

## Adventure LVII – His Last Bow

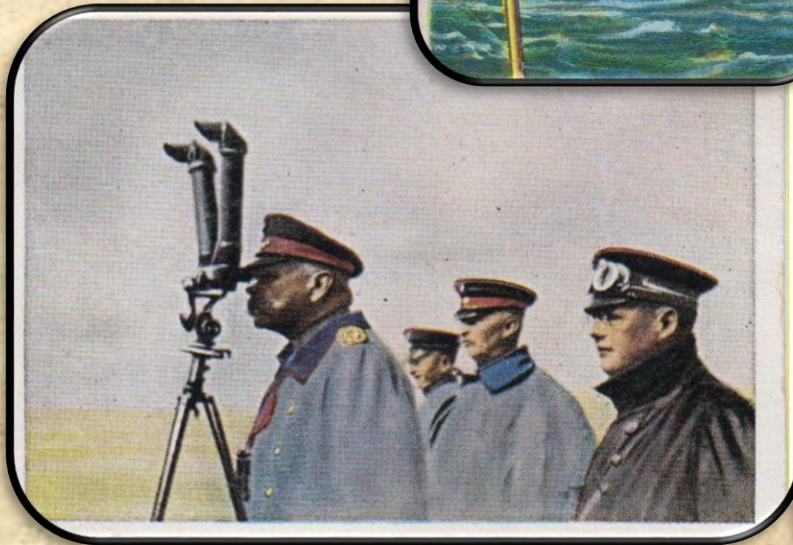
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Paul Churchill once quipped he had a hard time studying for Sherlockian quizzes, so inspired by Simon Goodenough's *A Study in Scarlet – A Sherlock Holmes Murder Dossier*, Paul began collecting Canonical artifacts around 1990 to help him remember each 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.



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Pictured are cigarette cards of the German Man-of-War flag, Austria-Hungary flag, the Kaiser looking through a field binocular, and a death card for a German soldier killed in action.

10, Downing Street,  
Whitehall, S.W.

24 Dec 1912

Private

Dear Sir Henniker Heaton

I have to thank  
you for your letter of the  
21<sup>st</sup>. I am sorry that  
the pressure of work during  
the last few weeks has been  
so great that I could not  
see you, as I could then  
have explained some of the  
difficulties which stand in  
the way of your proposal.

I fear it is not "practical  
politics" - at any rate  
for the present.

Yours very truly  
H. H. Asquith

Sir J. Henniker Heaton  
Bart.

Pictured is a letter on 10 Downing Street stationery from H.H. Asquith, Prime Minister, to Henniker Heaton. Asquith was Prime Minister for the first part of World War I.



Pictured is the Royal Automobile Club map of England and Wales, which Holmes and Watson would have found very useful.



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Pictured are German Deutschmarks issued 3-days after this story takes place, obviously in response to the start of WWI.



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Pictured are helmets worn by the British and Germans during World War I.



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Pictured is an 1898 Mauser rifle and bayonet, a popular weapon during World War I.



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Pictured are models of the cars driven by Watson and ridden in by Von Herling.

From the story:

One of these was his present companion, Baron Von Herling, the chief secretary of the legation, whose huge 100-horse-power Benz car was blocking the country lane as it waited to waft its owner back to London.

...as his car swung round the village street it nearly passed over a little Ford coming in the opposite direction.





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Pictured is a model of the Curtiss Jenny, which was used by the Allies as a trainer plane in the war.

From the story:

Each pigeon-hole had its label, and his eyes as he glanced along them read a long series of such titles as 'Fords,' 'Harbour-defences,' 'Aeroplanes,'... and a score of others.



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Pictured is a pub mat with the name 'John Bull', which Van Herling referred to the British as. John Bull was a national personification of the United Kingdom, especially in political cartoons

From the story:

'It is to-day or to-morrow with Mr. John Bull. If he prefers to-day we are perfectly ready.'



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Pictured is the cypher of George V (George Rex), King of England during World War I.

From the story:

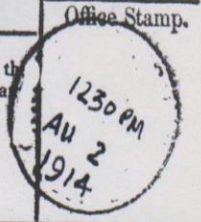
‘He seems to have declared war on the King's English as well as on the English King. Must you really go?’



# 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 } £ s. d.  
to pay }

ded }  
at } PORTSMOUTH

at 12 PM. Received }  
here at } 1230 PM.

TO { HERR VON BORK, LANAGUARD HALL, LOWER DOVERCOURT, ESSEX

WILL COME WITHOUT FAIL TO-NIGHT AND BRING NEW SPARKING PLUGS. ——— ALTAMONT

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

Pictured is the telegram from Altamont to Von Bork regarding sparking plugs

From the story:

Von Bork pushed over a telegram.

‘Will come without fail to-night and bring new sparking plugs. -

ALTAMONT.’



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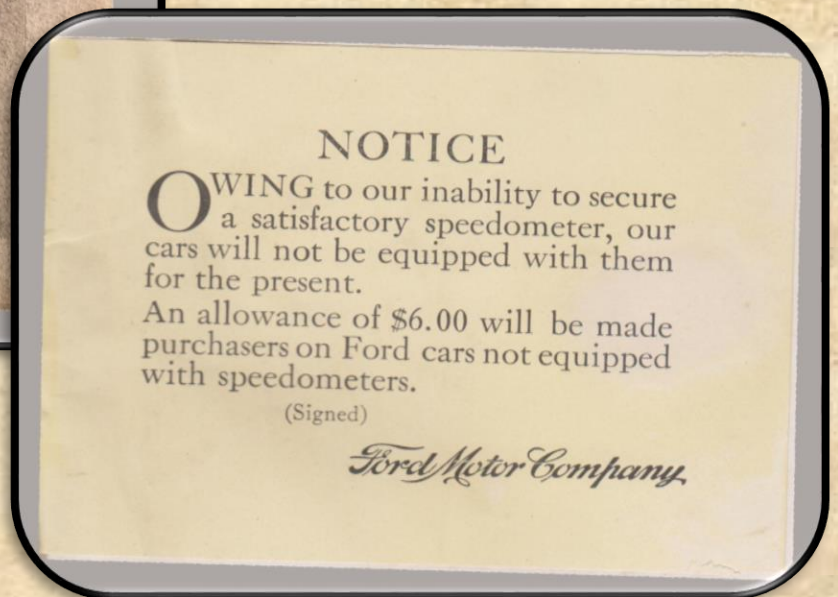
Pictured are Lodge sparking plugs. Lodge was a friend of Conan Doyle and lived in Cornwall. Sparking plugs were part of Altamont's code.

