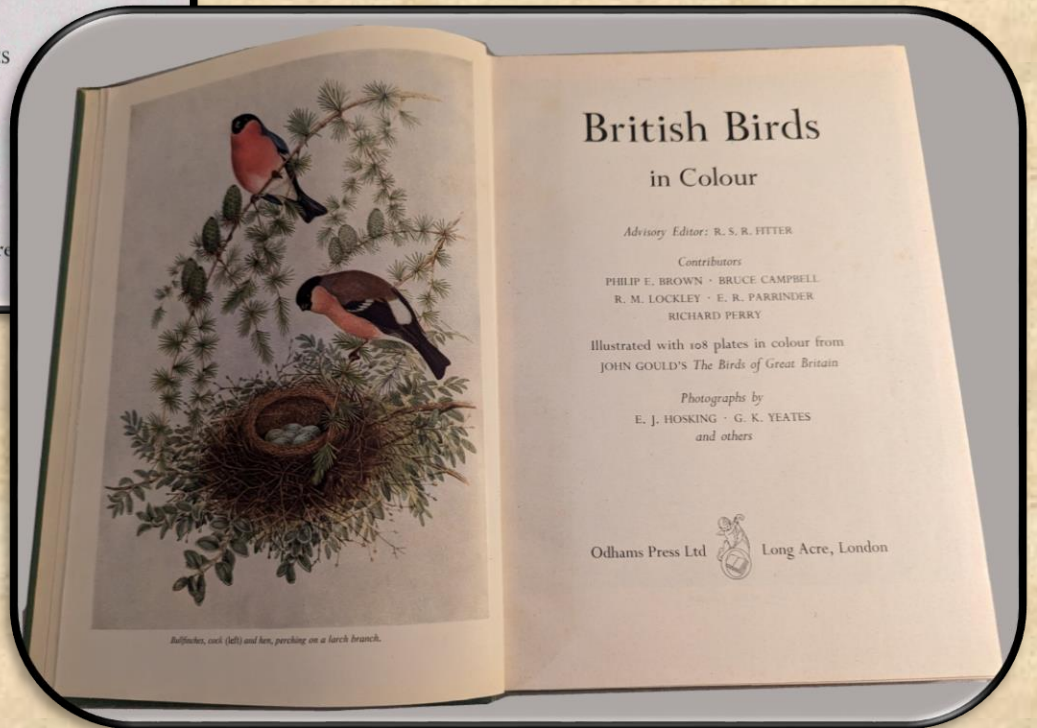
Photographs by

E. J. HOSKING · G. K. YEATES
and others

Odhams Press Ltd



Long Acre



British Birds in Colour

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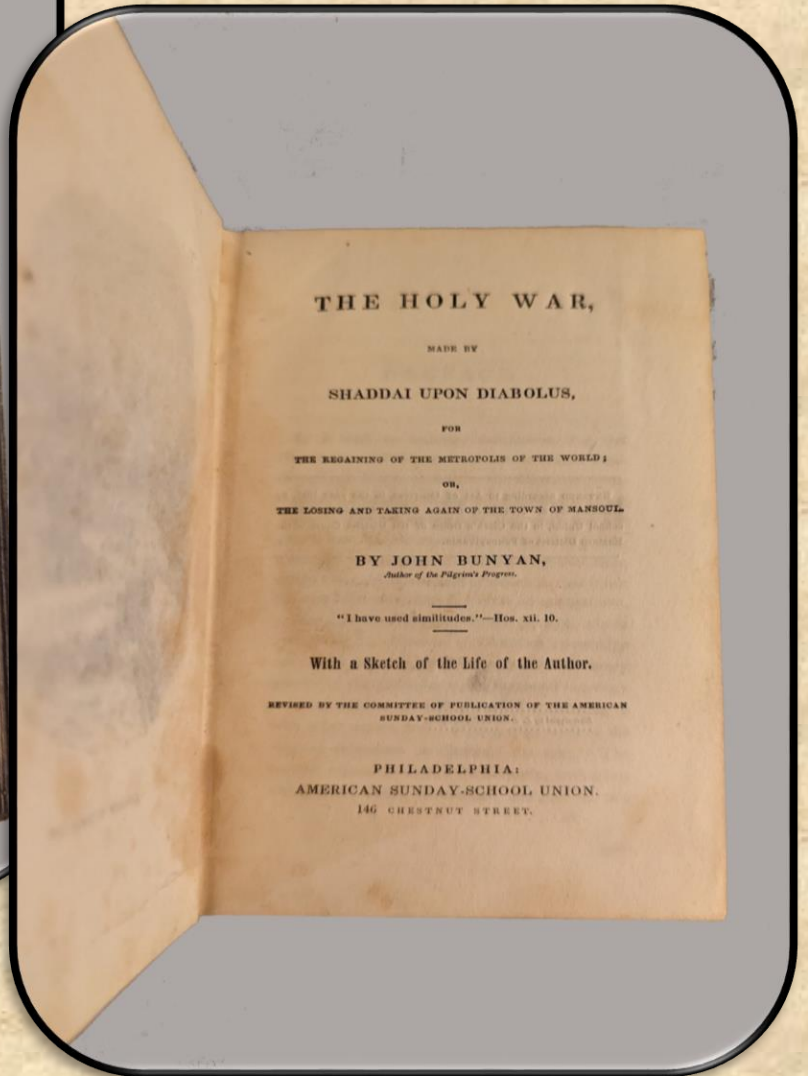
Long Acre, London

Bullfinches, cock (left) and hen, perching on a larch branch.

Pictured is the book, *British Birds in Colour*, by R. S. R. Fitter, one of the books Holmes as the bibliophile offered to Watson to help fill his book shelf.

From the story:

‘Maybe you collect yourself, sir; here's *British Birds*, and *Catullus*, and *The Holy War* - a bargain every one of them. With five volumes you could just fill that gap on that second shelf. It looks untidy, does it not, sir?’



Pictured is the book, *The Holy War*, by John Bunyan, one of the books Holmes as the bibliophile offered to Watson to help fill his book shelf.

From the story:

‘Maybe you collect yourself, sir; here's *British Birds*, and *Catullus*, and *The Holy War* - a bargain every one of them. With five volumes you could just fill that gap on that second shelf. It looks untidy, does it not, sir?’



Pictured is the flask which Holmes used to revive Watson with Brandy after causing Watson to faint.

