

Adventure XLI – The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge



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 a Harper's tea towel, 1890 calendar, which would have been hanging up in Garcia's residence.



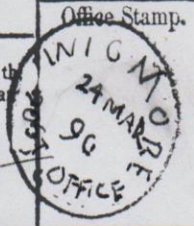
POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Office Stamp.

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 error of accuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

784

Charges } 2 s. d.
to pay } ~~REPLY~~
PAID



sent } CHARING CROSS POST OFFICE

at 12.45 P.M.

Received here at }

12.58 P.M.

TO { MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES, 221B BAKER STREET, LONDON NW1

HAVE JUST HAD MOST INCREDIBLE AND GROTESQUE EXPERIENCE. MAY I CONSULT YOU? - SCOTT ECCLES, POST OFFICE, CHARING CROSS.

Pictured is the telegram from Scott Eccles to Holmes, in which Eccles had used the word, 'grotesque.'

From the story:

Holmes had received a telegram whilst we sat at our lunch, and he had scribbled a reply.

No. of Message

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
(Inland Telegrams.)

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words Sent

WIGMORE POST OFFICE **19** **1.05**

Charge At

REPLY PAID. **12.05 P.M.**

To **CHARING CROSS RD.** By

By *[Signature]* (A Receipt for the Charge on this Telegram can be obtained, prior to transmission.)

Please Write Distinctly

FROM **MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES, 221 B BAKER ST.** Address Recd. **MR. SCOTT ECCLES, POST OFFICE**

LONDON NW1 **CHARING CROSS.**

	THE	WORD	GROTESQUE	PUTS	ME
1/-	ON	THE	ALERT	COME	AT
	ONCE	DOCTOR	WATSON	AND	I
	AWAIT	YOUR	ARRIVAL	- HOLMES	
2/6					
2/6					

BALANCE OF PORTERAGE
REFUNDED

NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM.

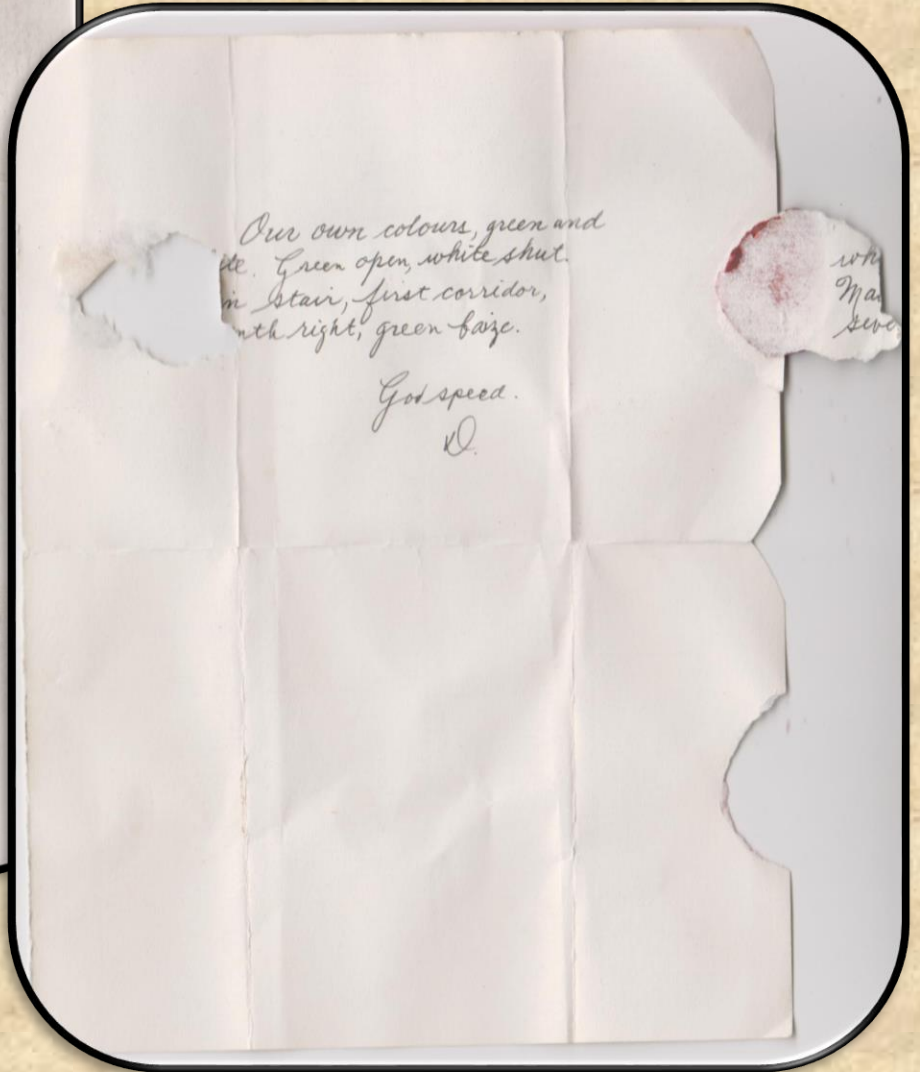
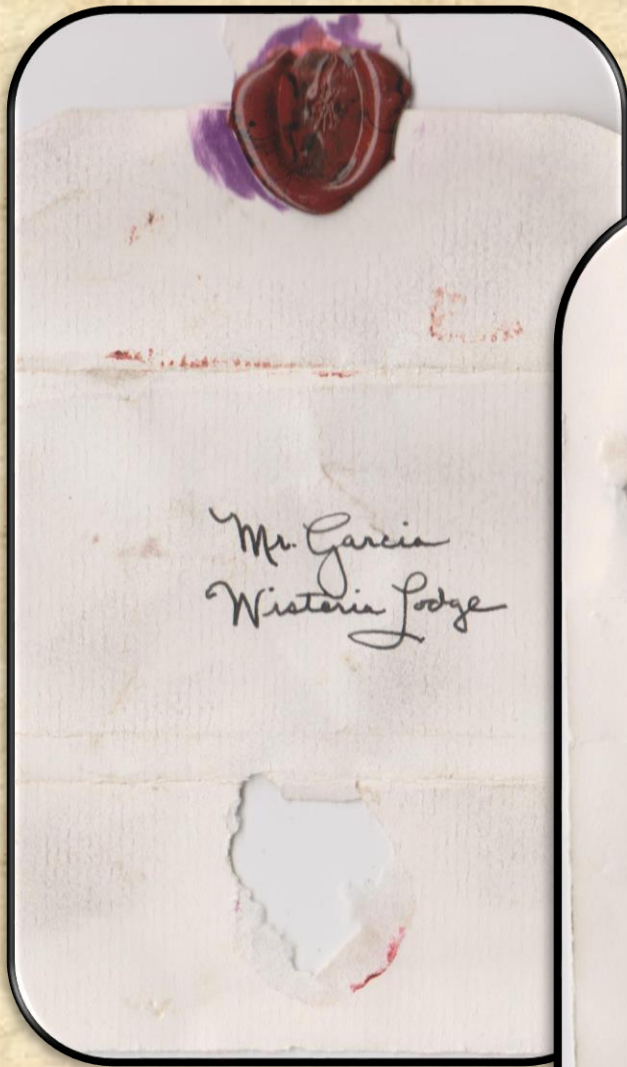
This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1869 and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.