From the story:

Von Bork pushed over a telegram.

'Will come without fail to-night and bring new sparking plugs. -

ALTAMONT.'



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Pictured is the user manual for a 1913 Ford, the brand of car which Watson drove to the Von Bork residence.

From the story:

...with his thoughts so full of the impending European tragedy that he hardly observed that as his car swung round the village street it nearly passed over a little Ford coming in the opposite direction.

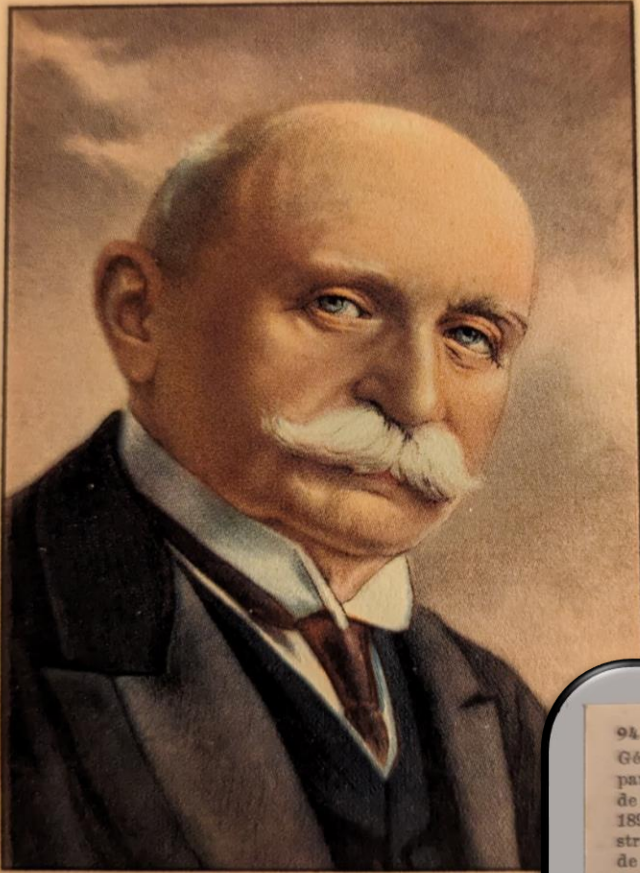


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Pictured is Martha's mob, or country cap, part of her uniform as the housekeeper at Von Bork's residence.

From the story:

Only one window showed a light behind them; in it there stood a lamp, and beside it, seated at a table, was a dear old ruddy-faced woman in a country cap.



94. von Zeppelin (1838-1917) von Zeppelin

Général allemand, connu surtout par ses travaux dans le domaine de l'aéronautique. A partir de 1892, il se consacra à la construction d'un ballon dirigeable de grandes dimensions, pouvant transporter plusieurs voyageurs et des charges assez fortes. Son modèle primitif subit par la suite d'assez nombreux perfectionnements, mais les caractéristiques sont restées les mêmes. Le dirigeable conçu par Zeppelin est rigide. La carcasse métallique est en aluminium et comprend un certain nombre de compartiments indépendants qui contiennent chacun un ballon double en étoffe caoutchoutée.

Duitsch generaal, vooral bekend voor zijn werken op 't gebied van luchtscheepvaart. Van 1892 af, wijdde hij zich aan den bouw van een bestuurbaar ballon van groote afmetingen, welke verscheiden reizigers en tamelijke groote ladingen kon vervoeren. Zijn oorspronkelijk model kreeg nadien nog al talrijke verbeteringen, maar de kenmerken zijn steeds dezelfde gebleven. Het luchtschip, door von Zeppelin uitgedacht, is stijf. Het metaliek karkas is uit aluminium en bevat een zeker aantal onafhankelijke afdeelingen, die ieder een dubbelen ballon uit geaouchouteerde stof bevatten.

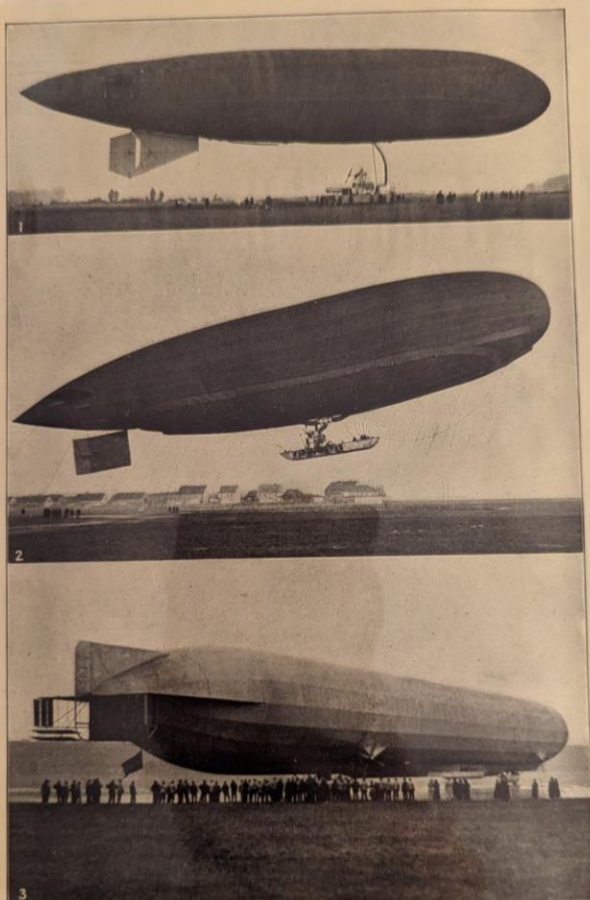
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Pictured is a cigarette card for Count Von Zeppelin, who developed the airship mentioned by Von Herling to Von Bork.

