### Adventure XLIII – The Adventure of the Devil's Foot



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 cofounded 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.

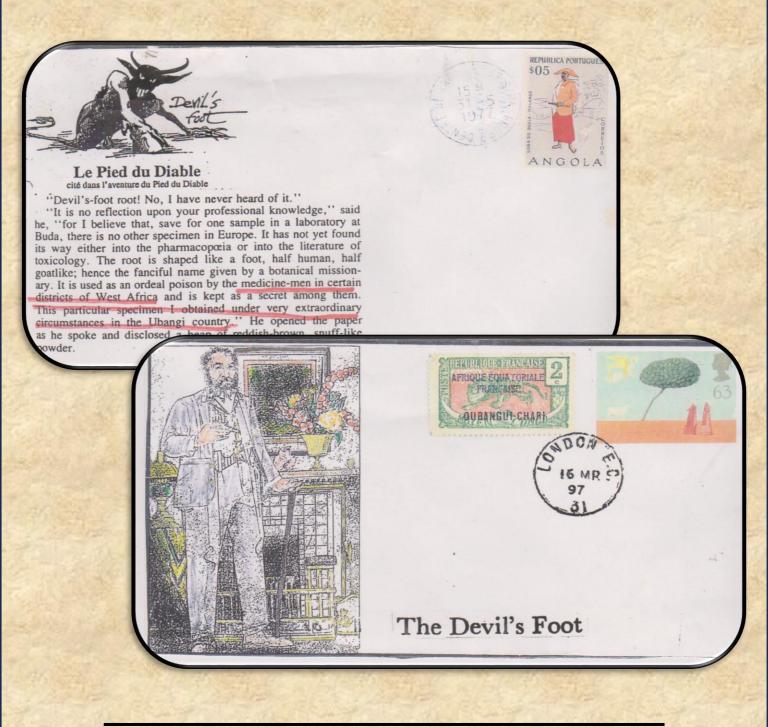
Beth Austin assisted in this effort by photographing, annotating the items, and finding the quotes for many of the items, while Denny Dobry and Rusty Mason supported Paul's efforts by photographing each of the items, as well as developing a comprehensive inventory with notations of item's mentioned in the story. Each of the Boxes is posted with permission of Debbie Clark and Jacquelynn Morris.

## A CORNISH HORROR

#### GROTESQUE DISCOVERY

The Hamlet of Tredannick Wollas was the scene of a horrible mystery this morning. The local physician, Dr. Richards was called early in the morning to Tredannick Wartha, the house of the Treggenis family. When he arrived at he found an extraordinary state of things. Two men and a woman were seated round a table with cards spread in front of them. The woman lay back stone-dead in her chair, while the two men sat on each side of her laughing, shouting, and singing, the senses stricken clean out of them. All three of them, the dead woman and the two demented men, retained upon their faces an expression of the utmost horror a convulsion of terror which was dreadful to look upon. Mr. Mortimer Tregennis, the brother of the three, claimed to have spent last evening in the company of his two brothers, Owen and George, and of his sister Brenda. He said that he left them shortly after ten o'clock, playing cards round the diningroom table, in excellent health and spirits. There was no sign of the presence of anyone in the house, except Mrs Porter, the old housekeeper, who declared that she heard no sound during the night. Nothing had been stolen or disarranged, and there is absolutely no explanation of what the horror can be which has frightened a woman to death and two strong men out of their senses. The local authorities are at a lost to xplain the gruesome circumstances.

Pictured is a newspaper account concerning the Tregennis family disaster. The article states there is absolutely no explanation of what the horror can be which has frightened a woman to death and two strong men out of their senses.



Pictured are 1st-day covers for The Devil's Foot with African, Angola and British Postage Stamps.

I had heard the click of the garden gate, and now the majestic figure of the great African explorer appeared upon the path.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. Stamp is sorringent. Laster. If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the 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 a racy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams. d. Charges . 7845 to pay Received 10.05 A.m., 10.15 Am. EASTBOURNE at here at DR. JOHN H. WATSON, SI QUEEN ANNE STREET, LONDON W.1 WHY NOT TELL THEM OF THE CORNISH HORROR-STRANGEST CASE I HAVE HANDLED 5.H. R.B.-This Form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Pictured is the telegram from Holmes to Watson, suggesting he write up and publish the story of the Cornish horror.

#### From the story:

It was, then, with considerable surprise that I received a telegram from Holmes last Tuesday - he has never been known to write where a telegram would serve - in the following terms: 'Why not tell them of the Cornish horror-strangest case I have handled.'

English Dialect Society. English Dialect Society. Honovary Secretary : PROF. J. WRIGHT, M.A., 6, Norham Road, Oxford. Treasurer : Rev. A. L. MAYNEW, M.A., 18, Bradmore Road, Oxford. Bankers : The London and County Bank, High Street, Oxford. Publichers : HEXEX FRONDER, Oxford University Press, Amen Corner, London Nov. 23. 1894. Dear Madam, Phenk you very mine In mu excellent Collection of mich words which will be most ove m my lestme several a

Pictured is a handwritten letter from the English Dialect Society from a Ms. Peyance, mentioning the Cornish words.

