



101 ADVENTURE SEEDS

1) An observatory reports strange flares from the surface of Mars. With the world governments either ignorant of or disbelieving in the threat Mars poses, Professor Wells calls upon the Leagues to provide the first line of defense against a second Martian invasion.

2) Professor H. G. Wells proposes a pre-emptive attack on Mars. First, however mankind must send pioneers to the red planet to gather valuable intelligence. The only problem is, the only vessel close to being completed uses the Martian model (a huge cylinder fired by a massive gun) and would be a one-way trip.

3) An explorer who just happens to have a nearly-completed submersible is planning on searching for R'lyeh. If the globetrotters can help him secure a few vital components to finish his sub, they can have the privilege of being part of the expedition.

4) An eccentric globetrotter of great renown has recently passed away. Among his possessions is a previously unknown Mayan codex, which supposedly makes reference to the continent of Mu. The codex, along with several other items, is being auctioned off in London. Several Leagues are interested in acquiring the codex, and not all of them by legitimate means.

5) By circuitous means, the Mariners Club has come into possession of artifacts from the Franklin Expedition (1845), which disappeared while searching for the Northwest Passage. While the Rae-Richardson Arctic Expedition of 1848-1849 recorded Inuit stories saying the survivors had resorted to cannibalism, the Mariners Club refuses to believe this. Its expedition intends to locate any graves and return the bodies to Britain for proper burial.

6) The Alpine Club proposes a rich reward to the first globetrotter who climbs the currently-known tallest peak on every continent, including the Antarctic. Photographic and written testimonies are required as evidence.

7) The Automobile Club, Society of Aeronauts, and The Railway Club have agreed a challenge to prove which form of transportation is best. They plan to pit an automobile, an aeroplane, and a railway engine (the latter a normal train running to a standard schedule) in a race from Paris to St. Petersburg. Drivers, mechanics, correspondents, photographers, and linguistics are being sought to accompany the teams.

8) The Christmas Society has promised British troops stationed in South Africa a white Christmas. They require trustworthy globetrotters to transport their snow-generating machine to the Cape Colony, assemble it at the other end, and operate it in time for a traditional Christmas dinner (which the League is paying for, as well). The Germans intend to stop the endeavor, so embarrassing the British government, who have already announced the plan to the world.

9) The Ancient Order of Druids holds that Merlin, King Arthur's mentor, was a real person. They intend to locate his resting place. The Order is divided as to whether or not Merlin is dead or merely sleeping, but all believe he was imprisoned along with sacred

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texts. Many legends make reference to his enchanted prison as *glas tann*. While some scholars have translated this as “glass house,” the Druids believe it stems from the Cornish for “sacred tree.” Thus, Merlin lies beneath or inside a tree. Since the name of the town of Glastonbury stems from this same phrase, they intend to commence their search there. Antiquarians, historians, and linguistics are being invited to join the expedition.

10) The natives of Flores Island, which lies east of Java, have long told stories of a diminutive race that once inhabited the island. Elders claim there has been no contact since the time of their grandfathers. All they know for sure is that the other race stood a little over three feet in height, spoke no known language, and lived in caves deep in the interior. The Hollow Earth Society, which hopes the small people are from the interior world, is planning to finance an expedition with the goal of making peaceful contact.

11) In 1075, Adam of Bremen made reference to *Terra feminarum* (“Women’s Land”), which he placed vaguely in northern Scandinavia. He gives little description of the realm, saying only that it was a land of Amazons. The Women’s Suffrage Society is sponsoring an expedition to locate the fabled realm.

12) After killing Abel, Cain (of Biblical infamy) fled to the land of Nod, which lay east of Eden. Here his wife gave birth to a son, Enoch, after whom the first city was named. The Old Testament Society, Society of Antiquarians, and Sumeria Club are sponsoring rival expeditions to locate the ruins of the antediluvian settlement.

13) In 1637, Pierre de Fermat laid out his Last Theorem. While he claimed to have a simple proof, Fermat stated in his *Arithmetica* it was too large to fit in the margin. Proving the Last Theorem has kept mathematicians perplexed for over 250 years. Now, though, a solution may be at hand. Rumors of a lost Fermat manuscript have been circulating in France. Several Leagues are searching for the source of the rumor—some for the recognition, others to claim the reward offered by the University of Brussels for a solution.

14) Coal miners at a Yorkshire colliery are refusing to venture underground after sightings of “reptile men” and a number of cave-ins. The owners are calling on the Leagues to investigate with all haste so coal production can resume.

15) The first written record of an Almas (Mongolian for “wild man”) sighting occurred in 1430, when Hans Schlitberger, a German traveler, was a captive of the Mongols. Native to the Caucasus and Pamir Mountains, they are described as being exceptionally hairy, with a flat nose and pronounced brow ridges. According to a recent story, a female Almas by the name of Zana lived in a remote Russian village until her death in 1890. While there she sired a number of children, four of which survived past infancy. The Yeti Club is offering a reward to any globetrotters visiting the region who acquire photographic proof of their existence.

16) Excavated in India, the French Blue diamond was once the property of King Louis XIV of France. The size of

a pigeon’s egg, it was handed down through the French royal family, eventually ending up in the possession of King Louis XVI. In 1792, while Louis was under house arrest, the stone was stolen. Some historians claim the gem resurfaced later in England, having been recut, and that it became known to the world as the Hope Diamond (45 carats) in 1830. Others argue they were different stones, and that the larger French Blue (115 carats) has never been found.

17) Beneath the parish church of Christ Church, Barbados, lies the Chase family vault. During the early 18th century, the sealed vault was opened several times to admit new coffins. Each time, the existing coffins, all of which were made of lead, were found to have moved position. The Ghost Club investigated the phenomena in 1888 and found no signs of supernatural activity. However, the curious priest reopened the vault only last year. Using ancient records, he discovered the coffins had again changed position.

