

*The Adventure of the Fatal Glance - Fata*  
*The Saint Mystery Magazine, March, 1963*  
*The Casebook of Solar Pons*

Date

Copper/August 22, 1934

Patrick/NA

Quotes

- Parker: *I hope you'll remember you came to Askrigg for a holiday, I said pointedly.*
- Pons: *We've had three days without a single thought but resting in this Yorkshire country. Very trying days, if I may say so. I'm never certain why I let you talk me into these holidays from time to time.*
- *Something new under England's sun.*

The Case

Squire Thornhill is found dead in his home. He had been looking through a pair of binoculars, trapped so that a pair of needles shot out into his eyes. Pons finds a scrap of paper on the carpet that leads him to the killer.

Comments

- This is a classic misdirection case. A laundry list of people with grudges against Squire Thornhill is presented, and hidden within is a pebble that Pons uses to find the culprit. There is very little substance to this tale, and it almost reads like 'Solar Pons light.'
- In *A Study in Scarlet*, Sherlock Holmes says, "There is nothing new under the sun. It has all been done before." Solar Pons disagrees when told that Thornhill was killed by a pair of binoculars, replying, "Capital! Capital! Something new under England's sun."

Spring loaded binoculars, presented as a gift, certainly qualifies as an unusual murder weapon.