

## Adventure XXX – The Adventure of the Dancing Men

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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.



No. 218

100 SHARES.

CERTIFICATE OF SHARES  
IN THE

Union Gold Mining Company of Port Elizabeth  
(LIMITED.)

CAPITAL, £40,000, IN 40,000 SHARES OF ONE POUND EACH.

(REGISTERED UNDER THE LIMITED LIABILITY ACT OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, NO. 28 OF 1861 AND 1888.)

THE MINE AND WORKS OF THE UNION GOLD MINING COMPANY OF PORT ELIZABETH, LIMITED, ARE SITUATED ON THE FARM DORECHOT, DE KAAP, TRANSVAAL.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that

of One hundred Shares of One Pound Sterling each Fully Paid up numbered 26928 to 27027 inclusive in the Capital Stock of the

is the Proprietor

Union Gold Mining Company of Port Elizabeth, Limited, subject to the Articles of Association and Rules and Regulations of the Company

DATED AT PORT ELIZABETH this 27th day of April 18

Secretary

Director



Pictured are shares of the African securities Thurston had suggested Watson invest in.

From the story:  
So, Watson,' said he suddenly, 'you do not propose to invest in South African securities?'

'You told me four weeks ago that Thurston had an option on some South African property which would expire in a month, and which he desired you to share with him.'



**SUMMER UNDERWEAR.**  
 Gross and Elastic Fabric which allows the Skin to Breathe.  
**COMFORTABLE. CLEAN. COOL.**  
**KNEIPP-LINEN MESH**  
 PREVENTS CHILLS. PREVENTS ECZEMA. PREVENTS RHEUMATISM.  
 Recommended by the Medical Profession and sold by all leading Hatters and Drapers.  
 EXPLANATORY BOOKLET, with Sample and Name of nearest Agent POST FREE from  
**YORK ST. FLAX SPINNING CO., Ltd. (Belfast),**  
 2, Milk Street, London, E.C.  
 MELBOURNE: 30-32, FLINDERS LANE.




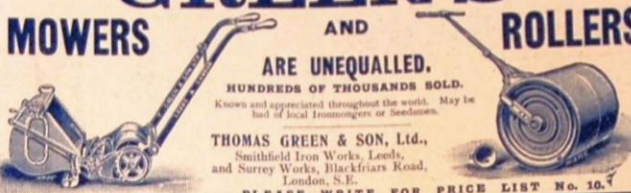
The "Rowland Hill" High Grade  
**POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTIONS.**  
 Prices 2-, 12 6, and 43.  
 BOOKLET FREE.  
**ALFRED SMITH & SON, 37 & 39, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.**



**"Don't Shout,**  
 I hear you. I can hear now as well as anybody."  
 "How?"  
 "Oh, something new — The Murray Ear-Drum I've a pair in my ears now, but you can't see 'em — they're invisible. I wouldn't know I had 'em in myself, only that I hear all right."  
**The Murray Ear-Drum**  
 is really a substitute for the working parts of the natural ear. Has no wire. Contains no rubber, metal nor glass. Invisible, easy to adjust, comfortable and safe. Totally different from any other device. Descriptive pamphlets sent upon request.  
**THE C. N. MURRAY COMPANY,**  
 205, Regent Street, London, W.



Appointed Makers to  His Majesty the King.  
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 HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS SOLD.  
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**THOMAS GREEN & SON, Ltd.,**  
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 It Produces NO Fermentation.  
 THE BEST SUGAR FOR HOUSEHOLD PURPOSES.  
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**CROSFIELD'S Ltd.,**  
 Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.

**THE 'NYDIA'**  
 The Lightest, Most Complete, and Best Made Pocket Camera.  
 Price from £7 10s.  
 Fully Illustrated Booklet Free.  
**NEWMAN & GUARDIA, LTD.,**  
 90 & 92, Shaftesbury Avenue, LONDON, W.



**THE CORONATION ELECTRIC-LIGHTED CLOCK.**  
 FOR ENTRANCES AND TURRETS.  
 SIZES: 2 feet to 6 feet diameter.  
**W. H. BAILEY & Co., Ltd.,**  
 Albion Works, SALFORD.  
 LONDON: 10, Fenchurch St., E.C.

