

The Adventure of the Triple Kent - Trip
The Saint Detective Magazine, April, 1957
The Return of Solar Pon, 1958

Date

Copper/Early Summer, 1932

Patrick/Summer, 1932

Quotes

- *An ugly, stupid crime, peculiarly feminine in its essential nature. Do you wonder that I subscribe so firmly to single blessedness?*
- *There is no hatred so great as that of one woman for another.*
- *Perhaps it is all too elementary, Sergeant. Some of us have an unhappy tendency to make a problem far more complex than it is.*

The Case

Pons and Parker are taking the train back to London after having made a visit to an unnamed retired detective who is most certainly Sherlock Holmes. A Sergeant Lester accosts Pons in his compartment and all but begs him to come and help with a triple murder in Kent. Three women were shot gunned to death at their cottage.

Comments

- ‘We were on the way back from the South Downs where Pons paid an almost reverential visit to an old bee-keeper whose retirement concealed the identity of a brilliant genius to whom Pons habitually referred as “the Master...”

And early in this tale we get a clear indication that Pons has some type of contact with Sherlock Holmes in the latter’s retirement. It certainly comes as no surprise; but what we are really wondering is whether it is purely a social call or does Pons consult with the first and greatest consulting detective?

- Pons also sneaks in a ‘jab’ at Parker that can slip by the unwary reader:
“There is also a certain literary doctor living near Crowborough,” said Pons, with a twinkle in his eye. “In more than one way a colleague of yours, eh Parker?”

That is surely a reference to the good Doctor Watson, who must have moved to Crowborough at some point after Holmes retired to the Sussex Downs. We are left to wonder if Parker and Watson had some level of acquaintanceship. Perhaps the two men had an adventure of their own.

- This case represents some of August Derleth’s laziest plotting. Pons conducts a quick question and answer session with the housekeeper’s son and he lays out enough information that you’d have to be deaf to not have a pretty good idea what happened. As a reader, it is basically presented as, “Here, look at

this nice shotgun; the same weapon that killed those three ladies.” And there’s more of the same. Fortunately, this type of writing is rare in Derleth’s tales.

- Derleth mentions Tunbridge Wells, which the Norwood cottage is near. Basil copper, who carried on the Pons stories with the blessing of the Derleth Estate, spent a large part of his life in Tunbridge Wells.
- Pons’ examination of the broken tea cups sets him on the path to apprehending the culprit. That same evidence mostly passes by Lester’s notice. Or at least, his understanding.