

## Adventure XXXIX – The Adventure of the Abbey Grange

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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.



EB

Abbey Grange  
Marsham, Kent

3.30 a.m.

My dear Mr. Holmes,

I should be very glad of your immediate assistance in what promises to be a most remarkable case. It is something quite in your line. Except for releasing the body I will see that everything is kept exactly as I have found it, but I beg you not to lose an instant, as it is difficult to leave Sir Eustace there.

Yours faithfully  
Stanley Hopkins

Pictured is the handwritten letter from Hopkins to Holmes on Brackenstall letterhead paper, seeking Holmes' assistance with the death of Brackenstall.

From the story:

Holmes drew a note from his pocket and read it aloud:

'ABBEY GRANGE, MARSHAM, KENT, 3.30 am.

My dear Mr Holmes - I should be very glad of your immediate assistance in what promises to be a most remarkable case. It is something quite in your line... Yours faithfully, STANLEY HOPKINS.'



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Pictured is Lady Brackenstall's bedroom candle holder and candle.

From the story:

'I held my bedroom candle lit in my hand, and, by its light, behind the first man I saw two others, who were in the act of entering.'

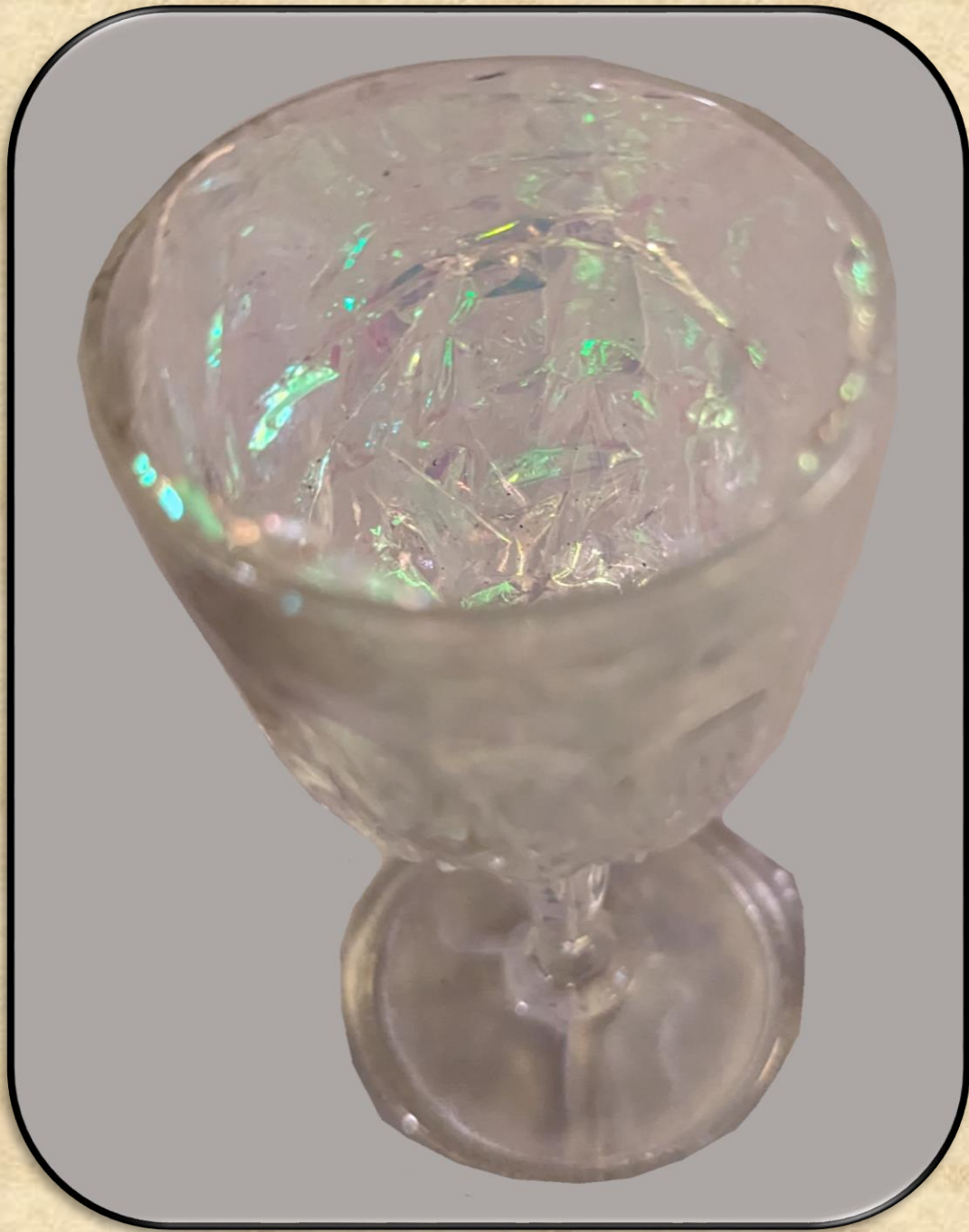


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Pictured is the collar worn by the canine Sir Eustace Brackenstall allegedly set on fire with a petroleum product.