From the story:

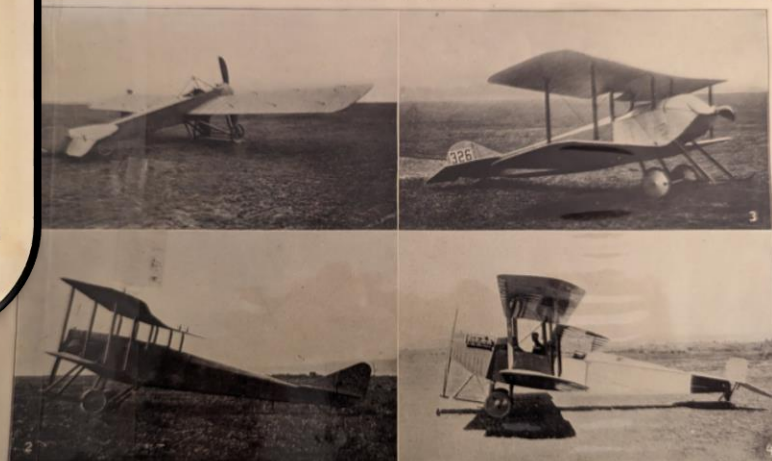
‘The heavens, too, may not be quite so peaceful if all that the good Zeppelin promises us comes true.’





TYPICAL EUROPEAN MILITARY DIRIGIBLES

- 1. "PARSEVAL XI", A TYPICAL GERMAN ARMORED AIR CRUISER
- 2. "EUGÈNE MONTGOLFIER", A FRENCH CLÉMENT-BAYARD DIRIGIBLE
- 3. GERMAN NAVAL ZEPPELIN STARTING FROM WATER AT POTSDAM



TYPICAL AÉROPLANES OF THE GREAT EUROPEAN WAR

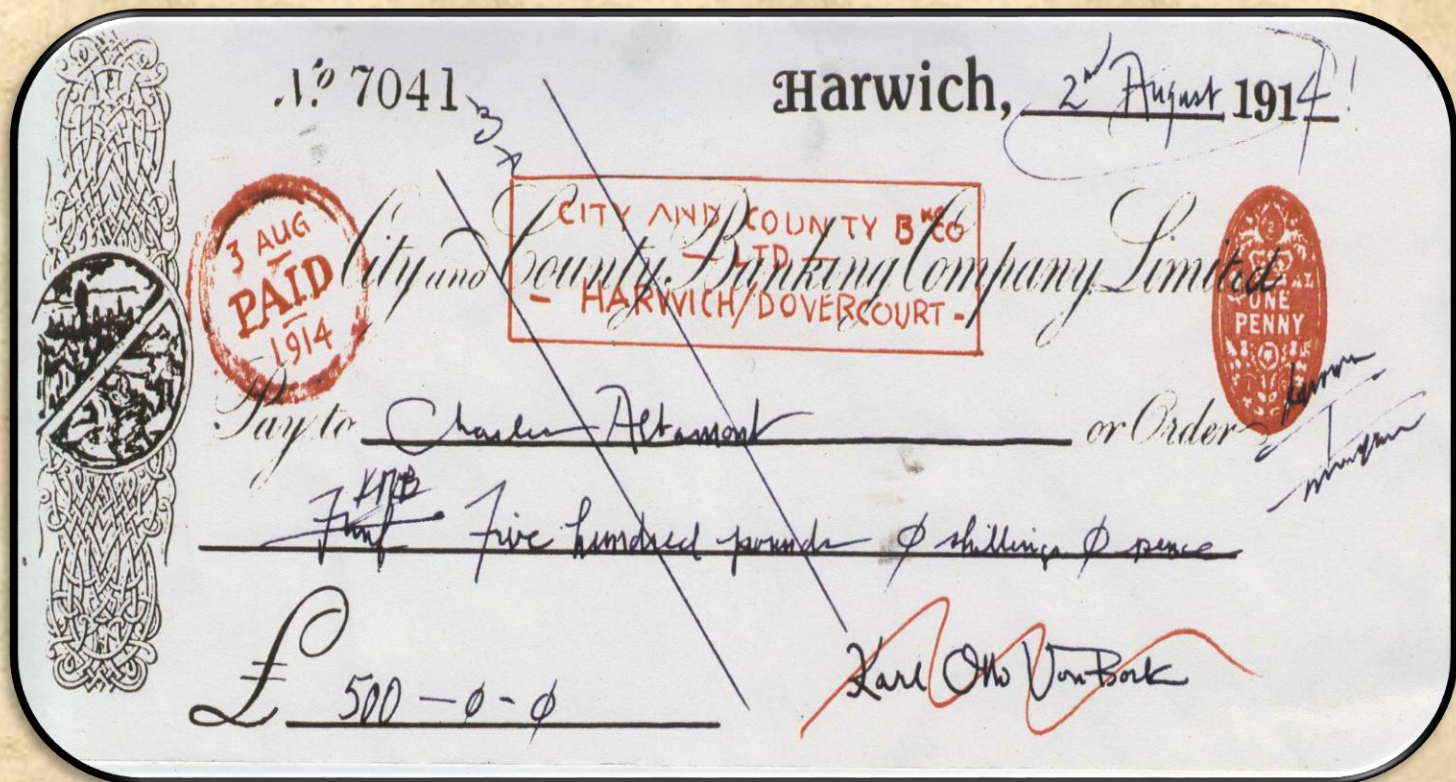
- 1. FRENCH ARMORED NEUPOIRT MONOPLANE.
- 2. THOMAS (AMERICAN) HIGH SPEED BIPLANE.
- 3. BRITISH SOPWITH SCOUT MILITARY TRACTOR ARMORED BIPLANE. Many of these machines were used to raid over German territory for bomb dropping.
- 4. CURTIS (AMERICAN) MILITARY TRACTOR MODEL "W".

