

The Journal of Jack the Ripper, East End and Victorian Studies

# Ripperologist

No. 85

November 2007



## In the Eye of the Beholder

Two new art exhibitions with Ripper links prompt Chris George to question artistic licence

Andrew Spallek on John Henry Lonsdale

Gavin Bromley on Cadosch | Holmes and the Ripper Part III



# RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

Issue 85, November 2007

## QUOTE FOR NOVEMBER:

'The Sickert Trust had better watch out when copyright expires on his letters in 2012.'  
Patricia Cornwell, *Daily Telegraph*, London, UK, 26 November 2007

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# RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

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# In the Eye of the Beholder

Editorial by Christopher T. George

In this issue of the *Rip*, we report on an East End exhibit of paintings by modern artists who have chosen to celebrate the victims of Jack the Ripper. It is heartening to see the victims get the spotlight for once instead of Bloody Jack. All too often the spotlight falls on the nameless miscreant and his bloody deeds - and the lives and humanity of the victims are lost in the process. Thus, it was appropriate that one of the attendees at the opening of the art show was Neal Sheldon who has done so much to research the lives of the victims and to contact their descendents and relatives - invaluable work that has helped advance the field.

Art has been used in various ways in portraying the Ripper story. We think of the early sketches of the case in *The Illustrated Police News*, *Reynolds News*, or the *Penny Illustrated Paper*. These sketches along with articles on the case kept the populace of the day informed on the case. Although in truth some of the sketches were of a 'penny dreadful' nature, sensationalizing the case as certain newspapers did with other murder cases of the time. Nonetheless, they remain a resource to us today, even if we have to admit that the observer has to allow for artist's license. A clear case of such license can be seen in comparing the look of the fence in the backyard of 29 Hanbury Street in the different

*The Illustrated Police News covering the murder of Mary Jane Kelly*



representations of the scene. The planks are either shown even and close together or with gaps and uneven, and the fence is represented to be of various different heights as well. Because Albert Cadosch witnessed the murder from the adjoining yard, the look of the fence has a bearing on how to interpret his testimony. In some instances, it has to be wondered whether the contemporary artists actually saw the scenes they drew or if they relied on hearsay or inquest testimony or were copying from other artists.

Two of the present-day artists who are working to recreate the murder scenes are the *Rip*'s own Jane Coram and Jaako Luukanen. I asked Jane and Jake to reflect on what their work was doing to illuminate our knowledge of the crimes. Jane responded: 'I started doing the reconstructions because I got completely lost reading the old descriptions of the crime scenes, particularly Mitre Square which was impossible to navigate. I thought the only way to find my way around was to recreate the scene visually. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, well in my case it was a whole volume! I soon realised that an awful lot can be missed when relying on only the written descriptions and old sketches and photos, but by combining them and actually rebuilding the scene, it did reveal clues that could otherwise be overlooked. It does bring the people and places back to life for me and hopefully for others as well. Bloody good fun too!'

Coram and Luukanen use entirely different methods to recreate the

crime scenes. Jane said, 'I paint the old fashioned way, albeit it with a mouse and screen these days rather than a canvas, but the technique is identical in all other respects. Jake uses 3D programmes, which is more technical and mathematical, but is incredibly hard to do, and I think a lot more skillful than my method really, as I was just lucky enough to have been born with an artist's eye, hand and brain. Jake has had to learn his art, although he must have an artist's temperament and creativity. He impresses the hell out of me.'

Jake said, 'Simply put, a reconstruction done via 3D models allows one to look at the scene from other vantage points than those available to us via contemporary or near-contemporary images. If nothing else, this allows the viewer to get his or her bearings in relation to the crime scene narratives, which can be a bit confusing at times. I'm a bit sceptical as to how many real "hard clues" can be found in reconstructions. However, since building these things requires, amongst other things, the use of detailed plans of the area, some topographic errors in witness statements (as well as latter day theories) jump at you. For example, an inquest transcription may say "15-16 feet", when a plan reveals the distance to be 50-60 feet. Also, I've come across theories relying on thoroughfares which didn't exist in 1888. Furthermore, during the hunt for written location detail in press reports etc, one occasionally comes across something new and interesting in relation to the crimes themselves.

"It is also worth remembering that as far as the crime scene photos go, only the one of 13 Miller's Court is contemporary - the rest are nearly a quarter of a century off, so to try and "restore" a scene to how it must have been at the time of the murders is to me interesting in itself. To me, perhaps the best part of the process is when a model, based on a variety of visual and other sources, starts coming together so that I can "walk" there myself. For example, realising for the first time just how narrow Church Passage was had me a little perplexed: what an ideal place to gain control over somebody - why continue onwards?

'Ultimately I'm more interested in the world in which these crimes took place rather than the crimes themselves. But in order to recreate even a tiny corner of this world, say a crime scene, one does have to go through a lot of contemporary source material. It is the things one encounters here which makes the period and place come to life. If a reconstruction can transmit even a small fraction of such discoveries to the viewer, they're worth their weight in pixels.'

Of course none of us can go back to the East End of 1888 and relive the time of the Ripper. But with the continuing innovations in computer technology combined with the talent of such artists, we can now have the next best thing: the recreated world of Jack the Ripper!

*Jake Luukanen's reconstruction of Mitre Square, looking towards Church Passage on the right of the picture*





# John Henry Lonsdale: A Possible Source of Macnaghten's 'Private Information'

By ANDREW SPALLEK

All photographs copyright Andrew Spallek 2007

St. Mary's church, Iwerne Courtney (Shroton), Dorset.

In 1987, authors Martin Howells and Keith Skinner in their book, *The Ripper Legacy*, introduced the Ripperological community to a man by the name of John Henry Lonsdale.<sup>1</sup> The authors discovered the name 'J H Lonsdale' along with the address 'No. 5 Eliot Cottages, Blackheath' inside the back cover of a diary belonging to Sir Henry Francis ('Harry') Wilson now in the collection of Trinity College Library, Cambridge. Wilson was a barrister and later an important political administrator in South Africa. While practicing in London, Wilson owned a house called 'The Osiers' in Chiswick, just yards from where the body of Ripper suspect Montague John Druit was found in the Thames on 31 December 1888. For Howells and Skinner, this discovery provided an important potential link between Druit and Wilson, and, along with Wilson, his Cambridge friends, including sometime Ripper suspects J K Stephen and Prince Albert Victor ('Prince Eddy').

I believe there is more to John Henry Lonsdale than met the eyes of Howells and Skinner. The connection with Harry Wilson is a significant one that should be explored further but it would appear that Lonsdale kept crossing paths with Montague Druit himself. Both men were often in the same place at nearly the same time. Lonsdale lived within sight

View of King's Bench Walk with the Paper Buildings to the right.



of Druit at Blackheath - only a few seconds walk away. Lonsdale, a barrister like Druit, had chambers in the same set of buildings as Druit. Lonsdale apparently knew Druit's cousin, the Rev Charles Druit. The list goes on, as we shall see. The inescapable conclusion is that John Henry Lonsdale and Montague Druit knew one another, and probably very well. But Lonsdale also knew someone else involved in the Whitechapel murders - someone who possessed 'private information.'

## Sir Melville Macnaghten's 'Private Information'

In his famous memorandum, Sir Melville Macnaghten wrote concerning Druit, 'from *private information* I have little doubt that his own family believed him to be the murderer' (emphasis added). Researchers of the Whitechapel murders have for years tried to identify the source of Sir Melville's 'private information.' Many have assumed the information

source to be a member of the Druit family; however, Macnaghten does not say this. In fact, one could argue that Sir Melville would have 'no doubt' rather than 'little doubt' of the Druit family's suspicions had the 'private information'

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Howells, Keith Skinner, *The Ripper Legacy*. London: Sphere Books, Ltd, 172-3. Lonsdale is also mentioned in D J Leighton's recent book devoted to Druit's candidacy as the Ripper. D J Leighton, *Montague Druit: Portrait of a Contender*. London: Hydrangea, 2005, 92.



*Site of Valentine's school at no. 9 Eliot Place, Blackheath. The house on the right is where the main part of the school stood. The building with the pointed roof line was part of the school and is the only portion of it remaining. This was confirmed to me by Blackheath historian Neil Rhind.*

come from a family member. This may be parsing Macnaghten's words a bit too closely but there is at least every possibility that the source of this information came from a close friend of the Druitt family who was also an acquaintance of Sir Melville's. A strong possibility for such an individual is John Henry Lonsdale.

Melville Leslie Macnaghten was born 16 June 1853 in West Ham, London, and he was educated at Eton College.<sup>2</sup> In 1871, he is listed among students in the 'Upper School - Fifth Form' at Eton. Listed in the same form for that year is John Henry Lonsdale.<sup>3</sup> As young men, the two likely knew one another. Lonsdale was born in the district of St Pancras, London, on 25 June 1855<sup>4</sup> into a long line of clerics, and he himself became an Anglican priest at age 31. Macnaghten married the daughter of a clergyman from Chichester who may well have been known to the Lonsdales. It is likely that the two men saw one another on social occasions, possibly at school reunions,<sup>5</sup> and may have been friends. A search of the correspondence of these two men, if any survives, might confirm a relationship between them.

### John Henry Lonsdale and the Druitt Family

Something of Lonsdale's background should be mentioned before touching on his contact with the Druitt family. John Henry Lonsdale was the only son of John Gylby Lonsdale, Canon of Lichfield from 1867 to 1872. He was the grandson

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2 'Sir Melville Macnaghten' at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melville\\_Macnaghten](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melville_Macnaghten) and birthplace of Macnaghten from information posted by Chris Scott at [forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?p=95314](http://forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?p=95314)

3 *The Eton Register*. London: Spottiswoode, 1907, 3 (Macnaghten) and 10 (Lonsdale).

4 Joseph Foster, *Men at the Bar*. London: Reeves and Turner, 1885, 285.

5 In his memoirs, Macnaghten writes that he attended 'Eton dinners' while in India. Sir Melville Macnaghten, *Days of My Years*. London: Edward Arnold, 1914, 7. It is likely that he attended similar functions when in England.





View of the Hare and Billet (left) and Elliot Cottages (right) from the green in front of Valentine's school.

of Dr John Lonsdale, longtime Bishop of Lichfield, and the great-grandson of another John Lonsdale, vicar of Darfield, Yorkshire. John Henry followed the family tradition of serving at the bar before his ordination in the Church of England. To this end, after studying at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge, he was called to the bar on 17 November 1882. He was ordained a priest in March 1887.<sup>6</sup> Lonsdale died on 16 February 1903 from septicemia after he accidentally received a wound to the elbow while felling trees. He is buried in the churchyard of St Andrew's, Fontmell Magna, Dorset, where he was rector from 1900 until his untimely death.<sup>7</sup>

Throughout his life, Lonsdale appears to have kept coming into contact with the Druitt family, particularly Montague Druitt. As noted, Lonsdale was born at St Pancras, London. Montague's uncle, Robert Druitt, who was an eminent surgeon and author of an important surgical text book (*The Principles and Practice of Modern Surgery*), married Isabella Hopkinson at St Pancras in 1845. Robert Druitt makes reference to surgeon Edward Lonsdale in his book

but I have not been able to establish a family connection between this Lonsdale and John Henry Lonsdale. Robert Druitt's second son, Charles Druitt, became an Anglican priest with a parish in Dorset, where Lonsdale also served as a clergyman. It has been established that Lonsdale apparently knew Charles Druitt because an 1887 newspaper article indicates that some of Charles Druitt's belongings were among items stolen from Lonsdale's house.<sup>8</sup> As Lonsdale was an inexperienced clergyman at this time and Charles's parish was in the same area, it may well be that Charles Druitt served as a mentor and friend to Lonsdale, particularly if Lonsdale knew Charles's cousin Montague from his days as a barrister.

Before turning to church work, Lonsdale was engaged in the legal profession in London. In 1881, while a law student, he lived at 56 Oxford Terrace near Hyde Park, an affluent area. In 1885, his legal chambers were at 1 King's Bench Walk.<sup>9</sup> Montague Druitt's chambers were located at 9 King's Bench Walk. H L Stephen, brother of J K Stephen, had chambers at 5 King's Bench Walk and their father, Justice Sir James FitzJames Stephen, was across the square in the Paper Buildings. King's Bench Walk was a prestigious set of chambers in 1888. The fact that both Lonsdale and Druitt possessed chambers in King's Bench Walk indicates they were men of financial means and probably successful barristers. In

No. 5 Eliot Cottages.



<sup>6</sup> 'Called to the Bar,' *The Times*, 18 November 1882, and 'Ordinations,' *The Times*, 11 March 1887.

<sup>7</sup> According a descendant, Lonsdale accidentally cut himself while felling trees and died of septicemia. His death certificate confirms that he died of septicemia following a wound to the elbow.

<sup>8</sup> *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal and General Advertiser*, 14 May 1887, available at the West Sussex Record Office, ref: mss/352.

<sup>9</sup> Howells and Skinner as well as Leighton, give Lonsdale's chambers as 4 King's Bench Walk. While it is possible that Lonsdale relocated his chambers at some point, Foster gives his chambers as 1 King's Bench Walk. Foster, *Men at the Bar*, 285.



*Grave of John Henry and Katharine Lonsdale at Fontmell Magna.*

fairness, it must be stated that, although in the same set of buildings, no. 9 and no. 1 are probably two minutes walk apart. No. 1 is really not on the square, but rather around the corner toward Mitre Court (not to be confused with Mitre Square, where Catherine Eddowes was murdered).

Lonsdale resided at 5 Eliot Cottages in Blackheath. Montague Druitt lived at Valentine's School at 9 Eliot Place in Blackheath, where he was an assistant master. These two houses are within sight of each other and are a walk of less than a minute apart. Druitt would have walked past Eliot Cottages on his way to the railway station or to the Hare and Billet public house for a pint. Eliot Cottages can still be found immediately behind the Hare and Billet. Lonsdale apparently boarded there with landlord Alexander Lee, who was a solicitors' clerk.<sup>10</sup> Given their close work and residential proximity to each other, it is highly likely that Lonsdale and Druitt were well acquainted.

When John Henry Lonsdale turned to church work in 1887, his first assignment was as curate to Wimborne Minster, the home parish of Montague Druitt's family. Montague was baptized at the minster church and would be buried from there in 1889. By the time Lonsdale arrived in 1887, none of Montague's family remained at Wimborne but the connection is still striking. Lonsdale married Katharine Carr Glyn at Wimborne Minster on 18 December 1888, while Montague Druitt's body lay at the bottom of the Thames. He left his post at Wimborne Minster just prior to Montague's funeral. Lonsdale served as curate of Weare, Somerset, in 1889-1890; as vicar at Wall,

Staffordshire, in 1890-1894; as rector at Iwerne Courtney (also known as Shroton), Dorset, in 1894-1900;<sup>11</sup> and, lastly, as rector at Fontmell Magna from 1900 to 1903. After Lonsdale's death, his widow Kitty returned to the Wimborne area to live out her days at Further House, Colehill. Their daughter was married at Wimborne Minster.

### **The Family of John Henry Lonsdale**

The Lonsdale family moved in influential circles. As already indicated, John Henry Lonsdale came from a long line of Anglican clergymen, including a Bishop of Lichfield. Lonsdale's aunt was married to Sir Edmund Beckett, later the first Baronet Grimthorpe. Beckett, although only an amateur clocksmith, designed the works for 'Big Ben' at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster.<sup>12</sup> Lonsdale's maternal grandfather was the prominent lawyer David Jardine. Lonsdale's bride, Katharine Carr Glyn, belonged to a leading Dorset family. Katharine was the

*Grave of Montague John Druitt, Wimborne Minster.*



<sup>10</sup> One might wonder why a successful barrister would board with a clerk. In fact, law clerks were very important members of the legal profession who often became wealthy, because they received a fee consisting of a portion of the barrister's or solicitor's fee in exchange for directing cases their way.

<sup>11</sup> A fairly short rectorate for the era. See [www.dorset-opc.com/IwerneFiles/IwerneCourtney-Shroton/IwerneCourtneyRectors.htm](http://www.dorset-opc.com/IwerneFiles/IwerneCourtney-Shroton/IwerneCourtneyRectors.htm).

<sup>12</sup> Properly, 'Big Ben' refers only to the large tolling bell of the clock in St Stephen's Tower. Beckett designed the actual clock works.



second daughter of Carr Stuart Glyn and his wife Selina. It is interesting to note that their eldest daughter, Katharine's sister Augusta, was born in Chichester. It will be remembered that Macnaghten married the daughter of a clergyman from Chichester, therefore the Lonsdales and Macnaghtens may have been acquainted on both sides of their marriages. Katharine herself was born in Ireland, while her father, a captain in the 1st Royal Dragoons, was stationed there to guard against a possible Fenian uprising. Glyn was a nephew of George Carr Glyn, Lord Wolverton. On retiring from the military, Glyn returned to Dorset. He would become an important member of Dorset society. In a letter published in *The Times* on 18 February 1887, Carr Stuart Glyn argued from Wimborne against Irish Home Rule.<sup>13</sup>

The Lonsdales were blessed with three children: John Claude Jardine Lonsdale (born 11 September 1889, known by the Christian name of 'Claude'); Arthur Carr Glyn Lonsdale (born 7 September 1891, killed in enemy action during World War I at Neuve Chapelle, France, March 1915); and Katharine Granville Martineau Lonsdale (born 1 December 1895). Katharine later married into nobility when she wed Kyrle Arthur Stewart Chapman, a descendant of Charles I, at Wimborne Minster. Chapman was killed in enemy action during World War II on 14 October 1940. The Chapmans had two daughters, Ann Sybil Chapman and Vivien Kyrle Chapman. Vivien, now in her eighties, is still living. It is not known whether Ann survives. Claude Lonsdale also had a son, John,<sup>14</sup> who married Evelyn Wolseley in 1936. Claude was still

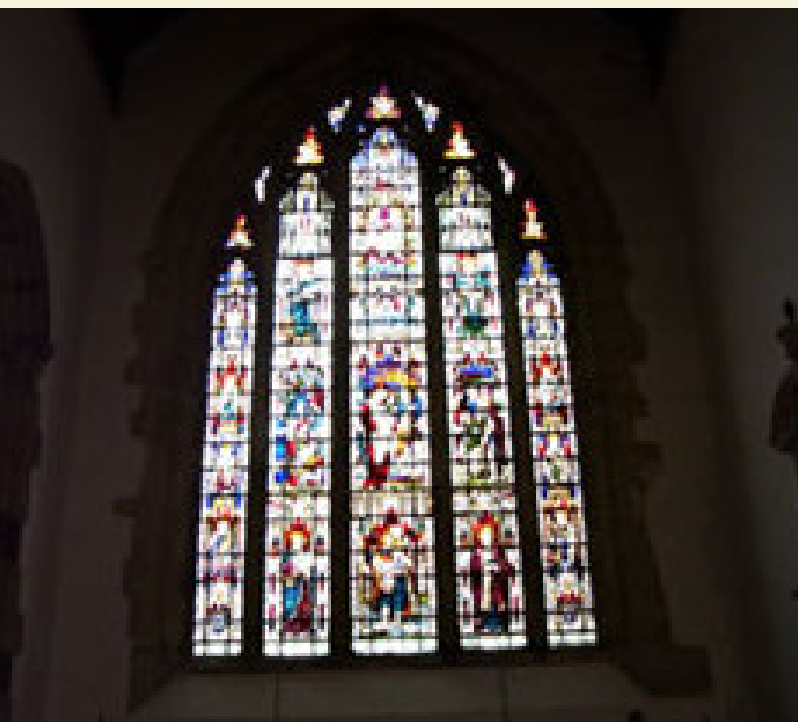
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13 'Liberal Secession' (Letter from Carr Stuart Glyn), *The Times*, 18 February 1887.

14 This is apparently the John Mainwaring Lonsdale who was convicted in the 'Mayfair Playboy Affair' jewel theft in the 1930's and who was at one time married to suspected German spy Stella Lonsdale.

*Wimborne Minster church, home parish of the Druitt family and Lonsdale's first clergy post.*





Stained glass window at Wimborne Minster church donated in 1892 by surviving children of Dr. William Druitt.

living in Wimborne at that time.<sup>15</sup>

Unfortunately, we possess very little information about John Henry Lonsdale's personal life. We are though able to gain some small glimpses. For example, we know that he was an avid sportsman, as was Montague Druitt. He ran in the 440 yards race for Cambridge vs. Oxford, finishing third. He was captain of the Shroton Cricket Club while serving in that parish in the 1890s.<sup>16</sup> He may also have played for the Lulworth Lobsters Cricket Club. He was also an enthusiastic fisherman, and enjoyed fishing on the Dorset coast at Lulworth Cove, as noted on a web page for Holy Trinity Church, West Lulworth:

*The south window [of Holy Trinity Church] and brass plate near the pulpit recall the Rev. John Henry Lonsdale. He was a keen fisherman, a friend of Alfred Fripp since their student days, and frequently officiated in the Church. He loved Lulworth and the little sailing ships which unloaded coal for the Castle and village at the old store in the Cove. Sometimes their anchors cut adrift and caused serious damage to the fish-*

*ermen's nets, which at that time were hauled in from the mouth of the Cove to under Bindon Hill by eight men. This delightful window, and also payments for divers from Weymouth to remove anchors and other offending obstacles, were given by relatives and friends of this much-loved Dorset parson.<sup>17</sup>*

Death certificate for Rev John Henry Lonsdale.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT					Shaftesbury				
1903 DEATH in the Sub-district of Fontmell					in the County of Dorset				
Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
265	Eleventh February 1903 Fontmell Magna W.D.	John Henry Lonsdale	Male	47 years	Rector of Fontmell Magna	Wound of elbow Acute Septicæmia certified by G. H. S. Daniell M.B.	Sophia Lonsdale Sister present at death Lichfield	Eleventh February 1903	John Saffer Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 17th day of October 2006

15 'Forthcoming Marriages,' *The Times*, 1 May 1936, 19.

16 Thanks to Trevor Hewitt for the information on Lonsdale's cricketing career at Iwerne Courtney (Shroton).

17 [www.southernlife.org.uk/dorset/lulworth\\_holytrinity.htm](http://www.southernlife.org.uk/dorset/lulworth_holytrinity.htm), quoting an inscription in the church.





Interior of St. Andrew's, Fontmell Magna. Lonsdale's final parish.

The clergyman's sister, Sophia Lonsdale, was a renowned leader in Poor Law reform. Following Sophia Lonsdale's death in 1930, her cousin, Violet Martineau, compiled and edited her memoirs. The following glimpses into the life of John Henry Lonsdale are taken from those recollections.

John Henry Lonsdale was raised in an authoritarian household, rather emotionally distant from his father as were other children of his class of society during the Victorian era. As occurred with others of his contemporaries, young Lonsdale was sent off to boarding school at the age of seven. At boarding school, young 'Jack,' as he was known to his family, was 'horribly neglected' and was possibly mistreated physically. One year, after spending Christmas at home, Jack was sent back to his school at Stevenage.<sup>18</sup> Unable to bear the thought of returning to that school, Jack abandoned the train he had been put onto by the family butler and hopped on another train bound for his home at

Lichfield. Once home again, Jack was terrified at what his punishment would be and hid from his parents in their large home. When discovered, Jack was 'sentenced' by his father to 'solitary confinement and very dull food' for the 24 hours until he could be returned to his school.<sup>19</sup>

For five months in 1884, the Lonsdale family returned to London where the Rev John Gylby Lonsdale took the place of Vicar Humphrey at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, while Humphrey enjoyed a much needed holiday abroad. By this time, Jack had been called to the bar and took chambers at King's Bench Walk, as noted earlier. During this period, Jack Lonsdale was a frequent visitor at the vicarage. Sophia takes great delight in relating the escapades of another frequent visitor, Jack's fox-terrier, 'Nipper.' It seems that Nipper was a loveable but ferocious dog that would often kill smaller dogs and other animals. Neither would Nipper back down from fights with larger dogs. Sophia details the story of the little terrier's fight to the death with a larger dog in Fleet Street, from which Nipper emerged bloodied but triumphant. The importance of this segment of Sophia's memoirs comes in a little episode she relates in which poor Nipper became confused since Jack 'changed his rooms' and the dog 'came back in vain to the Temple' in search of its master. The implication earlier in the chapter had been that Jack was resident at his chambers, therefore 'changing his rooms' would be consistent with Lonsdale relocating his residence to Eliot Cottages in Blackheath. It seems that old Nipper died while in the care of an old fisherman and his wife at Lonsdale's beloved Lulworth.<sup>20</sup>

Westfield House, Wimborne Minster. Druitt family home.



<sup>18</sup> The school was run by the Rev John Lingen Seager.

<sup>19</sup> Violet Martineau, *Recollections of Sophia Lonsdale*. London: John Murray, 1936, 34-6

<sup>20</sup> Martineau, *Recollections of Sophia Lonsdale*, 158-60. It should probably be noted that the tales of 'Nipper' seem to be written a bit 'tongue-in-cheek.' Therefore, it is likely that the dog's violent tendencies have been somewhat exaggerated in the telling.



Village of Fontmell Magna, Dorset.

Finally, there is the following touching excerpt from a letter by Sophia Lonsdale to her cousin Violet Martineau written two days after the death of John Henry Lonsdale; Sophia signed the registry of her brother's death:

*It is a sad, terrible blow. The greatest that could have befallen us. He has made me his children's guardian. . . . The grief all round is very great, for he was a parson of the old-fashioned sort, always amongst his people, and playing cricket with the boys (the last thing he did was to umpire a football match all Saturday afternoon, and when his arm was very painful). The farmers loved him; he thoroughly understood them and the village people. One farmer came 3 miles 3 times in one day to ask how he was. He preached good plain sermons in good Saxon English, with not a hard word in them and he was a real Protestant. He lived and died like a Christian and a gentleman. This place looks so beautiful, the avenue full of snowdrops and crocuses he planted (he loved his garden) and everything so bright and cheerful.<sup>21</sup>*

## Conclusions

We have identified John Henry Lonsdale as an important and pivotal figure who almost certainly knew Montague John Druitt as well as Sir Melville Macnaghten. His family, and that of his wife, were well-connected and traveled in influential circles. Unfortunately, scant details of Lonsdale's personal life are known to us at this point. Nonetheless, it remains a distinct possibility that Lonsdale could be the source of Macnaghten's 'private information' concerning Montague John Druitt.

Much further work needs to be done to establish this fact. Parish records in Dorset and Somerset should be searched, along with other county historical records. Newspaper archives should be explored.<sup>22</sup> In particular, the article from the Salisbury and Winchester Journal and General Advertiser found in the West Sussex Record Office, which I have at this time not been able to read in full, should be examined to see if it reveals any further information concerning the theft of Charles Druitt's belongings from Lonsdale's house. Unfortunately, the present writer is located in North America and these are tasks for researchers who are physically located in England. Perhaps such researchers can discover more about Lonsdale and possibly locate that elusive documentation that would confirm that he indeed was the source of Sir Melville Macnaghten's 'private information.'

21 Martineau, *Recollections of Sophia Lonsdale*, 204-5.

22 The emergence of more and more digital newspaper archives online is very encouraging for this sort of research.





# Cadosch

## – The Other Side of the Fence

by GAVIN BROMLEY

### Introduction

The testimony of Albert Cadosch has been the subject of debate and, in some cases, misunderstanding over the years. The debate has been over whether the events he related were of any relevance to the murder and the misunderstanding over what it was he actually claimed to hear and the timing involved.

Albert Cadosch went into the back yard of his lodging-house at 27 Hanbury Street on the morning of 8th September 1888 and heard noises coming from the neighbouring yard of No. 29. About three-quarters of an hour later the body of Annie Chapman was discovered in the yard of 29 Hanbury Street. The timing relating to Cadosch's visits to the back yard has been given variously as somewhere between 5:15 and 5:25 a.m. and it has been said that he heard a voice exclaim 'No' followed by the sound of someone falling against the fence, giving us the impression that this must have been the sound of the killer striking.

Of course there is a problem not only with the exact time and the time difference between the events that Cadosch related, but also with the general time of what he witnessed compared to the testimony of other witnesses. Dr. Phillips estimated the time of death as being at least two hours before he saw the body at 6:30 a.m. which would give the time of death as 4:30 at the latest. Although coroner Wynne Baxter said that Phillips had qualified his opinion and the coldness of the morning may have affected his judgment of the time of death, there is some debate over how this would be affected. Also there is the testimony of Elizabeth Long, which on the face of it conflicts with that of both Cadosch and Phillips, in that she said she saw the deceased with a man outside No. 29 at about 5:30. These issues will be discussed in a future article. The intention of this article is to look closely at Cadosch's statements.

John Richardson sat on the steps leading into the back yard of No. 29 at about 4:50 for two or three minutes and did not see the body at that time. When John Davis came into the back yard at just after 6:00 he was met with the gruesome sight of Annie Chapman's mutilated body.

Richardson, Cadosch and Davis were the only witnesses who said they went into the yards of Nos. 27 or 29 between about 4:50 and 6:00. No one else came forward to say they had been in either yard in that time period.

### House and yards

Let's first take a look at what the reports and inquest testimony tell us about No. 29 and the backyards of that house and of No. 27.

In his inquest testimony John Davis gave the following details:

*The house faces Hanbury-street, with one window on the ground floor and a front door at the side leading into a passage which runs through into the yard. There is a back door at the end of this passage opening into the yard. Neither of the doors was able to be locked, and I have never seen them locked. Any one who knows where the latch of the front door is could open it and go along the passage into the back yard.*

*- When you went into the yard on Saturday morning was the yard door open or shut?*

- I found it shut. I cannot say whether it was latched—I cannot remember. I have been too much upset. The front street door was wide open and thrown against the wall. I was not surprised to find the front door open, as it was not unusual. I opened the back door, and stood in the entrance.

- Will you describe the yard?

- It is a large yard. Facing the door, on the opposite side, on my left as I was standing, there is a shed, in which Mrs. Richardson keeps her wood. In the right-hand corner there is a closet. The yard is separated from the next premises on both sides by close wooden fencing, about 5 ft. 6 in. high...

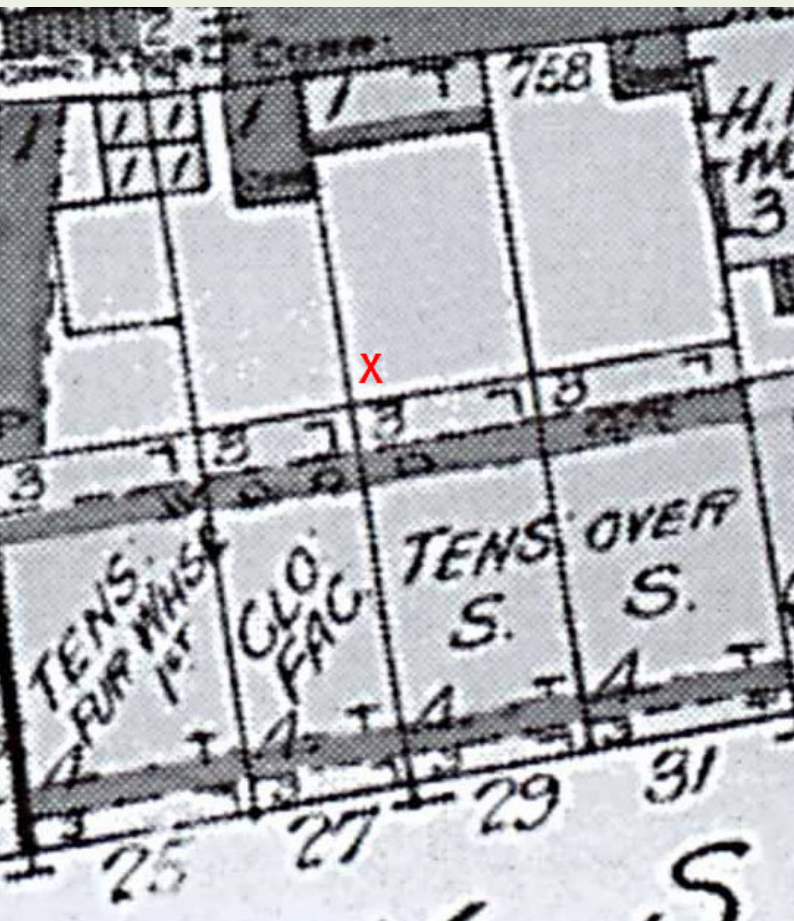
There was a little recess on the left. From the steps to the fence is about 3 ft. There are three stone steps, unprotected, leading from the door to the yard, which is at a lower level than that of the passage. Directly I opened the door I saw a woman lying down in the lefthand recess, between the stone steps and the fence. She was on her back, with her head towards the house and her legs towards the wood shed.<sup>1</sup>

Also to note about the back door was that it would shut on its own as indicated by John Richardson at the inquest: *I did not close the back door; it closes itself.*<sup>2</sup>

The 'closet' referred to as being in the right hand corner of the yard would be the outside lavatory or privy. A water closet (W.C.) is "a privy; especially, a privy furnished with a contrivance for introducing a stream of water to cleanse it".<sup>3</sup>

Another report gave the detail about the steps leading down to the yard.

*The back yards of 27 and 29 Hanbury Street (Goad's Fire Insurance Map)  
The position of Annie Chapman's body is marked by the red cross*



The passage of the house leads directly to the yard, passing the door of the front parlour, the yard being about four feet below the level of the passage, and reached by two stone steps. The position of the steps creates a recess on their left, the fence between the yard and the next house being about three feet from the steps.<sup>4</sup>

Davis's estimate of the distance between the steps and the fence was given slightly differently in another account.

Between the steps and in fence, on the left hand side, is a recess about 3ft 6in wide.<sup>5</sup>

However from another report we see that Davis's account was confused.

