

nod.

off the library.

a dramatic groan.

this ungodly hour."

without irritation.

sip my coffee."

be, then?"

him

I heard him call Vance a bit per-

ing less than gore would have led

your footsteps to my boudolr at

"Not a murder-" Markham be-

"Oh, 1 say! What time might it

"Eight forty-five," Markham told

"So early-and not a murder!"

Your wedding morn perhaps?"

"Archer Coe has committed sui-

"My word!" Vance was now mov-

. Come, let's sit down while I

Markham re-entered the library,

followed by Vance clad in sandals

and an elaborate mandarin robe.

ing about. "That's even stranger

(I could hear Vance's feet hit the

CHAPTER I -1-

The Bolted Bedroom.

T WAS exactly three months after the startling termination of turbed as he disappeared into the Scarab murder case that Philo Vance's bedroom, which was just in Coe's bedroom." Vance was drawn into the subtlest and the most perplexing of all the criminal problems that came his way during the four years of John F.-X. Markham's incumbency as district attorney of New York county. Rarely in the annals of modern crime has there been a case that seemed to reverse so completely the rational laws by which humanity lives and reasons. In the words of the doughty and practical Sergt. Ernest Heath of the homicide bureau, the case "didn't make sense." On the surface it smacked of strange and terrifying magic, of witch-doctors and miracle-workers; and every line of investigation ran into a blank wall.

In fact, the case had every outward appearance of being what armchair criminologists delight in calling the perfect crime. And, to make the plotting of the murderer even more mystifying, a diabolical concatenation of circumstances was superimposed upon the events by some whimsical and perverse god, which tended to strengthen every weak link in the culprit's chain of ratiocination, and to turn the entire bloody affair into a maze of in- Turkish coffee, at the same time comprehensibility.

Curiously enough, however, it was the very excess of ardor on the part of the murderer when attempting to divert suspicion, that created a minute hole in the wall of mystery, through which Vance was able to see a glimmer of light. In the process of following that light to the truth, Vance did what I believe was the shrewdest and profoundest detective work of his career.

For years he had been a breeder of Scottish terriers. Sometimes I think he manifested a greater en-

THE FRONTIER, O'NEILL, NEBRASKA

pany him. As he had admitted, ready notified him. He's on his way something was in the back of his uptown now."

head. "Very well," he acquiesced. "Shortly after eight this morning Coe's butler-the obsequious Gamblephoned me at my home. He informed me, with many hems and haws, that Archer Coe had shot himself, and asked me if I would come to the house at once. My first instinct was to tell him to notify the police; but, for some reason, I checked myself and asked him why he had called me. He said that Mr. Raymond Wrede had so advised him-'

"Ah !" "It seems he had first called Wrede-who, as you know, is an intimate family friend-and that Wrede had immediately come to the

house." "And Wrede said 'get Mr. Markham.' " Vance drew deep on his "Go ahead with your chores, Van "Something dodging cigarette. Dine," he said, with a perfunctory about in the recesses of Wrede's "I'll rout out the sybarite brain, too, no doubt . . . Well, any myself." He seemed a trifle permore?' "Only that the body was bolted

"Bolted on the inside?"

"Exactly."

emptorily, and I heard Vance give "Amazin' !" "Gamble brought up Coe's breakfast at eight as usual, but received "A murder, I presume," Vance no answer to his knocking. . . ." complained through a yawn. "Noth-

"So he peered through the keyhole-yes, yes, butlers always do. Some day, Markham, I shall, in a moment of leisure, invent a key hole that can't be seen through by butlers. Have you ever stopped to think how much of the world's disturbance is caused by butlers being able to see through keyholes?" "No, Vance, 1 never have," re-

turned Markham wearily. "My floor). "You interest me strangely. brain is inadequate-I'll leave that speculation to you. . . . Nevertheless, because of your dalliance in cide," Markham announced, not the matter of inventing opaque keyholes. Gamble saw Coe seated in his armchair, a revolver in his hand, and a bullet wound in his right temthan a murder. I crave elucidation. ple. . .

"But what about Brisbane Coe? Why did Gamble call Wrede when Archer's brother was in the house?" "Brisbane Coe didn't happen to be in the house. He's at present Vance rang for Currie and ordered in Chicago."

"Ah! Most convenient. . . . So

PHILO VANCE has had many difficult assignments but never have the great detective's powers of deduction been given so severe a test as when he is called upon to clear away the mystery surrounding

The Coe house was an old brownstone mansion of double frontage occupying two city lots, built in a day when dignity and comfort were

among the ideals of New York architects. As we ascended the steps the door was opened for us before we had time to pull the old-fashioned brass bell-knob; and the flushed face of Gamble looked out at us cringingly.

