

Adventure LX – The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire



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.



FERGUSON & MUIRHEAD
tea BROKERS
purveyors of fine
teas from ceylon
india & china

Mincing Lane, London, W .2

Pictured is a small box of Ferguson & Muirhead, Tea Brokers, blueberry tea. Ferguson was the head of a tea brokerage.

From the story:

Our client, Mr Robert Ferguson, of Ferguson & Muirhead, tea brokers, of Mincing Lane, has made some inquiry from us in a communication of even date concerning vampires.

Mr. Sherlock Holmes Esq.
221b Baker Street,
London.



MORRISON, MORRISON, AND DODD,
Solicitors to Industry,

offices at:
46, Old Jewry,
London EC.

Nov. 19th 1896.

Re Vampires.

Sir,--

Our client, Mr Robert Ferguson, of Ferguson & Muirhead, tea brokers, of Mincing Lane, has made some enquiry from us in a communication of even date concerning vampires. As our firm specializes entirely upon the assessment of machinery the matter hardly comes within our purview, and we have therefore recommended Mr. Ferguson to call upon you and lay the matter before you. We have not forgotten your successful action in the case of Matilda Briggs.

We are, Sir, faithfully yours,

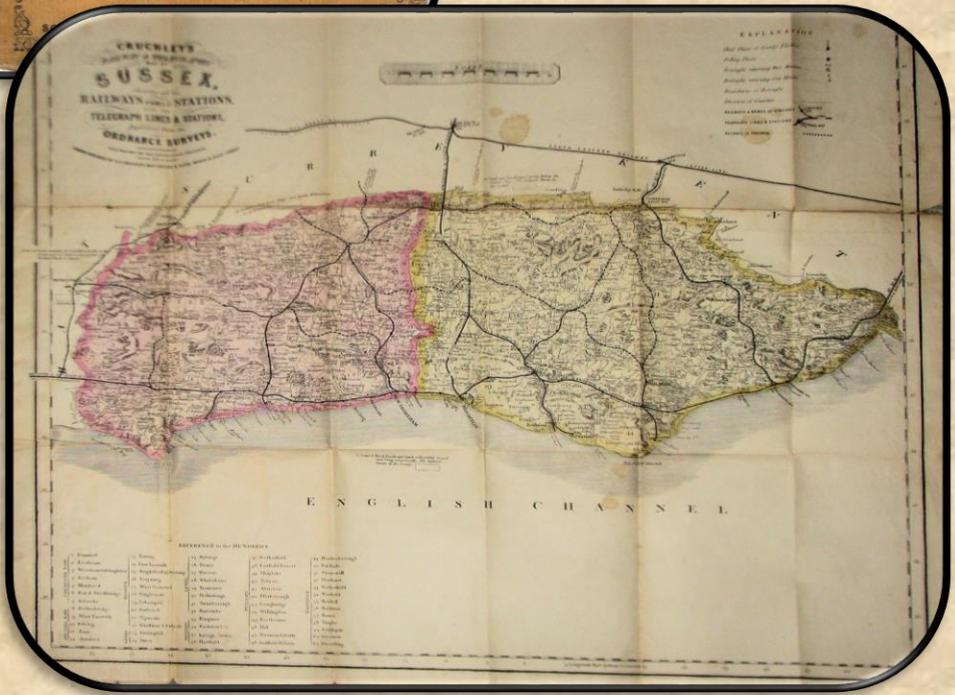
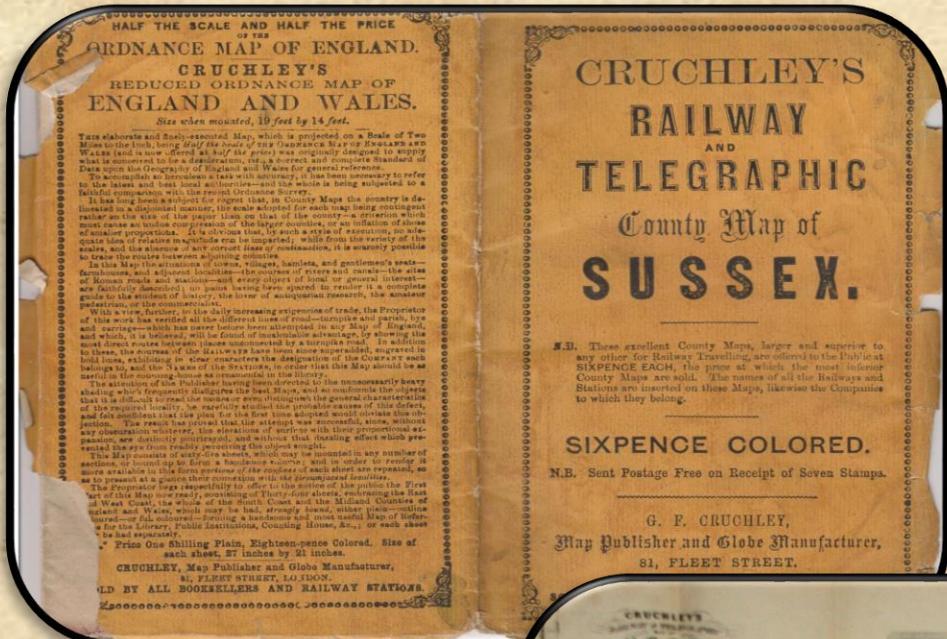
MORRISON, MORRISON, and DODD.