From the story:

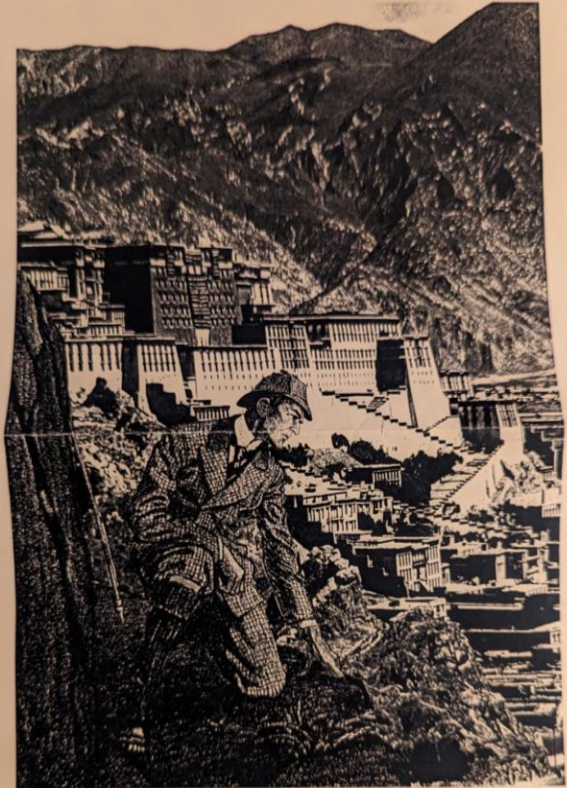
Certainly a grey mist swirled before my eyes, and when it cleared I found my collar-ends undone and the tingling after-taste of brandy upon my lips. Holmes was bending over my chair, his flask in his hand.



Pictured are demonstration photos on the use of baritsu in hand to hand fighting.

From the story:

‘We tottered together upon the brink of the fall. I have some knowledge, however, of baritsu, or the Japanese system of wrestling, which has more than once been very useful to me.’

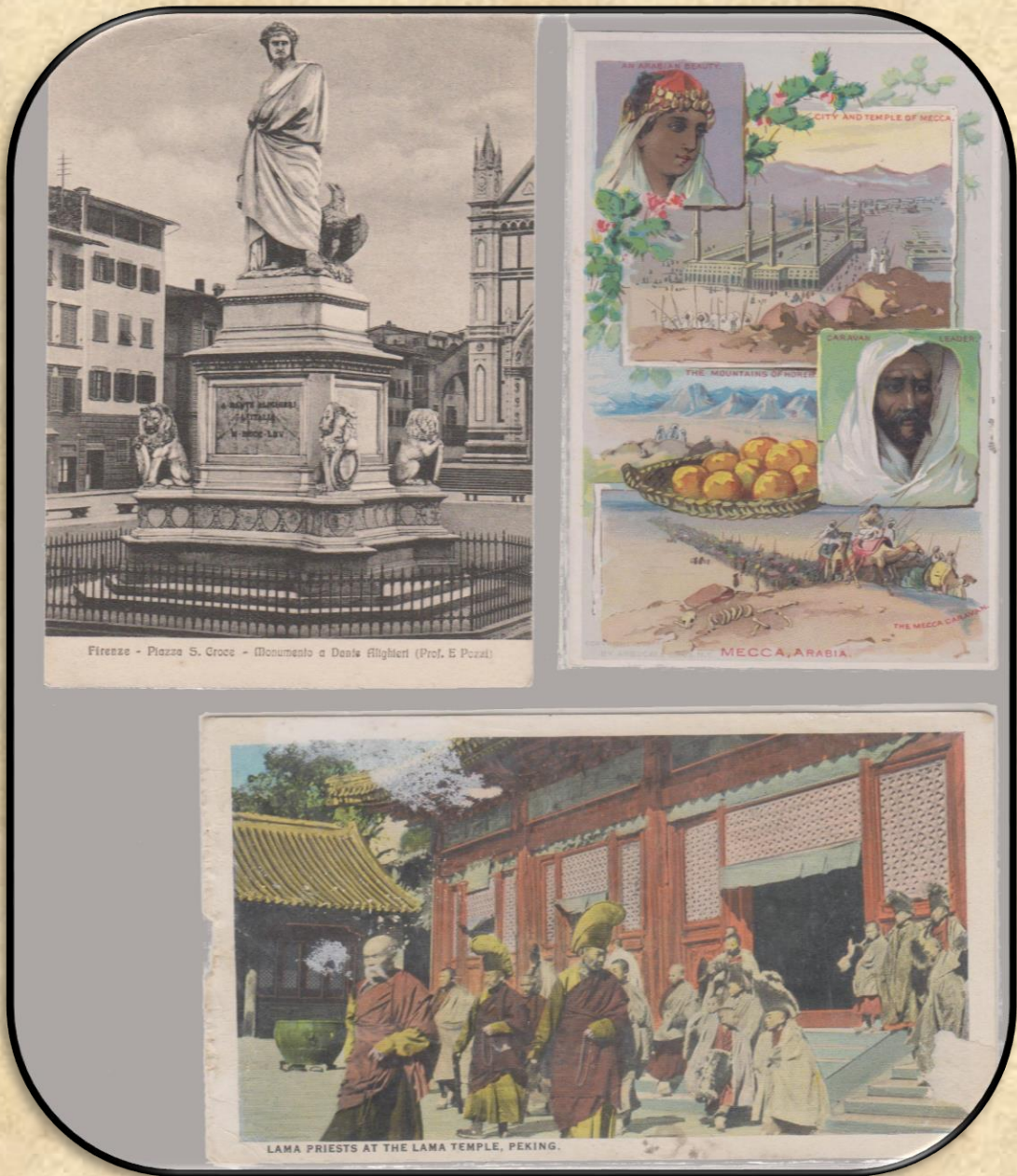


Sherlock Holmes, in the guise of Sigerson, the Norwegian explorer, arrives above Lhasa in Tibet and gazes down upon the capital and the Potala Palace, ancient seat of the Dalai Lamas.

Pictured is a small statuette of Buddha, a memento from Holmes' hiatus visit to Lhasa to visit the Buddhist priest, the Dalai Lama. Also pictured is a drawing of Holmes overlooking Lhasa.

From the story:

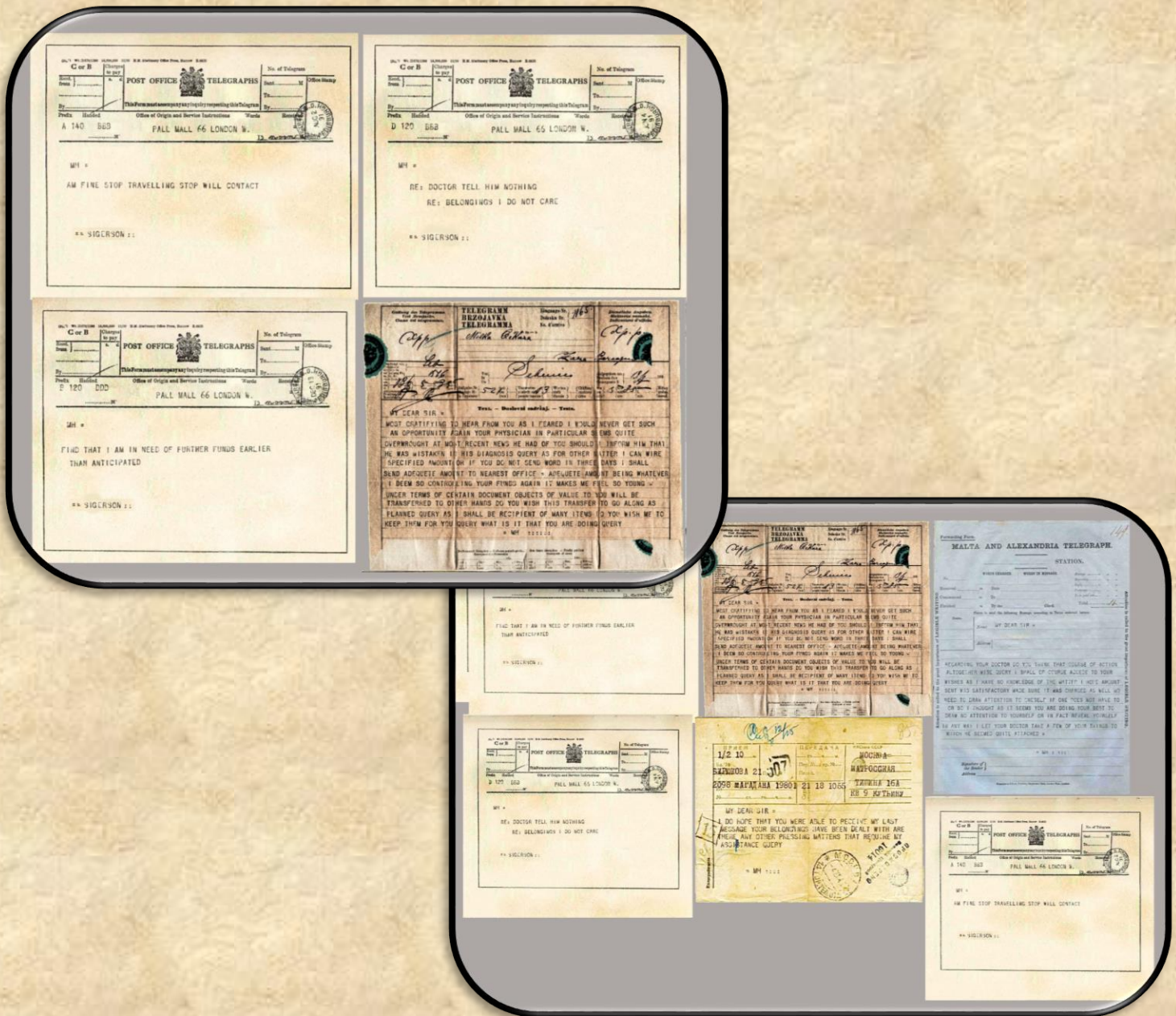
'I travelled for two years in Tibet, therefore, and amused myself by visiting Lhasa and spending some days with the head Llama.'



Pictured are postal cards Holmes collected while traveling across Europe and Asia, including Khartoum.

From the story:

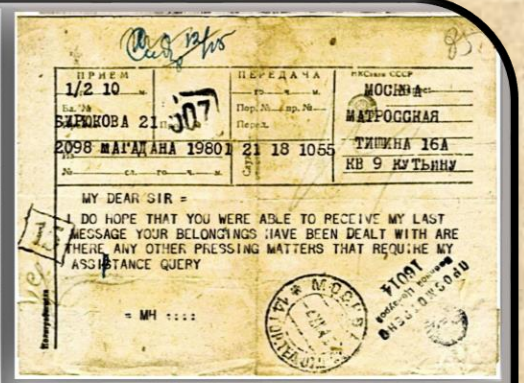
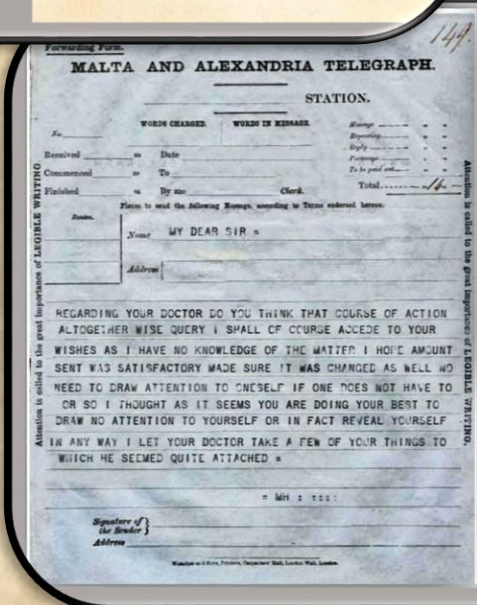
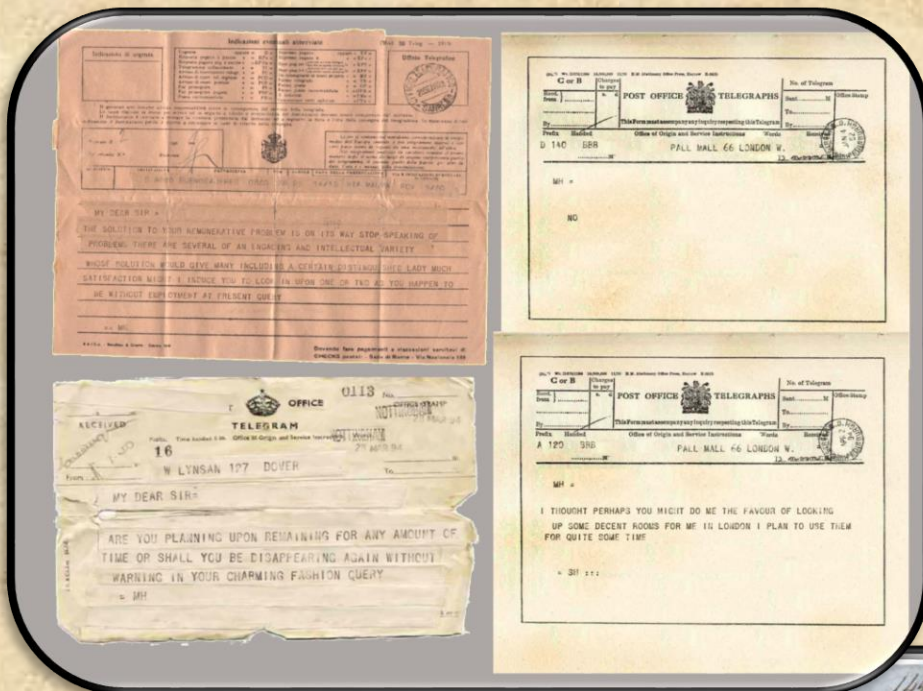
‘I then passed through Persia, looked in at Mecca, and paid a short but interesting visit to the Khalifa at Khartoum, the results of which I have communicated to the Foreign Office.’



Pictured are telegrams Holmes sent to Mycroft during his travels across Europe and Asia.