Witness was asked to describe the general appearance of the yard, but was not very clear in his statements. Some time having been occupied in attempting to elicit answers.<sup>6</sup>

More details of the layout of the house and yard were given in another account:

<sup>1</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 11 September 1888

<sup>2</sup> *Evening Standard*, 13 September 1888

<sup>3</sup> Webster's Dictionary 1913

<sup>4</sup> *Evening Standard*, 10 September 1888

<sup>5</sup> *Daily News*, 11 September 1888

<sup>6</sup> *Evening Standard*, 11 September 1888





*The backyard of 29 Hanbury Street from a contemporary newspaper illustration*

#### NO. 29, HANBURY STREET DESCRIBED.

The houses in Hanbury-street are seldom more than two or three storeys in height, No. 29 has two rooms on the ground floor, with a cellar below. Above there are two floors, the front rooms each having two windows, and there is an attic, with one large window, of a character to indicate that the house was originally occupied by silk weavers. The window of the ground-floor room in the front has a pair of green shutters, and the apartment is used as a cat's-meat shop. On the right of this shop<sup>7</sup> there is a narrow door opening into a passage about 3ft. wide and 20ft. long, leading down two stone steps into a yard at the back. The flooring of this passage is bare and rough; the doors, at each end, have no locks; and there is nothing to prevent anyone knowing the ways of the place to walk from the street into the yard.

#### THE YARD.

The yard is of small dimensions, about 15ft. square. It contains a shed, in which packing cases are made, and is separated from the adjoining properties by fences about five feet high. No outlet exists at the rear whatever, and the theory has been formed that the murderer and his victim entered the yard by the ordinary process, and that the way of escape led in the same direction. Not a sound was heard to fix any time when either event could have occurred. On Saturday the sun rose at twenty-three minutes past five; for half an hour previously the light would be such as to render it difficult for anyone to distinguish even near objects.<sup>8</sup>

The final sentence regarding the amount of light is not really true. As the sun rose at 5:23 then it would be reasonably light at that time and even half an hour previously, though gloomy, there would still be enough light to see fairly clearly for a reasonable distance.

An alternative estimate of the length of the passage from the front door to the back is given as follows:

*The passage through the house by which the yard was reached is 25ft. long and 3ft. wide. Its floor is bare, and nobody can pass along it without making some noise.*<sup>9</sup>

So the reports give a length for the passage of about 20 to 25 ft long. According to the Goad's and OS maps the depth of the building of No. 29 and No. 27 was about 30 ft.

A more grim account of the house was given as follows:

*There stood the dingy house in the back yard of which the crime took place, the ditto of its dingy neighbours. A mangling house, with the yellow paint peeling off its wall like skin disease, flanks it on one side; an ordinary dwelling house on the other. To reach the back yard of No 29, you must traverse the "hall" and passage of the house; there is no back entry, for, as already said, the houses flank each other closely, leaving no intervening space. On traversing the passage, you reach a back door, from which three steps lead downward—that is, to the level of the ugly, little, stony, slimy back yard. This back yard is separated from the next neighbour's by a paling so low that one may vault over it with the utmost ease. In the narrow level space between the steps and the paling was found the murdered body.*<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> To the left if looking at it from the street.

<sup>8</sup> *Echo*, 10 September 1888

<sup>9</sup> *The Star*, 8 September 1888

<sup>10</sup> *Daily News*, 11 September 1888.

Further information was given about the layout of the house and yard and the location of bloodstains found which indicated that Chapman was murdered where she was found.

*The yard is a small one, square in shape, with a 4ft. fence on either side. The fence is old and rotten. There is a woodshed at the back. The yard is roughly and irregularly paved with stones of all sizes and shapes rammed into the ground. The back door of the house which leads into the yard is a plain board frame, with no lock on it. Two stone steps are just outside, and in the narrow space between these steps and the fence the body lay. It was evident at a glance that the murder had been done where the body lay. The enormous quantity of blood and the splash on the fence, coupled with the total absence of stains elsewhere, made this clear. It was also clear that the man had decoyed the poor woman into the yard, and murdered her as she lay where she was found. The passage through the house by which the yard was reached is 25ft. long and 3ft. wide. Its floor is bare, and nobody can pass along it without making some noise. The murderer and his victim failed to awaken anybody, however, though people were sleeping only a few feet away. Both front and back door are open all night, and there was no difficulty in reaching the yard.<sup>11</sup>*

*The backyard of 29 Hanbury Street from a contemporary newspaper illustration, showing the precarious nature of the fence*



Inspector Chandler's testimony gave clarification about where blood was found.

- Were there any traces of blood on the palings?
- Yes, near the body in the yard. There were no signs of blood in the adjoining yard. There were marks of blood discovered on the wall of No. 25. There were no drops of blood in the passage or approaches. The blood stains were in the immediate neighbourhood of the body only.<sup>12</sup>

Another report remarked:

*There were some marks of blood observable in the passage, but it is now known that these were caused during the work of removal of some packing-cases, the edges of which accidentally came in contact with the blood upon the spot from which the unhappy victim was removed.<sup>13</sup>*

### Aperture in the fence

The palings of the dividing fence between Nos. 29 and 27 are not exactly described or depicted consistently in contemporary drawings. The sketches and accounts do not give a clear indication of how wide the gaps between the slats were, though there appear to be large gaps in some drawings.

Some indication of an aperture at a critical place in the palings is given in the following report on the evening of 20 September 1888.

### DETECTIVES IN COUNCIL.

*A further consultation of the detectives engaged in the case was held this morning, and an officer again visited the back-yard of No. 29, Hanbury-street, and made a careful inspection of the palings leading from that house to No. 27, where resides the young man Cadosh, who stated at the inquest that he heard sounds proceed from the spot where the body lay at a quarter-past five on the morning of the murder. An examination of the fence shows that immediately over the place in the yard there is an aperture in the palings by which the dead body could have been plainly visible, while anyone moving in the yard might easily have been seen.<sup>14</sup>*

<sup>11</sup> *The Star*, 8 September 1888

<sup>12</sup> *Daily News*, 14 September 1888. Inspector Chandler's testimony.

<sup>13</sup> *Manchester Guardian*, 10 September 1888

<sup>14</sup> *Echo*, 20 September 1888





Another sketch showing no gaps in palings and which also shows bloodstains.

From this it appears there was a large enough gap for someone in the yard of No. 27 to have seen enough of the body to alert them to what was going on or to have seen any movement by the killer. However, it could be that the aperture would only have allowed a reasonable (though restricted) view of part of the neighbouring yard close to the fence if the observer was directly in line with the gap. From an angle the gap would appear more narrow and would possibly not have allowed the observer to have seen a great deal, if anything at all, and at the point where they could have seen enough, they would have been facing the back door and not looking across at the fence.

But this aperture was only more closely inspected as late as 20 September. On 13 September, Inspector Chandler's testimony at the inquest was given as follows:

- Are the palings strongly erected? -
- No.
- Would they bear the weight of a man getting over them? -
- They might, but they did not give any evidence of that. **There was no breakage. I examined the adjoining yard. None of the palings were then broken, although they have since been broken** [my emphasis]. On the palings in the yard, near the body, were stains of blood, but no blood in the adjoining yard. On the wall of No. 25 there were some marks. They have been seen by Dr. Phillips. Those marks are not blood. They [sic] were only bloodstains in the immediate neighbourhood of the body.
- Any other blood?
- At the head of the body there were a few spots—splashes—and also on the ground.<sup>15</sup>

Chandler states that the palings were not broken and makes no reference to any gap in the palings, only referring to blood spatters on them which indicate they had been examined closely. He also states that they had since been broken, so an examination a week later would not have given the police a view of how the fence looked on the morning of the murder. We have no way of knowing exactly where and to what extent but it could be that the aperture that was above the spot where the body had been was part of the damage Chandler had seen after the murder. It may have been caused by someone trying to get a view of the body from the yard of No. 27 following Davis's discovery on the morning of the 8th. Incidentally Chandler also pointed out that the 'blood' found at No. 25 was not of any relevance.

Another early report gives the following detail.

*About a quarter before six she was found in a dirty little yard up in a muddy corner **beneath some broken pailings** [sic], her head nearly severed from her body, and her person mutilated in a manner too horrible for description.*<sup>16</sup>

However this is contradicted by Inspector Chandler's comments and it may be that the fence was seen by a reporter after the damage that Chandler noted, had been done. It is possible that there was a gap to some extent in the palings and this gap may have been the intended slight gap between the palings when they were erected, or some slight breakage in the wood. The report suggests the aperture was directly above where the body had lain which suggests it did not extend to the ground. The *Star* report, from the day of the murder (quoted above), states that the fence was old and rotten.

If there was a gap just above where the body had lain then it's possible that something may have been visible from the yard of No. 27 if a person was directly facing the place where the aperture was as they passed it.

<sup>15</sup> *Echo*, 13 September 1888

<sup>16</sup> *Daily News*, 10 September 1888

## Cadosch's story (first reports)

From the various accounts given, Albert Cadosch heard voices or an exclamation and someone falling against the fence in the next yard about three-quarters of an hour before Annie Chapman's mutilated body was discovered there. Sometimes this is stated to have occurred at just after 5:15 with the fall following shortly after the exclamation. In part this combines errors and ambiguities in the early reporting with a possible misunderstanding of what was said at the inquest. Three segments from the *Daily News* of 10th September 1888 give us the following details:

*At twenty minutes past five a lodger went into the yard and noticed nothing to excite his suspicion. At a few minutes to six another lodger went there, and saw a sight that sent him screaming through the house. All, then, had been done in half an hour.*

*The lodger who came down at 5.25 fancied he heard a slight scuffle, with the noise of someone falling against the pailings, but he took no notice of that. They take very little notice in Hanbury street, even of strangers to the house, who sometimes turn in for a sleep on the stairs before the markets open.*

*Albert Cadosch, who lodges next door, had occasion to go into the adjoining yard at the back at 5.25, and states that he heard a conversation on the other side of the palings, as if between two people. He caught the word "No," and fancied he subsequently heard a slight scuffle, with the noise of a falling against the palings, but thinking that his neighbours might probably be out in the yard, he took no further notice and went to his work.<sup>17</sup>*

The first segment gives us a time of 5:20 for an unnamed lodger being in the yard. This does not mention which yard the lodger was in and implies it was No. 29 as it then makes reference to the lodger (John Davis) at that house who found the body 'there', however it does appear to be a reference to Cadosch and the report (typical of early reports of all the murders) seems to be combining different details into one account.

The second segment again doesn't name Cadosch but it is clearly a reference to him, as we can see from the third segment, which names him and gives further details. These last two reports give the time for him being in the back yard as 5:25, though the second segment does not mention any voices and it was the scuffle and sound heard against the fence that were said to have happened at that time.

The third segment states that the voices were heard at 5:25 and the 'scuffle' and noise of the 'falling against the palings' occurred 'subsequently' so this could mean immediately afterwards or a few minutes later. Only in this segment is reference made to Cadosch hearing voices. Here it describes it as a conversation 'as if between two people' and he caught the word 'no'. 'As if' may suggest he heard only one person speaking but inferred from the tone that they must have been talking to someone else.

That it is sometimes said the woman made an exclamation probably comes from reports such as that in the *Irish Times* where it was stated that 'as he passed the wooden partition he heard a woman say "No, no."<sup>18</sup>

These reports leave ambiguities and have inaccuracies so we have no definitive account of what happened and exactly when. However more details were given in the following account:

*On visiting the house next door to the tragedy, 27, our representative saw Mr. Albert Cadosen [sic], a carpenter, who resides there and works in Shoe-lane, Fleet-street. He says: I was not very well in the night and I went out into the back yard about 25 minutes past five. It was just getting daylight, and as I passed to the back of the yard I heard a sound as of two people up in the corner of the next yard. On coming back I heard some words which I did not catch, but I heard a woman say "No." Then I heard a kind of scuffle going on, and someone seemed to fall heavily on to the ground against the wooden partition which divided the yard, at the spot where the body was afterwards found. As I thought it was some of the people belonging to the house, I passed into my own room, and took no further notice.<sup>19</sup>*

Here we have reference to Cadosch hearing the sound as of there being two people in the yard as he first went outside. No other reference to this specific detail appeared in other reports but it seems quite explicit and distinct from

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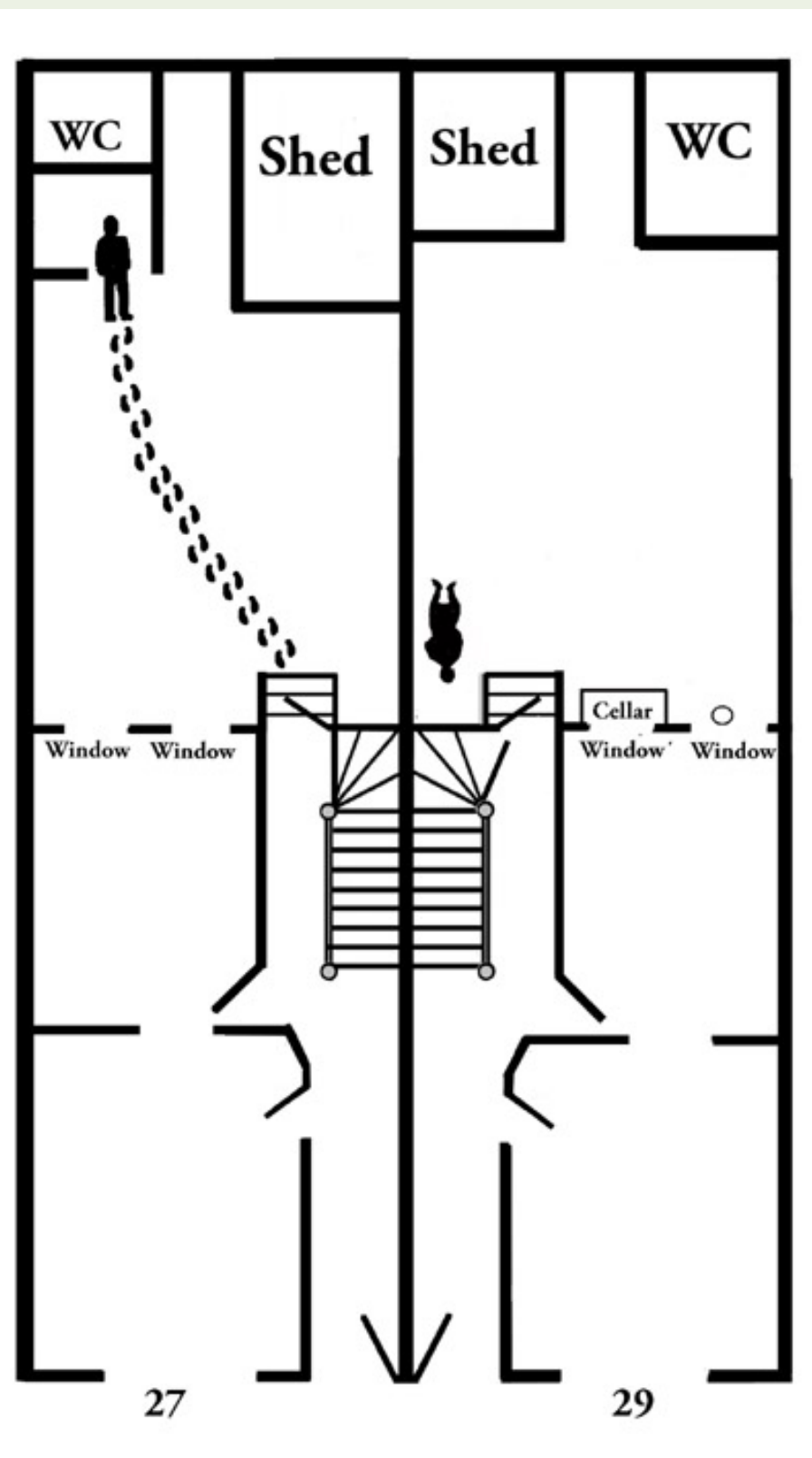
<sup>16</sup> *Daily News*, 10 September 1888

<sup>17</sup> *Evening Standard*, 11 September 1888

<sup>18</sup> *Irish Times*, 15 September 1888

<sup>19</sup> *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, 9 September 1888





Plan of the back yards of Hanbury Street, showing Cadosch's path to the privy

the time when he heard the voices which was when he was 'coming back', a detail also included in this report. At that point he heard them talking but could not tell what they were saying except he heard a woman say 'No'. This specifically refers to there being two people (rather than 'some' as some newspaper reports and Chief Inspector Swanson's report<sup>20</sup> indicate), but this is one of the few references I could see for the word 'No' being said by a *woman* (other reports do not specify who actually said the word). Assuming the voices were those of Chapman and her killer, if Cadosch did hear a woman's voice, Chapman was therefore alive at that point. Again this report does not imply any substantial time before he then heard a scuffle and the fall, and adds the detail here that it sounded like someone falling *heavily onto the ground* against the fence. Also Cadosch said in this account that he then went to his room (and took no further notice), as opposed to leaving directly for work, which is what he implied happened at the inquest. However, given that Cadosch subsequently said at the inquest that he made two visits to the back yard, this reference to returning to his room may have been meant by Cadosch to apply to returning inside after his first visit rather than immediately before leaving for work. As this report does not refer to two separate visits, it could have been a mistaken inference by the reporter that Cadosch went to his room after hearing the fall.

### Why Cadosch was in the backyard?

This report also tells us why Cadosch was going outside as he said that he was not very well in the night. This is also hinted at by the following detail of his inquest testimony reported in *The Times*:

*By the jury. - He did not go into the yard twice out of curiosity. He had been under an operation at the hospital.*<sup>21</sup>

Cadosch was recovering from an operation and not feeling well and the most

<sup>20</sup> Report by Chief Inspector Donald Swanson, 19 October 1888. *The Ultimate Jack The Ripper Sourcebook/Companion* by Stewart P. Evans and Keith Skinner p. 75 - see later

<sup>21</sup> *The Times*, 20 September 1888

likely consequence of this, in light of his visits outside, would be to have to go to the outside privy. As a small construction with a door it means that once inside he would not see anything happening outside and would also not be able to hear any noises from outside so well.

Also worth bearing in mind is that if Cadosch was not feeling well, yet was still having to get ready for work (without sick pay in those days, time off work for an ailment was not a viable option unless absolutely necessary) taking any interest in what was happening over the fence would not be his first priority, particularly as he was used to hearing sounds from the yard of No. 29 in the mornings as we see from his inquest testimony. If there had been an aperture in the

fence through which he may have been able to see, if he was hurrying to get to work and perhaps not feeling too well even if he glanced across to the fence before he was directly facing the aperture then he probably would not have seen anything.

The location of the privy, which was Cadosch's destination, was given by him at the inquest: *'I went through the yard of my house to the far end of the yard furthest from 29.'*<sup>22</sup>

It was therefore at the end of the yard of No. 27 on the left side (as looking from the back door) 'furthest from 29'.

The back doors of Nos. 27 and 29 were near to the fence that divided their yards and the outside privies were in the furthest corner away from the fence. The steps from the back door of No. 29 were said to be about 3 or 3½ feet from the fence. As Cadosch came outside he would be walking diagonally away from the fence dividing Nos. 27 and 29. The opposite would be true as he returned to the house.

Cadosch was probably not as tall as the fence or at least his eye level (on average about 4 or 5 inches less than a person's height) would be below the height of the fence. He himself gave the height of the fence as 5' 6" to 6'. Also anyone in the yard of No. 29 would have had to be shorter than the height of the fence else Cadosch may have got a glimpse of the tops of their heads when walking back towards the house.

The photograph on the left shows that No. 27 had a small window between the back door and the fence. If this window was there in 1888 it may have allowed occupants of No. 27 to see at least the tops of heads of anyone in the yard of No. 29. However Cadosch did not say he had seen anyone, even a glimpse of the top of a head and the uncertainty he expressed at the inquest over where the voice came from implies he had not actually seen anyone in the yard.



Aerial view of the backyards of 27 and 29 Hanbury Street. The small window next to the door of number 27 can be clearly seen. Note: the fence shown here is not the original, but a replacement.

## Inquest reports

So let's get an accurate idea of what Cadosch claimed he heard and when he heard these sounds.

When we look at the inquest testimony as reported in the various newspapers it is clear that there are differences in the interpretations of what was said. Some reports give more details but there are often subtle differences in the implications of what was said by Cadosch. Details are condensed or misreported and though a 'composite' account can be made caution has to be applied in doing so.

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<sup>22</sup> *Evening Standard*, 20 September 1888



## Inquest testimony & Police Report

The account of Cadosch's testimony is given in *The Times* as follows:

*Albert Cadosch, a carpenter, stated that he resided at No. 27, Hanbury-street. That was next door to No. 29. On Saturday, the 8th inst. he got up at about 5:15 and went out into the yard of his house. As he returned across the yard, to the back door of his house, he heard a voice say quite close to him, "No." He believed it came from No. 29. He went into the house, and returned to the yard three or four minutes afterwards. He then heard a sort of a fall against the fence, which divided his yard from No. 29. Something seemed suddenly to touch the fence. He did not look to see what it was. He did not hear any other noise.*

*By the CORONER. - He did not hear the rustling of any clothes. Witness then left the house and went to his work. When he passed Spitalfields Church it was about 32 minutes past 5. He did not hear people in the yard as a rule, but had now and then heard them at that time in the morning.*

*By the jury. - He did not go into the yard twice out of curiosity. He had been under an operation at the hospital. He informed the police the same day of what he had heard. The palings were about 5ft. 6in. in height. He had not the curiosity to look over the fence, as at times the next door people were early risers. When he left the house he did not see any man or woman in Hanbury-street. He did not see Mrs. Long.<sup>23</sup>*

This may have created some confusion about the times involved. Various reports condensed information, which may have given a false impression. This makes it appear that he got up at 5:15 and immediately went into his back yard. As he returned across the yard (after some unspecified period) he heard a voice say 'no'. So from this it has sometimes been taken that he heard the voice at just after 5:15.

This report (and we find this with all the inquest reports) only makes mention of him hearing the word 'no'. There is no implication that he heard a conversation as the earlier reports indicated. Also, we are told that he was not certain where the voice came from. However, this uncertainty about where the voice came from has perhaps been overstated sometimes. It is worth noting that he said he heard a voice 'quite close to him'. If the earlier reports of him hearing a conversation were correct then as he returned from the privy the voices would at first appear indistinct, particularly if the couple were keeping their voices low so as not to attract attention or disturb anyone inside No. 29 as well as the person they could hear in the yard of No. 27. Also, Cadosch would be coming from the furthest point away from where Chapman was found. So as he got near to the back door the voices would have appeared louder as he would have been getting nearer to them and would have been just the other side of the fence from anyone in the yard of No. 29 who were near the spot where Chapman's body was found. This 'closeness' of the voice as he went back into the house and the fact that the back door of No. 27 was near to the dividing fence suggests the voice came from just over the other side. However, as Cadosch was not prepared to commit himself as to where the voice had come from, though he did say he *thought* it came from there, we cannot assume the voice did actually come from No. 29.

He may not have been certain about the location of the voices but he was certain that the sound he subsequently heard (of something falling against the fence) came from No. 29. This indicates that there was probably some activity in the neighbouring yard at that time and, if so, then it's quite likely that the voices he had heard also came from the yard. Though, of course, this is not necessarily the case. It is sometimes queried whether the sound of the fall would definitely have come from the dividing fence between No. 27 and No. 29, pointing to his uncertainty regarding the location of where the voice came from, but Cadosch did not express any doubt regarding the fall. He gave no qualification as he had done with the location of the voice. The sound of the fence being struck would have been quite distinct regarding where it had come from, whereas a voice, particularly if the person was whispering, would have been more difficult to locate.

A police version of Cadosch's statement is given in Chief Inspector Donald Swanson's report of 19th October 1888:

*5.25 a.m. 8th Sept. Albert Cadosch of 27 Hanbury Street, (next door) had occasion to go into the yard at the rear of No. 27, separated only by a wooden fence about 5 feet high, and he heard words pass between some persons apparently at No. 29 Hanbury Street, but the only word he could catch was "No".*

*5.28 a.m. 8th Sept. On Cadosch going back into the yard again he heard a noise as of something falling against the fence on the side next No. 29 Hanbury Street, but he did not take any notice.<sup>24</sup>*

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<sup>23</sup> *The Times*, 20 September 1888

<sup>24</sup> Report by Chief Inspector Donald Swanson, 19 October 1888. *The Ultimate Jack The Ripper Sourcebook/Companion* by Stewart P. Evans and Keith Skinner p. 75

This official report mentions that Cadosch heard more than one person, but that the only word he could pick out was 'no'. This reflects the story in the original newspaper reports and it is odd that nothing was said to imply this at the inquest. Note that at no point do we have confirmation in the inquest reports or this police report of how many people were in the yard, what their gender was or whether it was a man or woman who said 'no'. We can only infer from this that there were at least (and possibly only) two people, one of them uttering the word 'no' either as part of a sentence or as a single word response. There was nothing to imply any special emphasis as to how the word was uttered but it does not appear to have been in exclamation, and we also cannot infer that it was uttered as a rebuke.

In all reports of the inquest testimony there is reference to Cadosch returning to the yard after three or four minutes. This period is also reflected in Swanson's report as the time given for Cadosch hearing the voices was 5:25 and his return outside when he heard the fall against the fence is given as 5:28. Sometimes the evidence has been interpreted as Cadosch hearing an exclamation of 'No' closely followed by an object falling against the fence. There were at least three or four minutes between those events.

Also, Swanson's report follows some of the original newspaper reports in the time given for Cadosch hearing the voices. That is, 5:25.

Obviously, the times given by Cadosch will not be exact to the minute and each individual event could have been a minute or two earlier or later than the times given. Cadosch was just estimating how long he felt it had been between events some time after these otherwise mundane happenings occurred, but it gives us a fair estimate of the times involved in Cadosch's outings into his back yard. All that we know is that these events occurred between the two times when Cadosch seemingly made reference to a clock: about 5:15 when Cadosch got up and 5:32 when he passed the church. He didn't make reference to checking a clock at 5:15 but in keeping with other people (for example, John Davis) probably knew the time from the church bells striking the quarter-hour.

Also to be noted is that Cadosch said that he had no reason to suspect there was anything amiss as he often heard his neighbours making a noise against the fence caused by the packing cases.

### Differences with early reports

The more dramatic description given in the early reports of the sounds he heard including a scuffle and something falling heavily are absent from the inquest testimony. This may be because the reporters of the early accounts exaggerated what was said, or because Cadosch himself had played up what he heard originally to make it sound more dramatic. Whether he had actually heard these more dramatic sounds or not, he may have then decided to play down what he had heard at the inquest because he was receiving criticism, or feared he would, for not having acted upon what he heard, when if he had it may have prevented the murder.

### The First Visit

Let's take a closer look at Cadosch's testimony starting with his first entry into the back yard. This has been variously stated to be 5:15 and 5:25.

The following report offers a more specific account of some of these details.

*I got up about a quarter past five in the morning, and went into the yard. It was then about twenty minutes past five, I should think. As I returned towards the back door I heard a voice say "No" just as I was going through the door. It was not in our yard, but I should think it came from the yard of No. 29. I, however, cannot say on which side it came from.<sup>25</sup>*

Taken on its own, the first line says that he got up at 5:15 and implies he immediately went into the yard. However the second line appears to say that it was 5:20 by the time he went into the yard. Early reports on the 10th gave the time as 5:25 for when he heard the voices. This could have been a mistake by the report, but there may be some way that the times match those given at the inquest as we will see.

Also in this account, it says he heard the voice 'just as [he] was going through the door'. This seems to confirm that

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<sup>25</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 20 September 1888



he was at the back door (or near there) when he heard the voice and therefore would be quite near to it if it came from just the other side of the fence.

Regarding the timing of when he was outside, consider this account of his testimony:

*About a quarter past five o'clock in the morning of the 8th inst., I was in the yard. I returned in about five minutes, and heard a voice close to me, but I could not say on which side, or in which yard, say "No." I went in and came back into the yard in three or four minutes, and then I heard a sort of fall against the fence which divides the yard from No. 29.*<sup>26</sup>

Here it is mentioned that Cadosch said he returned across the yard (from the outhouse) after about five minutes and heard the voice. This report states that he was in the yard at 5:15, so from this it appears he walked back across the yard at 5:20 and heard the voice. However, this reference to the five minutes spent in the yard may push the time to 5:25 if he only went into the yard at 5:20 as other reports imply. On the other hand this 'five minutes' was probably this report's way of describing Cadosch's reference to it being 'twenty past 5' which was noted in the other reports apparently as the time at which he was in the yard. The various newspapers reported the timings slightly differently and it's difficult to deduce exactly what Cadosch said.

Another report appears to clear this up:

*... he got up at about 5.15 A.M., and went into the yard, and in returning about 20 minutes past five he heard a voice quite near him, and he thought probably it was in the yard of No. 29.*<sup>27</sup>

This report clearly states it was at about 5:20 that Cadosch returned across the yard to the house and heard the voice. However, this may have been a misinterpretation by that particular newspaper and from all the accounts it appears the testimony may have been ambiguous on this point.

There are various elements to his testimony regarding this:

He got up at 5:15

At some point while in the yard (either when he first went out or as he returned to the house) it was 5:20

He was in the yard for 5 minutes before returning to the house, hearing the voice on the way inside

It all depends on the time when he went into the yard. If he got up at 5:15 and went immediately to the yard then he would have heard the voice at about 5:20. However, if it were 5:20 when he went into the yard (and the *Telegraph* report can be read this way) he would have heard the voice at 5:25 if he returned five minutes later. On the other hand, in this scenario it depends on whether the five minutes referred to in the *Morning Advertiser* simply referred to his presence in the yard at 5:20 (i.e. five minutes after he got up) and therefore renders points 2 and 3 above as referring to the same time period or if it correctly reflected that he said he returned to the house five minutes after going outside.

So the more likely summary based on the various reports would be:

5:15	Cadosch gets up and goes into back yard to the outhouse (possibly hearing people in the yard next door if one of the early reports is correct).
5:20	Cadosch returns to the house and hears a voice or voices but is only able to pick out the word 'no'.

This actually reflects the time that Coroner Wynne Baxter gave in his summing up.

*Cadosh says it was about 5.20 when he was in the back yard of the adjoining house, and heard a voice say "No".*<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> *Morning Advertiser*, 20 September 1888 (Cadosch's name is given as 'Adolphus Caposch')

<sup>27</sup> *Glasgow Herald*, 20 September 1888

<sup>28</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 27 September 1888

An alternative summary, if the interpretation of the *Morning Advertiser* did refer to an extra five minutes, is:

5:15	Cadosch gets up.
5:20	Cadosch goes into back yard to the outhouse.
5:25	Cadosch returns to the house and hears voices but is only able to pick out the word 'no'.

This would bring the timing in line with the police report and the early newspaper reports.

Though the newspaper reports of the inquest testimony make it sound as if he got up and *immediately* went to the yard, from piecing together the early reports and all the reports of his inquest testimony, it appears he was in the back yard at 5:20 (though it is not clear whether this was the outward or return journey back to the house). On his first trip he may have been in the outhouse for about 5 minutes. It could be that it was in this period that the killer and Chapman came into the yard, as Cadosch does not mention hearing any voices in his inquest testimony until he was going back into the house. However, the report in *Lloyd's* mentions him being aware of two people in the yard on first going outside.

### The Second Visit and Time In Between

Returning to the inquest testimony to pick up on the detail regarding his second visit outside:

*He went into the house, and returned to the yard three or four minutes afterwards. He then heard a sort of a fall against the fence, which divided his yard from No. 29. Something seemed suddenly to touch the fence. He did not look to see what it was. He did not hear any other noise.*

*By the CORONER. - He did not hear the rustling of any clothes. Witness then left the house and went to his work.*<sup>29</sup>

The report in *The Times*, among others, gives the impression that Cadosch heard the sound of the fall as he went back outside.

Also we can see that Cadosch was asked about sounds other than the bump being heard. Another account of this part of his testimony gives the following detail:

*Three or four minutes the witness was again in the yard of the house in which he lived, and heard "a sort of fall" against the fence. He did not look to see what it was.*

*The Coroner - Had you heard any previous noise? - No, sir.*<sup>30</sup>

The coroner's questions regarding other noises were possibly asked in order to refute or confirm the early press reports that he had heard other sounds prior to the 'fall' against the fence such as the scuffle and someone falling heavily on the ground.

As already stated, while he expressed some doubt about where the voices came from he was unequivocal about where the sound of the 'fall' came from. If he was trying to play down the significance of the sounds he heard (so, for example, the 'scuffle' was no longer mentioned) he was still expressing certainty about where the sound of the 'fall' had come from. People at the time and since have picked up on his description of the sound being caused by a 'fall' with its implications that this could have been the moment Annie Chapman fell down under the attack from the killer.

Swanson's report also implies that the 'fall' was heard immediately on going back outside—'*On Cadosch going back into the yard again he heard a noise as of something falling against the fence on the side next No. 29 Hanbury Street*'.

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<sup>29</sup> *The Times*, 20 September 1888

<sup>30</sup> *Daily News*, 20 September 1888



However, doubts are raised by this interpretation in the *Telegraph*:

*I went indoors, but returned to the yard about three or four minutes afterwards. While coming back I heard a sort of a fall against the fence which divides my yard from that of 29. It seemed as if something touched the fence suddenly.*

*The Coroner: Did you look to see what it was? - No.*

*- Had you heard any noise while you were at the end of your yard? - No.*

*- Any rustling of clothes? - No. I then went into the house...<sup>31</sup>*

‘While coming back’ after returning to the yard implies that he heard the sound while going back into the house, though there is still some ambiguity as it could equally have meant ‘while coming back to the yard’ as confirmation of the previous sentence. However, the coroner’s question ‘*Had* you heard any noise while at the end of your yard’ [my emphasis] implies he was asking about anything Cadosch may have heard while he had been at the end of the yard (i.e. away from the house and presumably while in or near the privy) *prior* to hearing the fall, whereas if he’d asked ‘*did* you hear any noise while at the end of the yard’ this would have been more ambiguous as it could equally have referred to after he’d heard the fall. Some of this uncertainty is to some extent cleared up in the following account:

*I went indoors, but I came back again into the yard about three or four minutes afterwards, and proceeded to the end of the yard. In coming back I heard a sort of fall against the fence which divided my yard from that of 29. It seemed as if something seemed to touch the fence suddenly.*

*- Had you heard any noise while you were at the bottom of your yard? - No, sir.<sup>32</sup>*

This states that he proceeded to the end of the yard and *then* ‘in coming back’ heard the fall.

