

Mr. Fairlie's Final Journey - Fair
Mr. Fairlie's Final Journey, 1968
Mr. Fairlie's Final Journey, 1976

Date

Copper/Late September, 1938
Patrick/NA

Quotes

- *Pons: Perhaps I ought to defer to your superior knowledge of the fair sex. After all, you have married one of them, and you are clearly in a more authoritative position than I.*
Parker: Ah, that is elementary.
- *I am not disappointed. The negative may be as informative as the positive, as by this time you must know...But this is part of the process of eliminating the possible and establishing the probable.*

The Case

Jonas Fairlie's body is found murdered in a train compartment. In the lining of his hat was a piece of paper with Solar Pons' information on it. While Fairlie made somewhat regular rail journeys, no one knew where he was going on this final one. Pons is called in by the local authorities to help figure out where Fairlie was going and why he was killed.

Comments

- *Mr. Fairlie's Final Journey* was the only full-length adventure starring Solar Pons. At least, the only one published during August Derleth's lifetime. Among Derleth's papers (in two parts) was found *Solar Pons of Praed Street*, a short novel. One suggested title was *The Adventure of the Deuce of Clubs*, though it was eventually published as *The Terror Over London*. The only other Pons novel is Basil Copper's *Solar Pons & the Devil's Claw*. Though, the Gazette's intrepid editor has found a vague reference to a supposed full length manuscript for something he'll call 'The Gilchrist Affair.'
- Pons says, "Ah, Parker, you do not disappoint me! It is almost two decades since you observed my methods, and since they are really quite simple, you should be able to continue."

Is the word "first" missing between 'you' and 'observed'? As written, it reads as if it has almost been two decades since Parker saw Pons in action: clearly not the case.

- This is a rather dull story. It is not until about the two-thirds mark when things really start to get going. Also, Sir Hugh Parrington, Chief Constable in the case, is a blustery, 'Hail, well met' fellow who, other than being loud and jovial, doesn't really bring much of anything to the investigation. He is among the most one-

dimensional characters in the Pontine Canon. Finally, the climactic encounter with the villain falls flat.

- We are used to Dr. Parker being comparatively dull compared to the brightness that is Solar Pons. That is part and parcel of the 'Watson' role. But you'd be hard pressed to come up with Parker's contributions in this case. He's wrong throughout and he doesn't do much of anything.
- Roger Johnson, PSI, head of the Solar Pons Society of London, mentions this story in his essay, *A Fairlie Odd Journey...*, which can be found in issue four of The Solar Pons Gazette: http://www.solarpons.com/Gazette_2007_1.pdf
- In 1976, the cover price for the Pinnacle paperback edition of Mr. Fairlie's Final Journey was \$1.50. There was an order form in the back for the six paperback collections as well. With postage of 25 cents, up to a maximum of \$1.00, you could buy all six paperbacks for \$8.00 Compare that to running down a couple of the Pinnacle books these days! You could also add Vincent Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* for \$1.95...