From the story:

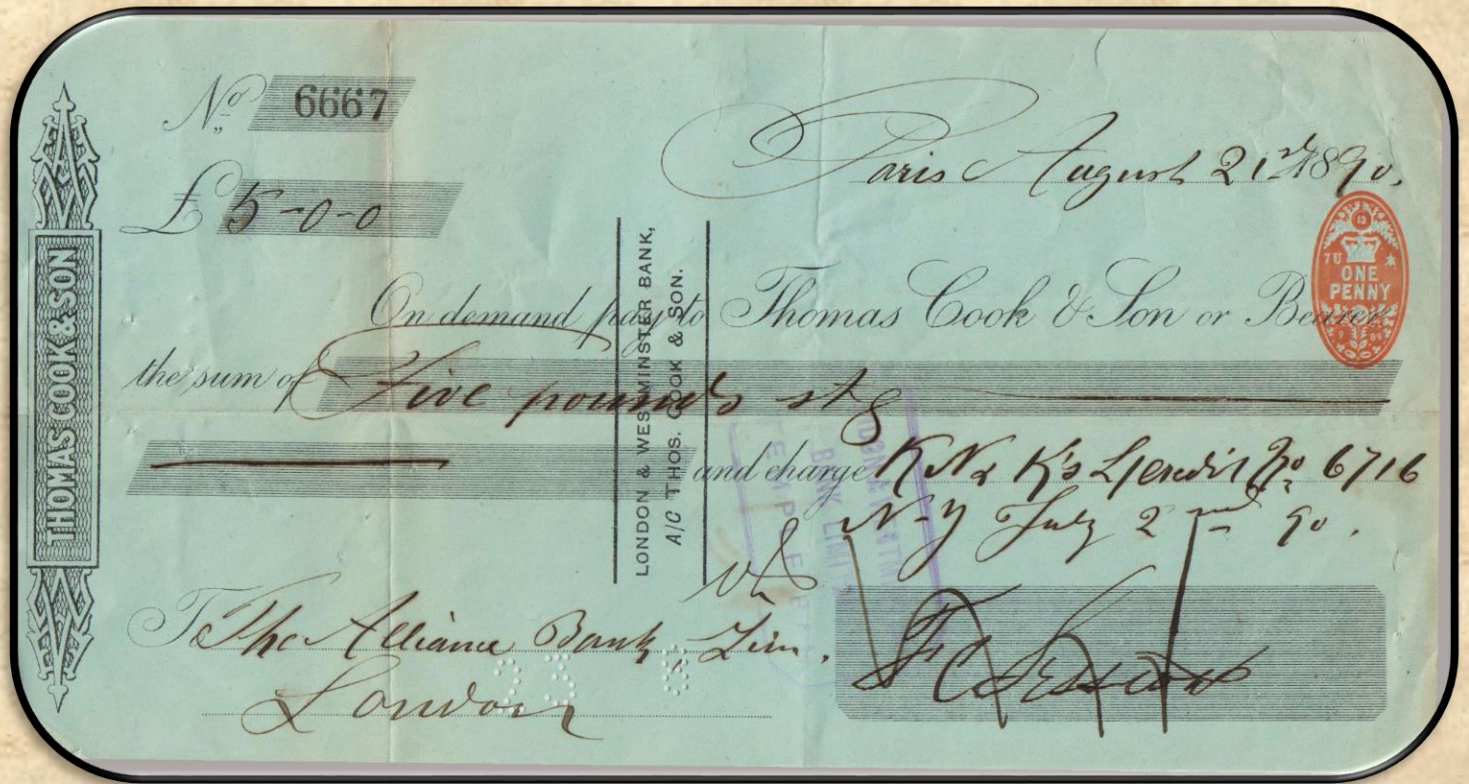
‘I had only one confidant - my brother Mycroft. I owe you many apologies, my dear Watson, but it was all-important that it should be thought I was dead, and it is quite certain that you would not have written so convincing an account of my unhappy end had you not yourself thought that it was true.’



Pictured are telegrams Holmes sent to Mycroft during his travels across Europe and Asia.

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Pictured is a cheque drawn from Thomas Cook Bank, Holmes' likely source of monies or funds need during the hiatus.

From the story:

'As to Mycroft, I had to confide in him in order to obtain the money which I needed.'



V33750

THE SIRDAR'S PALACE AT KHARTOUM

One thousand, three hundred and forty-five miles south of Cairo, on the left bank of the Blue Nile—close to the junction where the White Nile joins it to form the great river Nile of Egypt—lies the town of Khartoum. It is a splendid city with a population of over 97,000 and is the capital of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. While Egypt claims the Sudan as an integral part, Great Britain has announced it will never abandon the Sudan and on its re-capture by the Anglo-Egyptian armies an agreement was signed between Egypt and Great Britain establishing boundaries and providing for a joint government. The Governor General is appointed by Egypt with the consent of Great Britain and the British and Egyptian flags jointly fly over the Sirdar's Palace, this beautiful Gothic structure before us. Khartoum is regularly built and has a number of splendid

buildings, all erected since Kitchener's reconquest of the Sudan.

It was under the direction of Lord Kitchener the Palace was built. He chose for its site the spot where General Gordon so heroically met death. Everyone knows the story of how Gordon tried to break up the traffic in slaves and how he met death at the hands of the Mahdists, who then destroyed the city of Khartoum which lay in ruins until Kitchener recaptured it in 1898, and rebuilt it.

That strange looking bird on the lawn is one of Africa's rarest birds. It is the shoebill stork that frequents the swamps of central Africa. It occurs only in sparse flocks and there are perhaps only six in captivity in the entire United States. Abu Markub—father of bills—the Arabs call him.

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Pictured is a Stereo Card of Kartoum, A memento from Holmes' hiatus 'short but interesting visit to the Khalifa at Khartoum.

From the story:

'I then passed through Persia, looked in at Mecca, and paid a short but interesting visit to the Khalifa at Khartoum, the results of which I have communicated to the Foreign Office.'

1894

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
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	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	28	29	30	31						29	30	31					
FEB					1	2	3		AUG				1	2	3	4	
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	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
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MAR					1	2	3		SEP						1		
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
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With the Compliments of
SHERLOCK HOLMES, Esq.
Consulting Detective (on sabbatical)
Montpelier (sic), France

Pictured is a calendar for 1894, with Holmes' information on the bottom, when he was living in Montpelier, conducting studies on coal-tar derivatives.

From the story:

'Returning to France, I spent some months in a research into the coal-tar derivatives, which I conducted in a laboratory at Montpelier, in the south of France.'



Pictured are postal cards Holmes sent to Mycroft (from Meiringen, Interlaken, and Basle) during his 3 year hiatus across Europe and Asia.

From the story:

‘We have three years of the past to discuss. Let that suffice until half past nine, when we start upon the notable adventure of the empty house.’



Pictured is the key to Camden House, the empty dwelling across the street from Holmes' residence on Baker Street. Holmes and Watson snuck in to set a trap for Moran.