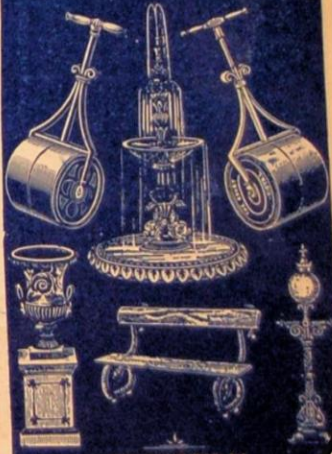


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**J. FOOT & SON,**  
 DEPT. S.B. 7,  
 171 NEW BOND ST. LONDON, W.



**GARDEN REQUISITES.**



MANUFACTURED BY  
**NEWTON, CHAMBERS & CO. LTD.**  
 THORNCLIFFE IRONWORKS, SHEFFIELD.

Pictured is an advertisement for Thurston's billiards. Thurston is Watson's billiard's partner.

From the story:  
 'You never play billiards except with Thurston.'



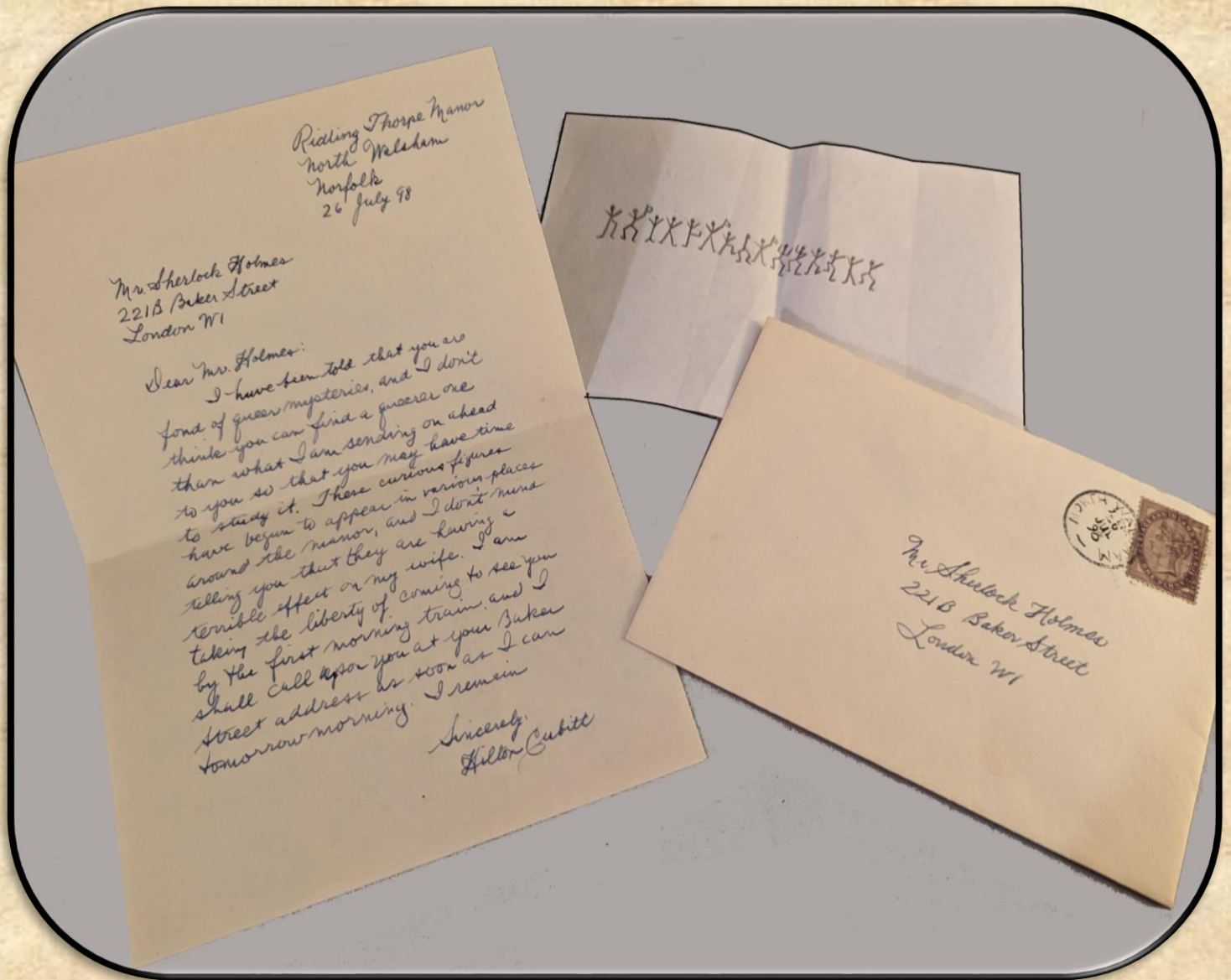


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Pictured is Watson's personal cue stick chalk, with his initials 'JHW' engraved on the side.