HARRISON & SONS, PRINTERS, LONDON.

Pictured is the telegram sent by Holmes to Eccles, responding to Eccles' request for a meeting.

From the story:

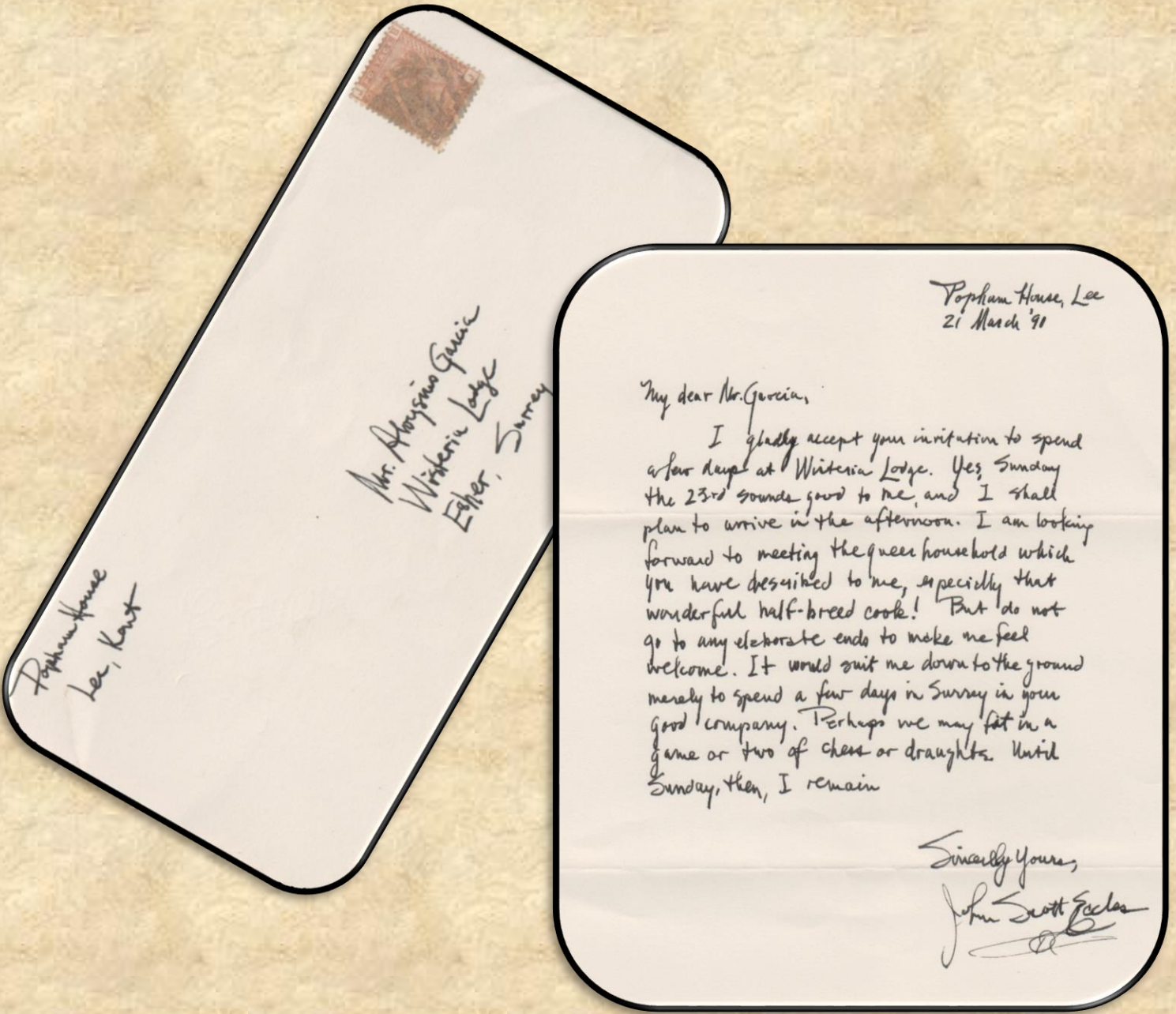
Holmes had received a telegram whilst we sat at our lunch, and he had scribbled a reply.