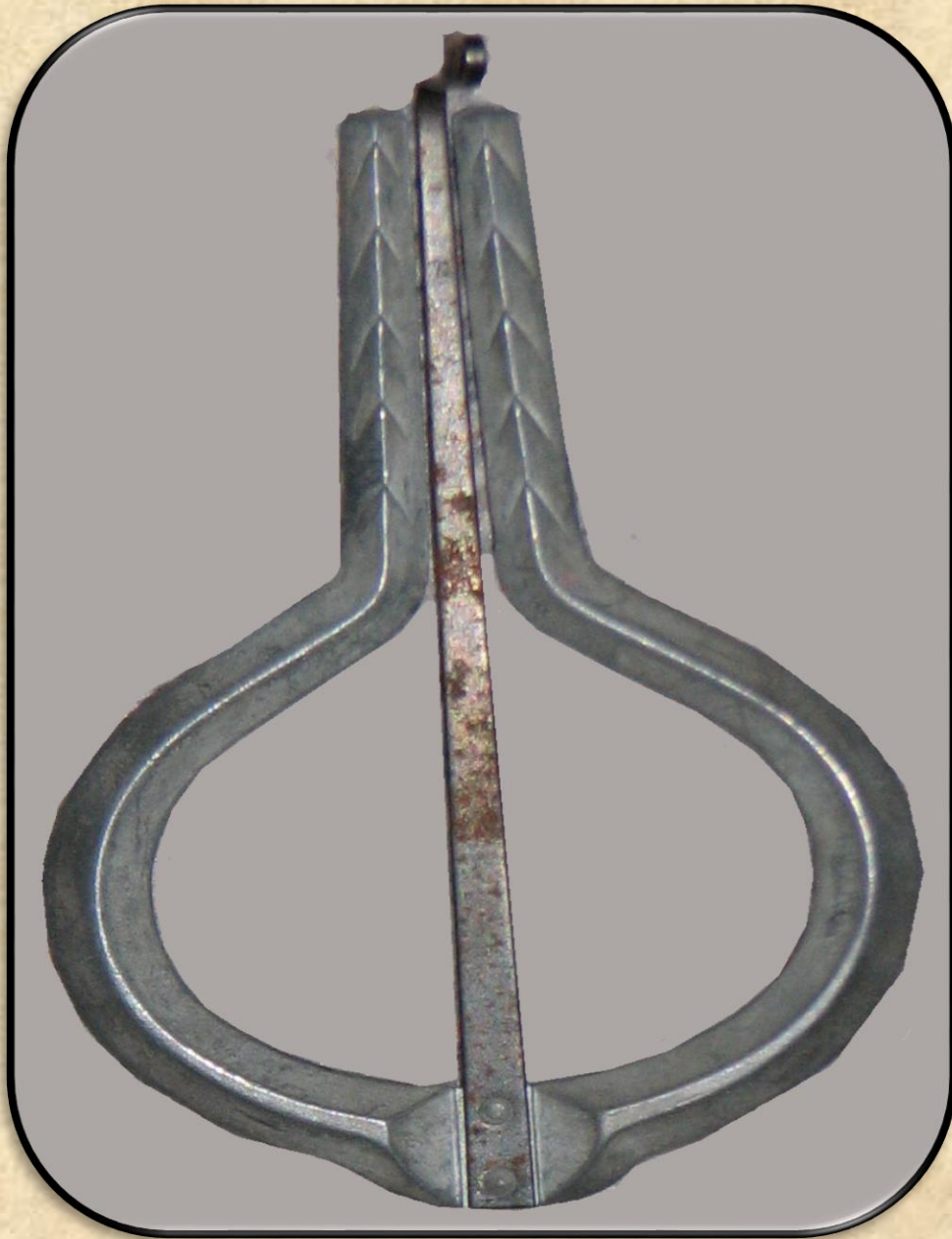
From the story:

Here he turned swiftly down a narrow passage, passed through a wooden gate into a deserted yard, and then opened with a key the back door of a house. We entered together, and he closed it behind us.



Pictured are postal cards Holmes sent to Mycroft (from Geneve, Brussels, and Meiringen) during his 3 year hiatus across Europe and Asia.

From the story:
 'We have three years of the past to discuss. Let that suffice until half past nine, when we start upon the notable adventure of the empty house.'



Pictured is the jews' harp, or mouth harp, which Parker played well. Parker was staked out at Baker Street when Holmes returned to London.

From the story:

'Because I recognized their sentinel when I glanced out of my window. He is a harmless enough fellow, Parker by name, a garrotter by trade, and a remarkable performer upon the jews' harp.'



Pictured is the police whistle Holmes used to signal Lestrade to enter the Camden House once the trap had been sprung on Moran.

From the story:

...I struck him on the head with the butt of my revolver, and he dropped again upon the floor. I fell upon him, and as I held him my comrade blew a shrill call upon a whistle.

M's - Final Problem

THE WIMBLEDON MEETING

The last day of the competition in the first stage of the Queen's Prize was favoured by better weather than the riflemen assembled in Wimbledon Camp have yet enjoyed during the progress of the current meeting.

The following is a list of the principal scores for the Queen's Prize: --

Handwritten notes: "M's - 1000's old acquaintance" written vertically next to the table.

Seven shots at each range	Total
Corp. Simcock, 2d Cheshire	93
Lieut. Godding, Berkshires	91
Sir Clayton Partridge	90
Capt. Kent, 5th Northumberland	89
Count von Schulenberg	88
Col. Sebastian Moran	87
Phillip Martowe	86
Pte. Hollis, 19th Middlesex	84
Lord Astley Denham	83
Emile Zobar	82
Sgt. Murray, 1st Edinburgh	81

First stage principal diagrams: 600 yds; 7 shots in military positions. Dimensions of target, 6 ft. square; bull's eye, 24 in. in diameter.



Handwritten note: "M's - 1000's old acquaintance" written diagonally across the bottom of the target diagrams.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE

House of Commons, Monday, March 19. The speaker took the chair shortly after 3 o'clock.

JUDICIAL RENTS IN IRELAND. In reply to Mr. J.E. ELLIS, COLONEL KING-HARMON said,-- The number of applications to fix judicial rents awaiting adjudication in the Land Commission on the 1st of March, 1887, was 10,668. The number on the 1st of March, 1888, was 62,157.

THE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS

In reply to Mr. MARK STEWART, Mr. E. STANHOPE said,-- The Artillery Volunteers are permitted to wear the same uniform as the Royal and Militia Artillery, except that they wear silver lace where the others wear gold lace.

In reply to another question from Mr. MARK STEWART, Mr. E. STANHOPE said the average number of Artillery Volunteers for the last two years attending at Shoeburyness was 1,756, and at Barry Links 1,232.

BURGLARIES

To the Editor of the Times. Sir.-- The Press and the public generally should force our timid, halting officials to take energetic action against certain forms of crime. May I suggest that--

1. Any person committing a burglary or robbery from the person, accompanied by violence or brutality, be flogged.
2. Any burglar or other thief having upon him a revolver, or other distinctly murderous weapon, be flogged.
3. The police force be increased, especially mounted patrols in certain localities.
4. Certain constables be armed with revolvers.
5. The police generally have a "freer hand" in dealing with crimes of robbery or violence.
6. More activity among the members of the police force be insisted on by the Chief Commissioner.
7. The public should be officially informed as to the legality, or otherwise, of using firearms in defence of their lives and property.

Experience shows, however, the futility of expecting the "authorities" ever to take the lead in these matters. They never do anything until forced.

Yours faithfully, ONE OF THE PUBLIC

Retraction: In yester-day's paper we mistakenly reported Jess Fyer had died. He is alive and well. Our apologies.

ARMS TRADE FAIR CLOSES

The International Arms Trade Fair, which opened at the Royal Agricultural Hall March 4th, closed yesterday with a 21-gun salute to the Queen which reverberated around the city.

The closing ceremonies began earlier in the awarding of Gold Medals for excellence. Accepting five medals on behalf of the Krupp Works was the Countess von Schulenberg, bride of 5 months to the German Military Attache and the archetype of the fair-haired Rhine maiden. A gold medal was also awarded to the Societe Bacri Freres and accepted by Emile Zobar, French Military Attache.

