

*From the Notebooks of Dr. Lyndon Parker
Praed Street Papers, 1965
A Praed Street Dossier*

Date

NA

Quotes

- *Though there are always several possible or probable solutions to every problem, there is only one that will exactly fit all the facts. One proceeds initially to apply the facts to the solution that seems most likely in the circumstances, and then, if they do not fit, to one after another until the correct solution is found.*

If, however, all the probably solutions are eliminated – if none fits all the facts – then whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the correct solution. This was the course invariably followed by the Master. In my opinion, no other course is proper for an investigator.

- *There is a great deal being said today about rehabilitation rather than punishment. I have dealt with the criminal element long enough to know that this idealistic humanitarianism takes rise out of ignorance rather than any well-founded knowledge. Rehabilitation is fine in theory, but let us have punishment first.*
- *Pons: ...circumstantial evidence is the strongest of all possible evidence.
Parker: The outcry against circumstantial evidence cannot be that ill founded.
Pons: It can and it is. I suspect it was begun by criminals who were fairly caught by circumstances.*
- *Nothing is as unique as facts, my dear fellow, and nothing as fascinating. You and I – indeed, the entire universe, depends on facts.*

The Case

Entries in which August Derleth presented ‘random jottings’ in a notebook kept by Dr. Parker not long after he began rooming with Solar Pons at 7B Praed Street. There were two subsequent Notebooks entries in issues of *The Pontine Dossier*. Bob Byrne continued the Notebooks series in several issues of *The Solar Pons Gazette*.

Comments

- Some insights into Solar Pons’ thoughts and methods along with little incidents that Parker shared with Pons. The Notebooks are like bonus writings from Derleth.
- *The Adventure of the Bookseller’s Clerk* is the only Notebook entry that receives a separate listing in the table of contents. It contains a mini-adventure in which Pons looks into some peculiarities involving Dennis Golders, a clerk at Jason

Brompton's bookshop. Golders would surface again in *The Adventure of the Unique Dickensians*. The Bookseller's Clerk received its own four-letter abbreviation (BOOK) from Ruber, De Waal and Vanderburgh.

- Parker gives short explanations of a few cases that Pons solves, including a suspicious will and a coded message given to a reverend's niece.
- In the final few pages, Pons shares his thoughts on famous crimes, including the Harvey Crippen, Ada Bartlett and Lizzie Borden cases.