18) The island of Chryse appears in several Greek myths. According to 2nd century chroniclers, the Aegean island, which boasted a magnificent temple to Apollo, had sank beneath the waves at some point in the previous centuries. The New Argonauts Club and Society of Aquanauts are proposing a joint expedition to locate the legendary island.

19) A strange phenomenon occurs in America’s Death Valley. Large stones, some weighing as much as 80 pounds, move along the valley floor without a source of external propulsion. The stones move only every few years, and leave behind a trail that can extend many hundreds of feet and several inches deep. More peculiarly, the stones sometimes change direction or leave graceful arcs rather than straight lines.

20) In Chinese mythology, Penglai Island was a paradise of untold riches. Gems grew on trees, the palaces were made of precious metals, bowls and cups were never empty, no matter the appetite of the diners, and there was no disease or suffering. There also grew fruits that healed any ailment, bestowed eternal youth, and could even raise the dead when properly prepared.

The first Chinese Emperor, Qin Shi Huang, searched without success for the island as part of his quest to obtain the elixir of life. The Immortals Club, desperate to achieve its goal, is prepared to fund an expedition.

21) According to Greek myth, the great musician and poet Orpheus was buried in the city of Libethra, which lay in the vicinity of Mount Olympus. The city was supposedly washed away during a terrible flood, when the River Sys burst its banks. The New Argonaut Club looks to investigate the tale, and perhaps find the bard’s bones.

22) While the world has read of the Lidenbrock expedition’s successful venture into the bowels of the earth thanks to the account published by Jules Verne, not everyone believes Snaefell, the volcano through which the trio of brave explorers gained access to the underworld realm, is actually in Iceland. A small few would-be explorers believe the name refers to the low mountain on the Isle of Man (in the Irish Sea), and that

Verne changed its location to protect the true route. The globetrotters are so convinced they are currently seeking both members and funds for an expedition.

Investigation of the peak reveals a flat stone slab buried beneath the grass. Below it lies a narrow natural fissure. On the underside of the slab is engraved the initials "A.S." Is the stone a fake, part of an elaborate scam to con sponsors from their money, or is there truth to the wild claims?

23) While walking along a beach, one of the globetrotter discovers a message in a bottle. The note merely lists a set of coordinates. Checking them on a globe indicates a remote point in a distant ocean. The message might be a practical joke, thrown overboard by a passing ship, but is that is so, why are sinister parties so keen to acquire the coordinates?

24) Trouble is brewing in Europe! Three warships, one belonging to each of the British, French, and German fleets, have disappeared without a trace off the East African coast. In every case there has been a distinct absence of wreckage and bodies. Each nation is blames the other. Are the losses unfortunate accidents, or is there a more sinister force at work?

25) While most members of the Curry Club prefer flavor over heat, there are those who strive to eat the hottest possible dish. The Club is offering a prize for the globetrotter who returns the hottest chili pepper.

26) Thomas Tapling, English businessman, politician, cricketer, and chairman of the Philatelic Society dies in 1891. He bequeaths his extensive stamp collection to the British Museum Library, prompting the trustees to found the British Museum Library Philatelic Collections. The museum and the Philatelic Society is asking globetrotters venturing overseas to bring back stamps. As an added incentive, whoever collects the most unique stamps will be honored with a bust and special medal.

27) The authorities in Algeria have not taken nomad reports of a 120-foot long snake living in the desert seriously. Fortunately, there are Leagues keen to investigate such claims.

28) Talk of an "African unicorn" is rife among the European colonies in Central Africa. The great explorer Henry Stanley made mention of the beast, which the natives called the "Atti," during his exploration of the Congo. The Menagerie Club is prepared to sponsor an expedition to bring back a live specimen. (Historically, the "African unicorn" was the okapi, a living fossil, which Europeans first documented in 1901).

29) A few days ago, an aristocrat went into his bank to withdraw a valuable necklace (a gift from the Tsar of Russia) from the vault. Needless to say, he was somewhat shocked when the clerk declared he had walked into the bank and withdrawn it the day before. The police have been unable to find any evidence of wrongdoing, so the aristocrat has turned to the Leagues or help.

30) Since the start of the century, numerous excavations and restoration work has been carried out on the Colosseum in Rome. In 1891, to mark three decades of the Kingdom of Italy, King Umberto I declares a spectacu-

lar gala is to be held in the Colosseum. Sporting societies from across Europe are invited to participate in a series of non-lethal games, such as boxing, wrestling, horse racing, and fencing. The arrival of foreign dignitaries is a great chance for anarchists to make their presence felt, and there is sure to be a certain amount of cheating.

31) While overseas, the globetrotters are invited to attend a party hosted by a high ranking British dignitary. An anonymous well-wisher sends a deadly present—a bomb concealed inside a bust of Queen Victoria. Whether or not the dignitary survives the assassination attempt, the globetrotters are called upon to track down the mastermind behind the plot and bring him to justice.

32) A Russian weird scientist asks the globetrotters to smuggle him, his daughter, and his latest design out of the country to Great Britain. The Russian authorities have learned of his plans and intend to thwart the defection. Just to make things trickier, the Germans have learned of his intentions, and hope to "persuade" him to join their cause. A storm grounds all zeppelins in and out of Moscow for several days, forcing the group to flee overland. The authorities always seem to know where the party is, prompting the possibility that his daughter is actually a spy.

33) Two bitter rivals in the Dueling Club are sponsoring expeditions to locate and retrieve the Sword of Attila the Hun, which was supposedly given him by the god, Mars. According to the chroniclers of the age, the warlord was buried in a triple coffin (iron, then silver, then gold) along with his most precious items. Unfortunately, the location of his tomb was kept secret. All that is known is his men diverted a river to cover the tomb.