Hector del Guerra, military attache to the Spanish Embassy, stirred the large crowd with a magnificent speech.

The affair was marred by several demonstrators sporting anti-arms placards. Alexi Meshkoff, Russian Military Attache, was struck in the head by a tomato.

LITTLE EGYPT MAKES A HIT

Last night the Tivoli was the scene of a novel divertissement. Little Egypt, that agile and beautiful exponent of the graceful, sensuous Oriental danse du ventre, entertained all present with her lutesome, swaying body.

A nimble-fingered pianist who was up in profane music sounded the opening chords of the wicked dance and, with writhing and twisting body, Little Egypt stepped out the measure while all the men looked on with open-mouthed astonishment. Louder and louder banged the piano, more and more rapidly the abdominal muscles of the dancer twitched. Her eyes gleamed with the excitement of it all and her bosom heaved with tantalizing irregularity. With a crash of chords the dance ceased and the men were left with silence broken only by long drawn out sighs from a couple of the gentlemen.

Little Egypt, who is known as Hatasu Asquith off stage, has come to England by way of Egypt and Syria. Vague rumours persist that she was deported for illegal political activities in those countries, but quite a few Englishmen are glad to have her here.

INDIAN MISSION

We understand that the Viceroy of India has decided that his eldest son, Lord Clarendon, shall accompany the mission to Cabul.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Vienna, March 17. The little Princess Elizabeth, daughter of the Crown Prince and Princess fell from her carriage to-day when the Prater flew open. Happily, she suffered no injury.

Pictured is an excerpt from March 20, 1888 *The Times* showing results of shooting competition where Moran was a participant, and his prowess as a big game shooter.

From the story: 'This, gentlemen, is Colonel Sebastian Moran, once of Her Majesty's Indian Army, and the best heavy game shot that our Eastern Empire has ever produced. I believe I am correct, colonel, in saying that your bag of tigers still remain unrivalled?'



THE MAN-EATER OF JAHLREEL

OR,

The Adventure of a Heavy-Game Hunter In India

Being a transcription of an original manuscript found in a portmanteau said to have belonged to the famous Shikari, author, and military officer, Colonel Sebastian Moran, formerly of the First Bangalore Pioneers.

All Rights Reserved by Stephen Clarkson

Baltimore, Maryland

1970

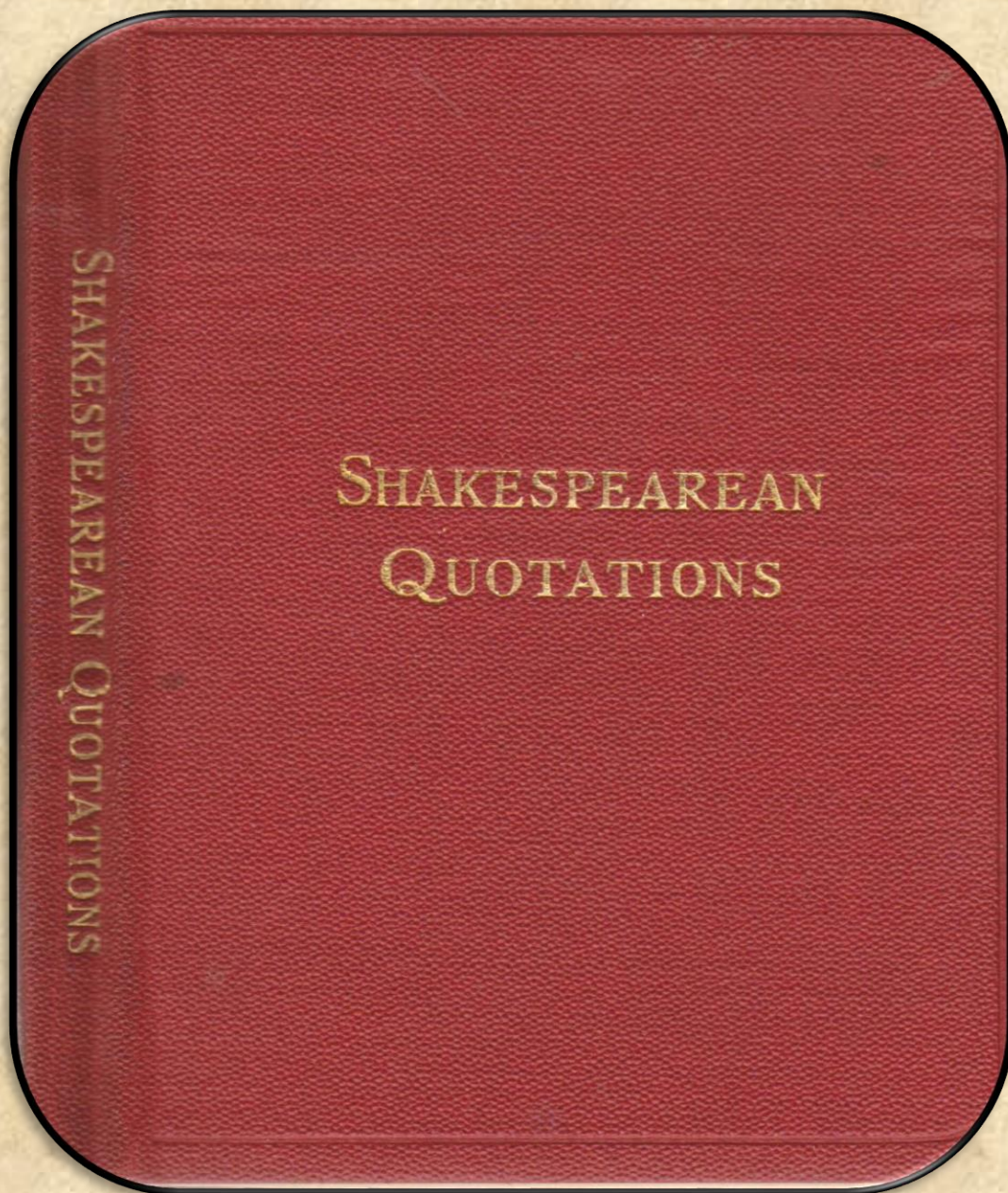
was printed in a limited edition of 250,
of which 25 copies have been autographed by
the author. This volume is numbered 153.

Printed by the American Press, Incorporated,
Baltimore, Maryland

Pictured is the booklet *Maneater of Jahlreel*, a monograph about tiger hunting, purportedly written by Col. Moran.

From the story:

‘This, gentlemen, is Colonel Sebastian Moran, once of Her Majesty's Indian Army, and the best heavy game shot that our Eastern Empire has ever produced. I believe I am correct, colonel, in saying that your bag of tigers still remain unrivalled?’



Pictured is a book of Shakespearean quotations which Holmes has as part of his library at Baker Street. He quotes 'Twelfth Night' when he captures Moran.

From the story:

'Ah, colonel,' said Holmes, arranging his rumpled collar, 'journeys end in lovers' meetings,' as the old play says.'