Pictured is the letter of introduction to Holmes from Ferguson's solicitors concerning vampires.

From the story:

Our client, Mr Robert Ferguson, of Ferguson & Muirhead, tea brokers, of Mincing Lane, has made some inquiry from us in a communication of even date concerning vampires...

We are, Sir, Faithfully yours, MORRISON, MORRISON, AND DODD



Pictured is Cruchley's Railway and Telegraphic County Map of Sussex, sixpence, colored, which was helpful for Holmes and Watson to their visit to Sussex.

From the story:
 'Cheeseman's, Lamberley. Where is Lamberley, Watson?'
 'It is in Sussex, south of Horsham.'



To
 Mr. Herbert Holmes
 221 B Baker Street
 London.

Cheeseman's
 Lambeth

November 20th
 1876.

Dear Mr Holmes

I have been recommended to you by my lawyers, but indeed the matter is so extraordinarily delicate that it is most difficult to discuss. It concerns a friend for whom I am writing. This gentleman married some five years ago a foreign lady, the daughter of a Portuguese merchant whom he had not in common with the reputation of a native. The lady was very beautiful, but the fact of her foreign birth and of her alien religion has always caused a separation of interest and of feeling between husband and wife, so that after a time his taste may have cooled towards her and he may have come to regard their union as a mistake. He felt there were sides of her character which he could never explore or understand. This was the more painful as she was as loving a wife as a man could have to all appearance absolutely devoted.

Now for the point which I shall make more plain when we meet. Indeed, this note is merely to give you a general idea of the situation and to ascertain whether you would care to interest yourself in the matter.

The lady began to show some amorous traits quite alien to her ordinarily sweet and gentle disposition. The gentleman had been married twice and he had one son by the first. This boy was now fifteen, a very charming and affectionate youth, though unluckily injured through an incident of childhood. Twice the child was caught in the act of assaulting this poor lady in the most impudic way. Once she struck him with a stick and left a great welt on his arm.

This was a small matter, however, compared with her conduct to her own child, a dear boy just under one year of age. On one occasion about a month ago this child had been left by its nurse for a few minutes. A foot came from the baby's side of the nurse's back. As she ran into the room she saw her employer, the lady leaning over the baby and apparently biting his neck. There was a small wound in the neck, from which a stream of blood had escaped. The nurse was so horrified that she wished to call the husband, but the lady explained her not to do so, and actually gave her five pounds as a peace for her silence. No explanation was ever given, and for the moment the matter was passed over.

It left, however, a terrible impression upon the nurse's mind, and from that time she began to watch her mistress closely, not to be a slave, but to be a spy.

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compelled to leave the lady alone the nurse was waiting to get it. Day and night the nurse covered the child, and day and night the distant watchful mother seemed to be lying in wait as a wolf waits for a lamb. It must need seem incredible to you, and yet it lay upon me to take it seriously for a child's life and a man's sanity may depend upon it.

At last this case was decided. The nurse had given way; she could stand the strain no longer, and she made a clean breast of it all to the man. To him it seemed as wild a tale as it may now seem to you. He knew his wife to be a loving wife, and aware for the assaults upon her stepson, a British father. When then should she wound her own dear little baby? What led the nurse that she was deceiving that the suspicions were those of a lunatic, and that such wickedness upon her mistress were not to be tolerated. Whilst they were talking a sudden cry of pain was heard. Moore and master rushed together to the nursery. Imagine his feelings. Mr Holmes, as he saw her with one from a kneeling position, hands the cot, and saw blood upon the child's exposed neck and upon the sheet. With a cry of horror, he turned his white face to the light and saw blood all round her lips. He saw she - she beyond all question - who had drunk the poor baby's blood.

By the matter stands. He is now confined to her room. There has been no explanation. The husband so half-demented the honest, had I more little of Vampirism

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beyond the name. We had thought it was some wild tale of foreign parts. And yet here in the very heart of the English Sussex - well, all this can be discussed with you in the morning. Will you see me? Will you see your great pains in seeing a distracted man? If so, kindly write to Ferguson, Cheeseman's, Lambeth, and I will be at your rooms by ten o'clock.

Yours faithfully

Robert Ferguson.

P.S. I believe your friend Wilson played Rugby for Blackheath, what I was three-quarters for Richmond. It is the only personal introduction which I can give.

Pictured is Ferguson's follow-up letter to Holmes following that of his solicitors.

From the story:

He took up a second letter which had lain unnoticed upon the table whilst he had been absorbed with the first.



Bank of England

£53746
I promise to pay the Bearer on Demand
the Sum of Five Pounds

1890 March 19 London 19 March 1890

Five

For the Gov^r and Comp^{rs} of the
BANK of ENGLAND.

J May

Chief Cashier.

Pictured is one of the £5 notes Mrs. Ferguson bribed her nurse for not telling her husband she was biting her son's neck.

From the story:

The nurse was so horrified that she wished to call the husband, but the lady implored her not to do so, and actually gave her five pounds as a price for her silence.



Pictured are 2 photographs of young Jacky, one with Carlo, both with a cane/crutch at his side.