So it does look as if he said that he heard the noise while returning to the house, but if there is any ambiguity remaining it is cleared up by looking again at the *Daily News* account:

*Three or four minutes the witness was again in the yard of the house in which he lived, and heard “a sort of fall” against the fence. He did not look to see what it was.*

*The Coroner - Had you heard any previous noise? - No, sir.<sup>33</sup>*

Here it is reported that Cadosch said he had not heard anything *previous* to this ‘fall’ and if we compare this with the other reports of this part of his testimony it seems to confirm that he was returning to the house. The testimony according to the *Standard* and the *Telegraph* was that he had not heard anything at ‘the bottom (end) of the yard’ and the *News* reported this testimony as he had not heard anything ‘previous’. It appears he stated that *previous* to hearing the fall he was at the *bottom of the yard* and so heard the fall as he was walking back to the house. Of course it could be that the *News* misinterpreted what he meant but overall these reports indicate that he was going back towards the house when he heard the noise.

An odd point about his description of the sound against the fence as he expressed it at the inquest is his reference to something ‘suddenly touching it’. When something falls against anything, there is always going to be a ‘sudden’ transition from it not touching the other object to it actually touching it! Cadosch’s statement implies something more subtle than the description given in the early reports of something falling heavily against the ground and fence. Again, whether it was Cadosch himself who exaggerated what he had heard in the original reports or it was down to the reporters, he appeared to be playing down the story as it appeared in the early reports.

Another report tells us:

*Something seemed to strike the fence suddenly. He did not look to see what it was. He heard no struggling.<sup>34</sup>*

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<sup>31</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 20 September 1888

<sup>32</sup> *Evening Standard*, 20 September 1888

<sup>33</sup> *Daily News*, 20 September 1888

<sup>34</sup> *Irish Times*, 20 September 1888

This may simply be this newspaper's way of condensing what Cadosch said. However, it could be a detail not picked up by the other newspapers and that is Cadosch mentioned, or was specifically asked about any struggling.

His testimony went on to say:

*At that time in the morning do you often hear people in these yards?*

- *Now and then. They make packing cases at 29, and I sometimes hear them.*
- *The Foreman - Had you not the curiosity to look over the palings when you heard the fall?*
- *The Witness - Well, now and then a packing case falls against the palings, and I did not think that there was anything wrong.*<sup>35</sup>

## Leaving the House

After talking about the sound Cadosch heard of something falling against the fence the inquest testimony addresses what Cadosch did next.

*Did you then leave the house?*

- *Yes, sir, to go to work. It was about two minutes after half past five.*<sup>36</sup>

This sounds as if Cadosch left the house at 5:32. However, where he actually was at this time is clarified by the following:

*Witness then left the house and went to his work. When he passed Spitalfields Church it was about 32 minutes past 5.*<sup>37</sup>

Here the time of 5:32 applies to his passing of Spitalfields Church. Again this highlights the necessity of referring to more than one report to clarify the details. Other newspapers gave this same detail.

Regarding whether he saw anyone when he departed from the house for work, *The Times* reported:

*When he left the house he did not see any man or woman in Hanbury-street. He did not see Mrs. Long.*<sup>38</sup>

This implies that he saw no one in the street when he left the house (though, of course, children aren't excluded by his statement!). This also tells us that he did not see Elizabeth Long who said she was walking along Hanbury Street at about that time.

However, another account of his testimony gives the following detail:

*The Coroner - Did you see a man or woman in the street?*

- *No; I only saw workmen passing by to their work.*<sup>39</sup>

Cadosch meant that he did not see any *couples* around. The account here refers to not seeing any man *or* woman, but in another report it refers to him not seeing any man *and* woman with the implication being that no man and woman were seen *together* by Cadosch.

*By the Coroner. - I did not see any man and woman in the street when I went out.*<sup>40</sup>

The coroner's question was probably asked to establish if Cadosch had observed the couple Elizabeth Long had seen. However, Cadosch stated that he did see workmen going to work. In another account Cadosch only mentioned seeing one workman:

*By the Coroner - I did not see any man and woman in the street when I went out. I did not see Mrs. Long, one of the witnesses here to-day. I saw a workman passing on the other side.*<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> *Daily News*, 20 September 1888

<sup>36</sup> *Daily News*, 20 September 1888

<sup>37</sup> *The Times*, 20 September 1888

<sup>38</sup> *The Times*, 20 September 1888

<sup>39</sup> *Morning Advertiser*, 20 September 1888

<sup>40</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 20 September 1888

<sup>41</sup> *Evening Standard*, 20 September 1888



'Passing' implies that the workman was walking along the pavement on the other side of the road opposite, or nearly opposite, No. 27, rather than further along the road. No further details regarding the direction in which he (or they) were heading is given. By referring to the extra detail of the man passing 'on the other side', this report appears to give a more detailed account than the previous one. This may be an indication that it was also more accurate in referring to just one workman.

### Can the details in the early reports be ignored?

So can we largely ignore what was said in the early reports, since Cadosch clearly stated at the inquest that there were no other sounds other than the fall on his second visit to the yard? This may refute the early reports with their references to a scuffle and a person falling on the ground and this cautions us against making any definite inferences from the early reports.

That certain details were not mentioned at the inquest does not mean they did not happen. In the case of the so-called 'scuffle' and someone falling to the ground, this was possibly refuted at the inquest as Cadosch said he heard no other sounds prior to hearing the 'fall'. However, nothing seems to have been clarified at the inquest regarding the hearing of the word 'no'. Nothing was stated about how many people were heard or whether there was a conversation even if the words could not be clearly heard. This is frustrating as it leaves a couple of details from the early reports unconfirmed. Some of the details in the early reports were confirmed at the inquest such as the reference to Cadosch not feeling very well being confirmed by his statement at the inquest to having had an operation, so clearly some of the early details were correct.

Cadosch's uncertainty about where the voice came from may refute the detail about hearing two people in the yard of No. 29 as he first went outside - *as I passed to the back of the yard I heard a sound as of two people up in the corner of the next yard. On coming back I heard some words which I did not catch, but I heard a woman say "No."*<sup>42</sup> However, it could be that he could not be certain where the sound of these two people came from (whatever the sound was that he could detect, though it would probably be movement of some sort), but this detail was not mentioned or asked about at the inquest. As with other details from the early accounts, they were expressed less dramatically or with less certainty at the inquest. But before we dismiss this as it was not mentioned, also remember that no reference was made at the inquest to any conversation of which he could only pick out the word 'no'. Only the word 'no' is mentioned in the reports of the inquest testimony. Yet in his report, Swanson refers to voices and a conversation from which only one word could be picked out, which suggests the police statement made by Cadosch contained such a reference. There was no denial of any other voices, but there was nothing in the testimony to say they were heard.

The early reports may actually help to clarify Cadosch's timings between hearing the voice and hearing the fall. These reports do not suggest any great difference in time between the sounds Cadosch heard and imply they occurred at about the same time. It appears that details Cadosch gave were corrupted and combined, so the time of 5:25 may have been his estimate for when he heard the fall. If his time of 5:20 did refer to when he went back inside the first time, this would imply he felt there was five minutes between the sounds. This may have included a minute or two for time spent in the privy and so he therefore deduced it would be about '3 or 4 minutes' between going back in the house the first time and coming back outside.

### Did it relate to the murder?

Possibly, Cadosch did not hear anything relating to the murder. Either he heard Chapman with a previous client (which would explain why no one came forward) or it was someone from No. 29, or someone else, in the yard, though there are no press statements or testimony to suggest anyone else was in the yard at this time. As for the suggestion that the sounds could have been someone discovering the body (and someone fell against the fence in horror or exclaimed 'no') surely the discoverer would have made more noise than this; perhaps even quickly going back into the house, leaving the swing door to shut and make a noise.

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42 *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, 9 September 1888

## Perception of Time

Of course Cadosch was not being exact with his times and we cannot know for sure that it was, for example, 5:20 exactly (even by his own time reference) when he was in the yard, or even at what point that was (whether on leaving or returning to the house), so all of the times Cadosch gave have a minute or two margin either side.

The perception of the length of a period of time is relative. How do you objectively perceive four minutes? It depends on the circumstances. If you are doing something interesting it appears to go quickly. If you are bored it appears to drag. If you have a deadline against which you are trying to achieve something then time appears to go quickly, whereas if you are just trying to kill time it will conversely seem to go more slowly. For example, a football fan whose team are a goal ahead going into four minutes of injury time at the end of the match will feel that time is going very slowly; whereas a rival fan in the other stand whose team are trailing by that single goal will think time is flying by.

The length of time taken to complete a mundane task is difficult to judge, particularly if you are remembering it some hours later. From Cadosch's inquest testimony the following was reported:

*By a Juror - I told the police the same day, within an hour and a half of hearing of the murder.*<sup>43</sup>

In another account:

*By a Juryman: I informed the police the same night after I returned from my work.*<sup>44</sup>

Cadosch appears to have only heard about the murder much later, informing the police 'the same *night*' after he returned from work, which was only within an hour and a half of him hearing about it. This also needs to be borne in mind when assessing Cadosch's timings.

## Timing Introduction

Cadosch said he got up at about 5:15 and passed Spitalfields Church at 5:32. In that approximate 17 minute period he had gotten out of bed, gone to the outside lavatory twice and left the house to go to work getting as far as the church.

The times that Cadosch gave must be treated with some caution and any exact timing cannot be trusted. However, if we do use Cadosch's timings as given at the inquest and, as implied by Swanson's report, to the police we can build a reasonable picture of the likely range of times involved.

## Working forwards

Based on the times given in the early reports and at the inquest we get the following:

Early reports		Inquest reports	
5:25	On going out into the yard to go to privy, Cadosch heard two people in the yard next door (one report).	5:15 - 5:20	Cadosch went into back yard. No mention of hearing sounds while going out
Unknown time after	Cadosch returns to house hearing voices but only picks out a woman saying 'no'	5:20 - 5:25	Cadosch returns to house and hears a voice say 'no'
		5:23 - 5:29	3 or 4 minutes after going back to house, Cadosch comes back outside to privy, hearing nothing
Unknown time after but implies immediately after above event	Cadosch hears a scuffle and someone falling into fence	Unknown time afterwards	Cadosch returns to house hearing a 'fall' against the dividing fence of Nos. 27 and 29 as if touched suddenly.

<sup>43</sup> *Morning Advertiser*, 20 September 1888

<sup>44</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 20 September 1888



So a more likely summary based on the inquest testimony would be:

5:15	Cadosch gets up and goes into back yard to the outhouse.
5:20	Cadosch returns to the house and hears voices but is only able to pick out the word 'no'.
5:23 / 5:24	Cadosch returns to the house and hears voices but is only able to pick out the word 'no'.
5:24 - ?	Cadosch goes back to house and he hears a bump against the fence. Possibly he goes to his room first before leaving for work <sup>45</sup>
?	Cadosch leaves for work
5:32	Cadosch passes Spitalfields Church

The alternative summary with the extra five minutes, which brings the times in line with early reports and Swanson's report, is:

5:15	Cadosch gets up.
5:20	Cadosch goes into back yard to the outhouse.
5:25	Cadosch returns to the house and hears voices but is only able to pick out the word 'no'.
5:28 / 5:29	Cadosch goes back into the yard and into outhouse.
?	As Cadosch goes back to house he hears a bump against the fence. He immediately leaves for work
5:32	Cadosch passes Spitalfields Church

We will fill in the gaps shortly.

### Long anomaly

Much has been made of the time anomaly with Elizabeth Long. Long passed along Hanbury Street at just after 5:30. She established the time by the chimes of the Brewer's Clock in Brick Lane (whereas Cadosch used Spitalfields Church for his timing). She saw a couple outside, or near, No. 29; the woman she later said was Annie Chapman after she saw the body in the mortuary.

Questions relating to Long's testimony will be discussed in a future article. However if certain events happened very closely in time—the couple went into the house a few seconds after Mrs. Long had passed them, and went into the yard just before Cadosch came out of the privy, then the voices Cadosch heard could have been less than a minute after Mrs. Long passed them outside (or near) No. 29. If Cadosch did hear the voices as late as 5:25 (his time) then this could have been about a minute after Long saw them (just after 5:30 her time), so on such close timing we could be talking of a difference of just six minutes. A bit more leeway at either end and we could be talking seven minutes. This, of course, assumes that the early comment credited to Cadosch that he heard people in the yard as he first went out was not correct. At the other end of the scale if we assume Cadosch heard someone next door as he went outside at before 5:20 then the difference is at least, say, 11 minutes.

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<sup>45</sup> As indicated in *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, 9 September 1888 (already noted above)

## Working backwards

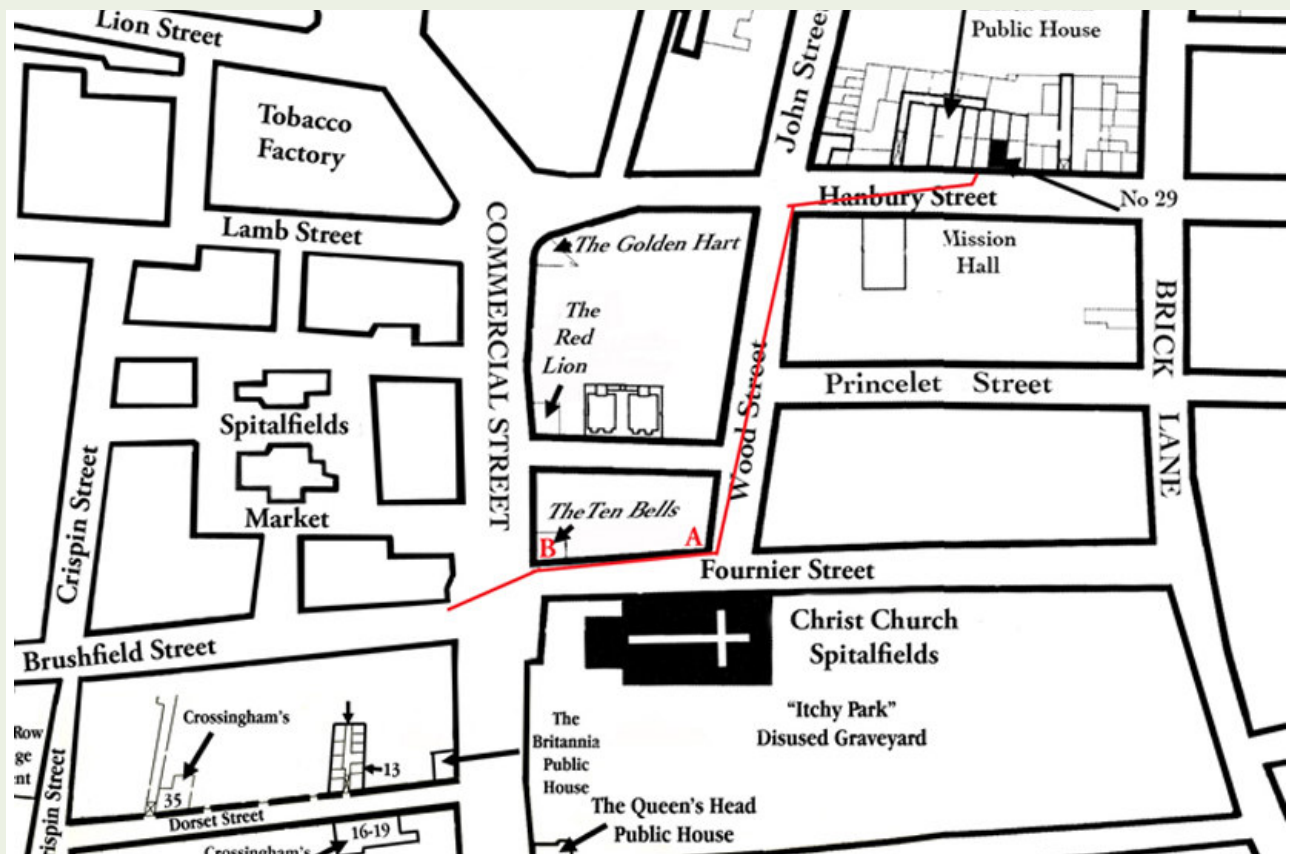
What can we ascertain by working back from when he passed the church at 5:32?

We are told that Cadosch worked as a carpenter in Shoe Lane, near Fleet Street. For the quickest route he would head towards Commercial Street, go along Brushfield Street and then southwest along Bishopsgate. The quickest way to get to Brushfield Street would be to go down Wilkes Street, then along Fournier Street, passing the church as he said he did.

Spitalfields Church was just over 150m from 27 Hanbury Street by walking down Wilkes Street. Clock faces were on each of the four sides of the steeple, which was situated on Commercial Street. The east-facing clock face would be visible as Cadosch got to the bottom of Wilkes Street. To actually reach the church steeple on the corner of Commercial Street would be about another 50m. To reach the church by walking to the end of Hanbury Street and then going down Commercial Street would be more than 230m. It is unlikely that he went this way as it was further to walk. While Cadosch said it was 5:32 as he went past the church, he may have meant as he was in the *process of going past* as opposed to the time when he had actually *gone past* it. He may have looked at the time as he walked by the church along Fournier Street.

If Cadosch was not feeling that well, his walking pace may have been a bit slow. A fair range for walking speed is about 1.2 to 1.5m/s. The average for a male adult is about 1.3 to 1.4m/s.

Locations	Distance	Time 1.2 m/s	Time 1.5 m/s	Average 1.35 m/s
No. 27 to bottom of Wilkes St.	152m	2 mins 7	1 min 41	1 min 53
No. 27 to corner of Church on Comm St	200m	2 mins 46	2 mins 13	2 mins 28



Map showing Cadosch's route that morning. Cadosch would probably have noted the time of 5:32 as he passed the church somewhere between points A and B.

Note: Wood St. and John St. were both later known as Wilkes St.



View of Spitalfields church from the bottom of Wilkes Street  
Photograph courtesy of John Bennett

That the time was 5:32 (and of course it may not have been *exactly* 5:32) was probably noticed by Cadosch on the church clock as he was passing the church somewhere between the corner of Wilkes Street and Fournier Street and the corner of Fournier Street and Commercial Street. At the extremes of how we could interpret the information it may be that he took as little as about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  minutes to reach a point where he saw it was 5:32 by the church clock; or it could be that it took as long as about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  minutes for him to pass the church on Commercial Street. A fair average would be about 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. It would have been 5:29:15 at the earliest that he left Hanbury Street and maybe as late as about 5:30:15. These times assume it was exactly 5:32 when Cadosch noted the time on the church clock, and there is probably leeway either side of up to 30 seconds.

Cadosch probably went to the backyard the second time for one last 'visit' to the privy before having to go to work, so after hearing the fall he may have left the house immediately. But note the early report saying he went to his room, which may have referred to this occasion.

This means, if he did leave the house as soon as he had come back from outside on the second occasion, then allowing a few seconds for him to walk the approximate 30 feet from the back door to the street, he would have heard the fall at about 5:29 to 5:30 allowing time to pass Spitalfields Church at 5:32. Of course it depends how long his visit to the outhouse was on that second occasion to get other time information.

### Activity in the privy

OK, a bit of warning here: don't read this next bit if you're eating. Cadosch said he had been unwell as he had had an operation, which implied he was going into the yard to use the outhouse. He didn't say whether the operation had affected his bladder or his bowels (the latter would entail a longer time in there), though if he was feeling unwell it may be he needed to go to the privy in order to vomit. A visit to the lavatory in order to relieve the bladder may take less than a minute. For something more substantial it would perhaps take at least two minutes allowing for clean-up time as well. The second visit would perhaps have been shorter if his previous visit had been the more productive one or if he was desperate to purge his system and so wouldn't have required too much 'waiting' time. Then allowing a bit of time for cleaning up, he could have been 'good to go' in less than a couple of minutes. Another point to consider is that in the early *Echo* report Cadosch said he not been well *in the night*. It may be that he'd done what was necessary in a bucket or chamber pot during the night and in the morning one of his visits to the outhouse was to empty it (though this would more likely have been done on his first trip).

OK, for those of you who are eating, you can start reading again now.

The back yards of nos. 27 and 29 were not a hive of activity between 5 and 6 o'clock. Some people were getting up to go to work but not all were at that time. Visits to the privy would not have been common at that time and during the night use of the chamber pot or a bucket would have sufficed. At No. 29 it appears no one needed to use the privy until John Davis appeared to be heading there at just after 6am. There were no documented trips into the backyard of No. 27 in that time period other than Cadosch's.

It has been said that if Cadosch went back outside as late as 5:28 he would have had to have been quick on the lavatory and run to get to Spitalfields Church for 5:32. By working back it could take, as an average,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  minutes to get to the church from 27 Hanbury Street meaning he could have left as late as 5:29:45. Give another 30 seconds (to be generous) to get to the front door from the backyard, gives a time of 5:29:15 at the latest to hear the fall against the fence. Allowing two minutes for his visit to the privy would mean he returned to the backyard at 5:27:15 at the latest. If we consider that the church clock may have shown a time slightly later than 5:32 and the fact that he may have needed to spend less time on the lavatory then a time of 5:28 for his return to the back yard is not inconceivable. All this is meant to demonstrate that Cadosch did not need to have an exceptionally brief visit to the lavatory and then run to work in order to pass



Spitalfields Church at 5:32 if he came outside into the yard for the second time as late as 5:28.

Allowing that he would have been in there for at least a minute would give a total time of at least four or five minutes since he heard the voice or voices.

### Swanson times and time in privy on the second visit

Cadosch doesn't give any time for how long he spent in the privy, just that he came out three or four minutes after going in the first time. He doesn't make it sound that his trip to the privy was all that long.

5:28 was the time Swanson gave for the hearing of the fall. It may be that the three or four minutes was taken to be the time that it took for him to hear the fall including time spent in the outhouse.

But possibly this was a misinterpretation of the times Cadosch gave. Swanson implies Cadosch heard the fall on coming outside. At the inquest Cadosch appears to have said he heard the voice at 5:20. In the early reports the time of 5:25 could apply to the time he heard the voice or the time he heard the fall. If the time of 5:25 was said by Cadosch to apply to the fall but was construed as referring to the voice, then as Cadosch had stated it was three or four minutes after hearing the voice and this was believed to be the time before hearing the fall (rather than just coming back outside), Swanson mistakenly added this time to 5:25.

Either way Cadosch probably left his house sometime about 5:29 to 5:30.

If he left the house directly after his second visit outside the fall would have been heard at about 5:29 to 5:30 as it would not have taken that long to negotiate the 30 feet from the back door through the house, say 10 to 15 seconds, unless he paused to do something else first, such as put on his coat. If Cadosch had gone to his room first to do something then it could have taken, say, a minute or two before leaving, putting the sound of the fall as being at sometime between about 5:27 to 5:29. Cadosch may have spent longer in his room, but none of the newspaper reports of his inquest testimony or Swanson's report (which times the fall at 5:28) imply that there was a great deal of time between hearing the noise and Cadosch leaving his house.

Depending on the time spent in the lavatory (say a minute to three minutes) then his second appearance in the yard was sometime between 5:24 to 5:28. The length of time he spent in the lavatory the second time is not implied as being very long in his inquest testimony and in the other reports. That he specified it was three or four minutes before coming back outside and then didn't specify a further length of time spent in the yard before hearing the fall suggests there was not that much extra time than the three or four minutes he mentioned. Indeed his '3 or 4 minutes' may have included the time he spent in the outhouse, though his testimony does read as if it referred only to the time before he came back outside.

His appearance in the yard could have been as late as 5:28 which is the time indicated in Swanson's report for the sound of the fall.

However, a longer visit to the privy followed by the need to return to his room for something before going to work could mean his second appearance in the yard would have been as early as about 5:23.

Assuming he left the house immediately after hearing the fall:

Times passes church	5:32	5:32	5:32
Walk to church	2 ¾ min	2 ¼ min	1 ¾ min
Time leaves house	5:29:15	5:29:45	5:30:15
Walk to front door	¼ min	¼ min	¼ min
Time leaves privy (Approx time he heard fall)	5:29	5:29:30	5:30
Time spent in privy	3 mins	2 mins	1 min
Time comes into yard for 2nd time	5:26	5:27:30	5:29

If he spent a few minutes going to his room:

Times passes church	5:32	5:32	5:32
Walk to church	2 ¾ min	2 ¼ min	1 ¾ min
Time leaves house	5:29:15	5:29:45	5:30:15
Time spent in room	3 mins	2 mins	1 min
Time leaves privy (Approx time he heard fall)	5:26:15	5:27:45	5:29:15
Time spent in privy	3 mins	2 mins	1 min
Time comes into yard for 2nd time	5:23:15	5:25:45	5:28:15

If we then take three or four minutes from these times, he would have heard the voices at sometime between about 5:19 and 5:26. Incidentally, if he heard the voices as late as 5:26 and then allowing say a minute for Long to pass her couple and this couple to get to the yard, using Cadosch's timeline, Long may have passed the couple at about 5:25 leaving only a discrepancy of about 5 minutes between their timings for their accounts to tally if they both related to Chapman.

This time range tie-in with the range for hearing the voices obtained from the interpretations of the inquest reports and Swanson's report—5:20 to 5:25.

### Timing conclusions

He said it was about 5:20 by the time he was in the yard for his first visit. However, it isn't clear if this was before going to the lavatory or on returning from the lavatory and we're relying on his perception of time. It would take him a minute or so to get some clothes on, or at least straighten himself up and get downstairs to the toilet. However, he was not exact about the time he got up so we could still say it was about 5:15 at the earliest when he first went outside.

So taking all the estimates from working forward from his inquest testimony (plus information in other reports and Swanson's report) and working back from when he passed the church and taking a reasonable range of times for certain events:

Event	Earliest time	Latest time
Cadosch first comes out into yard (possibly hears couple)	5:15	5:21
Cadosch goes back to house (hears talking and word 'no')	5:20	5:26
Cadosch returns outside	5:23	5:28
Cadosch returns inside (and hears fall)	5:26	5:30

Our more likely complete summary would be:

5:15	Cadosch gets up and goes into back yard to the outhouse.
5:20	Cadosch returns to the house and hears voices but is only able to pick out the word 'no'.
5:23 / 5:24	Cadosch goes back into the yard to the privy.
5:24 - 5:30	Cadosch goes back to house and he hears a bump against the fence. Possibly he goes to his room first before leaving for work
5:29 - 5:30	Cadosch leaves for work
5:32	Cadosch passes Spitalfields Church

Our alternative summary if we have an extra five minutes:

5:15	Cadosch gets up.
5:20	Cadosch goes into backyard to the outhouse.
5:25	Cadosch returns to the house and hears voices but is only able to pick out the word 'no'.
5:28 / 5:29	Cadosch goes back into the yard and into outhouse.
5:29 / 5:30	As Cadosch goes back to house he hears a bump against the fence. He immediately leaves for work
5:32	Cadosch passes Spitalfields Church

If the testimony report was correct regarding Cadosch's return to the house at about 5:20 after his first visit outside, he left immediately for work after his second trip and therefore heard the noise at about 5:30 at the latest, then this would give 10 minutes between Cadosch hearing the voice(s) and hearing the fall. If he returned outside after four minutes and then spent six minutes on the lavatory this would account for the time. However, Swanson's report indicates a shorter duration between the events—only three minutes between hearing the voices and hearing the fall. So taking the early reports, Swanson's report and one interpretation of the inquest reports regarding the timing of the visit outside we are looking at a shorter duration—about three or four minutes. Allowing for at least a minute in the outhouse the second time this is probably about four or five minutes, a time Cadosch may have implied in his early statements to the press.

Although the early reports state it was 5:25 when Cadosch heard the voices, it may be that was time he estimated that he heard the fall. Both sounds are implied as happening at about the same time in the early reports so it could be that in interpreting Cadosch's story incorrectly they applied the time to the wrong incident. Though no mention was made of any delay after going back in the house the second time in most reports, an early report makes mention of Cadosch going back to his room. Again this may be a mistake and this referred to his first visit. However, it may be that Cadosch returned to his room first for a couple of minutes to get something (for example, a coat) or rest a little if he was feeling unwell before then leaving for work. This could bring his second return to the house (and the time he heard the fall) forward to about 5:26 or even 5:25 as Cadosch himself may have said.





The passage of 29 Hanbury Street, looking through from the front door towards to yard

This, however, would leave at least four minutes before going to work. He may have gone back to his room for this time or it could be that he estimated the time difference between the sounds correctly (5 minutes) but incorrectly estimated the actual time they occurred. If he left for work at 5:29 or 5:30 and heard the fall immediately before leaving, then he therefore heard the voices at 5:24 or 5:25, which brings us back to Swanson's times with the only mistake being that he gave three minutes between the events rather than five.

### Killer striking between Cadosch's visits

If we consider that Cadosch did hear Chapman and the killer and that the sound of the fall was caused by the killer striking and Chapman falling against the fence or the killer knocking it as he lowered Chapman to the ground, it would be odd for the killer to have waited for over three or four minutes after Cadosch had gone back into the house to pick his moment, a period in which no-one was in the next yard, and then to strike *after* Cadosch had come back outside even if it was while he was in the privy. If the attack had begun just before Cadosch came back outside it would be odd for Cadosch to have heard nothing on his way to the privy the second time only to hear the 'fall' on returning to the house.

As the killer would have been 'working' from the right side of Chapman's body (i.e. the side away from the fence) he would not likely have made the sound accidentally as he 'worked'.

The killer would hardly likely start the attack if he heard someone so close. Only once Cadosch had gone back into his house would the killer have struck.

It could be that when Chapman and the killer got to the backyard of No. 29, Cadosch was already in the yard of No. 27, maybe in the outhouse. As Cadosch was aware of people in a neighbouring yard, so the killer would have been aware of Cadosch and so would have delayed the onset of the attack, even further assessing if it was worth going ahead with it altogether. In one of the early reports Cadosch was said to have been aware of two people in the next yard<sup>46</sup> as he first came out. No mention is made of voices at this point so it could be that he heard movement of some sort. Either way, if Cadosch was aware of someone in the next yard, so the killer (and Chapman) would have been aware of him.

Dr. Phillips testified that it would have taken the killer at least 15 minutes to perform all the mutilations.

*The Coroner: Can you give any idea how long it would take to perform the incisions found on the body?*

*Dr. Phillips: I think I can guide you by saying that I myself could not have performed all the injuries I saw on that woman, and effect them, even without a struggle, under a quarter of an hour. If I had done it in a deliberate way, such as would fall to the duties of a surgeon, it would probably have taken me the best part of an hour.*<sup>47</sup>

This is in contrast to the opinions of Dr. Sequiera and Dr. Brown regarding the murder of Catherine Eddowes. In a press report Sequiera said he thought the mutilations would have taken the killer about three minutes<sup>48</sup>, while Dr. Brown testified at the inquest that he thought it would take at least five minutes. While use of the phrase 'at least' leaves his opinion open-ended he implied it would not have taken much more than five minutes. Sequiera's opinion

<sup>46</sup> Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper, 9 September 1888

<sup>47</sup> Daily Telegraph, 20 September 1888. Karyo Magellan suggests that by 'duties as a surgeon' Phillips meant as a forensic pathologist conducting a medico-legal autopsy - hence the considerable time.

<sup>48</sup> The Star, 1 October 1888

expressed in the press may have been given prior to finding out about the missing organs, so he may not have taken that into account. Catherine Eddowes was more extensively mutilated than Annie Chapman so the injuries on Chapman would have taken slightly less time to inflict, thus Phillips' estimate seems excessive compared to those of Sequiera and Brown. The killer probably had at most 10 minutes in the case of Catherine Eddowes between police patrols<sup>49</sup>, which would refute Phillips' opinion. Karyo Magellan, author of *By Ear and Eyes*, who has studied the forensic pathological evidence extensively in the series of murders, suggests that it would probably have taken no more than three minutes for someone who had anatomical knowledge to have inflicted all the injuries found on Chapman and Eddowes and the killer would have been 'dallying' if he took as long as five.<sup>50</sup> There were also signs of strangulation with Chapman and so the time taken to subdue her in this way also has to be taken into account, though to bring about unconsciousness is possible in less than 30 seconds and need not have taken any more than a minute.

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49 See *City Beat: Parts 1 and 2 (Ripperologist 74 and 75)* for analysis.

50 Opinion expressed to me in an email. The issue regarding anatomical knowledge and its effects on the timing are hard to assess, having to take into account various factors such as whether the organ taken was the target of the killer. Whatever level of knowledge they indicate there were a definite amount of cuts and injuries on the body which would have taken a certain amount of time to inflict. The doctors quoted had differing opinions on the level of skill indicated by the injuries.



The time between Cadosch hearing the voice and hearing the fall could, in this case, have been enough time for the killer to strike and inflict all the injuries on Annie Chapman and the sound of the 'fall' against the fence could have been caused by the killer himself. It can only be speculated upon as to how the fence was knocked, but if it was the killer then Cadosch's presence could have caused him to become agitated and somehow fall or lean too heavily against the fence.

If the 'fall' had been heard as Cadosch came out this could be explained by his presence startling the killer causing him to lose his balance and catch himself against the fence. However, the reports—as we have seen—suggest that Cadosch heard the noise on returning to the house from the lavatory. This would mean that the killer would already have heard Cadosch come back out from the house, and only 'fell' against the fence on Cadosch returning to the house.

It may be that on Cadosch first coming back out, the killer, although startled to hear someone so close, would have thought that the fence would keep him hidden and the person would have no reason to look over. He would have kept a watch on Cadosch as best as he could through the palings or listened carefully to hear where Cadosch went. On hearing him going into the privy he then may have continued with the mutilations or started to finish up his task. On Cadosch then re-emerging from the privy the killer, in hastily changing his body position ready to flee or keep an eye on the next yard through a gap in the fence, may have leant against the fence a bit more quickly than he intended and struck the fence, possibly trying to glimpse through the palings to see again that Cadosch would not be a problem, particularly as Cadosch would be walking roughly towards that corner of the yard.

If there was an aperture in the fence, as suggested by the report of the 20th September, then it is possible the killer may have used it to look into the neighbouring yard when Cadosch came out to see what he was doing. A slight gap may have allowed a reasonable view of the neighbouring yard with an eye pressed up close. If it was any larger maybe the killer put his hand, his body (perhaps a shoulder) or something else against it to stop Cadosch from being able to glimpse the horrors the killer was perpetrating in the neighbouring yard through it. If Cadosch could have seen enough to suggest movement or a dead body on the other side, then the killer may have wanted to prevent this. Bear in mind that Cadosch would have been coming back towards the fence (albeit obliquely) from the outhouse and the killer might have feared there was a chance that Cadosch might get sight of his activities through the aperture.