From the story:

‘There was a scandal about his drenching a dog with petroleum and setting it on fire -- her ladyship's dog, to make the matter worse - and that was only hushed up with difficulty.’



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Pictured is the wine glass that made Holmes suspicious – it was the only glass which contained beeswing.

From the story:

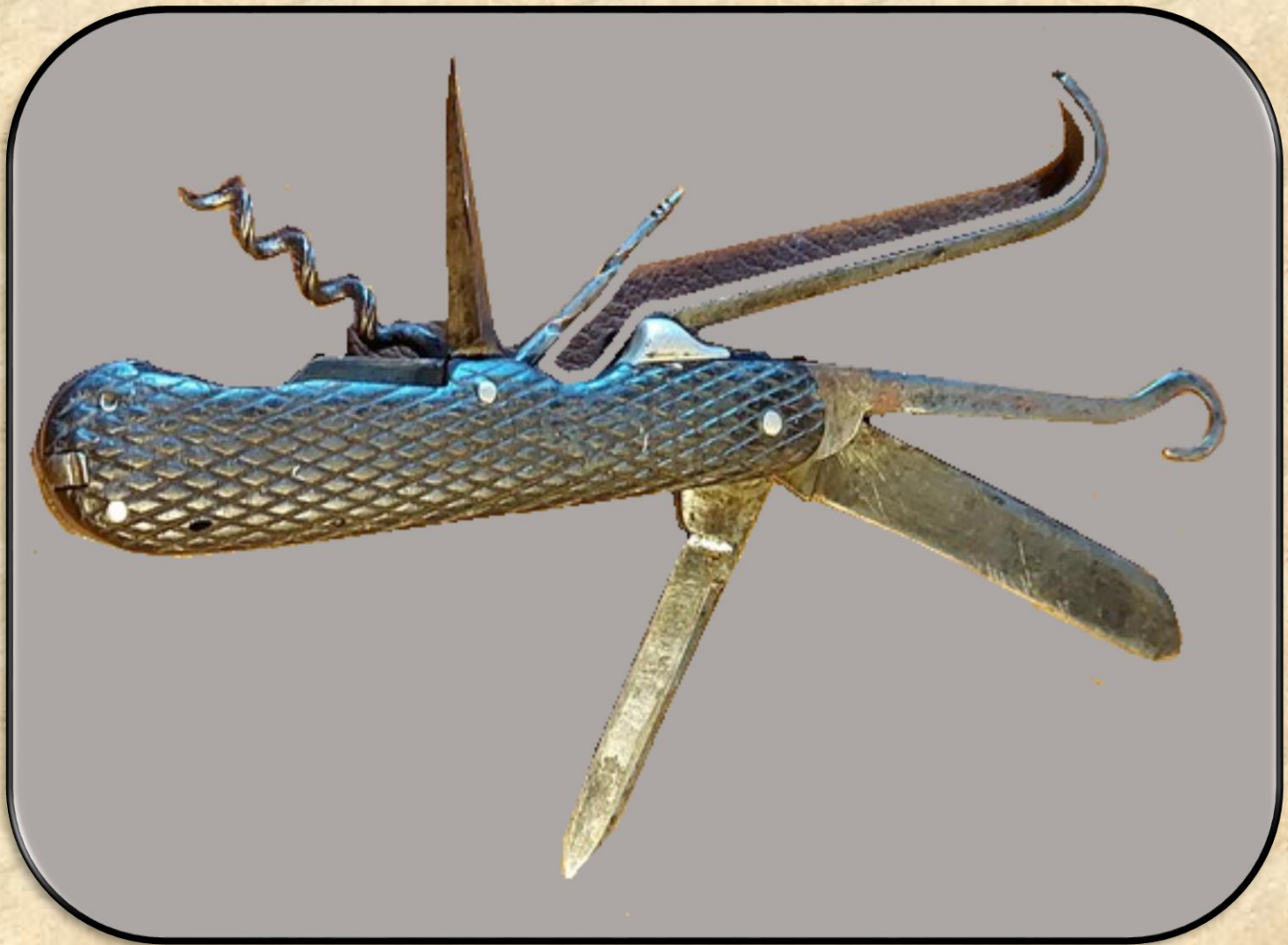
The three glasses were grouped together, all of them tinged with wine, and one of them containing some dregs of bee-swing.



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Pictured is a long cork screw found in a drawer that apparently wasn't used by intruders.

From the story:  
Hopkins pointed to a half-opened drawer. In it lay some table linen and a large corkscrew.



