

*The Adventure of the Hats of M. Dulac – Hats*  
(originally published as *The Adventure of the Stolen Hats*)  
*The Saint Mystery Magazine*, January, 1959  
*The Reminiscences of Solar Pons*

Date

Copper/Mid-April, 1929

Patrick/1929

Quotes

- *Capital, Parker! I see plainly that when the time comes for me to retire, you ought to be able to step into my shoes.*
- *Splendid, Parker! I am delighted to observe how much of my methods rub off on you.*

The Case

Hercule Dulac is referred to Pons by his brother Bancroft. Three of his hats have been stolen. This attracts Pons' interest, since seventeen hats have recently been stolen either from the Diogenes Club, or from its members. Dulac is not a member, but had been a guest once. Pons finds the sought after hat and discovers a will concealed in the hatband. This secret will of a Lord Darnvon lies at the root of the mystery and Pons sets out to set matters aright.

Comments

- Pons could be quite cutting towards Parker. Both men climb down a ladder to the beach below, Pons with no trouble, Parker observing that it is a difficult descent. Pons' response includes "But then, you've grown a little portly – evidence that your success in your practice has gone to your waist, which is always better than to your head." Parker wisely ignores this jibe. The first two entries in the 'Quotes' section can be easily read with a sarcastic tone.
- Early on, it is unclear whether or not Parker is still a member of the Diogenes Club at the time of this adventure. Pons does not use a phrase such as "Your Club" or the like, indicating that Parker is familiar with the Club, but not an active member.

Meanwhile, Parker says "...since the subject of the Diogenes Club was one close to me, the Diogenes having been my earliest affection." The reference has the overtones of Parker having once been a member, but no longer.

But when Parker speaks in defense of the club during Dulac's visit, Pons apologizes for him, explaining that the doctor is a member. One wonders why there was initially some vagueness.

- The Diogenes seems to have changed since the time that Mycroft Holmes was a prominent member. Doctor Watson's accounts inform the reader that the only

place in the club where members were permitted to speak was 'The Strangers' Room.'

There is apparently a more social aspect to the Club in Parker's time. Dulac and Alan Upway both dine there as guests. A dining room open to Club guests certainly does not fit the image Watson presented. Also, Parker seems genial and social individual. It is difficult to picture him joining the Diogenes of Watson's description.

- This case is referred to Pons by his brother Bancroft, who forwarded a note from the prospective client with the addendum: "Solar, more in your line than mine. Bancroft."
- Pons does not turn the villain over to Scotland Yard. However, he believes that justice is served when the culprit commits suicide to avoid capture and disgrace. This is an example of Pons putting his sense of justice above the letter of the law.