Many airplanes of the type shown in Figures 2 and 4 were supplied by American manufacturers to the Allies during the great European War.

Pictured is pages from *Military Aeronautics*, containing photographs of typical European military dirigibles, which Van Herling mentioned.

From the story:

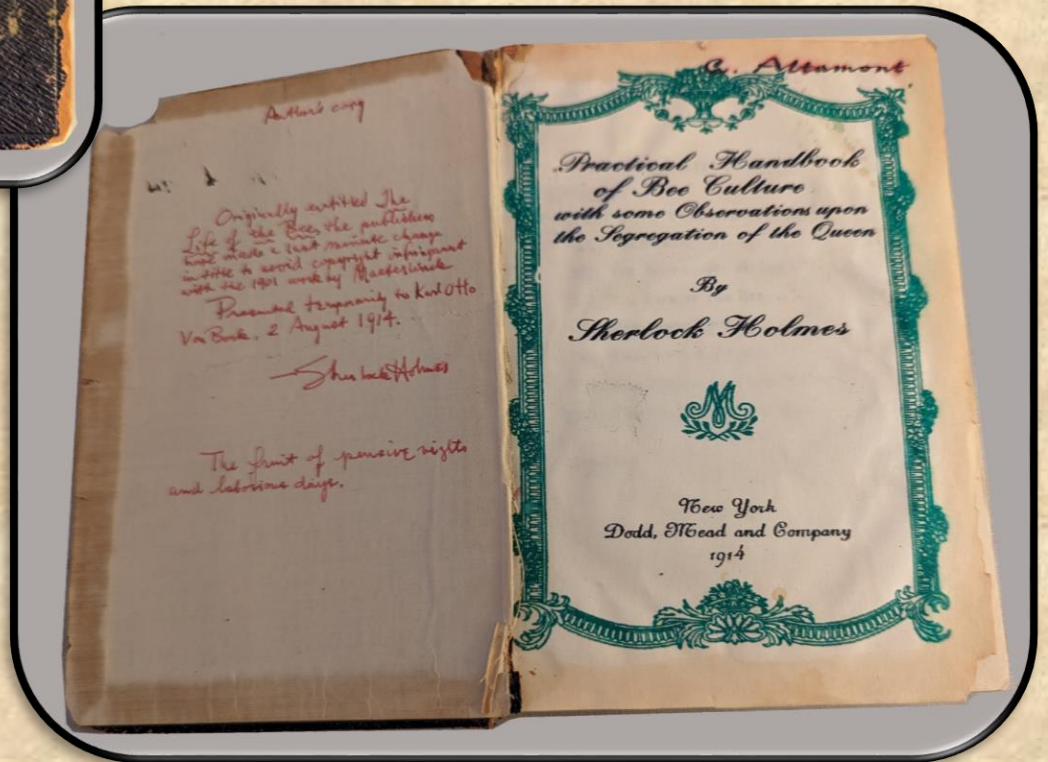
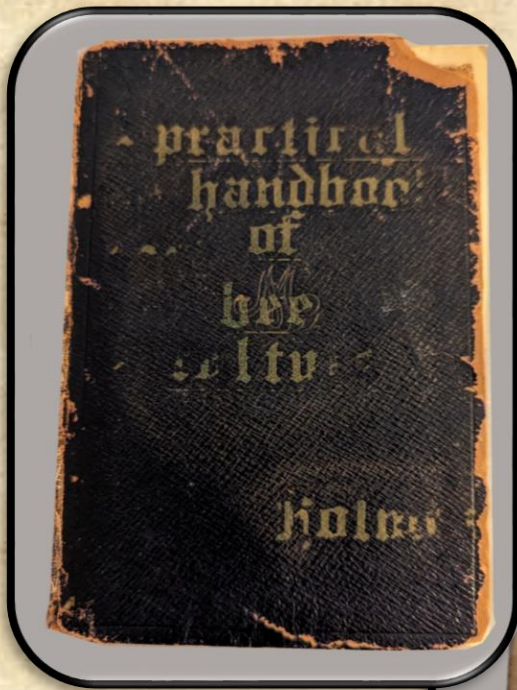
‘The heavens, too, may not be quite so peaceful if all that the good Zeppelin promises us comes true.’



Pictured is Von Bork's last payment to Altamont for his spying actions. Holmes thought best to cash it before payment was stopped.

From the story:

He sat down at the table and scribbled a cheque, which he tore from the book, but he refrained from handing it to his companion.



Pictured is Holmes' magnum opus on Bee-Keeping, which he presented to Van Bork.

From the story:

Then he sat gazing for a moment in silent amazement at a small blue book which lay before him. Across the cover was printed in golden letters *Practical Handbook of Bee Culture*.



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Pictured is the bottle of Tokaji Aszu from the Schoenbrunn Palace wine cellars, which Holmes and Watson toasted to after the capture of Von Bork.

From the story:

‘Another glass, Watson!’ said Mr. Sherlock Holmes, as he extended the bottle of Imperial Tokay.

‘It is a good wine, Holmes.’

