

## Adventure XXXVII – The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez

---



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.



An autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.



---

Pictured are stamps which represent specific phrases from the story.



‘tobacco and my work, but  
now only tobacco.’

He was engaged with a  
powerful lens, deciphering  
the remains of the original  
inscription upon a palimpsest.



---

Pictured are stamps which represent specific phrases from the story.

I have seldom seen a more remarkable-looking person. It was a gaunt, aquiline face with piercing dark eyes which lurked in deep hollows under overhung, and tufted, brows. His hair and beard were white.



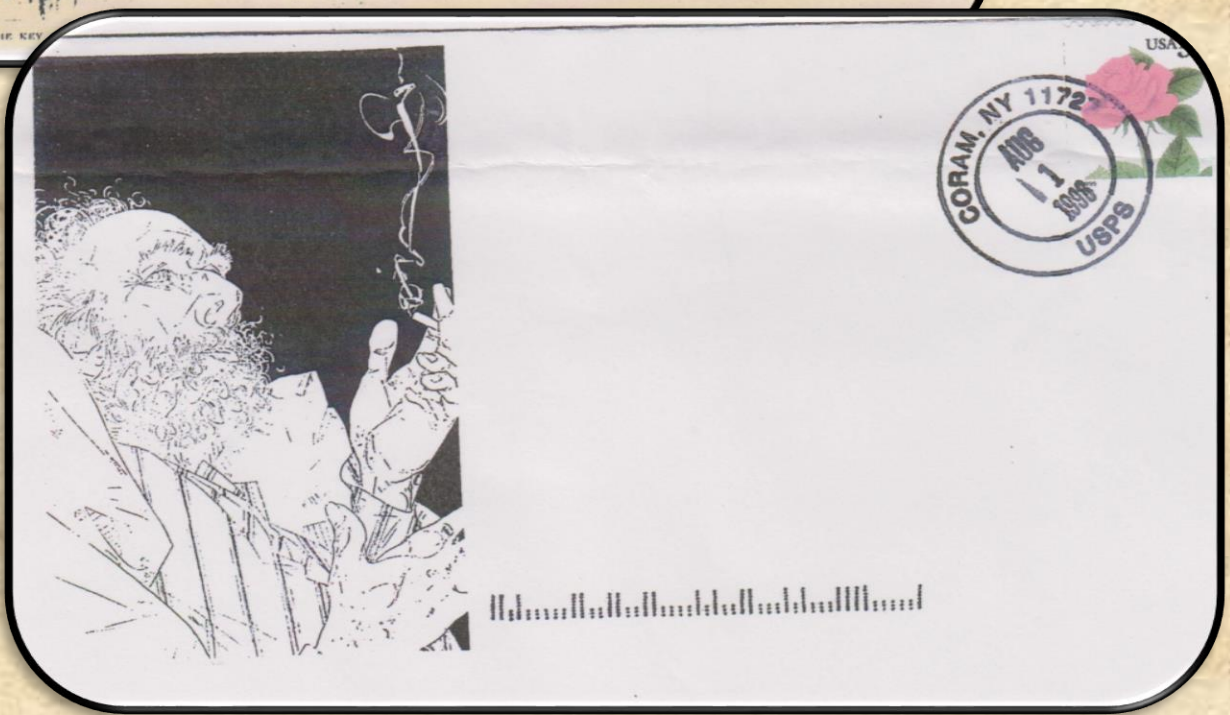
I therefore smoked a great number of those excellent cigarettes and dropped the ashes all over the space in front of the suspected bookcase. It was a simple trick but it was exceedingly effective.

