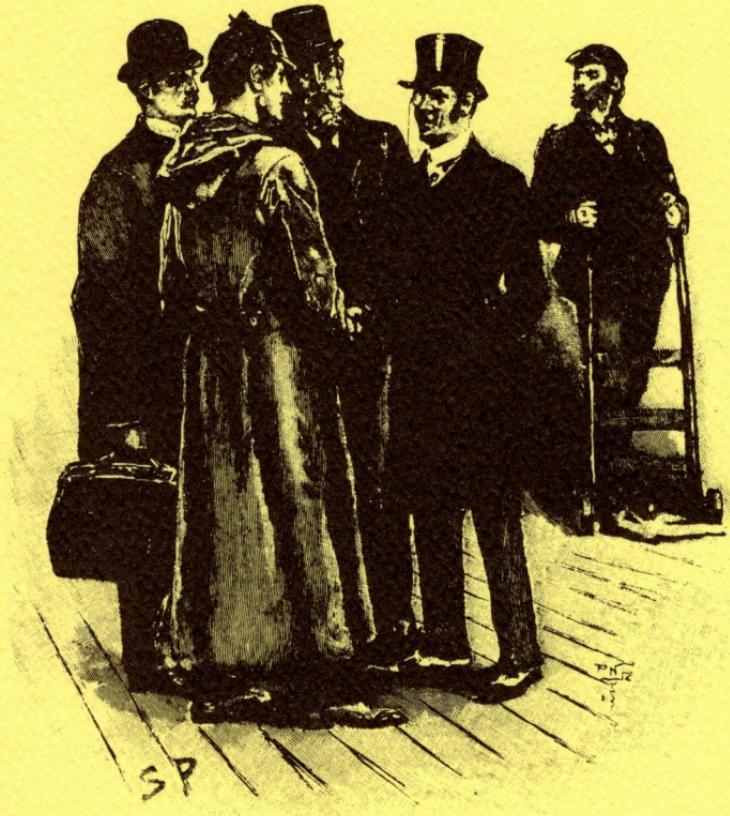


CASE BOOK

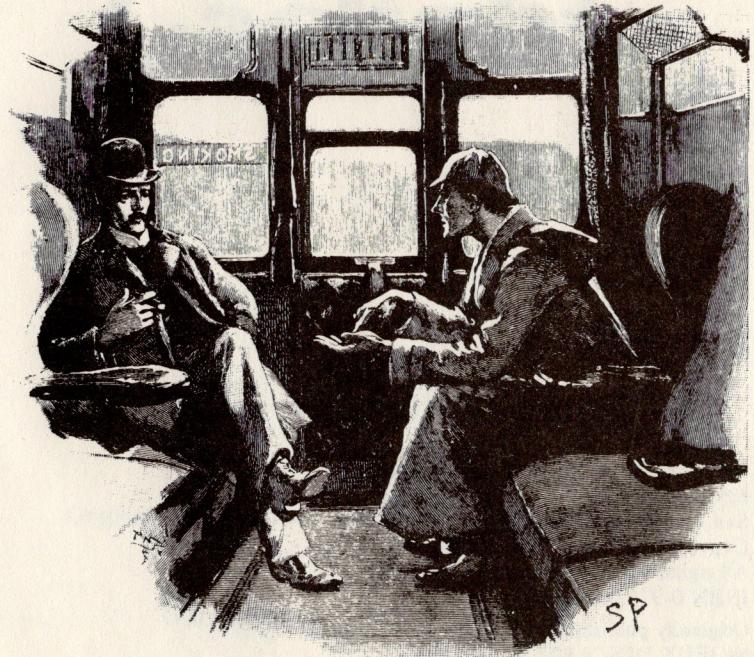
Volume IV



"I recognize that the evidence is purely circumstantial, and that some new development may upset it."

Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes
CONSULTING DETECTIVE



"HOLMES GAVE ME A SKETCH OF THE EVENTS."