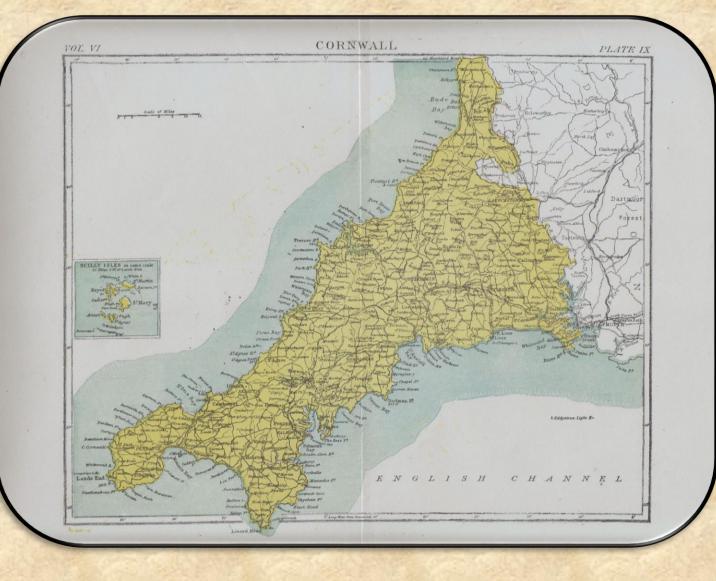
#### From the story:

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE DEVOS NADELEK OF READINGS REDVANSOW AND CAROLS HA CAROLVS At the Methodist Church, Bridge, Portreath, by kind permission of the Rev. D. Hollingdale 3.0 De Sul, Mys Kevardhu 2001 Sunday 30 December 2..... CAN Nr. 2: A deugh. Lel gryjygyon (Oh Come..) DYNARGH a'n Revrond Brian Coombes, Chaplen an Orseth AVYSVANSOW - NOTICES PADER AGAN ARLUTH (oll warbarth) - THE LORD'S PRAVER (see back of sheet) PYSADOW GORHEMMYN - An Rev. Brian Coombes - Bidding prayers REDYANS 1: . AN DESOBEYANS (Genesys 3, gw. 8 - 15) redyes gans Philip Rendle CAN Nr. 4: A dus, a dus, Emmanuel (3 gwers) OH come, oh come, Emmanuel REDVANS 2: FROFUSANS AN FLOGH? (Ysay 9, gw.2, 6, 7) Redyes gans Terry Jones CAN NA: 3: An dus a gorth y'r tewdder nos (4 gwers) The people e REDVANS 3: AN NOTVANS (Sen Luk 1, gw. 26-338) nedyes gans Hazel Bennett CAN NA: 6: Clew an son whek (4 gwers) Heark thee glad sound REDVANS 4: GENESVGETH VESUISen Luk 2,gw. 1, 3 - 7) redyes gans Jill Warden KEMYSK YLOW NADELEK - Miscellany of Christmas Music gans Keith ha Clorinda Truscott hag Elizabeth Rowe "VESYON PARADYS" dyworth "Grwyans an Bys," redyes gans Debora Bennett Vision of Paradise - from thee Cornish play, The Creation of the World REDYANS 5: ANN ELETH HA'N BUGELETH (Sen Luk??, gw. 8 - 16) redyes gans David Fieldsend CAN Nr: 7: Clew! Cannasow nef (2 gwers) Heark the Herald Angels..... REDYANS 6: DEGOL STUL (Sen Mathe 2, gw. 1 - 20) redyes gans Neil Kennedy CAN Nr. 19: Try Myghtern (5 gwers) Three Kings ... Gwers 1: Try Myghtern warbarth - Three Kings together Gwers 2. 3, 4: Solbs: Melchyor, Gaspar, Balthsar Gwers 5: Oll warbarth - Everybody together REDVANS 7: AN GER ETH HA BOS KYK (Sen Jowan 1, gw. 1 - 14) redyes gans Rod Lyon CAN Nr. . 14: Kens yn cyta Davyth ryal (4 gwers) Once in royal David's city AN VENNATH - THE BLESSING gans an Chenon Richard Rutt OFFERVANS a with cuntellys worsa an Servis abarth dasclanheans an Chapel There will be a collection after the service for the refurbishment of the Chapel Wosa an devos, puponen yu gelwys she gemeres te ha tesennow cales arbarth. After the service, everyone is invited to take tea and biscuits together. tok THE DEVILS FORT CHeck ovi war. brokefinder. com and you have some. Sony that I could not find this there I sent the take Weare seasable that I will always buy back the book, if you wish to sell it. Thank Isla.