---

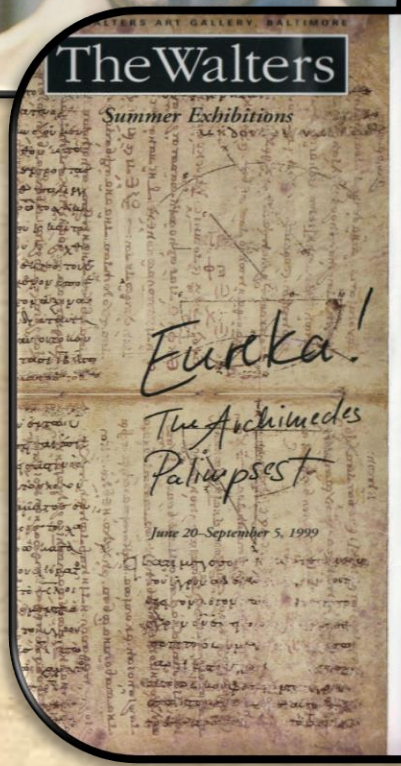
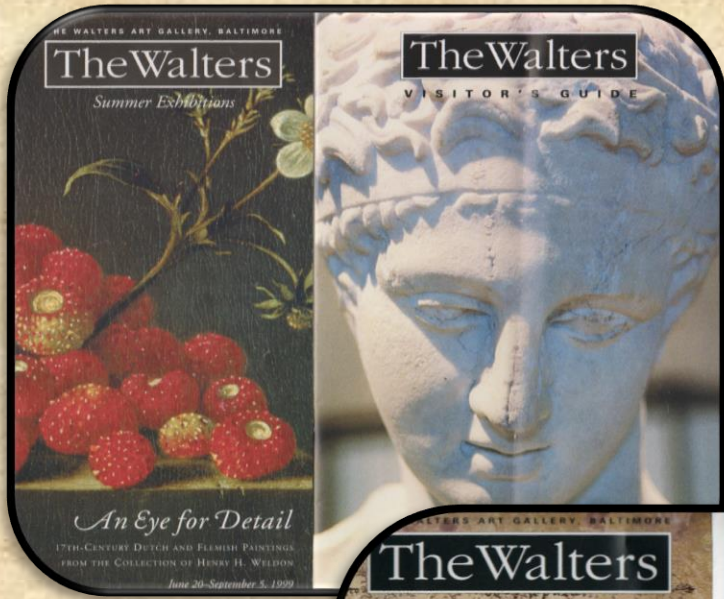
Pictured are stamps which represent specific phrases from the story.



"HOLMES PICKED UP THE KEY"



Pictured are stamps which represent specific phrases or incidents from the story.



**EUREKA! THE ARCHIMEDES PALIMPSEST**  
June 20-September 5, 1999

For the first time ever, the Archimedes Palimpsest—the oldest surviving works of the great mathematical genius—is on view to the public. *Eureka! The Archimedes Palimpsest* tells the story of this famous manuscript and of the life of Archimedes, including the apocryphal moment when he exclaimed “Eureka!” and ran naked through the city streets.



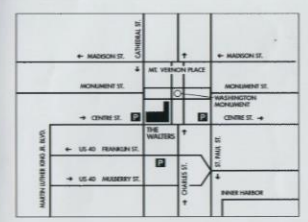
Although scraped off by a 12th-century monk for the purpose of reusing the valuable parchment (a palimpsest is a piece of writing material that has been written over), the original 10th-century Greek text is available to us today through cutting-edge technology.

In an interactive display that uses ultraviolet light, viewers can see clearly for the first time the valuable mathematical texts. An introductory video traces the history of the Palimpsest, from 10th-century Constantinople up to its display at The Walters.

The wondrous journey that this manuscript has taken over the last thousand years is waiting to be discovered. So bring the family on a joy ride through history, mathematics, and the world.

Cover: Digitally enhanced page of the *Archimedes Palimpsest*. Copyright Christie's Images, Ltd. 1998. Above: *The Archimedes Palimpsest* in its 19th-century binding.

**DIRECTIONS / LOCATION**



**Location**

The Walters is approximately one mile north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor in the historic Mt. Vernon Cultural District.

**Entrance**

Entrance to The Walters is at 600 North Charles Street, near the corner of Charles and Centre Streets. Group tours and people requiring handicap access may use the Hackerman House entrance, a half block north of the main entrance.

**Public Transportation**

The Walters is conveniently located near MTA Bus Lines 3, 11, 31, 61, 62, and 64 and the Centre Street Light Rail Stop.

**Parking**

Public parking lots are located at Centre and Cathedral Streets, Centre and St. Paul Streets, and W. Franklin Street. Metered street parking is also available.

**Directions**

*From points North and South*  
From I-95 (N&S), exit 53 onto I-395 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Turn right onto Druid Hill Avenue. Druid Hill Avenue becomes Centre Street. Turn left onto Charles Street. The Walters is on your left.