From the story:

'You had chalk between your left finger and thumb when you returned from the club last night. You put chalk there when you play billiards to steady the cue.'



Pictured is Hilton Cubitt's first letter to Holmes, imploring his assistance. Included was the first message Cubitt found in the dancing men form. The coded message read, 'AM HERE ABE SLANEY'.

From the story:

'See what you can make of that, friend Watson.' He tossed a sheet of paper upon the table, and turned once more to his chemical analysis. I looked with amazement at the absurd hieroglyphics upon the paper.





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Pictured is Watson's check book of Cox & Co. Bank, which Holmes keeps locked in his desk to help Watson manage his meager funds.

From the story:

'Your cheque-book is locked in my drawer, and you have not asked for the key.'





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Pictured is a saucer from the Imperial Hotel at Russell Square, possibly where Hilton Cubitt stayed in London when he met Elsie Patrick, who would become his wife.

From the story:

‘Last year I came up to London for the Jubilee, and I stopped at a boarding-house in Russell Square, because Parker, the vicar of our parish, was staying in it.’





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Pictured is a postal card from the Imperial Hotel at Russell Square, possibly where Hilton Cubitt stayed in London when he met Elsie Patrick, who would become his wife.

From the story:

‘Last year I came up to London for the Jubilee, and I stopped at a boarding-house in Russell Square, because Parker, the vicar of our parish, was staying in it’.





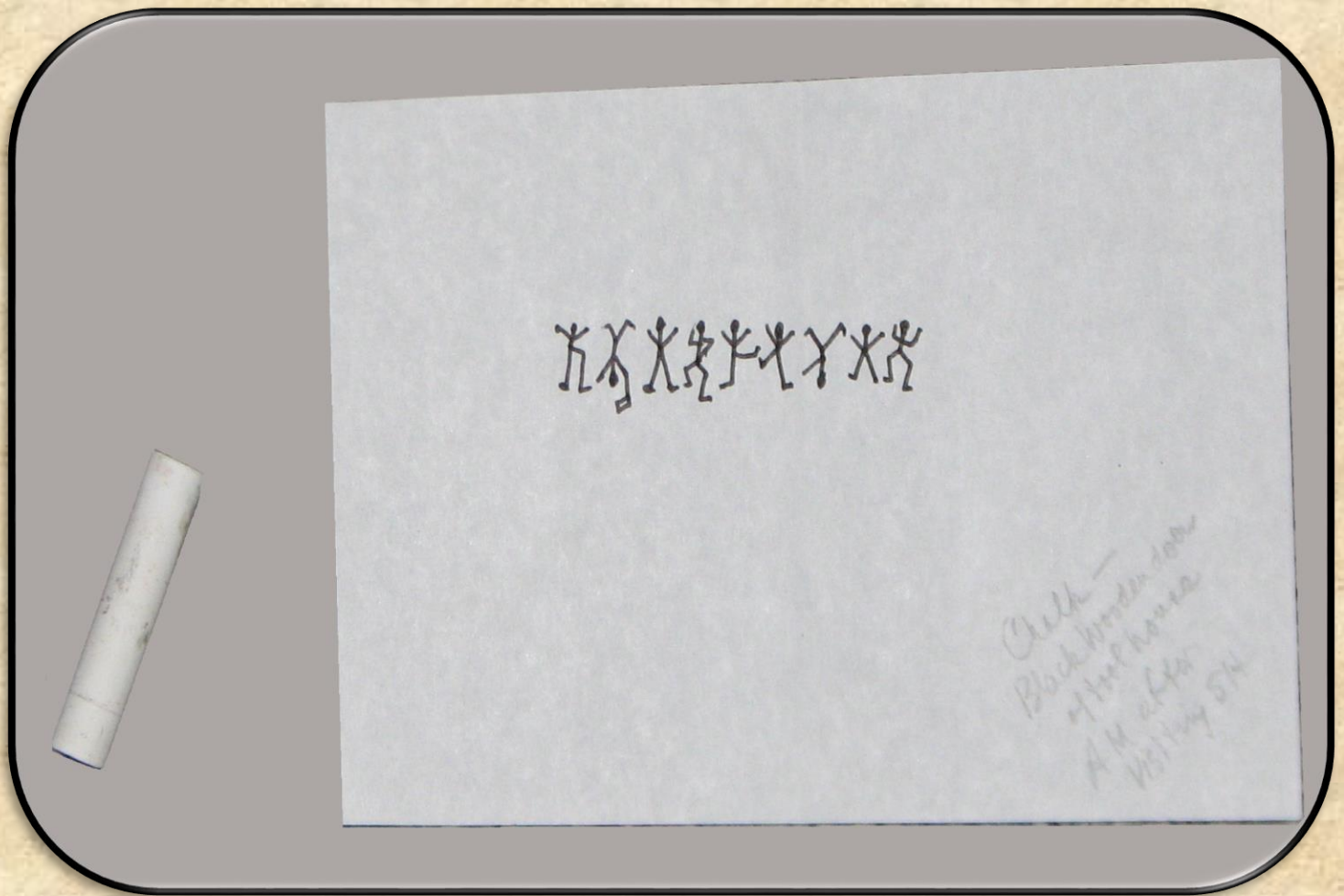
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Pictured is a Queen Victoria cigarette card. Hilton Cubitt was in London for the Queen's Jubilee the year before when he met Elsie Patrick.