From the story:

The gentleman had been married twice and he had one son by the first wife. This boy was now fifteen, a very charming and affectionate youth, though unhappily injured through an accident in childhood.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS
(Inland Telegrams)

Prefix _____ Code _____ No. of Message _____

Office of Origin and Service Instructions: WIGMORE STREET POST OFFICE

Words: 9 Sent: 4.15 PM

Charge: 1/- Date: 12 NOV. 96

By: [Signature]

127
(A receipt for the charges on this telegram can be obtained upon request)

FROM Please Write Distinctly TO

SHERLOCK HOLMES AGENCY ROBERT FERGUSON

221B BAKER STREET CHEESEMAN'S

LONDON NW1 LAMBERLEY, SUSSEX

	WILL	EXAMINE	YOUR	CASE	WITH
11-	PLEASURE	HOLMES	AND	WATSON	
1/3					
1/6					

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, 1866, and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.
HARRISON & SONS, Printers, LONDON

Pictured is the telegram from Holmes to Robert Ferguson accepting the consultation.

From the story:
 'I never get your limits, Watson,' said he. 'There are unexplored possibilities about you. Take a wire down, like a good fellow. Will examine your case with pleasure.'

ndhurst led by a goal at half-time, and finally four goals to three. Amos was in grand form

Bowhill for Cambridge placed two goals from tries by Fitch and Morrison.

owing to the offside play by Yorkshire. W minute later got in under the posts, and England's

ended in a half Patti-rtly after the. The At Gainsle scoring. the play, centre by nsborough, ow, and a low by two and Heeve Northwich. he first ten en put in first half. You by the VICTORIA. two goals former by t weather. d five goals and neither ing by 12 o', in the ach. on, the vist- At Newton each being At Newton rs making y had much or Newton land shots. t. At half- on Rangers' ngers' goal, ghty added ce was hard as. Newton re resulted. tion Heath, This match ore a goodly ative team' ed. North- 10 minutes' ortly after bout scored four to one. d game was verely tried four goals; 35.—At Old- (Sand-ched

which was disallowed, a scandalous decision. They continued in in favour of North End, but their combination was sadly faulty, a strong contrast to their Cup form. They got several corners, from one of which Gordon scored, and the final result was:—North End, three; Accrington, one goal.

STOKE V. EVERTON.—Played at Stoke in dull weather, in presence of 2,000 spectators. The visitors were fully represented, but Stoke was without Clare. The home team kicked off, and the game became fast; however, Stoke scored the first goal, McCormick doing the needful. The game was continued in very even fashion, both custodians having to save. Just before half-time Christie was hurt and had to be carried off. In the second half the play was much better. Everton, thanks to Fowley and Seary, scored twice, and won by two goals to one.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION V. DERBY COUNTY.—At West Bromwich Derby pressed soon after the start and scored. Both goals were then frequently visited and play became very fast. Albion defence much trouble. A corner kick to Albion was near scoring. Shortly afterwards Derby County obtained a second goal. Albion played hard and had several near chances, but at half-time the score was 1.—Derby two, Albion one. Soon after the interval the visitors obtained a third goal, and Basset got second goal for Albion. Result:—Derby County, three goals; Albion, two goals.

RUGBY MATCHES.

From the Herald's Special Correspondents.

Many matches of first-class importance were played under Rugby rules yesterday, and the results of these, as well as of numerous contests of lesser significance, are appended:—

ASKAM V. KENDAL HORNETS.—At Askam, and won by the home team by one goal, one try, and three minors, to three minors.

BATLEY V. LEEDS PARISH CHURCH.—These clubs met at Batley, the home team winning by two goals, four tries, six minors, to one try, three minors. The scorers were:—Simms (2), Naylor (2), Farrar, for Batley. Haslam dropped goal. Clayton scored for Leeds.

BLACKHEATH V. SOMERSET COUNTY.—At Blackheath, before a large attendance. Owing to the late commencement only half an hour each way was played. The home side were much stronger and did all the pressing. Hubbard obtained a try for Blackheath which Stoddart converted. For some time in the second half Blackheath remained in the Somerset twenty-five, but at length Mermagen secured the ball and just managed to get over the Blackheath line. Hancock failed in the attempt to secure the major point. The game to the end was fast and exciting, nothing like so one-sided as in the first half. Result:—Blackheath, one goal; Somerset, one try.

BRADFORD V. KENSINGTON.—The Bradford Club, who were short of four players, away assisting the county, played Kensington (London), at Park Avenue. A good game ended with the score: Bradford, two goals, one try, two minors; Kensington, one goal, one minor. The try getters were Moore and Bonsor for Bradford, and Sharman dropped a goal. Dix got the visitors' try.

BRAMLEY V. HOLBECK.—Played at Bramley, and won by the home team, by one goal, one try, and three minors to two minors.

BRIGHOUSE RANGERS V. KIRKSTALL.—At Brighouse, the Rangers winning by four goals, two tries, and seven minors to one goal, one try, and two minors.