‘A remarkable wine, Watson. Our friend upon the sofa has assured me that it is from Franz Joseph's special cellar at the Schoenbrunn Palace.’



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Pictured is the bottle of chloroform, as well as the sponge, used to bring down Von Bork.

From the story:

The next he was gripped at the back of his neck by a grasp of iron, and a chloroformed sponge was held in front of his writhing face.



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Pictured is an ashtray and box of matches from the Claridge Hotel.

From the story:

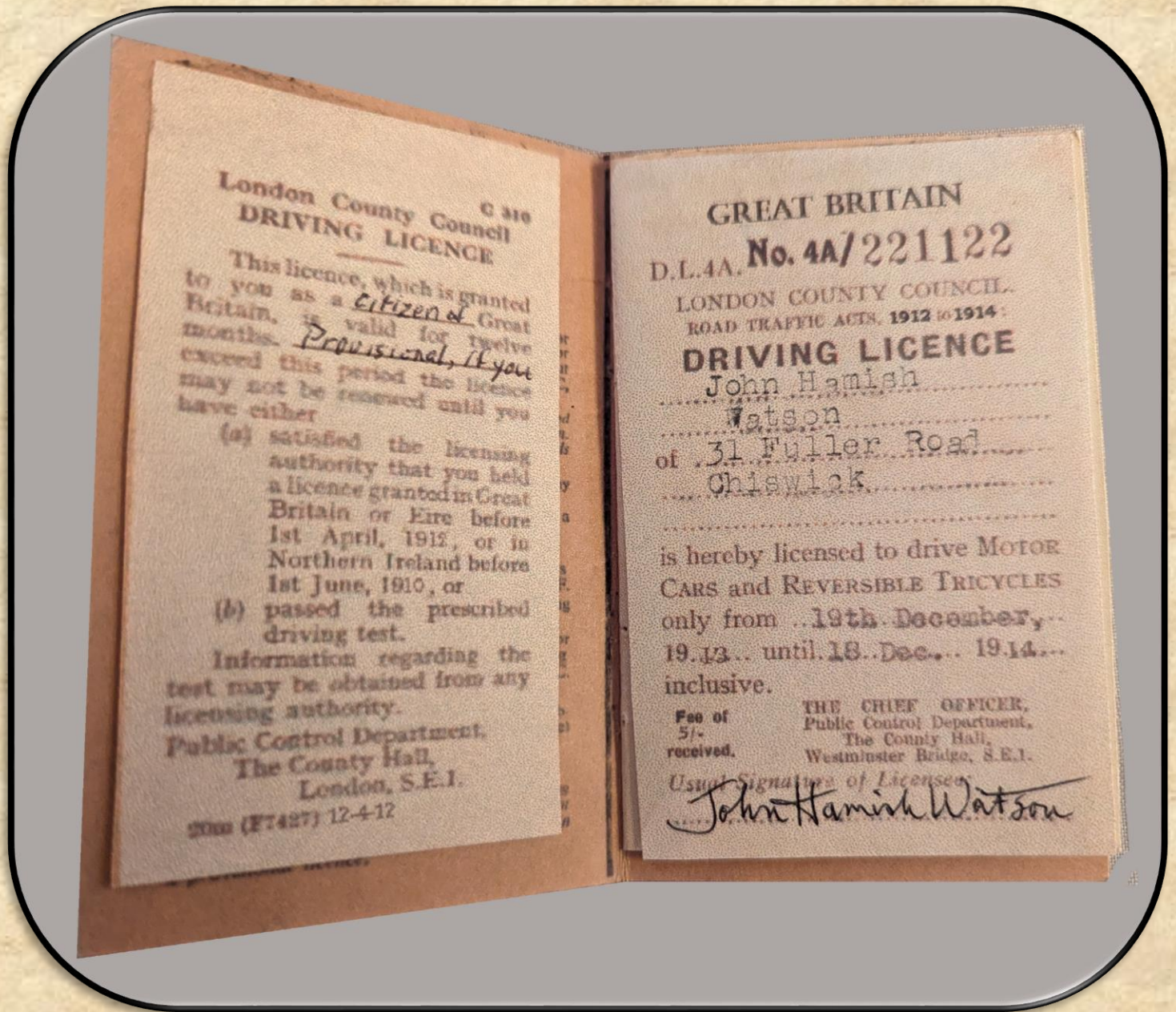
‘Well, it only meant that we waited half an hour or so until I saw your lamp go out and knew that the coast was clear. You can report to me tomorrow in London, Martha, at Claridge's Hotel.’



Pictured is a certificate for the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Holmes joined an Irish secret society at Buffalo as part of his cover as Altamont.

From the story:

‘When I say that I started my pilgrimage at Chicago, graduated in an Irish secret society at Buffalo.’