Such a covering would have to be something that would not attract too much attention. A hand may have not been the best shield to avoid arousing suspicion, but with little time to think or act the killer may have used the first thing that came to mind. He may have used his shoulder as just seeing some cloth might have been less conspicuous than a hand from the perspective of someone on the other side.

The killer may also have just been prepared to flee or strike out at Cadosch if he had looked over, but he would have waited first in case it was unnecessary to bring attention to himself. If forced to flee before being ready, he would also potentially have to go into the street with blood on his hands. This would not be his ideal escape plan especially if the body was soon discovered and the alarm went up, even more so as it was quite light at that time of day. Again, if he felt it was only a matter of time before someone came out or looked out of a window, he would prefer to have cleaned up a bit first to escape unnoticed into the streets. Obviously, if he had been forced to flee then problems such as having bloody hands would be preferable compared to the possibility of being trapped in the yard, but ideally he would want to leave unseen and reasonably free of blood.

Anyway, to the killer's relief Cadosch just continued into the house. At this point the killer may have decided that he had pushed his luck far enough and someone continually coming out into the next yard was making him feel uneasy and he decided that was the time to leave. Also, the killer wouldn't necessarily know it was the same person who kept coming outside. It may also have made him acutely aware that someone could walk out into the yard he was in at any moment. In addition, he may have thought that the noise he made against the fence (which would probably appear more amplified from his attentive perspective) might attract more attention from inside No. 29 if there were open windows, or even from No. 27 where the occupant was going back inside. He may have finished cleaning up at this point or did whatever he felt he had to do and then left, carefully stopping the backdoor from banging shut so as not to attract further the attention of people in No. 29 <sup>51</sup>. Cadosch may have left a few seconds or up to a minute or so before and so the killer would have walked into the street unseen by Cadosch. He may even have carefully looked into the

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51 The door would shut on its own - "I did not close the back door; it closes itself" - John Richardson, *Evening Standard*, 13 September 1888



street first from the already open front door in order to see that there would be no witnesses to him leaving the house. He may even have watched as Cadosch headed away from the direction of No. 29 towards Wilkes Street.

In the time Cadosch was in the privy perhaps the killer took the opportunity to complete his immediate goal, perhaps to conceal the organ he took and clean up.

If Cadosch did stop and do something first before leaving the house, it may be that the killer left No. 29 first and so by the time Cadosch appeared in the street the killer could have been one of the 'workmen passing by to their work'.<sup>52</sup>

### Possible Consequences

If Cadosch returning outside did unsettle the killer and deter him from continuing then this may indicate a prevention of the killer's full intentions. In all other outside murders (relating to the Macnaghten Five)—Nicholls, Stride and Eddowes—there are indications that the killer may have been interrupted. If he was also interrupted in the case of Chapman (or at least deterred from continuing) then it may be that rather than the extent of the mutilations in each succeeding murder indicating an increase in the level of violence culminating in the destruction of Mary Kelly's body, it merely indicates the amount of time he had with each victim before someone came along.

It could be that it was coincidental that he had slightly longer in each succeeding murder (except that of Stride) and therefore was able to do more damage.

In the case of Nichols he may have been interrupted, probably by Charles Cross, not long after striking—perhaps barely a minute or so. In the case of Stride we can point to the arrival of Diemshutz and in the case of Eddowes there is a strong likelihood of interruption given the small window of opportunity in which the killer had to strike with the approach of PC Watkins or, more likely, PC Harvey being the prompt for the killer to flee. In most of these cases it was the person who discovered the body that may have disturbed the killer. This is unlikely in the case of Chapman in which Davis discovered the body. If it was Davis's approach that alerted the killer then either he would have passed Davis in the passage or he would have to have fled over the fence into No. 27 or No. 31.

Perhaps it was only in the case of Kelly, when he had the chance to go indoors, that he got to destroy a body to the extent he had envisaged. Indeed, the reason for the delay between the murder of Eddowes and Kelly may have been that he had given up trying to fulfil his purpose in the open and sought the opportunity for a prostitute to take him inside a room where he had little chance of being interrupted.

However, the killer would not have been able to perform the same mutilations in the outside murders as were done with Kelly, as he moved his knife beneath the victims' clothes as opposed to having no such restrictions in the case of Kelly. So he would not be in a position to do as much damage, but maybe any of the victims discovered outside may have had more mutilations or body parts removed if he'd had more time.

### Summary

Cadosch's story as it appeared in the early newspaper reports, the inquest reports and the police report does contain inconsistencies. These may have been as a result of Cadosch changing details of his story or because of exaggerations in the press, people not taking the details of his story correctly or making incorrect inferences.

The times that Cadosch gave for events cannot be taken as exact as he was estimating the times for mundane events much later. He didn't realise the significance of those events until about an hour and a half before he left work that night. So we cannot draw any definite conclusions from his times even if we accept that it was the killer and Chapman that Cadosch heard in the yard of No. 29. For example, Cadosch's '3 or 4 minutes' could have been anywhere between two and six minutes to give a bit of margin either side for a rough estimate.

But regarding Cadosch's reliability, compare his uncertainty about what he heard with Long's certainty that she had seen Chapman—a woman she'd never seen before and glimpsed for a few seconds in unremarkable circumstances. This would appear to make Cadosch a more reliable witness, as he was not motivated to make his testimony appear more

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<sup>52</sup> *Morning Advertiser*, 20 September 1888. 'Workman' (singular) according to the *Evening Standard* same date

important. Though, against this we have the early reports that may have reflected accurately what he said at that time and which contradicted some of his statements at the inquest. Also to consider is that he may have felt ashamed of not having taken more notice of what was happening the other side of the fence and so played down what he heard. But if his inquest testimony was truthful then, although he expressed doubts about where the voice came from, it does seem likely that it came from No. 29 as he was only able to pick out one word and that was at the point he was at his back door which was near the spot where Chapman was later found, having walked from the furthest point of his yard from that of No. 29 and so the voices would be getting louder.

Cadosch, however, does give us something a bit more concrete. He was certain that he heard something fall against the fence dividing No. 27 and No. 29. He was in no doubt about that. This suggests there was someone in the yard of No. 29 at about 5:25 to 5:30 (by Cadosch's timings) even if the voices were unrelated. If Chapman already lay dead at this time, this could have been someone discovering the body. However, it would be expected that someone would make more noise at such a gruesome discovery, even if they weren't going to tell anyone about it afterwards. It may also have been someone in the yard prior to Chapman's murder, but who subsequently did not come forward to say there was nobody in the yard at about 5:25. Nonetheless, Cadosch heard something or someone in the yard of No. 29.

Sometime between about 4:50 and 6:00, Annie Chapman was killed in the corner of the backyard of No. 29 Hanbury Street near to the house and the fence separating the yards of Nos. 27 and 29. The fence was about 5' 6" to 6' in height. The bloodstains found at the spot and the absence of any blood elsewhere indicated that she had been killed where she was found.

Cadosch got up at about 5:15, possibly telling the time by the Church bells chiming the quarter hour. It was reasonably light outside at that time as sunrise was at 5:23. He may have detected someone in the yard of No. 29 as he first went outside at about 5:15 to 5:20; possibly hearing some slight movement from over the fence. The backdoor of No. 27 probably swung towards the fence of No. 29, which would have obscured anyone in the corner of the yard where Chapman was found from someone who stood at the top of the steps leading into the yard of No. 27. The detection of somebody being in the yard at this point was, however, only reported in one newspaper.

Cadosch went to the privy as he'd had an operation and had been feeling unwell in the night. This was located in the left hand corner of yard from the back door, the furthest point away from the corner of No. 29 where Chapman was found. He would therefore have been walking back towards that corner when returning to the house.

He came out of the privy and went back inside at sometime between about 5:20 and 5:25, hearing at least one voice, possibly two, but only clearly hearing the word 'No', which was not expressed with any special emphasis. This was mentioned in one report as being spoken by a woman. Assuming it was Chapman and her killer who were in the yard, Chapman was alive at this point.

Although he was uncertain from where the voice came, he did say he thought it came from No. 29. Also, he heard the one word clearly as he was walking through his back door meaning he would be nearest the corner of the yard of No. 29 where Chapman was later found and so nearer to anyone speaking there.

He came back outside three or four minutes later to go again to the lavatory (sometime between 5:23 and 5:29), hearing nothing. This three or four minutes may have included the time spent in the privy, though Cadosch specifically said at the inquest that it was '3 or 4 minutes' after he had first returned to the house that he came out for the second time. Swanson's report only implied a difference of three minutes between hearing the voice and hearing the fall.

Cadosch was in the outhouse for an undisclosed amount of time, but possibly as little as a minute, or maybe at least two minutes.

However, taking into account possible misinterpretations of Cadosch's various statements it could be that he said he heard the fall at about 5:25, being about five minutes after hearing the voice, including a minute or so in the privy to add to his '3 or 4 minutes'.

He came back out of the privy and returned to the house (sometime between 5:24 and 5:30) hearing something fall against the fence. He either went to his room for a few minutes before going to work, or left immediately for work. Either way he left at about 5:29/5:30. He only saw a workman or workmen passing by on the opposite side of Hanbury Street as he left. He saw no couples around and didn't see any women. He passed Spitalfields Church at about 5:32 by the church clock.

If Elizabeth Long did see Chapman and the killer outside, or near, No. 29 at just after 5:30 by the Brewer's Clock, then this need not conflict too much with the timings of Cadosch. If Cadosch did hear the couple for the first time as late as 5:25 by his timing then allowing a minute for Long to pass the couple and for them to reach the backyard of No. 29, there need only have been a discrepancy of six minutes between the clocks they used for reference. Of course, if Cadosch detected the couple as early as just after 5:15 this discrepancy is as much as 16 minutes. A more reasonable time for Cadosch first detecting the couple is 5:20 (either as he first came outside or when he heard the voice), thus giving a discrepancy of about 11 minutes.

The time difference between Cadosch going back into the house after hearing the voice (with Chapman alive at that point) and hearing the fall against the fence, on returning to the house the second time is between four and 10 minutes, though probably nearer the former. Even four minutes would probably be sufficient time for the killer to have inflicted all the wounds found on Chapman, according to the opinion of Dr. Sequiera, with Dr. Brown suggesting at least five minutes (albeit both opinions were given in the case of Catherine Eddowes).

It may be that not long after the killer and Chapman reached the yard, Cadosch came out of his back door for the first time or they were aware of someone being in the privy as they reached the yard. The killer would likely have waited for Cadosch to go back into the house before striking, and so minimising the chance of anyone hearing a noise should Chapman have struggled. So Cadosch's initial trip outside may have delayed the killer's attack.

When Cadosch came outside for the second time, the killer was possibly startled and he may have decided to finish up. As Cadosch then came out of the privy a minute or so later, possibly sooner than the killer anticipated, the killer may have stumbled or leant more heavily than he intended against the fence, possibly to see through, or block, an aperture in the palings or in an attempt to prepare for a quick escape should it be necessary, though waiting first in case it was unnecessary to bring attention to himself.

In any case, Cadosch's appearances in the yard might have deterred the killer from continuing, fearing discovery at any moment—especially if he then fell against the fence in his agitated state and so potentially brought more attention to himself. So he fled after Cadosch went back inside. If Cadosch went to his room first, the killer may have left before Cadosch left for work. If Cadosch left immediately, the killer, as he got to the open front door, may even have seen Cadosch leave (Cadosch would have had his back to No. 29 as he left his house to head towards Wilkes Street) and so waited by the open door of No. 29 until he felt it safe to leave without being seen.

It is one thing to take risks when there is a potential for someone to come outside and discover you, but something else when someone is actually very close by. The killer was taking the risk that someone would come into the yard or would see him from a window, but when someone had actually come outside just the other side of the fence and a noise had been made to possibly attract their attention that risk was starting to become reality.

If the killer was interrupted then he may not have fulfilled all his intentions. As there are possibilities of interruptions in the other outdoor murders it may be that rather than indicating an increase in the level of violence exhibited by the killer in each successive murder, it merely indicates the amount of time he had with each victim before being disturbed.

#### Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Jane Coram.

Many thanks also to Debra Arif, Neil Bell, John Bennett, Melissa Garrett, Jake Luukanen, Karyo Magellan, Don Souden and Adam Wood.





# ‘Consider Yourself One of Us’

By Jennifer Pegg and Don Souden

Last summer we published the results of a survey we conducted among a select group of Ripperologists (*Ripperologist* 80, June 2007) and as one follow up to that project we thought it would be interesting to run a similar survey among participants at the recent Jack the Ripper Conference in Wolverhampton, England. Naturally, most of the respondents were from the United Kingdom, but even allowing for that bias a comparison with the first survey (which included many more respondents from North America) has proved quite instructive. In turn, it also yielded some new and interesting data. Included in the latter category is the mind-boggling notion that if our respondents were typical of the entire group, then those who sat down for dinner at Saturday’s banquet had more than 2,500 cumulative years of Ripper study among them!

## Methodological Discussion

Our results were once again based on a survey, this time of 16 questions. It took the form of a self-completion questionnaire and we explained the nature and purpose of it on the form that was distributed.

It employed a mixture of both open and closed questions allowing us to generate quantitative and qualitative data from it (although we focused mainly on the quantitative data in this case). Around half of our questions fitted into the closed category and half into the open category. The closed questions were mainly categorical in their nature (e.g. age, gender) whereas the majority of our open questions were opinion-based. Closed questions are advantageous in that, they are easy to fill in and therefore take relatively little time to do so (that also allowed us to set up the questionnaire with the appearance of being relatively easy to fill in). They also allow for clarity (i.e. they give the type of response that we are after). An example of this is when we asked respondents what their main source of Ripper information was, we gave the following categories: books, periodicals, forums/internet and other. This allowed us to illustrate what we meant by the question in its answer (see Bryman, 2004).

The open questions, allowed respondents to answer in their own terms and allowed for unusual or unexpected responses and unlike the closed questions were not suggestive of the answer(s) expected (in that they did not use pre-determined categories). Moreover, these types of questions can also be quantified as was done in the case of many of the open questions used in this research due to the nature of the questions asked (see Bryman, 2004). Therefore, for each question, we used the form that we deemed most appropriate for the type of information that we wanted to solicit. Due to the nature of the survey and the constraints of space (it fitting onto one side of A4 paper for convenience) it was difficult to generate truly detailed open data from respondents, but many questions were nevertheless open in their nature since they did not prescribe predetermined answers on the respondents.

These questionnaires were distributed to everyone who attended the recent JtR Conference in Wolverhampton in October 2007 via their delegate packs. This method of distributing the questionnaires had two crucial advantages to us; a) it made sure that the population sampled fitted the criteria of those whose views we were seeking (i.e. ‘Ripperologists’)

and; b) it eliminated researcher bias from the selection of the pool of potential respondents from the population.

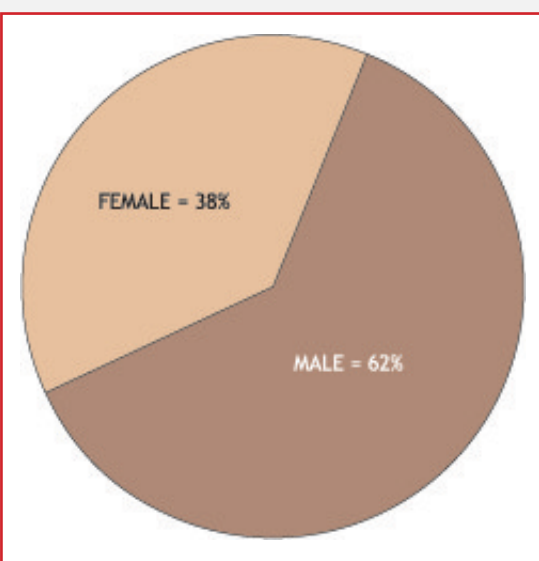
Turning to the sampling method used, this was in the form of a convenience sample. We chose to sample those at the Conference because they were easily accessible and available to us and we were able to reach a large amount of 'Ripperologists' fairly easily within the constraints of the time and resources that were available to us. As well as this, it is worth noting that producing a probability sample for the population to be explored (Ripperologists) would be more difficult given that it is not an easily definable or immediately recognisable category and some of its members are relatively hidden, meaning that it would be time consuming to generate a true random, quota or stratified sample of the whole of the population involved. The nature of the way that the survey was distributed made the response rate easy to calculate; it was 29 percent.

We were able to maintain anonymity and confidentiality in respect to those who answered the survey because no one was asked to write their name on their form and so we had no way of marrying the survey to those in the sample. All respondents also gave informed consent to take part in the research.

We felt that the use of questionnaires had some distinct advantages. Most important, our questionnaire allowed us to reach a relatively large number of people in the population in a relatively short amount of time. Questionnaires also have the advantage that people can take their own time filling them in and so refine their thoughts and, further, they are a cheap method of reaching a large amount of the population (see May, 2001). Questionnaires also had the advantage of reducing interviewer effect and variability from the data (see Bryman, 2004). There are some disadvantages to using a questionnaire, most notably that it is hard or impossible to probe beyond the answers given (see May, 2001). Given the constraints of time and resources we feel this method best reached the population required and gave us the most credible data that was possible within the restraints of time and resources.

### 'I'm a man, spelled M-A-N . . . I am woman, hear me roar'

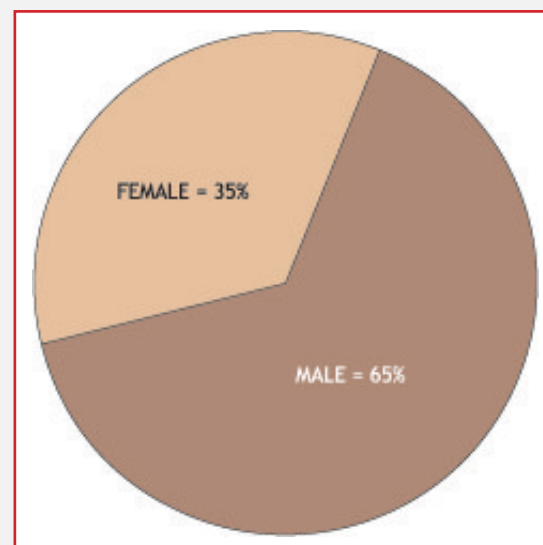
In this survey the ratio of male to female respondents changed dramatically and, indeed, more closely reflected the actual sexes of the conference attendees. Based on those booked for the banquet, 62% of those diners were males and 38% female, whereas 65% of our respondents were men and 35% women. Males are slightly over-represented in this survey, but the differences are likely not statistically significant.



Gender of all delegates

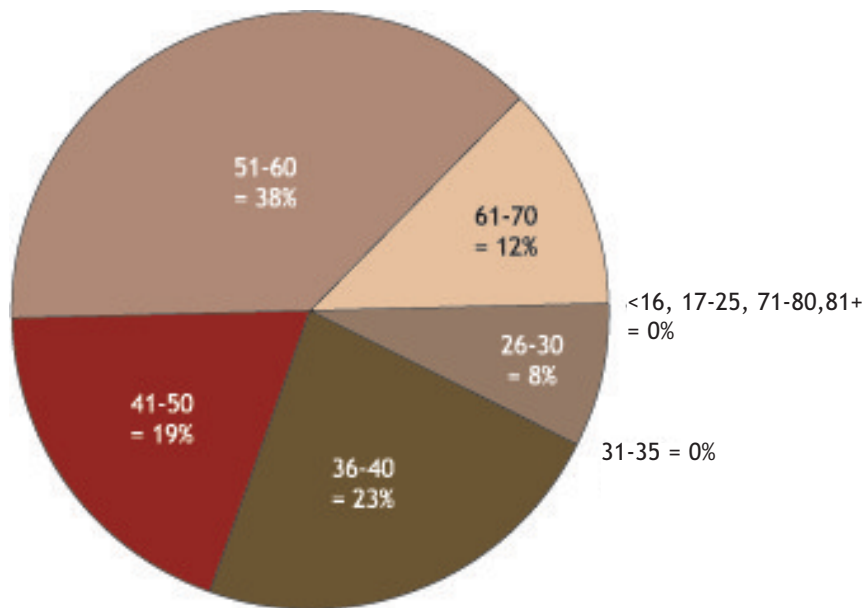
The results from Wolverhampton are in stark contrast to our first survey when only 12% percent of those responding were female, which indicates strongly that our previous sample was skewed toward over-representation for males. This was likely due to lower response rates for females and researcher bias in the original sampling method.

It should, however, be noted that even though the Wolverhampton survey provided a male/female ratio very close to the actual situation, female response rates were again lower. Whereas 30.4% of all males responded to the survey, the figure was only 25.7% for females. Why women should manifest lower response rates remains something of a mystery.



Gender of respondents

## ‘Darling we are growing old, silver threads among the gold’



Age of respondents

Once again there were significant changes between the age cohorts of those questioned in Wolverhampton and those in our original survey. Yet, taking a somewhat broader view of the age groupings the results were remarkably consistent within the middle ranges of both surveys.

Looking at the results, although 6% of the respondents in the original survey fell into the 17-25 year old cohort, no one at Wolverhampton was in that bracket. It should be noted, however, that one of us does fit neatly into that age grouping (the other of us, sadly, isn't even close), but did not fill out a form for obvious reasons. Moving up a notch, whereas only 3% of those in the original survey were 26-30, nearly three times as many (eight

percent) at the conference were in that cohort.

It is once we pass the 'big three-oh' that the results become very interesting. In the earlier survey 6% reported they were in the 31-36 years age cohort, whilst no one—zero percent—checked that age box at Wolverhampton. In contrast, the 36-40 years cohort was represented by a full 23% at the conference compared to only 15% in the first survey.

The same differences between the two surveys are reflected in the next two age cohorts. Whereas the 41-50 years bracket contained 32% of the respondents—the largest single group—in the first survey, that cohort accounted for only 19% of the conference goers. In contrast, the largest group in the conference survey—38%—were between 51 and 60 years of age against only 29% in the original survey that said they were in that age cohort. Finally, 12% of those at Wolverhampton were in their 60s, compared to 6% in the first survey. No one at Wolverhampton admitted to being over 70, while the original survey included one septuagenarian.

What caused the seeming differences might simply be laid to statistical anomalies as a result of small sampling pools as well as the logistical (and financial) considerations involved in attending a weekend conference away from home. That is, while access to a computer (the basis for our first survey) is available to those of almost any age, both the inclination and wherewithal to travel to a conference might preclude most of the youngest Ripperologists. Also, the dearth of respondents in their early 30s might be explained by that age group being the most likely to have children so young as to make parental absences difficult or prohibitively expensive.

However, taking a somewhat broader view of the results of both surveys suggests that any seeming anomalies are the result of the relatively small sample pools in both instances. That is, if the 31-35 and 36-40 brackets are taken as a whole, then that combined cohort would represent 23% of the Wolverhampton respondents and 21% of those who responded to our first survey. Similarly, if those between 41 and 60 years are grouped they represent 57% of those at the conference and 61% of those in the original survey. Considering, again, the size of the two samples the results strongly suggest congruence.



## 'You can tell from my smile that I'm Irish'

Once more we found that the overwhelming majority of our respondents were White. Although only 73% classed themselves as either White or Caucasian, it can be seen from the other categories involved here that 89% of respondents appear to have been White (we feel confident from our experience of the conference that most, if not all, delegates were White). In our last survey this figure was 94%.

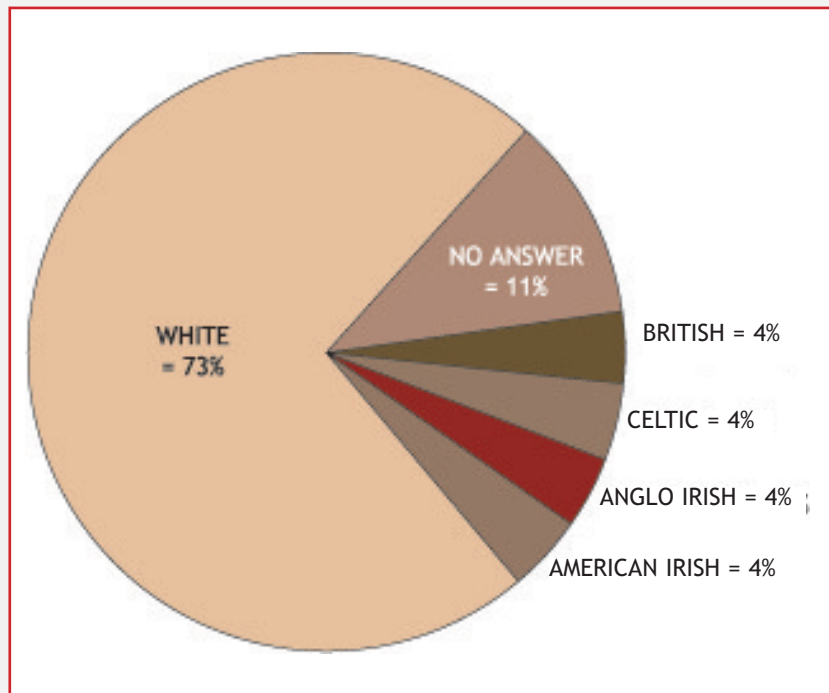
This time, 11% of respondents chose not to answer this question (as compared to 3% last time). This higher non-response to this question (that was, incidentally, exactly the same question as the one posed in the last survey) could be down to several reasons, including people finding it difficult to self-categorise themselves in terms of ethnicity or thinking it was none of our business!

In this survey an overwhelming majority of respon-

dents (96%) were from the British Isles or Ireland, whilst only 4% were American. Of those who responded, 46% claimed allegiance to Britain, 38% to England, and 4% each to Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We felt it was an interesting aside to note that quite a high percentage of British respondents instead chose to claim allegiance to one of the countries that make up the UK.

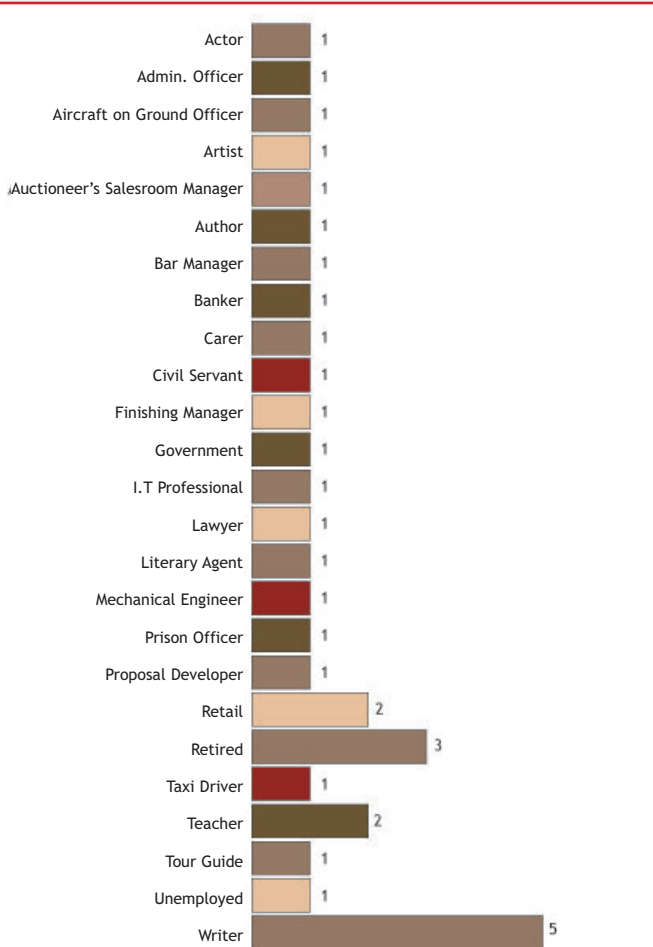
In our last survey only 38% of respondents were British and the next highest category was American with 32%. It should also be noted that last time other European nationalities and Australians were also represented.

Prior to undertaking this survey, we expected that national allegiances would be skewed towards British and other European nationalities because of the location of the Conference in England (and similarly we would expect a skew towards North American nationalities if the survey were repeated at an event in the United States or Canada). However, in spite of this initial expectation of a skew in the direction that we saw, we still feel this survey is probably under-representative of non-British nationalities. Particularly, we feel that there was a larger representation of American delegates (we estimate that at least 8% of all attendees were from the USA) as well as a larger number from other European countries. We tend towards putting this difference between what we perceived at the time to be the case and the actual nationalities recorded to be a problem with the relative response rate of each nationality (and as a by-product of using an opportunity sample).



Nationality

## 'Everybody works but father and he sits around all day'



Occupations

Actually, most fathers in our second survey were working along with most everyone else, though four of the respondents were retired and one other replied 'unemployed.' In fact, the Wolverhampton survey agreed with our first in so far as reflecting the wide diversity of occupations among Ripperologists. Aside from those who were retired, only civil servants, those involved in retail sales and teaching were named by more than a single responder, with two each, and one of these teachers also mentioned managing a bar as a secondary occupation.

Indeed, multiple occupations were listed by six respondents, with writers accounting for the bulk of those answers. This accords well with similar responses in our first survey and is, unfortunately, very understandable. In all too many instances to become a writer means taking an 'involuntary vow of poverty' and in order to keep the dream alive other sources of income must be secured. Only one person in each survey felt comfortable enough to list 'writer' as a sole occupation.

In any case, we Ripperologists are certainly a varied lot in so far as our occupations are concerned, an observation borne out now by both our surveys. And, as in the first survey, there was a slant toward white-collar work or what might be considered more middle-class jobs.

## 'School days, school days, good old golden rule days'

We asked respondents to tell us to what level they had been educated. As last time round, we had some problems with defining

categories based on subjects' answers (since the question was open). This time, however, we made defined categories to make the responses clearer and easier from which to generate quantitative statistical data.

We found that 54% of respondents were educated to below degree level, with 19% having left school at 16 or under and 31% educated to A-Level/High School or equivalent level. We had one ambiguous answer of GCE but this also amounted to a qualification of less than degree standard. Meanwhile 46% of respondents were educated to degree standard or above, with 31% holding a degree, 11% holding an MA or equivalent and 4% being educated to PhD level.

In our last survey 6% of respondents finished their education at 16, 23% at A Level/equivalent standard, 26% of people held a degree, 15% held an MA and 9% held a PhD. Also, as mentioned above, there was a problem with ambiguity in our first survey, with 9% of answers fitting into the category 'some college', 3% of answers unclear and 6% of people not answering.

In addition to asking people to what level they were educated we asked people to tell us what subject(s) their degree/MA/PhD was in. The results showed a variety of differing topics that were studied.

### DEGREE

- B.E.D (Hons)
- Biotechnology
- Criminology/Woman's Studies (BA Hons)
- English
- Political Science (BA)
- Psychology (BSC Hons)
- Social History
- No answer

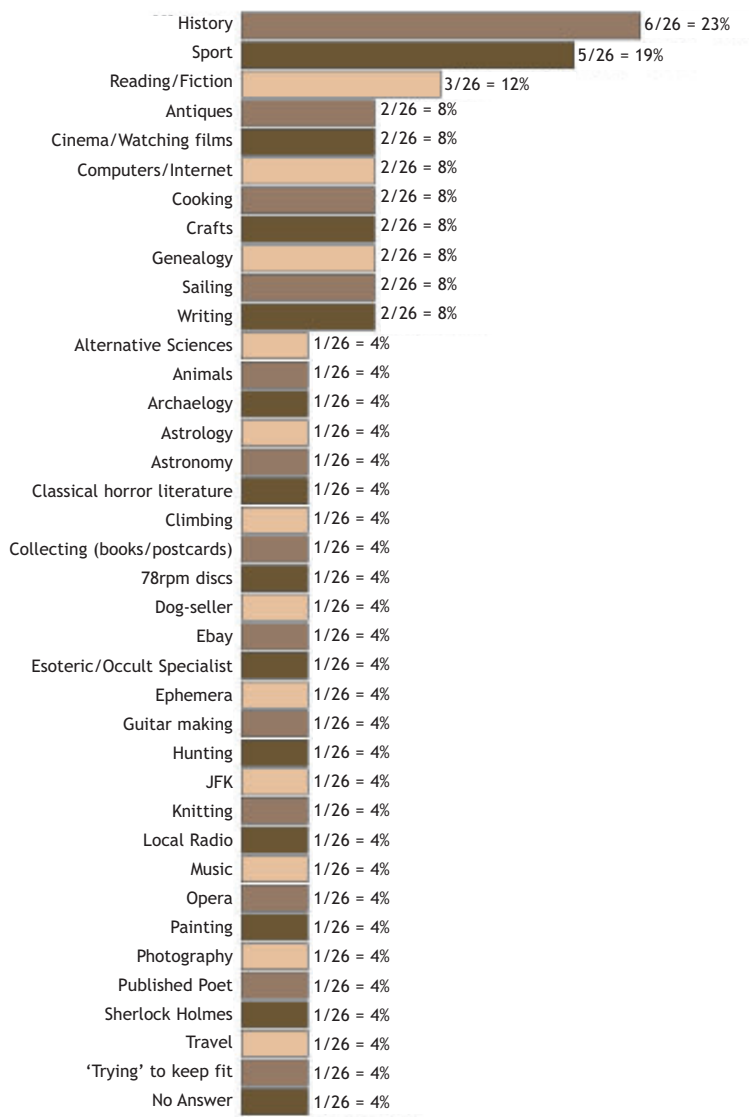
### MA/EQUIVALENT

- Drama
- History/Celtic language
- Law

### PhD

- Philosophy (in progress)

Degree subjects of respondents



Other interests

## 'These are among my favourite things'

What do we do when we're not musing on the manifold mysteries of Whitechapel in the fall of 1888? According to both our most recent survey and that conducted last spring you could name almost any avocation and stand a good chance of being correct for at least one Ripperologist. That is, both surveys revealed that those in the field enjoy an almost endless array of hobbies and other outside interests. In our original survey we had hoped to find some common link that explained the interest in Jack the Ripper, but aside from a fair amount of respondents who enjoyed history and reading (which are almost prerequisites) it was as if anything goes. We included the question in the conference survey not to find any causal links but simply to marvel once more at the wide-ranging interests of our fellow Ripper enthusiasts.