BURTON AND CARDIFF met at Burton. Up to half-time the game was very even, and each registered a minor. Burton played grandly in second half, and, with one man short, scored three times. Result:—Burton three goals to Cardiff's nine.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY V. HARLEQUINS took place on the Corpus Ground, Cambridge. The University won by two goals and one try to nothing. The game was very fast but nothing was scored for minutes. McDonald then got in for Cambridge but Wotherspoon failed with the place kick. In the second half the game was tolerably even till the last 10 minutes when

RADLIFF V. CROMPTON.—Played at Radcliff, the visitors suffering defeat by one goal, one try, and five minors, to nil.

RICHMOND V. OLD LEYSIANS.—A large interest was taken in this match at Richmond. Fine weather favoured the proceedings, and there was a large number of spectators present. For the first quarter of an hour the Leysians had the best of matters, scoring two tries by Whitehead and Bowditch. Later Gould for the Richmond gained a try and landed a goal, the home team at half-time leading by one goal to two tries. Changing ends, play was much more exciting, both teams making strenuous efforts to score. Brilliant passing took place between the respective backs, who defended stubbornly. At last the Leysians obtained a free kick for off side, J. H. Gould landing a splendid goal. Nothing further resulted, the old boys winning a grand game by one goal, two tries, to one goal, or four points to three.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST, V. ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—At Sandhurst in fine weather. A grand game throughout. In the first half the Saints obtained a try, and in the second a goal, and ultimately Sandhurst were defeated by a goal and a try to nothing.

ST. HELENS V. ROCHDALE ST. CLEMENTE was played at Rochdale, before a good crowd. The visitors were only moderately represented, being especially weak in the forward division. Their full back, Mulling, gave the homesters an easy try. The visitors had very hard lines in not scoring several times. Final score:—Rochdale St. Clements, two tries, four minors; St. Helens, one minor.

SALFORD V. BROUGHTON.—Pl... ground of the former, in the presence of 4,000 spectators, being obtained a try for Salford, Shaw kicking a goal. This was supplemented by Cook gaining a try, McVitte failing at place kick. Final score: Salford, one goal, two tries, four minors; Broughton, one minor.

STOCKPORT V. RUNCORN.—The latter organisation should have journeyed to Stockport, but, owing to having so many men engaged in the county match, they were unable to raise a team.

SWANSEA V. GUY'S HOSPITAL.—A splendidly-contested game ensued at Swansea, when the All Whites beat Guy's Hospital. The Metropolitan had the best of the game, but the Welshmen had the luck, and won by one goal, one try, two minors, to one dropped goal.

SWINTON HORNETS V. ROCHDALE ALBION.—At Swinton. The Hornets were minus Collier and Wilson, the latter assisting Swinton against Wigan. After a very even game the match ended in a draw, the score being:—Hornets, one try and two minors to one try and one minor. A very pleasant game throughout.

TYLDESLEY V. WIDNES.—At Tyldesley. This was a West Lancashire League match, and was very evenly contested. Tyldesley eventually winning by one try and five minors to one try (nine points to four).

WALKDEN beat WHITEHAVEN by one goal, one try, and five minors to three minors.

WEST OF SCOTLAND V. GLASGOW UNIVERSITY. At Glasgow. West one goal two tries; Varsity nil. Played at Partick, before a goodly attendance. West early invaded the College territory, and from their greater weight had all the best of the scrummage. They kept the ball very close, so that play was not of a brilliant character.

WIGAN V. SWINTON.—This fixture was decided at Wigan, in the presence of a large attendance of spectators. The Swintonians were only poorly represented, and consequently suffered the penalty. Final score: Wigan, one goal, two tries, and five minors; Swinton, nil.

YORKSHIRE V. DURHAM.—These teams played on the ground of Leeds' parish church club, in glorious weather, before 3,000 spectators. In the first half the Durham forwards showed up grandly, scoring first in the shape of a minor. Richards followed with a try for Yorkshire, and England kicked a goal. Durham restarted the leather, and Yorkshire quickly gained ground: scored immediately afterwards, but England failed at goal. Bedford and Todd gained considerable ground by a fine dribble, but wood runs by Robertshaw and Hicks were of no effect.

Direct it w the T bound The aud pe dated Georg the of pany i The club's motor as to J therac shares share balance whole up, at profit holder shares Un limin shares terina acqui disci in the next capita Veud tract; Act, Ap spect such state walv agree to th subtle Ap ing t accou num In be re share will of t The best spect Sello notice Ra "RE "r sout late into "t prod and Goat "7 west on y lu

Pictured is *The New York Herald*, London edition, November 10, 1889, containing listings of the rugby matches including Blackheath and Richmond.

From the story:
I believe your friend Watson played Rugby for Blackheath when I was three-quarter for Richmond. It is the only personal introduction which I can give.



Blackheath Rugby Football Club- 1875

Front Row: P. Chapman, T. Corvell, M. Rudy, A. Romon, E. Layton

*Middle Row: S. Robinson, C. Robinson, R. Johnson, S. Clarkson, A. Cohoe,
R. Davis, D. Richards*

*Back Row: J. Sanchez, D. Swede, W. Trolley, R. Ferguson, C. Dsily, D. Trump,
J. Watson, B. Orr*

Pictured is the team photo for the Blackheath rugby team which Watson was a member of at one time.

From the story:

I believe your friend Watson played Rugby for Blackheath when I was three-quarter for Richmond. It is the only personal introduction which I can give.