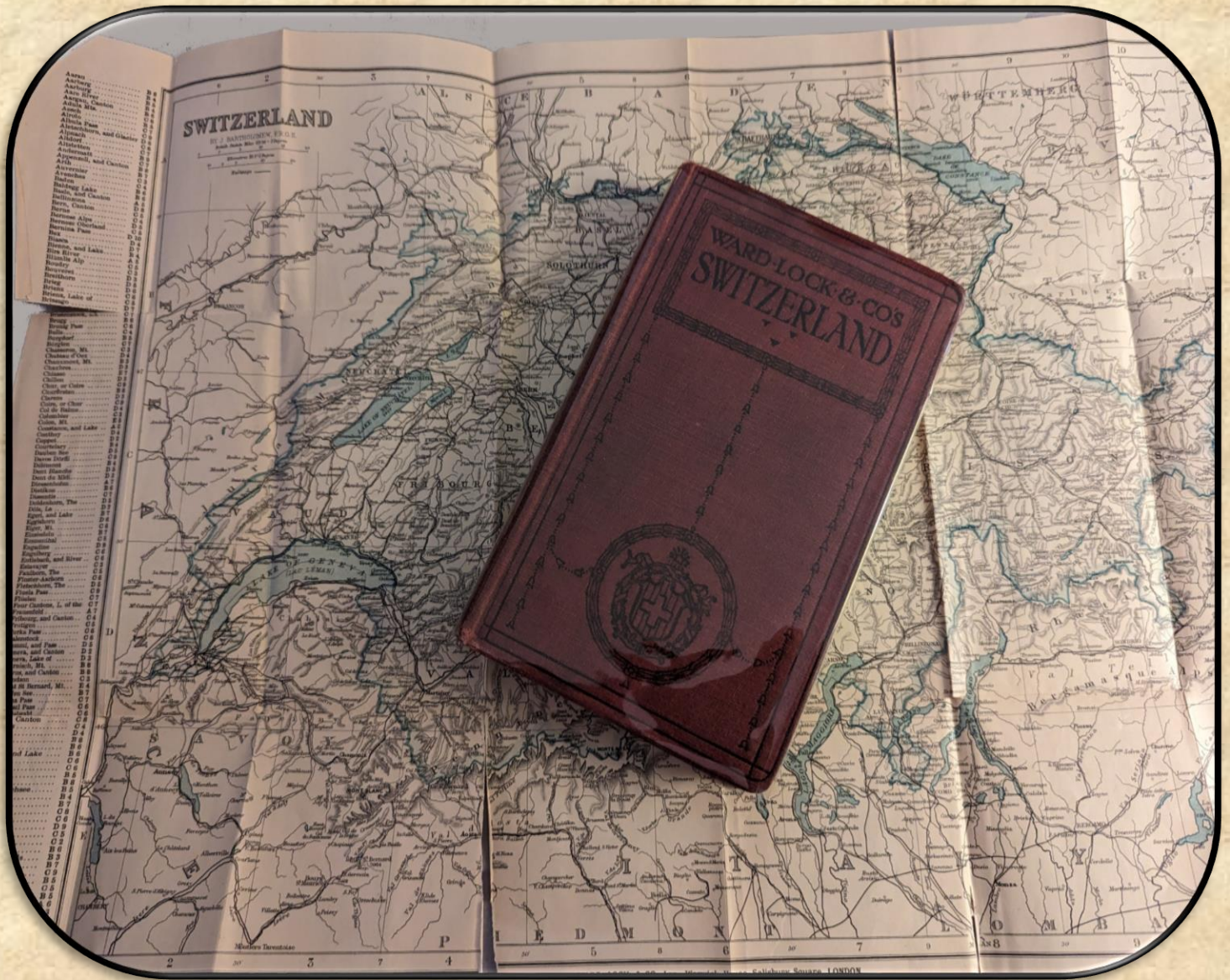


Pictured is the bullet retrieved by Mrs. Hudson. Col. Moran had fired the bullet through the Holmes wax bust, and the bullet was flattened once it hit the wall.

From the story:

‘Excellent. You carried the thing out very well. Did you observe where the bullet went?’

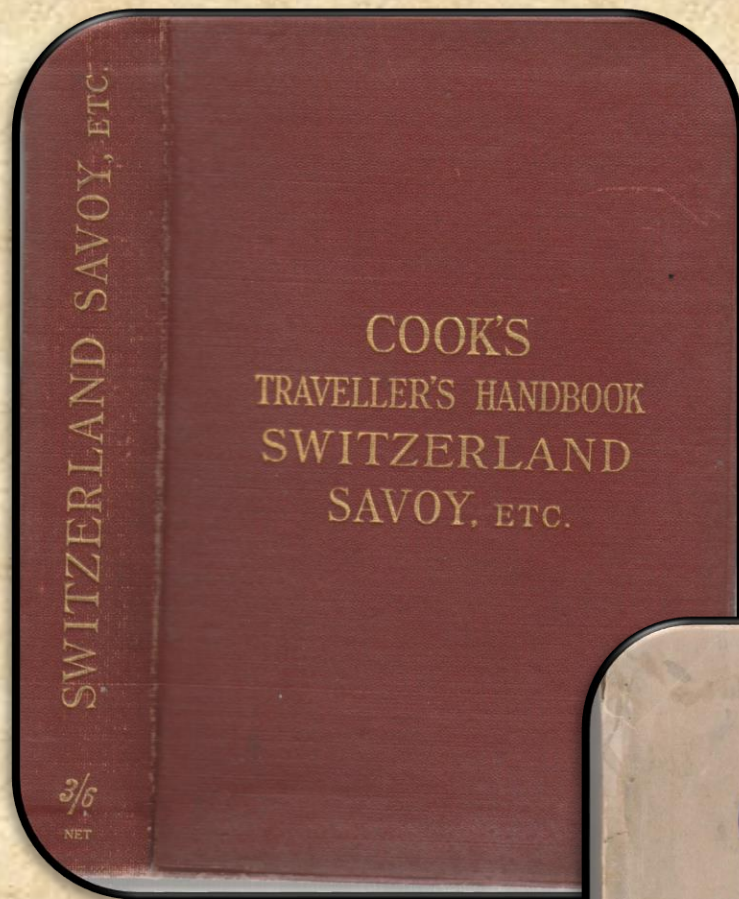
‘Yes, sir. I'm afraid it has spoilt your beautiful bust, for it passed right through the head and flattened itself on the wall. I picked it up from the carpet. Here it is!’



Pictured is Ward/Lock's Switzerland, a Swiss travel book Holmes & Watson would have used in their travels to escape Moriarty.

From the story:

‘When we were in Switzerland he followed us with Moriarty, and it was undoubtedly he who gave me that evil five minutes on the Reichenbach ledge.’



Pictured is Cook's Switzerland, a Swiss travel book Holmes & Watson would have used in their travels to escape Moriarty. Also is a tag from Cook's tours which Holmes used during their travels.