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Adventures by Gaslight



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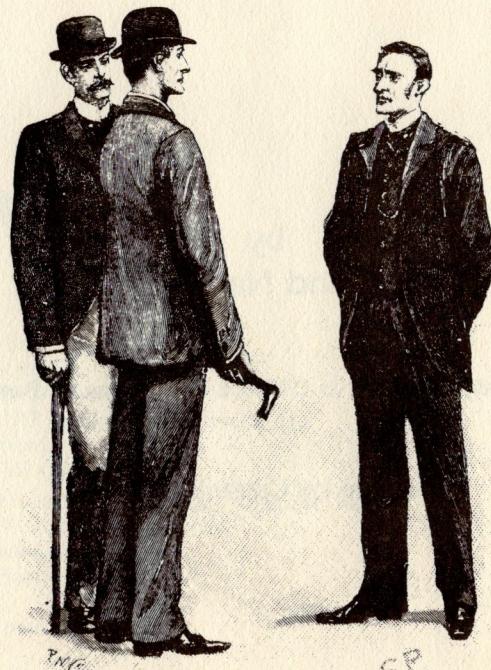
by
Jacques and Nadine Thiriat

Originally published as ***L'Affaire de l'Oiseau de Papier***

Translated by Catherine Theilen

Other volumes in the *Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective* series include:

Consulting Detective
The Mansion Murders
The Queen's Park Affair



"I'VE HEARD OF YOUR METHODS BEFORE NOW, MR. HOLMES."

INTRODUCTION & RULES

Welcome to *Adventures by Gaslight*, the fourth volume in the *Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective* series. These adventures take place over a period of five days, Tuesday, 21 May 1889 to Saturday, 25 May 1889, and take the player from the familiar streets of Victorian London to the less familiar streets of 1889 Paris.

1. GAME COMPONENTS

1.1 Holmes's London Map

Holmes's London Map is a simplified street map of Victorian London. It is used to give the players a pictorial view of the area of London used in this volume. There are approximately five hundred numbered locations, which we shall refer to as Clue Points. They represent specific places (in orange color), such as the Royal Mint or the Bank of England, or general purpose locations (yellow). In addition, there are five police stations as well as the Criminal Court located at 36 EC which can be identified by their red color.

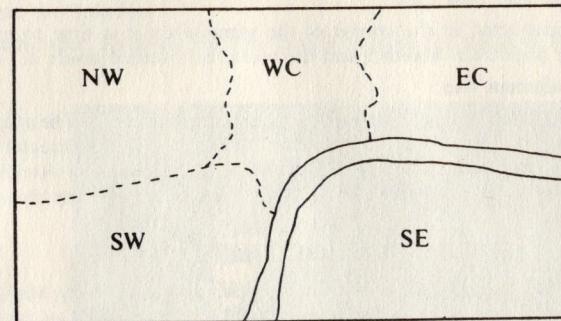


Figure 1

When you look at the Map, notice that each Clue Point is designated by a number. The Map has been divided into five sections corresponding to London's postal districts (see Figure 1), each represented by two letters: SE (South East), SW (South West), NW (North West), WC (West Central) and EC (East Central). Thus, when you are given the address 39 Aldersgate EC, you will know that it is located in the upper right section (EC), on Aldersgate Street, in the space labeled 39. Remember that these locations actually represent blocks and, as such, may serve as the address of more than one person or business. A specific location, such as Scotland Yard, will have its name as well as its street number on the Map.

1.2 London Directory

The Directory contains an alphabetical listing of most characters and places mentioned or alluded to in the case. It also contains many listings that are not mentioned in the case. These additional listings are provided so that information can be found in a logical manner. For example, if a murder is committed with poison, you may wish to visit the various chemists and apothecaries listed in the Directory.

1.3 Paris Map

A simplified map of central Paris, circa 1889.

1.4 Clue Book

The Clue Book consists of 143 numbered Clues, preceded by the Clue Point Listing, a table of Clue Point addresses and their corresponding clue numbers.

1.5 Case Book

The Case Book contains the Rules, the Daily Briefings for each of the five days of the case, the Questions, Solution and Answers.

1.6 Newspaper Archive

The Newspaper Archive is a collection of loose newspapers from both *The Times* and *Le Figaro*. The newspapers may provide clues and information pertaining to the case. Anytime during the game you may refer to the newspaper for that day or any previous day. The newspaper from March 5, 1889 is *not* part of the Newspaper Archive and should not be examined until so instructed during the game.

1.7 Holmes's Lecture of 1886

The Lecture should be read aloud to all the players before the start of the game. The resources which Holmes describes are summarized in a list at the end of the Lecture.