34) Several years ago, antiquarians uncovered a broken Viking runestone on the Orkney Islands. Recently, fishermen shipwrecked on Sable Island (Canada) unearthed a second broken stone. Together, they form a complete tablet providing clues to the final resting place of Leif Erickson. The runes imply Erickson was buried beyond the Northwest Passage, a route as yet undiscovered by modern mariners. The Mariners Club and Society of Antiquarians propose a joint expedition to follow the trail through the deadly ice.

35) While on a trip to southern Russia in 1892, the globetrotters are approached by a young man calling himself Sidney Reilly. He is in trouble with the authorities, and has a plan to fake his own death and escape. He needs the group's help with this. There is a British registered ship about to sail for South America from Odessa (on the Black Sea coast). Can they get everyone out in time?

36) An aged mathematician, inventor, and member of the Lunar Exploration Society on his death bed challenges the young minds of the day to produce and demonstrate a method of launching a manned vehicle into a trajectory to circumnavigate the globe. The craft must be capable of landing safely, so the crew are able to tell the tale of what they saw. The prize? His estate. His own offspring are too thickheaded to deserve it. Of course, they intend to sabotage any efforts to claim their inheritance.

37) While tracking down rumors of the Yeti in Tibet, the party gets caught in a freak blizzard. They are saved by a group of “small people with elongated heads” and large, black eyes. The strange people seem to be some forgotten tribe whose language and hieroglyphic like writing is unknown to any member of the party. The only artifacts these people seem to have are a large collection of stone disks with their strange writing on them. The text is extremely small and written in concentric circles. The globetrotters will not be allowed to remove any of these disks from the village/cave. Should they try to return, they are unable to find the location again. If they inquire at other villages in the area the only reference they are able to find is the name “dropa.”

38) The Alpine Club and Royal Geographical Society seek volunteers to take part in a daring and audacious venture—to spend the entire winter on mainland Antarctica. (Historically, the British Antarctic Expedition first achieved this in 1898-1900.)

39) A expedition has failed to return from Antarctica, and a hurried rescue mission is being launched. When the globetrotters finally find the camp they discover it demolished as if by some terrible wind. Several frozen corpses show large bite marks, but Antarctica has no large predators. Of the other members, there is no sign. What caused the camp’s demise, what ate the explorers, and where the survivors have gone are mysteries the globetrotters must solve.

40) Louis IX of France, crusader and later saint, was captured by the Egyptians in 1250. His mother, Blanche of Castille, assembled a huge ransom to secure his release. The excess she buried in preparation for her son’s eventual return. After her death in 1252, its location was lost (Louis returned to France in 1254, after continuing his Crusading activities). A French treasure hunter has unearthed documents that hint the haul, which his documents say exceeds 28 million gold coins, is hidden in the foothills of the French Pyrenees.

41) In 1889, the Italian suddenly closed the penal colony on the island of Montecristo and awarded ownership to Marquis Carlo Ginori, who promptly transformed it into a private hunting ground. He also began a series of excavations. Word has reached the Leagues that the Italian king believes the immense treasure of Turgut Reis, an infamous 16th century Turkish pirate and admiral, is buried on the island. Plans are made to recover the treasure before it falls into Italian hands.

42) An obscure legend tells that Alexander the Great planned to invade Meroë, but was turned back by the immense army of Queen Candace. No serious scholar has taken the legend seriously. However, a recent find in Meroë, an engraved obelisk, makes mention to a battle between the queen and an “invader who thought himself a god.” Plans are afoot to locate the battlefield.

43) Farmers in Peru recently unearthed a number of polished stones. Dubbed the Ica Stones, after the province in which they were found, they are engraved with images of primitive hunters attacking what appear to be dinosaurs, and strange lines that may be a form of map.

The Challenger Club proposes an expedition to study the stones, and then search for evidence of living dinosaurs in the Andes.

44) The globetrotters are invited to attend a lecture given by a prospector. The old timer shows the audience a blurry photograph that appears to show a serpent-necked ship with round shields adorning the sides. It looks very much like a Viking longship. The strange thing is, the prospector claims the photograph was taken in the region of Mexicali, a city that lies on the Mexico/California border. He is prepared to sell the exact location, but his information does not come cheaply.

45) The ancient chronicler Herodotus tells that King Cambyses II of Persia despatched an army of 50,000 soldiers to capture of the famous Oracle of Siwa. Deep in the desert, a sandstorm rose out of nowhere, burying the entire army. Stories are circulating out of Cairo that Bedouins discovered a small rock cave in which were several mummified bodies dressed in ancient armor. The race is on to find the nomads before they disappear back into the interior of the Sahara.

46) While perusing a library for other information, a globetrotter comes across a letter written in 1542 by Jean Allefonsce, a French navigator. In it he tells how he sailed up a mighty river south of Newfoundland to the land of Norumbega. The natives, he claims, dressed in furs, spoke a language that sounded like Latin, and worshipped the sun. In his opinion, the natives were the descendants of Norsemen (i.e. Vikings).

47) Hilaire de Barenton (1864-1946), a Capuchin friar and junior member of the Sumeria Club, holds that the story of the Tower of Babel is based on truth. Though he dismisses the Bible story as written, he theorizes that all languages stem from Sumerian. He is seeking sponsors, and fellow expedition members, so he can document all of the world’s languages in a bid to prove his idea. Such a quest would take in every country of the world, require historical research, and last many years.

48) Partial messages, sealed tightly against the elements and the passage of time, get delivered via various financial and legal firms with instructions to present them on certain dates. All the fragments are part of a larger message, but are encoded. In some cases, these notes have been held in trust for decades.

49) While visiting the islands of Hawaii in the summer of 1893 the heroes are caught up in the government’s attempt to evict a leper colony from the Kalalau Valley on the island of Kaua’i. Will the globetrotters be able to mediate some kind of solution or will the deadly skirmishes lead to an all-out massacre?

