

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

Ripperologist

No. 90

April 2008

Deconstructing Jack

SIMON WOOD on the
Killing of Polly Nichols

MIKE COVELL
with a look at the
Hull Ripper Craze

ROBERT MACKENSIE
asks if Dr Bond's
medical specialty
merits closer scrutiny

CHRIS GEORGE
on Mentor's Suspect
in Jack the Ripper
and the Jews

A RIPPER FARCE
by Alejandro Dolina,
translated by
EDUARDO ZINNA

WILF GREGG | JENNIFER PEGG
CHRIS SCOTT | DON SOUDEN

RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

Issue 90, April 2008

QUOTE FOR APRIL:

'In year 10 we're doing crime and punishment and Nazi Germany once a week. We are due to start Jack the Ripper for coursework.'

Secondary school student Alex, 15, in reply to a request by Institute of Education, University of London academics to write 'the story of British history in the past 2,000 years, giving the big picture of what was going on'. Guardian, London, UK, 15 April 2008.

Features

A Long Time Ago Indeed

Editorial By Don Souden

Deconstructing Jack: The Killing of Polly Nichols

By Simon D Wood

The Hull Ripper Craze

A look at Hull-based Ripper Crazes, 1888-1988

By Mike Covell

Dr Bond's Medical Speciality: does it merit closer scrutiny?

By Robert Mackensie

Jack the Ripper and the Jews: Mentor's Suspect

By Christopher T. George

Jack the Ripper: A Farce

By Alejandro Dolina

English version by Eduardo Zinna

Regulars

Whitechapel Times

Jennifer Pegg gives us a round up of some world events from April 1888

Press Trawl

Chris Scott returns with more from the news from the 19th century

News and Views

I Beg to Report

From Ripper Dance to the Devil in the Washington D.C

Book Review

Ripperologist looks at W. J. Fishman's new book, *Into the Abyss: The Life and Works of G. R. Sims*

Books

On the Crimebeat

Wilf Gregg reviews the latest additions to the True Crime bookshelf.

We would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance given by the following people in the production of this issue of *Ripperologist*: —
Melissa Garrett —Thank you!

The views, conclusions and opinions expressed in signed articles, essays, letters and other items published in *Ripperologist* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views, conclusions and opinions of *Ripperologist* or its editors. The views, conclusions and opinions expressed in unsigned articles, essays, news reports, reviews and other items published in *Ripperologist* are the responsibility of *Ripperologist* and its editorial team.

We occasionally use material we believe has been placed in the public domain. It is not always possible to identify and contact the copyright holder; if you claim ownership of something we have published we will be pleased to make a proper acknowledgement.

The contents of *Ripperologist* No. 90 April 2008, including the compilation of all materials and the unsigned articles, essays, news reports, reviews and other items are copyright © 2008 *Ripperologist*. The authors of signed articles, essays, letters, news reports, reviews and other items retain the copyright of their respective contributions. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted or otherwise circulated in any form or by any means, including digital, electronic, printed, mechanical, photocopying, recording or any other, without the prior permission in writing of *Ripperologist*. The unauthorised reproduction or circulation of this publication or any part thereof, whether for monetary gain or not, is strictly prohibited and may constitute copyright infringement as defined in domestic laws and international agreements and give rise to civil liability and criminal prosecution.

RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

PO Box 735, Maidstone, Kent, UK ME17 1JF. contact@ripperologist.info

Editorial Team

Editors

Christopher T George; Don Souden

Editors-at-Large

Paul Begg; Jane Coram; Adam Wood; Eduardo Zinna

Contributing Editors

Wilf Gregg; Jennifer Pegg; Chris Scott

Consultants

Stewart P. Evans; Loretta Lay
Donald Rumbelow; Stephen P Ryder

Subscriptions

Ripperologist is published monthly in electronic format. The cost is £12.00 for six issues. Cheques can only be accepted in £ sterling, made payable to *Ripperologist* and sent to the address above. The simplest and easiest way to subscribe is via PayPal - send to paypal@ripperologist.info

Back Issues

Single PDF files of issue 62 onwards are available at £2 each.

Advertising

Advertising in *Ripperologist* costs £50.00 for a full page and £25.00 for a half-page. All adverts are full colour and can include clickable links to your website or email.

Submissions

We welcome articles on any topic related to Jack the Ripper, the East End of London or Victoriana. Please send your submissions to contact@ripperologist.info. Thank you!

A Long Time Ago Indeed

EDITORIAL

By DON SOUDEN



This is the 120th year since the murders in London's East End that are generally ascribed to Jack the Ripper. It is also one of those round-number anniversaries so loved by the popular media and we can expect that as we draw closer to fall and the dates of the actual murders there will be increasing attention paid to them. Of course, historians for the most part do not accept the critical importance of such anniversaries (while nonetheless eagerly accepting book contracts generated by them) and would be more likely to point to the 1960s as a pivotal period, that being the time when the Ripper (whoever he was) could last be expected to be alive.

Still, these round-number anniversaries can be useful for renewing interest and there is now statistical evidence that the much-promoted centennial in the late 1980s brought a number of new Ripperologists into the field. And, with that in mind it occurred to me that 120 years is indeed a long time ago. Now that would seem a notion of the "bloody obvious" sort—except that I find it not so obvious at all to many in the field when it comes to attempts to unravel the events that occurred back then in the East End.

I would think that most people would have little difficulty wrestling with the idea that warfare in World War I is far different from that being waged in Iraq or Afghanistan at the moment—and the Great War ended thirty years almost to the day after Mary Jane Kelly was discovered dead in Miller's Court. Yet, while we have no difficulty accepting that World I (or even its World War II sequel) was not only a different era in terms of material but even in the meaning of terms like "nationalism," we too often fall into the trap of "modernism" while contemplating the Ripper murders by applying 21st century ideas and solutions.

Part of this is that, surrounded as we are with the fruits of modern technology, we have lost sight of what life was like so long ago. Thanks to the increasing availability of central heating (originally a gift to the Britons from the Romans) as well as just electric and gas fires, the mechanics of building and maintaining a fire in a fireplace has passed from modern memory. Or so it would seem from recent message board chatter. And, as the ubiquity of coal, wood and peat fires in the past is no longer part of our daily lives, we lose the sense that in the LVP they were so much a part of life as to generally go unremarked upon.

Even more than the differences in every day life is what Brandeis University history professor David Hackett Fischer once explained in his book *Historian's Fallacies*—that those in earlier eras not only lived lives far different from those we do, but that they actually thought differently than we do. Aspirations, expectations, worldview and even the meaning of words were all quite different. As an example, Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe is often heralded by freethinkers today as an atheist, yet it would gravely disappoint his latter-day champions to know that he almost assuredly believed in God. But, you see, people did think differently than we do now—and that applies to those who lived in the LVP as well and we need keep that fact in our 21st Century minds.

Of course, try as we might, we cannot truly go back in time and successfully think as those in bygone eras. A good example might be the reenactors at places like *Plimouth Plantation* in Massachusetts, USA. As deeply steeped in the history, social lore and artefacts of the colony in the 1620s as they may be, they can never recreate the mindset of those whom they impersonate. After all, just something as simple as cutting a leg with an axe means they will go immediately to hospital, have it cleaned, sutured and be given a tetanus shot. Not for them the fears of septic-poisoning death that would prey upon the mind of their 1625 counterpart.

Nonetheless, if we cannot perfectly recapture the past—technologically or theologically—it would behove us to try as best we can when next theorizing about Jack the Ripper. We ought at least stop and ask ourselves if we are not, perhaps, applying modern ideas to old problems. After all, 120 years ago is a long time ago. Consider that 120 years before Jack, 1768, the United States of America was not yet a gleam in the eyes of the young John Adams or Thomas Jefferson. Now that is a long time ago.

Deconstructing Jack: The Killing of Polly Nichols

By SIMON D WOOD

On 19 September 1888, Inspector Frederick George Abberline of the Criminal Investigation Department, Metropolitan Police, London, wrote and signed a report whose subject he gave as *Murders in Whitechapel*. He began this report as follows:

'With reference to the subject named in the margin, I beg to report that about 3.40 am Aug 31st Ult, as Charles Cross, Carman, of 22 Doveton Street, Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green was passing through Bucks Row Whitechapel (on his way to work) he noticed a woman lying on her back on the footway (against some gates leading into a stable yard)...

The woman was Mary Ann 'Polly' Nichols, a 43-year-old prostitute generally regarded as the first victim of Jack the Ripper. She was already dead when Charles Cross saw her.

Five minutes later, at 3.45 am, Police Constable 97J John Neil came across the body as he walked his beat. The woman had not been there when he had last passed the spot at 3.15 am. The narrow stretch of footway outside the locked gates of Mr Brown's stable yard in Bucks Row, 130 yards from Brady Street to the east and 230 yards from Bakers Row to the west, was an odd choice of murder venue. How did Polly get there?

At 1.20, Polly was in the kitchen of a lodging house at 18 Thrawl Street. Between that time and 1.40 am, or 2.00 am according to Abberline's report, where she is described as being 'worse for drink', she was told by the deputy of the lodg-

Contemporary newspaper sketch showing 'Polly' Nichols outside the lodging house in Thrawl Street



ing house that if she had no money for a bed she would have to leave. Some fifty minutes later, at 2.30 am, her friend Emily Holland saw her, still 'very drunk', at the corner of Osborn Street and Whitechapel Road – just 300 yards from Thrawl Street. Where Polly was during this time is not known. After a brief conversation, she left her friend and headed east in the general direction of Whitechapel Station and Buck's Row. It was the last time anybody saw her alive - with the exception of her killer.

Polly's destination was only half a mile away. The walk would have taken her ten, possibly fifteen minutes; twenty at the outside. Assuming that she didn't stop off *en route*, this puts the time of her arrival in the area of Whitechapel Station and Buck's Row at somewhere between 2.40 and 2.50 am; fifty minutes to an hour before her body was discovered.

Dr Rees Ralph Llewellyn was the first physician to examine Polly Nichols's body. He arrived in Buck's Row shortly after 4.00 am and determined that she had been dead for only about half an hour. If his estimation of her time of death was accurate, it put her murder only minutes before the discovery of her body by Charles Cross at 3.40 am. She must have been somewhere between the time when she



PC Neil discovering the body of Mary Ann Nichols.
Contemporary newspaper sketch

parted company with Emily Holland and the time when Charles Cross found her dead. We shall endeavour to account for her movements before her death.

It is generally accepted that during this period of time Polly's killer targeted her as a victim, moved in to win her confidence and walked with her to the gates of Mr Brown's stable yard where he slit her throat and started to disembowel her. If Polly and her murderer met in Brady Street, they might have walked up Buck's Row, passing a score or more houses along the way. Alternatively, they might have walked up Winthrop Street, passing a slaughterhouse and the sewage works behind the Working Lads' Institute guarded by night watchman Patrick Mulshaw, and continued round the Board School. Perhaps they came from the opposite direction: Thomas Street, Court Street, Woods Buildings, Queen Ann Street or Bakers Row. But from whichever direction they came, the locked gates of Mr Brown's stables were their final destination.

A Thoroughfare for Immoral Purposes?

