

The Adventure of the Bishop's Crouching Dog - Crou
The Saint Mystery Magazine, July, 1964
The Casebook of Solar Pons

Date

Copper/Mid-October, 1924
Patrick/NA

Quotes

- *You may think London is England, Parker. But it is not so. Out there is England – in a thousand villages and hamlets scattered across the face of the loveliest countryside in the world.*
- *A pity his literary interests were not on a somewhat higher plane! That Baskerville tale was his undoing.*

The Case

Pons and Parker receive a note while taking a train back to London after the *Adventure of the Innkeeper's Clerk*. Sir Roderick Ramsey, Chief Constable of Devon, requests Pons help investigating the death of Larry Jowett. Jowett, an Egyptologist, was found dead on the moor, savaged by some animal. Pons is informed that Jewett had feared the curse of the crouching dog, which is associated with the man's part in discovering King Tutankhaman's tomb.

Comments

- Larry Jowett was a member of Lord George Carnarvon's expedition that discovered Tutankhaman's tomb in 1922. Carnarvon financed Howard Carter, who actually found the tomb. Novelist Mari Corelli said that there would be dire consequences for anyone who had entered the tomb. A sensationalistic press ended up falsely reporting that an inscription was found in the tomb that said, "They who enter this sacred tomb shall swift be visited by wings of death."

Carnarvon died of pneumonia resulting from an infected mosquito bite (not from a spider bite as stated by Anthony Heyle) less than a year after King Tut's tomb was discovered, supposedly a victim of "the curse." While several people did die within a decade of the tomb's discovery, many more did not, including Howard Carter himself, who died seventeen years after his great find, at the age of 65.

- The case takes place on the edge of Dartmoor, setting for the classic Holmes adventure, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Parker references "that book by Conan Doyle," and Pons comments that the villain would have been better served to not base his crime on the *Hound*.
- Parker states that Sir Roderick Ramsy resembles C. Aubrey Smith. Smith was an immensely popular theater and screen star, often personifying the classic Englishman. Smith was the leader of Hollywood's "English Colony" and was knighted by King George VI in 1944.