50) The globetrotters are invited by Herman Hollerith, an American inventor, to observe his “Electric Tabulating System.” The device is being used to tabulate the 1890 U.S. census. Who knows how many rival scientists, companies, or governments might want to steal or destroy this amazing new device, or to what other uses it may be applied?

51) Word has reached the adventurers that two cowboys around have killed a ‘Thunderbird’ of Native Ameri-

can legend near Tombstone, Arizona. The creature is described as a cross between a bat and an alligator. With its 40 foot wing span and featherless body, is it possible that some kind of flying dinosaur still hunts the skies of the American west?

52) Between 1878 and 1879, the Great Amherst Mystery and the torments of Esther Cox's "true ghost story" made its way round the world. In 1888, a popular book sparked new investigations and stronger public interest. The chilling words, "Esther Cox, you are mine to kill!" haunt the dreams of young ladies of good breeding the world over. Now an expert seeks to debunk the tale once and for all. He requires the services of well-traveled anthropologists, doctors, and specialists in mechanical and electrical engineering to assist him. Cox now lives quietly in Brockton, Massachusetts.

53) The owner of a shipping line has recently filed three claims for damage caused by sea monster attacks in the same stretch of water. Lloyds of London, the insurance company, is rightfully skeptical, and refuses to pay out without firm evidence. The magnate turns to the Leagues for help. Is a sea monster really to blame, are his captains incompetent, is this part of an insurance scam, or is some other entity (such as submersible) responsible for the attacks?

54) In 1893, Winfield Scott Lovecraft suddenly became psychotic while in a Chicago hotel. He has since been placed in Butler Hospital (Providence, Rhode Island). His wife, Sarah Susan Phillips Lovecraft, believes he witnessed something that cost him his mind. For the sake of their young son, Howard (b. 1890), who has recently claimed to have been haunted in his sleep by "night gaunts," she begs the Leagues to investigate.

55) Between 1896 and 1897, American newspapers report numerous sightings of cigar-shaped mystery airships. In April, 1897, the Dallas Morning News reports one of the strange craft crashed near Aurora, Texas. Its sole occupant is reported as being "not of this world" By the time the news reaches the Leagues in Europe the pilot has been buried and the wreckage dumped in a well. Before it is destroyed forever, the Leagues intend to investigate. Have the Martians launched a new attack? Could one of Robur's flying machines resurfaced?

56) A priceless gem ("the Star of Egypt") has disappeared from the Bank of England's most secure vault. The time-locked vault was not been opened by nefarious means, nor were any alarms tripped (the deposit box was found open by a clerk). Scotland Yard are flummoxed, and have turned to the Leagues for help in solving the impossible crime.

57) In 1615, Juan de Iturbe, a Spanish explorer, sailed up the Gulf of Mexico. A freak tidal bore carried his caravel into Lake Cahuilla, a shallow body of water that has since completely dried out. With no chance of sailing away, the Spanish abandoned their stricken vessel and headed into the desert on foot. They left behind their ship's cargo—a fortune in black pearls. The story has long been though a myth, but the chance discovery of de Iturbe's journal has given the Leagues new hope.

58) While journeying by sea, the globetrotters ship comes across a vast "raft" of volcanic rocks floating on the surface of the ocean. Near the center is what appears to be a colossal statue. The source of the rocks may never be discovered, but the statue must be salvaged before the unstable "raft" breaks up and it is lost forever.

59) Joseph Vacher (1869-1898), dubbed "the French Ripper" and perpetrator of particularly vile crimes, is executed by guillotine in 1898. A year later, a spate of similar crimes has France terrorized. Eyewitnesses report seeing a man who matched Vacher's distinctive appearance (his face is heavily scarred after a failed suicide attempt in 1893) fleeing the scene of the crime.

60) The globetrotters are discretely invited to attend a senior government official. An important diplomat serving overseas has quite literally disappeared, creating something of a diplomatic row and accusations of foul play. He exited his carriage with his aide and walked up the steps to the palace where a foreign ruler was hosting a social function. His aide opened the doors and turned to gesture his superior through, only to discover the man who was alongside him not a moment earlier had disappeared. The courtyard was otherwise empty (and too large to cross in so short a space of time), and had no possible hiding places.

61) As the year ends, reports begin reaching the Leagues that a Swedish attempt to reach the North Pole by hot air balloon has vanished. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences refuses all offers of aid in searching for the expedition. Is this simply a case of avoiding national embarrassment, or was the expedition searching for something specific, something the Swedes would rather keep secret from the rest of the world?

62) A spate of suicides among leading weird scientists across the globe has the Leagues concerned. Foul play is suspected, especially given they have died in a strict alphabetical order of surname, but the various police forces can prove nothing. Volunteers are being sought to safeguard the next likely "victim."

63) A leading Swedish scholar believes the Vikings reached the Black Sea by sailing along Russia's river network, and hauling boats overland between rivers when necessary. He has recreated a Viking longship, and is looking for volunteers to prove his theory by sailing from Stockholm to Istanbul via this route.

64) While visiting the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido the adventures are allowed to attend a *Kumamatsuri* ("bear festival") being performed by the indigenous Ainu people. The ritual is designed to "release" one of their gods, who came to earth in the disguise of a young bear cub, so he can return to the world of the gods. Even these peaceful agrarian people are understandably upset when the globetrotters are deemed responsible for letting the bear escape into the wild. Can the globetrotters recover this special animal safely before the Ainu decide to send them to the afterlife?

65) Swedish antiquarians conducting an excavation of Eadglis' mound at Uppsala, Sweden, in 1874 unearthed a runestone mentioning the famous hero Beowulf by

name. The government is now offering a reward for any antiquarian who can locate and excavate Beowulf's barrow. A Swedish nationalist occult group with leanings toward black magic intend to steal any earthly remains, in the hope of resurrecting the long-dead hero.

