

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA

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ATTORNEY PHILLIPS RECEIVES LETTER ABOUT MURDER CASE

Unknown Writer Follows Ruse of Sherlock Holmes Novels to Conceal Identity from
Authorities

NAMES MURDERER OF FICARROTTA

GIVES ENTIRELY NEW MOTIVE FOR THE ASSASSINATION

Evidence Placed before Grand Jury for Whatever it is Worth in Unraveling Famous Case

Following the ruse employed in one of the famous Sherlock Holmes detective stories, an unknown writer has written a communication to State's Attorneys Herbert S. Phillips in which he gives what he declares to be a new clue on the Ficarrotta case and charges that Ficarrotta was murdered for a reason entirely different from any yet advanced regarding the famous assassination. The writer names a certain person as being sufficiently interested in Ficarrotta's death to pay a considerable sum to parties to have the job done.

When the communication was received by Mr. Phillips he was considerably surprised at this new turn of affairs and not a little taken aback. He studied the curiously arranged message with interest. The sender had chosen a plain postal card, upon the back of which he pasted certain words clipped apparently from an American and Italian newspaper and which gave the information above stated. Mr. Phillips' name was also clipped from a newspaper. Most of the words appeared to have been clipped from an issue of the Tribune.

Send by Foreigner

Although the postal card was mailed at the post office in Tampa, there seems to be no doubt that the sender is an Italian or other foreigner, as the grammar employed in the arrangement of the words indicates someone, not entirely familiar with the English language. The postal card has been a source of wonder and curiosity not only to Mr. Phillips but to detectives and others to whom he has shown it, as it employs a method with which the Tampa officers in point of fact are not familiar, although it has been extensively employed in other cities. The information given has been placed before the grand jury for whatever it may be worth in the unraveling of the famous case.

Although he does not claim to accept the statements and theories of the sender of the communication, Mr. Phillips declares his belief that someone paid Castenge Ficarrotta \$200 for his alleged part in the crime, as that amount of even money in a neat little bundle was found in his safe the day of Ficarrotta's arrest, it being the only money in the safe. Mr. Phillips declares himself still of the opinion that the LaBella and the Ficarrotta cases are connected and that Ficarrotta was murdered because he refused to make a heavy contribution for defending Chiramente.

Chiramente's brother, who was at first alleged to have sought the money of Ficarrotta, was released from custody some time ago.