How could Polly and her murderer have arrived at this location without attracting the notice or arousing the suspicions of the local people? A possible clue is contained in Inspector Abberline's report of 19 September:

'Bucks Row is a narrow quiet thoroughfare frequented by prostitutes for immoral purposes at night ...'

Perhaps the locals had become so inured to the sight of prostitutes and their clients that they simply took no notice.

Furthermore, Abberline's assertion suggests a logical reason for Polly being in Buck's Row, namely, that it was a good spot for business, a place where she could quickly earn her lodging money. Yet there is little to support the idea. Many writers had described parts of Whitechapel as little short of Hell's waiting room, but a week after Polly's murder two reporters from the *Evening News* spent the morning hours, from 1.00 to 11.00 am, watching Buck's Row.

*'[It] is in every sense thoroughly respectable, every tenant being an old inhabitant, and of good class. In addition to well-to-do artisans, the row contains a mission hall, the factory of Messrs. Schneider and Sons, and the factories and warehouses of Messrs. Torr, and Browne and Eagle, together with the private residence of the Rev. Henry North Hall, the curate of St. Mary, Whitechapel.'*¹

But if Buck's Row was such a thoroughly respectable area, why was Polly soliciting there? Well, maybe she wasn't.

At first, Dr Llewellyn thought she had been murdered elsewhere and her body dumped by the gates, but the police 'considered it unlikely that the woman could have entered a house, been murdered, and removed to Buck's-row within a period of one hour and a quarter.'² Why the police thought this unlikely was never explained. On the face of it, there was no evidence to support Dr Llewellyn's theory. Some bloodstains found in Brady Street caused great excitement in the press, but there were no bloodstains in Buck's Row leading to the gates. Nor were there any fresh wheel tracks in the road to suggest she might have been transported by pony and trap - or something a little more ornate, such as Sir William Gull's renowned private horse-drawn *abattoir*. There had to be another explanation.

¹ *Evening News*, 7 September 1888.

² *The Times*, 3 September 1888

Birth of the Idea of a Phantom Killer

Although no significant quantities of blood were found in and about the immediate area, and two Buck's Row residents living within twenty feet of the body testified that they had heard no sounds of a struggle, Inspectors Abberline and Helson soon reached their official conclusion. On 7 September, Inspector Helson wrote in his official report:

'Examination leaves no doubt but that the murder was committed where the body was found, careful search was continued with a view to find any weapon that was used by the murder[er] or murderers (in all probability there was only one) but nothing has been found.'

However, not everyone agreed with the official police conclusion. The *Evening News* reporters had also been watching Winthrop Street. It ran almost parallel to Bucks Row on the other side of the Board School, and was described as '...very narrow and very dark, and tenanted by many of the worst characters in London, and there seems to be no doubt whatever that the murder was committed there, and the body brought round the corner and left a few yards up Buck's-row.'³

What evidence was there to support such an idea? The *Evening News* article continued:

'The extensive nature of the injuries and the absence of blood in Buck's-row, as proved by the police, also goes to show that the murder was not committed there, and if this be so there was probably a second party cognizant of the murder, if not a participator in it.'

It sounds perfectly logical. Surely the police had thoroughly investigated this scenario before promoting their unlikely idea of a phantom killer? Not so. Exactly a week after Polly's murder, on the same day Inspector Helson was penning his report, the *Evening News* article was able to state confidently that '...a thorough search of the houses in Winthrop-street has not been made by the police yet, and there is good reason to believe that had this been done at the outset a clue to the murder and the actual spot where it took place would have been discovered.'

As rumours of a maniac stalking Whitechapel began to gain currency and suspicion fell on someone known only as 'Leather Apron', the police remained impervious to press criticism of its investigation and observed a steadfast silence. Indeed, they later took matters a stage further. The *Star* reported on 10 September that on the day of Annie Chapman's murder '[the police] shut the reporters out of the mortuary; they shut them out of the house where the murder was done; the constable at the mortuary door lied to them; some of the inspectors at the offices seemed to wilfully mislead them; they denied information which would have done no harm to make public, and the withholding of which only tended to increase the public uneasiness over the affair.'

Police reticence, which was to become a hallmark of the 'Ripper' investigation, began with Polly's murder. Her death became immediately linked to the earlier deaths of Emma Smith and Martha Tabram. Suddenly and unaccountably, Polly was elevated to victim number three of the same murderous hand; a notion the police would ultimately disavow, but not before the myth was born of the swift, silent Whitechapel Murderer, who would later be dubbed 'Jack the Ripper'.

Polly Nichols Murder Timeline

What follows is an examination of the events on the morning of 31 August 1888 in chronological sequence. The original inquest transcripts are lost to us, so in the main I have used reports from *The Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*, which are the most reliable accounts of the proceedings. I have also drawn on other newspaper accounts for incidental detail, as well as on the reports of Inspector Abberline and Chief Inspector Swanson.

The first person to discover Polly Nichols's body was Charles Cross. The time was 'about 3.40 am', as recorded at the inquest and in Inspector Abberline's report of 19 September. Next on the scene was Robert Paul. The first account of his version of events appeared in *Lloyd's Weekly News*, Sunday, 2 September. Whilst on his way home from work later in the day of Polly's murder, he was button-holed by a reporter. With events still fresh in his mind, Paul told *Lloyd's Weekly News* the following story:

3 *Evening News*, 7 September 1888.



Witnesses at the inquest of Mary Ann Nichols

'It was exactly a quarter to four when I passed up Buck's-row to my work as a carman for Covent-garden market. It was dark, and I was hurrying along, when I saw a man standing where the woman was. He came a little towards me, but as I knew the dangerous character of the locality I tried to give him a wide berth. Few people like to come up and down here without being on their guard, for there are such terrible gangs about. There have been many knocked down and robbed at that spot. The man, however, came towards me and said, "Come and look at this woman." I went and found the woman lying on her back. I laid hold of her wrist and found that she was dead and the hands cold. It was too dark to see the blood about her. I thought that she had been outraged, and had died in the struggle.

'I was obliged to be punctual at my work, so I went on and told the other man I would send the first policeman I saw. I saw one in Church-row, just at the top of Buck's-row, who was going round calling people up, and I told him what I had seen, and I asked him to come, but he did not say whether he should come or not. He continued calling the people up, which I thought was a great shame, after I had told him the woman was dead.

'The woman was so cold that she must have been dead some time, and either she had been lying there, left to die, or she must have been murdered somewhere else and carried there. If she had been lying there long enough to get so cold as she was when I saw her, it shows that no policeman on the beat had been down there for a long time. If a policeman had been there he must have seen her, for she was plain enough to see. Her bonnet was lying about two feet from her head.'

The following day, Monday, 3 September, Charles Cross gave evidence at the first full day of the Nichols's inquest, at which he described finding the body and his subsequent encounter with Robert Paul, whom he first noticed about 'forty yards away'.

Together they viewed Polly's body. Cross thought she was dead, but Paul thought he could discern faint breathing. Just then they heard a policeman coming. Cross did not notice that her throat was cut, the night being very dark. He and Paul left the deceased, and in Baker's-row they met PC 55H Mizen, whom they informed that they had seen a woman lying in Buck's-row. Cross said to PC Mizen, 'She looks to me to be either dead or drunk; but for my part I think she is dead.' PC Mizen said, 'All right,' and then walked on.

When the inquest resumed a fortnight later, on Monday 17 September, Paul was called to give evidence. But this time the story he had told *Lloyds Weekly News* on September 2 underwent a subtle change. He had first said that he had '(laid) hold of her wrist and (found) that she was dead and the hands cold.' The reports on the inquest published in the press told a different story.

Officials at the inquest of Mary Ann Nichols from the Illustrated Police News

The Times said:

*'He felt her hands and face, and they were cold. He knelt down to see if he could hear her breathe, but could not, and he thought she was dead . . . They looked to see if there was a constable, but one was not to be seen. While he was pulling the clothes down he touched the breast, and then fancied he felt a slight movement.'*⁴



⁴ *The Times*, 18 September 1888.



Newspaper sketch of the murder site

The *Daily Telegraph* added:

*'The clothes were disarranged, and he helped to pull them down. Before he did so he detected a slight movement as of breathing, but very faint.'*⁵

Part of Paul's original story to *Lloyds Weekly News* had been as follows:

'The woman was so cold that she must have been dead some time, and either she had been lying there, left to die, or she must have been murdered somewhere else and carried there. . .'

But he didn't mention this at the inquest. Furthermore, in replying to a question from Coroner Wynne E Baxter, Paul's *Lloyd's Weekly News* story took another turn. He had originally said he had gone on his own in search of a policeman:

'I was obliged to be punctual at my work, so I went on and told the other man I would send the first policeman I saw. I saw one in Church-row, just at the top of Buck's-row...'

Now he was reported as saying:

*'The morning was rather a chilly one. He and the other man (Cross) walked on together until they met a policeman at the corner of Old Montague Street, and told him what they had seen. Up to that time not more than four minutes had elapsed from the time he saw the body. He had not met anyone before he reached Buck's Row, and did not see anyone running away.'*⁶

Robert Paul left his home at 30 Foster Street 'at about a quarter to four', according to his inquest testimony as reported on *The Times* on 18 September. The corner of Foster Street and Bath Street was about 200 yards in an almost straight line from where Nichols's body was found. Paul had told *Lloyd's Weekly News* on 2 September:

'It was exactly a quarter to four when I passed up Buck's-row.'

If Paul's timing is correct, by the time he arrived on the scene Charles Cross had been standing over Polly Nichols's body for a good two to three minutes.

Cross said that whilst viewing Polly's body they 'heard a policeman coming,'⁷ but instead of waiting for him to arrive the two men went off in search of a policeman. They found PC Mizen 55H about 300 yards away at the corner of Bakers Row and Old Montague Street, by which time 'not more than four minutes had elapsed from the time he [Paul] saw the body.'⁸

PC Mizen 55H put the time of his encounter with Cross and Paul at about 3.45 am. Cross said to him, "You are wanted in Buck's row by a policeman; a woman is lying there." The witness went to Buck's row, where Police Constable Neil sent him for the ambulance. At that time nobody but Neil was with the body.'⁹

The timing of events was not lost on the coroner. Wynne E Baxter asked if Cross had seen PC Neil in Bucks Row.

*"No, sir," said Cross. "I saw no one after leaving home, except the man that overtook me [Paul], the constable in Baker's Row, and the deceased. There was nobody in Buck's row when we left.'"*¹⁰

The jury, too, sought clarification of events. They asked Cross: 'Did you tell Constable Mizen that another constable wanted him in Buck's-row?'

5 *Daily Telegraph*, 18 September 1888

6 *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

7 *The Times*, 3 September 1888

8 *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

9 *The Times*, 17 September 1888.

10 *The Times*, 3 September 1888.

'No,' replied Cross, 'because I did not see a policeman in Buck's Row.'

By their own testimonies, Cross, Paul and PC Neil were in the vicinity of Great Eastern Square and Buck's Row at the same time. PC 96J John Thain, who was on the adjoining beat in Brady Street, confirmed the time at which he was signalled by PC Neil as 3.45 am. While looking at Polly's body, Cross had 'heard a policeman coming.' 'Coming' implies approaching. As PC Thain was 150 yards away in Brady Street at the time, it could only have been PC Neil whom Cross heard. But Cross denied seeing PC Neil in Buck's Row, and before the inquest opened PC Neil had denied 'being called to the body by two men.' But how could they not have seen one another?