66) Even today, the Kyzyl Kum desert in Central Asia is regarded as being impassable due to scorching temperatures and a lack of known oases. Despite these obstacles, Genghis Khan marched an army of 50,000 men into the wastes before attacking the city of Bukhara. The Royal Geographic Society is offering a reward to any explorers who can retrace his route. Expeditions must also photograph and document the local flora and fauna.

67) In 1875, Louis Jacolliot, a French judge, author, and occultist, wrote about a sunken land called Rutas. Confusingly, he at first placed this in the Indian Ocean, only to late transpose it to the Pacific. He claimed to have learned of the realm in a Sanskrit text, the title of which he never made public. After his death in 1890, his will stipulated that the Sanskrit text, *Agrouchada-Parikchai*, be sold at auction. That day has now dawned, and the Leagues are queuing up to bid on it in the hope of discovering more about the lost realm.

68) In the mid-19th century, New York City was terrorized by Ludwig the Bloodsucker. Described as a "squat, swarthy German, with an enormous head crowned with a shock of bristly black hair," he dined upon drunks, apparently quaffing their blood as if it were wine. Decades since the last reported sighting, carousers in New York are once again being preyed upon by a bloodsucker. While the people talk of vampires, the mayor claims it is "just" a madman. He turns to the Leagues to prove his claim and calm the population, lest civil unrest ensue.

69) Louis Henri Boussenard (1847-1910), an adventure novel writer dubbed the French H. R. Haggard, has admitted that his story *Three French perilous adventures in the Land of Diamonds* (published 1884), which concerns French explorers finding a mysterious cavern beneath Victoria Falls (Africa) is based on a true expedition. He refuses to speak further, but is quite willing to show curious globetrotters a huge diamond, his payment for fictionalizing the adventure.

70) Shortly before Alexandre Dumas' death, his novel *The Knight of Sainte-Hermine* was being published in serial form. The unpublished chapters were not found among Dumas' possessions after his death in 1870, but correspondence indicates it was finished. Both the British Museum Library and Bibliothèque Nationale de France are offering a reward for the discovery of the original manuscript, on the condition it is added to their collections.

71) A British naval officer contacts the globetrotters, telling them that he wishes to meet to discuss new evidence he has unearthed regarding the ill-fated Franklin Expedition. He adds only that they were not really searching for the Northwest Passage. The officer fails to attend the meeting. On investigating, they discover the Admiralty has no record of an officer by that name. Was the request a hoax, or there is a conspiracy afoot?

72) A story in the Australian newspapers has got the Leagues preparing to travel to the other side of the world. According to eyewitnesses, a sailing ship of "ancient design" was spied lying on rocks after a fierce storm. During a lull in the storm, a local fisherman rowed out and boarded her, only to abandon ship as the storm grew more intense. He recovered a handful of gold coins, and that the hold was filled with dozens of chests. Australian numismatists have confirmed the coins are Portuguese, and date to the 15th century. Unfortunately, the ship was carried back out to sea by the storm and has not been seen since.

73) Snagov monastery, the burial place of Vlad III Dracula (a.k.a Vlad the Impaler), once boasted a treasure vault. It disappeared sometime between 1462 and 1476. While many scholars believe it was plundered by the Turks, a Romanian historian has unearthed evidence it was buried to prevent it falling into Turkish hands. He requires help in locating the treasure. Among the artifacts is the so-called Chalice of Blood, from which (some occultists believe) Dracula drank in order to become a vampire. A fanatical cult of blood drinkers is also searching for it. In a Gothic Horror campaign, they might be actual vampires seeking to protect the Chalice, or blood cultists who wish to become actual vampires.

74) There are global powers who have taken affront to Japan's recent and rapid industrialization and its belligerent nature. Some have set in motion plans to shame the Emperor. According to tradition, each emperor who ascends the throne is presented with the Imperial Regalia of Japan. Among these is *Kusanagi-no-Tsurugi* ("Grass Cutting Sword"). Legend says the sword was lost at sea in 1185 somewhere off the southern tip of Honshu (Japan's largest island), and that the current sword is a replica. The Japanese government refutes this, claiming the replica was stolen. The sword (real or otherwise) used in coronations rests with the monks at the Atsuta Shrine, where it is kept away from all gaze. This makes it impossible to deduce if the sword is the real one or a fake.

A government or faction opposed to the emperor desires photographs of the sword. If it proves to be a fake, they are prepared to sponsor an underwater expedition to recover the original and use it as leverage to weaken the emperor. Once the Japanese get wind of the venture through their spies, they are prepared to take any measure to thwart the plans.

75) Down the millennia there have been many lost works of art and manuscripts. That they existed is not in question, for the sources are impeccable, but their whereabouts remains a mystery. Wikipedia has an extensive list under "Lost artworks" and "Lost work." An expedition to recover any of these would make a fine adventure, and give globetrotters who have invested in Art a chance to shine.

76) In 1897, Mark Twain responded to newspaper reports regarding his death with the words, "The report of my death was an exaggeration." Why, then, is there a body in a New York City mortuary that is the spitting image of Twain?

77) While *The Count of Monte Cristo* is regarded as a fine piece of fiction, the discovery of a letter written to Alexandre Dumas makes mention of a fabulous treasure uncovered on a remote island by a shipwrecked English nobleman. Whether or not Dumas based his story on the missive is irrelevant to the Leagues—there is treasure to be found! Unfortunately, the letter does not provide navigational directions. It is signed Lord Wilmore.

78) A crime novelist seeks out the globetrotters. Someone is recreating the murders in his books, and he is receiving bad press as a result. Some people are even accusing him of committing the crimes to boost sales. More perplexing is that the latest crime he penned has just been committed for real, and he hasn't even handed the manuscript to his literary agent.