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Pictured is the multi-tool carried by Captain Crocker, and which he used to open up the wine bottle, tearing the cork with the short screw.

From the story:

‘This bottle was opened by a pocket-screw, probably contained in a knife, and not more than an inch and a half long.’



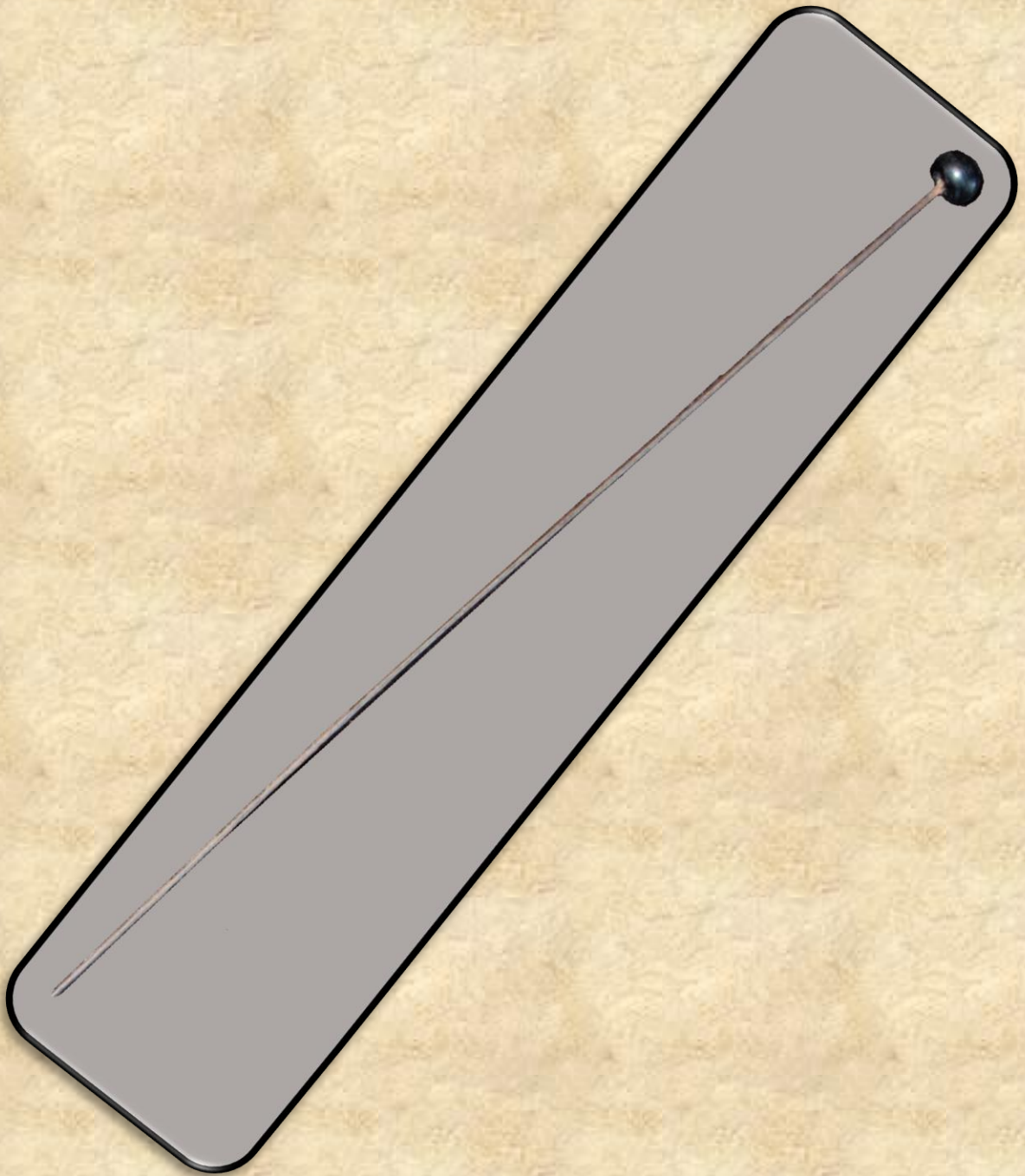
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Pictured is the deeply stained cork in which the screw was driven in 3 times before the cork was extracted.

From the story:

‘If you examine the top of the cork you will observe that the screw was driven in three times before the cork was extracted.’





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Pictured is the hat pin used to abuse Lady Brackenstall by Sir Eustace Brackenstall.

From the story:

‘She never told me of those marks on her arm that you saw this morning, but I know very well that they come from a stab with a hat-pin.’



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Pictured is the swan in the lake, as portrayed by Paget in the Strand magazine.

From the story:

There was a pond in the park, and to this my friend led the way. It was frozen over, but a single hole was left for the convenience of a solitary swan.