PC Neil's Beat

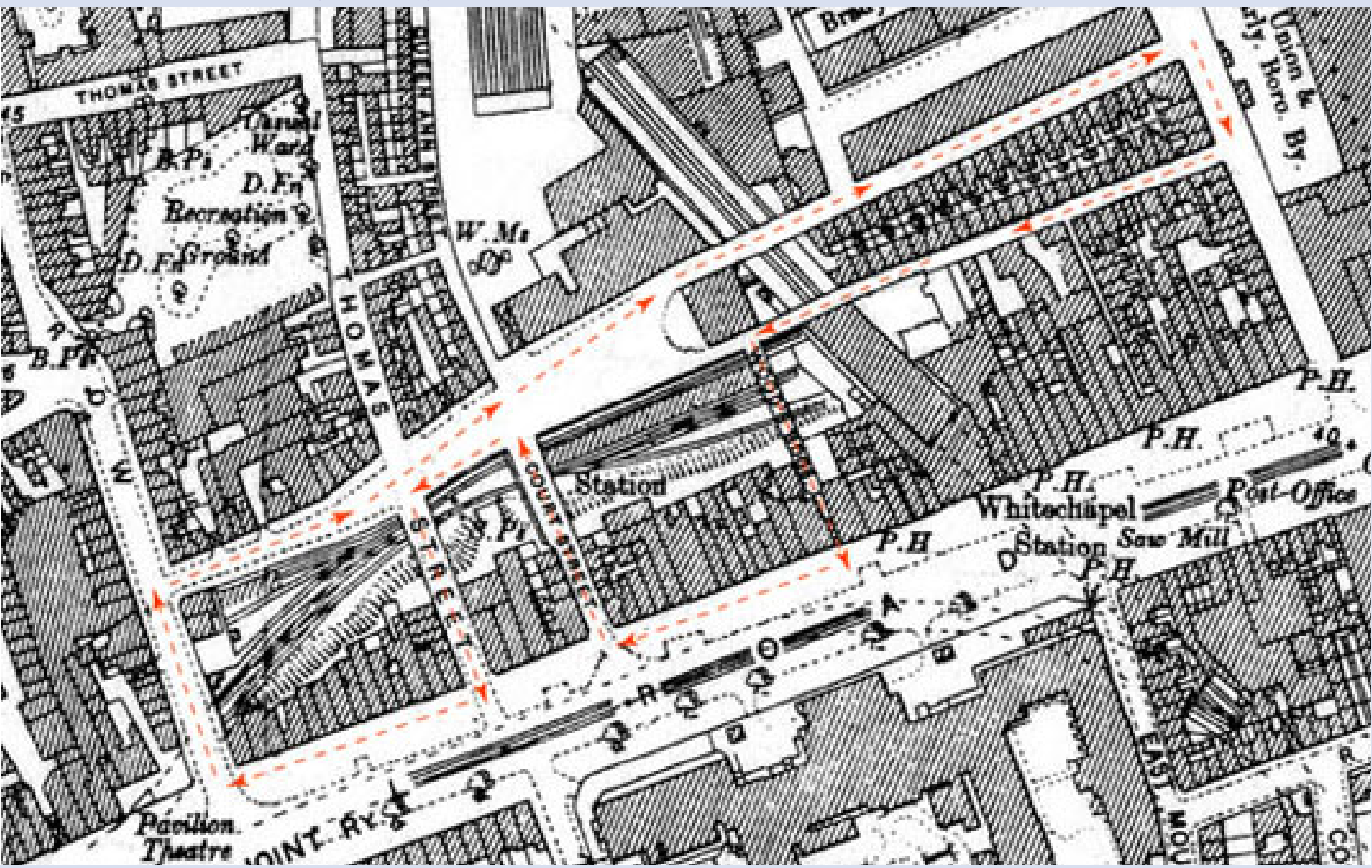
At this point it is worth examining PC Neil's beat to see where he was in the moments leading up to 3.45 am. Inquest testimony and an accompanying report in *The Times*, 1 September, gave a few facts about PC Neil's beat. It wasn't very long, and could be quickly walked in twelve minutes. It took in Buck's Row and Winthrop Street. PC Neil approached Buck's Row from the direction of Thomas Street. The furthest point on his beat from Mr Brown's stables was the corner of Bakers Row and the Whitechapel Road.

The beat shown below is by no means definitive, but it is short, satisfies the few facts at our disposal and takes in the streets between Buck's Row and the Whitechapel Road.

In 1888 Metropolitan Police beats were worked at a regulation rate of two and a half miles per hour (73.3 yards per minute). By day the constable walked the kerb side of the pavement and by night the inner side. PC Neil's beat as shown above was just over 1000 yards, which, with no interruptions along the way, he could have walked in fourteen minutes. But add in extra time for routine duties such as checking locks, turncocks and empty houses, plus unexpected incidents, and we get closer to PC Neil's intimation that his beat took 30 minutes to complete. He had passed Mr Brown's stable gates at both 3.15 and 3.45 am.

It was forty-five yards from the front of the Board School to the gates of Mr Brown's stables, a distance that would

PC Neil's beat on the night of 31st August 1888?



have taken PC Neil thirty-six seconds to walk. Allowing him a mere twenty-four seconds to examine Polly's body before signalling PC Thain at 3.45 am, puts him by the Board School at 3.44 am; a full minute before Robert Paul walked up Buck's Row. At that time, Charles Cross was standing by Polly's body.

So, taking a snapshot of 3.45 am *according to official testimony*, we find: Robert Paul walking up Buck's Row on his way to work; Charles Cross standing by Polly's body; PC Neil discovering Polly's body; PC Thain being signalled by PC Neil; and PC Mizen encountering Cross and Paul 300 yards away at the corner of Bakers Row and Old Montague Street. Something is clearly wrong with this scenario.

On 3 September, *The Times* reported that PC Neil 'came upon it [the body] as he walked, and flashing his lantern to examine it, he was answered by the lights from two other constables at either end of the street. These officers had seen no man leaving the spot to attract attention, and the mystery is most complete'. According to Inquest testimony reported in *The Times* on the same date, 'Witness [PC Neil] then heard a constable [PC Thain] passing Brady-street, and he called to him. Witness said to him "Run at once for Dr Llewellyn". Seeing another constable [PC Mizen] in Baker's-row, witness dispatched him for the ambulance.'

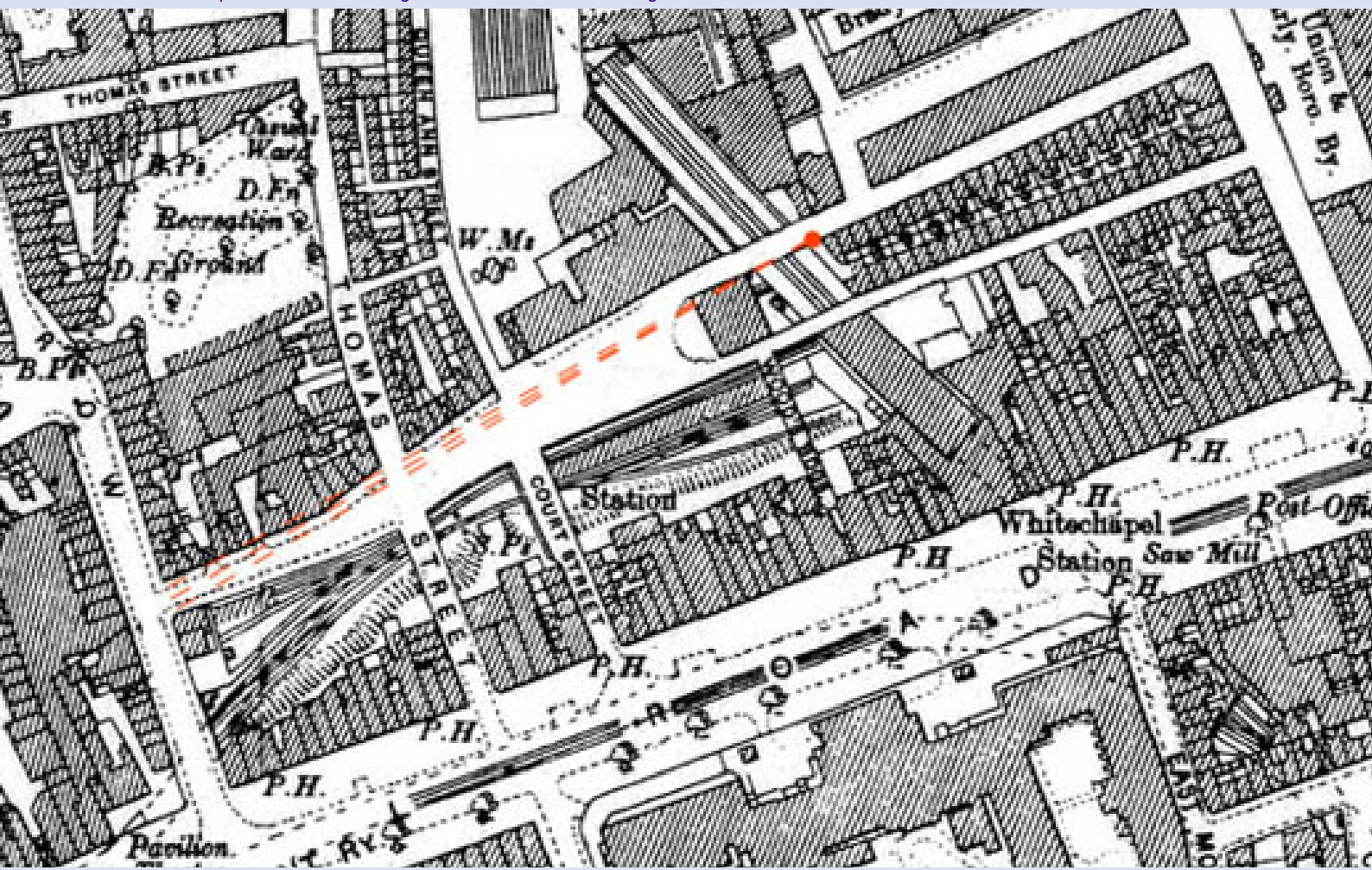
Although the two accounts are similar, here we encounter a problem with PC Neil's testimony. From where Polly's body lay outside the gates of Mr Brown's stable yard, there was no line of sight to Bakers Row. PC Neil could neither have seen nor signalled PC Mizen. The north-west side of the Board School was in the way. This can be seen on the 1894 OS map below.

By the same token, PC Mizen, who was 230 yards away in Baker's Row, could have neither seen nor signalled PC Neil. But PC Mizen didn't need a signal. He was on his way to Buck's Row to lend assistance to a fellow officer. He already knew a woman had been found. How? Because Cross had told him, "You are wanted in Buck's row by a policeman; a woman is lying there." PC Mizen [then] went to Buck's-row, where Police constable Neil sent him for the ambulance. At that time nobody but Neil was with the body.'¹¹

¹¹ *The Times*, 17 September 1888].

¹² *The Times*, 1 September 1888.

