

***The Adventure of the Mazarine Blue- MazB***  
(originally *The Thirteenth Coffin*)  
*Hunted*, June, 1956  
*The Reminiscences of Solar Pons*

Date

Copper/April, 1931

Patrick/1931

Quotes

- *Ah, Parker, it warms me to observe such definite proof of my good influence.*
- *Ah, Parker, surely you jest! The answers are so obvious that not even you could be unaware of them!*
- *Your department, Parker, I think (upon viewing a dead body).*
- *Ah, Parker, you are indeed growing more observant. Soon I shall have no secrets left, and my poor powers will be exposed for what they are.*

The Case

Sir Richard Chetley arrives at Praed St. at eleven o'clock in the evening and begs Pons to drive back to Chetley Old Place with him immediately. The family burial vault contains a thirteenth coffin with an unknown body in it. Parker estimates that the body had been interred for approximately nine months and death was caused by a blunt instrument to the back of the head. Pons finds fragments of an extremely rare butterfly, a Mazarine Blue, beneath the body, narrowing the list of possible suspects.

Comments

- Pons disguises himself as a butterfly hunter. He had used a similar ploy in XX.
- The Mazarine Blue, or *Cyaniris semiargus*, is of the *Lycaenidae* family and has been extinct in the United Kingdom since XXXX.
- Pons deduces that a visitor is unsure what floor he wants, but sees Dr. Parker's card and ascends to their lodgings. What are we to make of this? There is not a single account in the Canon of a patient visiting Parker at 7B Praed Street. Did he have any type of office or visiting room set up there? And what of Pons' name? Wouldn't he surely have had some type of card or name plate downstairs? We know Praed Street was where he received prospective clients. Why would a visitor look for Parker's name, rather than Pons'?
- Pons was responsible for solving a rash of burglaries involving Richard Chetley's cousin, Leonard. Why did Parker not tell us more of that affair?
- Did Leonard and his father really drown when their ship went down in a storm off of New Zealand? Perhaps Leonard wanted a new identity for his fresh start after serving four years in Borstall Prison. Or perhaps he and his father only wished for Sir Malcolm Chetley to believe that they were dead. It would seem that Sir

Malcolm hired Pons and definitely had Leonard prosecuted, resulting in his imprisonment.

Might Leonard and his father (Sir Malcolm's half-brother) still have harbored resentment against Sir Malcolm? Did they wish to make him pay for what he did to Leonard? Did they fake their deaths and either land safely in New Zealand, or never even board the ship in the first place and remain in England? Afterwards, did their need for revenge dissipate when Sir Malcolm died? Lacking any details regarding Sir Malcolm's passing, perhaps they were the cause of his death! Is there an untold tale from Parker in which Pons hunted them down and sent Leonard (and his father) to the gallows this time, instead of to Borstall?

- Pons refers to 'Spilsbury.' Sir Bernard Spilsbury was a British Pathologist and was regarded as the world's leading forensic expert between the World Wars. Derleth was an admitted admirer of Spilsbury, who committed suicide in 1947 by locking himself in his lab and turning up the gas.