

The Sources of the Tales
Praed Street Papers, 1965
A Praed Street Dossier

Date

NA

Quotes

- *Without exception, the Solar Pons stories have been written around titles. None of the stories was ever conceived without the prior challenge of the title.*
- *I am always alert for an idea or a plot that will lend itself to a Pontine pastiche.*

The Case

A short essay by Derleth that discusses where his ideas come from for the Pons tales. Inspirations he mentions include true life, magazines (*Country Life* seemed to be a gold mine of ideas for him), his imagination and, of course, The Canon.

Comments

- Derleth comments that he wrote *The Adventure of the Mazarine Blue* because he took a fancy to the name of that butterfly. However, the editor of *Hunted Magazine* changed the title to *The Thirteenth Coffin*.
- One of the newspaper clippings that Derleth says had caught his eye was headlined *Christmas at Caldermoor*. Surely this would have been a fine Christmas pastiche. Just as Holmes for the Holidays (and its sequel) gave us multiple holiday tales featuring 'The Master,' perhaps we can look forward to a collection of Pons yuletide tales.
- *The Adventure of the Sussex Beekeeper* is the last unwritten case mentioned. What foe could be worthy of the combined talents of Pons and Holmes. Was Moran somehow free from prison and did he seek the aid of Baron von Kroll in gaining vengeance upon Holmes? Or perhaps some nightmare from long before man walked upon the earth was loosed from within the Sussex cliffs?