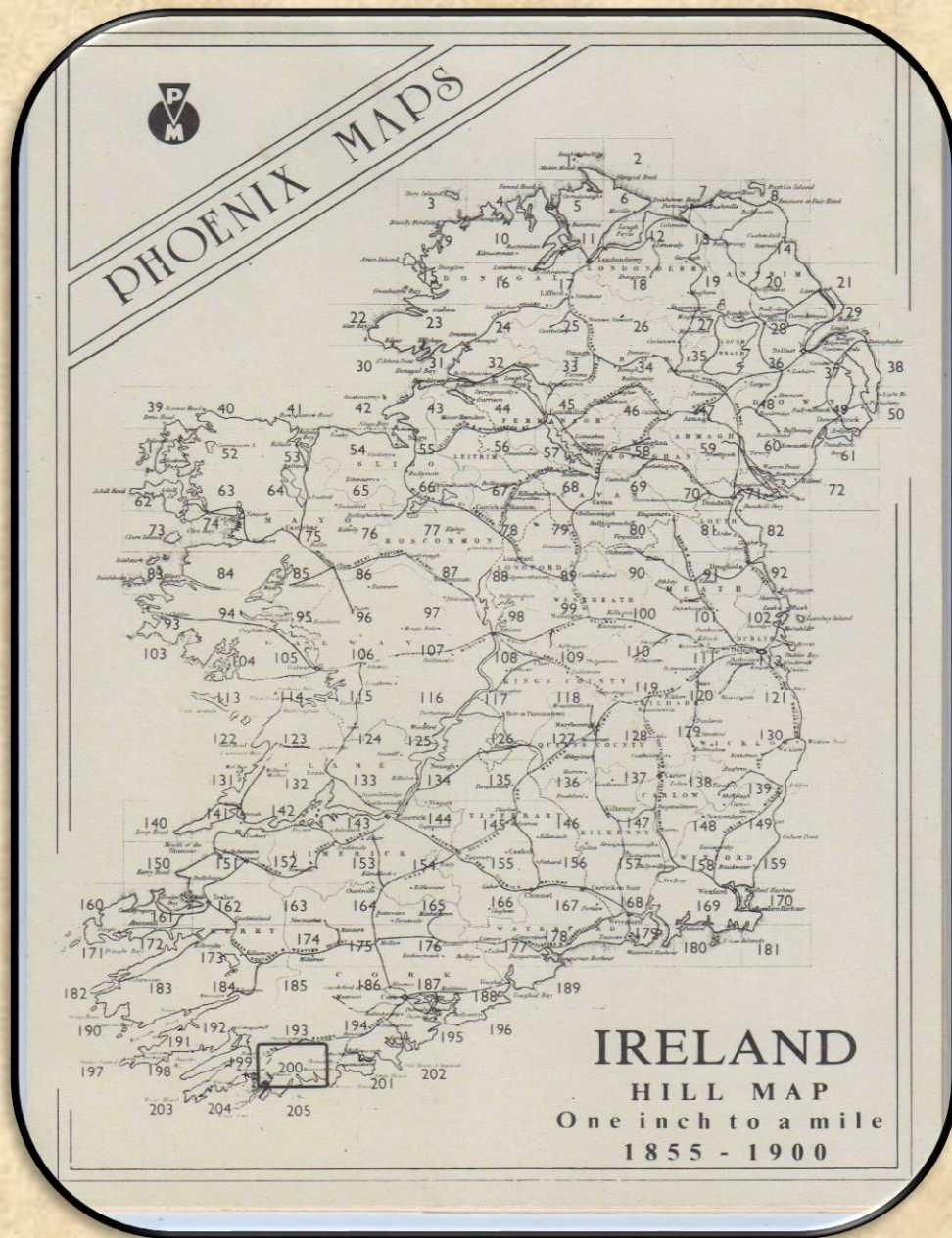


Pictured is John Watson's drivers license.

From the story:

'I feel twenty years younger, Holmes. I have seldom felt so happy as when I got your wire asking me to meet you at Harwich with the car.'





Pictured is the map of Ireland which Holmes made use of. As part of his Irish-American cover, Holmes, had traveled to Ireland.

From the story:

‘When I say that I started my pilgrimage at Chicago, graduated in an Irish secret society at Buffalo, gave serious trouble to the constabulary at Skibbureen...’

QUEENSTOWN.

NATIONAL, CANIAN, AND FOREIGN ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED. THIS SHIP IS FOR FOREIGN PASSENGERS.

QUEENSTOWN.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U. S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, to be delivered to the U. S. Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

Table with columns for name, age, sex, occupation, birthplace, and arrival details. Includes entries for various passengers like 'Marilyn Bernard', 'Eust Williams', and 'Charles Altamont'.

53480 Charles Altamont 58 M S Mech: Yes Yes Charles

Pictured is the ship's manifest of the RMS Caronia, containing details of one passenger, Charles Altamont, automobile mechanic, from Sussex to Chicago, 1912. This was part of Holmes establishing his cover identity.

From the story: 'When I say that I started my pilgrimage at Chicago...'



Pictured is the certificate given to Holmes as a certified bee-keeper.

From the story:

'But you had retired, Holmes. We heard of you as living the life of a hermit among your bees and your books in a small farm upon the South Downs.'



Pictured is the forged Passbook of Charles Altamont used by Holmes to travel to the States.

From the story:

'As my speech surely shows you, Mr. Altamont of Chicago had no existence in fact. I used him and he is gone.'

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Additional items of interest  
in “His Last Bow” not  
included in the original  
Evidence Box.

