

The Adventure of the Cloverdale Kennels- Clov
The Saint Mystery Magazine, June, 1960
The Reminiscences of Solar Pons

Date

Copper/Mid summer, 1927

Patrick/Summer, 1927

Quotes

- *Run down and see who it is, Parker, like a good fellow.*
- *I prefer to dispense with food when I confront one of those little problems which give me so much pleasure.*
- *The obvious is sometimes most to be distrusted.*
- *I remain dogless and a bachelor by choice...*

The Case

Pons receives a telegram from Detective Sergeant Hetherman of Surrey, asking for help investigating the death of Edward Harton, manager and trainer of the Cloverdale Kennels. Harton was found at his desk, shot in the head with his own shotgun, which was propped up in a hedge one hundred yards away. A cord led from the trigger, through an open window and was wound around a stick within reach of Harton. Pons doubts that it is suicide and possible suspects include Harton's assistant (Ronald Ballinger), a jilted lover (Ethel Coster), a jealous boyfriend (Ronald Farrow) and disgruntled dog race bettors.

Comments

- Pons refers to Sherlock Holmes as his 'illustrious predecessor' and 'illustrious master.' He wonders if this case will be similar to *The Problem of Thor Bridge* and at the end of the story specifically mentions (Sir Arthur Conan) Doyle.

The "gun on a string" device is present in both Clov and THOR, but it is a murder disguised as suicide in the former and a suicide disguised as murder in the latter.

- Is it certain that a dog could be taught to retrieve an object in somewhat more than an hour, as Pons asserts?
- Pons says, "It always seems possible to prefer the outsider to the native. It is a sad reflection upon human nature that it is so." Doesn't this seem to be the opposite of the truth, especially in a rural community such as Haslemere? The outsider is often viewed with suspicion and may not ingratiate himself with the townsfolk for quite some time, if at all.

Before Pons's statement, Hetherman had said that Harton was well known and well liked. A few moments later, he adds that Harton was a bit of a ladies' man and not a good mixer. Finally, he says that folks were more fond of Farrow, the

jilted lover, than of Harton, and hope that it was suicide. It seems that there is confusion regarding Harton's true popularity with the locals.

- As he did in *The Adventure of the Triple Kent*, Pons points out the shallow depth of some footprints. Certainly he had studied Holmes' monograph upon the subject.
- Pons speaks of Hetherman in a complimentary manner both at the beginning and at the end of this case.