

***Concerning Dr. Parker's Background***  
*Praed Street Papers, 1965*  
*A Praed Street Dossier*

Date

NA

Quotes

- *I was not surprised to learn of their reactions, for, truth to tell, that fellow Parker has had some dark antecedents...*
- *There are certain disquieting references in Dr. Parker's Notebooks, not all of which have seen the light of day.*

The Case

*The Casebook of Solar Pons*, issued in 1964, included a monograph by Michael Harrison entitled *(Cuthbert) Lyndon Parker*. It contained background information on the doctor's life and was almost certainly an outgrowth of correspondence Harrison exchanged with Derleth.

In this essay from the *Praed Street Papers*, Derleth comments upon concerns regarding Parker's sometime use of American idiom in his writings; first voiced by Charles Wareing and then by Harrison. Interestingly, it does not offer any additional information on the topic, with the final sentence being "I think it best, after all, to leave the entire subject to other, more impartial hands."

Comments

- Derleth did provide more information about Dr. Parker in his *Notebooks* entries (the first in the *Praed Street Papers*, the subsequent two in the *Praed Street Dossier Annuals*).
- Derleth says that he had established Parker as "a stolid, middle-class, rather unimaginative Englishman, not without a certain wit and a loyal attachment - to Pons particularly, and to England generally..."

It is interesting to contrast Derleth with Doyle. Though many people believed that Sherlock Holmes was alive at the time of the stories, Doyle certainly never encouraged that belief, and though *The Game* did not yet exist, it is nigh impossible to imagine him ever playing it.

However, Derleth dabbles in *The Pontine Game* with this essay, implying that he will not provide further details on Parker's background because he is afraid of what he might discover. He is content to leave Parker's past in the dark.