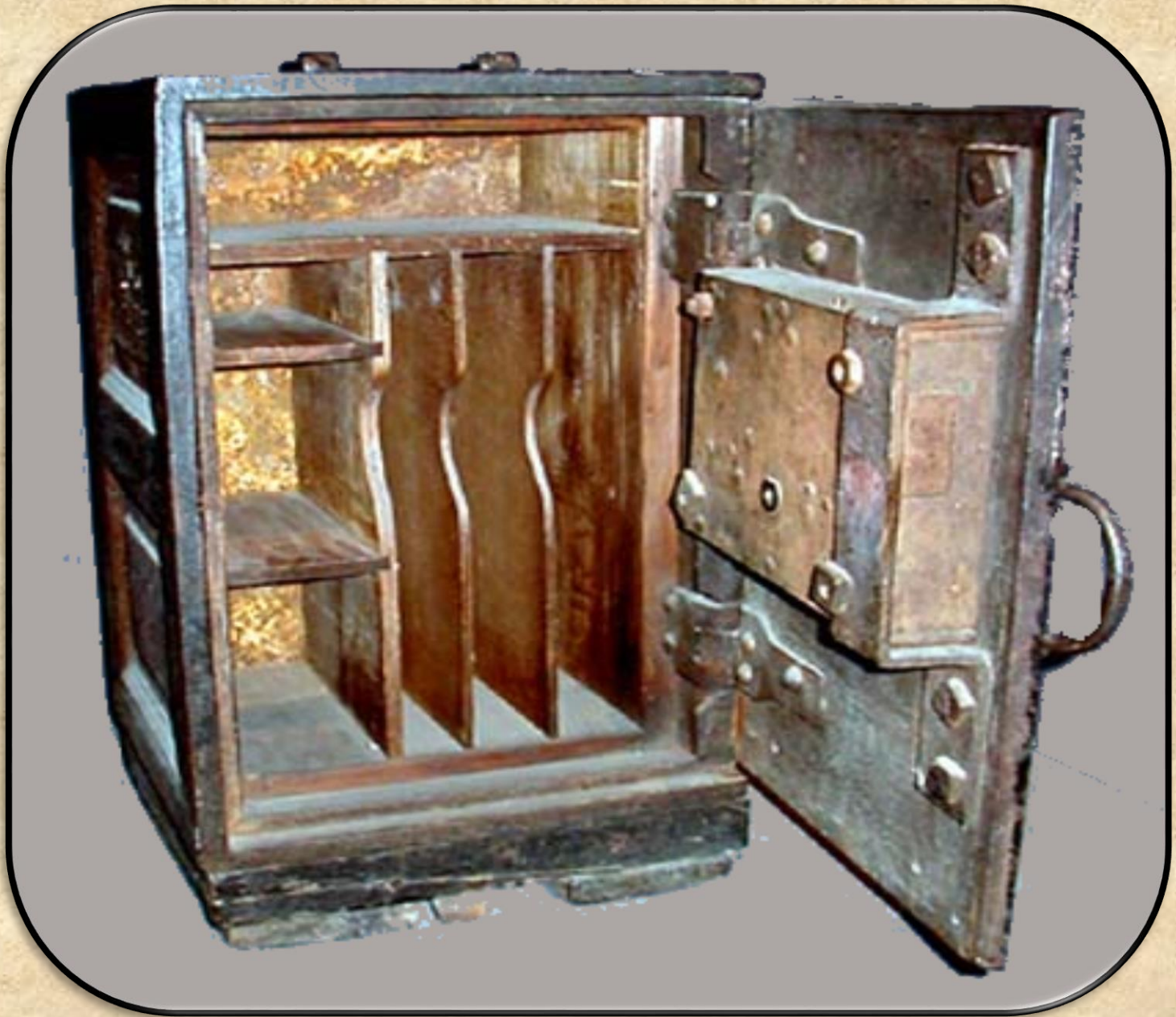


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Pictured is a postal card from Olympia, a multi-purpose event centre, where Von Bork would compete in four-in-hand, an equestrian event.

From the story:

‘You yacht against them, you hunt with them, you play polo, you match them in every game, your four-in-hand takes the prize at Olympia.’



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Pictured is the safe in which Von Bork stored all the codes and documents he had gathered as a spy.

From the story:

When this was drawn it disclosed a large brass-bound safe.

The light shone vividly into the opened safe, and the secretary of the Embassy gazed with an absorbed interest at the rows of stuffed pigeon-holes with which it was furnished.



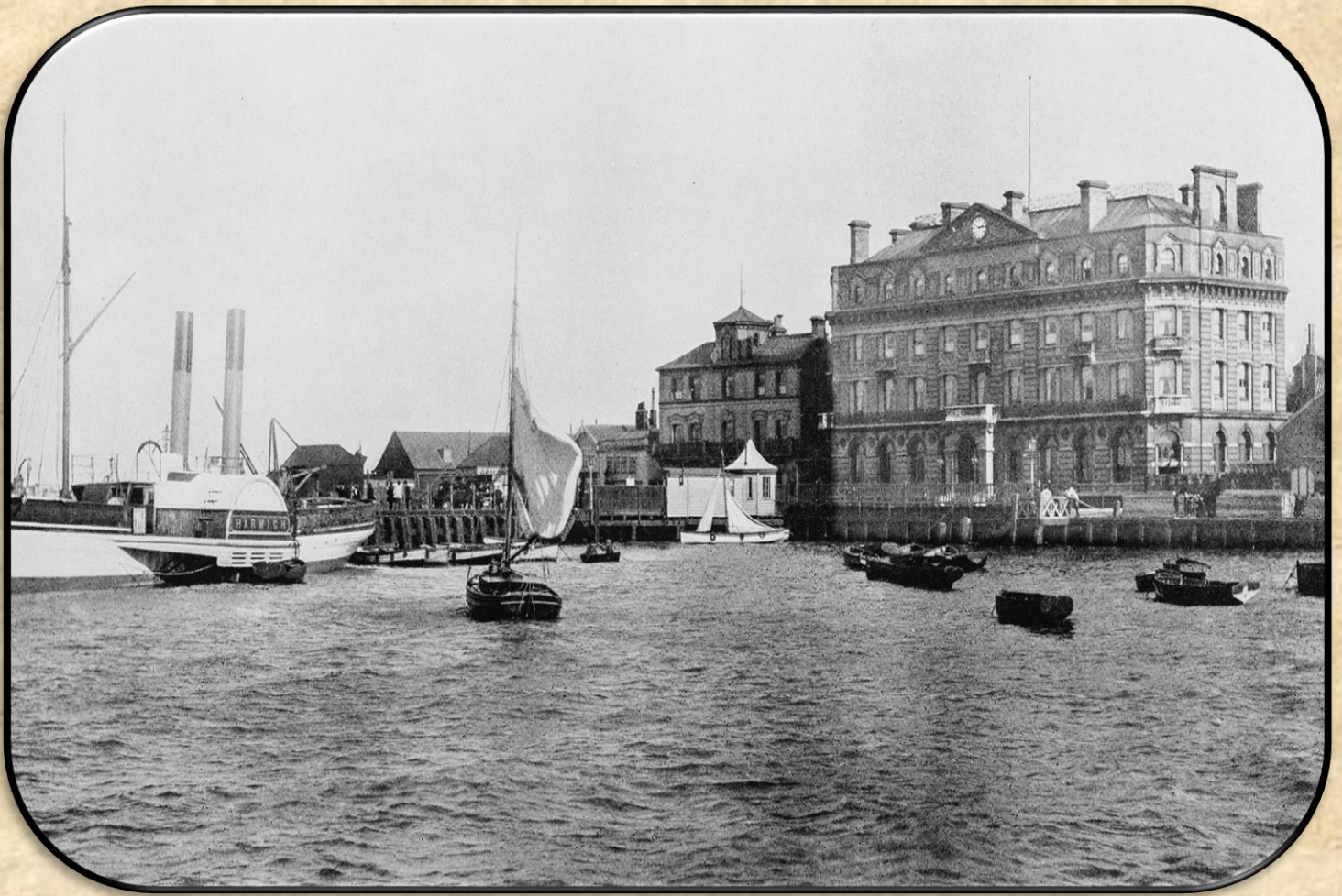
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Pictured is the German Embassy in London, located at Carlton Terrace.