1894 OS Map of Buck's Row showing PC Neil's field of vision looking towards Baker's Row



But Charles Cross denied saying this to PC Mizen. Cross and Paul also denied having seen a policeman other than PC Mizen, and PC Neil denied having been alerted to the body of Polly Nichols 'by two men.'¹²

Next onto the scene was Dr Llewellyn. Awakened at 3.55 am by PC Thain, he arrived at Buck's Row in time to declare that Polly Nichols had been dead for only about half an hour. This put the time of her death just minutes before the discovery of her body by Charles Cross. And it put the time of Dr Llewellyn's examination at about 4.10 am.

When PC Thain returned to Buck's Row with Dr Llewellyn he found PC Neil standing by Polly Nichols's body in the company of two workmen. He didn't know who they were. But PC Neil did.

According to PC Neil's inquest testimony on 1st September, 'The first persons who arrived on the spot after he discovered the body were two men who worked at a slaughterhouse opposite. They stated that they knew nothing of the affair, nor had they heard any screams.'

This begs the question: If the two slaughtermen knew nothing of the affair, nor heard any screams, how did they learn of the murder?

PC Thain's Cape

One of the slaughtermen, Henry Tomkins, testified at the inquest on 3 September that:

'A constable [PC Thain] told them of the finding of the murdered woman, and they went to look at her. . . The constable was at the slaughterhouse at about quarter past 4 [4.15 am], when he called for his cape. It was then that they heard of the murder.'

The inquest jury were curious about PC Thain's cape, which had been left at the premises of Harrison Barber & Co. Ltd, Horse Slaughterers, at Winthrop Street, behind Buck's Row. In reply to a juryman's question, PC Thain said that 'He did not take his cape to the slaughterers, but sent it by a brother constable. When he was sent for the doctor he did not first go to the horse-slaughterers and say that as a murder had been committed he had better fetch his cape. He was not supposed to leave his beat.'¹³ Who was the 'brother constable' who took PC Thain's cape to the slaughterhouse? It could only have been PC Neil, whose beat included Winthrop Street. We know this because on the first day of the inquest he stated that 'he had previously seen the [slaughter] men at work. That would be at a quarter past 3 [3.15 am], or half an hour before he found the body.'¹⁴ Bear in mind that 3.15 am is the time at which PC Neil said he had last passed the spot where Polly's body was later found.

Slaughterman Henry Tomkins testified that 'On Friday morning he left off work at 20 minutes past 4 [4.20 am] and went for a walk. It was their rule to go home when they did so, but they did not do so that morning. A constable told them of finding the murdered woman, and they went to look at her.' He also said that 'At times women came to the place, but none came that night.'

The coroner asked 'Are there any women about there?' to which Tomkins replied, 'Oh! I know nothing about them, I don't like 'em.' The Coroner said, 'I did not ask you whether you like them; I ask you whether there were any about that night.' Tomkins replied, 'I did not see any.'

'When Henry Tomkins arrived in Buck's-row the doctor and two or three policemen were there. He believed that two other men, whom he did not know, were also there. He waited till the body was taken away, previous to which about a dozen men came up. He heard no statement as to how the deceased came to be in Buck's-row.'

PC Neil had earlier said that 'The first persons who arrived on the spot [the murder scene] after he discovered the body were two men who worked at a slaughterhouse opposite' [in Winthrop Street].¹⁵ PC Neil's and Henry Tomkins' accounts contradict each other. If we were to combine them, we would find that two slaughtermen from Harrison Barber & Co. Ltd had arrived in Buck's Row before the doctor but the doctor and two or three policemen had arrived before the slaughtermen. This is clearly impossible.

¹³ *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

¹⁴ *The Times*, 3 September 1888.

¹⁵ *The Times*, 3 September 1888.

Patrick Mulshaw, the night watchman at the 'sewage works' in Winthrop Street, saw and heard nothing suspicious that morning. He stated at the inquest that 'He did not often see the police there. During the night he saw two constables, including Constable Neil, but was unable to say at what time he saw him.'¹⁶ Since we have established that Winthrop Street was on PC Neil's beat, Mulshaw should have seen him every time he walked past, approximately once every half-hour.

PC Thain could only have recovered his cape from the slaughterhouse at 4.15 am and told of the murder after having delivered Dr Llewellyn to Buck's Row. But by this time the slaughtermen already knew. So was PC Thain the second policeman Mulshaw saw? PC Thain's quickest way to the slaughterhouse was round the Board School and into Winthrop Street, returning via the same route to Buck's Row where he stayed at the murder scene until Inspector Spratling arrived.

If this 4.15 am 'cape' scenario was true, then PC Thain passed the rear of the Working Lad's Institute in Winthrop Street and saw Mulshaw the night watchman on two occasions. It is inconceivable that he would not have questioned him: here was a possible witness to suspicious goings-on positioned only thirty yards in a straight line from the murder scene. Yet, according to the official record, no such questioning took place.

Mulshaw didn't report being questioned by PC Thain or seeing the slaughtermen who finished work at 4.20 am and would have walked right past him on their way to see Polly's body in Buck's Row. The first Mulshaw knew of the murder was twenty five minutes after PC Thain allegedly recovered his cape, when at about 4.40 am an unknown man passed by and said, 'Watchman, old man, I believe somebody is murdered down the street.'¹⁷

*'Mulshaw then went to Buck's Row, and saw the body of deceased lying on the ground. Three or four policemen and five or six working men were there.'*¹⁸

But was Henry Tomkins's story of PC Thain collecting his cape at 4.15 am true?

PC Thain admitted going to the slaughterhouse to collect his cape:

*'When I went to the horse-slaughterer's for my cape I did not say that I was going to fetch a doctor, as a murder had been committed...'*¹⁹

PC Thain's denial made sense, because by 4.15 am he had already fetched the doctor. However, he was neither asked, nor did he offer, to confirm the time of this incident.

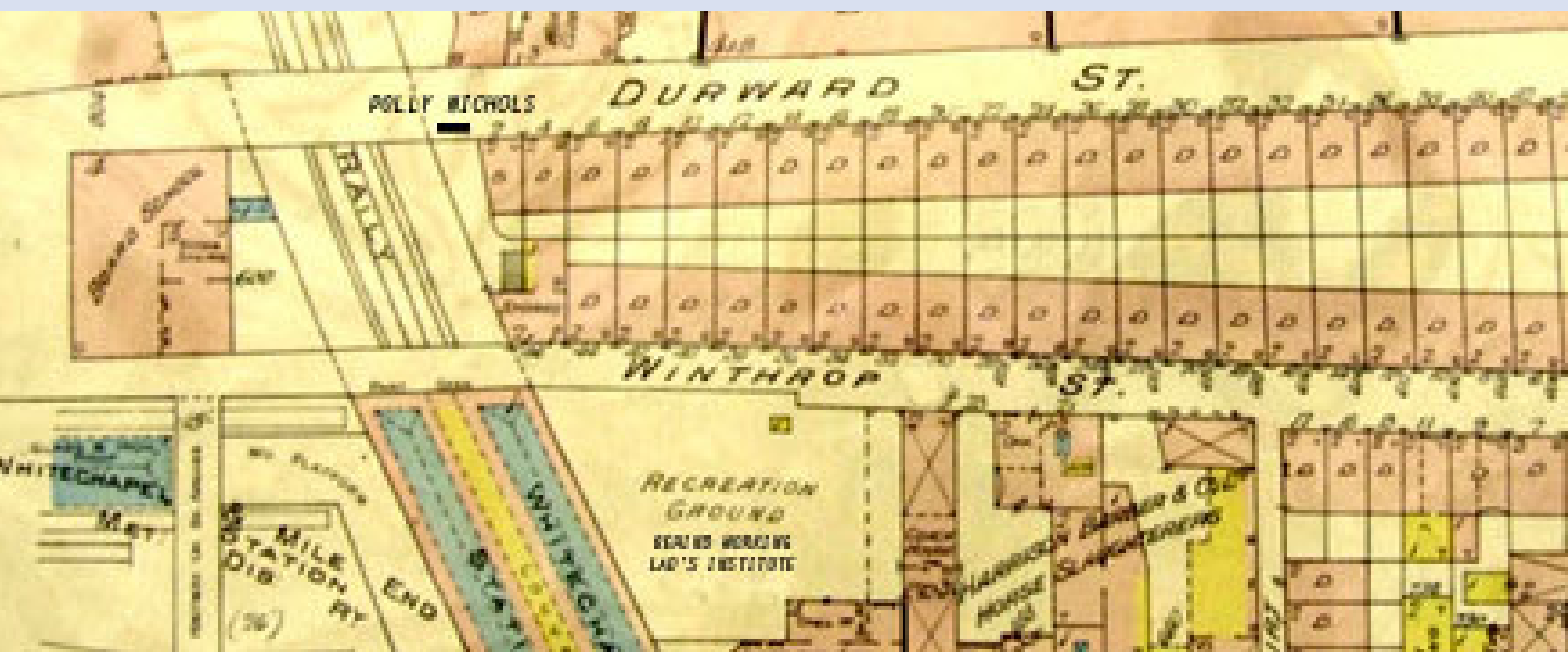
16 *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

17 *Illustrated Police News*, 22 September 1888

18 *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

19 *Daily Telegraph*, 18 September 1888].

Map showing the position of Winthrop Street in relation to Buck's Row (Durward Street).



The map below shows the relative positions of Polly Nichols' body [marked red] and Dr Llewellyn's surgery at 152 Whitechapel Road [marked green], two doors west of the Queen's Head public house on the corner of Brady Street.

On 1 September, *The Times* estimated that 'Dr. Llewellyn's surgery is not above 300 yards from the spot where the woman lay.' At the regulation pace of two-and-a-half miles per hour (73.3 yards per minute) PC Thain would have reached Dr. Llewellyn's surgery in a fraction over four minutes. At a brisk stride of four miles-per-hour, or 117 yards per minute, he would have done it in two-and-a-half minutes. But PC Thain had been told by PC Neil to 'run at once for Dr. Llewellyn.' Indeed, according to Inquest testimony²⁰ 'Witness [PC Thain] ran for the doctor...' At a run – possibly six-miles-per-hour (176 yards per minute) – he would have covered the distance in about one minute and forty five seconds.