1. Dolores, maid
Ask about Mrs.
~~By~~ Fergusson's character
2. Jack, son by previous
marriage, crippled
in fall, twisted
spine; devoted to
the dad; absorbed
in what he says or
does.
3. Attacks; simultaneous
in first incident;
unprovoked in second.

Pictured is the page from Holmes' notebook listing facts about Dolores, Jack, and the attacks.

From the story:

Holmes made a note...

Once again Holmes made a note. For some time he sat lost in thought.



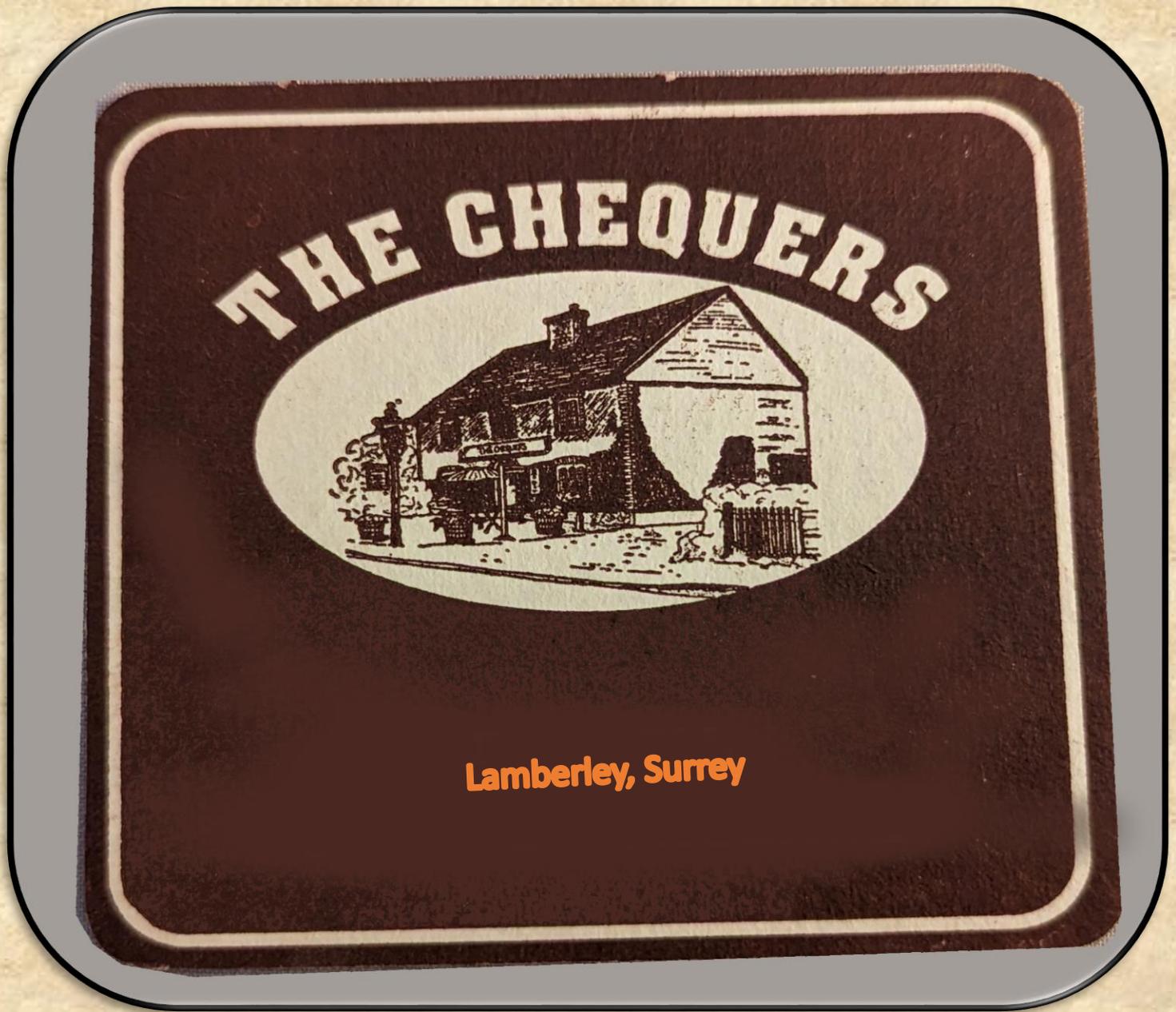
Cheeseman's

Pictured is a ceramic tile with the notation 'Cheeseman'. Cheeseman was the name of Ferguson's residence.

From the story:

'I rather fancy we shall know a good deal more about Cheeseman's.'

The doorsteps were worn into curves, and the ancient tiles which lined the porch were marked with the rebus of a cheese and a man, after the original builder.



Pictured is a pub mat from The Chequers, the inn which Holmes and Watson stayed in Lamberley.

From the story:

It was evening of a dull, foggy November day when, having left our bags at the 'Chequers', Lamberley, we drove through the Sussex clay of a long winding lane...

Chequers, Lamberley, Sussex

Date 20 Nov 1996

Messrs Shurlock Holmes and
 No. John H Watson

Reg. No.	Clerk	ACCOUNT FORWARDED
1	<i>Room</i>	<i>2/9</i>
2	<i>Breakfast for 2</i>	<i>1/6</i>
3		
4		<i>4/3</i>
5		
6	<i>Paid in full</i>	
7	<i>J. H. Watson</i>	
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

23655²

our account stated to date, if error is found return at once.