From the story:

‘You can imagine that things are moving at present in Carlton Terrace and that we have all to be at our posts.’



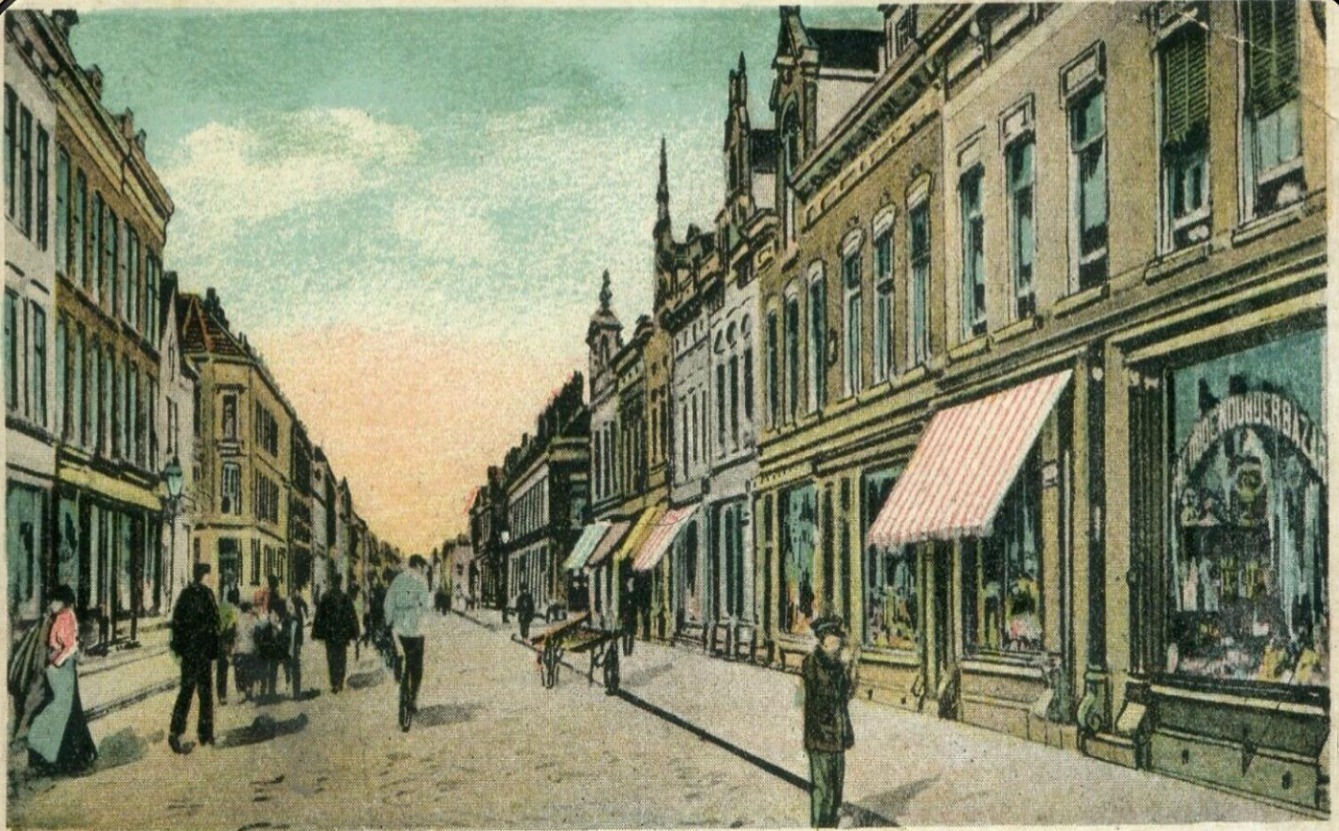


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Pictured is a postal card for the town of Harwich, England.

From the story:

‘Those are the lights of Harwich, I suppose,’ said the secretary, pulling on his dust coat. ‘How still and peaceful it all seems.’



ROTTERDAM

Noordmolenstraat.

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Pictured is a postal card of Rotterdam, Holland, where Altamont planned to migrate from England.

From the story:

‘It's me for little Holland, and the sooner the better.’

‘You've done splendid work and taken risks and I can't forget it. By all means go to Holland, and you can get a boat from Rotterdam to New York.’

*'Good old Watson! You are the one fixed point in a changing age. There's an east wind coming all the same, such a wind as never blew on England yet. It will be cold and bitter, Watson, and a good many of us may wither before its blast. But it's God's own wind none the less, and a cleaner, better, stronger land will lie in the sunshine when the storm has cleared.*

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Pictured is Holmes' final statement of the story, as he and Watson stand out on the terrace and look over the Channel.