Pictured is the note from 'D' (Miss Burnett) to Garcia that was intercepted by Murillo's men.

From the story:

'For example, there was that note which arrived during dinner. Did you have a chance to observe what became of it?'



Pictured is John Scott Eccles' letter and envelope to Aloysius Garcia.

From the story:

'The only document found in the pocket of the deceased was a letter from you saying that you would be with him on the night of his death. It was the envelope of this letter which gave us the dead man's name and address.'



Pictured are the cigars Holmes smoked after meeting with Inspector Baynes and Mr Eccles.

From the story:

Holmes smoked hard, with his brows drawn down over his keen eyes, and his head thrust forward in the eager way characteristic of the man.

No. of Message

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
(Inland Telegrams.)

A.
Post Code

Office of Origin and Service Instructions: **WIGMORE POST OFFICE**

Words: **30**

Sent: At **2.40 pm**

Charge: **1/6 and 5/- reply**

To: **ESHER P.O.**

By: *[Signature]*

(A Receipt for the Charges on this telegram can be obtained, please apply.)

FROM: **MR SHERLOCK HOLMES, 221B BAKER STREET, LONDON. NW1.**

Please Write Distinctly

Address Free: **ALLAN BROTHERS', LAND AGENTS
ESHER, SURREY**

URGENTLY	REQUIRE	LIST	OF	ALL
LARGE	HOUSES	WITHIN	A	MILE
OR	TWO	OF	OXSHOTT	IN
THE	DIRECTION	OF	ESHER	INFORMATION
NEEDED	IN	CAPITAL	CASE	SCOTLAND
YARD	INVOLVED	- HOLMES	BALANCE OF PORTERAGE 5/-	REPLY

NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM.