Pictured is the receipt for room and breakfast at The Chequers, the inn which Holmes and Watson stayed in Lamberley.

From the story:

It was evening of a dull, foggy November day when, having left our bags at the 'Chequers', Lamberley, we drove through the Sussex clay of a long winding lane...



Pictured is a small brochure from 1888 with a tour including a stop at The Chequers, the pub at which Holmes and Watson stayed during the investigation.

From the story:

It was evening of a dull, foggy November day when, having left our bags at the 'Chequers', Lamberley, we drove through the Sussex clay of a long winding lane...



Pictured is the dog tag for Carlo, the family's spaniel.

From the story:

A spaniel had lain in a basket in the corner.

'That's what puzzled the vet. A sort of paralysis. Spinal meningitis, he thought. But it is passing. He'll be all right soon - won't you, Carlo?'



Pictured is the key to Mrs Ferguson's room. Dolores, the maid, kept the key to her mistress's room in her pocket.

From the story:

It struck me as I looked at it that if Ferguson tried to force his way to his wife he would find it no easy matter. The girl drew a key from her pocket, and the heavy oaken planks creaked upon their old hinges.



Pictured is a fruit label for Jackie Boy, with little Jacky as the cover boy.

From the story:

He was a remarkable lad, pale-faced and fair-haired, with excitable light blue eyes which blazed into a sudden flame of emotion and joy as they rested upon his father.



Pictured is a Cracker Jack tin, with little Jacky as the cover boy.

From the story:

He was a remarkable lad, pale-faced and fair-haired, with excitable light blue eyes which blazed into a sudden flame of emotion and joy as they rested upon his father.



Pictured are part of South American weapons displayed on wall at Cheeseman's. This dart was used by Little Jacky to poison his step-brother.

From the story:

'If the child were pricked with one of those arrows dipped in curare or some other devilish drug, it would mean death if the venom were not sucked out.'

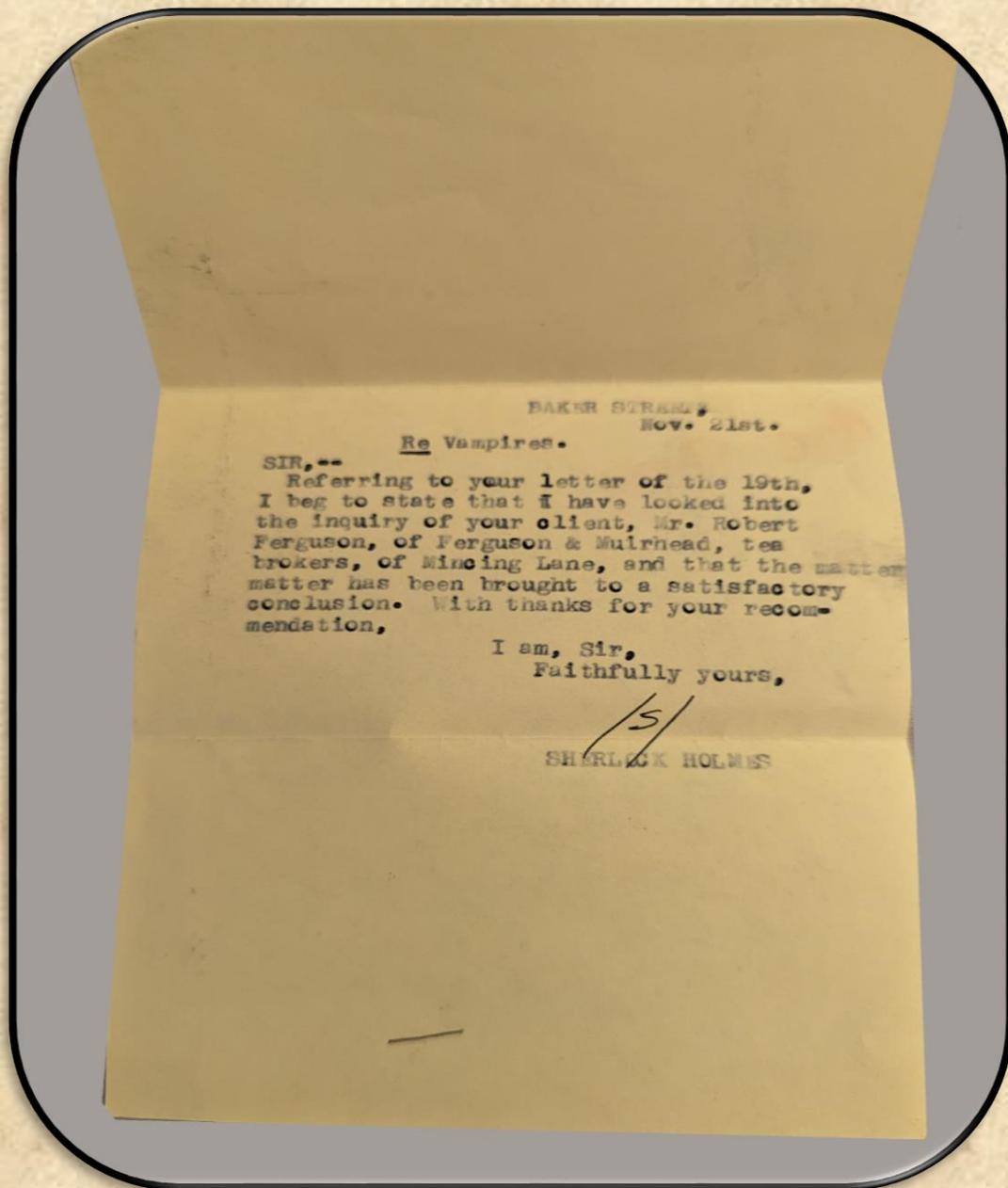
You were sucking
out the poison
which young Jacky
had injected into
your baby son's
neck. All is clear
to me and I shall
explain the matter
to your husband
if you will allow
us to see you.