Let's allow PC Thain three minutes to reach the doctor's surgery. Working backwards from his arrival at 152 Whitechapel Road at 3.55 am has him leaving Buck's Row at 3.52 am—around seven minutes after PC Neil's discovery of the body. But by the time PC Mizen arrived from Bakers Row (230 yards distant) "nobody but Neil was with the body."²¹

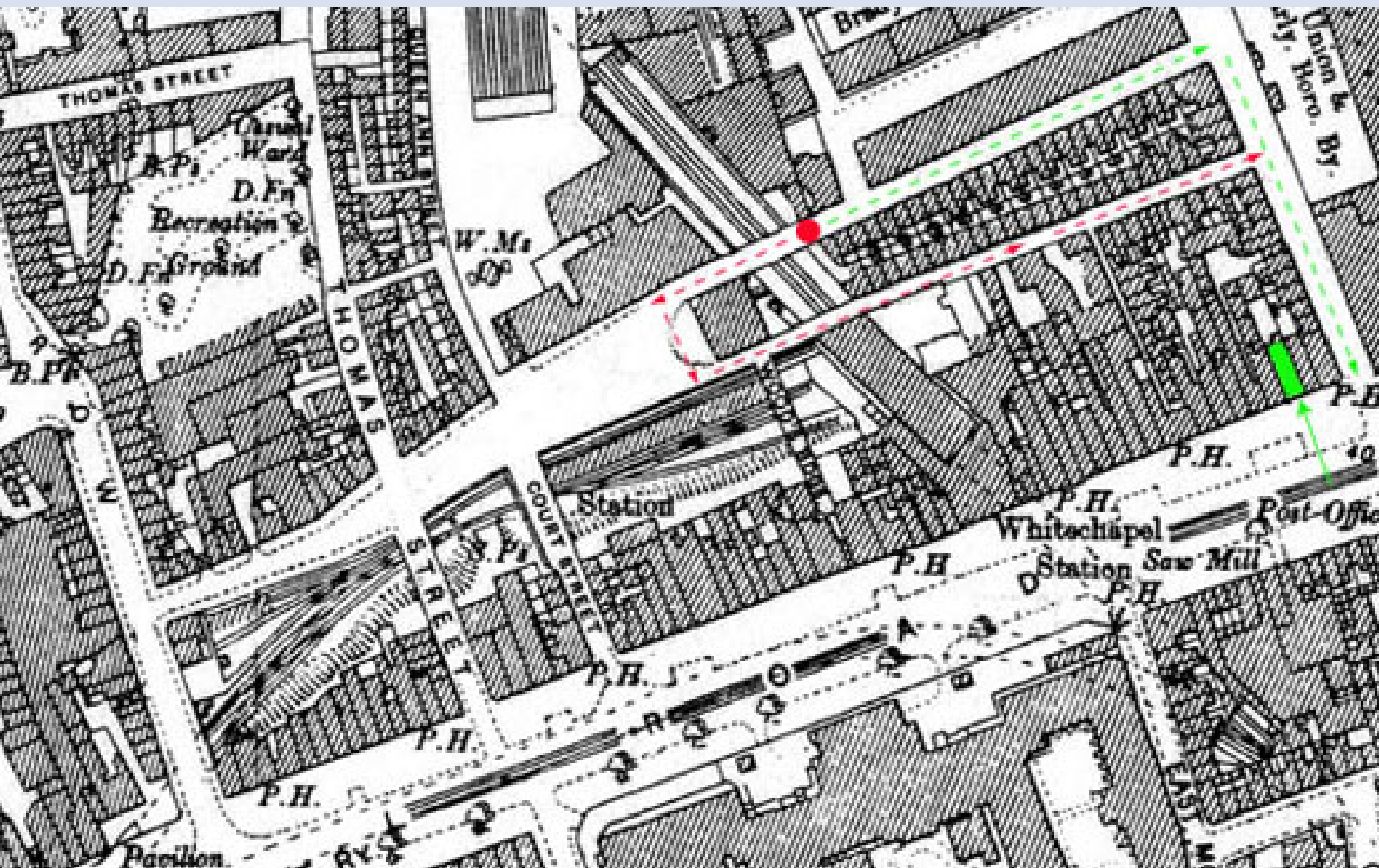
After flashing his lamp from Bakers Row, PC Mizen couldn't have taken seven minutes to cover the 230 yards to where Polly's body lay. At regulation pace it would only have taken him three minutes. Yet by the time PC Mizen arrived to the body's location PC Thain had already left to fetch the doctor. This suggests that PC Thain left earlier than 3.52 am, with perhaps as much as five or six minutes in which to reach the doctor. It is therefore not difficult to conclude that it is probably during this period that PC Thain stopped off at the slaughterhouse to retrieve his cape and tell Tomkins and his colleagues about the murder.

How else could the two slaughtermen, who were first on the scene after PC Neil found the body, have known about the murder prior to 4.15 am? Nobody else could have told them. And by flashing his lamp rather than blowing his whistle, PC Neil had taken care not to alert anyone to events.

²⁰ *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

²¹ *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

Map showing the relative positions of Polly Nichols' body [marked red] and Dr Llewellyn's surgery at 152 Whitechapel Road [marked green], two doors west of the Queen's Head public house on the corner of Brady Street.



A few minutes after Thain told the slaughtermen about the murder two of them arrived in Buck's Row, where PC Neil was alone with Polly's body. PC Mizen had gone to fetch the ambulance from Bethnal Green police station and PC Thain had yet to return with the doctor.

Thain testified that 'When he returned to Buck's Row with Dr. Llewellyn he found PC Neil standing by Polly Nichols' body in the company of two workmen.'²² He also testified that he didn't know who the men were. But as he had only just recently told them of the murder, this must have been a lie.

The inquest evidence does not support the story where he picked up his cape at 4.15 am. It would then appear that Tomkins was covering for PC Thain, who 'was not supposed to leave his beat', possibly to spare him a reprimand. But as Thain also appears to have lied about not knowing the workmen in Buck's Row, there may have been more to it than this. Perhaps, too, he lied about a 'brother constable' leaving his cape at the slaughterhouse in the first instance.

At the inquest, PC Thain busily distanced himself from the slaughterhouse and from knowing the slaughtermen. And Henry Tomkins, the only slaughterman called to give evidence, helped him do it.

In his 19 September report, Inspector Abberline wrote:

'Suspicion was also attached to three men employed during the night of the murder by Messrs. Barber & Co., Horse slaughterers, Winthorp (sic) St., which is about 30 yards from where the body was found. They have however been seen separately and lengthy statements taken from them as to how they spent their time during the night, and the explanations given by them were confirmed by the Police who saw them at work, and no grounds appeared to exist to suspect them of the murder.'

And Chief Inspector Donald Swanson, in his report of 19 October into Polly Nichols' murder, named the three slaughtermen: Tomkins, Britton and Mumford, and added:

²² *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

Buck's Row at night, looking along from the Board School (on the right) towards the murder spot which is half way down on the right hand side.



'Their statements were taken separately, and without any means of communicating with each other, they satisfactorily accounted for their time, being corroborated in some portions by the Police on duty near the premises.'

Swanson's statement that there were 'Police on duty near the [slaughtermen's] premises' could only have referred to PCs Neil and Thain, two policemen who already had enough problems accounting for their own time and movements on the morning of Polly Nichols's murder.

There was collusion going on that morning, but to what extent we may never know.

Lingering Questions about the Nichols Murder

In summing up, there are many aspects about the morning of August 31 which need addressing.

We need to know how PC Mizen could have known he was wanted by a policeman in Buck's Row unless Charles Cross had told him, and why Cross denied telling him. This last is, perhaps, the easiest to explain, although the underlying reasons remain obscure: if Cross had admitted telling this to Mizen, he couldn't have denied seeing PC Neil.

We need to know why PC Neil and Charles Cross so strenuously denied seeing one another. What possible difference to the outcome of events could their seeing each other have made—always assuming, of course, that PC Neil was where he said he was at the crucial time?

We need to know why the police so summarily dismissed the idea of Polly Nichols having been murdered elsewhere and why, as reported in the *Evening News*, by the end of the week following her murder they failed to make a thorough search of the houses in Winthrop Street.

We need to know why Robert Paul's original *Lloyd's Weekly News* story changed at the inquest.

A possible clue to this appeared on 30 September in *Lloyd's Weekly News*. Robert Paul was complaining about the shabby treatment of witnesses.

'Mr Paul says that after he made his statement to our representative, which appeared in Lloyd's, he was fetched up in the middle of the night by the police, and was obliged to lose a day's work the next day, for which he got nothing.'

That's a lengthy interrogation.

'He was then summoned to give evidence at the inquest on two different days [he appeared only once], and he had to pay a man 5s [five shillings] each day to do his work, or he would have lost his place. At the close of the inquest he got two shillings, being a shilling for each day.'

But perhaps most important of all, we need to know what caused Dr Llewellyn to change his mind about Polly Nichols having been murdered elsewhere.

On 1 September, the *Echo* reported:

'It is his [Dr Llewellyn's] impression that she was not murdered at the spot where her body was found, but that her throat was cut, the dreadful abdominal injuries then inflicted, and that the body was then carried, enveloped in her large, heavy cloak, and thrown outside the gateway at Essex Wharf. Mr. Seccombe, Dr. Llewellyn's assistant, is of the same opinions, especially, he says, as there was comparatively little blood where the deceased lay.'

On 3 September, the *Echo* continued:

'For some reason the police have abandoned the theory that the deceased was murdered in a house and carried to the spot. They now believe she was killed at the place where she was discovered by the constable. The blood from the wounds was, it is thought, absorbed by the woman's ulster and long dress, and would thus account for such a small quantity being noticed underneath the body.'

The significant absence of blood in Bucks Row had been explained. If true, Polly's ulster and long dress would have been saturated with blood and, as such, difficult not to notice.

According to Inquest testimony reported in the *Daily Telegraph* on 4 September:

'On seeing the body at the mortuary, Inspector Helson 'noticed blood on the hair, and on the collars of the dress and ulster, but not on the back of the skirts.' And Inspector Spratling saw 'blood on the upper part of the dress body, and also on the ulster, but he only saw a little on the under-linen.'

It is difficult to ascertain how long Dr Llewellyn spent examining Polly's body in Buck's Row. PC Neil testified that he arrived quickly [many press accounts state within ten minutes of being summoned], and Mulshaw's testimony suggests that when he arrived in Buck's Row at around 4.40 am, Polly's body was still lying on the ground but Dr Llewellyn had left. 'Three or four policemen and five or six working men were there.'²³ It is not clear whether PC Mizen had yet returned with the ambulance.

Since dawn wasn't until 4.37 am, it was still dark when Dr Llewellyn arrived in Buck's Row. It would be fair to suggest that he spent at least five minutes examining Polly's body, during which time he noted her neck wounds and the temperature of her extremities. Dr Llewellyn then returned to his surgery. In a press statement he explained why he didn't continue his examination:

*'A crowd was now gathering, and as it was undesirable to make a further examination in the street, I ordered the removal of the body to the mortuary, telling the police to send for me again if anything of importance transpired. There was a very small pool of blood in the pathway which had trickled from the wound in the throat, not more than would fill two wine glasses, or half a pint at the outside. This fact, and the way which the deceased was lying, made me think at the time that it was probable that the murder was committed elsewhere, and the body conveyed to Buck's row. At the time I had no idea of the fearful abdominal wounds which had been inflicted upon the body. At half past five I was summoned to the mortuary by the police, and was astonished at finding the other wounds.'*²⁴

In summing up at the end of the inquest, Coroner Wynne E. Baxter concluded:

*'The condition of the body appeared to prove conclusively that the deceased was killed on the exact spot in which she was found. There was not a trace of blood anywhere, except at the spot where her neck was lying, this circumstance being sufficient to justify the assumption that the injuries to the throat were committed when the woman was on the ground, whilst the state of her clothing and the absence of any blood about her legs suggested that the abdominal injuries were inflicted whilst she was still in the same position.'*²⁵

The story of Polly Nichols's ulster and long dress absorbing substantial amounts of blood from her abdominal injuries without unduly staining her skirts, undergarments or the stretch of footway upon which her body was found eventually won the day. Even Mrs Emma Green of New Cottage understood this to be the reason for the small amount of blood her son washed away from in front of the stable gates.²⁶ And with no attempt to explain the lack of arterial blood which would have spurted or pulsed in fairly copious amounts from the large vessels on both sides of Polly's neck which had been severed, it was concluded that she had been murdered where she was found and, by implication, that her killer, given the swiftness and savagery of his attack, was preternaturally neat and tidy.