*From points West and Northwest*  
I-83 South to Maryland Avenue. Turn left at the end of the ramp onto Maryland Avenue. Maryland Avenue becomes Cathedral Street. Turn left onto Centre Street. Turn left onto Charles Street. The Walters is on your left.



The Walters Art Gallery  
600 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Pictured is a Walters Art Gallery pamphlet entitled “Eureka! The Archimedes Palimpsest”

From the story:  
Holmes and I sat together in silence all the evening, he engaged with a powerful lens deciphering the remains of the original inscription upon a palimpsest, I deep in a recent treatise upon surgery.

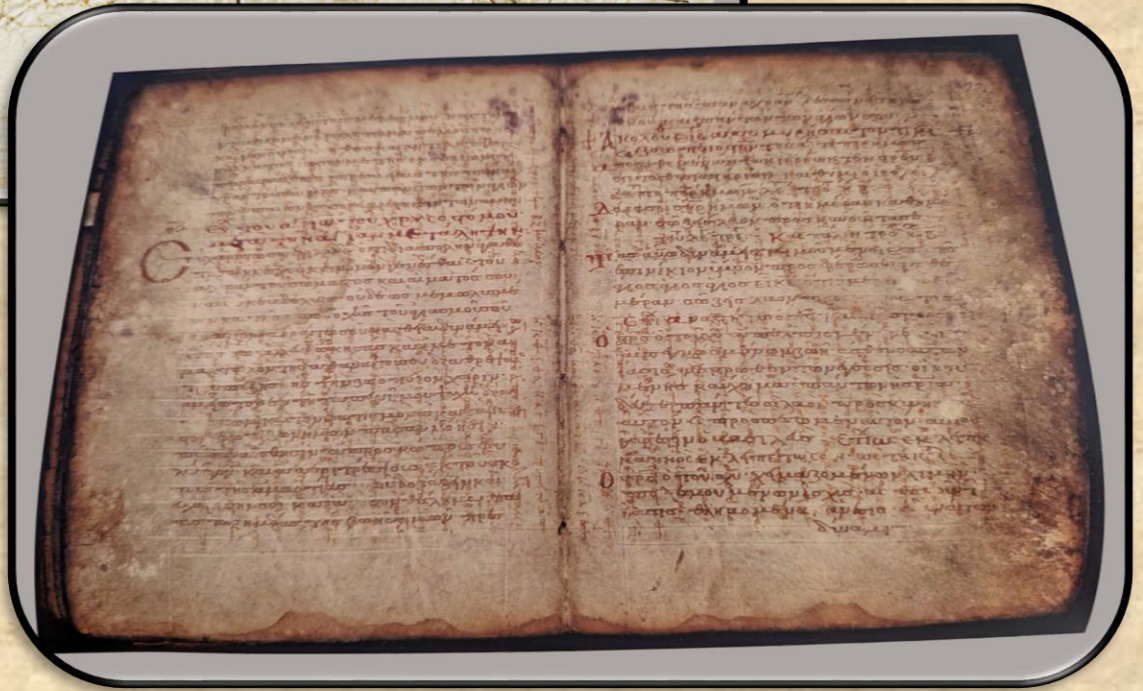
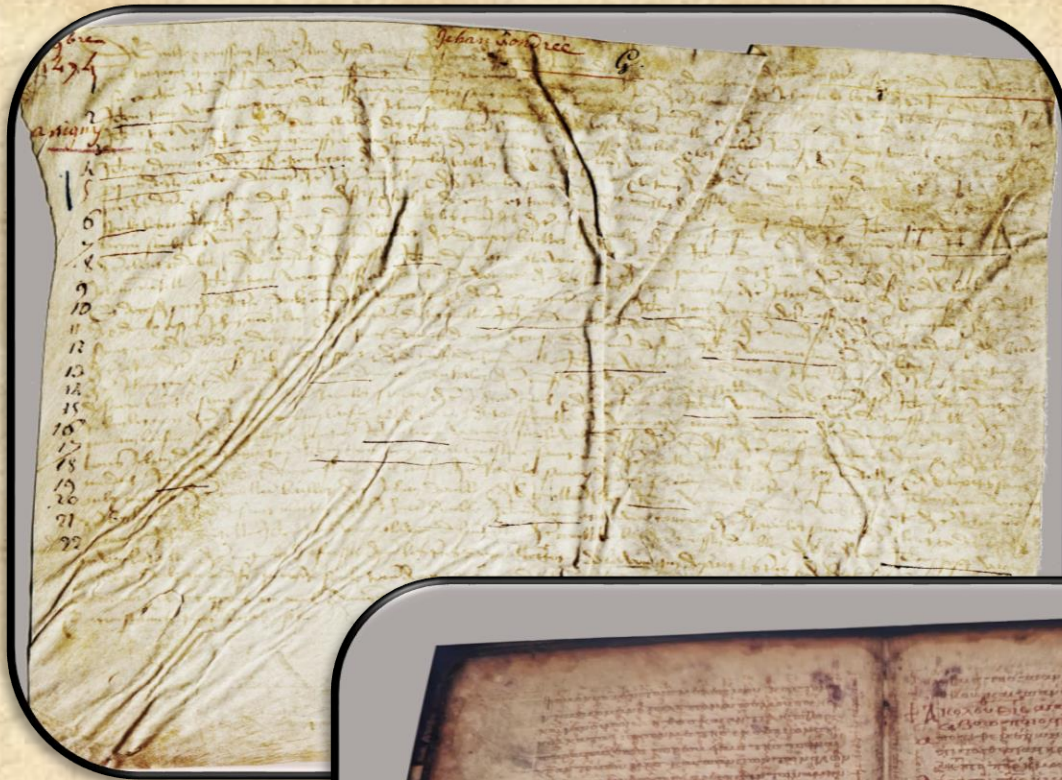