Pictured is a genuine program from a Christmas Service at a Methodist Church, partially written in Cornish

From the story:

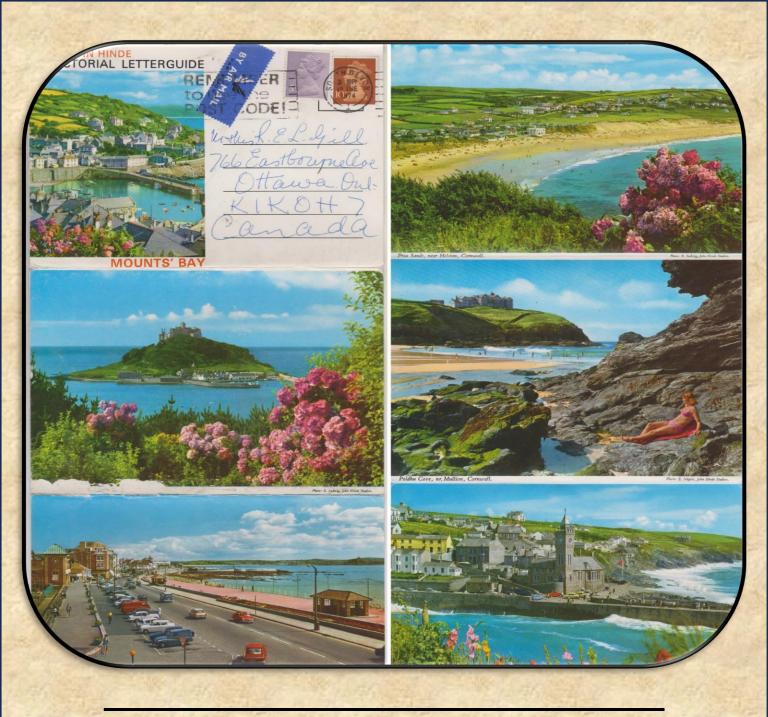
'Why not tell them of the Cornish horror-strangest case I have handled.'



Pictured is a colored map of Cornwall, a county in southwestern England.

#### From the story:

Thus it was that in the early spring of that year we found ourselves together in a small cottage near Poldhu Bay, at the further extremity of the Cornish peninsula.



Pictured are Postal cards of Mounts Bay, Poldhu Cove, Cornwall, where the Tregennis tragedy occurred.

#### From the story:

Thus it was that in the early spring of that year we found ourselves together in a small cottage near Poldhu Bay, at the further extremity of the Cornish peninsula.

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Pictured is a colored map of Cornwall, a county in southwestern England, depicting Poldhu Bay, the location of the Tregennis cottage and tragedy.

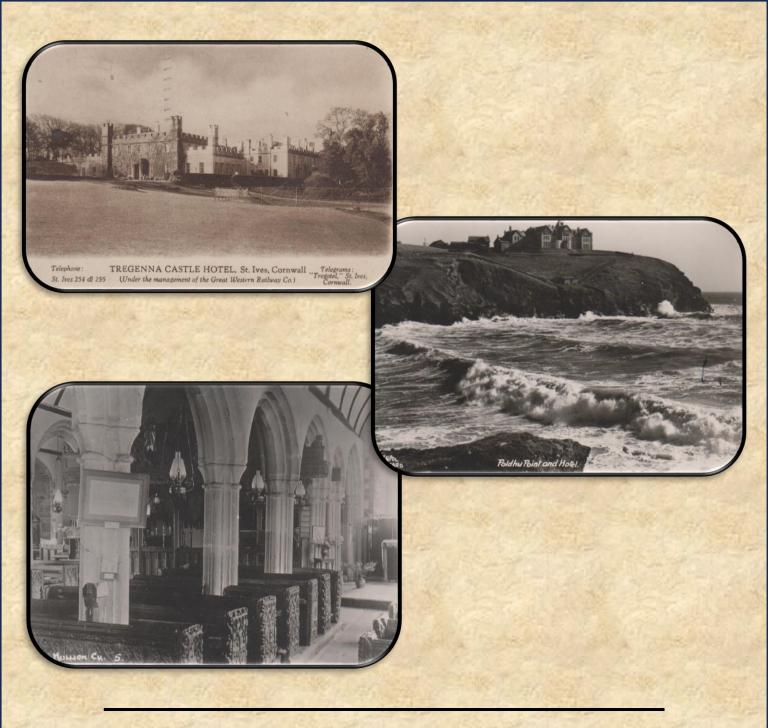
#### From the story:

Thus it was that in the early spring of that year we found ourselves together in a small cottage near Poldhu Bay, at the further extremity of the Cornish peninsula.



Pictured is a postal card of a caricature of the woman thought to be the last speaker of the Cornish Language

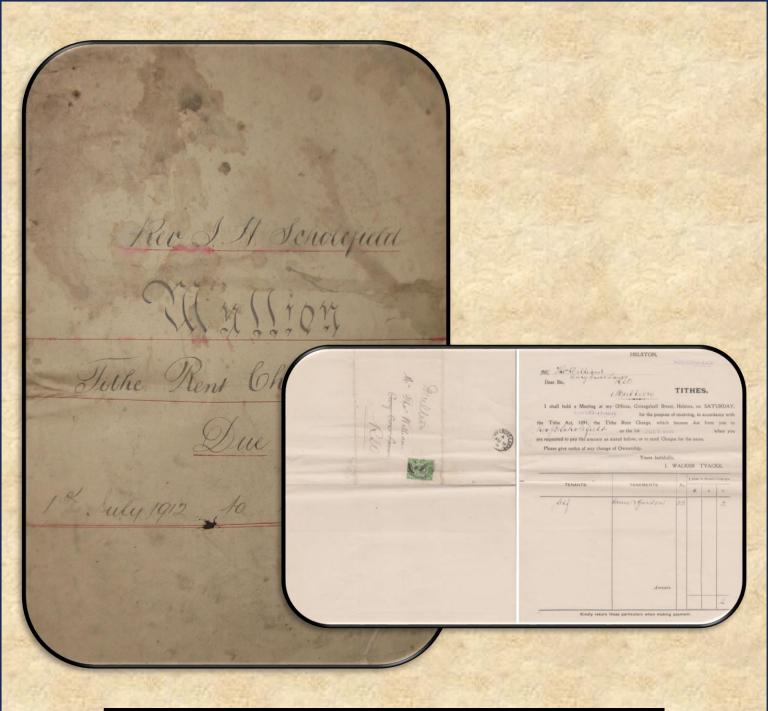
#### From the story:



Pictured are postal cards of sites around Poldhu Bay: Tregenna Castle Hotel, Poldhu Point and hotel, and Cornwall Chapel.