79) While exploring an Egyptian tomb, the globetrotters discover what appear to be the original architectural plans for the Great Pyramid. While the papyrus is a valuable find by itself, what it shows is of more interest to the Leagues—a second entrance, one as yet undiscovered, that leads to previously unknown chambers.

80) A large chunk of moon rock has struck the Earth somewhere in the Amazon jungle. Keen to gain a sample for analysis, the Lunar Exploration Society is organizing an expedition. By the time the globetrotters arrive on the scene, the stone has been hauled away by a degenerate tribe of hostile natives. They believe the rock is a gift from their lunar deity, and they won't take kindly to strangers trying to steal it.

81) Conflicting reports in minor and major newspapers, most weeks out of date, relate a strange tale avowed true by eyewitnesses. A ship thought lost decades before put into a French port scarcely afloat, with a sole occupant aboard. The man calmly escaped the sinking ship and is reputed to have worked miracles and delivered palpable blessings before disappearing in the throngs of the marketplace. The ship, a veritable wreck, sank as it delivered its blessed cargo. The so-called "holy man" who disembarked walked off through the town and his whereabouts were soon lost.

82) Yet another failed expedition to cross the North Pole has come back with a very familiar tale of ice and equipment failure. The members are trying desperately to keep the lid on a very curious discovery they made while wandering in a blinding storm. While sheltering near a rock formation they found a strange reddish metal deposit which, when exposed to the heat of their tiny fire, displayed curious properties which may solve weight problems for heavier than air craft if they can find the deposit again.

83) Various Leagues have been sent three cipertexts, collectively known as the Beale ciphers by person or persons unknown. According to the cover, which is in plain English, they were written in 1820. Once deciphered, the text states that a vast fortune in gold, silver, and jewels was buried in Virginia by one Thomas Jefferson Beale. Directions to the site are vague, but can be deciphered by an observer on the ground given a little time and exploration. The race is on to decipher the complex

ciphers and retrieve the treasure...assuming it actually exists, of course.

84) In 1622, the Spanish treasure ship *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* and her escort fleet sank off the coast of Florida. In its hold was a fortune in precious metal, gems, jewelry, and indigo. Such was its value that the Spanish authorities in Cuba immediately despatched a fleet to salvage her. Although they recovered the treasure from another vessel lost at the same time, the *Santa Margarita*, they never located the wreck of the *Atocha*.

Several modern expeditions have searched for the ship, but all failed to produce a scrap of evidence. A fishing vessel recently returned to port with a pair of silver spoons in its net. Are these part of the lost treasure?

85) A wealthy patron requires assistance in bringing his wayward son home from his "grand tour" of ancient sites across Europe. The son is an aspiring painter but with a taste for laudanum. When the heroes catch up with him however, they find him dead in a rented studio. His painted self portraits are scattered across the floor, eerily depicting the circumstances of his death and also the identity his killer, who is known to the heroes.

86) The boredom of a long ocean journey is broken when the lookout (or a globetrotter) spies a small ship's boat on the water. Aboard is a single occupant. Incoherent and hysterical, he keeps murmuring, "Something came from the sea!" The vessel has a name painted on the side—*Madagascar*. Every mariner knows that ship name well, for its disappearance in 1853 while sailing from Melbourne, Australia, to London is one of the great nautical mysteries. A three-masted sailing ship, she vanished with 60 crew and 110 passengers aboard, and two tons of gold in her hold.

87) A globetrotter receives an anonymous letter containing nothing but a short riddle in an obscure language. Solving the riddle leads to a location somewhere on the planet (GM's choice), whereupon another riddle is found. This process repeats several time, before the heroes discover whatever lies at the end of the trail.

88) The globetrotters waken in a dark cell with no memory of how they got there. Only by escaping their captivity can they begin to investigate what fate befell them, and why they cannot remember the events.

89) The globetrotters are summoned to the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. There they meet with the Lord Chief Justice, the head of the British judiciary. Amid great secrecy they are told that an inventor created a machine that could literally remove the evil from a person's mind. The device was being used to "cure" the country's most depraved and insane criminals. The evil it removed took the form of a black, viscous liquid. Just yesterday, the container in which it was kept has been stolen from the asylum. If injected into someone, the concentrated essence of evil would turn them psychotic. The essence must be returned at all costs.

90) Farmers have reported the sudden appearance of geometric shapes in their crop field. Some of these so-called "crop circles" are indeed simple circles, but others are extremely elaborate geometric design. The truly

strange part is that no matter how large or complex the design, the “circles” are completed in a single night.

91) Several months after the fact, a whaling ship docks in London carrying news from a whaling station on one of the South Shetland Islands (in the Antarctic Circle). While exploring the frozen interior in search of seals, the station crew discovered a figure frozen in the ice. The whaling ship’s schedule meant it could not wait around, and the last the captain knows the figure was to be cut out of its icy prison and the ice melted to its nature could be determined.

92) The Biblical Book of Numbers makes passing reference to the Books of the Wars of the Lord. No copy of it (whole or as a fragment) has ever been found. The Old Testament Society plans to search for it in the Biblical region of Arnon, which is believed to lie in the Ottoman territory of Transjordan (modern Jordan). Linguists, explorers, and antiquarians are being recruited.

93) The first accepted report of Spring-heeled Jack dates from 1837, and the last confirmed sighting from 1888. Throughout his reign of terror he was slowly working his way north. Now there are reports he has been sighted in Edinburgh. The newspapers, as previously, report him variously as having red glow eyes, clawed hands, and even horns, not to mention breathing blue and white flames. The only fact they agree on is his prestigious leaping ability. Be it a devil possessed of supernatural powers or a man utilizing weird science, there is growing panic on the streets, and the authorities want the culprit brought to justice forthwith.