From the story:

'Last year I came up to London for the Jubilee, and I stopped at a boarding-house in Russell Square, because Parker, the vicar of our parish, was staying in it.'





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Pictured is the piece of paper Hilton Cubitt presented to Holmes, with the dancing men figures on it. The figures were originally drawn with a piece of chalk on Cubitt's house.

From the story:

'About a week ago - it was the Tuesday of last week - I found on one of the window-sills a number of absurd little dancing figures, like these upon the paper. They were scrawled with chalk.'





# POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

PEAR & SPENCER, 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 1d. being reckoned as 1d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office Stamp.

Charges } £ s. d.  
to pay } — — —



Handed in at } North Walsham PO Norfolk

Received here at }

TO { Mr Sherlock Holmes  
221 B Baker Street  
London W1

Will reach Liverpool Street at one-twenty to-day. Some new incidents which may be important

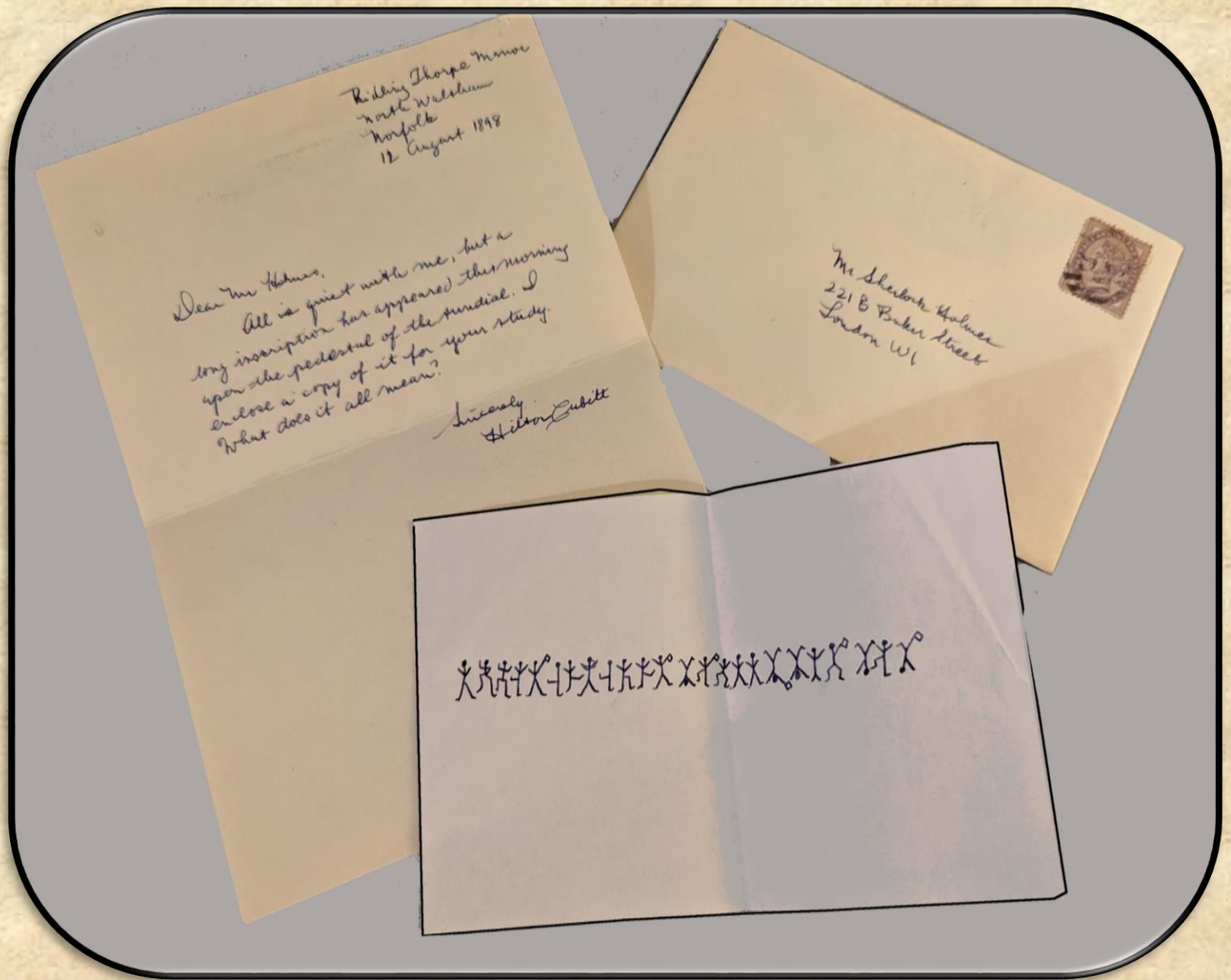
Cubitt

Pictured is the telegram from Hilton Cubitt to Sherlock Holmes, indicating new information and when he would arrive at Baker Street.

From the story:

‘Because I had a wire from Hilton Cubitt this morning - you remember Hilton Cubitt, of the dancing men? He was to reach Liverpool Street at one-twenty. He may be here at any moment. I gather from *his wire* that there have been some new incidents of importance.’