---

Pictured is the red leech which was the basis for a previous case solved by Holmes.

From the story:

As I turn over the pages I see my notes upon the repulsive story of the red leech and the terrible death of Crosby the banker.



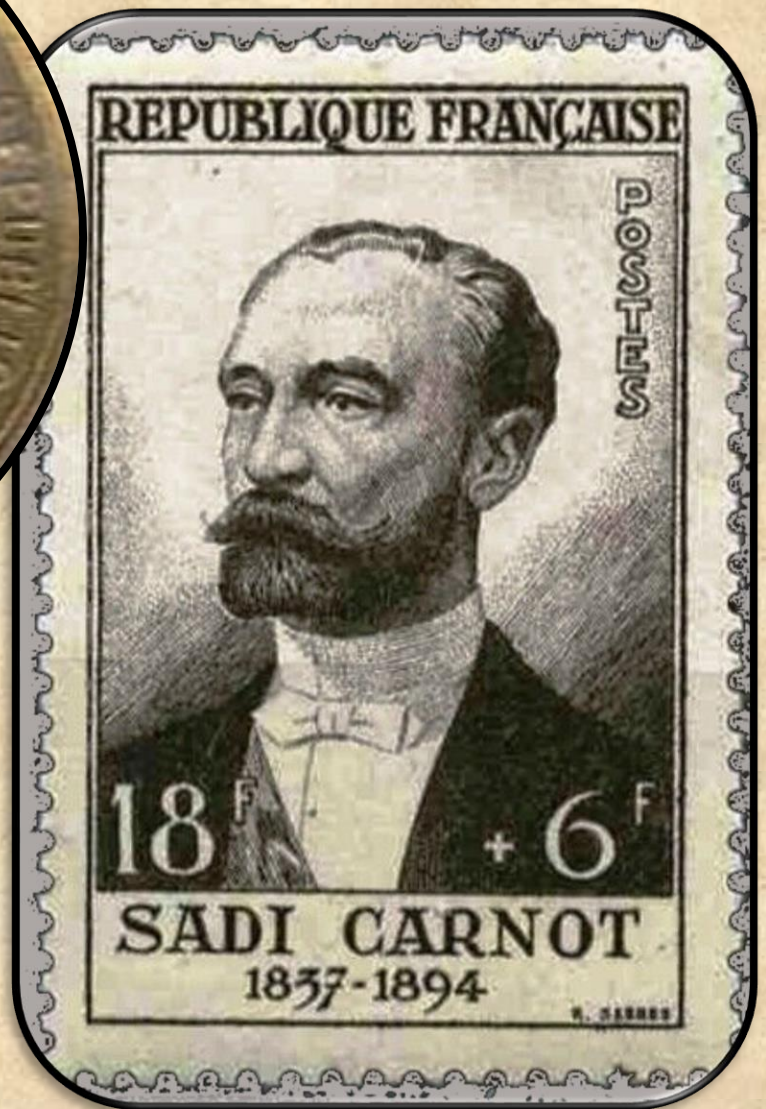
---

Pictured is the palimpsest, published in 1474 which Holmes was engaged with a powerful lens at the opening of this adventure.