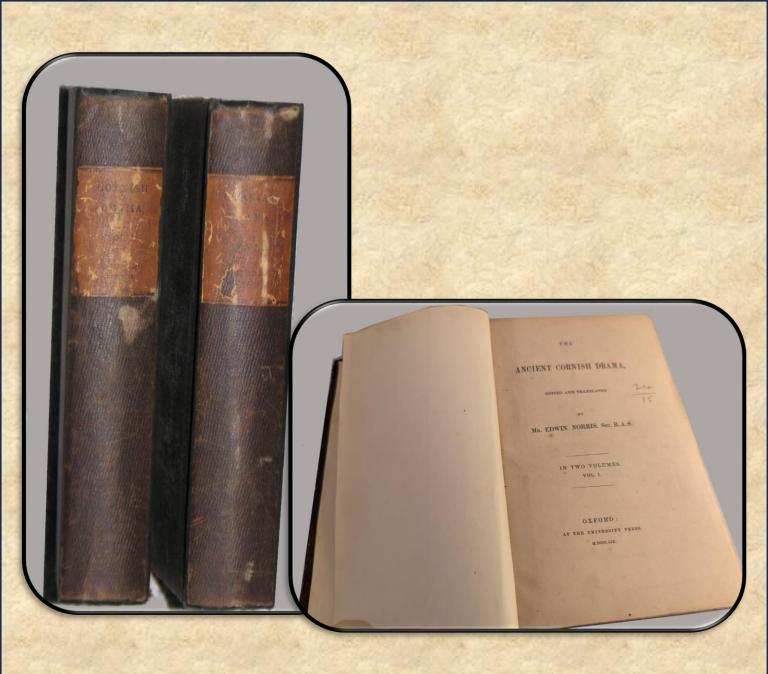
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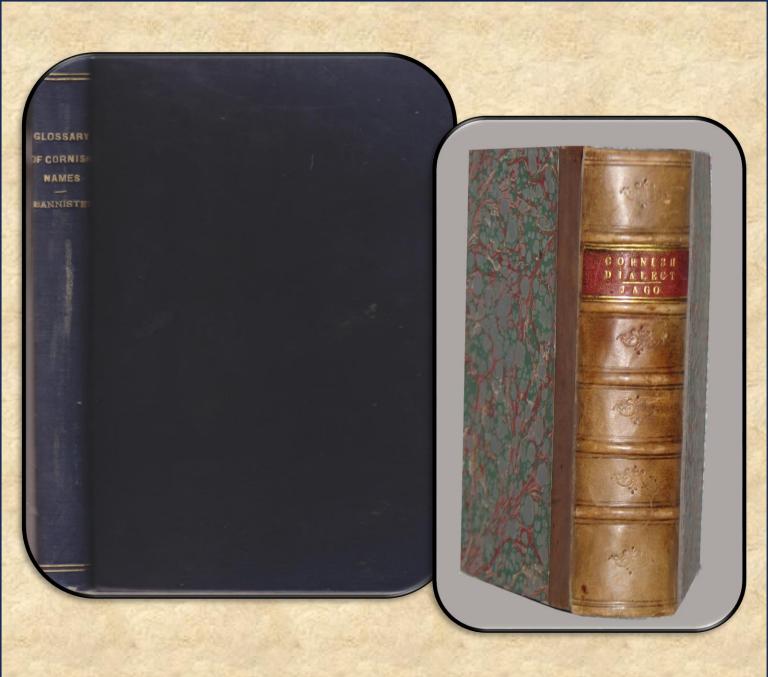
Pictured an old Cornish lease account, used by Holmes as part of his study of the Cornish Language.