Conclusion

And that's about it as far the evidence goes surrounding the discovery of Polly Nichols's body in Buck's Row on the morning of 31 August 1888. The scenario presented by the police and their witnesses was sloppy, confused and contradictory, and not enough questions were asked by the coroner and jury. If the case had ever come to trial a half-decent lawyer would have ridden roughshod through the evidence.

²³ *The Times*, 18 September 1888.

²⁴ *Daily News*, 1 September 1888.

²⁵ *Daily Telegraph*, 22 September 1888.

²⁶ *Lloyds Weekly News*, 2 September 1888.

Press accounts were generally in accordance, except for such small errors of detail as the report in the *Eastern Argus*, of 1 September that Polly's body had been removed to Bethnal Green police station. There was only one significant digression in the reporting of events. On 1 September, the *East London Observer* said:

'Constable Neale [sic] at once called for assistance, and with the help of some scavengers who were cleaning the roads at the time, managed to carry the body to the mortuary, which is situated in the Pavilion Yard close by. Mr. Edmunds, the keeper of the mortuary, was in attendance, and assisted by the officer and the scavengers, undressed the poor creature and placed her in one of the black coffins lying about the mortuary.'

It continued:

'Accompanied by Mr. Edmunds, the keeper, our reporter visited the temporary resting place of the victim on Friday morning. The first evidence seen of the tragedy on arriving in the yard was a bundle of what were little more than rags, of which the woman had been divested, and which were lying on the flagstones just outside the mortuary. They consisted of a dull red cloak already mentioned, together with a dark bodice and brown skirt, a check flannel petticoat which bore the mark of the Lambeth Workhouse, a pair of dark stockings, and an old pair of dilapidated-looking spring-side boots, together with the little and sadly battered black straw bonnet, minus either ribbons or trimmings. Contrary to anticipation, beyond the flannel petticoat, and with the exception of a few bloodstains on the cloak, the other clothing was scarcely marked. The petticoat, however, was completely saturated with blood, and altogether presented a sickening spectacle.'

It was a fantastic story, one it is hard to believe a reporter either misinterpreted or invented, and which has dramatic and puzzling implications. Suddenly there were no PC Thain and Mizen flashing answering lanterns, no PC Mizen fetching the ambulance, no Dr Llewellyn conducting a kerb-side examination, no slaughtermen standing by the body in Buck's Row, no Inspector Spratling lifting up Polly Nichols's clothes at the mortuary to discover she had been disembowelled, and no apparent evidence of Polly's ulster and long dress having absorbed the blood so conspicuously absent from outside Mr Brown's stable gates.

At Polly's inquest, Robert Mann, an inmate of the Whitechapel Infirmary in Thomas Street, was described as the 'keeper of the mortuary'. So who was Mr Edmunds, described as 'keeper of the mortuary' in the press account above? The 1881 Census shows an Alfred Edmonds, aged 45, Superintendent [of the] Casual (Instn Sc Ward), living with his wife Sarah, aged 39, at [the] 'Workhouse' 35 Thomas Street. Edmunds—Edmonds. It's close, so possibly the two men were one and the same.

A clear understanding of events surrounding the discovery of Polly Nichols's body is currently beyond our grasp. However, one thing is certain: given the available evidence, it is doubtful that Polly Nichols was killed in Buck's Row or that her murder was the handiwork of someone who would eventually become known as 'Jack the Ripper.'

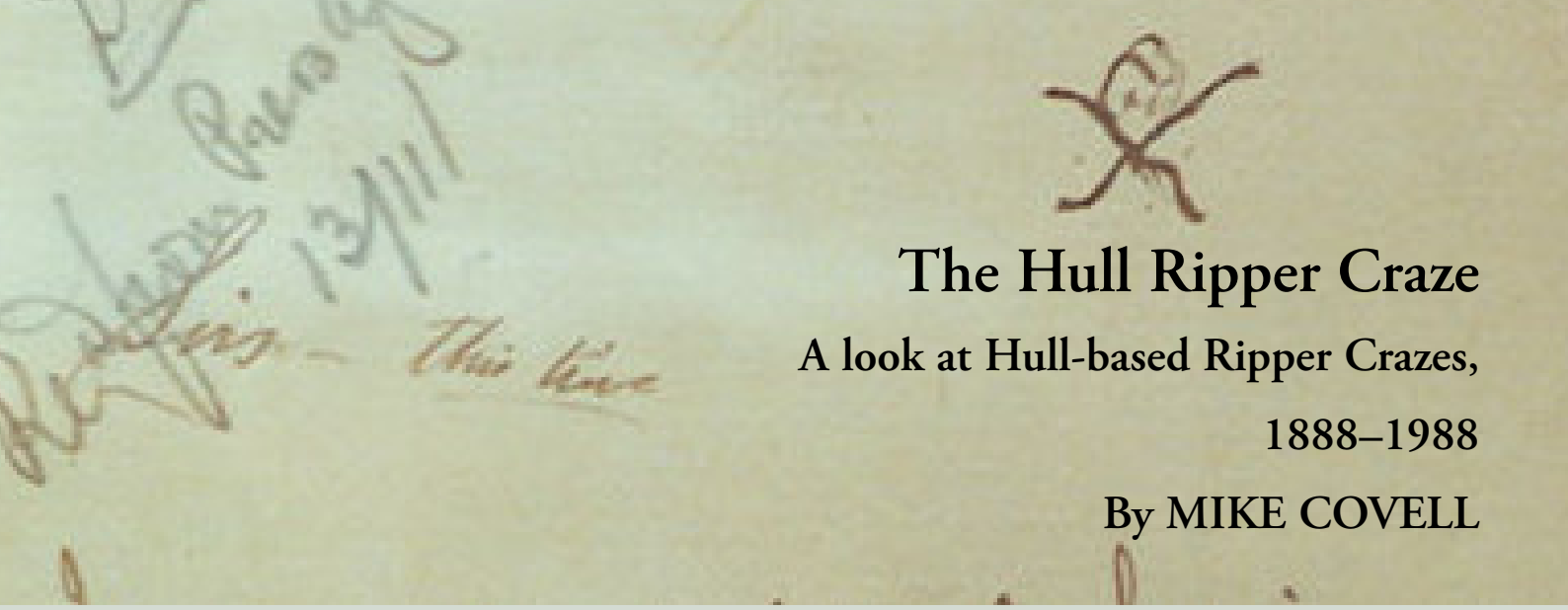
Something beyond our comprehension happened in the early hours of 31 August 1888. Only when we have found out what it was will we fully understand why the concept of 'Jack', a person able to strike swiftly and silently whilst running split-second rings around the police, became the preferred explanation for the killing of Mary Ann 'Polly' Nichols.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks to Rob Clack, Philip Hutchinson and Chris Scott for their generous assistance with maps and census information regarding Buck's Row and Winthrop Street. My appreciation to Eduardo Zinna and Jane Coram for their assistance in putting together the final version of this article.



Newspaper sketch of Polly Nichols lying in the makeshift coffin (Illustrated Police News)



The Hull Ripper Craze

A look at Hull-based Ripper Crazes, 1888–1988

By MIKE COVELL

Kingston upon Hull during the late 1800's was similar to London in many respects: it was a thriving city, one of the busiest ports in Europe, but it also had its problems. Bodies were often found in the city docks; prostitution was rife and drunken attacks were commonplace. Theft, murder, and infanticide were daily occurrences. An influx of sailors, foreigners, and English families all looking for work forced the population to breaking point. Many of these newcomers resided in lower class habitation in crowded courts which backed on to wealthy merchants' houses. The Hull police force was stretched to the limit. Then, in the autumn of 1888, the vicious crimes in the East End of London attributed to 'Jack the Ripper' became known in the city. The local newspapers, similar to press outlets elsewhere in the British Isles and abroad, were keen to report the atrocities.

Hull Connections to the Ripper Case

Many of the Hull newspapers obtained their stories from the Central News Agency or *The Star*, but some local newspapers had their own reporters in the nation's capital.¹ I aimed to collect any articles that covered the East End murders. This task took several months, lots of money, and the reading and cataloguing of articles from four area newspapers: *The Hull Daily Mail*, *The Eastern Morning News*, *The Hull and East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Times*, and *The Evening and Daily News*. My other intent was to see if I could find any information on previously named Ripper suspects with links to Hull, i.e., Robert D'Onston Stephenson; Frederick Bailey Deeming; Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales; Albert Victor, the Duke of Clarence; Lewis Carroll; Thomas Sadler; Queen Victoria; and Walter Sickert. I soon found that it was the smaller local stories which drew my attention, that is, the stories that referenced the Ripper but which had a local slant.

I was also drawn to look beyond the 'Autumn of Terror' of 1888 to the events surrounding the 1892 capture and trial of Frederick Bailey Deeming in Australia. Deeming's connection to the city was that he spent time in Hull Jail after defrauding the Reynoldson and Son jewellery store in 1890. During his trial in Melbourne, the Hull newspapers were keen to cover the story. They looked at the murderer's links to the city and his alleged connection to the East End murders of 1888.² It was then that I decided that although 1888 was obviously the key year to start looking at Ripper-related articles, the following years were just as important. I discovered that not only did the newspapers report upon the murders in the capital but that there were some Hull 'suspects' as well, albeit troublemakers or attention getters who claimed to be 'Jack the Ripper'—people who threatened to commit murders like those of the murderer who was terrorising London.

¹ Several of the Hull-based newspapers had offices in London. The London-based reporters for the Hull newspapers generally covered politics. All the Hull newspapers carried a section that detailed 'Life in the Capital.'

² Deeming's trial was covered extensively in the *Hull and East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Times*, 19 March 1892.

Sentencing of a Coloured Man Who Claimed to be the ‘Ripper’

On Friday, 5 October 1888, *The Hull Daily Mail*, reported:

‘JACK THE RIPPER’ CRAZE IN HULL.

EXTRAORDINARY CONDUCT OF A DARKEY

OUTRAGE ON A WOMAN

At the Hull Police Court this forenoon before Mr. T. W. Palmer and Mr. E. Lambert, a man of colour, named Samuel Nobb, was charged by Police Constable Leonard (111)³ with having been disorderly in Adelaide Street on Saturday night.— The officer stated that the prisoner was about the street shouting he was ‘Jack the Ripper.’ He saw Noble get hold of one lady and lift her clothes above her head, after which he took hold of another woman, who fell on the street in a dead faint.— Deputy Chief Constable Jones said it took five constables to get the accused into a waggonette and conduct him into a Police Station.— Mr. Palmer said the Bench considered this to be a very bad case, and imposed a fine of 40s, and costs with alternative of 30 days imprisonment with hard labour.