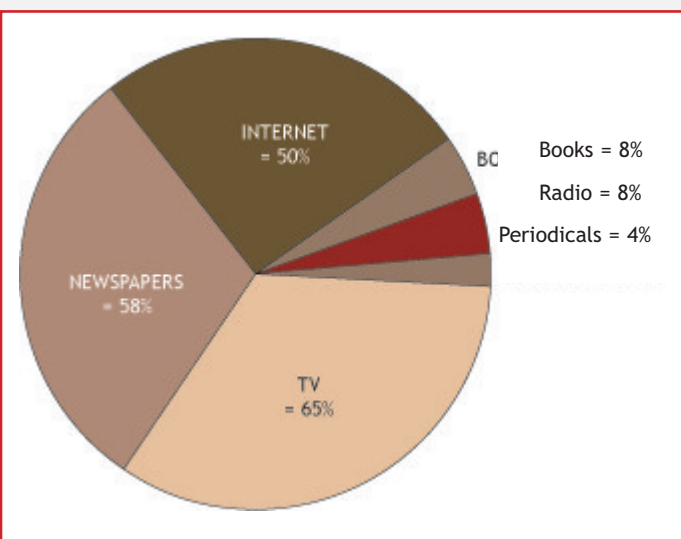
And we weren't disappointed. As in the first survey, the study of history was cited by nearly a quarter of respondents and sports (playing or watching) were also very popular along with simply 'reading'. A closer look at those who cited history again reveals a diversity of interests as 'US political history', 'Irish history', 'general history', and 'social history'

were all mentioned. In the sports category, both football (soccer for our North American readers) and rugby received specific mention. One noticeable difference between the surveys, however, was that whilst music was an important interest with many respondents in the initial survey it was only mentioned by one person at Wolverhampton.

Eight other interests—antiques, cinema, computers, cooking, crafts, genealogy, sailing and writing—each received two mentions, but otherwise the interests cited were quite disparate. These interests ranged from archaeology to ephemera to 'trying to keep fit'. Along with the results from our first survey, however, those from the conference questionnaire readily help to explain why conversations, emails and message board posts among colleagues so often provide information beyond the bounds of Jack the Ripper: We Ripperologists are clearly well-versed in any number of interesting areas.



## ‘Did you hear the news, there’s a good rockin’ tonight’



Sources of current affairs information

This time around we wanted to find out more about how Ripperologists thought and from where they got all kinds of information. We wondered especially what their prime source of current affairs information was.

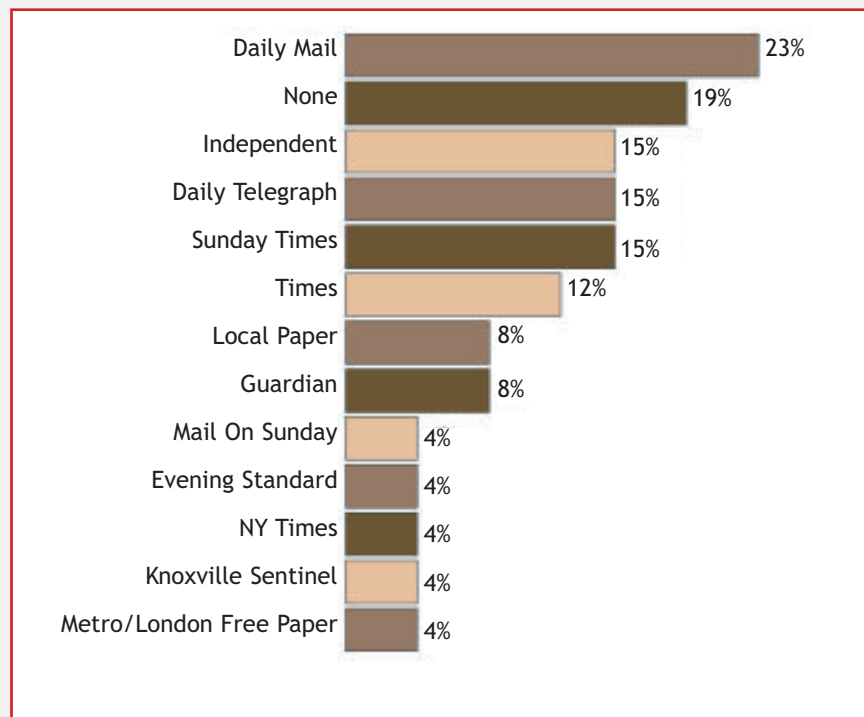
We found that Ripperologists gained their information from a variety of different outlets. Although the question asked for the *main* source of information about current affairs, many respondents named more than one source. Nearly 65% stated that they used the TV to gain information about current affairs, making this the biggest percentage. This is hardly surprising. One person further stated that they use the 24-hour news channel *BBC News 24*, specifically. The next largest percentage was for newspapers with 58 percent (see below for more details about the newspapers

Ripperologists read). Meanwhile, 50% of respondents indicated they refer to the Internet to gain information on current affairs. The radio (one person mentioned specifically *Radio 4*) and books were each consulted by only 8% of the respondents whilst 4% referred to periodicals, specifically the *New Statesman*.

We asked people to tell us which, if any, newspapers they read on a regular basis (and naturally some people regularly read more than one). We did so for several reasons; for one we were curious which newspapers might orientate more information towards Ripperologists! And for another it also helped us gain a hint as to respondents' political leanings.

The newspaper that had the highest readership among respondents was the *Daily Mail* (read by 23% of respondents, whilst the *Mail on Sunday* was read by an additional 4%). *The Sunday Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Independent* were each read by 15% of respondents, *The Times* by 12% and the *Guardian* read by 8% of respondents. Other newspapers, mainly local ones, were read by 4% of respondents (see Table Nine).

The majority of national papers that were named (*The Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday*, *The Times*, *Sunday Times* and *Daily Telegraph*) are newspapers that have right-wing leanings. These papers were named 65% of the time, compared to 23% of the time for the *Guardian* or the *Independent* (the more left-wing papers that were named). Even accounting for the fact that some people named more than one paper, this would indicate a right-wing bias amongst respondents. Finally, 19% of respondents claimed to not read any newspapers on a regular basis.



Newspapers regularly read

## TOPICS

- Biographies
- Chaos magic
- Crime
- Criminal
- Fantasy fiction
- History
- Horror fiction
- Jack the Ripper
- Science fiction
- Time travel
- Victorian social and economic history

## BOOKS

- Black Jacobins, C.L.R. James
- Complete History of Jack the Ripper, Philip Sugden
- Darwin's Dangerous Ideas, Daniel Bennett
- Golden Boy
- Murders' Who's Who, Gaute & Odell
- People of the Abyss, Jack London
- Quest of the Ashes, D.R. Jardine
- Ultimate JtR Sourcebook, Evans and Skinner
- Zen and the Art of..., Robert M. Pirsig

## AUTHORS

- George Gissing
- Ayn Rand
- Tom Robbins
- Colin Wilson

Books Read

## 'Ain't the simpleton I used to be once you gave the book of hope to me'

We thought asking people what were their favourite books (on any topic) would prove to be an interesting question—and were we wrong! To begin with, nearly one-fifth of the respondents didn't even bother to answer the query, but the replies we did get were fragmented into several categories that dealt with topics, specific books and particular authors.

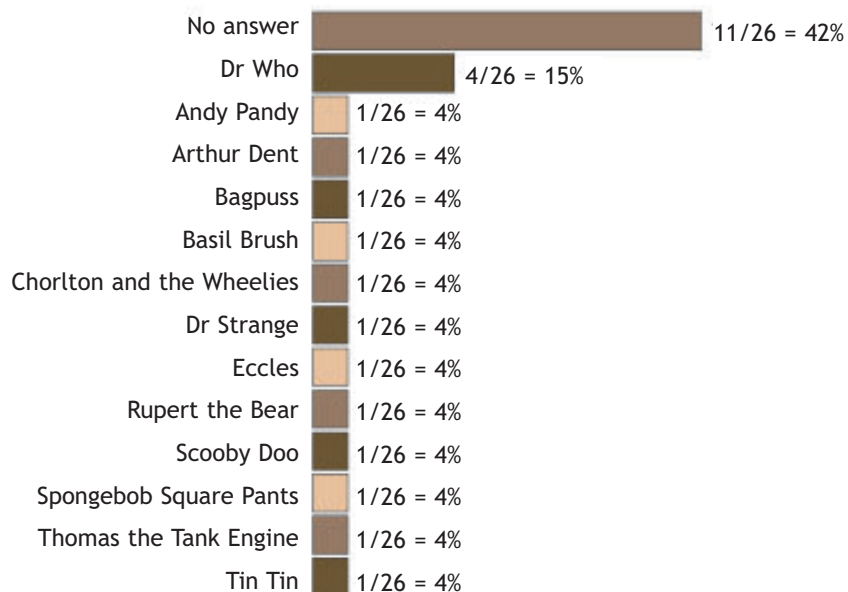
Among those who chose to deal with topics, books about history and Jack the Ripper each were named by 12% of the respondents, whilst the "criminal fact and fiction" and science-fiction categories each garnered 8% of the replies. Other topics mentioned [see accompanying table] ranged from "chaos magic" to "Victorian social and economic history".

*The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Sourcebook/Companion*, by Stewart P. Evans and Keith Skinner, was listed by two of the respondents, whilst eight other titles were also mentioned once. These included another Ripper book, *The Complete History of Jack the Ripper*, by Philip Sugden, and the far-removed philosophically *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, by Robert M. Pirsig. Authors who were named without citing any titles were George Gissing, Ayn Rand, Tom Robbins and Colin Wilson. Finally, one person simply wrote "books for research."

As mentioned earlier, the responses to this question proved quite unsatisfactory and we will take the blame for any confusion it may have caused. Nonetheless, we

remain puzzled why so many people chose not provide any answer. Surely among such a literate group as Ripperologists everyone should have had a favourite book.

## ‘Time for Tubby bye bye’



Favourite children's TV shows

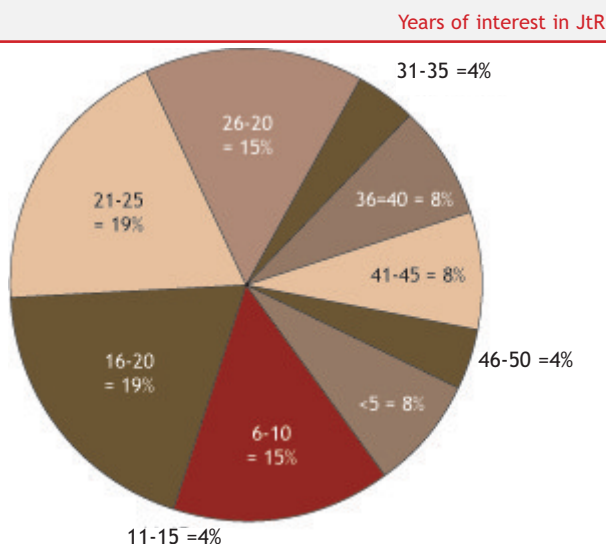
We asked people what their favourite children's TV character was. 'Is this your question Jenni?' asked one respondent, whilst another observed 'blame Pegg'. Jennifer was shocked and confused that no one could have imagined that Donald might have been behind this highly intellectual query! Really, we must be less transparent in future! Anyway, we felt we should ask at least one question that could fit into the loosely defined 'fun' category and this is what we decided on. Jennifer was very sad that a massive amount of people—42%—either did not answer or failed to name their favourite children's TV (or radio) character.

Respondents' favourite children's TV character was Dr Who, making up 15% of answers. All the

other characters failed to secure more than one nomination, making up 4% of votes each. Other characters named included: Andy Pandy, Arthur Dent (from *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*), Bagpus, Basil Brush, Charlton and the 4 Wheelies, Dr Strange, Rupert the Bear, Scooby Doo, Sponge Bob Square Pants, Thomas the Tank Engine and Tin Tin. One of the authors was particularly disappointed to find no mention of either Orinoco Womble or Postman Pat! And the other was equally disappointed no one mentioned Scrooge McDuck or the 'Bowery Boys' movies.

## ‘If I were back at old State U, I'd only want to study you’

We were rather surprised when tabulating our first survey to find how great a commitment of years our respondents had given to the study of Jack the Ripper and our amazement was even greater with the survey taken at

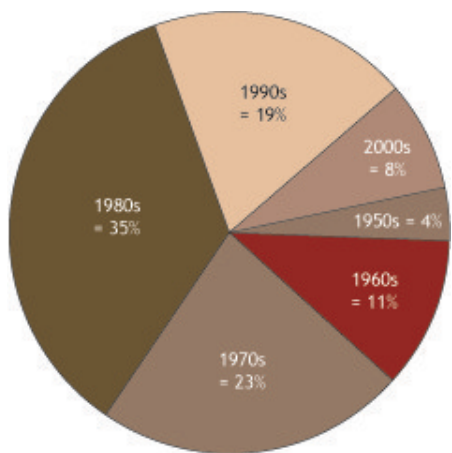


Years of interest in JtR

Wolverhampton. In the original survey we found that better than 80% of those who answered the question had studied Jack for more than ten years and 42% had been doing it for more than 20 years. At the conference, those who had studied Jack for more than ten years represented 77% of the respondents, whilst those who had been interested in the field for more than two decades comprised 58%. In other words, well over half the sample had devoted more than 20 years to trying to unravel the Ripper riddle.

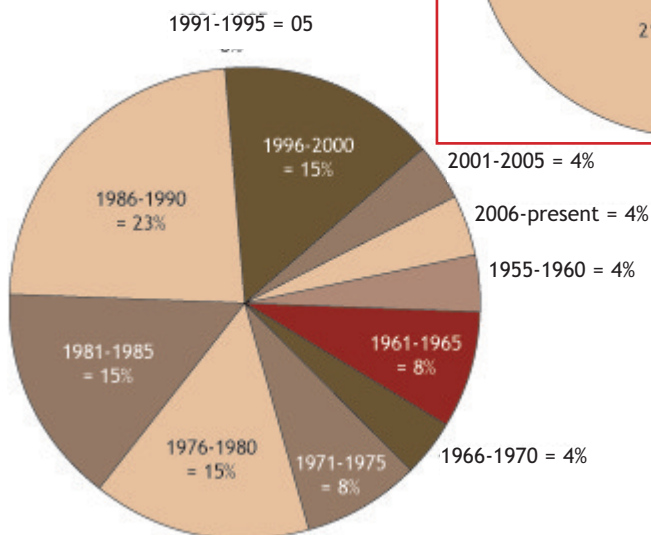
The differences between the two survey results are in part attributable to the fact that our original survey sample had a slight bias toward youth—and if you are younger than 20 years old, prodigy or not, there is no way you have been interested in Jack the Ripper for more than 20 years! Similarly, the size of our sample pool in Wolverhampton could have been





When interest began

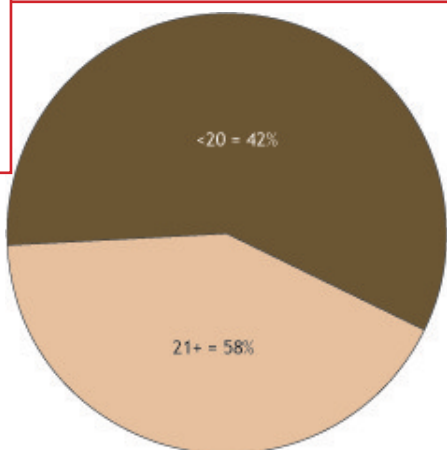
Decades further breakdown



responsible for the seeming anomaly that no one reported studying Jack for eleven to 15 years whereas 15% did so in the first survey. Surely, some people at Wolverhampton fell into the 11-15 year bracket but did not return a survey sheet. Just part of what makes taking surveys both fun and frustrating.

In our first survey last spring we found an interesting cluster of respondents reporting

Decade that interest began



about 20 years of Ripper interest and wondered if that might have had something to do with all the attention the Whitechapel murders drew at the crimes' centenary in 1988. Whilst not yet proven, the Wolverhampton survey may give the hypothesis greater credence as there was, again, the largest cluster of responses around that intriguing period 20 years ago. Moreover, further support for this theory is suggested by the finding that a

full *quarter* of respondents began their fascination with Jack the Ripper between 1986 and 1990.

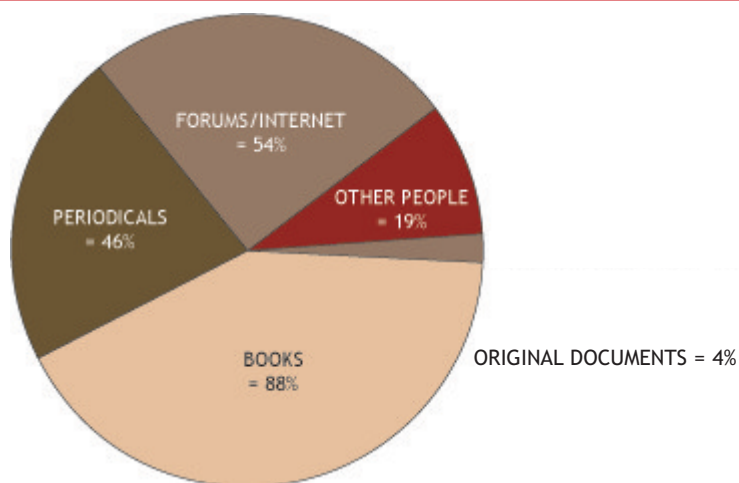
As it is, the number of years of cumulative Jack the Ripper study gathered around the Saturday banquet tables at the conference is truly staggering. If our sample is reflective of all those in attendance (and we believe it is) then there was a collective 2,500 years of Ripper study at Wolverhampton! And we still didn't solve the mystery.

## 'Where, oh where?'

We were curious to find out where people felt they gained the majority of their Jack the Ripper information. The question was closed, in that it offered only four categories—books, periodicals, forums/internet and other—for respondents to choose from. Once again, some people gave more than one answer.

A significant majority of people stated that they used books to gain their JtR information as 88% of respondents cited this among their sources. The next highest percentage was 'forums/internet', used by 54% of respondents to find/gain information. Meanwhile, nearly half (46%) of respondents referred to periodicals for information (in much the same way that you are doing now!) Based on

Sources of JtR information



respondents' answers (since if they answered 'other' they were required to state what this other source was) we broke the 'other' category into two narrower categories, with 19% of respondents using 'other people' to gain information and 4% stating that they referred to the original documents as the main source of information. The answers that made up the 'other people' category, included 'colleagues', 'word of mouth', 'family member' and 'partner'.

### **'Who threw the overalls in Mrs. Murphy's chowder?'**

Is suspect-based Ripperology suspect? We endeavoured to find out delegates' opinions on the matter. Following on from a few responses in our last survey that had hinted at a disapproval of suspect-based Ripperology, we decided to incorporate a question about people's views on it this time around since we felt that our previous research had highlighted an interesting area. In the last survey, when we asked respondents to tell us more about what had kept their interest in Ripperology sustained over time, one person responded 'NOT suspect theories' and another noted 'I'm really beginning to dislike suspect theory'. Therefore, in this survey, we asked respondents 'what do you think of suspect-based Ripperology?' Of the conference delegates who responded those who were generally disparaging outnumbered those who were generally 'nice' about it by 2 to 1. However, the opinions of those who took part appeared to cover the whole spectrum of possible opinions.

There were a number of generally positive responses to suspect-based Ripperology, including one person who noted that it was 'fine'. One person felt that although it was 'not the be all and end all' of things it was in fact quite 'vital'. A respondent said that it was 'more interesting beyond canonical five', whilst another found it to be simply 'another way of studying it'. One person revealed that they were in favour of it 'especially if it was Druitt' whilst a canny respondent asked 'aren't all unsolved murders suspect-based?' These answers were generally positive in the sense that these respondents felt that suspect Ripperology had a part to play in the field and some felt that the part that it had to play was important.

There was one respondent who thought that it was a 'swings and roundabouts' affair, commenting that it was 'good for challenging the status quo—bad for everything else'. Others, however, were more disparaging about suspect-based Ripperology. When asked what they thought of it, several people commented, 'not much', whilst a few more felt that the idea of suspect-based Ripperology was 'flawed' and one even commented that it was 'inherently flawed'. One respondent stated that they were 'impressed' by it whilst another found it to be 'misguided'. There was, noted one delegate, a 'need for caution'; perhaps this was in line with what another felt when they said that 'authors can make the facts fit their theory'. It was also given the cold shoulder by one person who found it to be 'less interesting than general history' and another who would 'prefer to see objective, fact-based overviews as a rule'. Yet another respondent noted that 'they [the suspects] can't be convicted on the evidence we have'. A final respondent was much blunter, commenting that suspect-based Ripperology is 'loathsome, deluded, cheap and obstructive!'

### **'You'll never belong to me but I can dream, can't I?'**

The question 'What proof would you require to consider the case closed' provided a mixed bag of responses, with variations on the theme of 'It will never be solved' by far the most popular answer at 42% of the sample. A further 23% of respondents did not put any answer at all in the space and another simply wrote 'Not enough space to answer.' Among those who did suggest what would constitute sufficient proof there was nothing approaching a consensus.

There were many different answers about what would be convincing evidence that Jack had finally been cornered. These ranged from the rather general, like 'A lot. Would have to be pretty conclusive', to much more specific answers. Among the latter were replies like 'Confession/new eyewitness account and facts substantiated', 'authenticated confession', 'documentary evidence', 'court-driven proof', and 'DNA type proof'. Finally, someone wrote, doubtless with tongue in cheek, 'I suppose CCTV is out of the question?'

So, as far as a plurality of their peers are concerned, those who marvel at the mystery of Jack the Ripper and relish the notion that the hunt will go on forever are not likely to have that dream dashed any time soon. Nor will it likely deter those who are determined to find *the* answer, but at least they have a clue as to what sort of proof will be demanded.

## ‘There’s a change in the weather, there’ll be some changes made’

The notion that Ripperology has not been mired in a rut the past few years was heartily endorsed by our respondents at Wolverhampton. A full 62% of those at the conference felt that there have been significant changes in the field over time, though there were some differences of opinion about what those changes have been. Again, about one-fifth of the respondents chose not to answer the question, whilst 8% felt the field has remained static and 12% replied that they did not think they had been involved with Jack the Ripper long enough to make any comment.

For those who perceive changes in Ripperology, the most commonly cited reason was better and more rigorous research. We received comments like ‘Research is better and more demanding of facts’, ‘More research by serious researchers’, ‘More and better research has been done’, ‘More and better attention to detail’, and just ‘More academic’. Clearly, many in the field welcome a more studious approach. Not everyone who felt that research was responsible for change found that favourable, however. One respondent wrote ‘More research and serious investigation. Also more rubbish being published’ and another said ‘Closer scrutiny of seemingly trivial minutiae’.

Increased access to public records and documents was also cited by several respondents. A typical response in this category was ‘Yes. Mainly access to records given to the public’. Other engines of change mentioned were ‘more open-mindedness’, ‘advances in technology’, ‘development of societies, clubs, periodicals and conferences’, and ‘suspect-based books are becoming less and less mainstream’.

There were also two very negative responses, with one supporting the notion of change and the other denying it. The one who saw change but was not pleased wrote ‘[Ripperology] has become a battlefield of egos and money changing’ and added as an afterthought ‘but there are some good guys’. On other hand, one respondent answered ‘It has stayed the same. It’s close-minded like all the greatest stuffy English universities’.

For most of us, though, the field of Ripperology continues to evolve. And the good thing is that most of us see those changes as positive.

## “This is the end, my friend, for now”

Once again, we have enjoyed the last few months putting together and analysing this survey about our fellow Ripperologists. Whilst we never really intended to conduct a second survey in quite the way we did, we felt that the opportunity to ‘get’ fellow conference attendees was one that was too good to miss, and it did, at least to us, yield some fascinating results.

We feel that with the completion now of our second survey of Ripperologists we are getting a much better picture of just who we are and why we are that way. The two surveys roughly agreed in some important areas and even where they did not the results were nonetheless quite instructive. We did feel that there were some methodological problems, particularly with the first survey, that were made more apparent by this second one.

Of course, we are still left with more questions than answers and we intend to remedy that situation soon as our quest for answers is not only a fascinating sociological journey but also one we have come to really enjoy. Our intention now is to use the information we have learned (in terms of both methodology and questions asked) from conducting these two initial small-scale surveys to conduct a third survey in the near future. We do hope that once again people will be as helpful in answering our (sometimes seemingly odd) questions! We will be back—count on it.

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### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill in our survey at Wolverhampton. We are grateful; you guys (and gals) rock (even if we don’t know quite who you are!)

We would also like to thank especially Adam Wood and Claudia and Andy Aliffe, the Conference organisers, for the collection and safe return of our surveys.

Special thanks, as well, to *Ripperologist* magazine for sponsoring the survey insert in the delegate pack on our behalf.

Finally, thanks to the writers of all the old songs that formed the basis of our title and subject headings.



# JACK THE RIPPER

From The Private Memoirs of  
Sherlock Holmes

Kurt Matull and Theo von Blankensee

Introduction by Leslie S Klinger  
English Version, Preface and Notes  
by Eduardo Zinna  
Illustrations by Jane Coram

## In This Issue:

- VII. An unhappy marriage.
- VIII. An obliging gentleman
- IX. Sherlock Holmes wins the wager



## Jack the Ripper Part Three

*'My dear friend, thank you for your confidences,' said Sherlock Holmes taking his hat. 'I will try to spare you every unpleasantness. You have honoured the memory of the poor Comtesse Irène de Malmaison. Besides, the secret you have revealed to me is very important. I hope it will help me to rid London of a monster who, despite all efforts, still continues to scorn the law.'*

### VII. An unhappy marriage.<sup>1</sup>

As night fell, a young English army officer sat on a bench in Hyde Park, near the statue of Lord Byron,<sup>2</sup> hitting impatiently the legs of his boots with a small stick such as English officers are in the habit of carrying. The bench was near a large bush in full bloom. The young officer rose to his feet and amused himself by pulling off the leaves that covered a branch of the bush. He looked like someone who waits with impatience mixed with a measure of unease, since he doesn't know whether he is waiting in vain.

Suddenly, in the narrow path that leads to Lord Byron's statue, appeared the slender, youthful figure of a woman. The young officer rushed to meet her.

'My dear Ruth, I'm so delighted that you have come,' he said, greeting the beautiful woman, who was about twenty-four years old. 'I was afraid you wouldn't be able to keep our appointment.'

'I almost couldn't,' replied the young woman in a quivering voice. 'Precisely today Robert didn't want to go out, although he normally does the rounds of his patients' homes every day at this time. When he finally left I thanked Heaven and rushed to your arms.'

The young officer took her hand and raised it to his lips. He looked round and, not seeing anybody in their vicinity, threw his arms round his beloved and pressed her passionately against his breast. But his lips had barely touched hers that she pushed him away. 'How dare you kiss me here, Harry?' said angrily the young woman. 'Don't you realise someone could see us?'

The young officer's handsome, sunburned face, which a blond moustache adorned, showed some annoyance at these words.

'And what if someone saw us, Ruth?' said he. 'This situation must come to an end. Isn't right on my side? Weren't we secretly betrothed before your father forced you to marry Robert Fitzgerald, that man who exerted over him such inexplicable influence? When I kiss you, when I call you mine, I take nothing from him, because it is he who has stolen you from me.'<sup>3</sup>

'Oh, Harry, you know I only love you, but I'm still his wife, and I am ashamed to betray his trust by meeting you in secret. But since you returned from India, since you came to see me and reasserted your old rights, I have realised how deeply, how ardently I love you - and how unhappy I have been because of it.' Hot tears flowed from the eyes of the beautiful blonde, who had slumped on to the bench near the bush in bloom.

Captain Harry Thomson sat next to her. He whispered in her ear all the endearments that love always has in readiness, and made clear his intention to wrest Ruth from her husband and make her his own.

'Are you happy with that man?' he asked. 'No, you are not; you couldn't be, because you have never loved him. I really can't understand how you, a creature all light and joy, can live with such a gloomy scientist.'

From Ruth's chest came a deep sigh. 'Perhaps somebody else could be happy with him,' she said, 'but I couldn't. If you knew, Harry, how strange he is! Sometimes he throws himself at my feet, worships me as if I were a goddess, begs me to love him as he loves me, ardently, fervently, passionately; sometimes he locks himself up in his room all day and doesn't want to see me or even to hear the sound of my steps.'

'I shall tell you something in confidence, Harry. But for the love of God, don't breathe a word to anyone.'

1 This is the last of three parts of the Sherlock Holmes - Jack the Ripper pastiche. As I explained earlier, I first produced an English translation of the Spanish text, *Jack, el destripador*, made available by Stephen P Ryder. When I found several inconsistencies in the text, I revised it extensively in the light of the French translation, *Jack l'Éventreur*, included in Stéphane Bourgoin's *Le Livre rouge de Jack l'Éventreur*. The French text solved a number of minor problems, but not all. As Ripperologist 84, containing part II of what was now Jack the Ripper, was being distributed, I received a photocopy of the original German text, courtesy of Peggy Perdue, Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, Toronto Public Library, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I am also grateful to Peter E Blau, of the Baker Street Irregulars, who alerted Miss Perdue to this translation. Armed with issue 18 of *Aus den Geheimakten des Welt=Detektivs, Wie Jack, der Aufschlitzer, gefasst wurde*, a German-English dictionary, a couple of books on German grammar and a Gothic alphabet, I proceeded to revise the third part of *Jack the Ripper*. The results are before you.

2 The statue of Lord Byron by Richard Belt (1880) is in the Hamilton Gardens, Hyde Park Corner.

3 Compare this with 'I had a right to her. She was pledged to me years ago. Who was this Englishman that he should come between us? I tell you that I had the first right to her, and that I was only claiming my own.' (Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Adventure of the Dancing Men*.)



He looked round and, not seeing anybody in their vicinity, threw his arms round his beloved and pressed her passionately against his breast.

Harry, I think my husband is mad.'

'Mad!' exclaimed the young man, astonished. 'You must be wrong, Ruth. How could such a great scientist, a skilful surgeon who inspires such trust in his patients, be mad?'

'Look into his eyes and you will often see in them an eerie glow; watch his restless, sudden movements. A few years ago, when he still lived in India, he was bitten by a cobra, one of those terrible snakes whose bite is almost always deadly. He managed to escape death that time by immediately binding the bitten limb, but since then he has completely changed. I fear the poison has remained in his blood.'<sup>4</sup>

'If that is the case, you must arrange for him to undergo an examination so as to ascertain his mental condition. Have you got any other proof of what you're saying? What you have told me is not convincing enough.'

'Yes, I have more proof. Robert leaves home stealthily every evening. I know it for a fact because I have been watching him. Where he goes, I don't know. But when he returns from one of those nocturnal expeditions he immediately locks himself up in his room and sleeps until noon and even into the evening.'

'There's nothing odd about a physician who leaves home at night,' said the young officer. 'After all, he could be going about his work or perhaps he has a seriously ill patient whom he must see at night.'

'That could indeed be an explanation,' rejoined Ruth, 'and I would have long been satisfied with it, if I didn't find bloodstains in his pillow and bed-sheets every time he goes out at night.'

'There you are,' cried the young officer. 'He returns from an operation.'

'But can operations be performed at night? I thought they could be performed only during the day.'

'In some urgent cases it might be necessary to operate at night,' retorted the Captain. 'No, my darling, what

<sup>4</sup> This is another similarity with Joseph Vacher, the French Ripper, who claimed that his blood was vitiated and that 'in his youth he was bitten by a mad dog, and a concoction was given him by the village herbalist, after drinking which he grew strange, irritable and brutal.' His defence tried unsuccessfully to have him declared insane. Cf. *He Killed Thirty Eight. A Peasant Jack The Ripper Did Murder For The Love Of It*, Trenton Evening Times, Trenton, NJ, USA, 28 January 1898.



you tell me is not conclusive evidence of your husband's madness.'

'Then I will give you more convincing proof,' continued Ruth. 'About a fortnight ago I woke up during the night – it must have been round midnight. I stole into a room whose door communicates with my husband's room, and listened through it. I wanted to ascertain whether he was at home or had again gone out furtively.'

'Through the keyhole I saw a light burning in his room. Suddenly the light went off, the door opened and a wild-looking stranger came towards me. He was dressed like a cutthroat, like one of those frightening characters who prowl the slums at night. His moustache was bristly, his hair was dishevelled and he wore a coarse muffler round his neck. I had barely time to retreat and slip into a recess in the wall. He passed close beside me without seeing me; otherwise he might have killed me.'

'And do you know who that prowler was? He was my husband, the celebrated surgeon Robert Fitzgerald.'

'Impossible! Why would your husband disguise himself like that?'

'I don't know; but I'm quite sure it was he whom I saw wearing that disguise.'

'I immediately sent for the doorman and asked him whether my husband had gone out during the night. The doorman replied in the negative. Yet he told me my husband had ordered a key to the small door that opens into the garden. "However," he added, "the doctor never goes out except through the main door."

'I went to my husband's bedroom and searched it thoroughly. On the carpet I found a fringe of the coarse muffler the prowler had worn round his neck. Nothing was missing from the room. Everything was in perfect order, except that on his table stood a looking glass I had never seen before – proof that Fitzgerald put on his bizarre disguise before that looking glass.'

The Captain shook his head in disbelief.

'I think, my dear girl, that your suspicions are unfounded. A real prowler was in your house, not somebody disguised as one. Perhaps he came to steal but, for some reason, couldn't carry out his plans and left the house without having accomplished his purpose.'

'Ah, all London would laugh if it became known that at night Dr Fitzgerald, the eminent surgeon, puts on a costume and a mask and goes out disguised as a burglar.'

'I can only tell you what I have seen,' said Ruth, a little irritated. 'Ah! I'm so unhappy, Harry. I really haven't got the strength to go on living like this. Worst of all, my father has gone to India to wind up his business and won't be back for another four months. Who knows what could happen to me during that time? Perhaps I shan't live long!'

'There is only one solution,' replied the Captain. 'Leave your husband and come live with me.'

'With you, Harry? Ah, how I would love that! How happy I would be by your side! But people would point their finger at me, they would despise me, they would call me a shameless woman.'

'Wouldn't you like to see my mother and discuss these matters with her? You know how fond of you she is,' said the young officer.

