

The Adventure of the Seven Sisters – 7Sis
The Chronicles of Solar Pons, 1973

Date

Copper/Mid-September, 1923

The Case

The papers tell of a man strangled (garroted) in a car on the Underground. Pons points out to Parker that this is the third case of garroting in recent months. The dead man is Lionel Ruthel and his brother, Norris Ruthel, visits Pons. He provides information that leads Pons to deduce his brother was being blackmailed. Pons takes the case and faces off with the greatest villain of the Canon, The Doctor of Limehouse.

Quotes

- Jamison: *What is it this time, Pons?*
Pons: *Pray sit down, Inspector. A little problem has come to my attention and I need your help.*
Jamison: *A bit of a turn, that...The Yard does have its uses, eh Pons?*

- *Ah, Parker, thank heaven you're not hurt! I would never have forgiven myself if anything had happened to you!*

Comments

- Norris Ruthel is an anagram for Luther Norris, founder of the Praed Street Irregulars, the Pons fan club. Norris was a Californian and the father of Ponsian scholarship as the creator of The Praed Street Dossier, the Pons newsletter. Ruthel's title, 'Lord Warden of the Pontine Marches,' is also the title for the head of the Praed Street Irregulars. Norris was followed in the office by Ted Schulz, who in turn bestowed it upon George Vanderburgh, the current leader of the PSI.

- The Doctor of Limehouse is most certainly Sax Rohmer's Fu Manchu; or a carbon copy. *Seven Sisters* is the first of four cases in which the Doctor is mentioned. However, it was the last one to be written.

Of the Doctor and his Si-Fan criminal network, Pons says, "It is part of a world-wide organization headed...by an ageless Chinese doctor of more than average intelligence – a legendary figure not only throughout the underworld but also the political world."

- Pons, attempting to find the way to open a door, hears bells go off in the distance. As he continues working at the door, he hears the bells again. He whispers, "I may have set off an alarm." This is the kind of clueless statement we are used to from Parker and Watson, not the great detective. And he did set off an alarm with serious consequences.

- The Seven Sisters in the title reference Ursa Minor, better known as The Little Dipper. It is a star constellation that Greek Mythology says consists of seven daughters of Atlas, turned into stars to escape the hunter Orion, who also became a star.
- In the *Adventure of the Camberwell Beauty*, Pons refers to the doctor, saying that he saved Pons' life in 7 Sisters. That seems to be a bit of a misstatement.
- As Sherlock Holmes often did, Pons takes justice into his own hands at the conclusion of this case, though he does allow his client to make a choice in the matter.
- In the first sentence, we are told that Inspector Jamison's first name is Seymour.
- Parker makes reference to an untold case in this tale, 'the adventure of the Obrisset Snuff-box.'