#### From the story:



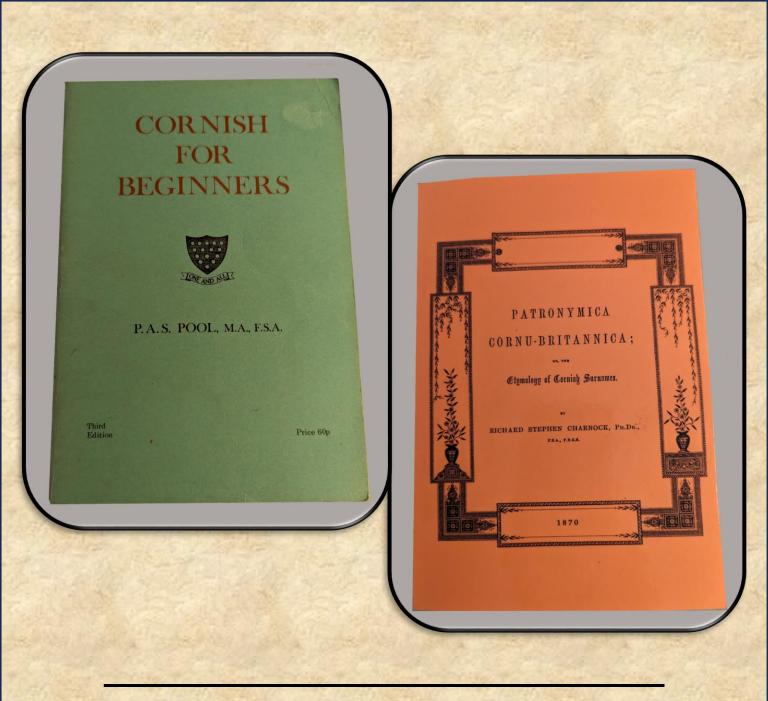
Pictured are ancient Cornish dramas, used by Holmes as part of his study of the Cornish Language.

#### From the story:



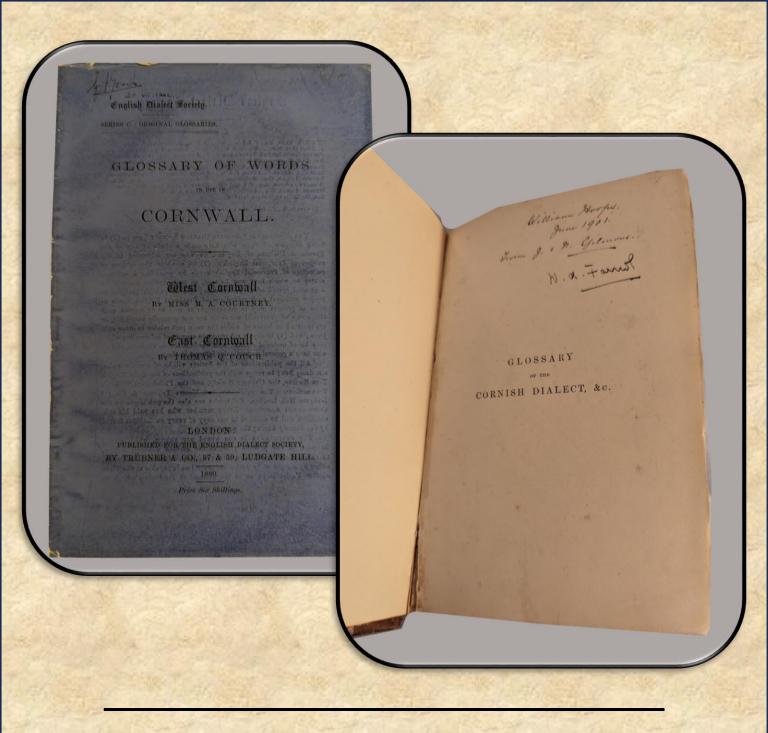
Pictured is the *Glossary of Cornish Names* and *Cornish Dialect*, used by Holmes as part of his study of the Cornish Language.

#### From the story:



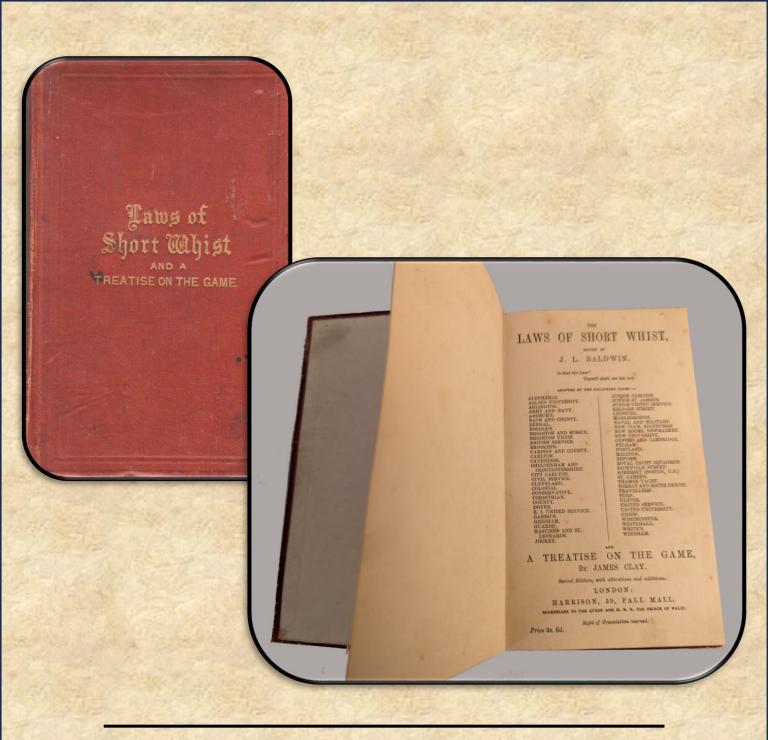
Pictured is *Cornish for Beginners* and *Etymology of Cornish Surnames*, used by Holmes as part of his study of the Cornish Language.

#### From the story:



Pictured is *Glossary of Words in Cornwall* and *Glossary of the Cornish Dialect*, used by Holmes as part of his study of the Cornish Language.