'Your dear mother! I am also very fond of her. I'd be glad to see her again. Yet Fitzgerald is very jealous and I can hardly leave the house without a companion. I can't say I'm going to see your mother, because Fitzgerald knows I once loved you and doesn't want to hear your name.'

'Still, I beg you to come,' implored the young officer. 'Let's be alone for one hour. Do not refuse me, my dear Ruth. It would be a token of your love.'

'All right, I'll come,' said Ruth, 'but in utmost secrecy. Tomorrow evening, Fitzgerald will give a lecture at the Medical Society.<sup>5</sup> He'll leave home at eight. I shall immediately call a cab and ask to be taken to the corner of your street. But, where do you live now?'

'Where the poor live,' replied the Captain, laughing. 'Still in Walworth Street. Not the most pleasant neighbourhood.<sup>6</sup> But my dear mother owns a small house with a little garden there. The old lady wouldn't leave her home for anything in the world, not even in exchange for a better and finer house.'

'Tomorrow, then, between nine and ten, I'll come to your home so that we can spend some time together. At eleven you'll see me home; or, more precisely, near home. It will be quite safe, because Fitzgerald probably

<sup>5</sup> The Medical and Chirurgical Society of London was founded in 1805 'for the purpose of conversation on professional subjects, for the reception of communications and for the formation of a library' and served 'several branches of the medical profession'. In 1888, the Society, by then known as the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, had premises at 53 Berners Street. In 1907, the Society joined with sixteen other societies to become the Royal Society of Medicine.

<sup>6</sup> There is no Walworth Street in London. There is, however, a Walworth Road, the main artery of Walworth, south of the Thames - described by Ronald Pearsall in *The Worm in the Bud* as 'the notorious Elephant and Castle district.'

won't come home until long after midnight.'

The young officer could not control himself. He took his beloved in his arms, held her closely against his heart and showed his gratitude with ardent kisses.

'I must leave,' said Ruth, rising to her feet. 'Walk with me part of the way through Hyde Park.'

The lovers stood up. The officer offered his arm to Ruth, who, after glancing quickly round to ascertain that nobody could see them, slipped her arm under the young officer's arm. Leaning tenderly on each other, they left.

There was a movement in the bush. A tall, spare figure emerged slowly from it.

'Really,' exclaimed Sherlock Holmes, because it was him, crawling out of the bush with his usual noiseless laugh,<sup>7</sup> 'lovers are always imprudent. I haven't missed one word they said. It was an excellent idea to follow Mrs Fitzgerald everywhere she went for several days. When you wish to learn a man's secrets you must follow his wife. Today I have learnt very important things. Gold couldn't buy this conversation.<sup>8</sup> Tomorrow evening, Mrs Ruth Fitzgerald will go to see the mother of the man she loves. While she is in Walworth Street, I shall dare the impossible to unravel the enigma that hovers over London like a gloomy spell. I will dare, yes, I will, because he who dares, wins!'

### VIII. An obliging gentleman

'Number 37!' In Dr Fitzgerald's waiting room, a manservant was calling out the numbers that patients had been given upon entering the surgery of the famous physician. 'You had to wait a long time, my dear chap. You are lucky to be the last patient today,' he said to a man of modest appearance, who looked like a true petty bourgeois. He wore a long, grey frock-coat with old-fashioned buttons and a waistcoat and trousers of the same material and colour. His boots were heavy and thick-soled, and he held in his hand a walking-stick that he must have inherited from his grandfather.

'Really, I don't mind,' he replied to the manservant. 'When you wish to consult such a famous physician you must have a little patience. May I go in now? Thank you very much.'

The stranger stroked his short, blond beard and smoothed down his greying blond hair, which fell down almost to his shoulders, until it made him resemble a Puritan.<sup>9</sup> He walked over to the door and knocked on it. A voice from inside told him to enter.

Dr Fitzgerald was sitting at the desk in his office. He did not turn his head at the slight creaking of the door hinges but remained absorbed in the study of a book that lay open before him.

'Excuse me, doctor,' said the blond-bearded man with a polite cough.

Dr Fitzgerald started, as though awakened from a dream. He turned, revealing a handsome, pale, clean-shaven face and large dark eyes. Two deep wrinkles ran across his brow. He wore his curly hair combed back.

'Ah! Still a patient,' he exclaimed. 'I thought I was finished for the afternoon. Come here, sir. What seems to be the trouble?'

'Doctor,' said the blond-bearded man. 'I'm not here as a patient.'

'And I, sir, I'm only here to see patients,' rejoined Dr Fitzgerald curtly. 'Be on your way, sir. I have no time for other matters.'

'Yet I must tell you something that weighs heavily on my conscience.

'I'm an honest man and can't stand seeing an honest man like you contemptibly betrayed.'

'What do you say? Betrayed? Who?'

'You, doctor - by your own wife.'

<sup>7</sup> Compare this with '[Sherlock Holmes] laughed in the hearty, noiseless fashion which was peculiar to him' (Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*) and '[Sherlock Holmes] was quivering with silent laughter' (Doyle, *The Adventure of the Empty House*).

<sup>8</sup> In revising this sentence in the light of the original German I lost a minor gem which exists in the French and Spanish versions: 'This conversation is worth its weight in gold.'

<sup>9</sup> The French version has 'one of Cromwell's roundheads'; the Spanish, 'Cromwell, with his round head'. From this and other similarities, I suspect that the Spanish text may have been translated not from the German but from the French text, reportedly the work of Fernand Laven, the Parisian publisher of *La Nouvelle Populaire*. On the other hand, both the German and the Spanish texts call the police commissioner Warrn, whereas the French text gives his surname as Warren.

The physician sprang to his feet and pointed his finger at the door. His firm attitude indicated clearly that the stranger must leave at once. But the latter uttered a name and the doctor's attitude changed abruptly.

'Captain Harry Thomson,' whispered the fair-bearded man.

The doctor shuddered, as though struck by lightning. His eyes opened wide and his lips trembled and quivered as he muttered unintelligible words. It was as if a storm were gathering and the first bolt of lightning had flashed.

'What did you say? What name was that? Where did you hear that name?' he asked excitedly.

'In Hyde Park.'

'I don't understand.'

'You will understand, doctor, if you give me a chance to speak.

'I am an honest man. I'm not asking anything for the service I'm about to render you. I'm exasperated, you see, morally exasperated, and that's why I decided to pay you a call.'

'Be brief,' said Fitzgerald in a dull voice, 'and, above all, keep your voice down. I don't want anyone to overhear us. You can trust nobody, do you understand me? Nobody. Even in my own house they eavesdrop on me; there are spies behind every wall.'

'It must be a most uncomfortable house,' rejoined the stranger.<sup>10</sup> 'But never mind. I'm not surprised they spy on you, doctor, since your wife, Mrs Ruth - Oh, doctor, how wicked women are!'

'Yes, wicked, very wicked,' said the doctor, 'so wicked that they should be all eliminated from the face of the earth. At least you can tread on serpents; yes, serpents, sir, which have always been the favourite companions of the daughters of Eve!'

'Very true,' said the man. 'It was because of a serpent that we were expelled from the Garden of Eden.

'Now listen to me, doctor. I'll try to keep my voice down. Come a little closer, I beg you. This is my story.

'My name is Patrick O'Connor and I was a soap manufacturer. I made some money from my business; when I thought I had enough, I said to myself, now I will enjoy life, and since then I have lived on my income. Oh, I lead a very pleasant and comfortable existence. I get up when I feel like it and every day I go for a walk in Hyde Park.

'Yesterday I went at dusk. I was a little tired. So I said to myself: "Sit under a bush and take a nap." No sooner said than done. I hid in a bush, you know, the bush that's near the statue of Lord Byron. There is a bench in front of it, but I didn't sit on this bench because I was a bit apprehensive; I thought that if I fell asleep thieves might steal my watch and my purse; but they wouldn't see me in the bush.

'I had made myself comfortable and was about to take a nap when I heard voices. It was a young army officer who was sitting next to a smartly dressed young woman on the bench that was near to where I was.'

'A young army officer and a smartly dressed young woman?' cried the doctor. 'Go on, go on, sir, your digressions are intolerable.'

'I said to myself,' continued the blond-bearded man, 'let's listen to what these lovers have to say to each other. You see, doctor, lovers are always entertaining. They don't talk like sensible people, and I listen to them with great pleasure.

'But as I spied on them I felt scruples. It was a married woman who had given the young officer an assignation on that bench. She spoke to him of her husband, whom she had married in India, but only because her father had forced her into that union. She did not love her husband but another man, an officer, who had always been the darling of her heart, and whom she could never forget, and now that he was back from India she wanted nothing more to do with her husband.'

A disinterested person, listening to the bewildering tale of that obliging gentleman, would have considered it as nothing but absurd and inconsequential gossip. Yet for Dr Fitzgerald those words had a deep, awful meaning. The physician's features were strained. He ran his hands through his black hair, which resembled that of a Negro, and pulled his locks over his forehead until they hung down almost to his eyes.

'And what do you know, doctor,' said the telltale man, concluding his story, 'the woman on the bench was your wife, and the officer, Captain Harry Thomson, who lives in Walworth Street.'

'It is true,' whimpered Dr Fitzgerald. 'I have long known my wife betrays me. She has assignations in Hyde Park behind my back. I have loved that woman, but she loved only him. She never loved another, never!'

'Not a bit! The other doesn't count for anything,' said the blond-bearded man with a smile. 'He's only good to put a roof over her head and pay for her clothes. But the officer! You should have seen how she kissed him,

<sup>10</sup> Once again, my revision of the text against the original German has deprived us of a minor gem. In effect, the French and Spanish texts contain the following exchange: Dr Fitzgerald: 'In my house the walls have ears.' The blond-bearded man: 'It must be a very uncomfortable house.'

and how distressed she was when they had to part!

'Shut up!' shouted Fitzgerald. 'Shut up! I don't want to hear any more! Or rather, yes, yes, tell me everything,' added he at once, 'I want to know everything.'

'Well, I haven't got a lot more to say. I can only tell you that they have arranged to be alone for one hour.'

'Hell and damnation! <sup>11</sup> Alone, you say?'

'Yes, yes, alone. Well, doctor, you know what that means to two lovers. To be alone, that's what lovers like best, because they always have a lot to say to each other. Your wife promised the captain she would come tomorrow evening between nine and ten to his mother's home in Walworth Street. His mother won't be on the way. She's no doubt an old woman, perhaps she is paralysed. They will in fact be alone.'

'But, for God's sake, what's the matter with you, doctor? Are you ill? At once, apply some vinegar compresses to your forehead, and take -'

'Not another word,' gasped Fitzgerald. 'I beg of you - leave me alone. Tomorrow -tomorrow evening, you said? Walworth Street, isn't it?'

'Yes, that's right, between nine and ten; but "tomorrow" means today, because it was yesterday that I heard this conversation.'

'Doctor, don't let this bother you,' went on the man guilelessly. 'You have your lecture at the Medical Society. That should take priority. Good Lord! When a little woman like that wants to enjoy herself, her husband must learn to close his eyes! You will go to the Medical Society and Mrs Ruth, your dear wife, will seek society elsewhere.'

'Leave me. I don't thank you for what you've told me. Do you think, sir, I don't know you've been mocking me?'

'Me, doctor? Oh, I am not that kind of man -'

But the obliging informer dashed hurriedly to the door. Suddenly, and without warning, Dr Fitzgerald had picked up a small scalpel that lay before him on the table and, with a savage cry, had rushed towards the visitor who had just made such awful disclosures to him.

The man stood motionless at the door, looking sharply at the doctor, who seemed to have been overwhelmed by a sudden weakness. The scalpel fell from Fitzgerald's hand. He shuddered, foaming at the mouth, his eyes fixed on the ceiling.

The obliging gentleman that had lit such a terrible fire in the doctor's soul slipped through the door and gained the street as quickly as possible. Once there, he smiled and muttered to himself:

'He's mad, no doubt about it. For his sake, I hope so, because if this man were not insane, it would be necessary to reinstate torture just for him and break him on the wheel like the worst criminals of the Middle Ages.'

Who was that obliging gentleman? Our readers must have guessed it without difficulty.

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'Aren't you going to the Medical Society, Robert? It's already eight o'clock.' Saying these words, Ruth entered her husband's office. With astonishment she saw that Fitzgerald was still sitting at his desk wearing his everyday clothes. He had buried his head in his hands and his gaze was lost in space.

'Robert,' repeated the lovely young woman, 'you told me you were giving a lecture at the Medical Society tonight. They'll be waiting for you. It's impolite to be late.'

'Indeed, it's impolite,' said Fitzgerald with an odd smile. 'Therefore make sure you're not late. Just go, just go.'

'But go where?' asked Ruth, frightened. 'I shan't accompany you to the Medical Society. You know only men are invited to your lecture.'

'That's right, only men,' muttered Fitzgerald. 'Only men. There will also be officers, do you hear me? Officers! Wouldn't you like to come? You could stand in the centre of the room, look round and beckon to the one you fancy. You're so beautiful he will undoubtedly fancy you too.'

11 The original contains a more Germanic oath: 'Himmel und Hölle'; that is to say, 'Heaven and Hell.'



Ruth blushed, and then grew extremely pale. Indignantly, she drew herself up to her full height. 'You speak to me in a language,' she said in a quivering voice, 'that I don't want to tolerate, that I must reject. It seems you are determined to make my life with you as miserable as possible. It would be best for us both to separate.'

'Do you believe so, my darling?' asked Fitzgerald. He rose and came towards his lovely young wife slowly, like a cat about to play with a mouse. 'Do you really believe it would be best for us to separate? Where would you find shelter if we separated? Perhaps at -'

'I can see to my own future,' replied Ruth. 'Why do you grip my hands so viciously? Don't seize me so roughly! Let me go or I'll cry for help!'

With a quick leap Ruth had not foreseen, Fitzgerald had seized her by the wrists and was trying to force her to kneel down before him.

But Ruth offered unexpected resistance.

He gnashed his teeth and rolled his eyes horribly. His straining features looked terrifying; but Ruth, who had kept her calm, managed to shake him off.

'Don't ever dare touch me again,' she shouted, 'because it might cost you dearly. Do you think that because my father is away from England I have no one to protect me? I have a friend who will demand satisfaction of you.' As soon as she uttered these words she regretted them.

With an inhuman cry, Dr Fitzgerald rushed again at her and threw her to the ground. Her scream died in her throat, contracted with terror at the spectacle before her eyes. Madness glowed in the doctor's eyes and gushed from them in bright flames. Blood-red foam issued from his mouth and his claw-like fingers closed round Ruth's white throat.

'Die! Die, shameless harlot!' cried the doctor. 'I will eliminate all women from the face of the earth! I will exterminate this race of vipers! God has entrusted me with this task. The Lord appeared before me and told me: "Kill, kill the vipers!"'

His fingers tightened round the throat of the hapless woman, who thought her last hour had come. She



With an inhuman cry, Dr Fitzgerald rushed again at her and threw her to the ground. Her scream died in her throat, contracted with terror at the spectacle before her eyes

could not breathe, was struggling for air and saw no hope of rescue. But suddenly he released her. His features softened and the fire died out in his eyes.

'Get up,' he said to the trembling woman. 'Ruth, I beg of you, go. I had lost my mind. But you had sorely provoked me.'

He helped her to her feet and, sobbing, said in a faltering voice:

'I truly love you, Ruth. I love you madly. All I want is your happiness. I know you're faithful to me. You will always love me, won't you?'

To calm him and so escape faster from his presence - and also out of pity for the wretched man - she replied:

'You are my husband. I must love you and be faithful to you. But this sort of scene must never be repeated.'

'Never,' said he, raising his hand as though taking an oath. 'Oh, if I were not constantly tormented by this eternal headache! I don't know what it is. But it's like a continuous hammering on my forehead, and then - But enough. I beg of you, go, go. Leave me alone. I must get dressed to go to the Medical Society. It's really time.'

'Indeed, it's time,' said Ruth, thinking she must also leave soon in order to keep her promise to visit Harry's mother. 'It's time. Good-bye.'

'Good-bye, Ruth. Kiss me once more. No, don't recoil from me. I wish I could spare you every unhappiness in life and place at your feet all the treasures of the earth. You offer your forehead to my kiss? Your forehead! Now I accept your white forehead but tonight, when I return, it will be your red lips I want!'

She felt great pity for him, yet she winced at the touch of his burning lips.

Dr Fitzgerald saw his wife to the door, locked it behind him and went to his desk, from which he took a small box. He filled a syringe with a colourless liquid from a phial that was inside it, rolled the sleeve of his white shirt up to his elbow and plunged beneath the skin the needle at the end of the syringe.

A few minutes later, he stood up, his features relaxed and a soft glow in his eyes. Dr Fitzgerald had become another man. It was the effect of morphine, to which the wretch had long been addicted.

## IX. Sherlock Holmes wins the wager

In the dimly lit entrance of a house in Walworth Street stood a smartly dressed young woman whose appearance was unmistakably British. Englishwomen are usually slender rather than full-fleshed, and they are often uncommonly tall.

Such was the young woman who stood at the entrance to that house. With her was a youth who regarded her with boundless admiration.

'Mr Holmes, your disguise tonight outdoes anything I have ever seen you wear,' whispered the youth to the detective dressed in women's clothing, 'You have transformed yourself into an elegant lady. Indeed, if I saw you in the street I could fall in love with you.'

'Indeed?' laughed the lady, 'and what would you say, Harry, if you saw the woman whose features I have faithfully copied? I assure you I could pass for Mrs Ruth Fitzgerald.'

'But listen, Harry. I hear the rumble of wheels. No doubt it's Mrs Fitzgerald's carriage. Yes, it is. It has pulled up at the corner over there. Quick, Harry, run, jump in the carriage and give Mrs Ruth my message.'<sup>12</sup>

Leaving behind Sherlock Holmes in his feminine outfit, Harry Taxon ran along the façades of the old houses in Walworth Street towards the carriage - a hired cab. As he reached the carriage, its door was opened from the inside and Ruth appeared, ready to get out.

'Quick, madam,' whispered Harry, 'give me your hand and come with me.'

'Who are you, sir?'

'Your husband is following you,' replied Harry, not answering her question directly. 'A terrible fate awaits you if you don't follow me. All has been disclosed!'

'Merciful God! My husband knows -'

'Everything! He knows you're coming to see Captain Harry Thomson and may show up any time now. Quick, madam! I'll save you, but you must follow me.'

Ruth was so confused that without asking any more questions she took Harry's arm and followed him down a side alley off Walworth Street.

<sup>12</sup> Compare with 'But I hear the rumble of wheels. It is her carriage. Now carry out my orders to the letter.' Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Scandal in Bohemia*.

In the meantime, Sherlock Holmes had left the house entrance. Walking with mincing, provocative steps, as certain women do, he went over to the carriage and said to the coachman:

‘Stay here. I’d like to wait inside the carriage a little longer. I’ll pay for your time.’

‘This is very odd,’ muttered the coachman to himself. ‘A moment ago she got out of the carriage and now she gets back inside. What is the meaning of this? I’ll be hanged if there isn’t some love affair behind this. But as long as I’m paid I don’t give a fig.’

Sherlock Holmes slid down the window of the carriage and looked out. Walworth Street was not entirely in darkness, but a thick London fog was beginning to roll and the few gas lights scattered about the streets could hardly pierce it.

‘He’s coming!’ whispered Holmes to himself. ‘There he is, turning the corner. It’s him, no doubt, that old tramp with his bristly moustache. He must be wearing a disguise.’

The detective felt feverish. The next few minutes would determine whether he would solve the dark mystery of Jack the Ripper, so much of which he had already elucidated.

The detective got out of the carriage. With that mincing gait prostitutes use to walk the streets, he sauntered along the houses. Suddenly, the tramp materialized next to him.

‘Where are you going?’ he asked in a feigned voice. ‘Hey, wench, come here. We could make a couple, you and me.’

‘If I please you,’ replied Sherlock Holmes in feminine tones, ‘you please me.’ And the detective placed himself under the light of the lamp-post.

At once an insane cry came from the tramp’s lips: ‘I knew it! My wife! My wife is a whore! Then let her die like the whores of London!’ And he flung himself at the woman. ‘Down!’ he bellowed. ‘I am Jack the Ripper!’ With such strength that Sherlock Holmes could hardly resist him, the tramp fell upon him. With one hand he seized the detective by the throat and with the other wielded a long, sharp knife whose blade he placed against the disguised detective’s abdomen. A sharp, ringing sound was heard. The blade slipped. The steel cuirass Holmes was wearing over his body had done its duty.



‘At once an insane cry came from the tramp’s lips: ‘I knew it! My wife! My wife is a whore! Then let her die like the whores of London!’



In a moment the scene had changed. Quick as lightning, the detective took advantage of the few seconds during which Jack the Ripper retreated, startled at the failure of his attempt, to seize the hands of that fear-some man. A terrible struggle ensued, a life-and-death struggle during which the charming face of the young woman gave way to the characteristic features of the famous detective.

‘At last I have you, hideous monster! You have held the people of London in terror long enough!’ cried Sherlock Holmes. ‘Jack the Ripper is finished! Down, Dr Fitzgerald, because it’s you, by Jove, and no other, whom all England, shivering with terror, calls Jack the Ripper!’

Breathing stertorously, Jack the Ripper fell to the ground. Sherlock Holmes rapidly tied him up, seized him and took him to the carriage.

‘Cabbie,’ he said to the coachman,<sup>13</sup> ‘to Scotland Yard.’

Sir Charles Warren, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was sitting at his desk. He was about to sign an arrest warrant that Murphy had placed before him.

‘So you are convinced, Murphy,’ asked the Commissioner, ‘that Grover Bell is the murderer of Lillian Bell, the singer?’

‘Absolutely convinced, sir,’ replied Murphy. ‘I’m also convinced that Grover Bell is Jack the Ripper. Ha! I believe my distinguished colleague Mr Holmes has lost the wager.’

‘Do you really think so, Murphy?’ asked a voice behind the chief of detectives. ‘Be kind enough to turn round. I bring you Jack the Ripper. He will admit to it himself.’

Sir Charles and Murphy looked with astonishment at Sherlock Holmes who, still disguised as a woman, had led into the room a bound Dr Fitzgerald.<sup>14</sup>

‘Sir Charles,’ said Sherlock Holmes evenly, ‘I give you my word of honour - and I stake the reputation I have acquired in many years of hard work - that Jack the Ripper will no longer terrorise London. That sinister spectre is none other than this man; a wretch who is more deserving of our pity than of the curses heaped upon him by mankind. Before you stands the celebrated physician and surgeon Dr Fitzgerald. You probably know him by sight, Sir Charles.’

And Sherlock Holmes pulled off the false moustache and the wig the prowler was wearing. Sir Charles exclaimed with astonishment:

‘By Jove! It is Dr Fitzgerald!’

‘I have lost the wager, Mr Holmes,’ said Murphy. ‘Please allow me to shake your hand. Without envy I recognise you as the best of us. I believe there are no two Sherlock Holmes on earth.’

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Through an agreement among Sherlock Holmes, Sir Charles Warren and Murphy, no one ever knew who Jack the Ripper was; but the terrible scourge vanished from the streets of London and nothing was ever heard again of the Ripper and his atrocious crimes.

Dr Fitzgerald was led that same evening to an insane asylum where he died a month later amid terrible convulsions.

One year later, Ruth gave to her dear Harry her hand in marriage.

Sherlock Holmes, Sir Charles and Murphy drank conscientiously the champagne Sir Charles had added to the stake of the wager.<sup>15</sup> Harry Taxon was with them, and we must reveal to our readers that on that evening he got drunk for the first time in his life. Yet he got drunk on champagne and he got drunk in honour of his dear master. That excuses him.

13 It is worth noting that the German word ‘Rosselenker,’ coachman, was translated into both French and Spanish as Automedon, the name of Achilles’ charioteer in Homer’s *Iliad*. This is another indication that the Spanish text may have been derived from the French version and not from the original German.

14 In the French and Spanish versions, this paragraph reads as follows: ‘[Sir Charles and Murphy] looked with astonishment at the woman that had led into the room a bound Dr Fitzgerald. That woman was Sherlock Holmes! A few traces of the make-up he had worn as part of his disguise still remained on his face. Something glittered through a long rent below his belt.’

15 The French and Spanish versions end here, without mentioning Harry Taxon’s youthful excesses.



# Victims – Haunting Art in the East End

By ADAM WOOD

Photographs - Adam Wood

An exhibition of new art inspired by the victims of Jack the Ripper takes place in the East End until 1st December.

“Victims.” ten paintings by Kim O’Neil and Nicola Morrison, will be displayed at The Show Rooms, Shoreditch High Street, exploring, in the words of the press release, “their victimhood and how, through the passage of time and the power of the media, we have forgotten they were real woman with real lives.”

*Ripperologist* asked Kim and Nicola for an insight into their work:

Did you have an awareness of the Whitechapel murders prior to undertaking this project, and if so to what extent?

*Nicola:* Only to the level that I imagine most people in England probably do; I almost considered it a myth, perhaps tenuously based in fact; something like Robin Hood. When I discovered the facts I was pretty surprised at how brutal the murders were but also how they galvanised the media and people at the time.

Kim O’ Neil



*Kim:* I knew some of the basic facts: that the murder had taken place in the east end of London towards the end of Queen Victoria’s reign; that the victims were all working as prostitutes; and that Jack The Ripper’s true identity had never been discovered.

What form did your research take?

*Nicola:* We familiarised ourselves with the known ‘facts’ about the murders from the wealth of literature available on them, but I personally was more interested in the effects of the passage of time on the reputation of the case and the treatment it received in the media of the day; something which seems to have set the tone for modern crime reporting.

*Kim:* I’ve used similar texts to get a sense of the historical backdrop. Mostly, I looked at the victims’ lives within this context; everything from researching the kinds of possessions found on the bodies to hunting-down the original entries of death from the register office. I wanted to use the Victorian handwriting from these in my visuals.

It’s pleasing to note that you are treating the victims as real people and not just footnotes in the Ripper story; how important was this to you in your preparation?

*Nicola:* This was the essence of the work; 'Jack the Ripper' as a person is of little interest to me, the more interesting aspect is how the case contributed towards public desensitisation, something that I feel is still true of responses to today's atrocities.

*Kim:* It's been important to explore the reality of these women's lives rather than simply defining them by their prostitution and mythical murders. My paintings use fragments of the victims' death certificates, juxtaposed with an installation of the personal effects; this reproduction of their material possessions challenges the abstraction of the media.

**Was it difficult to avoid the 'sensationalism' surrounding the topic?**

*Nicola:* Not really, when something is 'sensationalised' repeatedly it is almost as if it has neutered itself.

*Kim:* Also, the exhibition really is about the victims rather than the murderer or even the murders themselves; this was key in rejecting the sensationalism.

**What are the ten subjects?**

*Nicola:* I have painted Mary Kelly, Catherine Eddowes, Liz Stride, Polly Nichols and Annie Chapman as they were photographed after their deaths; hopefully focusing the viewer on their individuality, as opposed to their collective occupations and fate.



Nicola Morrison

*Kim:* I am displaying five paintings of fragments of each of the victim's death certificates.

**Did you devise these topics between you, or choose your own?**

*Nicola:* I think it was a totally natural response from both of us, I am primarily a figurative artist - we know our places!

*Kim:* I paint fragments of ephemera; through this fragmental quality, the still life becomes abstracted. I transform the paper minutiae we all leave behind throughout our lives, and deaths, into gigantic monuments. Naturally, this is very different from Nicola's style of painting.

'Personal Effects' by Kim O'Neil





Annie Chapman by Nicola Morrison



'Cause of Death' by Kim O'Neil

**What medium have you used to create the artwork?**

*Nicola:* I have used oil paint on canvas for the five paintings and I'm exhibiting a collection of small drawings too.

*Kim:* I'm exhibiting five large (114cmx168cm) paintings, all acrylic on canvas, and five installation pieces which consist of Victorian objects replicating the personal effects found on the bodies of the Ripper victims.

**What will happen to the artwork once the exhibition is over?**

*Nicola:* They can be bought or we will keep them.

*Kim:* All the pieces I am exhibiting are for sale and prices start at £200 for a 'personal effects' installation box. The paintings will continue to be exhibited until they are sold.

"Victims" runs from 12-6pm until 1st December 2007 at The Show Rooms, Nicholls & Clarke Buildings, 3-10 Shoreditch High Street, London, E1.

Ripperologist was invited to the Private Viewing on 22 November, and found the experience extremely moving. The Show Rooms at the Nicholls & Clarke Buildings is the ideal setting, with exposed brickwork and crumbling plaster providing the perfect backdrop for the ten paintings. In one darkened room are the five paintings of the victims by Nicola Morrison, side by side along one wall, with Kim

O'Neil's 'Cause of Death' art directly opposite. In between is a table containing the five 'personal effects' installation boxes. The effect is a room of death.

Interestingly, despite Ms Morrison's paintings being representations of the mortuary photographs, the selection of colour for each victim gave the images a vibrancy not usually associated with the horrific nature of the photographs. A colour for each gives them both an individualism and a sense of being bonded in a 'team'. Ms Morrison has succeeded in suggesting something of the characters of the victims: Polly Nichols, dreamy; Annie Chapman, bloated; Catherine Eddowes, melancholic.

By contrast, the stark black and white nature of Ms O'Neil's 'Cause of Death' paintings remind us that these women were murdered. Horribly. Huge, in-your-face descriptive words bring home the nature of these crimes: 'Violent', 'Haemorrhage', 'Prostitute'.

The focal point of the exhibition, for this reviewer, is the central table bearing the 'personal effects'. As we saw at the recent Ripper conference with Andy Aliffe's display of Eddowes' items, a physical representation of a victim's belongings can be touchingly tangible. On this occasion though, Ms O'Neil's creation of a set of five boxes is overwhelmingly poignant. Each is the size of a shoe box, and contains a sparse set of 'belongings'. It's crushingly sad to realise the life of each victim can be reduced to such a small scale. There, side by side on a single table, we have a snapshot of the Ripper's effect. Because for all the sociological and topographical advances made in the immediate aftermath of the murders, five women lost their lives.

Victims crystallises that idea; see it if you can.





CHRIS SCOTT'S

# Press Trawl

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*Fort Wayne Sentinel*

29 April 1891

## CAUGHT AT LAST.

Jack the Ripper Proves to be a Foreign Cattle Boss on Board a London Ship - His Arrest.

New York, April 29.



*Inspector Byrnes*

When Inspector Byrnes was asked this morning if he had anything to say concerning the Jack the Ripper murder, he said, "Not a thing this morning." A few moments later he received a dispatch from Jersey City, saying that an important arrest had just been made there in connection with the case and the police officials believed that the man for whom he was looking was in their hands.

Inspector Byrnes left immediately for Jersey City. Three arrests were made by Ward detectives this morning. One was discharged and the other two were held. "Dublin Mary" who was taken from the whisky place known as "The Plug Hat" was held today as a witness. A later dispatch from Jersey City says the man arrested there is an Algerian sailor and that Chief of Police Murphy says there is no doubt the man is the one wanted by Inspector Byrnes for Jack the Ripper murder. The man arrested in Jersey City is a boss cattle man employed on cattle ships between New York and London.

His name is Arbie La Bruckman, and he is known as Frenchy No. 2. He is twenty nine years old, a native of Morocco, is swarthy, has a large nose, black eyes, and speaks broken English. He was arrested in London eighteen months ago as Jack the Ripper, but released two weeks later. He has a bad record among cattlemen for cruelty to men and beast. He arrived here from Spain from London, April 10, and has frequented the vicinity where the murder occurred. He intended to sail on the Buffalo next Saturday. The police say he is the man they have been after all along, though he does not answer the description published.

*New York Times*

1 May 1891

## IS HE THE GUILTY MAN?

FACTS WHICH SEEM TO POINT TO THE MURDERER OF CARRIE BROWN.

Circumstantial facts related yesterday by Inspector Byrnes point very strongly to George Frank, otherwise known as Francois, or "Frenchy No. 1," as the murderer of Carrie Brown, who was found dead and mutilated at the East River Hotel in Water Street a week ago. These facts also dispel, apparently, all suspicion in regard to the man known as "Frenchy No. 2." The Inspector, in telling the story, recalls the fact that the old woman, Brown, had a companion in Room 81 of the "hotel" at 10:30p.m., April 23. Two hours later "Frenchy No. 1" went upstairs and took possession of Room 33.

It is against the “rules” of the establishment to let a man sleep alone there, but he circumvented the boy, Edward Fitzgerald, by giving him 25 cents in pennies. When the boy reported the lodger, the bartender, Samuel Shine, spoke contemptuously of the Frenchman and said he would have to be put out, but finally decided to let him stay.

“Frenchy No. 1” had been the woman Brown’s companion Wednesday and Thursday. He left the place early Friday morning, and Fitzgerald says he turned his face to the wall as he passed him and sneaked out by the private entrance. It is another “rule” of the place that no woman shall leave during the night. When “Frenchy No. 1” was arrested he said he slept in Brooklyn Friday morning, but on being fully identified he admitted that he was the East River Hotel. He persisted, however, in denying that he knew the murdered woman’s comrades who identified him.

Since his arrest he has been doing nothing but making statements to account for his whereabouts just before the



Carrie Brown

crime and for the presence of blood which was discovered in his underclothing. In investigating his stories the detectives have taken him to Jamaica and Long Island City and, incidentally, discovered that April 13 he completed an imprisonment of thirty days in the Queens County Jail for vagrancy. Every story told by the prisoner was found to be untrue.

On closely examining the hall between Rooms 31 and 33, specks and clots of blood were found, and with the aid of a hand magnifying glass these were chiseled out of the floor. Blood was found outside and inside the door of 33 and the wood on which they were was cut out. There was also blood on a chair, on the bedstead, and on the army blankets that covered it. All these traces and the prisoner’s underclothing were sent to Dr. Cyrus Edson for analysis, with particles taken from under the prisoner’s finger nails. An analysis made by Dr. Edson and others determined that the blood on the wood was human, and that there were traces of the same character under the finger nails.

“Frenchy No. 2” was not the murdered woman’s companion. He was found and arrested at 5 a.m. on Sunday. It was quickly decided that he was innocent and he was released. The police will not give his name, but it has been satisfactorily established that when Carrie Brown and her companion went up stairs Thursday night “Frenchy No. 2” was at work more than four miles away. Who was the woman’s companion the detectives have not been able to learn. They also have not discovered to whom the knife found in the room with the murdered woman belonged.