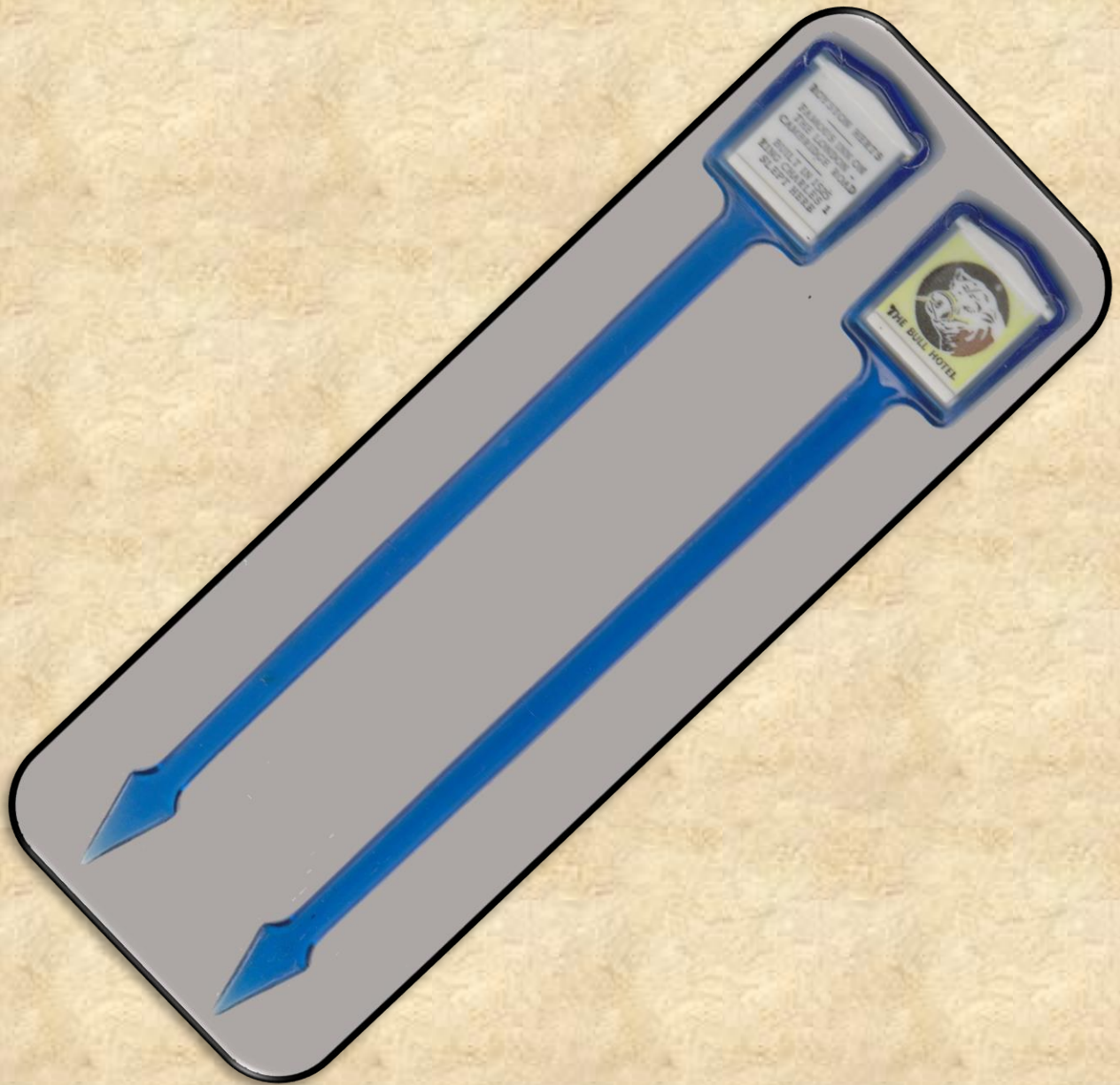
This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1869 and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.

HARRISON & SONS, PRINTERS, L.

Pictured is the telegram from Holmes to Allen Bros., land agents, concerning large houses in the area of Oxshott.

From the story:

'You will show these gentlemen out, Mrs Hudson, and kindly send the boy with this telegram. He is to pay a five-shilling reply.'



Pictured are swizzle sticks from the Bull, the inn where Holmes and Watson stayed at.

From the story:

Holmes and I had taken things for the night, and found comfortable quarters at the Bull.



POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

4 Spottiswoode, 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 ½d. being reckoned as ½d.; and if it be found that there was an error of accuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.



5784

Charges } £ s. d.
to pay }

at } ESHER POST OFFICE

at 4.12 p.m.

Received } here at 4.30 p.m.

TO } Mr. Sherlock Holmes, 221 B Baker Street, London W.1.

Per your request: Lord Harringby, The Dingle; Sir George Folliott, Oxshott Towers; Mr. Hynes Hynes, J.P., Purdey Place; Mr. James Baker Williams, Forton Old Hall; Mr. Henderson, High Gable; Rev. Joshua Stone, Nether Walshing. There are all the buildings which could be called "large" in the vicinity which you named. If we may be of further assistance you need but ask.

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

Allen Brothers

Pictured is the telegram response from the Allan Brothers to Holmes requesting information on the houses in Oxshott.

From the story:

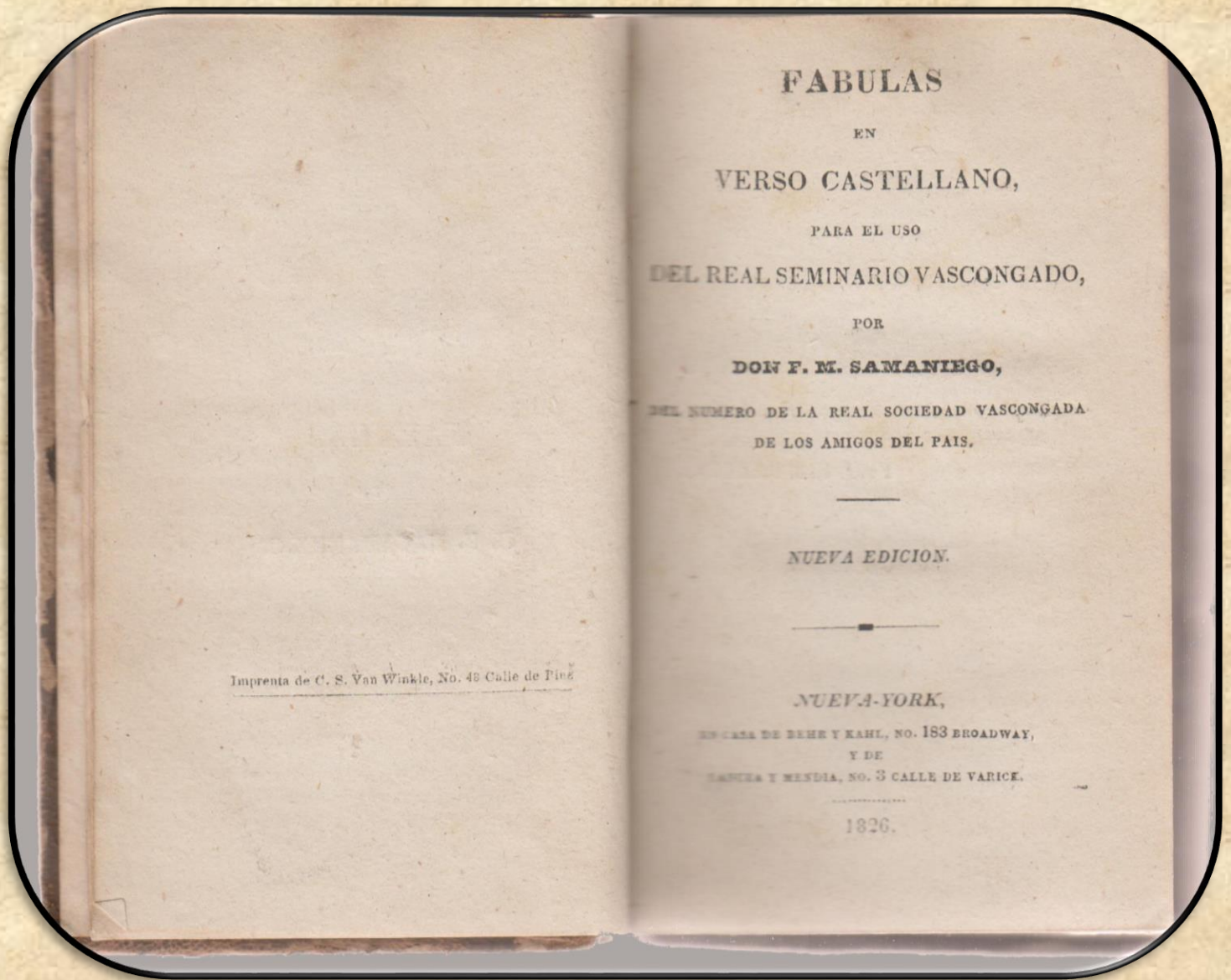
An answer had arrived to Holmes's telegram before our Surrey officer had returned. Holmes read it, and was about to place it in his note-book when he caught a glimpse of my expectant face.



Pictured is the small dark lantern Holmes used to investigate the grounds around Wisteria Lodge.

From the story:

‘That, at least, is very easily settled,’ said Holmes, lighting his little pocket lantern.



Pictured is one of the books in Spanish Holmes found at Wisteria Lodge, a book on poetry, *Fabulas en Verso Castellano*, 1826.

From the story:

Odds and ends, some pipes, a few novels, two of them in Spanish, an old-fashioned pin-fire revolver, and a guitar were amongst the personal property.



Pictured is the zinc pail and feathers. These are items left behind by the Mulatto, Wisteria Lodge's cook, that he returned to retrieve.

From the story:

From under the sink he drew a zinc pail which contained a quantity of blood. Then from the table he took a platter heaped with small pieces of charred bone.



Pictured is the VooDoo Doll with shell belt, owned by the mulatto cook.

From the story:

It was so wrinkled and shrunken and withered that it was difficult to say what it might have been. One could but say that it was black and leathery and that it bore some resemblance to a dwarfish human figure.



Pictured is the pin-fire revolver and cartridges found at Wisteria Lodge.

From the story:

Odds and ends, some pipes, a few novels, two of them in Spanish, an old-fashioned pin-fire revolver, and a guitar were amongst the personal property.



Pictured are two clothing labels from Marx & Co. When Holmes and Baynes searched Wisteria Lodge, they found clothing made with Marx & Co. Holmes checked at the Marx & Co. shop to see if they knew anything about Garcia.