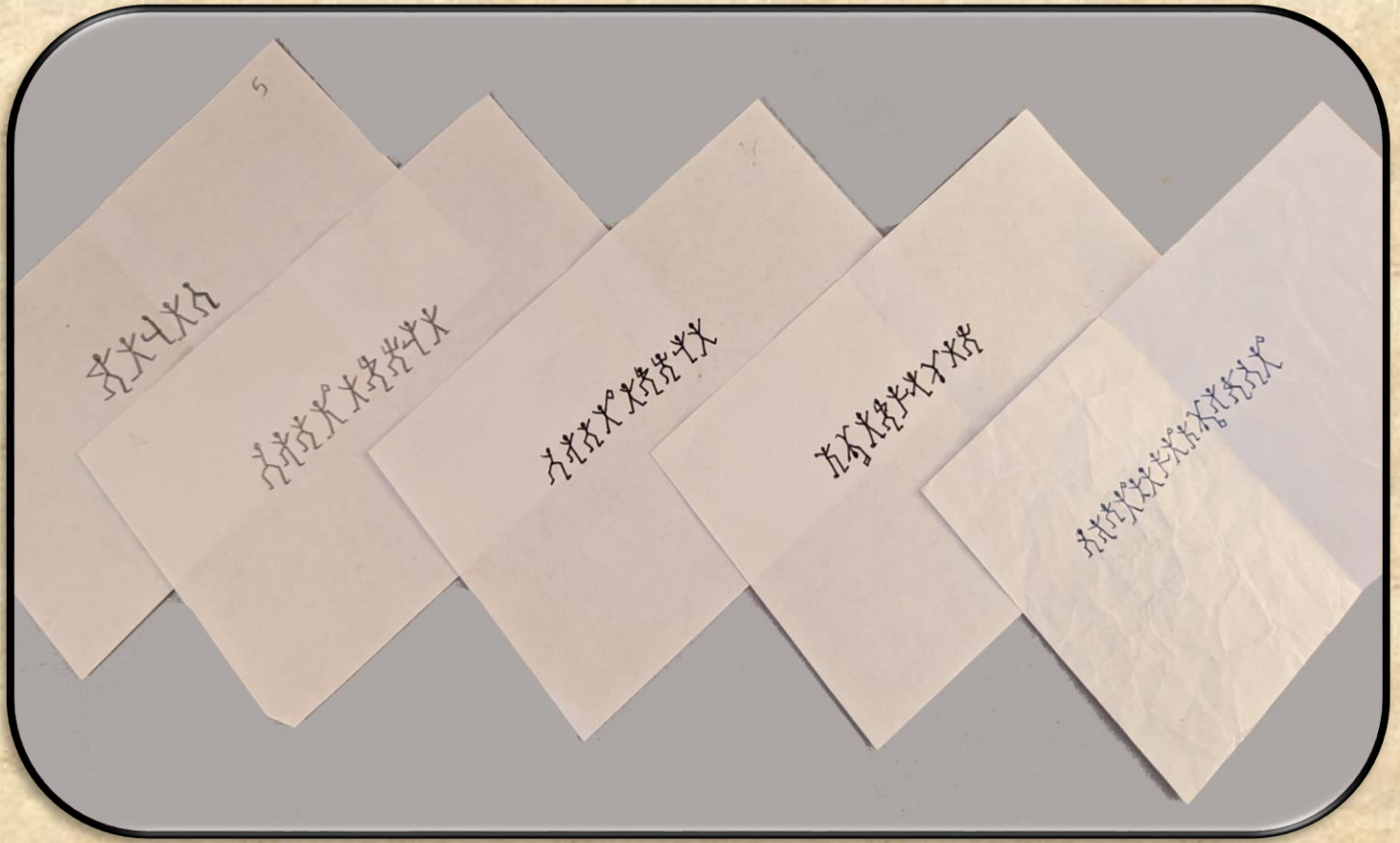


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Pictured is the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter sent by Hilton Cubitt to Holmes seeking assistance. The coded message read, 'ELSIE PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD.'

From the story:

On the evening of the second there came a letter from Hilton Cubitt. All was quiet with him, save that a long inscription had appeared that morning upon the pedestal of the sun-dial.



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Pictured are four messages Hilton Cubitt found around his estate, all written in the dancing men format. Holmes was able to break the code, recognizing the danger to the Cubitt family.

From the story:

‘This message makes it even more essential that we should not lose an hour in letting Hilton Cubitt know how matters stand, for it is a singular and dangerous web in which our simple Norfolk squire is entangled.’





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Pictured is Elsie's hand-bag with her intended bribe money, 1,000 pounds, to entice Slaney to return to America without her.

From the story:

It was a lady's hand-bag which stood upon the study table - a trim little hand-bag of crocodile-skin and silver. Holmes opened it and turned the contents out. There were twenty fifty-pound notes of the Bank of England, held together by an India-rubber band - nothing else.



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Pictured is a brass bullet casing and Broomhandle Mauser pistol. Although this weapon is not a 'revolver' as assumed to be Slaney's pistol, it would explain the ejected cartridge that was found.

From the story:

'I thought so,' said he; 'the revolver had an ejector, and here is the third cartridge. I really think, Inspector Martin, that our case is almost complete.'



No. of Message  
**42**

**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**  
(Inland Telegrams.)