1.8 Newspaper and Post Card

You will be instructed in the course of the game when it is time to examine the newspaper page from March 5 and the postal card folded inside it.

1.9 Game Equipment Use

Before beginning the game, lay out both maps so that all players will be able to see and use them at will. Place the Newspaper Archive and the London Directory so all the players will have access to them. Remember, the Newspaper Archive and Directory can be referred to at any time during the game and as many times as the players wish.

2. THE PLAY OF THE GAME

In *Adventures by Gaslight* the London Clues pertain only to Tuesday, May 21 and the Paris Clues pertain only to Thursday, May 23. The sequence of play is as follows:

Tuesday, 21 May 1889	Case London Clue London Clue etc. . .
Wednesday, 22 May 1889	Case Case Paris Clue Paris Clue etc. . .
Thursday, 23 May 1889	Case Case Questions Answers Solution
Friday, 24 May 1889	
Saturday, 25 May 1889	

2.1 To begin the game, turn to Tuesday, May 21, 1889 in the Case Book and read the case. Remember that the newspaper from May 21 is available for study throughout Day One and the following days.

2.2 Now you must decide which Clue Point you would like to visit in order to begin your investigation. Turn to the Clue Point Listing at the beginning of the Clue Book and look up the Clue Point address of your choice. Find its corresponding Clue Number. Turn to that Clue in the Clue Book and read it. For example, if you would like to go to Scotland Yard, look up 13 SW and you will see the corresponding number is 84. Turn to Clue 84 in the Clue Book.

2.3 Repeat 2.2 until you have exhausted your London investigation. Remember, only London clues are available on Tuesday.

2.4 Read the case briefing for Wednesday, May 22.

2.5 Read the case briefing for Thursday, May 23. Continue your investigation with the Paris clues. Remember that *Le Figaro* is now available for study.

2.6 When you are ready to return to London, read the case briefing for Friday, May 24.

2.7 Read the case briefing for Saturday, May 25. Turn to the Questions Section of the Case Book and try to answer the questions. Remember that the questions test your powers of deduction as well as general knowledge of the Canon.

2.8 Check your answers with those in the Answers Section.

2.9 Read the Solution.

2.10 Remember, Sherlock Holmes "plays the game for the game's own sake."



Tuesday
May 21, 1889

As agreed, we find Wiggins on the corner of Orchard and Oxford streets. He has turned up his collar and braced his body against the cold wind blowing relentlessly from the north. Wiggins gives us a nod and leads the way toward 221 Baker street. We grimly draw up our own collars and hunch our shoulders against the fierce wind. We arrive, exhausted by our efforts and the oppressive grey clouds that seem to weigh so heavily upon us. Wiggins seems to be a mere shadow of the man we had left late yesterday afternoon.

The atmosphere in Holmes's drawing room seems no more cheerful than the outside gloom, and the strange, monotonous melody that comes from Holmes's Stradivarius, apparently reflecting his innermost thoughts, does nothing to dispel that gloom, a gloom made tangible by thick tobacco smoke. Holmes puffs away at a clay pipe in time with his music. Wiggins walks over to the sideboard where he admires the familiar snuff-box of old gold, set in the centre with a large amethyst. Holmes invites him to help himself to a pinch of snuff. The sideboard is littered with yesterday's dishes; all the ashtrays are full; and the floor is covered with newspapers — all in all a very bohemian scene.

Watson is sitting next to the fireplace, glancing through *The Times* in a distracted fashion, visibly disappointed that Holmes is not playing one of the Mendelssohn melodies of which he is so fond. Holmes gives us a nod of recognition as we take our seats and soon brings his composition to a close. He keeps his eyes on Wiggins as he puts his violin and bow back into their case and replaces his clay pipe with his well worn black briar.

"I agree with you, Wiggins," says Holmes as he settles back into his armchair, "but the battles I wage against the forces of evil, in which your collaboration is, at times, indispensable, are much more important than the trivial daily occurrences which perturb you at this moment. One must learn to never confide in women, Wiggins, not even in the best of them."

"But, Sir . . ." replies Wiggins as he almost jumps from his chair.