Inspector Hopkins,

You might wish  
to inspect the hole  
in the pond for  
the missing silver.  
Ignore the swan!

Sholock Holmes

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Pictured is Holmes note to Inspector Hopkins suggesting he drag the lake to look for potential evidence.

From the story:

There was a pond in the park, and to this my friend led the way. Holmes gazed at it, and then passed on to the lodge gate. There he scribbled a short note for Stanley Hopkins, and left it with the lodge-keeper.



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Pictured is the postal card depicting the S. S. Bass Rock Steamer commanded by Capt. Jack Croker.

From the story:

‘The first officer, Mr Jack Croker, had been made a captain, and was to take charge of their new ship, the *Bass Rock*, sailing in two days' time from Southampton.’



Suez Canal à la courbe de chantier.

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Pictured is Captain Croker's former ship, the *Rock of Gibraltar*, which was somewhere south of the Suez Canal

From the story:

It was the *Rock of Gibraltar*, their largest and best boat. The boat was now on her way to Australia, somewhere to the south of the Suez Canal.

# THE PENNY MAGAZINE

OF THE

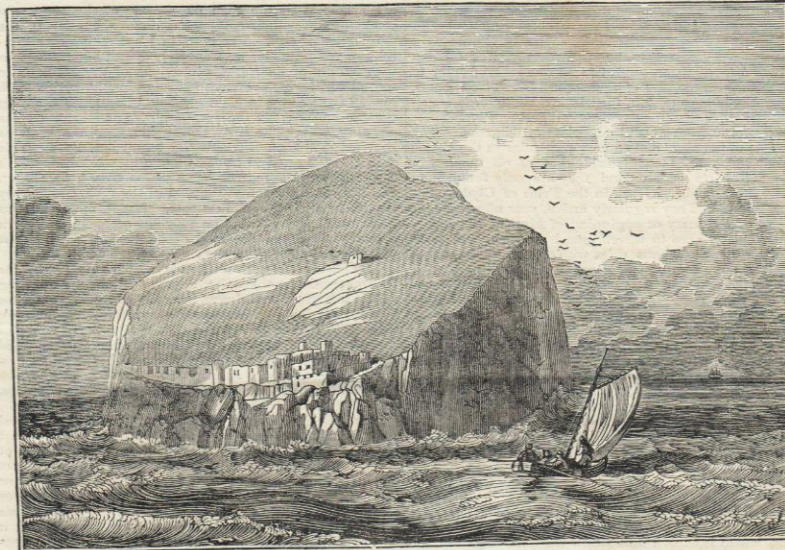
Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

82.]

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

[JULY 13, 1833.

## THE BASS ROCK.



[View of the Bass Rock.]

“The fierce Dane,  
Upon the eastern coast of Lothian landed,  
Near to that place where the sea-rock immense,  
Amazing Bass, looks o'er a fertile land.”  
HOME'S DOUGLAS.

ONE of the first objects that strikes the eye of the traveller, after he has crossed the Scottish border by Berwick, is this remarkable rock in the sea, which lies at the mouth of the Frith of Forth, at the distance of about a mile and a half from the coast of East Lothian. It continues to be seen during the rest of the journey, until the traveller approaches Haddington, when the mountain called Berwick-law, and other high grounds, conceal it from view. It is about a mile in circumference, and not much more than 400 feet above the level of the sea, but looks considerably higher. The water that washes its precipitous sides is from 30 to 40 fathoms deep. The rock can be approached in safety only in fine weather; and its stark, rugged cliffs are only accessible by one narrow passage that faces the main land. Close by this only landing-place is a castle, now in ruins, but once a place of great strength and some importance in history, consisting of four square towers and connecting works. During the war of religion between Charles II. and the Covenanters this castle was converted into a state-

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prison, and became the solitary residence of many west-country Whigs and recusants. When the dynasty of the Stewarts was driven from the throne of the United Kingdom, the Bass Rock was occupied by a brave garrison devoted to that ill-fated family, who obstinately defended it for several years, and gained for the place the dubious honour of its being the last spot of British ground to yield to the improved and more constitutional government introduced by the revolution of 1688. Besides the castle there seems once to have been a hermitage and some other habitations on this rock; but soldiers, monks, prisoners, and peasants have all been long gone; and now the only inhabitants of the Bass are immense flocks of Solan geese and some score of sheep, that contrive to climb up its precipitous sides and find pasture on its summit.

The base of the rock is perforated completely through from east to west by a natural cavern fearfully dark in the centre, and through which the sea frequently dashes and roars with astounding violence, but which may be examined at low water on a calm day. When the tide is out, the water remaining in this curious fissure, at a few yards from its mouth, is not more than knee-deep. The young fishermen often go through it though its aspect is exceedingly terrific. At one of the entrance

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Pictured is an 1834 Penny Magazine with an article on Bass Rock, an island off the Frith of Forth in Scotland. 'Bass Rock', is the ship captained by Croker.