94) A tidal wave recently struck the region of Mahabalipuram, on the east coast of India. Though the inundation caused little damage, the lead up caused much wonderment. The locals have always claimed that the Shore Temple (so named for its location) is the 7th temple to hold that name. The earlier structures stood on land that is now beneath the sea. Until now, this has widely been regarded as a myth. Eyewitnesses claim that as the sea withdrew before the wave struck, the old temples, still intact, were revealed for several minutes before once again being drowned.

95) The 1883 eruption of Krakatoa killed over 36,000 people (some estimates are as high as 120,000), most by the resultant tidal wave. A weird scientist believes he has created a device that if dropped into a volcano close to erupting will cause it to quieten, delaying, if not cancelling, the explosion. Such a device would undoubtedly save many lives. He is looking for volunteers to scale a very active volcano on one of the remote Pacific islands and test his theory.

96) The tale of The City of Brass is documented in the Arabian Nights (European translations have been in circulation since 1704). A globetrotter inherits, purchases, or otherwise acquires a copy. Inside he finds a fragment of a manuscript written in Arabic. It details an actual expedition which claims to have located the city, but was prevented from entering it by a sandstorm. The author’s description of the journey is vague, but may allow another expedition to follow in his tracks. Is the

manuscript a genuine account, or is it merely an early draft of the story?

97) An astronomer believes that every 3,600 years the planet Nibiru passes close enough to Earth to allow its inhabitants to make contact. Its last visit coincided with the demise of the Indus Valley Civilization and the start of metalworking in China. The next pass is due very soon. The astronomer is seeking support to construct a space ship and volunteers to be the first humans to set foot on the alien world.

98) In response to a crippling drought abroad, several Leagues and enterprising inventors answer a challenge to “make it rain.” Hopeful rain-makers and rain machine developers flock to the arid fields to compete for the prize. Sabotage, disappearances, and murder follow. Is some agency causing the drought for personal, political, or economic gain?

99) A number of Egyptologists connected with a recent excavation have died under mysterious circumstances. The newspapers are talking of a curse. The killer is in fact a member of a fanatical sect. The question is, why is he so desperate to kill the scholars, and is the mummy the expedition brought back, unusual for its black bandages, somehow connected to his murderous rampage?

100) One of the globetrotters becomes a social pariah through no fault of his name. His friends shun him, clubs make excuses as to why he cannot enter, he is no longer invited to social functions, and even the newspapers have started to besmirch his name. Who is behind the churlish act, and what do they have against the hero?

101) A large airship of German registry drifts over London, seemingly without guidance. Investigators able and brave enough to catch and board her discover no one aboard, but report everything is operational...even the coffee on the chart table is hot. Strangely, the charts and course are for a Caribbean route.

ARTIFACT NAMES

Artifacts are legendary objects, often said to possess awesome powers or a fantastic (usually mythological) origin, and more rarely places. With that in mind, they need a flavorsome name. Typically, names take the form of “X of (the) Y,” where X is the object and Y the supposed owner or creator, or another element, such as “Light” or “Moon,” that helps define the artifact. Of course, X and Y can be put into any order you want. So while you might have The Sword of Osiris as the focus of the quest, you might prefer to have the heroes hunt for The Philosopher’s Mirror.

If you’re short of time or just need a nudge to get your creative juices flowing, we’ve created two lists. Just pick an element from each list or, if you prefer a random approach, draw two cards from a standard deck (ignoring Jokers), and combine them. The random card method generates over 2700 combinations (and many hundreds more if you include all the variant options), and not all of

them are guaranteed to work well together. If you come up with a combination that doesn't make much sense, or if you just don't like the mix, feel free to draw one or more replacement cards. The system can be used equally well in any genre with minimal work.

Although only two cards or picks are required to create an artifact's name, GMs may wish to add a descriptive word to the object. Such words might be colors or shapes, adjectives like glittering, golden, pale, or resplendent, descriptors like blessed, cursed, or holy, and so on. This isn't required, but it can add an extra dimension to the artifact. After all, chasing after The Golden Idol of the Monkey God sounds more exciting than hunting the perfunctory Idol of the Monkey God.

Note that this is only the starting point. The Game-master still needs to create a basic history for the object at the heart of the treasure hunt, and naturally he has to determine where it is located. The exact description of an artifact is also left to the GM to devise. A sword might look rather plain (in the same way the Holy Grail from the *Indiana Jones* movie was a wooden cup), but it equally be jewelled, engraved with writing along the blade, or made of some metal known only to the ancients.

FIRST CARD

The first card determines the physical nature of the object. Some entries list multiple related objects, such as types of jewelry or musical instruments—just select one you prefer.

CLUBS: MILITARIA

Card	Name
2	Armor/Breastplate
3	Axe
4	Banner/Emblem/Standard
5	Bow/Arrow(s)/Pistol
6	Dagger/Knife
7	Flail/Scourge/Whip
8	Gauntlet/Gloves
9	Hammer/Club
10	Helmet/Helm
Jack	Shield
Queen	Spear/Lance/Trident
King	Staff
Ace	Sword

DIAMONDS: LOCATIONS & VEHICLES

Card	Name
2	Cavern/Cave
3	Chariot/Bridle/Saddle
4	City
5	Coffin/Sarcophagus
6	Garden
7	Graveyard/Crypt/Necropolis/Tomb

8	Labyrinth/Prison
9	Mine/Storehouse
10	Pyramid/Ziggurat/Pillar(s)
Jack	Ship/Boat/Ark
Queen	Temple/Sanctuary/Tabernacle
King	Valley/Canyon
Ace	Well/Lake/Pool/River

HEARTS: CLOTHING, JEWELRY, & TOOLS

Card	Name
2	Amulet/Cross/Crown/Necklace/Ring
3	Cloak/Robe/Shroud
4	Cup/Chalice/Bowl/Grail
5	Flute/Horn/Drums/Pipes
6	Headress/Hat/Wig
7	Jewel/Gem
8	Lantern/Torch/Candle
9	Map/Key
10	Mask
Jack	Mirror
Queen	Quill/Pen/Stylus
King	Sandals/Boots
Ace	Wand/Rod/Scepter/Baton

SPADES: MISCELLANEOUS

Card	Name
2	Ark/Chest/Coffer
3	Bones/Skull/Teeth/Horns
4	Book/Codex/Journal/Scroll/Tome/Tablet
5	Eye/Eyes
6	Hair/Beard
7	Hand(s)
8	Heart
9	Orb/Stone/Crystal
10	Shackles/Manacles
Jack	Shadow
Queen	Statue/Idol
King	Teeth
Ace	Throne

SECOND CARD

The second card relates to the supposed owner or creator of the relic or, in some cases, is a descriptive element. Usually this descriptive term indicates its supposed (or actual) powers or purpose.