Prefix **A.** Code **7C** **42181**

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. <b>North Walsham Po</b>	Words <b>18</b>	Sent. At <b>10:21 A.M.</b>
<b>Hand deliver</b>	Charge <b>1/-</b>	To..... By.....

FROM **Inspector Martin, Norfolk Constabulary** Please Write Distinctly TO **North Walsham Police Station, Norwich.**

Addresses Free.

	<b>SEND</b>	<b>CAB</b>	<b>WITH</b>	<b>TWO</b>	<b>UNIFORMED</b>
1/-	<b>POLICEMEN</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>TRIDLING</b>	<b>THORPE</b>	<b>MANOR</b>
	<b>TO</b>	<b>ESCORT</b>	<b>PRISONER</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
	<b>GAOL</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>URGENT</b>		
1/3					
1/6					

**NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM.**  
This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1866, and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.

(HARRISON & SONS, PRINTERS, LONDON)

Pictured is the telegram sent by Inspector Martin to have an escort for Abe Slaney to be transferred from the Cubitt residence to the jail.

From the story:

'I think, Inspector,' Holmes remarked, 'that you would do well to telegraph for an escort, as, if my calculations prove to be correct, you may have a particularly dangerous prisoner to convey to the county gaol. The boy who takes this note could no doubt forward *your telegram*.'



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



# POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

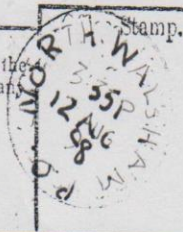
WIRE & SPIGTHWOODS, Ltd., Lond.

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  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. being reckoned as  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and if it be found that there was an inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Rec'd overseas cable from NY, USA —  
Message forwarded by inland telegraph per  
instructions of Wilson Hargreave NY Police Bureau.