Map of Adelaide Street, Kingston upon Hull, 1908



One Poor Woman Threatens to ‘Whitechapel Murder’ Another

On the same day, Friday, 5 October, *The Hull Daily Mail* reported that the news of the Whitechapel outrages was causing disturbances in the city, including a fight between two women. Jane Feeney threatened Minnie Kirlew that she intended to ‘Whitechapel Murder her’:

THE WHITECHAPEL CRAZE IN HULL

The excitement which has been caused throughout the country by the horrible atrocities committed in Whitechapel, London, has been equally great in Hull, and it appears a repetition of those incidents which have been frequent in the Metropolis of late has to some extent taken place in Hull. At Hull Police Court this afternoon, before the Mayor (Alderman Toozes) and Mr. T Stratton, a poorly clad woman, named Jane Feeney, was charged on warrant with having used threats towards a woman named Minnie Kirlew.— The Prosecutrix stated that the prisoner threatened her in Manor Street yesterday and said she would ‘Whitechapel Murder her’. Witness stated that she was afraid of the prisoner. A man who was called as a witness said he heard the prisoner when acting very violently, threaten to Whitechapel murder the Prosecutrix.— The Bench ordered the accused to find one surety in £10 to keep the peace for six months, and also sent her to prison or seven days for having been disorderly.

³ PC Abraham Thomas Leonard was assigned the number 111 on 9 February 1888. ‘Hull Police Badge Numbers’ in A A Clarke, *The Policemen of Hull: The Story of Hull Police Force 1836-1974*. Beverley, Yorkshire: Hutton Press, 1992, 153.



Map of Manor Street, Kingston upon Hull, 1854

The following day, Saturday, 6 October, *The Hull and East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Times* reprinted the *The Hull Daily Mail* article on 'The Whitechapel Craze in Hull.'

A 'Jack the Ripper' Letter Is Received

On Saturday, 13 October, *The Hull News* carried an article to say that the newspaper office had received a letter supposedly from 'Jack the Ripper':

THE 'JACK THE RIPPER' MANIA A LETTER TO THE 'HULL NEWS'

The following letter was brought to-day, about noon to the office of this paper. It was enclosed in an envelope and left surreptitiously on the office counter, it is believed by a lad, who immediately ran away. Of course no importance is attached to the effusion, it being only an attempted hoax:—

'Hull Oct 5th

'I arrived in Hull last night from Manchester, and may as well inform you that I have a job or two to do here. London's got two [sic] hot for me.

'It's all that I want is blood, blood, blood.

For why, you will know when I'm [copped (?)]

I'll sharpen my knives and I'll take their lives, and enjoy myself till I stopped.

'Yours, Jack the Ripper'

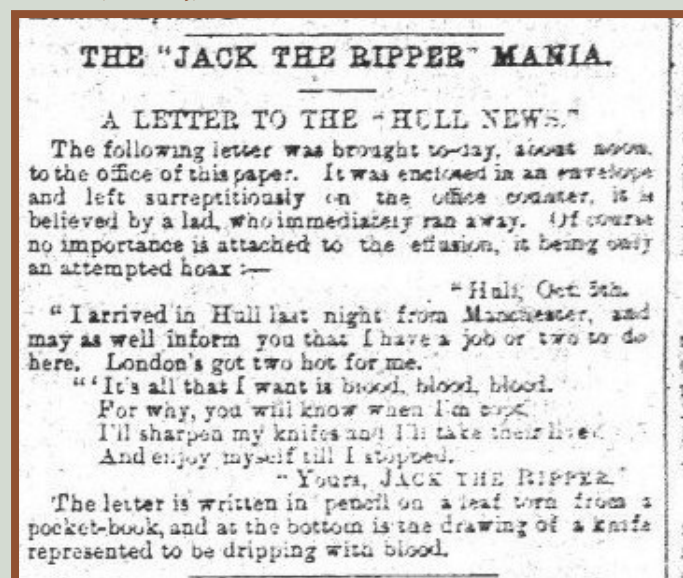
The letter is written in pencil on a leaf torn from a pocket-book, and at the bottom is the drawing of a knife represented to be dripping with blood.

Hull News, Saturday, 13 October 1888

On finding this article, I was quite excited, so I scanned it and sent it to several colleagues in the Ripper community to get the benefit of their views about this 'Ripper' letter. I received several replies. The general consensus was, as presumed by the newspaper itself, that this letter was in all probability a hoax.

I decided to see if any of the local depositories held any further information on this letter. For example, did any of the area archives hold the files of *The Hull News*? Might there be, in that lucky event, any correspondence or anything else from the period that might shed more light on the letter in question?

Unfortunately, I soon found that Hull City Libraries Local Studies Library had only the basic dates and locations regarding the newspaper along with the actual rolls of microfilm containing the issues



of the paper. My next step was to contact Hull City Archives. The archives quickly responded and informed me that they held no *Hull News* files. It seemed like the trail had gone cold until I noticed a small notice at the bottom of one of the pages of the *Hull News* of Saturday, 13 October 1888:

NOTICE

The London offices of the HULL NEWS are at 13a Salisbury Square, (Dorset Street), Fleet Street, [London] E.C., where advertisements are received, and copies of the Daily and Weekly Papers can be obtained.

I contacted the National Archives, who informed me of several collections pertaining to *The Hull News*. In particular, they pointed me towards the East Riding Archives at Beverley, Yorkshire. I checked their website and sure enough they listed several boxes regarding the newspaper. I made contact with the East Riding Archives and received this disappointing reply from an archivist in Beverley, 'I have checked our database and although we hold various editions of the paper we do not [have] anything else connected with the paper.'

I also visited the Local Studies Library again, to ascertain which Hull newspapers had offices in London and their locations, as well as the locations of the corresponding offices in Hull. I gleaned the following information:

Newspaper	Hull Address	London Address
<i>Hull News</i>	58 Whitefriargate	James Alfred Cooke, 47 Fleet Street
<i>Eastern Morning News</i>	42 Whitefriargate	William Hunt, 47 Fleet Street
<i>Hull Express</i>	42 Whitefriargate	William Hunt, 47 Fleet Street
<i>Hull Daily Mail</i>	22 Whitefriargate	Richard Simmons
<i>Hull Times</i>	22 Whitefriargate	Richard Simmons ⁴

Hull News advertisement, Kelly's Trade Directory, 1889

THE HULL NEWS,

The best Advertising and Family Newspaper in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE circulation of the "HULL NEWS" now exceeds Thirty Thousand Copies weekly; of these about Ten Thousand Copies circulate in adjacent Towns and Villages, and Twenty Thousand Copies are sold in Hull.

The "HULL NEWS" is now purchased by every grade of society, and forms a medium for Advertising unequalled throughout Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

PUBLISHED ON SATURDAYS. PRICE TWOPENCE.

Proprietor, J. A. COOKE.

THE HULL DAILY NEWS.

A FIRST-CLASS EVENING PAPER. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

THE HULL DAILY NEWS is the Popular Evening Paper for Hull, and is to be found in nearly every family in the town. It also circulates largely in the surrounding districts. (17)

⁴ Stewart P Evans and Keith Skinner, *Jack the Ripper: Letters From Hell*. Stroud, Gloucestershire: Sutton Publishing, 2001.

So what is the provenance of the ‘Ripper’ letter received by *The Hull News*? I believe the letter to be one of the following possibilities:

1. Genuine.
2. A hoax perpetrated by someone at the newspaper.
3. A hoax perpetrated by the newspaper.
4. A hoax by a reader or resident of Hull.

Let’s examine each possibility in turn:

1. *Genuine*. It is always difficult in Ripperology to sort the wheat from the chaff. On the Ripper Internet forums, strong debates continually rage over which of the ‘Ripper’ letters, if any, are authentic, and which are fake. The ‘pencil’ used also differs from the rest of the known ‘Ripper’ letters, with most such letters having been written in black or red ink, and only a few written using a pencil.⁵

2. *A hoax perpetrated by someone at the newspaper*. Several top ranking police officials who served either during or just after the events of 1888 gave the opinion that the letters were hoaxes, set in motion by initial communications written by an ‘enterprising journalist’. In fact, three top Scotland Yard officials, Sir Robert Anderson ⁶, Sir Melville Macnaghten ⁷, and Chief Inspector John George Littlechild ⁸, all believed the Ripper letters to be fakes written by a pressman, the chief suspect apparently having been Thomas J Bulling of the Central News Agency. That being the case, could the letter sent to the Hull newspaper have been the work of someone within *The Hull News*? It is certainly possible, but the standing of the newspaper at this time argues strongly against this, as noted in point 3.

3. *A hoax perpetrated by the newspaper*. During the period in question, *The Hull News* boasted of having a higher readership than any other Hull-based newspaper. It was obviously well thought of among the local population. I doubt that the newspaper would have jeopardised its standing and reputation by committing a hoax. It is also noteworthy that, far from trying to give wide publicity to the letter, the brief article in which the newspaper mentioned receipt of the letter was buried deep within its pages, a quarter of the way down on page 6! If it was a hoax by the newspaper, I would have expected more column inches to have been devoted to it, and it being positioned in a more prominent place.

4. *A hoax by a reader or resident of Hull*. This in my eyes is possibly the best explanation for the letter. History shows us that that copycats seeking publicity are keen to jump on the bandwagon, which seems to be the reason for the hundreds of ‘Ripper’ letters sent to the authorities following the initial ‘Dear Boss’ communications sent to the Central News Agency.

⁵ *Atkinson’s Trade Directory of Hull*, 1888, 35.

⁶ Anderson wrote that ‘the “Jack-the-Ripper” letter which is preserved in the Police Museum at New Scotland Yard is the creation of an enterprising London journalist.’ Sir Robert Anderson, *The Lighter Side of My Official Life*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1910.

⁷ Macnaghten wrote: ‘I have always thought I could discern the stained forefinger of the journalist—indeed, a year later, I had shrewd suspicions as to the actual author!’ Sir Melville Macnaghten, *Days of My Years*. London: Edward Arnold, 1914, 58.

⁸ Retired Chief Inspector John George Littlechild wrote to George R Sims in the so-called ‘Littlechild Letter’ of 23 September 1913: ‘With regard to the term “Jack the Ripper” it was generally believed at the Yard that Tom Bullen [Thomas J Bulling] of the Central News was the originator, but it is probable [John] Moore, who was his chief, was the inventor. It was a smart piece of journalistic work.’ Quoted in Evans and Skinner, *Jack the Ripper: Letters From Hell*, 49-50.

up at Hull before going
to Poland,
Silly looking in low lodgins
houses for me do not vissit
them description posted at
Ploice stations nothing like
me look out for Oct^r 27th
at Brum will give them
ripper
Jack a poland Jew
Better known as Jack the ripper

Above: Letter sent 19 October 1888 from Brierley Hill to Sir Charles Warren, Chief Commissioner of Police Scotland Yard, London. Courtesy of Stewart P Evans.

Below: Letter sent 11 November 1888 from Hull to the Press Association. Courtesy of Stewart P Evans.

