

The Adventure of the Inkeeper's Clerk - Innk
The Casebook of Solar Pons, 1965

Date

Copper/Early October, 1924
Pattrick/NA

Quotes

- Leskeard: *...Eh, now, what might that be, Mr. Pons?*
Pons: *If I had known, I would not have troubled to take it up. When I know, you will also know.*

- Pons: *You insist on romance, Parker!*
Parker: *Why not? Though you are somewhat singular in this respect, I assure you it plays a major part in life.*

The Case

Pons and Parker were vacationing at the Seaman's Berth, at St. Mawes, when Saul Krayle, the night clerk, is found strangled in his room, which had been searched. Pons finds an envelope hidden in Krayle's room which leads him to find the killer.

Comments

- Pons, commenting upon a ring received in the mail by Krayle, says, "The ring was very probably Mr. Krayle's black spot." Also, Krayle was deathly afraid of the sound of a man dragging his foot.

These elements can be found in the Robert Louis Stevenson classic, *Treasure Island*. In that story, Billy Bones is hiding out at an inn, deathly afraid of a one-legged man. Bones receives 'the black spot,' the mark of death among pirate crews. Bones collapses and dies shortly thereafter. Derleth, in borrowing these story elements, was likely paying homage to Stevenson's novel.

- Parker mentions one of Pons' unchronicled cases, "the extraordinary matter of the Solitary Walker." There is no other mention of this case in the Canon.

- Major Andrew Grimesby is a guest at the Inn. His speech and characteristics bring to mind an image of Nigel Bruce playing a stuffy British military man. One can't help but wonder if Derleth wasn't paying a tongue in cheek tribute to the most famous Watson of them all.