Charges } s. d.  
to pay } 1/-



Handed }  
in at } 3:30 P.M.  
Received }  
here at } 3:35 P.M. .M.

TO { Mr Sherlock Holmes  
% Cubitts, Ridling Thorpe Manor

Slaney the most dangerous crook in Chicago. Good luck!

— Hargreave

Pictured is the telegram from Inspector Hargreave to Holmes responding about Abe Slaney.

From the story:

'I therefore cabled to my friend, Wilson Hargreave, of the New York Police Bureau, who has more than once made use of my knowledge of London crime. I asked him whether the name of Abe Slaney was known to him. Here is his reply: 'The most dangerous crook in Chicago.'





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Pictured is a photo of Wilson Hargreave endorsed to Holmes. Hargreave was helpful to Holmes during the Dancing Men investigation.

From the story:

'I therefore cabled to my friend, Wilson Hargreave, of the New York Police Bureau, who has more than once made use of my knowledge of London crime.'

FORM FOR AMERICAN MESSAGES ONLY

No. of Message 127  
 Station Wigmore P.O.  
 Prefix A Code Time 100 GMT WORDS TO BE SIGNALLED 95  
 Received 430 p.m. Date 10 August 18 98 Message ..... " 1 " 3  
 Finished 440 m } Sent to NYC Station. Repeating ..... " " "  
 by me [Signature] Clerk. Reply ..... " 1 " 3  
 (DQ-XX) (Address) (NK-PQ) Counter Clerk's To be paid out ..... " " "  
 Touches ..... Total ..... " 2 " 6

FROM  
 Name and Address of the Sender of the Message } Sherlock Holmes  
221B Baker Street

TO  
 Name and Full Address of the Person to whom the Message is to be delivered. } Wilson Hargreave  
New York Police Bureau

DO  
 Greetings from across the pond! Am having a devil of a time with some dancing men figures at house of client in Norfolk Ailton Cabitt. His wife is Elsie Patrick of Chicago. She is very secretive about her life before her marriage. Does the name Patrick ring any bells? One of the dancing men coded messages seems to mention Abe Slaney - ABE SLANEY - Is he known to you. Please reply by cable as soon as you can. There seems to be an increasing urgency.

95

THIS MESSAGE IS PAID FOR AS AN ORDINARY UNPACKED MESSAGE.

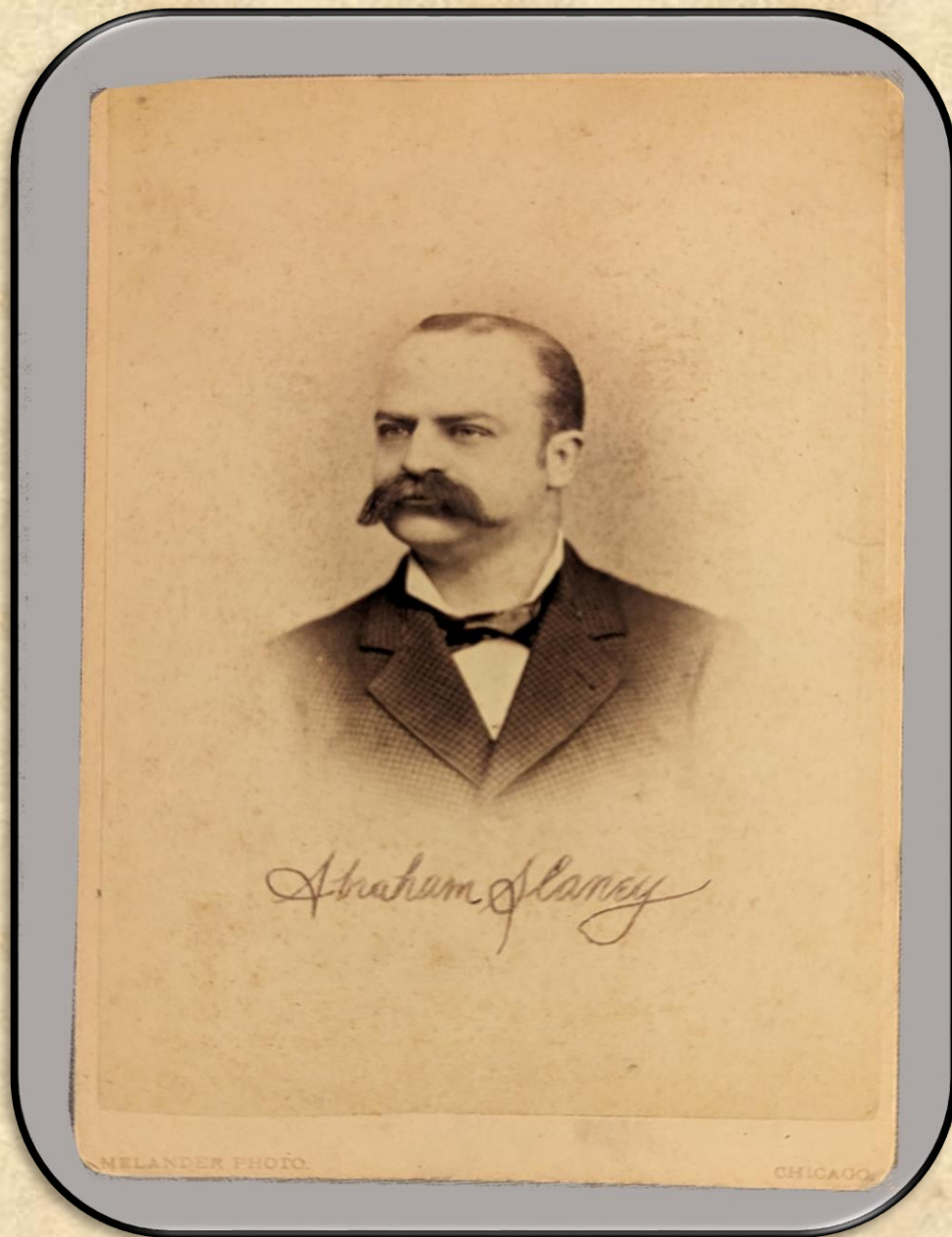
The latter part of this receipt only applies to messages requiring a deposit. } Please to Telegraph the above Message according to the conditions endorsed hereon; and to transfer such Message, at London, to be forwarded, subject to the endorsed conditions, to the above Address; for which latter purpose I have deposited 1/6