"Really, Holmes," says Watson, nervously folding his paper, "Wiggins has yet to say a word. And I refuse to be the victim of your —"

Before Watson can finish his reproach of Holmes, he is interrupted by an alternately blushing and stuttering Wiggins. "Mr. Holmes, how did you . . . guess?"

"I never guess. It was not very difficult to see that something was amiss from the moment you entered," says Holmes, addressing Wiggins directly. "It was obvious —"

Before Holmes is able to enlighten us concerning Wiggins' melancholy mood, the door opens and Billy enters. "There's a gentleman here to see you, Mr. Holmes. He has no card . . ."

"Show him up, Billy. Perhaps this visitor will bring us something of interest that will brighten our day, Wiggins."

We listen to our unexpected guest's footsteps upon the stairs. He is apparently quite anxious to see Holmes as he takes the steps two at a time. The man who enters the room is young, perhaps in his twenty-fifth year, modestly dressed, well manicured and groomed. He stands before our small group, nervous and ill at ease. Wiggins indicates a vacant chair, but our new guest dismisses it with a quick shake of his head and continues to stand in front of us.

"Mr. Holmes?" he asks as his nervous eyes move from one of us to the next.

"Yes," responds Holmes, his steady grey eyes fixed upon our visitor.

"Mr. Holmes, I need your help. Anny must be freed. I am sure she has nothing to do with this theft. She has to be innocent since she was with me at the time, and because I know she would never do such a thing. Major Barbara told me that you would be able to help."

"Please sit down," says Holmes gesturing towards a nearby vacant chair, "and tell us your story from the beginning. Afterwards I will ask you questions if necessary. My friends and I are prepared to help you, but we must first know the details of the affair. Leave out nothing, even if the particulars seem superfluous or insignificant."

The young man drops into the chair and takes a moment to regain his composure. When he begins to speak he seems a little more in control but his voice still betrays his emotional state.

"My name is Mike Collier. I work for Mayall the florist. Unfortunately I don't have much information to give you. I am engaged, and have been for several months, to a young lady by the name of Anny Forster, and we have the intention of being married in September.

"Yesterday I went to see Anny like I always do on Mondays. She is employed by Mrs. Thacker. Anny was waiting for me. She told me she was happy because her mistress had given her two tickets for a play at the Elephant and Castle theatre. We hired a coach, as the theatre was quite far away, and Mrs. Thacker insisted on paying the fare as well.

"After the play we returned directly to the house. I accompanied Anny up to the front door. We were surprised to find the whole house lit up. A policeman was stationed by the door. I wanted to escort Anny inside, but the officer, after taking my name and address, insisted that I leave.

"This morning I was still worried so I wanted to call Anny on the telephone. I know this must seem bold on my part, but I repeat that I was worried, and I also knew Mrs. Thacker would not object to my calling.

"Mrs. Thacker herself answered. She seemed very upset. She told me that Anny had just been arrested by Scotland Yard this morning and accused of being involved in a theft last night at the Thacker home. Mrs. Thacker also told me that the other servant, Nigel O'Brady, the butler, had been arrested as well.

"Not knowing what to do, I went to see Major Barbara, from the Salvation Army, who recommended I consult you."

The young man's story has been gaining momentum, but he now stops abruptly.

"I would like to ask you a few questions," says Holmes as he fills his pipe from the Persian slipper. There is silence in the room as he takes up a hot coal from the fireplace with the heavy brass tongs, and holds it to the pipe which he puffs to life, sending a cloud of bluish smoke drifting across the room. "Did you notice anything unusual or peculiar in Miss Forster's behaviour last night?"

"Peculiar? No, not really, but there was something about her attitude which surprised me a bit. You see, she is very fond of the theatre and possesses quite a bit of talent for an amateur, which she has put to good use in the small productions organized by the Salvation Army. An evening at the Elephant and Castle should have been a delight, a joyous occasion. But, instead, she seemed preoccupied and nervous. At the end of the play, she hardly talked about it. In fact, I doubt she paid it a great deal of attention."

"On two occasions you have mentioned the Salvation Army, Mr. Collier. What role does this movement play in your life?"

"An important one, Mr. Holmes. I have been volunteering there for several years, during my leisure time. The Army is in need of good volunteers and I have always considered it my duty to help within my means. I also met Anny there, and Mrs. Thacker, almost a year ago. Their devotion is great, and I have often had the occasion to admire it."