#### From the story:



Pictured is the *Laws of Whist*, or known as the rules of the game of whist, which the Tregennis family was playing when the disaster occurred.

From the story:

'Well, Mr Holmes, I supped there, as the vicar has said, and my elder brother George proposed a game of whist afterwards.'

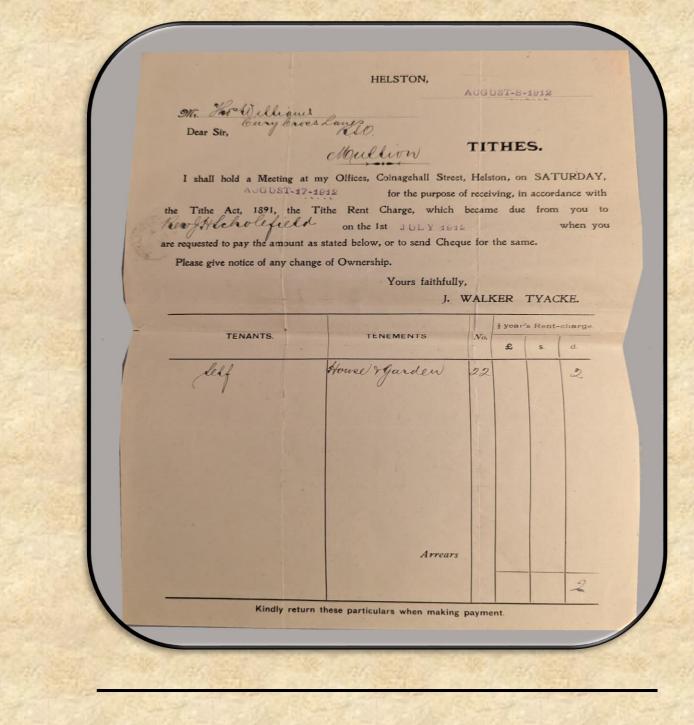
The Adventure of the Devil's Foot

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	Introduction. Cut for lead, lowest card leads (ace low). No. of Deal. 1 Spades are Trumps 2 Diamonds ,, 3 Clubs ,, 4 Hearts ,,	2 Diamonds ,, tricks count double 3 Clubs ,,	

Pictured is the score card from the game of Whist played by the Tregennis family just before the tragedy occurred.

#### From the story:

'Well, Mr Holmes, I supped there, as the vicar has said, and my elder brother George proposed a game of whist afterwards. We sat down about nine o'clock.'



Pictured is a receipt for lodging in Helston, the town which the Tregennis brothers were taken for treatment after being exposed to the poison.

#### From the story:

'My brothers!' cried Mortimer Tregennis, white to the lips. 'They are taking them to Helston.'



Pictured is the deck of cards the Tregennis family was playing whist with when disaster struck.

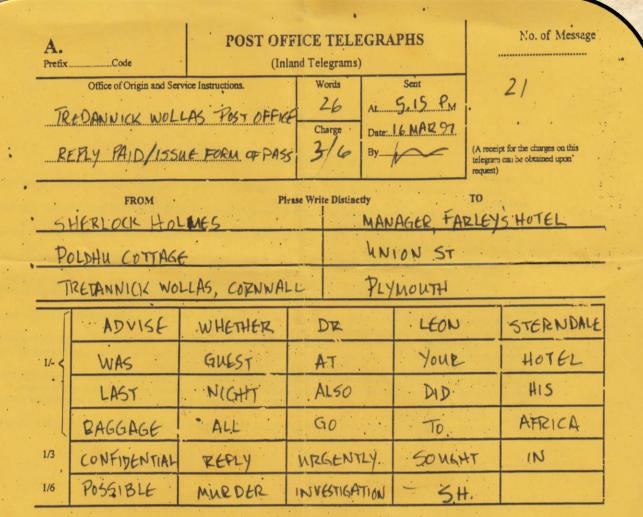
From the story:

On the table were the four guttered and burned-out candles, with the cards scattered over its surface.

Pictured are flint arrowheads found by Holmes and Watson while in Cornwall.

#### From the story:

'It won't do, Watson!' said he, with a laugh. 'Let us walk along the cliffs together and search for flint arrows. We are more likely to find them than clues to this problem.'



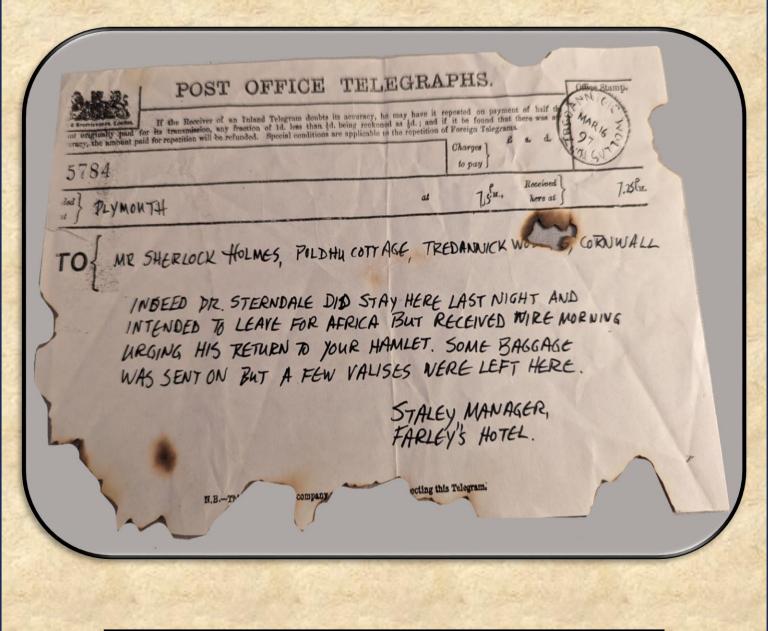
MOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELZGRAM

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.

