

Adventure LVII – The Adventure of the Illustrious Client



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.

CHARING CROSS

TURKISH BATHS



(NEVILL'S.)

Gentlemen's Entrance, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE

SEPARATE BATH FOR LADIES.

Entrance, Northumberland Passage, Craven Street, Strand.

PRONOUNCED TO BE THE FINEST IN EUROPE.

ADMISSION, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., 3s. 6d. ; after 7 p.m., 2

These Baths stand on what was formerly part of the grounds of Northumberland House, occupied nearly three years in building, and involved an expenditure of £30,000. They comprise a suite of Bath Rooms, having a floor space of about twelve thousand feet for gentlemen, with a smaller set in a separate contiguous building for the exclusive use of ladies. The cooling rooms, which are surmounted by a lofty dome designed to permit the free circulation of air and to insure perfect ventilation, are fitted in a most luxurious manner; the whole of the decorations of both cooling and hot rooms have been designed by most eminent authorities while the heating and ventilation of the hot chambers is brought to a state of perfection by the use of the system first introduced by the Proprietors.

And at LONDON BRIDGE, NEW BROAD STREET, ALDGATE,
and EDGWARE ROAD.

Pictured is an advertisement for the Turkish Bath Holmes and Watson would frequent.

From the story:

Both Holmes and I had a weakness for the Turkish Bath.



Pictured are the spats Sir Damery wore over his well-polished shoes when he met with Holmes and Watson.

From the story:

His lucent top-hat, his dark frock-coat, indeed, every detail, from the pearl pin in the black satin cravat to the lavender spats over the varnished shoes, spoke of the meticulous care in dress for which he was famous.



Pictured is an envelope and letter on Hurlingham Club stationery from the General Secretary to Aldelbert Gruner terminating the latter's membership, citing the adverse publicity arising from the mysterious death of Gruner's wife

From the story:

'For a short time he played polo at Hurlingham, but then this Prague affair got noised about and he had to leave.'



Pictured is the matchbook from Simpson's, where Holmes met with Watson prior to meeting with Porky Shinwell and Kitty Winter to plan their strategy against Gruner.

From the story:

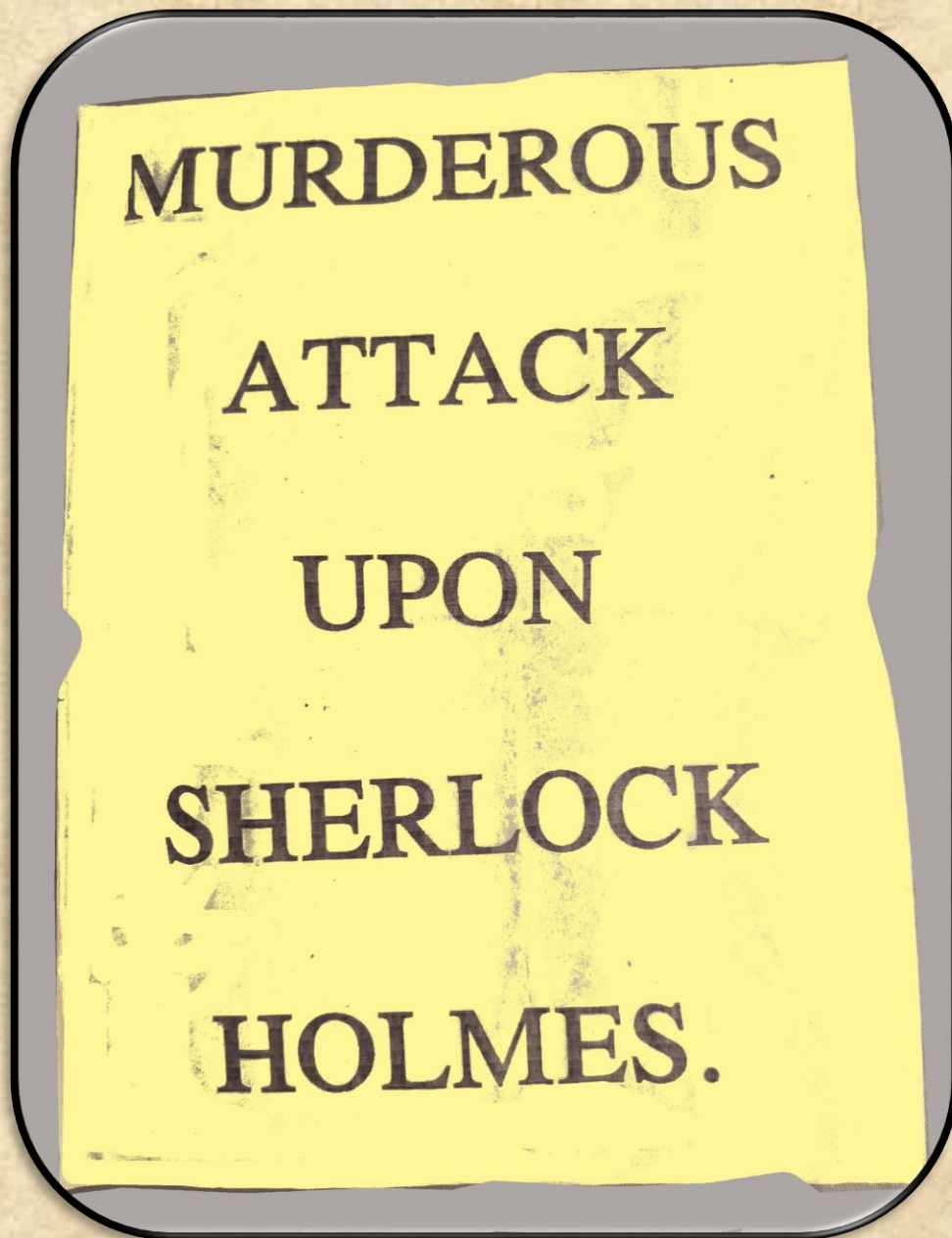
...but I met him by appointment that evening at Simpson's, where, sitting at a small table in the front window, and looking down at the rushing stream of life in the Strand, he told me something of what had passed.



Pictured is a photo of Baron Gruner and his late wife, who died under mysterious circumstances. Holmes suspected Gruner of murder.

From the story:

‘Considering that he undoubtedly murdered his last wife, I should say it mattered very much.’



Pictured is the yellow newspaper flysheet announcing the attack on Holmes, which Watson spotted on the street.

From the story:

There, black upon yellow, was the terrible news-sheet:

MURDEROUS ATTACK UPON SHERLOCK HOLMES



Pictured is a tea towel depicting Charing Cross Station, where Watson first spotted the newspaper headline announcing Holmes' injuries.

From the story:

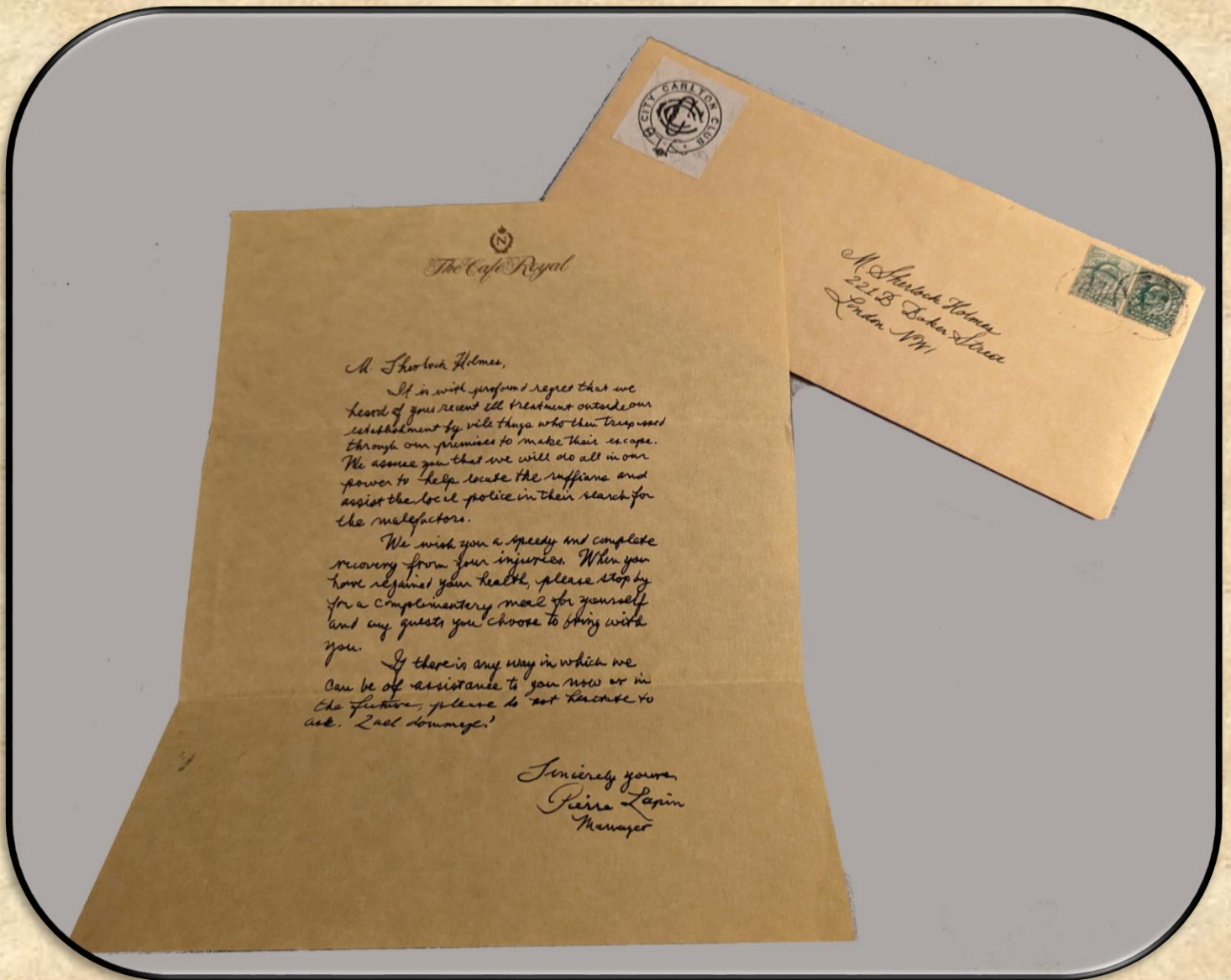
It was between the Grand Hotel and Charing Cross Station, where a one-legged news-vendor displayed his evening papers.



Pictured is a luggage label from the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, where Watson first noticed the newspaper announcing Holmes' attack.

From the story:

It was between the Grand Hotel and Charing Cross Station, where a one-legged news-vendor displayed his evening papers.



Pictured is a letter on Café Royal letterhead stationery from the Manager to Holmes stating his regret over the ill treatment which Holmes had received outside the restaurant and offering complimentary meals for Holmes and guests.

From the story:

There are no exact details to hand, but the event seems to have occurred about twelve o'clock in Regent Street, outside the Café Royal.

MURDEROUS ATTACK UPON SHERLOCK HOLMES

We learn with regret that Mr Sherlock Holmes, the well-known private detective, was the victim this morning of a murderous assault which has left him in a precarious position. There are no exact details to hand, but the event seems to have occurred about twelve o'clock in Regent Street, outside the Café Royal. The attack was made by two men armed with sticks, and Mr Holmes was beaten about the head and body, receiving injuries which the doctors describe as most serious. He was carried to Charing Cross Hospital, and afterwards insisted upon being taken to his rooms in Baker Street. The miscreants who attacked him appear to have been respectably dressed men, who escaped from the bystanders by passing through the Café Royal and out into Glasshouse Street behind it. No doubt they belonged to that criminal fraternity which has so often had occasion to bewail the activity and ingenuity of the injured man.

Pictured are the newspaper reports on Holmes' attack and slow recovery.

From the story:

Then I have a confused recollection of snatching at a paper, of the remonstrance of the man, whom I had not paid, and, finally, of standing in the doorway of a chemist's shop while I turned up the fateful paragraph.

