

The Adventure of the Remarkable Worm - Rema
Three Problems for Solar Pons 1952
The Return of Solar Pons, 1958

Date

Copper/August 10, 1926

Patrick/August, 1926

Quotes

- If the worm is unknown to science, then there is no such worm.

The Case

Flora White, a cleaning woman, comes to Praed Street. One of her employers, Idomeno Persano, had received a package containing a “worm unknown to science” in a matchbox. He was found at his table in a state of shock after opening it. By the time Pons and Parker arrive at the house, Persano is dead.

Comments

- This was one of Doctor Watson’s “untold tales” of Sherlock Holmes. It was mentioned in *The Problem of Thor Bridge*, referencing the story of “Isaodora Persano, the well-known journalist and duelist, who was found stark staring mad with a match box in front of him which contained a remarkable worm said to be unknown to science.” Derleth changed the name to Idomeno Persano, which is a more masculine one. Er, sort of.
- Ms. White apparently knew Athos Humphreys, the shop proprietor in *The Adventure of the Penny Magenta*.
- Like Holmes, Pons apparently practices his pistol shooting indoors, which Parker refers to as “an abominable exercise which understandably disturbed our long-suffering landlady, Mrs. Johnson.” We do not know if Pons shot a patriotic pattern into the wall as Holmes did.
- Derleth’s sense of humor comes through in this story. Persano had received a post card. Parker describes it as being of the type “evidently designed for people on holiday wishing to torment their friends who are unable to take vacation.”

That is funny! When someone writes, “Wish you were here” on a postcard, the point it is most definitely making to the recipient is that they, are, in fact, not there (that felt very Douglas Adamsy). Most likely they are at home and working the next day. The recipient is not some place that is so pleasant the person who is there feels the need to send them a postcard to tell hem of it.

- The Remarkable Worm utilizes a common mystery plot. One or more gang members “rat out” the rest of their mates, receiving lesser sentences. The

informant(s) goes into hiding but is hunted down by those he betrayed. The Holmes tale *The Adventure of the Resident Patient* is another example. A variation on this plot is used in the Pons case, *The Adventure of the Devil's Footprints*.