Pictured is the telegram from Holmes to Farley Hotel regarding Sterndale's stay and his baggage.

From the story:

'I learned the name of it from the vicar, and I wired to make certain that Dr Leon Sterndale's account was true. It appears that he did indeed spend last night there, and that he has actually allowed some of his baggage to go on to Africa...'



Pictured is the telegram from the Plymouth Hotel, responding to Holmes' questions.

From the story:

He glanced at a telegram which awaited him, and threw it into the grate.

Pictured are spectacles belonging to Mortimer Tregennis.

#### From the story:

Beside it sat the dead man, leaning back in his chair, his thin beard projecting, his spectacles pushed up on to his forehead, and his lean, dark face turned towards the window and twisted into the same distortion of terror which had marked the features of his dead sister.



Pictured is the lamp which sat on the table where the Tregennis were playing cards. Also pictured is the talc shied which was mounted on top of the lamp globe.

#### From the story:

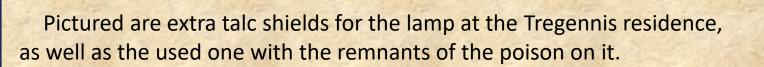
The lamp, which was an ordinary standard, he examined with minute care, making certain measurements upon its bowl. He carefully scrutinized with his lens the talc shield which covered the top of the chimney...

Ersen's General St ne les M No Reg. No Clerk andard Gil L 2 1 2 3 4 held 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 our accou found return at once

Pictured is the receipt from Hansen's General Store for Holmes' purchase of a lamp.

#### From the story:

He had bought a lamp, which was the duplicate of the one which had burned in the room of Mortimer Tregennis on the morning of the tragedy.



#### From the story:

He carefully scrutinized with his lens the talc shield which covered the top of the chimney, and scraped off some ashes which adhered to its upper surface, putting some of them into an envelope, which he placed in his pocket-book.

Ash from Vicareje lamp, taleshickd 17 March 97 254.

Pictured is the envelope containing ash from the lamp talc shield, collected by Holmes, at Roundhay's residence.

#### From the story:

He carefully scrutinized with his lens the talc shield which covered the top of the chimney, and scraped off some ashes which adhered to its upper surface, putting some of them into an envelope, which he placed in his pocket-book.

Dr. Jen Stemdale Lims Jain Pottage Beauchamp arrive Vour Presence is requested at Foldhu Cottege this afternoon at 4.30 to inform you of the difficulties in my investigation of the Cornigh Horror. Shulot Hohnce

Pictured is the note Holmes sent to Dr. Leon Sterndale, requesting a meeting at their temporary residence, Poldhu Cottage.

#### From the story:

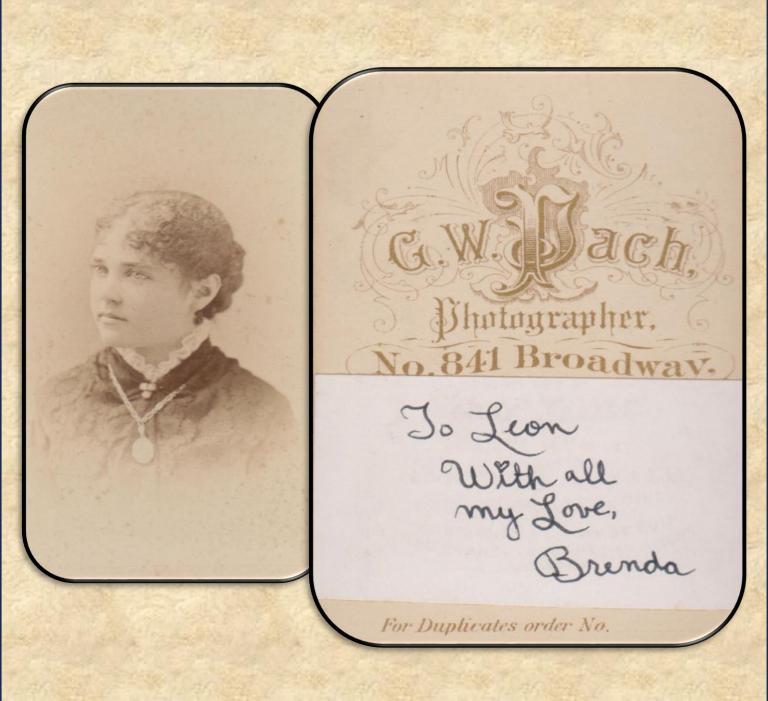
'You sent for me, Mr Holmes. I had your note about an hour ago, and I have come, though I really do not know why I should obey your summons.'