"Can you tell us at precisely what hour you arrived at Mrs. Thacker's home last evening?"

"A few minutes before seven."

"At what time did you return from the theatre?"

"At approximately half past eleven."

"Where is the Thacker residence?" asks Holmes.

"At number four Sidmouth street, at Grey's Inn road, right across from the park," says Collier.

"And do you know what was stolen?" asks Wiggins.

"No. My conversation with Mrs. Thacker was very brief. She was upset and so was I. But I am sure Anny had nothing to do with any crime." The young man becomes visibly agitated again.

"Well, Wiggins," says Holmes turning towards us, "here is a little problem which presents several interesting details. Try to put the few theories I have demonstrated to you to work, and meet me back here tomorrow morning, after you have thought it over and come up with something interesting." Turning back to our visitor he continues, "Rest assured, Mr. Collier, that the matter is now in good hands."

Wednesday
May 22, 1889

When we arrive at 221B Baker street we find Doctor Watson sitting alone at the table, staring at a letter wedged between a teapot and a plate on which a few crumbs are left.

"I was waiting for you," he says. "Holmes left early this morning and he left a message for you in my care." He hands us the letter with an air of weariness. "I have something else to give you as well," he says, taking a brown leather wallet from his pocket and handing it to Wiggins. "Sometimes I feel Holmes must think I am totally incapable of the simplest task. He didn't even trust me to repeat what he wanted to tell you."

Wiggins unfolds the message from Holmes.

Dear Friends:

I believe the air of the Continent will benefit Wiggins. My driver tells me you can catch a train at 10:09 at Victoria station that will arrive in Paris early tonight. I have reserved a room for you at the Cullon Hotel. We will discuss the Thacker affair once again at Baker street on Saturday morning.

Holmes

P.S.

I gave Watson a small amount of French money which should cover the cost of your stay in France.

"We are going to Paris. Will you join us, Doctor?" asks Wiggins.

Watson looks at us, surprised. "Paris? It is true that with Holmes you never know what to expect. . . . No, thank you. I would gladly accompany you if only to see the Exposition. From what I've heard it is wonderful, but Mary would hardly understand if I left so soon after our wedding day, and I must also think of my patients. . . ."

"Excuse us then, Doctor," says Wiggins. "We must leave right away if we are to be on time for the train. Good-bye."

Once on the street we all agree to meet Wiggins at Victoria Station in time to catch the 10:09 to Paris. We go our separate ways to pack our bags and make the necessary arrangements for our upcoming trip.

Ten o'clock finds us grouped around Wiggins as he hands out our tickets. We board the continental car he has chosen and settle into our seats for the journey. Our voyage — by train, boat and then train again — goes smoothly, and we take advantage of these hours of inactivity to decide where to begin our investigation.

When we leave the train station in Paris, Wiggins takes a deep breath of fresh air, holds his breath a few moments and then delcares as he empties his lungs, "Paris . . . Paris . . . think of all the French beauties within reach, my friends."

We approach a cab and ask the driver, "Can you take us to the Crillon Hotel?"

The driver stares at us with a blank look.

"Would you please take us to the Crillon Hotel?" repeats Wiggins a little louder.

This time the driver answers, but unfortunately none of us understands anything he says.

"Bloody hell!" says Wiggins. "Isn't there anybody among us who speaks even a little French?"

We all shake our heads. Wiggins takes out his notebook, tears out a page and writes in large letters "HOTEL CRILLON." He presents the sheet to the driver, who then gestures for us to get in, a big smile on his face.

"Well this might not be as easy as it seemed after all," sighs Wiggins.

We do not have the heart to ask him about our quest for the "French beauties."

Thursday
May 23, 1889

We are sitting in the luxurious dining room in the Crillon Hotel, where we have just eaten a rather meagre breakfast of coffee, roll and strawberry jam. We are admiring the view of the Place de la Concorde, dominated by the huge Egyptian obelisk which stands sixty-nine feet tall and is covered with hieroglyphs.

"I like the Nelson column just as well," says Simpson.

The maitre d' approaches us with a silver tray in his hand.

"Monsieur Wiggins?" he asks.

"Yes."