From the story:

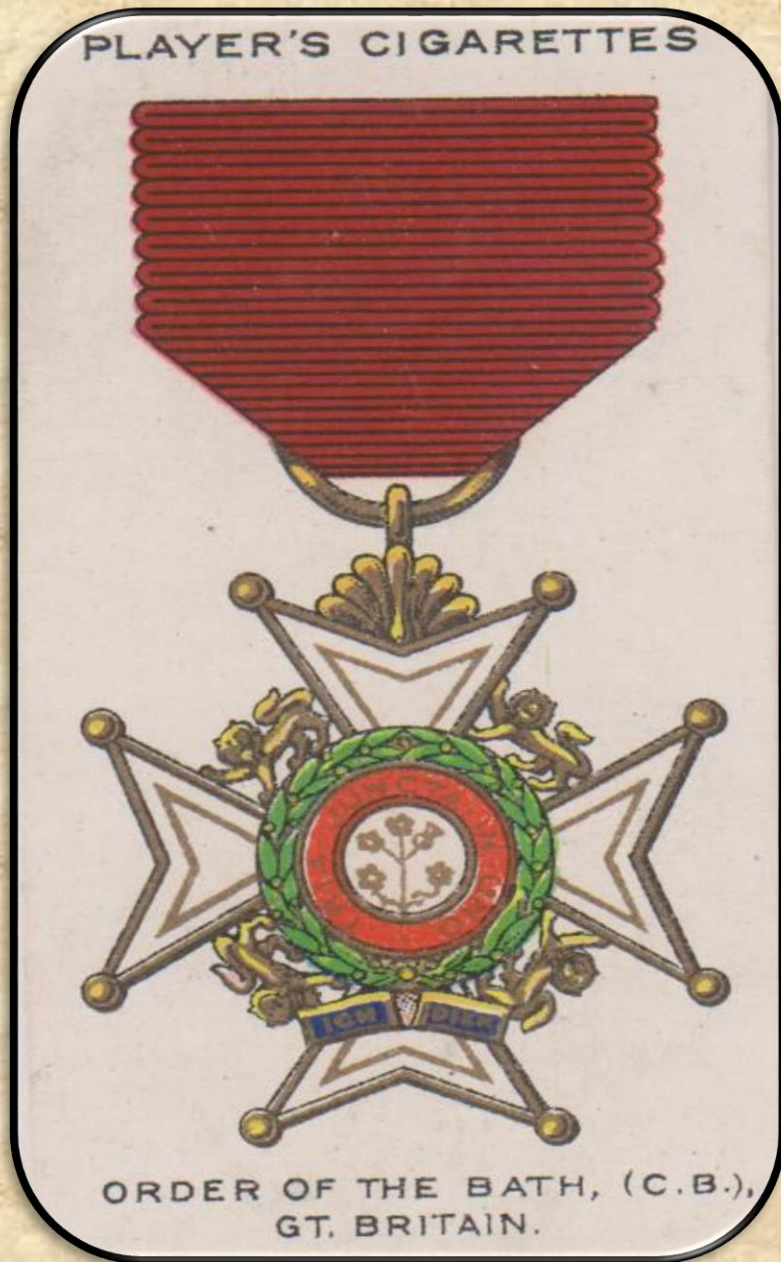
'When we were in Switzerland he followed us with Moriarty, and it was undoubtedly he who gave me that evil five minutes on the Reichenbach ledge.'



Pictured are Bernard Hammer, who was President of the Swiss Confederation during confrontation with Moriarty and Moran and the Hiatus, as well as Queen Victoria.

From the story:

‘When we were in Switzerland he followed us with Moriarty, and it was undoubtedly he who gave me that evil five minutes on the Reichenbach ledge.’



Pictured is Col. Moran's father, Sir Augustus Moran award, the Order of the Bath (Companion), with post-nominal title of C.B.

From the story:

Moran, Sebastian, Colonel. Unemployed. Formerly 1st Bengalore Pioneers. Son of Sir Augustus Moran, C.B., once British Minister to Persia.



The second most dangerous man in London

51st

Colonel Sebastian Moran

Unemployed. Formerly 1st Bangalore
Pioneers. Born London 1840. Son of
Sir Augustus Moran, C.B., once
British Minister to Persia. Educated
Eton and Oxford. Served in
Jowaki Campaign, Afghan Campaign,
Charesiak (dispatches), Sherepur,
and Cabul. Author of Herzog
Game of the Western Himalayas, 1881;
Three Months in the Jungle, 1884;

Address: Conduit Street
Clubs: The Anglo-Indian, the
Tankerville, the Bagotville Card Club

Pictured is a photo of Col. Sebastian Moran, with Moran's short bio, written by Holmes, on the back. Holmes notes he is the 2nd most dangerous person in London.

From the story:

On the margin was written in Holmes's precise hand: 'The second most dangerous man in London.'



Pictured is the air gun used by Col. Moran to murder Ronald Adair and attempt to kill Holmes. The gun is now held at Scotland Yard's museum.

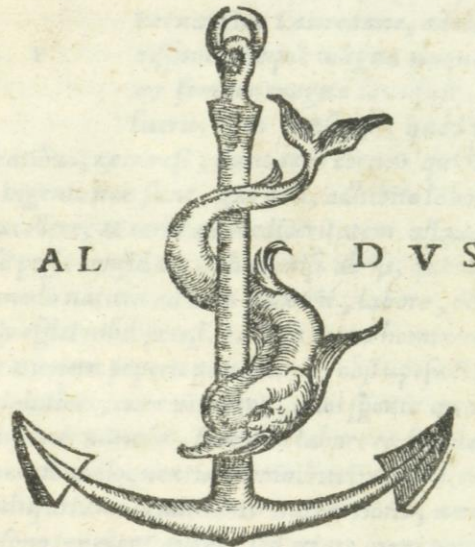
From the story:

Holmes had picked up the powerful air-gun from the floor, and was examining its mechanism.

‘Meanwhile, come what may, Colonel Moran will trouble us no more, the famous air-gun of Von Herder will embellish the Scotland Yard Museum.’

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

CATVLLVS.
ET IN EVM COMMEN-
TARIVS M. ANTONII
MVRETI.



VENETIIS,
APVD PAVLVM MANVTIVM,
ALDI FILIVM.
M. D. LIIII.
*Cum privilegio Pontificis maximi,
& Senatus Veneti.*

Pictured is a book of poetry by Catallus, a Latin poet during the late Roman period, one of the books Holmes as the bibliophile offered to Watson to help fill his book shelf.

From the story:

‘Maybe you collect yourself, sir; here's *British Birds*, and *Catullus*, and *The Holy War* - a bargain every one of them. With five volumes you could just fill that gap on that second shelf. It looks untidy, does it not, sir?’



Pictured is the Adams revolver, Watson's old service weapon, which Watson brought with him to trap Moran at Camden House.

From the story:

It was indeed like old times when, at that hour, I found myself seated beside him in a hansom, my revolver in my pocket and the thrill of adventure in my heart. Holmes was cold and stern and silent.



Pictured is a postal card of Cavendish Square, where Holmes and Watson stopped at before continuing to Camden House to trap Moran.

From the story:

I had imagined that we were bound for Baker Street, but Holmes stopped the cab at the corner of Cavendish Square.



Pictured is the wax bust, created by Monsieur Oscar Meunier, of Grenoble, which Holmes used to trap Moran, who believed he was executing the real Holmes with his air-gun.

From the story:

...the other, the strange dummy which had played so important a part in the evening's adventures. It was a wax-coloured model of my friend, so admirably done that it was a perfect facsimile.