From the story:

Holmes and I sat together in silence all the evening, he engaged with a powerful lens deciphering the remains of the original inscription upon a palimpsest, I deep in a recent treatise upon surgery.





---

Pictured is a small commemorative medallion to honor the death of Sadi Carnot, the French President when Holmes solved the Huret case for the French government. Also pictured is a stamp of President Carnot.

From the story:

...and so does the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin — an exploit which won for Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.



---

Pictured is a postal card, 1892, “Hommage au Président Martyr” dedicated to Sadi Carnot. Also pictured is a book cut-out of the former President.

From the story:

...and so does the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin — an exploit which won for Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.



---

Pictured is the bullion blazer badge and cigarette silk of the Légion d'Honneur, which Holmes received from the French President. Also pictured is the actual Legion of Honor medal presented to Holmes.

From the story:

...and so does the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin — an exploit which won for Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.

R.F.

Monsieur Holmes,

On behalf of the French Republic, I should like to express to you our national gratitude for your acts of following the trace and of arresting the man known as the Boulevard assassin, M. Huret. Merci beaucoup!

Further, I hereby invite you to Paris so that the Republic can express her pleasure to you directly on the 14 July, our Bastille Day. A reception has been planned in your honour. Please advise my chargé d'affaires about your acceptance and he will make all travel and accommodations arrangements.

Again, Monsieur Holmes, I express to you our thanks for your abvaltrous services

Sincerely,

Casimir Perier,  
Président de la République

R.F.

per Courrier  
diplomatique  
à l'usage du  
Président de la  
République Française  
à Paris

M. Sherlock Holmes  
221 B Baker Street  
London, Anglaterra

per le posta  
diplomatica

Pictured is the letter from the French Premier, Casimir Perier, thanking Holmes for his assistance.

From the story:

...and so does the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin — an exploit which won for Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.

GRANDE CHANCELLERIE  
DE L'ORDRE IMPÉRIAL DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR.

Ordres Étrangers.

Le Président de la République, par Décret du  
quatorze Juillet mil huit cent quatre-vingt-quatorze

a autorisé M. Sherlock Holmes de Londres.

pour l'action de suivre la piste et d'arrêter  
l'homme reconnu comme «L'Assassin Boulevardier»  
M. Huret

à accepter et à porter la décoration de Chevalier  
de l'Ordre de la Légion d'honneur

Cette décoration est portée en sautoir avec plaque

La présente autorisation est inscrite au registre matricule  
des Ordres étrangers, sous le N° 15799

Paris, le 14 Juillet 1894.

Le Grand Chancelier  
de l'Ordre Impérial de la Légion d'Honneur,

Par le Grand Chancelier.

Le Secrétaire général,



Collationné :

Le Chef

de la Division administrative,

*Gallay*



*Haurin*  
Le Secrétaire général,  
*J. L. Eyraud*

Pictured is the certificate of the Legion of Honor from the French President.

From the story:

...and so does the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin — an exploit which won for Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.



---

Pictured is a silver teaspoon marked “R.F.” and showing the Légion d’Honneur medal, which was bestowed on Holmes for his work on the Huret case.

From the story:

...and so does the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin — an exploit which won for Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.



A PORTRAIT OF H.M. THE KING  
AT CRAIGWEIL HOUSE, BOGNOR.

---

Pictured is a postal card depicting King George V in a Bath chair at Craigwell House, Bognor, similar to the bath chair used by Professor Coram.

From the story:

He was an invalid, keeping his bed half the time, and the other half hobbling round the house with a stick, or being pushed about the grounds by the gardener in a bath-chair.