Sherlock Holmes

Pictured is page from Holmes' notebook, notifying Mrs. Ferguson he knows of her sucking out the poison which Jacky had administered.

From the story:

'Oh, yes, she will,' said Holmes. He scribbled a few lines upon a sheet of paper. 'You at least have the entrée, Watson. Will you have the goodness to give the lady this note?'



Pictured is the personally typed letter from Holmes to Morrison, et al, thanking them for their recommendation and stating that the case had been drawn to a satisfactory conclusion.

From the story:

I have only one further note in this case. It is the letter which Holmes wrote in final answer to that with which the narrative begins.

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



East Street, Horsham.

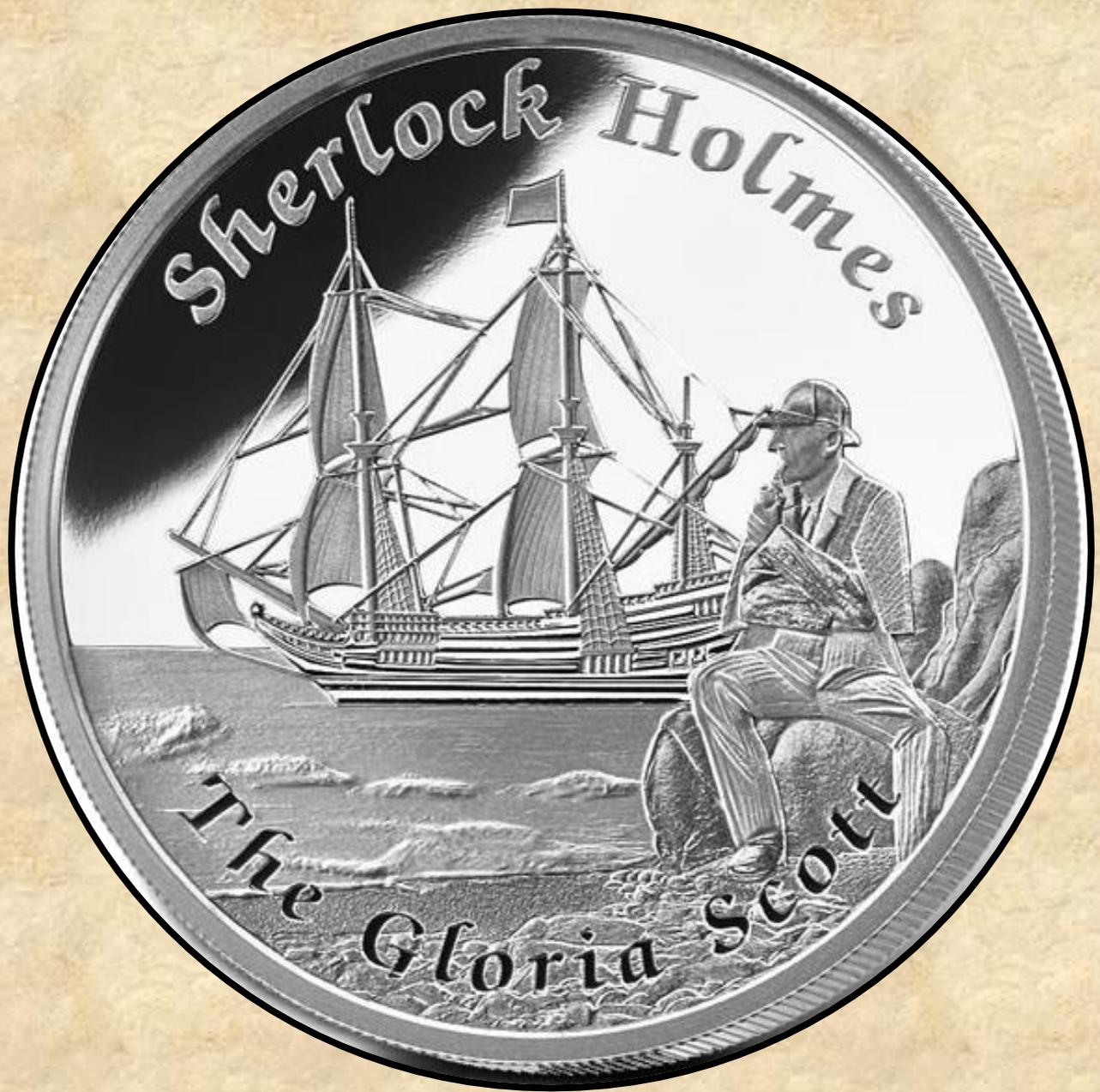
7119 The "Wyndham" Series.