From the story:

The first officer, Mr Jack Croker, had been made a captain, and was to take charge of their new ship, the *Bass Rock*, sailing in two days' time from Southampton.



By The Lords of the Committee of Privy  
Council for Trade.

## Certificate of Competency

as  
MASTER.

To

*John Croker*

Whereas it has been reported to us that you have been found duly qualified to fulfil the duties of Master in the Merchant Service, we do hereby, in pursuance of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, grant you this Certificate of Competency.

By Order of the Board of Trade,  
this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 18 96.

Countersigned,

*Mark Hall* *Wm J Swanton*

One of the  
Assist. Secretaries  
to the  
Board of Trade.

Registrar General.

Registered at the Office of the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen. *W*

Pictured is Captain Croker's certificate as a master in the Merchant Service.

From the story:

'The first officer, Mr Jack Croker, had been made a captain, and was to take charge of their new ship, the Bass Rock, sailing in two days' time from Southampton.'

**without cause.**

## **BURGLARY STRING CONTINUES**

Sydenham - The crew of robbers who have become known as the Lewisham Gang stuck again last night in Sydenham, getting away with jewels and silver plate from the home of George Clooney, the ultra liberal PM from the District. The brazen crew was spotted as they ran from the manor house, and 2 witnesses identified them as the Randal family, father Joe and his sons Peewee and Stinky. The three are known for helping themselves to their victims liquor cabinet before fleeing the scene. Constable Pence of the Metropolitan Police District has been canvassing the neighborhood to try to find any clues to the gang's whereabouts.

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Pictured is the newspaper article concerning the burglary by the Lewisham, or Randall, gang.

From the story:

‘Yes, Mr Holmes. The Randall gang were arrested in New York this morning.’





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Pictured is the cigar box and cigars from which Holmes offered Captain Croker a cigar. Also pictured is a label of cigars named after Captain Croker.

From the story:

‘Give him a cigar,’ said Holmes. ‘Bite on that, Captain Croker, and don't let your nerves run away with you.’