---

Pictured is a bottle of Gordon's and cos gin and one lemon, the four-of-gin-hot, offered to Inspector Lestrade.

From the story:

'Here's a cigar, and the doctor has a prescription containing hot water and a lemon which is good medicine on a night like this.'





---

Pictured is the medal for the Crimean War with Balaklava clasp.

From the story:

‘Mortimer, the gardener, who wheels the bath-chair, is an Army pensioner — an old Crimean man of excellent character..



---

Pictured are Victorian curtain hangers. Susan Tarlton the maid, was hanging curtains upstairs when Smith was killed.

From the story:

Now I will give you the evidence of Susan Tarlton, who is the only person who can say anything positive about the matter. It was in the forenoon, between eleven and twelve. She was engaged at the moment in hanging some curtains in the upstairs front bedroom.

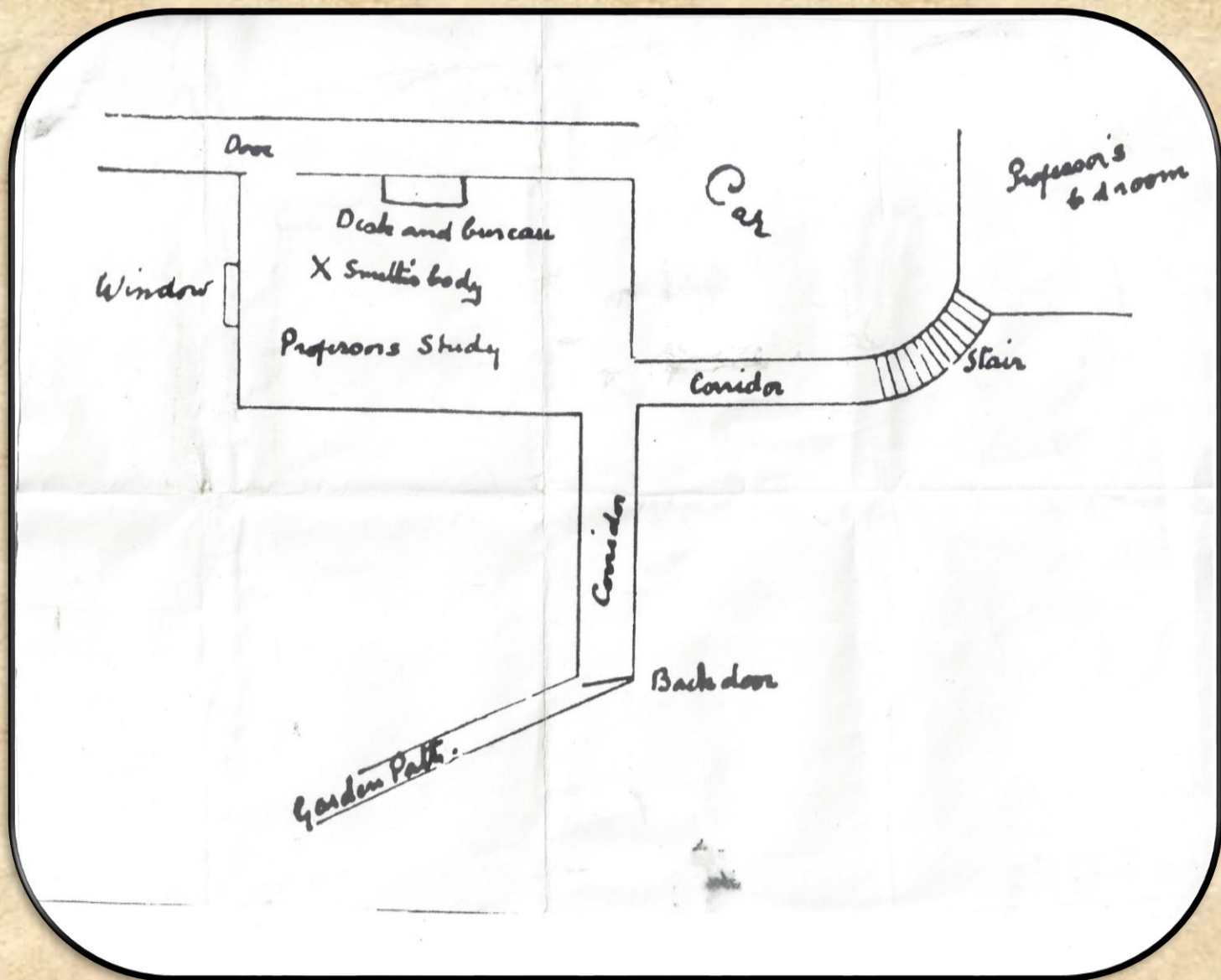


---

Pictured is ivory handled letter opener knife used to stab Willoughby Smith by Anna Coram.