From the story:

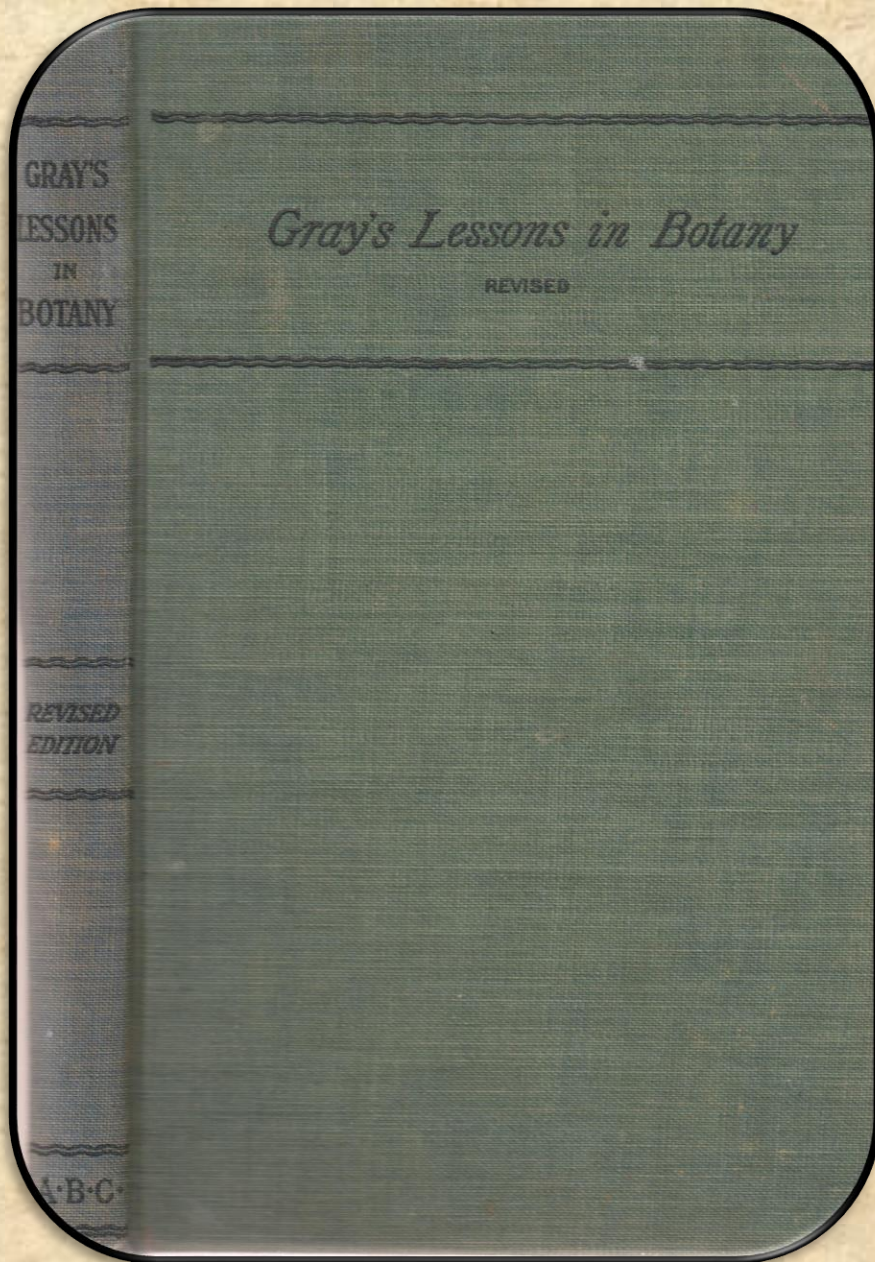
‘A good deal of clothing with the stamp of Marx and Co., High Holborn, had been left behind.’



Pictured is a spud and tin pail, which Holmes found helped in his guise as a botanist.

From the story:

‘With a spud, a tin box, and an elementary book on botany, there are instructive days to be spent.’



Pictured is *Gray's Lessons in Botany*, which Holmes found helped in his guise as a botanist.

From the story:

‘With a spud, a tin box, and an elementary book on botany, there are instructive days to be spent.’

OTT MYSTERY

A SOLUTION

ARREST OF SUPPOSED ASSASSIN

Great excitement was caused in Esher and the neighbouring district when it was learned late last night that an arrest had been effected in connection with the Oxshott murder. It will be remembered that Mr. Garcia, of Wisteria Lodge, was found dead on Oxshott Common, his body showing signs of violence, and that on the same night his servant and his cook fled, which appeared to show their participation in the crime. It was suggested, but never proved, that the deceased gentleman may have had valuables in the house, and that their abstraction was the motive of the crime. Every effort was made by Inspector Baynes, who has the case in hand, to ascertain the hiding-place of the fugitives, and he had good reason to believe that they had not gone far, but were lurking in some retreat which had been already prepared. It was certain from the first, however, that they would eventually be detected, as the cook, from the evidence of one or two tradespeople who have caught a glimpse of him through the window, was a man of most remarkable appearance—being a huge and hideous mulatto, with yellowish features of a pronounced negroid type. This man has been seen since the crime, for he was detected and pursued by Constable Walters on the same evening, when he had the audacity to revisit Wisteria Lodge. Inspector Baynes, considering that such a visit must have some purpose in view, and was likely, therefore, to be repeated, abandoned the house, but left an ambuscade in the shrubbery. The man walked into the trap, and was captured last night after a struggle in which Constable Downing was badly bitten by the savage. We understand that when the prisoner is brought before the magistrates a remand will be applied for by the police, and that great developments are hoped for from his capture.