"A message for you, sir," he says in perfect English. Wiggins takes the letter from the tray. After reading the letter he hands it to us.

Paris
23 May 1889

Gentlemen,

Holmes has asked me to be your guide and interpreter. At your convenience please come see me at my home, 52 Virginard street, 6th district.

François de Villard

"It looks as if our Parisian adventure is about to begin!" says Wiggins with a gleam in his eye reminiscent of the one we have often seen in Holmes's. Wiggins jumps to his feet. "Come, gentlemen, the game is afoot, as Holmes would say!"

Friday
May 24, 1889

A hackney rapidly takes us to the railroad station. Wiggins takes one last wistful look at the beautiful young women in their colourful dresses crossing the Place de Roubaix before we settle into our compartment.

The return voyage is uneventful. It is quite late when we exit from Victoria Station. A light rain is falling on the sleeping city of London.

"We shall meet at nine o'clock at Baker street," says Wiggins as we go our separate ways. "I think I am going to reread my notes one more time. This case raises several questions which I would like to have answered."

We listen to the sound of Big Ben tolling the hour in the distance.

Saturday
May 25, 1889

Once again reunited at 221B Baker street, we are gathered around the table crowned by a platter of assorted scones, crumpets and muffins prepared by Mrs. Hudson which exude a familiar and tantalizing aroma. Perhaps the delicate pastries will aid our recuperation from the fatiguing voyage to Paris.

Holmes listens attentively as Wiggins renders a detailed account of our investigation in the two capitals. As he listens he calmly fills his cherry pipe and then, as if preoccupied by nothing else, he begins to muse aloud on a subject that has obviously interested him for some time.

"One must understand the influence of all this on the music of the sixteenth centruy," he says.

We are on our third cup of tea when Watson coughs politely, crosses and uncrosses his legs, sighs audibly, and then leans forward as if to speak, only to sit back again with a look of resignation on his face.

"As you know, gentlemen, Orlando Lassus, also known as Orlande, Orlandus and even Roland or Robert Lassus to whom we also give, in certain texts, the name di Lasso or de Lattre, was born at Mons in fifteen-thirty-two, and it was in fifteen-fifty-six, when he was just twenty-four, that he published in Anvers his first collection of polyphonic motets, a collection dedicated to the Archbishop of Arras, Antoine Perrenet."

"But Holmes, we—"

"Between this date and the publication in fifteen-sixty-eight in Nuremberg of two collections regrouping the integrity of his works, Lassus had acquired a technical mastery of his art."

"Holmes, I beg you . . ." says Watson who can no longer restrain himself.

"My dear Watson! Always so impatient. But rest assured that the hansom now stopping under our windows signals the arrival of our old friends, Lestrade and Gregson."

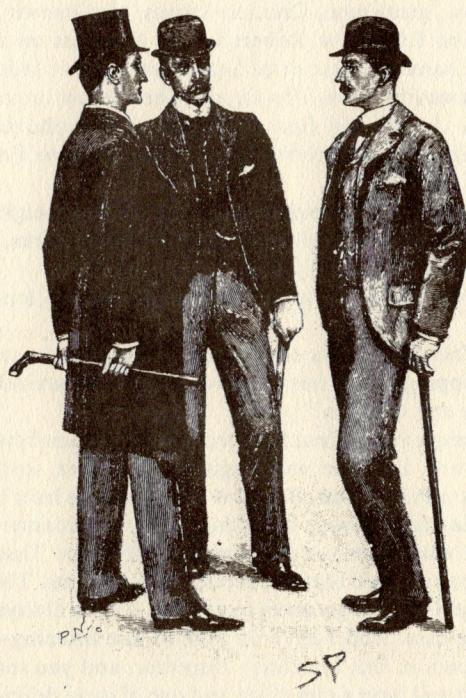
The doorbell rings and we hear footsteps upon the stairs before the door is brusquely opened. Lestrade, more agitated than ever, storms into the parlour, a telegram in his hand, followed a few seconds later by Gregson.

"Holmes! What do you mean by calling me here in this manner? This is intolerable. And what does your telegram signify? The Thacker case is solved! You know very well that I've arrested the servants. They will soon start talking. Believe me, I'll get them to confess. As you always say, it was, after all, a simple case. And I have no time to lose listening—"

"Please sit down in this armchair, Inspector, and you too, Gregson. Please take a seat and have a cup of tea and one of these delicious pastries Mrs. Hudson has made for us."