GRIM PROGNOSIS

Condition of Famous Detective Fails to Improve

It has been a week since the violent attack on the famous private detective took place and Sir Leslie Oakshott, the famous surgeon, reports that Sherlock Holmes' condition continues to deteriorate. The good doctor fears that erysipelas of the skin around the head wounds could seriously hamper the healing of the wounds, and that the weakened state of his patient could lead to more serious complications.

Mr. Holmes was accosted on September 4th by two thugs who escaped the scene in front of the Grand Café Royal on Regent Street. Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard has said that the police have made no progress in identifying the attackers.

Pictured is one of the newspaper articles reporting on Holmes' grim recovery.

From the story:

For six days the public were under the impression that Holmes was at the door of death. The bulletins were very grave and there were sinister paragraphs in the papers.



Pictured is the pipe and tobacco slipper Holmes asked Watson to place on the table when Watson was visiting Holmes at Baker Street after Holmes was attacked

From the story:

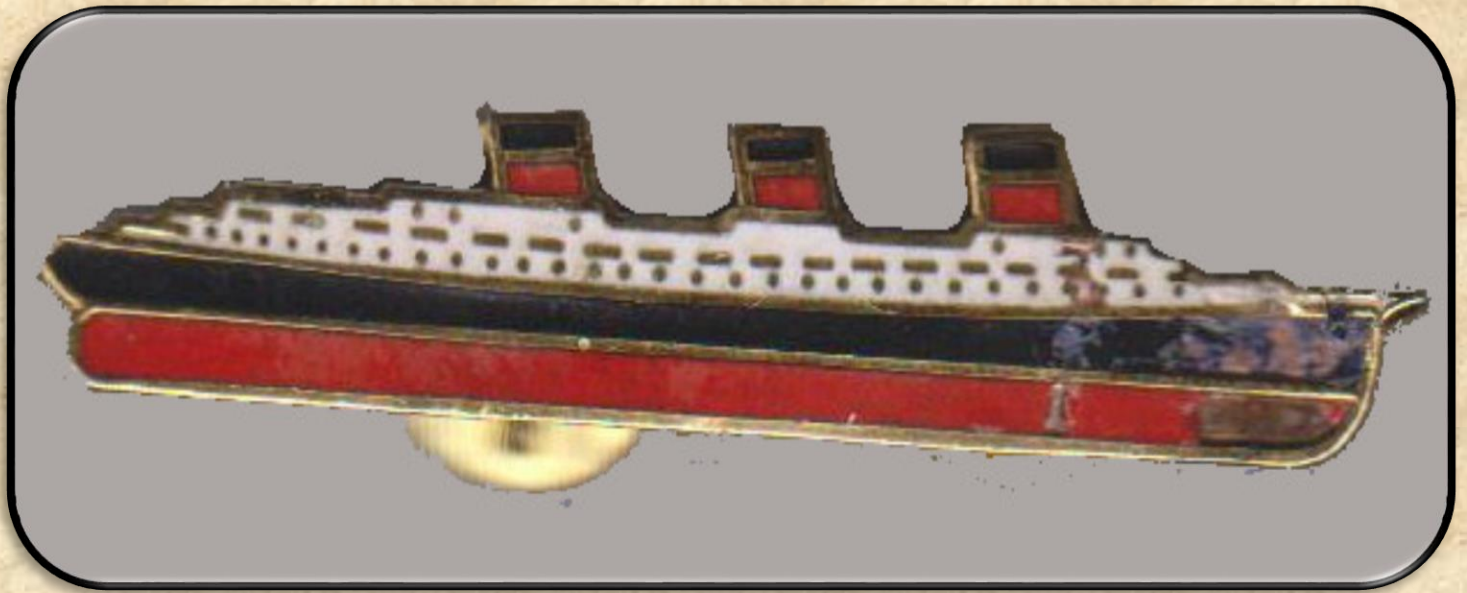
‘Put my pipe on the table - and the tobacco-slipper. Right!’