From the story:

It was one of those small sealing-wax knives to be found on old-fashioned writing- tables, with an ivory handle and a stiff blade.



Pictured is the hand drawn map of Professor Coram's home, done by Inspector Hopkins.

From the story:

'I must ask you first, Mr Holmes, to glance at this rough plan, which will give you a general idea of the position of the Professor's study and the various points of the case. It will help you in following my investigations.'

He unfolded the rough chart... and he laid it across Holmes's knee.

Wanted, a woman of good address, attired like a lady. She has a remarkably thick nose, with eyes which are set close upon either side of it. She has a puckered forehead, a peering expression, and probably rounded shoulders. There are indications that she has had recourse to an optician at least twice during the last few months. As her glasses are of remarkable strength, and as opticians are not very numerous, there should be no difficulty in tracing her.

---

Pictured is Holmes' handwritten note for an advertisement for the lady spotted in the road.

From the story:

...finally, with a chuckle, seated himself at the table and wrote a few lines upon a sheet of paper, which he tossed across to Stanley Hopkins.

'Wanted, a woman of good address, attired like a lady. She has a remarkably thick nose, with eyes which are set close upon either side of it. She has a puckered forehead, a peering expression and probably rounded shoulders. There are indications that she has had recourse to an optician at least twice during the last few months. As her glasses are of remarkable strength, and as opticians are not very numerous, there should be no difficulty in tracing her.'



---

Pictured is Anna's golden pince-nez glasses, with broken black silk strings attached, in the case.

From the story:

From his pocket Stanley Hopkins drew a small paper packet. He unfolded it, and disclosed a golden pince-nez, with two broken ends of black silk cord dangling from the end of it.



---

Pictured is the drawer pull from the desk, marked "Chubb & Sons Lock & Safe Company, Limited, 128 Queen Victoria St., London."

From the story:

'Who has the key of this bureau?'

'The professor keeps it on his watch-chain.'

'Is it a simple key?'

'No, sir; it is a Chubb's key.'