Pictured is the cigar Sterndale smoked while waiting for Mortimer to die and during his interview with Holmes.

From the story:

The explorer took his cigar from his lips and gazed sternly at my companion.

The Adventure of the Devil's Foot



Pictured is a cabinet photo of Brenda Tregennis, as well as a love note she sent to Leon Sterndale.

From the story: 'For years I have loved her. For years she has loved me.'

\* POISON

Pictured is the envelope marked POISON containing Radis Pedis Dialboli powder.

From the story:

Dr Sterndale drew from his pocket a paper packet and laid it upon the table. On the outside was written, 'Radix pedis diaboli' with a red poison label beneath it.

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Pictured is the accounts book used to track the properties and other assets owned by the Tregennis family, which Mortimer Tregennis hoped to gain sole access of.

#### From the story:

'I was convinced that Mortimer Tregennis was the murderer, that for the sake of money, and with the idea, perhaps, that if the other members of his family were all insane he would be the sole guardian of their joint property, Additional items of interest in "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" not included in the original Evidence Box.

# Dr. Moore Agar General Practice

## 26 Harley Street London

Pictured is the calling, or visiting, card of Dr. Moore Agar of London.

#### From the story:

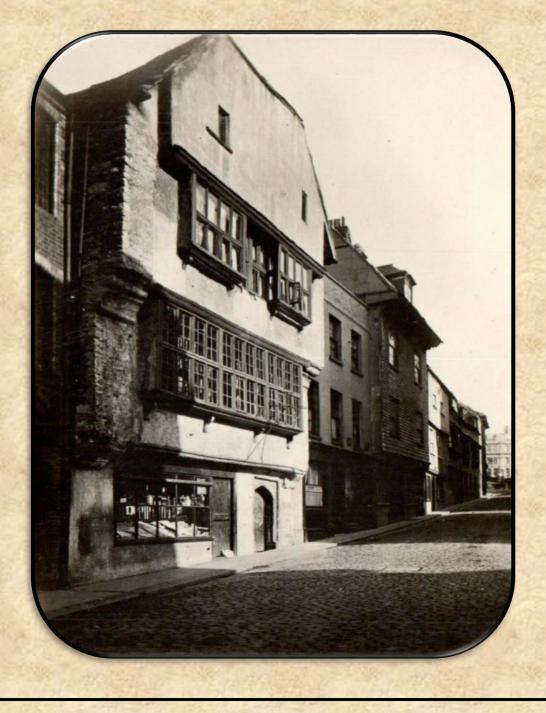
In March of that year Dr Moore Agar, of Harley Street, whose dramatic introduction to Holmes I may some day recount, gave positive injunctions that the famous private agent would lay aside all his cases and surrender himself to complete rest if he wished to avert an absolute breakdown.



Pictured is the watering-pot which was situated outside of the Tregennis residence.

#### From the story:

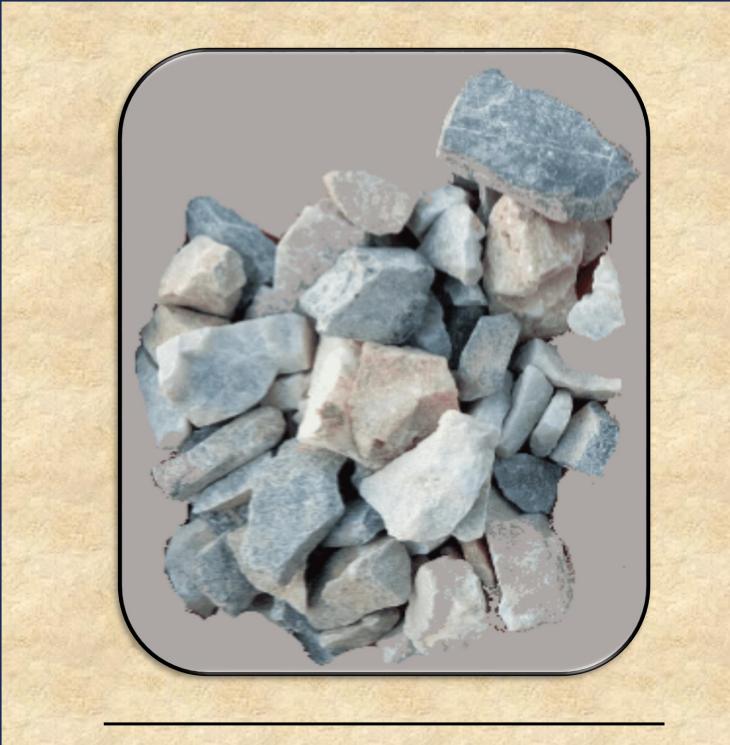
So absorbed was he in his thoughts, I remember, that he stumbled over the watering-pot, upset its contents, and deluged both our feet and the garden path.



Pictured is the postal card from the Plymouth hotel, where Sterndale had reached before being summoned back by Roundhay's telegram.

#### From the story:

'From the Plymouth hotel, Watson,' he said. 'I learned the name of it from the vicar, and I wired to make certain that Dr Leon Sterndale's account was true.'



Pictured is the gravel Sterndale used to rouse Mortimer Tregennis on the morning he poisoned him.

#### From the story:

'You drew some of the gravel from your pocket, and you threw it up at the window above you...'