Pictured is the booklet, *Over the Ocean*, on the North German Lloyd Line, a Manual of Ocean Travel, NY, 1896, containing an illustration on the back cover of the funnels and house flags of the principal passenger steamship lines of the day in colour.

From the story:

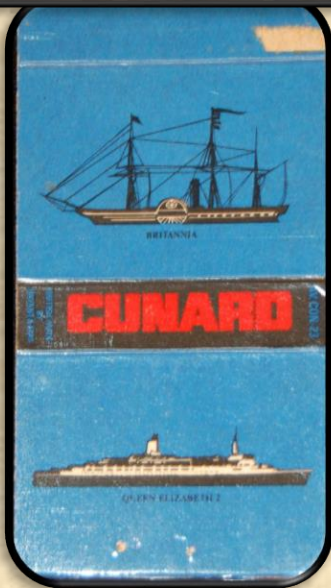
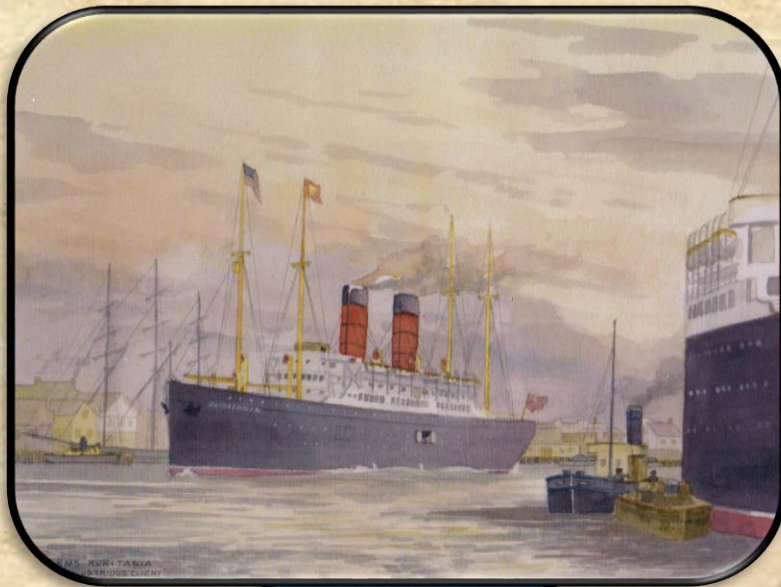
The same evening papers had an announcement... It was simply that among the passengers on the Cunard boat *Ruritania*, starting from Liverpool on Friday, was the Baron Adelbert Gruner, who had some important financial business to settle in the States...



Pictured is a pin for the Ruritania, the ship Gruner planned to sail to the United States.

From the story:

The same evening papers had an announcement... It was simply that among the passengers on the Cunard boat Ruritania, starting from Liverpool on Friday, was the Baron Adelbert Gruner, who had some important financial business to settle in the States...



Pictured is the postal card for the Ruritanian, postal cards for Cunard Ship Lines, and a match book for the shipping line.

From the story:

The same evening papers had an announcement... It was simply that among the passengers on the Cunard boat Ruritanian, starting from Liverpool on Friday, was the Baron Adelbert Gruner, who had some important financial business to settle in the States...



Cunard Line.

LIST OF SALOON PASSENGERS
PER
R.M.S. "RURITANIA"
CAPT. HENRY WALKER, (Lieut. R.N.R.)
Surgeon, S. E. P. CADE. Purser, T. FLEEMING.
Chief Steward, DAVID GORE.