Pictured is the newspaper article on the murder and the arrest of Eccles.

From the story:

‘You've seen the paper, Mr Holmes?’ he asked, holding one out to us.

‘Yes, Baynes, I've seen it. Pray don't think it a liberty if I give you a word of friendly warning.’



Pictured is the bottle of Dr McMunn's extract of opium, used to drug Miss Burnett when she was abducted.

From the story:

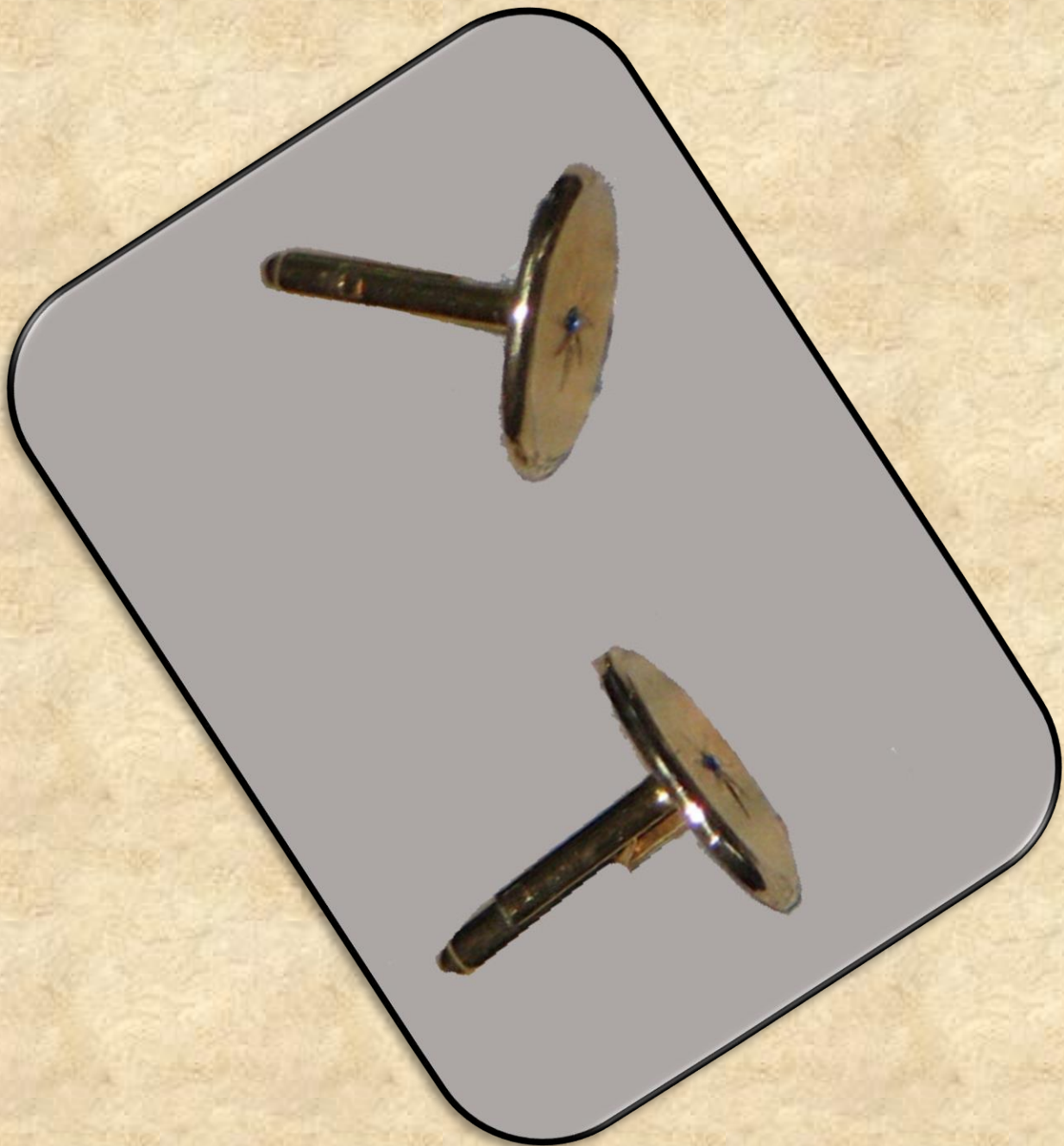
'Her head hung listlessly upon her breast, but as she raised it and turned her dull eyes upon us, I saw that her pupils were dark dots in the centre of the broad grey iris. She was drugged with opium.'