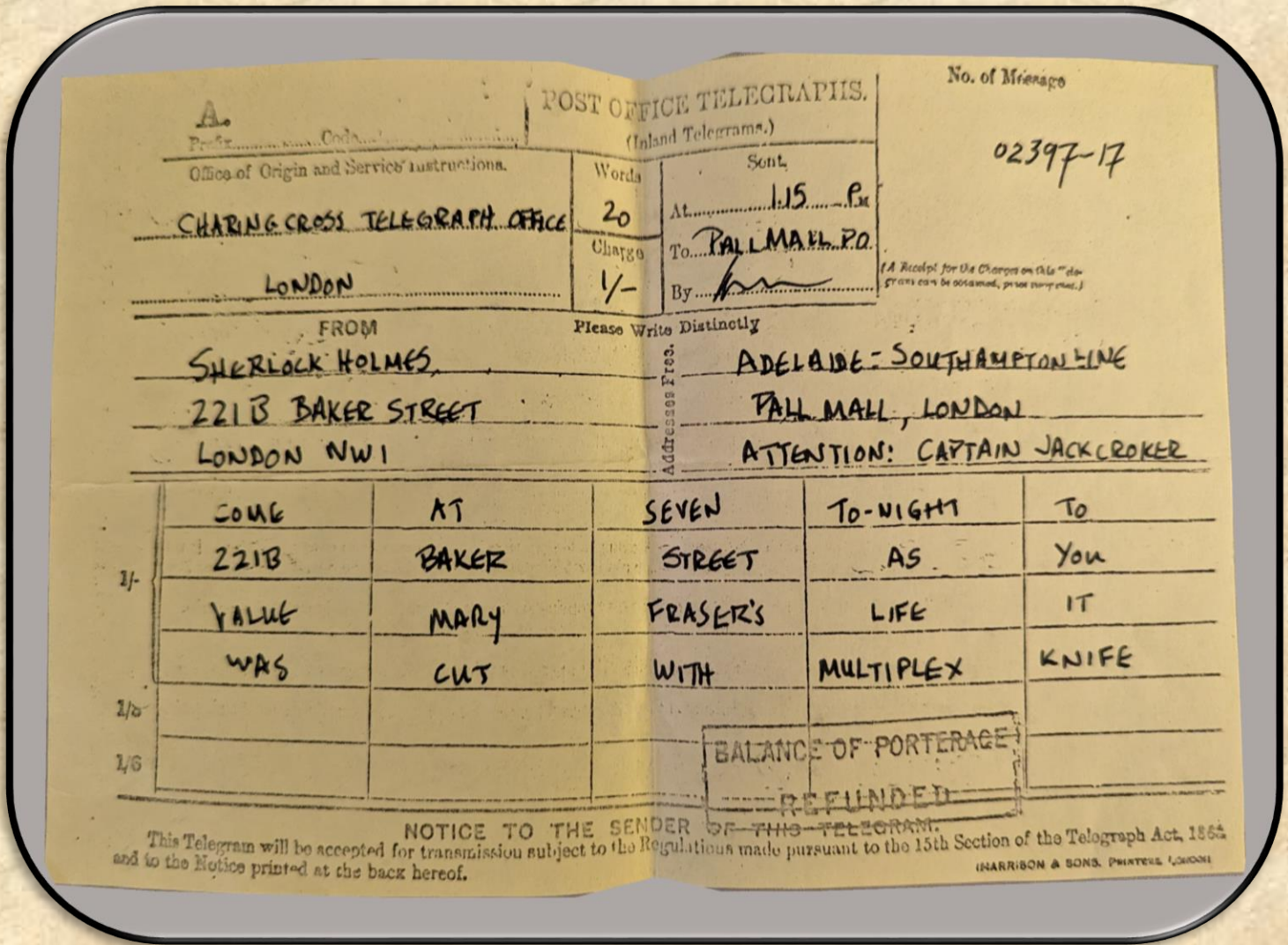


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Pictured is the police whistle Holmes threatened to blow if Croker lied about the events at Abbey Grange.

From the story:

‘I know so much already that if you go one inch off the straight I'll blow this police whistle from my window and the affair goes out of my hands for ever.’



Pictured is the telegram Holmes sent to Captain Croker summoning him to Baker Street.

From the story:

'Sit down, Captain Croker. You got my telegram?'

'I got your telegram, and I came at the hour you said.'



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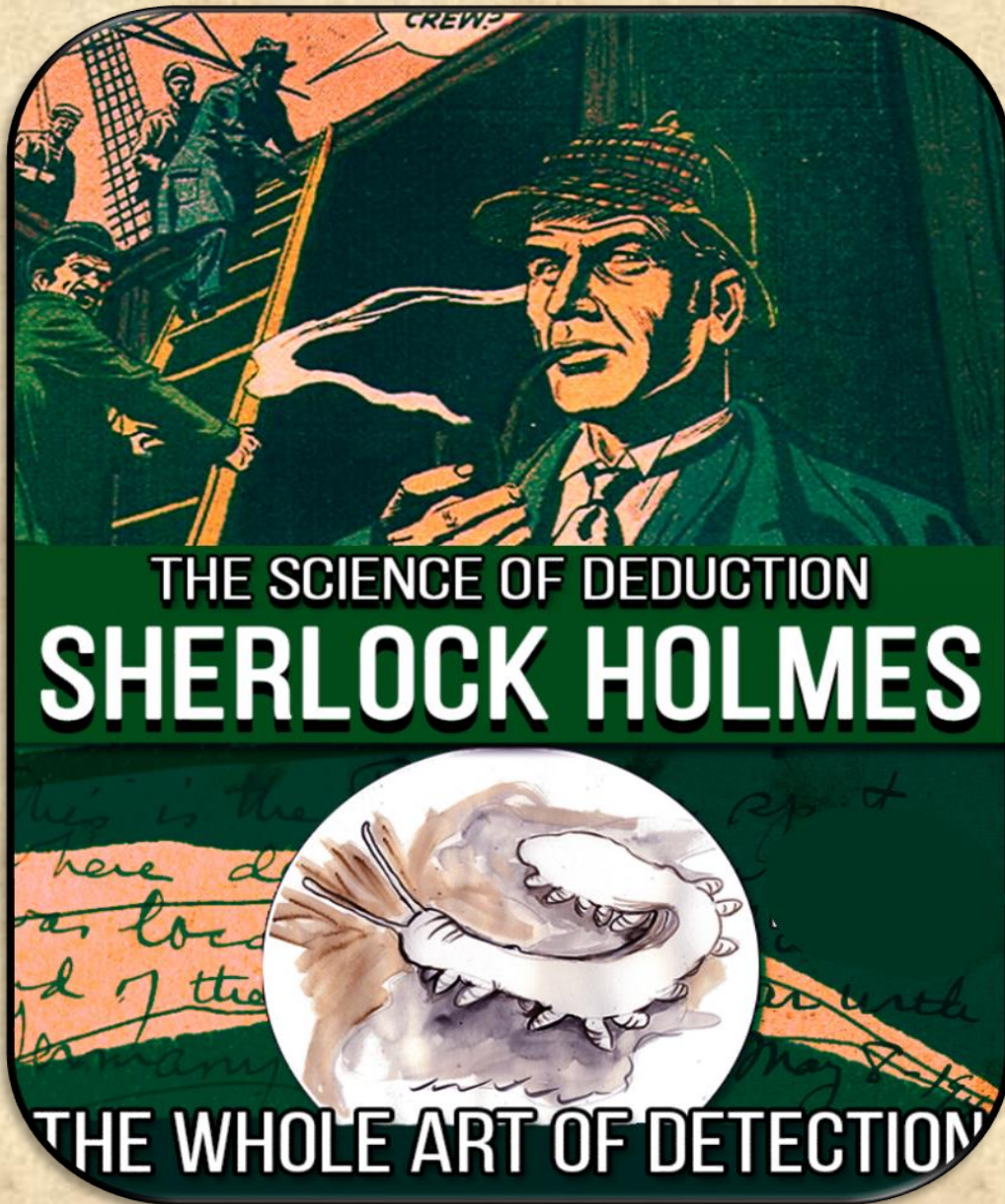
Pictured is the bell rope Holmes deduced had been cut and not broken –thus the perpetrator must have been an ‘acrobat’