Holmes gets up, takes some tobacco from the Persian slipper, calmly fills his pipe and turns towards his expectant audience. He finally begins to speak with a mischievous smile playing at the corners of his mouth.

QUESTIONS



"IT WAS QUITE A SIMPLE CASE AFTER ALL."

1. Where are Mrs. Thacker's porcelain birds?
2. What else can be found at the same place?
3. Who was behind the planned theft of the original documents?
4. Who actually carried out the planned theft?
5. Where is Henry Thacker?
6. What role did Anny Forster play?
7. What role did Nigel O'Brady play?
8. What role did Mike Collier play?
9. For what great and lasting accomplishment is Francois le Villard remembered today?
10. What can be found in the basement of the Cox Bank?
11. What is the significance of the items we get at Parsons & Sons?
12. What does the secret message in the agony column mean?
13. Who is Paddy McWyre?
14. What is the relationship between the young man at the Salvation Army headquarters and the flower girl at Covent Garden?
15. Who was responsible for the murder of Peter Rucastle and why?

ANSWERS

1. The porcelain birds are in Henry Thacker's workshop at 21 Jonathan street. We know this by general evidence indicating that there was *not* a burglary, particularly the lack of a trail for Toby, as well as the carriage register, further supported by the eyewitness report of the bobbie, who saw a woman get out of a hansom carrying a wicker basket and leaving the neighborhood without it.
2. The false documents created by Thacker himself and left in his safe are also at 21 Jonathan street. While there is no direct evidence that the plans taken from Thacker's safe are not genuine, it is a logical deduction. Thacker knew from Mycroft and the "mysterious visitor" that his research would be the target of an attempted theft. His subsequent actions attempting to leave the house unattended would indicate some sort of plan, false documents being a logical possibility.
3. Moriarty. As always, this is difficult to prove but true nonetheless. Our message from Fred Porlock at Parsons Toy Shoppe included the binomial theorem, which could point to none other than Moriarty.
4. Amelie Thacker actually committed the theft. She did not carry it out exactly as Moriarty would have liked, in that she "stole" forged documents which she herself had created, but she did fake the burglary in her home and turn over the "stolen" documents to Charles Attard at the pub across the street from the Allegro Theatre.
5. Henry Thacker is at the Ministry of War, hidden by Mycroft Holmes. The evidence of the contents of Cummins and Goins' delivery from Selfridge's, especially the Vera Cruz port, together with Mycroft's attitude of unconcern are the basic indications for this deduction.
6. Anny Forster played the role of her mistress Monday afternoon, as she sat in the window wearing the blonde wig. Of course, she played a larger role in the overall drama since her actions in Adelaide triggered the entire blackmail plot.
7. Nigel O'Brady warned his brother Paddy McWyre, by means of the secret message in *The Times*, that the document transmitted by Charles Attard was a forgery. He knew this because he followed Amelie to Jonathan street. He was also probably the original source of information concerning the subject of Thacker's research.
8. Mike Collier was in no way involved with the theft.
9. Francois le Villard was the original translator into French of Watson's accounts of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, the world's first consulting detective. Doyle, the literary agent, was lucky to find le Villard, a man of literary abilities who was so familiar with Holmes's methods and the man himself.
10. Watson's old metal dispatch case containing all his notes and unpublished adventures are in the basement of the Cox Bank.
11. The page of *The Times* contains the key to the secret message as well as the address in Paris where *The Times* is sold and thus where one could meet Paddy McWyre. The mathematical formula implicates Moriarty. The Eiffel Tower indicates the spot where McWyre was to receive the document.
12. The reports not genuine * Original documents at 21 Jonathan St London.
13. Paddy McWyre is the brother of Nigel O'Brady. Despite the striking resemblance between McWyre and Wiggins, we know of no relationship between them.
14. The young man at the Salvation Army is George Bernard Shaw. His "speech" to his friend appeared in the preface to "Major Barbara," a play in which he talks about the Salvation Army. The flower merchant is Eliza Doolittle, a character in Shaw's play "Pygmalion."
15. Moriarty had Rucastle killed for betraying his plans.