Liverpool to New York. September 19, 1902

<p>Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Andrews, ✕</p> <p>Mr. George Armstrong,</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. Robt. S. Bradley,</p> <p>Mr. Jas. Barrell, Mr. F. L. Barrows, Mr. Jos. E. Bolton, Miss Bolton, Mr. F. Bolton,</p> <p>Rev. M. J. Casey, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. L. Clarke, Mr. J. E. Cooper, ✕</p> <p>Miss Violet de Merville</p> <p>Mr. W. P. Dodge, Mrs. W. P. Dodge, infant, and maid,</p> <p>Mr. Thos. Elliott,</p> <p>Mr. E. Fontaine, Mr. Fred. Fazzie,</p>	<p>Mr. F. Girdlestone, Mr. P. Penn Gaskell, Miss Josie Gray, ✕</p> <p>Baron Adelbert Gruner</p> <p>Rev. I. N. W. Ivine, D.D., Mrs. I. N. W. Ivine, ✕</p> <p>Miss Annie Ivine,</p> <p>Mr. John Johnson,</p> <p>Mr. D. T. Keymer, Mr. J. A. M. Kruight,</p> <p>Mrs. M. E. Legree, Mr. C. R. Leaycraft,</p> <p>Mr. Harry Moore, Mr. and Mrs. ✕</p> <p>Arthur A. McLean, ✕</p> <p>Mr. Felix T. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. ✕ <i>Riches</i></p> <p>L. B. Mattison, ✕ <i>n.J.</i></p> <p>Mr. Geo. C. Magoun, Mr. Henry Mayer, Miss Carrie H. McDowell, ✕</p> <p>Mr. H. M. McGregor, Mr. Jas. I. Morrison,</p>
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Pictured is the salon passenger list for the Ruritania, listing Baron Gruner, but later his name is crossed off the list.

From the story:
The same evening papers had an announcement... It was simply that among the passengers on the Cunard boat Ruritania.

SHERLOCK HOLMES
CONSULTING DETECTIVE

221 B BAKER STREET LONDON W1

Dr. Hill Barton

369 Half Moon Street

Westminster
London W

John H. Watson, M.D.
General Practice and Surgery

Queen Anne Street London, W

Pictured are the visiting, or calling, cards for Holmes, Watson, and Dr. Barton.

From the story:

‘There was no difficulty about that, for I simply sent in my card.’
Holmes handed me a card upon which was printed: ‘Dr Hill Barton, 369, Half Moon Street.’

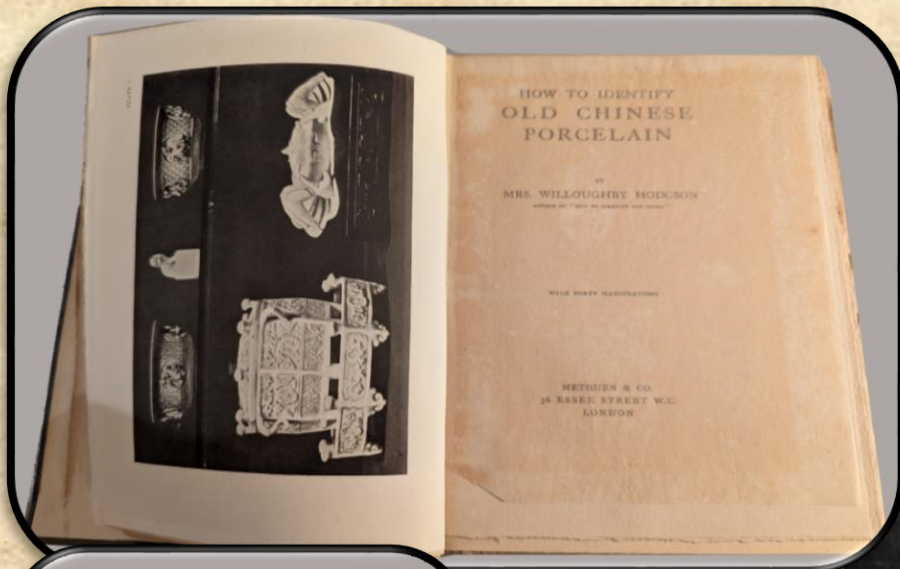
An inspector of police had also arrived, and to him I handed my real card.



Pictured is the valuable Ming artifact borrowed by Holmes to try to lure Gruner into a conversation with Watson posing as the Chinese Pottery collector, Dr, Hill Barton.

From the story:

‘It needs careful handling, Watson. This is the real eggshell pottery of the Ming dynasty.’