It was expected that Coroner Schultze would hold the inquest in the case yesterday afternoon, but at the request of Inspector Byrnes and on motion of Deputy Assistant District Attorney Lindsay the proceedings were postponed until May 11.

“Frenchy No. 1”, the police say, is an Algerian and a sailor. He came here a year and a half ago. His chief employment was on fruit boats. He had been ejected half a dozen times for maltreating and robbing women at the East River place. He had also been a professional beggar, and as such may be remembered by many at Jamaica and Long Island City. He had evidently been to Liverpool and London, and learned all the tricks of mendicants, as the police have in their possession a full set of splints to enable a man to simulate a broken arm. These belonged to the prisoner and were found in places he frequented. District Attorney Nicoll and Deputy Assistant District Attorney Lindsay have all the facts obtained by the police and will watch the case personally at the inquest.

The prisoner was taken down to the Court of General Sessions late in the afternoon and committed by Judge Martine to the care of Inspector Byrnes till the Coroner’s investigation should be continued. This action was based upon a warrant issued by Judge Martine. The firm of Levy, Friend & House was assigned to look after the prisoner’s interests. Through an interpreter the prisoner said his name was George Frank and in a rambling way declared his innocence. He was sent back to Police Headquarters in charge of Capt. McLaughlin.

The body of the murdered woman was delivered to her relatives yesterday and was removed to Salem for burial.



*New York Times*  
3 May 1891

#### THE EAST RIVER HOTEL MURDER.

Ben Ali, the Algerian, or “Frenchy No. 1,” the supposed murderer of Carrie Brown, or “Shakespeare,” allowed himself to be interviewed yesterday. He emphatically denied having killed the woman, whom he said he did not know by name. He acknowledged having slept in the East River Hotel the night of the murder, but said he did not see anything of Shakespeare in the hotel. The bloodstains on his underwear, he said, were received in a fight he had with a man. He denied the ownership of the knife identified by his Long Island City Prison companions as one he had in his possession at that time.

Deputy Sheriff Ashmead of Jamaica, Long island, arrested a vagrant over there who fairly answers the description of the man who occupied the room with Shakespeare the night of the murder. He admitted being in New York that night. Two bloodstained handkerchiefs and a Staten Island ferry ticket were found in his pockets. Inspector Byrnes was notified of the arrest.

*Hull Daily Mail*  
20 May 1891

THE AMERICAN “RIPPER” TRAGEDY.  
“FRENCHY” ON HIS TRIAL.  
A Desperado of a Degraded Class.

“Frenchy” was on Monday indicted by the grand jury of New York for murder in the first degree. He is implicated in what is known as the “Jack the Ripper” murder. The prisoner is variously named as Ben Ali, Frank Sherlick, Frenchy, and in the indictment as George Frank. He is an Algerian of the most degraded class, whose habits and practices are unutterably filthy, and it could only be an advantage to the community to get rid of him. At the same time there is not one fair minded person who believes him guilty of the butchery of Carrie Brown. As stated in a previous despatch, the reporters, who were actually on the scene before the detectives, failed to discover the alleged track of blood from the prisoner’s room. If it were there it might just as readily have been caused by the man who accompanied the woman and who in departing had to pass the prisoner’s door. The only other important evidence is the fact that there were bloodstains on the wall of the prisoner’s room, on his hands, and under his fingernails. This says little, as these scoundrels are cut throats and desperadoes, and are seldom free from stains of blood. In the meantime the question is asked - Where is the man who was last seen with the victim? Should he not turn up, and begins to seem as though he would not, George Frank will be found guilty.

*Hull Daily Mail*  
21 May 1891

#### IS “FRENCHY” THE REAL “JACK THE RIPPER?” SUPPOSED DISCOVERY OF THE WHITECHAPEL FIEND. A Story with an Air of Probability about it.

According to advices received at Plymouth yesterday the police authorities of Jersey City, State of New York, believe they have in custody the real “Jack the Ripper.” It will be remembered that a woman named Carrie Brown was murdered at the River Hotel, and that the police of New York arrested for the crime a man known as “Frenchy No. 1.” The individual now charged with committing the act is supposed to be an Algerian sailor, and a cousin of “Frenchy No. 1,” passing generally under the alias of “Frenchy No. 2.” Strangely enough, he in many way corresponds with the published descriptions of “Jack the Ripper,” and follows the occupation in which that notorious criminal is believed to be engaged - a boss cattle driver on tramp cattle ships. What also tends to strengthen the belief that the man now in gaol and “The Ripper” are one and the same person is the fact that he was arrested in London (England) and imprisoned several weeks for one of the Whitechapel murders, but the authorities had to release him because of their inability to identify him with the perpetrator of these horrible crimes.



“FRENCHY’S” TRIAL NEARLY OVER.  
IT IS EXPECTED THAT A VERDICT WILL BE RENDERED TODAY.

Three sessions of court were held yesterday by Recorder Smyth, who is presiding over the trial of Ameer Ben Ali, alias “Frenchy,” for the murder of Carrie Brown in the East River Hotel, and so much progress was made that probably tonight the jury will have brought in its verdict if it agrees on one. The defense was presented yesterday. It consisted of “Frenchy’s” own denial of the murder and expert testimony to oppose that of the experts who testified for the prosecution.

Interest centred in the testimony of “Frenchy” himself, given in Arabic. At times the man was dramatic, at other times tears poured down his cheeks, and at all times his gestures were interesting, sometimes ludicrous. He frequently swore before Allah that he was innocent. Emil Sultan, a cigar dealer, interpreted and he earned his money.

“Frenchy” repeated the story of his life, which he told in his own language to a Times reporter at the beginning of his trial. When the question was asked, “Did you kill Carrie Brown?” he broke out into wild gesticulation, wept, and asserted his innocence.

“Did you know Carrie Brown or Old Shakespeare?” was asked.

“I don’t know her,” he answered.

“Upon the night you slept in a hotel did you kill a woman?”

“I don’t kill her, I don’t know her,” responded the Algerian.

He also denied ever having owned or seen the knife that was found by the dead woman’s side. “I never saw the knife till I saw it here,” he said.

The night of the murder, before going to the hotel, he had been in Castle Garden Park, he continued. About 11 o’clock he had gone to the hotel. The next morning he rose at 5 and took a walk along the water front. Upon cross examination by Mr. Wellman he was erratic in his answers. The dissolute women who had testified to seeing “Frenchy” in the Fourth ward were paraded before him, and he was asked if he knew them. He only recognized Lopez. Mr. Wellman called his attention especially to Alice

Sullivan. “Frenchy” looked at her a moment, then jumped to his feet and pointing his hand at her, exclaimed in Arabic, “Do you know me? Have I ever seen you?”

Attention was called by Mr. Wellman to the fact that “Frenchy” once pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny in Brooklyn of a watch and some fruit. The witness said that he had been in jail four times, but did not know what for.

He said that the blood got upon his stockings and shirt while he was in a basement. “In the name of God, I cannot tell what basement,” he replied when pressed as to its location.

When Detective Aloncle was pointed out to him, and he was asked if he had not said to the detective in French that he had got the blood on him in Jamaica, he cried out, “He don’t tell the truth, by Allah!” Further questioning about his sojourn in Jamaica jail and his stories about his movements resulted in his becoming a bit mixed.

Finally he jumped up again and cried out: “If they want to kill me they can.”

Four experts were called to testify, Dr. George S. Huidekoper, Dr. Paul Gibier, Prof. Henry A. Mott and Justin Herald. They contradicted the testimony given by the State’s experts.

This ended the testimony for the defense. A little testimony in rebuttal was given. Some more will be given this morning, and then Mr. Fred B. House will speak for his client and Mr. Wellman for the people, and the Recorder will charge the jury.



Ameer Ben Ali

“FRENCHY” FOUND GUILTY.  
CONVICTED OF MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE.  
THREE BALLOTS SETTLED THE FATE OF THE ALGERIAN - HE WILL BE IMPRISONED  
FOR LIFE - MORE PROTESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE.

Imprisonment for life was the message the jury had for Aamer Ben Ali, or “Frenchy,” in the Court of General Sessions last night after two hours’ deliberation. The courtroom was packed to the doors when the jury came in. A low murmur of surprise ran over the crowd when the foreman announced “Guilty - guilty of murder in the second degree.”

The jury was polled, and all its members said that such was their verdict. Life imprisonment is the only punishment for that degree of crime. “Frenchy” was remanded for sentence to July 10, when a motion for a new trial will be also made by his lawyers.

On the first ballot the jury stood 8 to 4 for murder in the first degree, on the second 11 to 1 for that degree of crime, and after some argument a compromise verdict of murder in the second degree was agreed upon. Recorder Smyth, in discharging the jurymen, remarked that he was free to say that he thought they had arrived at the right result, and

thanked them for their punctual attendance and the careful consideration they had given to the case. District Attorney Nicoll expressed his

satisfaction with the verdict. He said no doubt the jury realized that there was lacking positive proof of premeditation and deliberation in the killing of the woman.

The trial began a week ago Wednesday. Three days were taken up in securing the jury, and five in the presentation of the facts concerning the murder of old “Shake spear” in the East River Hotel on April 24. The only evidence offered yesterday was in rebuttal by Deputy Coroner Jenkins, who said that the cuts upon the woman’s body could have been made with the right hand. This was to combat Dr. Huidekoper’s statement that they must have been inflicted with the left hand. Then Frederick B. House began to make his final speech for the Algerian. The latter began to weep as, in a sympathetic manner, Mr. House placed his hands on the prisoner’s forehead. Mr. House discussed the evidence at length. It was circumstantial, he said, and of the most unsatisfactory kind and bearing the least weight.

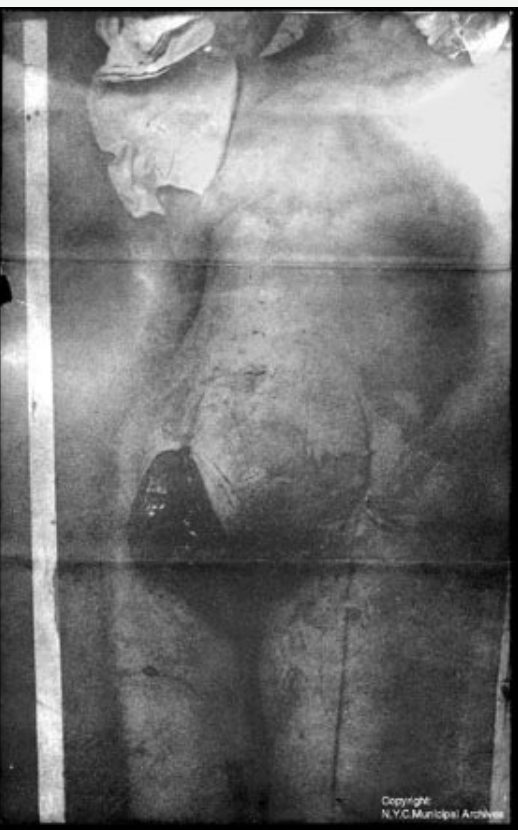
“Where is the man who went upstairs in the Fourth Ward hotel with old Shakespeare the last time she was seen alive?” he cried. “When he went upstairs he passed out of sight. No one knows where he went or where he is.”

“What could have been the motive to cause ‘Frenchy’ to commit the crime?” was another question Mr. House asked in an impressive way. He went over the experts’ testimony, laying stress upon the fact that though they would swear as to the food the woman had eaten, they would not swear that the blood they examined was human.

District Attorney Neil decided to sum up for the people. He spoke in a cool manner, without attempt at eloquent periods or passionate feeling. He said it

was not a case of sentiment; the jury was to weigh the evidence without thought of sympathy and simply upon the facts. He dwelt especially upon the testimony of the experts and he did not forget “Frenchy’s” contradictory statements to the detectives and even in court. The motive of robbery, he thought, was shown from the fact that the pocket in the woman’s dress had been turned inside out.

Recorder Smyth charged for an hour and thirty five minutes. It was a plain, careful statement of the law of evidence and a condensation of the testimony in the case. As regards the expert testimony, the Recorder said there could be no doubt of the blood being human, provided the intestinal material found in the blood stains came from the same source. The experts for the prosecution made an examination of the blood stains in question and based their conclusions upon it. The experts for the defense, on the other hand, depended on the testimony of the other side for their opinions. It was for the jury to decide which testimony was entitled to the greater weight.



Mortuary Photograph of Carrie Brown  
Copyright NYC Municipal Archives

Irrepressible Juror No. 3, at the conclusion of the charge, wanted to know how long he and his brethren were to deliberate. "That depends on you," replied the court.

"You know, tomorrow's the Fourth of July," added the juror, smiling, but the Recorder interrupted him by saying that in such an important case the fact of a holiday must not interfere.

While the jury was out a reporter went over to the cage in which Aamer had been placed and talked with him. The Arab's principal fear was that he would be executed. He again protested his innocence. He was very bitter against the person whom he called "the red headed English woman," whom he had taken to Brooklyn. He said he saw her in court, and when she went on the witness stand she denied having been in his company.

Aamer was very effusive in his praise of his counsel. Then he began to speak of old Carrie Brown, and again he denied that he had killed her. "Why should I strangle her and cut her up?" he cried, and, becoming excited, he went through a very dramatic pantomime of strangling a person by catching himself by the throat and then stabbing and slashing at an imaginary person as he spoke. "Why should I kill her?" he repeated, "she did not have any money."

"How do you know that she did not have money?" the reporter asked.

"Oh, I do not know whether she had money or not. I never saw the woman in my life."

When the jury rendered its verdict the prisoner seemed to understand that he had not been acquitted, for he remained standing in a dazed condition. His interpreter stepped up to him and told him that he would not be executed. An expression of relief came over the Arab's face, but he did not regain his speech for a minute and then asked,

"What are they going to do with me?" A French gentleman present who spoke the Algerian Arabic told him he would be locked up until he got a new trial. The interpreter said that he might be locked up for life. Again the Algerian's spirits fell, and he merely made the hopeless exclamation, "What can I do?"

Inspector Byrnes returned to Police Headquarters after the verdict was rendered. He was very much pleased with the result, and said the jury no doubt believed there was absence of premeditation. Asked if he thought the man had committed the London murders, he replied that he would not like to express an opinion on that subject, but he had in his possession a statement tending to show that the man had been in London at the time that some of the murders were committed.



*Mortuary Photograph of Carrie Brown  
Copyright NYC Municipal Archives*

*New York Times*  
5 July 1891

We imagine that very few people who closely followed the trial of the Algerian, Aamer Ben Ali, for the murder of the old woman, Carrie Brown, in the East River Hotel in April last were satisfied of his guilt either by the evidence, the arguments, or the verdict. The Algerian's character and behavior were against him, and the conduct of the case by his counsel was not calculated to produce a favorable impression, but a conviction for crime based should be based upon facts clearly established by evidence, and that upon which this verdict was rendered was of the flimsiest circumstantial kind. There was nothing directly to show that this man was with the old woman or even saw her on the night of the murder, while the man who accompanied her to the hotel disappeared and has never been found or identified. The expert testimony on blood stains and mail scrapings was a very slender and uncertain line of evidence for connecting a man on trial for his life with the crime. The verdict was an inconsistent one, for the one thing certain is that the crime was one of murder in the first degree, and the accused was guilty of that or he was guilty of nothing. The head of our detective force is undoubtedly a keen and energetic officer, but he has more than once shown that success in catching and convicting somebody is more to him than the demands of exact justice. Even such a wretched specimen of the human species as this Algerian ought not to be sacrificed on insufficient evidence merely to demonstrate the infallibility of our detective system.





# Walter Sickert and the Camden Town Nudes

An important exhibition of paintings by Walter Sickert between 1905 and 1913, focusing on his series of 'Nudes', is taking place in London until 20 January 2008. The exhibition includes the four infamous *Camden Town Murder* paintings, suggested by some as being based on the Ripper murders, displayed together for the first time.

The exhibition is sponsored primarily by the Friends of the Courtauld Institute of Art, and by the estate of Lillian Browse-Nicholas and Judith Goodison.

A curators' talk on the exhibition, included in the admission price, takes place on Wednesday 16 January 2008 between 5.15pm and 6.45pm, and there's a short introduction to the paintings at 1.15pm on Friday 7 December.

Exhibition Curator Dr Barnaby Wright explains the importance of the paintings in a podcast at the following web address: <http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/podcasts/2007/sickertL.mp3>

The Courtauld Gallery  
Somerset House  
Strand  
London WC2R 0RN

Adults £5, Concessions £4. Admission is free on Mondays from 10.00am-2.00pm (excluding public holidays).

*The Camden Town Murders* by Walter Sickert







From the Archives

# The Camden Town Murder

By John Barber

This article first appeared in *Ripperologist* 44, December 2002.

The Camden Town Murder was the talk of the country in 1907. It was on the front pages of all national newspapers and became a landmark case for future murder trials. Almost one hundred years later it remains one of the most famous unsolved murder mysteries. Owing to the interest of the American crime writer Patricia Cornwell, it has now been linked with Jack the Ripper and the artist Walter Sickert.

The story began in 1907 when a young prostitute known as Phyllis Dimmock was found with her throat cut in St Pauls Road, near to Kings Cross in North London on the morning of 12 September. The police arrested a young designer by the name of Robert Wood. He was the last person to have been seen with Phyllis and had sent her a postcard on which he had asked her to meet him at a local pub.

Phyllis was not her real name. She was born Emily Elizabeth Dimmock (which is what I will call her) on 20 October 1884. All accounts of the case, including that of Sir David Napley, a well respected British solicitor, have given her birth-place as Walworth, South London. Thanks to the efforts of my colleague Alan Stanley this can be now discounted. Her birth certificate shows that she was born in the village of Standon, Nr Ware, Hertfordshire and that at the time of her birth her mother Sarah was resident at the Red Lion, Standon.

The census of 1881 shows a Dimmock family living in Lambeth now in South London, but then in Surrey. The father William is recorded as being a photographic artist from Bermondsey, London and mother Sarah, was from Great Hadham, Hertfordshire - a mile or so from Standon. An elder brother William Maynard Dimmock was born in Codicote, Nr Stevenage also in Hertfordshire and only a sister Esther Elizabeth was actually born in Walworth. It is possible that some investigators have confused the daughters and reported Emily as being born in Walworth rather than her elder sister.

In Hertfordshire guide books it is mentioned that the Bell in Standon had a carpenter's shop attached in the nineteenth century. On Emily's birth certificate William Dimmock gave his occupation as journeyman carpenter so that it is likely that the Dimmocks were lodging at the Bell, Standon, where William was working.

Birth certificate of Emily Dimmock

309	Twentieth October 1884 The Village Standon R.H.D.	Emily Elizabeth	Girl	William Maynard Dimmock	Sarah Dimmock formerly Uncle	Carpenter Journeyman	Sarah Dimmock Mother The Red Lion Standon	Twentieth Eight November 1884	Charles Smith Registrar
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Emily was still a young girl when she left home to work in service in East Finchley, near Barnet in Hertfordshire. In common with so many she drifted to the Kings Cross area of North London, still in 2002 a magnet for prostitutes and drug dealers. By 1905 at the age of 21, she was lodging in a house at 1 Bidborough Street, just off Euston Road close to Euston, St Pancras and Kings Cross stations. It was owned by a John William Crabtree. He was a small time crook who had previous convictions for street theft and horse stealing. He was arrested on and off during the next two years on charges of running a disorderly house.

Whilst a tenant of Crabtree, Emily appears to have made the acquaintance of a man called 'Scottie'. The latter had intimidated Crabtree with a cut throat razor and made abusive remarks to Emily about ruining his life and the effect it would have on his parents.

Crabtree, who was in prison at the time of the murder, was less than forthcoming to the police but he was the first person that acknowledged the existence in 1905 of a friend of Emily's who was young, of medium build with artistic hands. The description given by Crabtree fitted that given in court of Robert Wood. The latter always stuck to his story that the first time he had met Emily Dimmock was on 6 September 1907, two years later.

In the early months of 1907 Emily was living with her common law husband, a man named Bertram Shaw. They had began life as a couple in Great College Street and moved later in the year to St Pauls Road. The latter was himself only a young man, possibly as young as 19 and had proposed to Emily that they live as husband and wife on condition that she gave up her previous employment as a prostitute.

Shaw was employed by the Midland Railway as a chef on the Sheffield Express that ran between St Pancras and Sheffield. He usually left home at about 4.15pm and arrived back in London at about 11.30am the following day. He most probably first met Emily after a days work, in a bar in Euston Road. On the night of September 11/12 Bert's alibi was that he was in Sheffield and had no involvement in her murder.

My own interest began following the publication of an article I had written on the Old Bedford Music Hall that once stood in Camden High Street, North London. I was contacted by Alan Stanley. He had a personal interest in the murder as his great uncle was Bertram Shaw.

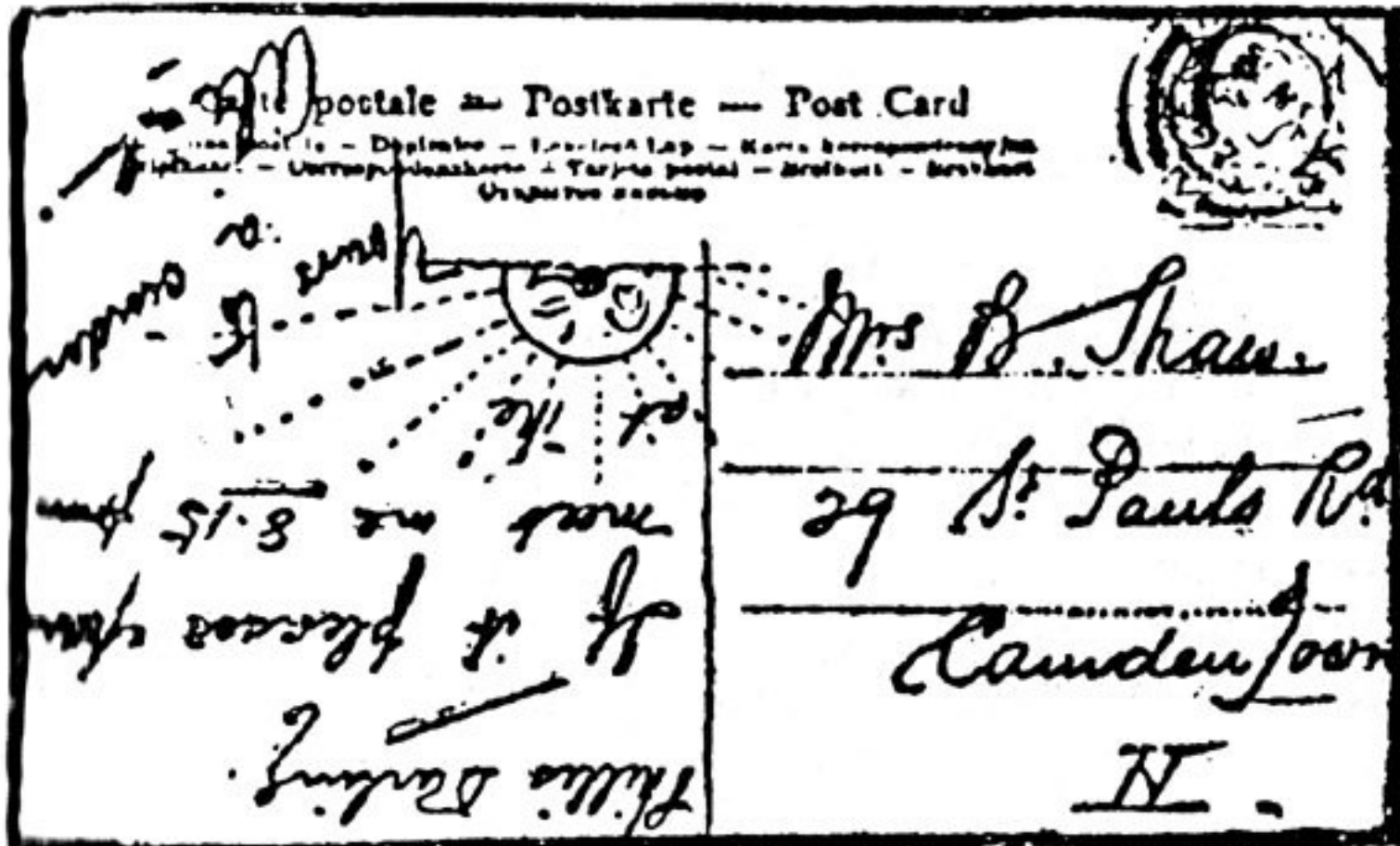
He mentioned Emily and Bert's address which was 29 St Pauls Road. The case has always been known as the Camden Town Murder but St Pauls Road connects St Pancras Way in the south with York Way in the north, both popular routes to Kings Cross and St Pancras stations. It is now called Agar Grove. Perhaps because the area has no specific definition the murder was ascribed to Camden Town which is the closest geographical address in popular street guides.

In 1907 Bert and Emily were living as Mr and Mrs Shaw in St Pauls Road. By day Emily was a dutiful housewife; once Bert had left for work she returned to her previous calling, apparently missing the entertainment provided by the many public houses in Euston Road, particularly the Pindar of Wakefield and the Rising Sun.

It was certainly in the latter on Friday 6 September 1907 that Emily met Robert Wood. Other women noted the young man with the artistic hands and when a young hawker came in offering postcards for sale Emily was eager to buy one. She enjoyed collecting postcards as much as she liked playing the piano. On this occasion Wood pulled a postcard out of his pocket which he had brought back from a holiday in Bruges and wrote on it: "*Phillis darling. If it pleases you to meet me at 8.15 at the (and here he drew an artists impression of a rising sun). Yours to a cinder.*" He signed it Alice so as not to arouse Bert's suspicions.

Robert Wood





Postcard sent by Robert Wood

This postcard was to be central to the prosecution's case. It was not posted until the early hours of Sunday morning - or Monday 9 September, some two days later than when it was written. Bert was still working his night shift on the trains, innocent of Emily's deception. Emily had taken another man home for three nights, a ships cook by the name of Robert Percival Roberts. On the night of Wednesday, 11 September Roberts was in the Rising Sun with a friend named Frank Clarke expecting to meet Emily again. She was in a local pub, the Eagle which was in Great (now Royal) College Street, close to the southern end of St Pauls Road. Here too, was Robert Wood. It was the last time Emily was seen alive.

On that Thursday morning of September 12, Bert's mother came to visit Emily. Alan has told me that not surprisingly Mrs Shaw strongly disapproved of Bert's relationship with Emily and had not come all the way from Northampton on a goodwill visit.

The family recollects that Mrs Shaw arrived early, well before the end of Bert's shift at 11.30am. We have subsequently put the time at about 11.00am. She recounts seeing a body in Emily's rooms. Some accounts say Emily and Bert lived in the basement, others say on the first floor. It was certainly the latter and the houses are built in such a way that the first floor is at ground level.

She waited for Bert to arrive home and together they went upstairs where they discovered Emily's bloodstained body. The rooms had been ransacked, her postcard collection had been scattered around the room and two of Bert's razors were quite visible by the wash bowl. Someone had cleaned their hands of blood, probably the razors as well and the towel was also stained with blood.

The police soon pieced together Emily's life without Bert. The postcard had been well hidden by Emily but was eventually found by Bert and published in many national papers, including the News of the World. Wood had tried to put together an alibi for the early part of the evening of September 11 by stating that he had been with a former girl friend Ruby Young. But Ruby had read the papers and had told a friend, who had a friend in the press, and as night follows day Wood was identified by Ruby and charged.

Robert Wood designed glassware for the Sand and Blast Manufacturing Company in Grays Inn Road. Possibly on their account he was represented by a solicitor well versed in criminal causes celebres. Arthur John Newton later went on to represent Dr Hawley Harvey Crippen. He secured the services of Edward Marshall Hall QC. Hall was to become a master of the criminal courts, revered as a pop star would be today. His style of oratory was quite often bizarre by modern stan-

dards but at the turn of the century the criminal courts were another form of popular entertainment and the crowd followed his every word.

The public gallery of the Old Bailey was filled with the great luminaries of the day; actors, writers and artists jostled for the reserved seats. The general public filled the streets outside and before them paraded some of the most defiled sections of society to give evidence in the trial of Robert William Thomas George Cavers Wood.

Many of Emily's friends and acquaintances were prostitutes, pimps, brothel keepers, thieves or general low life. The prosecution made much of Wood's statement that he had known Emily for no longer than a few days in September. It was apparent that either Wood was a consummate liar or that witnesses were eager to blacken his name.

Marshall Hall's cross examining was brilliant, his summing up superb but even he believed that Wood's life still hung in the balance. The cornerstone of his defence was that Wood had asked for an alibi for a time before the murder had occurred. The judge appeared to be instructing the jury to convict Wood when suddenly he stated that he did not feel the prosecution had proven their case and it was their duty to acquit the defendant. After deliberating for only fifteen minutes the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty".

The case became a landmark in English Legal History in that it was the first time since the passing of the Criminal Justice Bill of 1905 that an accused man in a murder trial was able to give evidence on his own behalf. Despite Newton's reservations Marshall Hall bowed to the opinion of his junior Wesley Orr, and had called Wood to the witness box. The latter did not appear to impress the court. He had a diffident, nonchalant even vain side to his character and spent a lot of his time sketching the court, both counsel, the judge and witnesses.

In the event his life was saved but the question remains as to who did kill Emily Dimmock.

At first the police suspected Bert Shaw. He had the perfect motive - jealousy. Was the young boy pushed too far by Emily's continuing deception? Even Marshall Hall tried to incriminate him in court but his alibi was watertight. He had been in Sheffield.

Emily had been with many men but suspicion fell next on the ships cook, Roberts. He admitted to sleeping with Emily on three previous occasion but on the night of the murder was back in his lodgings as testified by his close friend Clarke and also his landlady.

The petty crook Crabtree recalled the dark, mysterious and malicious "Scottie". His real name was never uncovered. He had been seen to have threatened Emily. Crabtree testified that he himself had been intimidated by Scottie wielding a cut throat razor and whatever reasons Scottie had for hating Emily for the damage she had done to himself and his family he had kept to himself.

Crabtree also mentioned a "Scotch Bob" whom he had often seen with Emily but his real name was Robert Mackie and appeared to have an alibi for the time of the murder. He was in Scotland. The dates he gave were subsequently found to be wrong but it was never pressed by Marshall Hall and no reason given for that decision. Two men, Sharples and Harvey who saw Emily in the company of a large man in the King's Cross Area around midnight on 11/12 September were only allowed to give witness statements, although their evidence was known to the prosecution who decided against cross examining them in court.

Then there was Robert Wood. He maintained throughout that his reasons for keeping his love of pubs and loose women a close secret was to protect his father who was in ill health. In the event that the testimony of Crabtree and the other prostitutes, reformed or otherwise, was true then there is no doubt that Wood had lied on oath and possibly about everything else. He was an unreliable witness.

He appeared to have known Emily for far longer than the couple of days that he claimed. He admitted to writing the postcard that was found by Bert Shaw when clearing out his possessions and was later published in the national press. He denied that he sent it to arrange a meeting. Equally incriminating was the charred remains of a letter found in the grate at Emily's lodgings. Roberts testified that Emily had shown the letter to him on the morning of 11 September along with the postcard and claimed that the writing proved that the sender was the same.

The letter unlike the postcard was burned, but again it was asking Emily to meet the sender at the Eagle pub that Wednesday evening. It was signed Bert but neither Roberts, Wood or the police were able to decipher the exact words when called to the witness box. The court only had the testimony of Roberts to verify the message. It must be emphasised that Roberts was also interested in saving his own neck as if Wood was proved to be innocent then he would be the next logical suspect.



It is easy to understand Robert's concern. Emily was a working girl and had probably taken many men back to her rooms. Her landlady Mrs Stocks maintained that she ran a respectable guest house and was unaware of Emily's night work. It was an understandable viewpoint. She most probably turned a blind eye but in any event Emily must have become adept at secreting men in and out of her rooms without alarming her landlady, or her husband. Both apparently retired early as he rose early to work on the railway.

In the event that we exclude all of the above suspects we are left with two alternatives. One is that Emily left Wood at the Eagle pub, carried on walking into Kings Cross where she met a casual punter who robbed her, then murdered her and left her for dead as he slipped out of St Pauls Road. This may account for the man seen with her by Sharples and Harvey.

The second alternative is to consider Walter Sickert.

For many months I was unable to decide why this case had become so famous. It was, in the order of things, just another murder of a young woman in a quiet back street of a popular residential area. Then I discovered that the Old Bailey had only just been re-opened in February 1907 by Edward VII and the occasion marked by the granting of a knighthood to the defence counsel who appeared opposite Marshall Hall, Sir Charles Mathews QC.

Cinema was still in its infancy. Television was light years away and most common people found their amusement at the music hall, the pubs or the courts. A murder trial was a great theatrical event and drew all levels of society to sit and watch the court at work.

The Camden Town Murder acquired a high profile, assisted by the appearance of Marshall Hall whose star was waning following a disastrous attack on Lady Beaverbrook in 1901. It has been linked again with the crimes of Jack the Ripper.

There are few, if any similarities. The line of association begins with the assumption that Sickert was Jack the Ripper. This theory has many adherents especially now that Patricia Cornwell has published her book. I am not a Ripperologist and am as open minded as the next one as to his guilt in that case.

However, one aspect of the Ripper crimes has been asked many times, and answered in many ways. Why did the Ripper stop? If the Ripper was an early serial killer then why in common with many others didn't he carry on until he was caught, or if he managed to escape detection die leaving the crimes unsolved? If Sickert was the Ripper and matched the profile of a serial killer why did he suddenly stop? And why start again after 19 years? And then, if this theory is to hold water, did he apparently stop as just suddenly once again?

The next link to establish is the method.

I must at this point state that much of this information has been handed down verbally through the family of Bert Shaw. After the murder he moved away and lived a quiet, unassuming life in Manchester until his death in the late 1960s at his sisters home on the south coast. He had a close family and quite naturally they were reluctant to discuss what had happened to him. After all, he narrowly missed being hung himself.



Artist Walter Sickert in late 1900s

My colleague Alan Stanley has respectfully and slowly found out about Bert's involvement by talking to the surviving members of the family and although much is still personal the facts as related below are as near to truth as can be.