You are requested, before signing, to read the Conditions of the Contract on the back. } Sherlock Holmes  
221B Baker St London W1 } Signature and Address of Sender.

Pictured is the telegram sent by Holmes to Inspector Hargreave in New York City concerning Abe Slaney.

From the story:  
 'I therefore cabled to my friend, Wilson Hargreave, of the New York Police Bureau, who has more than once made use of my knowledge of London crime.'





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Pictured is a photo of Abe Slaney while he resided in Chicago, and was part of a criminal gang.

From the story:

‘First of all, I want you gentlemen to understand that I have known this lady since she was a child. There were seven of us in a gang in Chicago, and Elsie's father was the boss of the Joint.’



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Pictured is a photograph of five of the members of the Chicago gang, which Abe Slaney was a member, and Elsie Patrick's father ran.

From the story:

'There were seven of us in a gang in Chicago, and Elsie's father was the boss of the Joint. He was a clever man, was old Patrick.'



Mr. Abe Slaney  
Elrige's Farm  
East Ruston  
Norfolk



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Pictured is the note Holmes sent to Abe Slaney at Elrige's Farm, asking Slaney to return to the Cubitt's residence. The dancing men message read, 'Come here at once.'

From the story:

As I turned back my eye caught the pellet of paper which the prisoner had tossed upon the table. It was the note with which Holmes had decoyed him.

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





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Pictured is the test tube and rack Holmes was using at the beginning of the tale. Holmes was busy with an experiment.

From the story:

He wheeled round upon his stool, with a steaming test-tube in his hand and a gleam of amusement in his deep-set eyes.

...he propped his test-tube in the rack and began to lecture with the air of a professor addressing his class.





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Pictured is the doorbell to 221 Baker Street, Holmes and Watson's residence. Cubitt rang the bell when he arrived.

From the story:

'There's a ring at the bell, Watson. I should not be very much surprised if this were he.'





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Pictured is the sundial which Hilton Cubitt found the 2<sup>nd</sup> dancing men message addressed to his wife Elsie.

From the story:

‘None did come for a week, and then yesterday morning I found this paper lying on the sun-dial in the garden. I showed it to Elsie, and down she dropped in a dead faint.’



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Pictured is a postal card for the North Walsham railway station. Holmes and Watson arrived there, before going on to Riding Thorpe, Cubitt's residence.

From the story:

We had hardly alighted at North Walsham, and mentioned the name of our destination, when the station-master hurried towards us.