Pictured is a postal card for the village of Horsham, England.

From the story:

‘Cheeseman's, Lamberley. Where is Lamberley, Watson?’

‘It is in Sussex, south of Horsham.’



Pictured is an Australian coin commemorating the ill-fated ship, the Gloria Scott.

From the story:

‘Voyage of the Gloria Scott,’ he read. ‘That was a bad business. I have some recollection that you made a record of it, Watson, though I was unable to congratulate you upon the result.’

"THE BIG MATCH"

BLACKHEATH v RICHMOND

A regular fixture since 1863-64



V



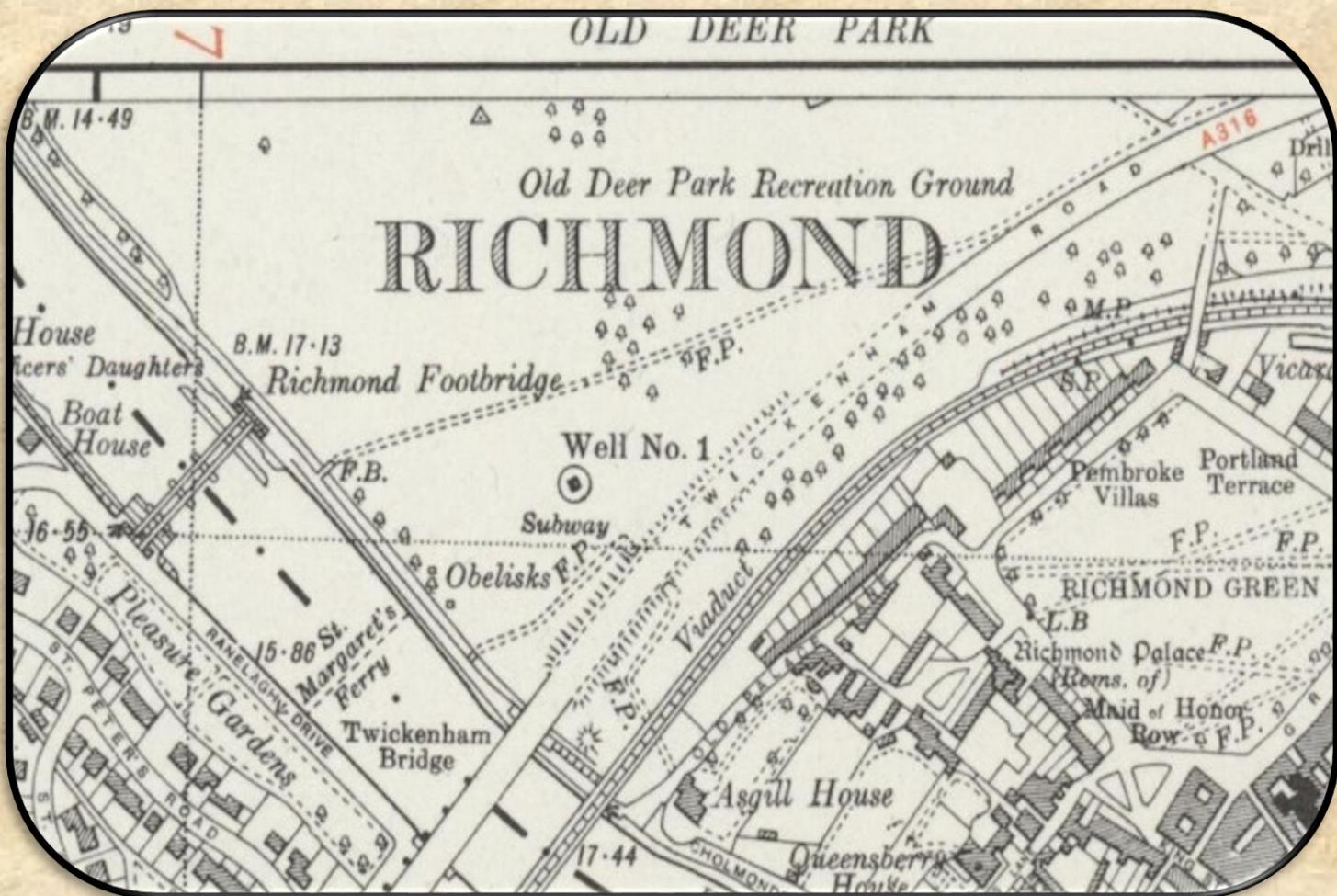
SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER at THE UTILITA - 15:00

utilita

Pictured is the poster for the Blackheath versus Richmond rugby match. Watson played for Blackheath, Bob Ferguson for Richmond.

From the story:

I believe your friend Watson played Rugby for Blackheath when I was three-quarter for Richmond. It is the only personal introduction which I can give.



Pictured is a map from Old Deer Park, Richmond, where rugby matches were held. Watson and Ferguson faced off there.

From the story:

‘You don't look quite the man you did when I threw you over the ropes into the crowd at the Old Deer Park.’



Pictured is a painting of Queen Eleanor sucking the blood from the arm of Edward to save his life.

From the story:

‘Was there not a Queen in English history who sucked such a wound to draw poison from it?’