"Thank you for coming, Mr. Markham." His voice reeked of oily



Then He Knelt Down and Looked Through the Keyhole.

"It's very terrible. subservience. And I really didn't know just sir. what I should do-"

Two men came forward to greet The one in advance I recogus. nized immediately as Raymond Wrede. He, I knew, was a close friend of the Coe family, and particularly of Hilda Lake, Archer Coe's niece. He was a studious man in his late thirtles, slightly gray, with an ascetic, calm face of the chevaline type. He was mildly interested in Oriental ceramics-probably as a result of his long association with Coe-though his particular fancy was ancient oil lamps; and he owned a collection of rare specimens.

He bowed formally to Markham, whom he knew slightly; nodded perfunctorily to me; and extended his hand to Vance. Then, as if suddenly remembering something, he turned toward the man behind him, and made a brief presentation, which in reality was an explanation.

"Signor Grassi. . . . Mr. Grassi has been a house guest of Mr. Coe's for several days. He represents an alian museum of Oriental antiquities at Milan." Grassi bowed very low, but said nothing. He was considerably shorter than Wrede, slim, immaculately dressed, with shiny black hair brushed straight back from his forehead, and a complexion whose unusual pallor was accentuated by large luminous eyes. His features were regular, and his lips full and shapely. His manicured hands moved with an almost feline grace. Markham wasted no time on ceremony. He turned abruptly to Gamble. "Just what is the situation? A police sergeant and the medical examiner will be here any moment." "Only what I told you on the telephone, sir." The man, beneath his obsequious manner, was patently frightened. "When I saw the master through the keyhole I knew he was dead-it was quite unnerving, sir-and my first impulse was to break in the door. But I thought it best to seek advice before taking such a responsibility. And, as Mr. Brisbane Coe was in Chicago, I phoned to Mr. Wrede and begged him to come over immediately. Mr. Wrede was good enough to come, and after looking at the master he suggested that I call you, sir, before doing anything else-"

Varieties of Duck Stuffing **Recent Finds Confute**

Those Fond of This Delicious Fowl Can Have Choice of at Least Two Standard Preparations; Look to Oven Temperature.

"Can you come out to dinner to- | thick. There should be no salad morrow? We are going to have dressing with this sandwich, but a duck !" asks a friend over the tele- tart jelly or orange marmalade may phone. She knew that duck is one be put at the side. If you happen of my favorite dinner dishes, espe- to have stuffed the duck, the stuffing cially the way she cooks it, a mis- will add to flavor and make the meat tress of the culinary art writes. go further. There is little left over Sometimes she stuffs it with bread from a duck dinner unless you have stuffing, well seasoned with onlons, cooked an extra duck for this purand again with a fruit stuffing, pose. Today I am going to give you

whose foundation is apples and raisins or prunes.

If she uses the first kind of stuf- ation of duck just as they come fing, she may bake small oranges or from a cook book in my collection. I apples around the duck or garnish am also printing my favorite recipe the platter with sliced oranges, piled for fruit stuffing, which is good with high with currant jelly duck-or duckling.

New Yorkers attach the adjective Long Island to ducklings because a large part of the supply comes from this nearby point. In fact, the title is used in many parts of the country to indicate young, tender ducks which may or may not have brought up on Long Island, any more than all turkeys called "Maryland" have

Ducklings will often be the best bargains among the fowls and roast offered, although they are not very "meaty" and do not furnish us with much leftover for another meal.

oven, in the first place, for roasting. After the outside has browned slightly, the temperature should be lowered to moderate and the cookblended. ing finished. White duck gravy is good; however, many persons prefer a tart sauce flavored with orange juice, with olives or with jelly. I shall never forget the duck with Fasten opening with skewers. Bake olives which is a specialty of Stras- in a hot oven for fifteen minutes, reburg, or the duck with orange sauce duce heat to medium, 350 degrees F., for which several Parls restaurants are famous, and which is duplicated utes per pound. Do not rub duckvery well by one or two of New ling with butter. Let the neck and York's best French restaurants. I giblets simmer for about an hour in must confess that I do not appreci- enough water to cover. Drain, reate as much as I suppose I should serve stock, chop giblets, and brown the duck "presse," which is the real in four tablespoonfuls of fat in epicure's joy. The duck is not roasting pan. To make gravy-add cooked very long, and all but the four tablespoonfuls of flour, stir un-

the breast. Of course I have not and thick. done justice to the intricacies of its preparation-as it is done at the most famous restaurants in Paris and in this country. I am surepretty sure-that you haven't a duck press !--- and if you have you certainly know how to use it.