DATE LOANED	BORROWER'S NAME	DATE RETURNED
	<i>Hodgson, Mrs. Willoughby</i>	
	<i>How to Identify Old Chinese Porcelain</i>	
	<i>Withdrawn</i>	
	<i>Lomax</i>	
<i>15-6-02</i>	<i>Adoria Braithwaite</i>	<i>27-6-02</i>
<i>7-7-02</i>	<i>Mrs. Louisa Johnson</i>	<i>9-7-02</i>
<i>6-8-02</i>	<i>A. Brewer</i>	<i>12-8-02</i>
<i>15-9-02</i>	<i>John T. Watson</i>	<i>17-9-02</i>

Withdrawn from circulation on instruction from H. M. Government in grateful appreciation to Messrs Hobbs & Watson for services rendered, and presents to them as a token of thanks. Presented to "Dr. Hill Burton" with the Library's compliments.

Pictured is How to Identify Old China Porcelain, the book used by Watson to learn about Chinese Pottery.

From the story:

Finally I drove to the London Library in St James's Square, put the matter to my friend Lomax, the sub-librarian, and departed to my rooms with a goodly volume under my arm.



Pictured is the 'lust diary' of the Baron's, the tract Holmes was searching for when he broke into Gruner's house. Kitty Winter advised Holmes of the book.

From the story:

'Or his lust diary. Call it what you will. The moment the woman told us of it I realized what a tremendous weapon was there, if we could but lay our hands on it.'



Pictured is the empty bottle which contained the vitriol, or sulfuric acid, which Kitty Winter threw into Gruner's face.

From the story:

The vitriol was eating into it everywhere and dripping from the ears and the chin. One eye was already white and glazed. The other was red and inflamed.

VITRIOL THROWING CASE OVER

The police-court hearing of the proceedings against of Miss Kitty Winter ended today with the accused getting an unusually mild sentence for the crime of Vitriol-throwing. Testimony of Mr. Sherlock Holmes and other character witnesses describing extenuating circumstances are believed to have influenced the surprising result.

CRIME

Pictured is the newspaper article which summarized the criminal hearing against Kitty Winter for the throwing of vitriol.

From the story:

The same paper had the first police-court hearing of the proceedings against Miss Kitty Winter on the grave charge of vitriol-throwing.

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



Pictured is a postal card from Queen Anne Street, where Watson had moved to after leaving Baker Street.

From the story:

I was living in my own rooms in Queen Anne Street at the time, but I was round at Baker Street before the time named.

Spilug. Splügen Pass.



Pictured is a postal card from Splügen Pass, Switzerland, where Mrs. Gruner, the Baron's wife, met her death.

From the story:

'I am as sure that he killed his wife when the so-called 'accident' happened in the Splügen Pass as if I had seen him do it.'



Pictured is a photo of Charlie Peace, an English burglar and murderer, who embarked on a life of crime after being maimed in an industrial accident as a boy. Wainwright was a brushmaker who murdered his mistress Harriet Lane in September 1874 and buried her body in a warehouse he owned.

From the story:

‘My old friend Charlie Peace was a violin virtuoso. Wainwright was no mean artist.’



PARKHURST PRISON.—GENERAL VIEW.

Pictured is a postal card of Parkhurst Prison, on the Isle of Wight. The prison served as the residence of Shinwell Johnson for two terms.

From the story:

Johnson, I grieve to say, made his name first as a very dangerous villain and served two terms at Parkhurst.



Pictured is a postal card for Berkley Square, London. General De Merville and his daughter, Violet, reside there.

From the story:

‘...so that at half-past five a cab deposited us outside 104 Berkeley Square, where the old soldier resides - one of those awful grey London castles which would make a church seem frivolous.’



Pictured are logos for Christie's and Sotheby's, two of the largest auction houses in London.

From the story:

'I could perhaps suggest that the set should be valued by an expert.'

'Excellent, Watson! You scintillate today. Suggest Christie or Sotheby. Your delicacy prevents your putting a price for yourself.'



Pictured is a color print of Emperor Shomu, who was the 45th emperor of Japan. His reign spanned the years 724 through 749, during the Nara period.

From the story:

I would ask you what do you know of the Emperor Shomu and how do you associate him with the Shoso-in near Nara? Dear me, does that puzzle you?