The family have read most books on the murder including Napley's account and state that this is as close as can be to the actual events.

Mrs Shaw, Bert's mother had been invited down by Bert and Emily in order that the latter could effect some form of reconciliation. Emily was a month short of her twenty third birthday, Bert was just nineteen and in accordance with English law would have required his parents consent to marry. Therefore Mrs Shaw's approval to their relationship was vital.

Mrs Shaw travelled down to London from Northampton and arrived at St Pauls Road about 11.00am. Her claim that she saw Emily from the top of the front steps must be accepted. She tried to raise Emily and unable to do so waited downstairs with Mrs Stocks the landlady for Bert to finish his shift. When Bert arrived home they went upstairs where they found Emily.

First, it is still unclear whether the door to their rooms was locked or not. If it was unlocked Mrs Shaw may well have invited herself in. Therefore it may be that the room was locked.

Emily's throat had been cut and there was plenty of blood but there was no mutilation. This is a significant departure from other Ripper victims. Elizabeth Stride suffered less severe injuries than the other victims although it is generally held that the Ripper was interrupted. There was no other marks on Emily. It appeared that she had been killed whilst asleep, that her head had been raised and her throat cut from left to right.

The discovery was made at about midday. By 1.30pm the body had been removed and a post mortem carried out which determined death at about 5 or 6 am. Emily had ate a meal at about 2am and the remains of a meal for two were on the table.

Despite newspaper reports the family do not recall, or have not mentioned anyone else apart from the police entering the house. An artist such as Walter Sickert appearing almost out of the blue to sketch the dead body would have been an event to remember. In any event it would have taken a while for him to have walked from Mornington Crescent, along Camden High Street and through the back streets to St Pauls Road even if he had been alerted to the discovery of a body at midday. If he had arrived earlier he would have been seen by either of the two women.

The final departure from the serial killings of the Ripper and that of Emily Dimmock is in the way that the murderer tried to eliminate all evidence of his being there. He had washed his hands. The razors had been cleaned. However, the room was overturned in someone's anger at not being able to find something that might incriminate him. Possibly a postcard.

The Ripper took great delight in cutting open his victims and leaving body parts lying around. There was no attempt at cleaning the area. The human carnage was almost a signature. There was no evidence of this at 29 St Pauls Road. If it was the work of a serial killer then after a hiatus of nineteen years he had changed his pattern and his trademark. It seems unlikely.

The murderer would have had plenty of opportunity to do as he wished. Emily was seen in Kings Cross about midnight, she ate at 2.00 so that she must have slipped indoors without awakening Mr or Mrs Stocks or any of the other lodgers sometime shortly after 1.00am. She died at the latest 6.00am so that the killer would have had almost five hours to have killed her, mutilated her body and made his escape. He had plenty of time but it would appear that he waited until the last moment, possibly after sleeping with her and waking before her, then killing her, cleaning himself and then making his escape.

With the progress made in forensic science it would have been possible today to have matched the blood samples found in the room with that of Emily, Robert Wood and any other suspect. This was a luxury the police at that time did not have. The existence of blood only served to prove that the assailant had tried to clean himself before leaving.

Emily Dimmock s death certificate

12 <sup>th</sup> September 1907. 149, Saint Pauls Road.	Emily Elizabeth Dimmock	Female	22 Years	Formerly a Domestic Servant.	Signature due to conflict from injuries to throat inflicted with some sharp instrument Wilful Murder against Robert William Thomas George Caesar Wood P.M.	Certificate received from J.B. Thomas Coroner for London Inquest held 16 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> September 1907 11.5, 21.15 and 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 1907.	First November 1907.	William H. Giffen Registrar
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The escape route was either through the house after locking the door behind him or out through the window. Bert Shaw told the police that three keys were missing along with a variety of small personal effects so it appears that the locked door theory is more possible. In the early hours there were people about, ordinary working men on their way to work.

Anyone shinning down a drainpipe was taking a huge risk. Robert MacCowan testified to having seen a man fitting Wood's description in St Pauls Road at about 5.55am. Marshall Hall was able to discredit him when Arthur Newton found a witness named William Westcott who testified to being a boxer with an awkward gait and who could have been the man MacCowan saw. The latter also remembered seeing a bobby on the beat, a common sight in 1907 but not so much in 2002, but it underlines the point made above that acting suspiciously in 1907 was liable to bring attention on yourself. Something a murderer leaving a crime scene might not attempt.

Much of the discussion on Sickert's involvement rests on his paintings. He lived and worked in what is now the larger Borough of Camden and he painted a series of pictures called the *Camden Town Murders*, based on the Ripper victims. One, entitled *What Shall We Do for the Rent* is thought to be modelled on Emily Dimmock. She was clear of debt. Mary Kelly the last victim of the Ripper did owe rent money. Another subject for many of his paintings was the Old Bedford Music Hall in Camden High Street of which I am sure Emily must have known and visited.

For most of his life Sickert lived close to the shadowy underworld that was Camden Town and that was what fascinated him, as it did Robert Wood. Sickert was living in Mornington Crescent in 1907 and could not fail to have known of Emily's murder. It was reported in the papers and facsimiles of the postcard written by Wood were printed in many of them. It most probably inspired many of his works.

Much of my correspondence with Alan Stanley occurred before we had learned of the publication of Patricia Cornwell's book. The name of Walter Sickert never arose in our talks, nor was it mentioned by any of his family. In David Napley's account of the trial there is no mention of Sickert either by the author or from any of the witness statements.

I read Melvyn Fairclough's conspiracy theory in *Ripper and the Royals* and he mentions the involvement of the solicitor Newton in the Cleveland Street scandal. It is a strange co-incidence that nineteen years later the names of Newton and Sickert are linked again. One the representative of Robert Wood and the other a suspect. It is a teasing piece of information.

As a final byword my parents moved into 10 Agar Grove (as St Pauls Road is now) when they married in 1940. My mother died last year at the age of 91 having lived in Camden Town most of her life. It is odd that she never mentioned the Camden Town Murder at all, nor did she talk of Walter Sickert. My father who was a true cockney having been born and bred in Hoxton knew all about the Ripper theories, but he never mentioned Sickert either.

I believe that the Camden Town Murder must remain a mystery. It is a sad, sorry affair of a young woman drawn to the bright lights who met a brutal end. It is unlikely that she was the victim of a serial killer, or of Jack the Ripper be he Walter Sickert or not. It is more likely that she was the victim of a jealous lover or a man enraged.

It is perhaps ironic that the last word must be Emily's. Her death certificate states as cause of death: "loss of blood from injuries to throat inflicted with some sharp instrument. Wilful murder against Robert William Thomas George Cavers Wood."

**Got something to say?**

**Got comments on a feature  
in this issue?**

**Or found new information?**

**Please send your comments  
to [contact@ripperologist.info](mailto:contact@ripperologist.info)**

All the news that's fit to print...

# I Beg to Report



Patricia Cornwell

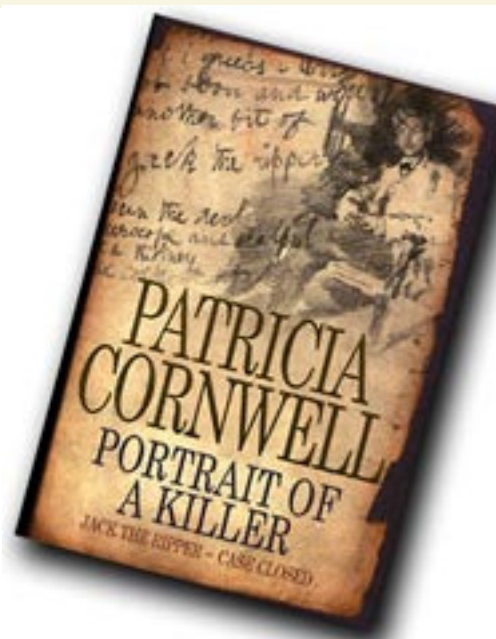
AN EVENING WITH PATRICIA CORNWELL. Around 100 people from all walks of life attended a fundraiser in aid of the Crime Museum on Friday, 16 November. The event, held at New Scotland Yard, was organised by curator Alan McCormick, Loretta Lay and Keith Skinner. Attendees included the Deputy Commissioner of the Met, Jeremy Beadle and Robin Odell, as well as the *Rip*'s Paul Begg, Wilf Gregg, and Adam Wood.

The Museum, the world's oldest of its kind, was opened in 1875 at the Black Museum and has welcomed guests as diverse as the Queen Mother, Harry Houdini, and Laurel and Hardy. In recent years, the Museum has been used primarily as a learning resource and crime archive, with the aim of educating officers in, for example, the use and identification of disguised weapons. The attendees, each paying a set fee, received dinner and a tour of the Museum, followed by a brief talk by Ms Cornwell about the value of the Crime Museum, followed by a lengthy question and answer session. This proved to be hugely entertaining, Ms Cornwell taking the opportunity to recount her first steps into writing, the current status

of research undertaken by Keith Skinner for the upcoming revised edition of her Ripper book *Portrait of a Killer*, and her admiration for the Museum and work carried out by Alan McCormick. In his thank you speech, Mr McCormick revealed that the sum raised - £10,000 - was swelled by a donation by Ms Cornwell of £20,000.

The funds will be used to purchase cabinets which will allow artefacts from the Museum to be displayed externally, meaning many more researchers and students will be able to view and learn from them. Finally, attendees were given a goodie bag to take home; inside were a DVD tour of the Museum, and a copy of Ms Cornwell's latest book, *Book of the Dead*, not only signed but also personalised by a fingerprint.

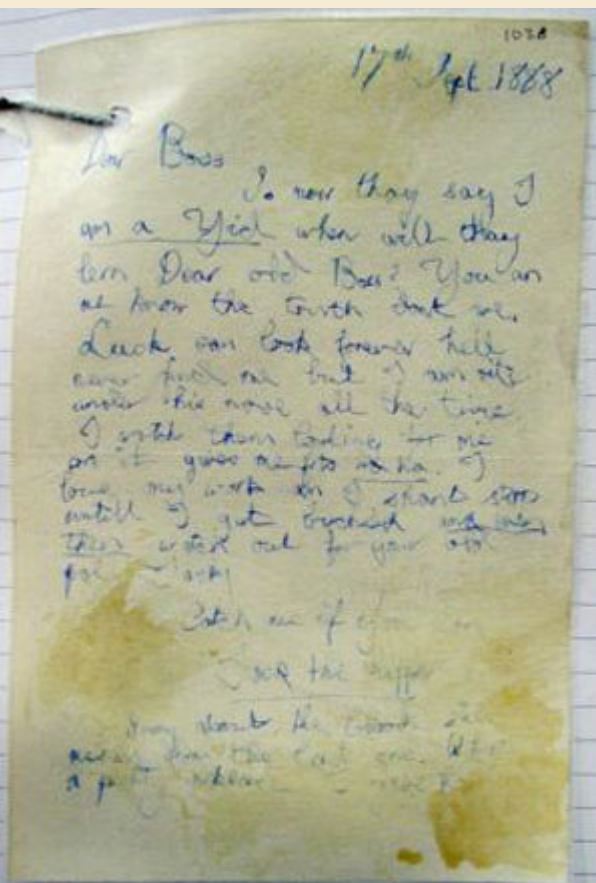
And the revised *Portrait of a Killer*? Ms Cornwell still firmly believes that Walter Sickert was Jack the Ripper, but acknowledges that she made mistakes and overestimations. One of the revisions to the book concerns the title, with no mention of 'Case Closed' because she says she now believes the case will never be closed. Incidentally, during the question and answer session, Ms Cornwell stressed several times that she has not damaged any Sickert painting, as has been alleged.



CORNWELL AND SKINNER INVESTIGATE 17 SEPTEMBER 1888 'RIPPER' LETTER. We have learned that Keith Skinner in his capacity as researcher for Patricia Cornwell's revised *Portrait of a Killer* has undertaken to test the controversial 17 September letter in the Home Office files at the National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office) to try to determine whether it is a modern hoax or an actual letter from 1888. The letter was discovered in file HO/221/A49301C by researcher Peter McClelland in 1988.

This letter was left out of the first edition of the seminal book on the 'Ripper' correspondence written by Mr Skinner along with Stewart P Evans, *Jack the Ripper: Letters from Hell* (Sutton, 2001). In a note that Mr Evans posted on 27 November on the 'Casebook: Jack the Ripper' message boards ([forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?t=4426&page=90](http://forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?t=4426&page=90)), he indicated that 'I have not heard anything about the tests being carried out but I understand that they are being funded by Patricia Cornwell and arranged by Keith Skinner.' In





the 17 September letter

a separate message, Mr Evans made it clear that he continues to be doubtful about the letter

([forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?t=4426&page=91](http://forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?t=4426&page=91)). Our understanding though is that Mr Skinner is more open-minded to the 17 September letter and that the authors may include it in the revised edition of *Letters from Hell* - a move that may be dependent of course on the results of the testing.

Expressing his continued skepticism about the letter, Mr Evans wrote:

'To believe in recent finds like the dreaded "Maybrick diary" and the "17 Sept 1888" letter, neither of which has good provenance nor proven history prior to 1988, requires a wonderful imagination and blind acceptance. Both, in my opinion, are modern productions and unsurprisingly came to light soon after the centenary of the murders. In the case of the letter that is under discussion here that belief requires, from internal content, acceptance that the writer was responsible for the four most famous historically alleged Ripper communications, i.e.

- '1. The "Dear Boss" letter, signed "Jack the Ripper" and dated 25 Sept 1888.
- '2. The "saucy Jacky" postcard, postmarked 1 Oct 1888.
- '3. The Lusk "From hell" letter received with the section of human kidney on 16 Oct 1888.
- '4. The "I'm not a Yid" anonymous poem received by Macnaghten c. June 1889.'

Evans added, 'I'm sorry I just don't buy it.' Previously in *Ripperologist* No. 16, Mr Evans had enumerated other reasons for doubting the letter, such as

that it lacks any official stamps. Mr Evans said, 'The file it was inserted into (presumably by someone wanting to make his own mark in the field, planting it to be found and assumed to be genuine) . . . is a Home Office file that contains no other letters. Also there is no covering report or official comment on it whatsoever. It was just inserted on its own.'

**SICKERT'S FISTULA.** In an article published in *The Times* of 15 November, titled 'A bit below the belt. Penile deformity caused the painter Walter Sickert's psychological problems,' Dr Thomas Stuttaford examined Patricia Cornwell's contention that her suspect, painter Walter Sickert, suffered from a penile fisula. Dr Stuttaford, the newspaper's medical expert and a former Conservative Member of Parliament, wrote, 'The pamphlet accompanying the current exhibition of Walter Sickert's Camden Town series of nudes, in Somerset House, London, has breathed life into the dying controversy about the true identity of Jack the Ripper.' [See separate article in this issue of the *Rip* for a report on the Somerset House exhibition.]

Dr Stuttaford stated: 'Sickert had a disturbed background, but the emotional problems that this could have induced were as nothing to the psychological trauma that a hopelessly deformed penis must have inflicted on him. The repetitive surgery at St Mark's Hospital - then, as now, a centre of excellence for below-the-belt operations - failed to correct his problems. The poor boy was only 3 when he first had surgery, and he endured three major operations before he was 5. Sickert's deformity is described as a fistula, a term meaning an abnormal passage either between two organs or from one organ to outside the body. Sickert suffered from hypospadias, a condition in which the meatus (opening) of the penis is not at its end but on its underside, somewhere between the tip and the perineum (the area between the base of the penis and the anus).'

The *Rip*'s own Chris George sent the following comment to *The Times*, which has been published: 'Your article dwells on Ms Cornwell's contention that Walter Sickert suffered from a penile fistula. She has absolutely no evidence of that and it is as likely that the fistula for which Sickert underwent surgery as a child was an anal fistula.'

[www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/health/article2870158.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/article2870158.ece)

DR TUMBLETY'S CANDIDACY DISCUSSED. In an interview on St Louis, Missouri, USA, television station KSDK, Missouri History Museum Librarian Emily Jacox has discussed the reasons why Dr Francis Tumblety should be considered as a strong suspect for Jack the Ripper. Her interview is based on the reasoning put forward in the book *The Lodger* (Century, 1995) aka *Jack the Ripper: First American Serial Killer* by Paul Gainey and Stewart P Evans (Kodansha International, 1998). Tumblety died in St Louis in May 1903 and during his career as a 'herb doctor' he was active in that city and many other cities across the United States as well as in England.

[www.ksdk.com/video/default.aspx?aid=62025](http://www.ksdk.com/video/default.aspx?aid=62025)

[www.ksdk.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=133443](http://www.ksdk.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=133443)



John Allen Muhammad

#### JUDGE COMPARES FEAR CAUSED BY DC AREA SNIPERS TO THE RIPPER'S REIGN OF TERROR.

In a written opinion on 4 November affirming the six murder convictions of Beltway sniper John Allen Muhammad a Maryland, USA, judge compared the October 2002 pall of fear in the Washington DC metro area cast by the snipers to that cast by Jack the Ripper in London in 1888. Maryland Court of Special Appeals Judge Charles E Moylan Jr said Muhammad, now age 46, and accomplice Lee Boyd Malvo, now 22, subjected the region to 'three weeks of inexpressible terror.' At the outset of the opinion, Moylan wrote that the fear that gripped the region in October 2002 was a 'fear as paralyzing as that which froze the London district of Whitechapel in 1888,' when five prostitutes were slain by a serial killer. At the end of the 152-page opinion, Moylan concluded, 'Jack the Ripper has never yet been brought to justice. The Beltway Snipers have been.'

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/05/AR2007110501535.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/05/AR2007110501535.html)

MICHAEL JACKSON AS 'JACK.' Pop star Michael Jackson will celebrate the upcoming 25th anniversary of his hit record 'Thriller' by releasing a special edition of the album. 'Thriller' holds the achievement of being world's best-selling album of all time. The updated version of Thriller, due out early next year, will feature four new songs and four remixed tracks. Music stars Kanye West, Will.i.am and Akon are said to be involved in the production of the reworked material. Our picture shows Jackson as a Jack the Ripper look-alike in a photoshoot for the US magazine *Ebony*.

[www.independent.ie/entertainment/music/jackos-thriller-for-new-generation-1212712.html](http://www.independent.ie/entertainment/music/jackos-thriller-for-new-generation-1212712.html)



JACK THE RIPPER PHOTO MYSTERY. A painting of the Ripper may appear in a period photograph of a building in Providence, Rhode Island, USA, according to Maureen A Taylor, a self-proclaimed 'photo detective' who is the author of *Picturing Rhode Island: Images of Everyday Life, 1850-2006* (Commonwealth Editions, 2007). 'One of my favorite photographs is on page 140,' Taylor said. 'It's a street scene in Providence, right? It was labeled in the Providence Public Library collection as "Burnett S W Bragunn's Curiosity Shop." The building, like many in South Main St., Providence, circa 1890, is no longer there. Now, what the heck is this building? What's the significance of it? It turns out, if you look very closely at it, you'll see a man painted on the second story. And if you blow this up, it's actually a picture of Jack the Ripper, with a bloody knife. That's about when Jack the Ripper was wandering around the streets of Whitechapel, killing prostitutes. South Main Street at this time was not a great neighborhood; perhaps that was a warning.'

[www.projo.com/books/content/artsun-taylor\\_11-04-07\\_AJ7MA79\\_v25.1cb30af.html](http://www.projo.com/books/content/artsun-taylor_11-04-07_AJ7MA79_v25.1cb30af.html)

NEW EDITION OF *ANATOMIE EINER LEGENDE* DUE. Thomas Schachner and Hendrik Püstow's *Jack the Ripper. Anatomie einer Legende*, the first modern book on the Whitechapel murders written in German by Germans, will appear in March 2008 in a revised, updated and much expanded edition. In her review of *Anatomie einer Legende*, published in *Ripperologist* No. 66 in April 2006, Michaela Koristová described it as 'a very readable, no-nonsense book whose nearly 300 pages are chock-full with facts.' She added: 'To whom can Jack the Ripper. *Anatomie einer Legende* be recommended? To every German-speaking reader who wants to venture deeper into the case and needs a comprehensive source for his further studies, or to any connoisseur interested in Jack the Ripper books and resources from non-English-speaking countries.'

[www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.1797882.0.it\\_will\\_be\\_all\\_fright\\_on\\_night\\_in\\_city.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.1797882.0.it_will_be_all_fright_on_night_in_city.php)

ANGEL ALLEY: NEW RIPPER PLAY. On October 31st Robert McLaughlin, *Rip* contributor and acclaimed author, attended *Angel Alley*, part of a double bill of short plays presented by the birds and stones theatre of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Robert's report of the show is as follows:

*Angel Alley* is a twenty-five minute play based on the chapbook of the same name by Vivian Hansen and adapted for the stage by her daughter Alexis Winning. It was directed by Anton deGroot and Emiko Muraki and featured Karen Garth, Jennifer Roberts and Ila Faye Turley. *Angel Alley* is not a typical Ripper themed piece of theatre but rather an appropriately creepy and evocative play for Halloween. It does not follow a traditional narrative. It focuses on mood rather than the characters or story.

The set and costumes were simple in the intimate venue. The actresses wore identical bone-coloured clothing that resembled Victorian undergarments with a thin red ribbon tied around each of their necks, which in these jaded times of endless gore on screen and television, was disturbing in its context. A few rocks adorned the bare stage. Wide red ribbons hung down along the back blacks as did a bonnet with long ribbons attached. The bonnet was stylishly used to wrap around and strangle Polly Nichols, creating the most memorable and powerful scene in the play.

The three actresses portrayed all of the roles from Tabram through to Kelly as well as slipping in and out of other characters. One of the most intriguing aspects was that Martha Tabram's story was mostly used to represent all of the victims' lives, and that the romanticisation of Mary Kelly portrayed in other plays and movies was absent here. Apart from Tabram, we are told almost nothing of the other victims' experiences. The story was performed through dialogue, dance and song. The three iconic letters (Dear Boss, Saucy Jack, From Hell) were recited through chant. A portion of McCormick's "Eight Little Whores" rhyme was used, as was some adapted text from Hansen's chapbook of poetry and prose. As expected "A Violet From Mother's Grave" was sung, both at the beginning and end of the play.

*Angel Alley* is a unique Ripper play but not an entirely satisfying theatrical experience. The directing and acting was fine, I was hoping for more depth and a stronger connection to the murdered women. The audience is not told enough about the lives of the victims, robbing them - and us - of some of their humanity, respect and dignity, and reducing the emotional impact of their deaths on stage. Those involved in the production must be cut some slack, as this was impossible to accomplish in a mere twenty-five minutes. *Angel Alley* was a terrific piece for Halloween but one that would

The cast of *Angel Alley*



need more development if restaged at some point in the future. I would personally like to see it taken further.

A special thanks to: curator Mark Hopkins, creator and performer of the other play on the bill, *Devil's Lane*, for graciously offering me access to all involved.

Only 100 copies of *Angel Alley* (2004) were printed. For those interested in obtaining a copy, send an email to Robert at [robert@ripperologist.com](mailto:robert@ripperologist.com) and your request will be forwarded to Vivian Hansen, who may have a few copies left.





*Bill the Cat. Courtesy of Dave Lee.*

## Obituary

### Billy Ten Bells, 1989-2007

John Malcolm reported on the 'Casebook: Jack the Ripper' message boards on 15 November, 'This past Sunday I received word that Bill the cat, resident of the Ten Bells for a number of years, had passed away last week in Wales at the age of 18. He lived the first 15+ years of his life shuffling between Spitalfields and Bethnal Green, spending the last 2+ in North Wales. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.' Mr Malcolm kindly sent us the following reminiscence about Bill, written by Bill's owner, Dave Lee, the former manager of the Ten Bells:

Bill was given to the Ten Bells in 1993. To those who frequented the pub during his stay, Bill was just as famous as the Ten Bells itself. One of Bill's claims to fame, he was filmed in a Jack the Ripper documentary that appeared on The Learning Channel. People would come to the pub and the first thing they would ask was 'Where's the cat?' He used to come down for his nightly brush, with the broom that we used to brush the floor.

Bill loved mice. When I had friends over he would bring me a present to show off; not content with that, he would continue to dissect the mouse then promptly leave the room. One night in the bar he found a mouse and played with it for five hours. He would pick it up then place it in the middle of the floor, lay down and place his paw on the mouse's tail, look the other way then take his paw off it, let the mouse run off and go and get it again. Hours of fun. . . when he had enough he would end the poor mouse's misery.

Bill used to roam the rooftops along Fournier Street and Commercial Street; he would go off for hours, sometimes being locked out all night. Always seemed to be on rainy nights.

One time we had a problem with a rat, which was nicking Bill's food. I spent ages trying to catch the rat - rat glue, traps etc. One day the rat got caught out in the open, then it ran under the oven. I called Bill down to the kitchen. He ran in and when I lifted the oven up he went straight under; I heard loads of squeaking. . . the rat managed to get away and under the floorboards again. The rat was caught in a trap a few days later.

Bill loved prawns - he would go crazy on them though. If he wanted more he would attack your ankles. After he ate them he would run around like a nutter for ages.

Bill moved to Bethnal Green in 2001. One night Bill sneaked out of the house. We could not find him for two days. Fearing the worst we set out to look for him. We walked down our road to find him sitting outside the wrong house waiting to be let in. Much to our relief.

Bill moved again, to North Wales, in 2004. We had a big garden with a massive field at the back, he never strayed that far. I don't think he was used to all the open space. He would still like a scrap - many times I saw him on the garage roof squaring up to the other cats and the odd squirrel. Sadly, Bill passed away in November 2007. He was the real Guv'nor of the Ten Bells.



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Hayne (W.J.) & Schachner (Thomas)	numbered, limited to 50 copies	£60
	Jack the Ripper. The Bloody Truth hb/dw	£45
Harris (Melvin)	The Complete Jack the Ripper p/b (revised/updated Penguin 2004)	
Rumbelow (Donald)	new signed label	£9





# Book Reviews

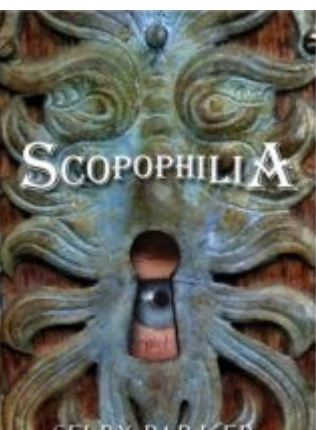
## Scopophilia

By Selby Parker  
PublishAmerica, Frederick, Md., (2006)  
253 pages  
\$21.95

The third novel by Selby Parker, *Socophila* is set in the present in the Deep South of the United States. Unfortunately, that is as close as the author gets to William Faulkner or even James Dickey. The reader does get plenty of plot for his money—Vietnam, the Mafia, pre-Castro Cuba, race relations in the Old and New South, a faked murder, the practice of psychiatry and even Jack the Ripper—but each element lies as separately and unappetizingly on the reader's plate as the portions dished out in a school cafeteria,

Of course, readers of this magazine will care most about the references to Jack the Ripper. The author provides his solution to the crimes via the visions under hypnosis of a troubled Vietnam veteran who takes on the persona of Prince Albert Victor. In that regard it is standard "Royal Conspiracy" fare, though to his credit Parker obviously did some research into Prince Eddy, J.K. Stephens and the Cleveland Street scandal.

Collectors of Ripper books, particularly those whose interest lies in fictional accounts, may want to add this book to their shelf. Otherwise, I cannot see much of a market for it among the readers of *Ripperologist*.



## THE PRINCE, HIS TUTOR AND THE RIPPER

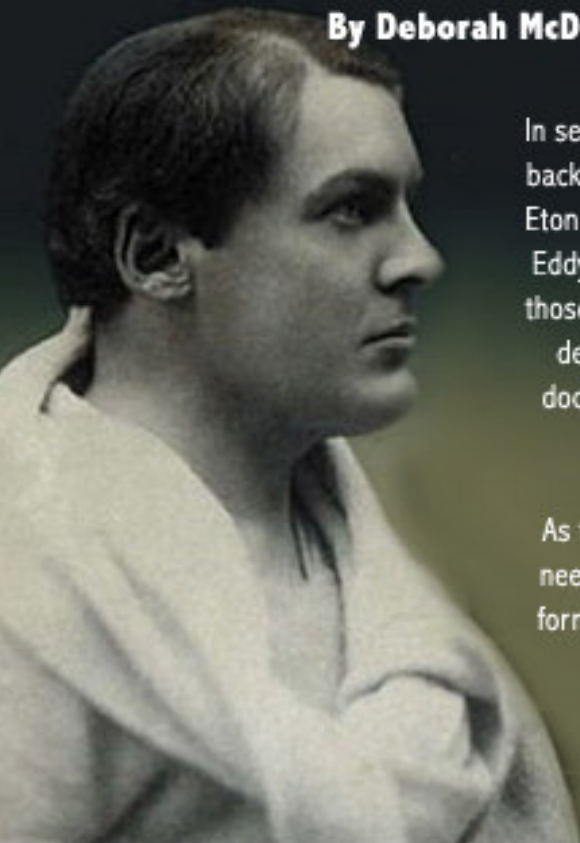
By Deborah McDonald

**One popular choice for the identity of Jack the Ripper is James Kenneth Stephen, tutor to Prince Eddy, the Duke of Clarence. Stephen superficially fits the profile investigators established, but was he really capable of such demented violence?**

In search of the answer, this volume takes an in-depth look at Stephen. Set against the background of 'Socratic Love', homosexuality and paedophilia prevalent at that time at Eton and Cambridge University, the primary focus is Stephen's relationship with Prince Eddy, who also became a suspect in the murders. How Stephen's life intertwined with those of the Prince and Montague Druitt is examined in detail, including examining the details of Druitt's mysterious death. Stephen's final surrender to mental illness is documented with the help of his mother's diary. There is much new material on both J K Stephen and Prince Eddy in this volume.

As the author and editor-in-chief of *Ripperologist*, Paul Begg, wrote, 'what has been needed for some time is a book that dispassionately looked at the evidence that has formed the cases against both men. And that is exactly what Deborah McDonald has done — and she has done it very well indeed'.

Available now on [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) and at all good bookshops.  
Contact the author at [dmcDonald@onwight.net](mailto:dmcDonald@onwight.net)



# On the Crimebeat

WILF GREGG looks at the new additions to the True Crime bookshelf

## NIGHTMARE IN THE SUN

Danny Collins

H/B, 286 pp., Illus. John Blake, £17.99

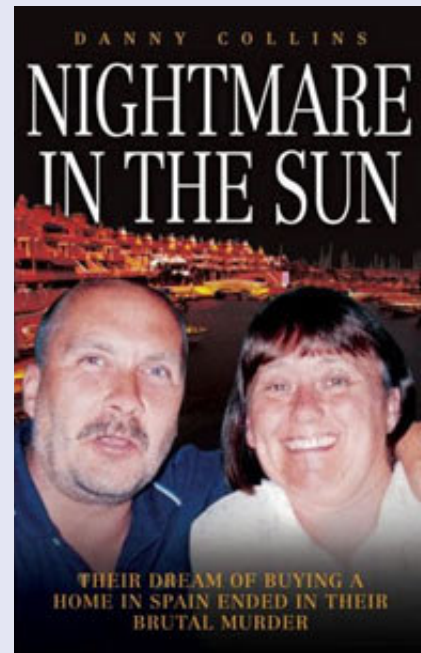
In September 2002 Anthony and Linda O'Malley flew from their home in North Wales to Spain with the objective of buying a home on the Costa Blanca for their eventual retirement. Within a few days of their arrival they vanished.

When family members were unable to contact them they went to the police at home in Wales, who set up a Missing Persons Inquiry with the Spanish authorities. It was soon established that large sums of money had been taken from the O'Malleys bank account, and purchases made using their credit cards. Six months after their disappearance, an emailed ransom demand signed Phoenix was received.

Danny Collins, a journalist in Spain, had followed the case from the beginning and actually found witnesses not interviewed by the police.

Eventually the investigation led to a villa where the bodies of the O'Malleys were found. They had been beaten, tortured and murdered. Two men from Venezuela were arrested and in 2006 found guilty and sentenced to long jail terms. Danny Collins makes a convincing case for the involvement of a third man.

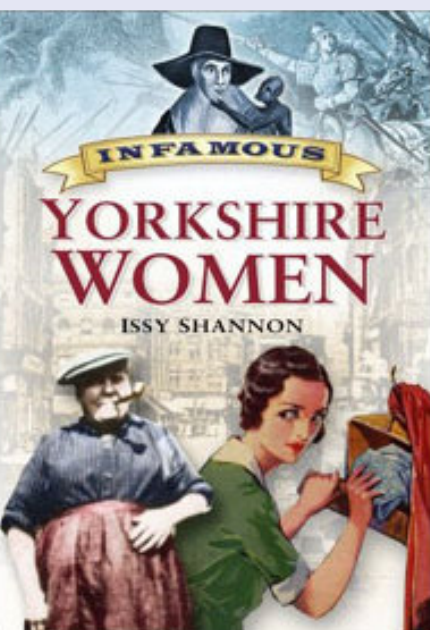
A meticulous account of a thoroughly nasty, but interesting, case.



## INFAMOUS YORKSHIRE WOMEN

Issy Shannon

S/B, 128 pp., Illus., Sutton Publishing, £12.99



An interesting collection of bad women from the white rose county starting with Cartimandua, the 5<sup>th</sup> Century Queen of the Bragantes, and ending with Ethel Major, who was convicted and executed in 1934 for the murder of her husband.

Well known cases include Mary Bateman, the Yorkshire Witch, whose skin flayed off her body following her execution in 1801 in order that portions could be sold to the public as souvenirs; Elizabeth Broadingham, burnt at the stake in 1776 for petit treason (the murder of her husband); and Louie Calvert who, while awaiting execution in 1926 for one murder, confessed to an earlier killing.

The book's strength is the inclusion of cases, which in many instances have seldom, or never before to my knowledge, been previously told. Many of these are very sad, such as young women convicted and executed for killing their illegitimate babies.

As usual from Sutton, a very good production. Recommended.





The 10th of November.  
New Lord Mayor of London David Lewis heads toward  
the Royal Exchange in his gilded carriage in 2007's ceremony.  
Photograph Adam Wood