Up in Cape Cod one of the speci- mixed population of South and Cenalties which rival lobster rolls and tral America, will gain only 40,000,-

Biblical Exodus Date Recent finds of pottery by an ex-

pedition into southern Transjordan places the date of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt in the Thirteenth century B. C., instead of the Fifteenth, as has previously been held by many Bible students, according to Prof. Nelson Gluek, head of the expedition and professor of Bible at Hebrew Union college in Cincinnati. The discoveries show that the Edomites and the Moabites did not become established in southern Transjordan until the Thirteenth century B. C. and therefore could not possibly have refused the Israelites passage through their countries, as stated in the Bible, until that time.

In addition, the expedition found rich deposits of copper and iron ore which they believe were one of the sources of the vast wealth of King Solomon. A copper mine was discovered which showed extensive working. It ran back into a cliff for more than 150 feet and veins of copper ore were discernible in the pillars of rock which had been left for support .--Pathfinder Magazine.

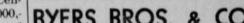
Eruptions on Scalp Itched and Burned

Healed by Cuticura

"My sister's skin became itchy and, before long, sore eruptions began to appear on her face and scalp. They were red and soon began to weep. We thought she would have to have her hair cut and be bald. Her scalp itched and burned, causing her to irritate it by scratching.

"She began to use Cuticura Soap and Ointment. The first week the eruptions became fewer and in two weeks she was healed and no sign of her trouble can be seen." (Signed) Mrs. Emma Youska, 706 Monterey St., McKeesport, Pa., April 12, 1934. Soap 25c. Ointment 25c and 50c. Talcum 25c. Sold everywhere. Proprietors: Potter Drug & Chemical Corp., Malden, Mass .- Adv.

PARKER'S Imparts Color and Imparts Color and Bolt of Cray and Faded Ha 60e and \$1.00 at Drogrists. 0x Chem. Wiks., Fatcher WPOO - Li Ur's D HAIR BALSAM FLORESTON SHAMPOO - Ideal f connection with Parker's Hair Balsam. Mak hair soft and fluffy. 50 cents by mail or at gists, Hiscox Chemical Works, Patchorue.



1 cup seedless raisins 1 chopped onion 1 teaspoon salt Paprika Mix all ingredients thoroughly. Orange Sauce.

1 cup boiling water Juice and grated rind of 1 orange 1/4 cup sugar tablespoon flour 1 tablespoon butter

3 cups chopped apples

1/2 cup seedless raising Mix the dry ingredients, add boll-

some French recipes for the prepar-

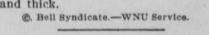
Fruit Stuffing.

ing water and cook until clear. Add the orange juice and rind, the raisins and the butter. Stir until well

Roast Duckling.

Cut off neck and wash the duckling. Fill cavity with fruit stuffing. and roast, allowing twenty-five min-

breast is put through a press to ob- til smooth and brown, and add two tain the juice, which is poured over | cupfuls stock and stir until smooth



Asiatics to Lead Growth

In the next ten years, it is prophesied, the number of Asiatics will increase by 150,000,000, while American "half-breeds," described as the



ever been in that state. Ducks, like other fowl, need a hot

thusiasm in his dogs than in any other recreative phase of his life. I mention that fact-or idiosyncrasy, if you prefer-because it so happened that Vance's ability to look at a certain stray Scottish terrier and recognize its blood lines and show qualities, was what led him to one phase of the truth in the remarkable case which I am now recording.

That which led Vance to another important phase of the truth was his knowledge of Chinese ceramics. He possessed a small but remarkable collection of Chinese antiquities-museum pieces he had acquired in his extensive travelsand had written various articles for Oriental and art journals on the subject of Sung and Ming monochrome porcelains.

Scotties and Chinese ceramics! A truly unusual combination. And yet, without a knowledge of these two antipodal interests, the mysterious murder of Archer Coe, in his old brown-stone house in West Seventy-first street, would have remained a closed book for all time.

It was shortly after half-past eight on the morning of October 11, that Vance's doorbell rang; and Currie, his old English valet and majordomo, ushered Markham into the library. I was temporarily installed in Vance's duplex roof-gar-



Scotties and Chinese Ceramics! A Truly Unusual Combination.

den apartment at the time. For years, almost since our Harvard days, I had been Vance's legal adviser and monetary steward (a post | casm.' which included as much of friendship as of business and his affairs kept me fairly busy.