Pictured is a child's scrapbook cut-out of Don Pedro II, Empereur du Brasil, who may have been Don Murillo.

From the story:

'Henderson', the inspector answered, 'is Don Murillo, once called the Tiger of San Pedro.'



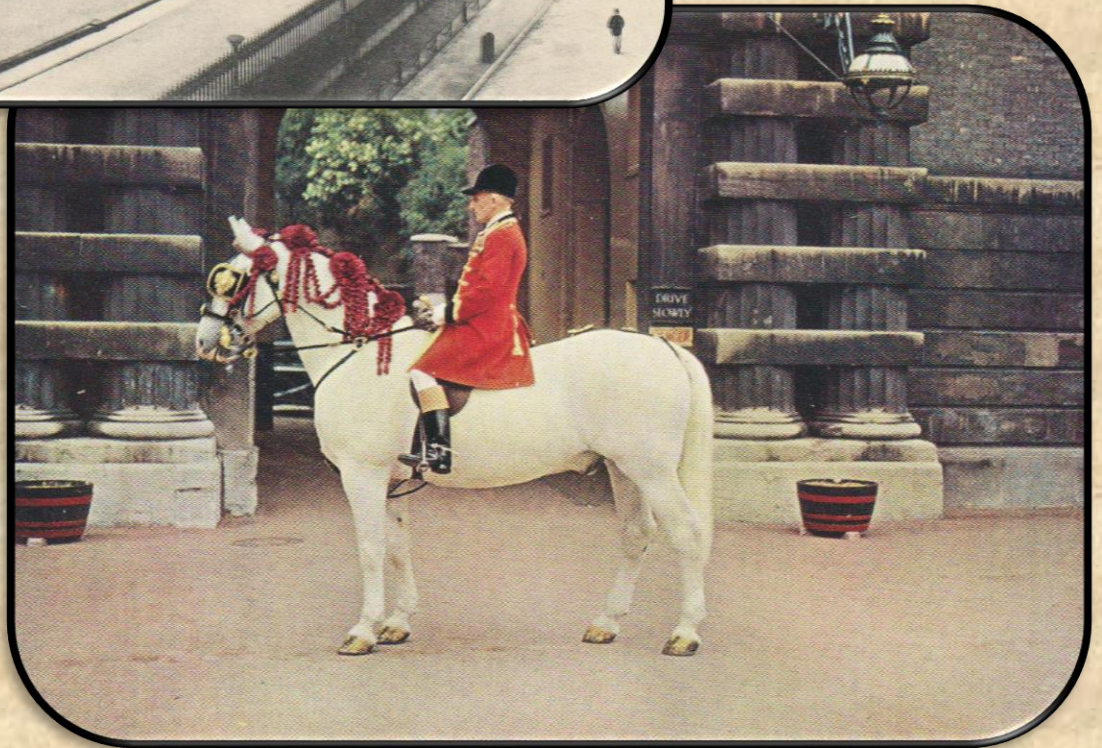
Pictured are the cuff-links Garcia and company used the impression of to identify their correspondence.

From the story:

‘Lopez addressed the note which I had written, sealed it with his sleeve-link, and sent it by the hand of the servant, Jose.’

‘The oval seal is undoubtedly a plain sleeve-link - what else is of such a shape?’

The British Museum, London.



Pictured are postal cards from the British Museum, which Holmes visited during the investigation.

From the story:

‘I spent a morning in the British Museum reading up that and other points.’



Marie Laveau, seated, as an old woman.

EXTRACTS FROM PROF. J.P.ECKERMANN'S
VOODOOISM AND THE NEGROID
RELIGIONS, Cambridge University Press, 1882

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Pictured is extracts from the book, Eckermann's *Voodoo Book*, which the mulatto may have found helpful.

From the story:

‘I spent a morning in the British Museum reading up that and other points. Here is a quotation from Eckermann *Voodooism and the Negroid Religions...*’

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



Pictured is the Charing Cross post office, where Scott Eccles' request for a visit to Holmes arrived from.

From the story:

'Have just had most incredible and grotesque experience. May I consult you? - Scott Eccles, Post Office, Charing Cross.'



Pictured is the decanter of brandy which Watson poured Scott Eccles a drink.

From the story:

'I think, Watson, a brandy and soda would do him no harm.'



Pictured is a postal card of the Spanish Embassy located in London. Eccles believed Garcia to work with the Embassy.

From the story:

‘He was, I understood, of Spanish descent and connected in some way with the Embassy.’



Pictured is postal card from the village of Esher, the location of Wisteria Lodge.

From the story:

‘One thing led to another, and it ended in his inviting me out to spend a few days at his house, Wisteria Lodge, between Esher and Oxshott. Yesterday evening I went to Esher to fulfil this engagement.’



Pictured is a postal card for Oxshott Common, where Garcia's body was located.

From the story:

'He was found dead this morning upon Oxshott Common, nearly a mile from his home.'