Entries marked with a number in parentheses require you to pick a unique name. This might be an historical or mythological person, a creature, a deity from a pantheon, or such like. If you don't know any off the top of your head, a little research on the internet will quickly produce dozens of options for each general category. To help get you started, we've included a handful of ideas.

CLUBS

Card	Name
2	Ages
3	Ancestors
4	Ancients
5	Angel (1)/Angels
6	Animal (2)
7	Atlantis/Lemuria/Mu
8	Aztec god (3)
9	Berserker/Fool/Tyrant/Warlord
10	Brotherhood/Sisterhood
Jack	Conquistadors
Queen	Covenant
King	Cursed Eye
Ace	Damned/Damnation/Doomed

DIAMONDS

Card	Name
2	Darkness
3	Dead/Death
4	Destiny/Fate
5	Devil/Demons
6	Egyptian god (4)
7	Eternity
8	Evil/Wickedness
9	Fire/Flame
10	Gods
Jack	Golden Mummy
Queen	Good/Righteous
King	Hindu god (5)
Ace	Historical figure (6)

HEARTS

Card	Name
2	Historically significant place (7)
3	Holy/religious person (8)
4	Illusion
5	Immortals
6	King(s)/Queen(s)/Emperor(s)
7	Legendary/Mythological figure (9)
8	Legendary/Mythological creature (10)
9	Legendary/Mythological place (11)
10	Martyr(s)
Jack	Monkey God
Queen	Moon/Sun
King	Light/Illumination
Ace	Nightmares/Dreams

SPADES

Card	Name
2	Norse god (12)
3	Paradise/hell
4	Pharaohs
5	Philosopher(s)
6	Power

7	Romano-Greek god (13)
8	Saint (14)/Saints
9	Souls
10	Spirits
Jack	Stars
Queen	Stone
King	Templars/Freemasons
Ace	Time

EXAMPLES

(1) Ariel, Eremiel, Gabriel, Grigori (the Watchers), Metatron, Michael, Kushiel, Raphael, Uriel.

(2) Eagle, Horse, Jaguar, Lion, Serpent, Tiger.

(3) Atlacoya (drought), Camaxtli (hunting), Chantico (volcanoes), Ehecatl (the creator), Mictlantecuhli (death), Quetzalcoatl (kings), Tezcatlipoca (magic and night), Tlaloc (rain).

(4) Anubis (guardian of the dead), Apophis (evil serpent demon), Apis (bull), Bast (cats), Geb (earth), Horus (pharaohs), Isis (magic), Khepri (sunrise), Ma'at (order and balance), Nut (sky), Osiris (judge of the dead), Ra (sun), Set (chaos), Thoth (invention).

(5) Aakash (sky), Agni (fire), Brahma (creation), Kali (death), Parvati (divine mother), Shiva (destruction)

(6) Alexander the Great, Blackbeard, Charlemagne, Frederick I Barbarossa, Francis Drake, Genghis Khan, Gerhonimo, Hernan Cortez, Ivan the Terrible, Joan of Arc, Julius Caesar, Louis XIV the Sun-King, Macbeth, Marco Polo, Napoleon, Nero, Qin Shi Huang, Ramesses II the Great, Richard the Lionheart, Saladin, Shaka Zulu.

(7) Ankor Wat, Athens, Babylon, Forbidden City, Karakorum, Karnak, Macchu Picchu, Persia, Rome, Temple of Zeus, Thebes, Zanzibar.

(8) Buddha, Christ, Ezekiel, King David, King Solomon, Methusaleh, Mohammed, Moses, any Pope.

(9) Achilles, Brutus of Troy, Cúchulainn, Daedalus, King Arthur, Jason (the Argonaut), Hercules, Paul Bunyan, Roland, Romulus & Remus, Theseus.

(10) Chimera, Dragon, Giant, Hydra, Medusa/Gorgon, Minotaur, Phoenix, Sphinx, Troll, Unicorn.

(11) Agartha, Asgard, Avalon, Camelot, El Dorado, Hyperborea, Labyrinth of Crete, Lyonesse, Mount Olympus, Shangri-La, Thule, Troy, Utopia, Valhalla, Xanadu, Ys.

(12) Bragi (poetry), Eir (medicine), Freyr (fertility), Frigg (love), Heimdall (watches over Asgard), Hel (underworld), Loki (trickster, evil), Odin (war, kings, magic), Thor (thunder), Tyr (war).

(13) Apollo (sun), Bacchus or Dionysius (wine), Jupiter or Zeus (sky), Chronus (time; not to be confused with the titan Cronos), Mars or Ares (war), Mercury or Hermes (travel), Minerva or Athena (wisdom), Neptune or Poseidon (sea), Pluto or Hades (underworld), Venus or Aphrodite (love).

(14) Adrian of Nicomedia (soldiers), Agatha (earthquakes), Albertus Magnus (science), Brendan the Navigator (sailors), Christopher (travellers), Francis of Assisi (animals), Genesisius (law), Jude (lost causes), Paul (missionaries), Peter (locksmiths, among other crafts).