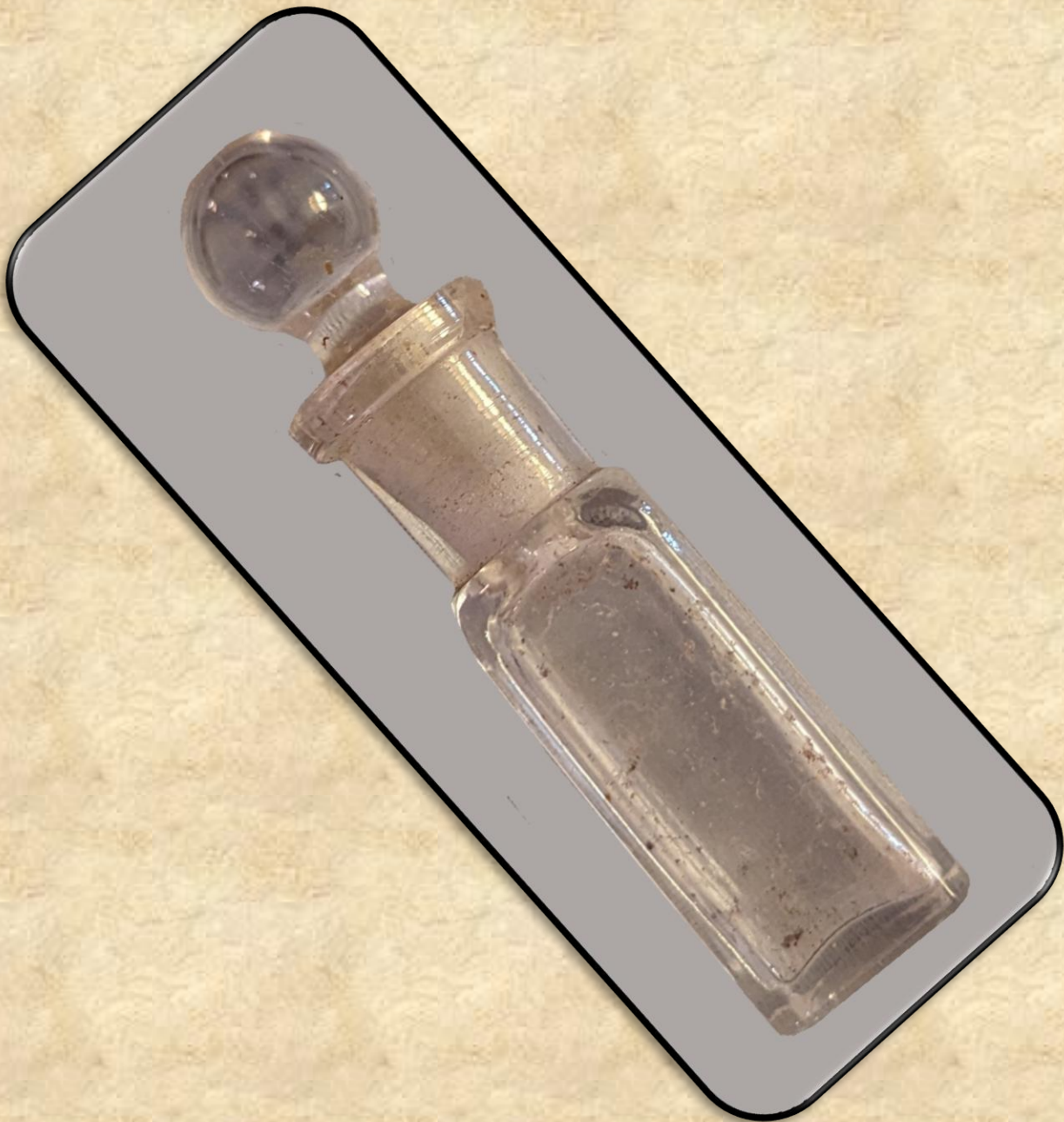
---

Pictured is the tin of Egyptian cigarettes marked in Greek characters, “Ionides, Alexandria”, with one remaining cigarette in the box

From the story:

‘Pray take a cigarette. And you, sir? I can recommend them, for I have them especially prepared by Ionides of Alexandria.’





---

Pictured is the small glass phial and stopper used by Anna just before coming out of her hiding place.

From the story:

‘Stop her!’ cried Holmes. He had bounded across the room and had wrenched a small phial from her hand.



---

Pictured is a cabinet photograph of Anna Coram wearing the pince-nez she dropped during the killing of Smith.

From the story:

‘A simple case, and yet in some ways an instructive one,’ Holmes remarked as we travelled back to town. ‘It hinged from the outset upon the pince-nez.’

---

Additional items of interest  
in “The Adventure of the  
Golden Pince-Nez” not  
included in the original  
Evidence Box.



---

Pictured is a postal card from the Uppingham Boarding School, which Willoughby Smith attended.

From the story:

‘This Willoughby Smith has nothing against him either as a boy at Uppingham or as a young man at Cambridge.’



---

Pictured is the spirit lamp Holmes used in the morning to make coffee before he, Hopkins, and Watson left for Yoxley Old Place.

From the story:

‘I dare say you can manage all right on the sofa in front of the fire. I’ll light my spirit-lamp and give you a cup of coffee before we start.’



---

Pictured is a postal card of the Chatham Rail Station, the closest stop to Yoxley Old Place.

From the story:

After a long and weary journey we alighted at a small station some miles from Chatham.



---

Pictured is a roll of coconut matting, which was used throughout Professor Coram's residence.

From the story:

'Hullo, Hopkins! this is very important, very important indeed. The professor's corridor is also lined with coconut matting.'



---

Pictured is a postal card of a Coptic church in Port Said, Egypt, which was one origin of Professor Coram's documents he was studying.

From the story:

'It is my analysis of the documents found in the Coptic monasteries of Syria and Egypt, a work which will cut deep at the very foundation of revealed religion.'