From the story:

‘No one but an acrobat or a sailor could have got up to the bell-rope from the bracket, and no one but a sailor could have made the knots with which the cord was fastened to the chair.’

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

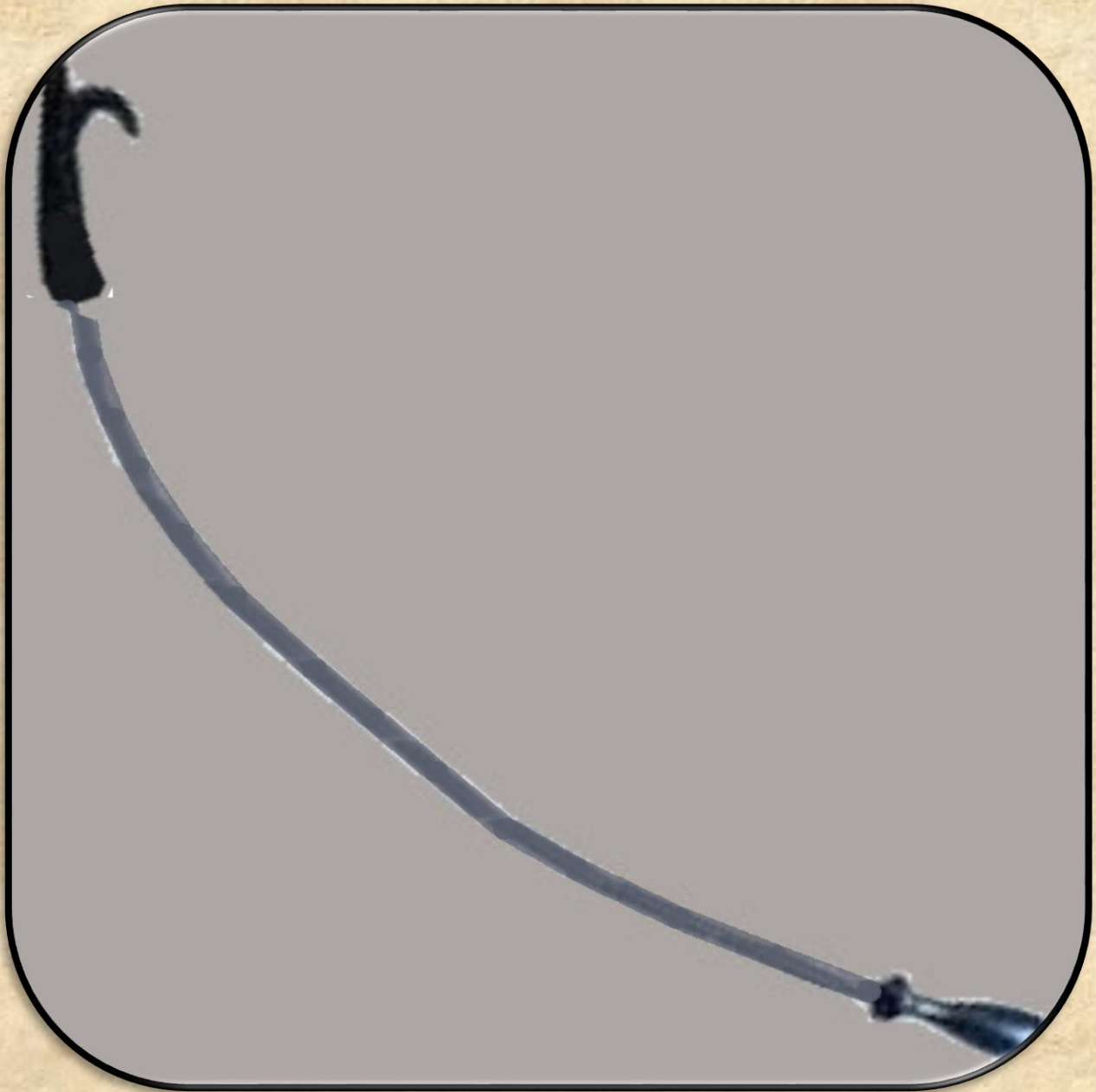


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Pictured is the Holmes' book on his deductive skills and investigations of crime, written by Holmes himself after he retired.