On this particular Autuma morning I was busily engaged with a

The Kennel Murder Case

• Through a maze of conflicting evidence, pointing to half a dozen persons as possible culprits, Vance moves with unerring accuracy and finally finds the clew which enables him to dispose of the most baffling problem ever presented to him.

Read this first installment of S. S. Van Dine's greatest, most absorbing murder mystery story and join Philo Vance in a thrilling manhunt for one of the shrewdest murderers on record.

settling himself in a large Queen | when Wrede arrived he advised Anne chair and lighting one of his Gamble to phone direct to you, favorite cigarettes. knowing that you knew Coe. And "What did you mean, Vance,"

"I shouldn't wonder if Vance were

A few minutes later Vance

"Awfully thoughtful of you, and

smiling jauntily at Markham,

"There's something positively fas-

geant Heath on hand."

being stranger than murder?" "Nothing esoteric, old thing,"

of acquaintances." "Do you want to come?" demand-Vance drawled languidly. "Simply that there would be nothing pared Markham, with a trace of anger. "Oh, by all means," Vance reticularly remarkable in anyone's pushing old Archer into the Beyond. plied dulcetly. "But, really, y He's been inviting violence all his know, I can't go in these togs." He rose and started toward the bedlife. Not a sweet and love-inspiring chappie, don't y' know. But room. "I'll hop into appropriate inthere's something deuced remark- teguments." As he reached the door able in the fact that he should push he stopped. "And I'll tell you why himself over the border. He's not your invitation enthralls me. I had the suicidal type-far too egocen- an appointment with Archer Coe for three this afternoon to look at tric.'

"I think you're right. And that a pair of peach-bloom vases fouridea was probably in the back of teen inches high he had recently my head when I told the butler to acquired. And, Markham, a collector who has just acquired a pair of hold everything till I got there." "Why should you be notified at peach-bloom vases of that size

all? And what did the butler pour doesn't commit suicide the next into your ear over the phone? And day.' why are you here curtailing my slumbers? Why everything? Why peared, and Markham stood, his anything? Just why? Can't you hands behind him, looking at the see I'm bursting with uncontrollable bedroom door with a deep frown. curiosity?" And Vance yawned and

right," he mumbled, as if to himclosed his eyes. "I'm on my way to Coe's house," | self. "He's put my subconscious Markham was annoyed at the thought into words." other's attitude of indifference. "Thought maybe you'd like to- emerged, dressed for the street.

what's your favorite word ?- 'toddle' along." This was said with sar- all that, to pick me up," he said, "Toddle," Vance repeated, "Quite,

But why toddle blindly? The cinatin' about the possibilities, it corpse won't run away, even if we might be convenient to have Serare a bit latish."

Markham hesitated, and shrugged. "So it might," agreed Markham mass of canceled checks and bank Obviously he was uneasy, and ob- drily, putting on his hat, "Thanks statements when Markham arrived. viously he wanted Vance to accom- for the suggestion. But I've al-

"It was obvious"-Wrede took up you, knowing that I had visited Coe | the story-"that poor Coe was dead, Markham asked, "by Coe's sucide on various occasions, thought you'd and I thought it best to leave everything intact for the authoripick me up and make it a conclave ties. I didn't want to insist on hav-

ing the door broken in." Vance was watching the man closely.

"But what harm could that have done?" he asked mildly. "Since the door was bolted on the inside, suicide was rather plainly indicated-eh, what?"

"Perhaps you are right, Mr. Vance," Wrede appeared ill at ease. 'But-somehow-my instinct told me that it might be best-"

"Quite-quite." Vance took out his cigarette case. "You, too, were sceptical-despite the appearances." Wrede gave a start, and stared fixedly at Vance.

"Coe," Vance continued, "wasn't exactly the suicidal type-was he?" With this remark Vance disap-"No-o," Wrede's eyes did not shift.

Vance lighted a cigarette. "My own feeling is you acted quite wisely."

"Come!" Markham turned toward the stairs and made a peremptory gesture to Gamble, "Lead the

The butler turned and mounted the stairs. Markham, Vance and I followed, but Wrede and Grassi remained below. Gamble, without a word, indicated the door.

Markham came forward, tried the knob, and shook it. "Then he knelt down and looked through the key-When he rose his face was hole. grim.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

clam cake is the duck sandwich. It 000, On the other hand pure-bred Good Live Stock Com. Service is really delicious when made with Europeans will increase by only 20,fresh bread, buttered and cut rather 000,000. Stock Yards - OMAHA