From the story:

'At present I am, as you know, fairly busy, but I propose to devote my declining years to the composition of a textbook which shall focus the whole art of detection into one volume.'

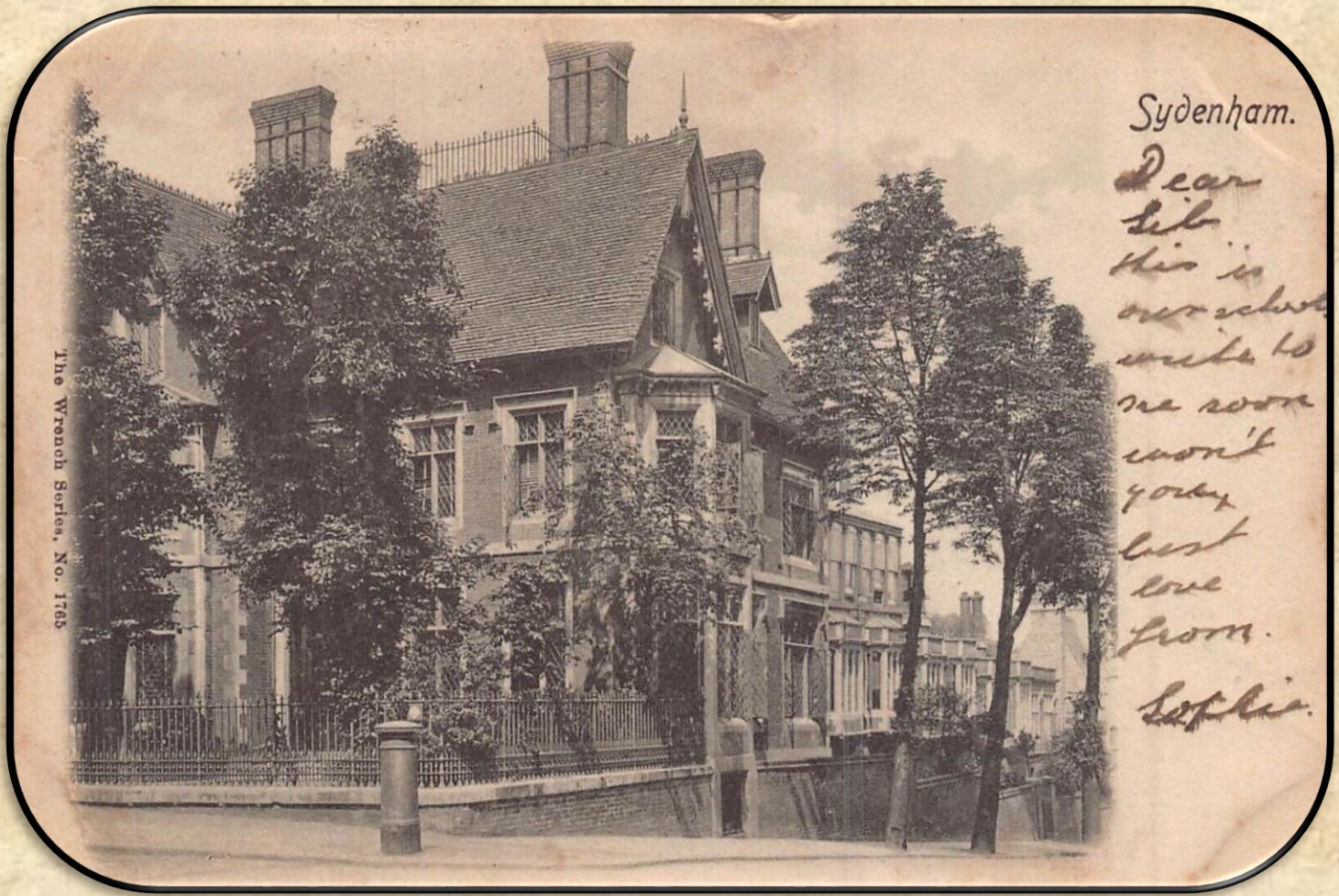


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Pictured is the bent poker, the weapon used to kill Sir Eustace Brackenstall.

From the story:

Beside him lay the heavy poker, bent into a curve by the concussion. Holmes examined both it and the indescribable wreck which it had wrought.



Sydenham.  
Dear  
Liz  
This is  
our school  
write to  
me soon  
won't  
you be  
best  
love  
from  
Sophie.

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Pictured is a postal card from Sydenham, the town in which Captain Croker resided.

From the story:

‘He lived at Sydenham, but he was likely to be in that morning for instructions, if we cared to wait for him.’