Nov 11th
I am not afraid of letting you
know the whereabouts I am I can't
help but laugh at idea of Sir C.
Warren & his blood hounds It is of
no use the police to be so reticent in the
matter next time head clean off I have
my eye on the next on the list there
is plenty in Hull all good blood

Other 'Ripper' Letters with Links to Hull

Among the many letters sent claiming to be from the killer, the letter sent to *The Hull News* was not the only letter with links to Hull. Included by authors Stewart P Evans and Keith Skinner in *Jack the Ripper: Letters from Hell* are two letters in which the writers claimed connections with Hull. One of the letters was sent on 19 October 1888 from Brierley Hill to Sir Charles Warren, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Wouster

Oct. 19) 1888

Dear boss iff you are the boss you have not got the right man 100 miles off scent bloodhounds no use will not catch me have been in Wouster a week have spotted 3 out will visit them again shortley dont know much about this part off too Brum to-day/

Post this on me way, hope I shall have luck there The Atmosphere was to hot at Whitechapel had to clear off smelt a rat saw last victim burried I felt rather down hearted over my knife which I lost comming here must get one to night. I shall kill 15 at Brum call and settle 3 I have spotted at Wouster I shall then finish / up at Hull before going to Poland [emphasis mine].

Silly looking in low lodging houses for me do not vissit them description posted at Ploice stations nothing like me look out for Oct^r. 27th at Brum will give them ripper.

Jack a poland Jew

Better Known as Jack the ripper

[On the fourth page there appears to be a drop of blood with the following postscript]

A drop of Strides Blood⁹

The other letter was posted from Hull on 11 November 1888 to the Press Association:

Nov 11th

[Crude drawing of skull and crossbones]

Sirs—this time

I am not afraid of letting you know the whereabouts I am I can't help but laugh at idea of Sir C. Warren & his blood hounds It is of no use the police to be so reticent in the matter next time head clean off I have my eye on the next on the list there is plenty in Hull all good blood [emphasis mine] / I have lost the real stuff. Take warning next time I carrie the head away with me in my bag the blood [illegible]? I take good care of the uterus. I will give next one gip [?] no mersey.

Jack the R—¹⁰

9 Letter sent 19 October 1888 from Brierley Hill to Sir Charles Warren, Chief Commissioner of Police Scotland Yard, London, in Evans and Skinner, *Jack the Ripper: Letters From Hell*, 238.

10 Letter sent 11 November 1888 from Hull to the Press Association, in Evans and Skinner, *Jack the Ripper: Letters From Hell*, 250.

Unfortunately because we lack the manuscript of the 5 October ‘Ripper’ letter received by *The Hull News*, we can make no handwriting comparison with the other Hull ‘Ripper’ letters. On the other hand, could the writers of the last two letters quoted have cited Hull because of its importance as a port that could have been a means of escape for the killer?

Two More ‘Jack the Ripper’ Wannabes?

The Saturday, 13 October issue of *The Hull News* carried two articles of interest in its police reports, one of them again involving the same coloured man earlier described in the 5 October 1888 *Hull Daily Mail* as ‘Samuel Nobb’ – but called here a mulatto [i.e., person of a person of mixed race] named ‘Samuel Noble.’ The incident is evidently the same one despite slight differences in details. Thus I include it here for comparison purposes along with a report of another Ripper ‘wannabe’: a drunken young man named Patrick McDermott who also claimed to be ‘Jack the Ripper’. The first report is worth examining also because of possible confusion in *The Hull Daily Mail*’s article. That is, did the Mail conflate the Samuel Nobb (or Noble) case with the Patrick McDermott case? Though the *Mail* said the coloured man claimed he was the Ripper, *The Hull News* does not say that. The title ‘Emulating “Jack the Ripper”’ appears above both the report about the mulatto (or coloured man) and the one about McDermott which might imply both were making the claim, but that is not at all clear from the wording of the two reports:

HULL POLICE REPORTS

MONDAY

(Before Mr. T. W. Palmer and Mr. E. Lambert).

EMULATING ‘JACK THE RIPPER’

Samuel Noble, a mulatto was charged with being disorderly on Saturday night in Adelaide Street. P.C. Leonard (111) saw prisoner behaving in a manner likely to cause a disturbance, and afterwards ascertained he had ripped one woman’s clothes above her head, and on molesting another female she had fallen in a dead faint. A baguette had to be procured to take the prisoner to the station.— The magistrates imposed a fine of 40s. And costs, considering the case a very bad one.

A young man named Patrick McDermott, charged with being drunk and disorderly on Saturday night, was fined 5s. and costs. Prisoner had been flourishing a short thick stick, half a broom handle and frightening pedestrians by declaring he was ‘Jack the Ripper.’ He approached the constable, who took him into custody, and in a menacing manner threatened to ‘Jack the Ripper’ him.— Prisoner now admitted he had been in Prestwich Asylum.¹¹

Adelaide Street is still in existence today, although the passage of time and the Blitz and its aftermath has left little standing. The street stretches from east to west parallel to Anlaby Road and Hessle Road, in an area plagued by drugs, crime, and prostitution.

In the weekly rundown of police reports in the Saturday, 7 February 1891 issue of *The Hull News*, the following little snippet appeared:

THURSDAY

‘JACK THE RIPPER’ CONDUCT

John Rouse, labourer, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the day previous.— From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner was seen following children about and seizing hold of them. He had two knives in his possession and was threatening people with them. He was also using disgusting language to females, and a gentleman Mr. R. Elder took several children from him, and eventually gave him into the custody of P.C. Wardell (171).¹² — Mr Twiss imposed a fine of 20s and costs, in default 30 days. His Worship commended Mr. Elder for his prompt action in the matter.

¹¹ Prestwich Asylum was established in 1851 and was still very much in use as a specialist hospital until 1994. See www.gmcro.co.uk/education/education4.htm and www.institutions.org.uk/asylums/england/LAN/prestwich_asylum.htm

¹² PC John W Wardell was assigned his number 171 on 31 May 1881. ‘Hull Police Badge Numbers’ in *Clarke, The Policemen of Hull*, 151.



Whitefriargate, Kingston upon Hull, today. Several Hull newspapers operated out of this medieval street. The Hull newspaper offices were located on the right hand side just after the boarded up building.

I do not believe that such reports of men claiming to be the Ripper could have been a phenomenon that occurred only in Hull. I am sure that there are articles about such incidents the world over and that are just awaiting discovery. It is certainly easy to see why people got carried away: the press were covering all aspects of the atrocities in the East End, and like Chinese whispers, the facts and the fallacies about the crimes were quick to spread. I can also understand why Hull residents would be afraid, given that Hull was the closest and busiest port to London. One can only imagine the terror that these people must have gone through during this awful yet intriguing period in history.

The 'Ripper Craze' Revisits Hull—A Century Later!

The latest Hull Ripper craze swept the city on the centenary of the murders. The following article appeared in *The Hull Daily Mail* of 1 July 1988 and reported a possible looming tourist boom:

TV special on 'Jack' may spark boom

Ripper tours set for Hull

Hull is set for a macabre tourist boost. . . . thanks to Jack the Ripper.

By Jonathon Carr-Brown

For the centenary of London's Whitechapel murders this August will be heralded by a prime time American TV show centering on new claims that the fiendish killer was the son of a Hull mill owner.

An expert Melvyn Harris believes this will lead to hundreds of trans-Atlantic Ripper hunters swarming into the city. Hull City Council's tourism marketing officer, Val Woof says that, if necessary, she will put on coach tours for the enthusiasts seeking out the roots of prime suspect Robert Stephenson.

Concentrating

The major US TV network NBC plans to screen a two hour 'special' on the murderer this October, concentrating on the theory that the Ripper came from Hull.

The programme 'The Secret Identity of Jack the Ripper' will be seen by millions across the United States and Canada. It will be in two parts and will feature lurid scenes of Hull born doctor Robert Stephenson practising black magic.

Features

Scenes from the lives of other suspects in the gruesome murders of seven prostitutes will also be featured.

In the second part of the programme criminal specialists and computer experts will try to evaluate who the most likely culprit was.

But Melvyn [sic] Harris, has no doubts.

He is now writing his second book which he believes will conclusively prove rich mill-owner's son Robert Stephenson was the slaughterer.

He will be explaining his theory on the show, live via satellite from his home in Essex.

There is some suggestion that some of the programme might be filmed in the back streets of Hull's Old Town.

Addict

Born Robert Donston Stephenson, in Hull, in 1841, the bright doctor and journalist became the black sheep of his respectable family, when he became a drug addict and became obsessed with black magic, Mr Harris says.

For some time he was a Customs officer, but after an argument with a smuggler in which he was shot in the thigh, he moved to London.

Persons who have seriously studied Stephenson will note that the descriptions of the man are highly dubious in this telling.

On 18 August 1988, The Hull Daily Mail published a follow-up article again mentioning the imminent tourist boom.

New Ripper file to spark tourist boom.

By MATTHEW LIMB

NEW EVIDENCE from the Jack the Ripper case could shed light on speculation that Britain's most chilling mass murderer came from Hull.

Original documents and photographs of the killer's victims, which went missing from official records many years ago were put on show at Scotland Yard today.

They could illuminate the mystery as to whether the murderer of prostitutes in Victorian London's East End was Hull born Dr Robert Donston Stephenson.

And they are likely to fuel the City's predicted tourist boom for the centenary of the notorious crimes.

The Ripper slaughtered seven women in Whitechapel between August and November 1888.

It was first thought the complete file on the case was passed to the Public Records Office in 1951 and the public was given access in the early Seventies.

Documents

But last November a large brown envelope was sent anonymously from the Croydon area to Scotland Yard. Its contents have been established as genuine Ripper documents which disappeared from Yard records many years ago.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said 'Within the last few months an album of photographs was found among the effects of a deceased senior officer.'

'His family forwarded them to the Yard, who discovered three photographs of Ripper victims which have never been published,'

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police Museums Trust added, 'I am enormously pleased the documents and photographs have been restored to us. They are of great historical interest.'

Bonanza

Author and Ripper expert Melvin Harris wrote a book claiming the murderer was the son of a Hull mill owner. He believes a planned American TV series highlighting the Hull claims will spark a macabre tourist bonanza in the City.

Where's the Tourist Boom?

So what went wrong? Why didn't the Hull tourist boom occur? Well, it's my belief that the tours never took place because of the lack of Stephenson locations mentioned in Harris's books. At that point, not enough research had been done, and only a couple of locations had been identified by Mr Harris. The areas that were mentioned to have been associated with Stephenson have long gone, mainly due to the Corporation of Hull's slum clearance programme, World War II bombing, and the expansion of the city.

A hundred and twenty years have now passed since Jack the Ripper's reign of terror, and 20 years since *The Hull Daily Mail* informed the residents of Hull they would see an influx of tourists on 'Ripper tours'—yet so far nothing has happened. In my research into several suspects in the case who have links with the city of Hull, I have documented over 100 locations associated with them, some of the suspects each having visited the same places!

Conclusion

We have seen how the press covered the crimes in the East End as well as Ripper-related incidents in Hull over 120 years ago, and the reaction by the local police, and the effects on the local population: reports that spread fear and terror into the hearts of the citizens of Victorian Hull. A tactic unfortunately still employed by the press today.

Acknowledgements

I thank my wife Susan for putting up with my research, and helping me formulate my theories; my mother and father, who are helpful on all matters of local history; Howard and Nina Brown at jtrforums.com for reading my rough drafts and helping me along; Jonathan Menges for his input and help; Brian L Porter for his help, assistance, and input throughout; Matt and all the staff at Hull City Libraries Local Studies Library for their assistance and help; the staff at Hull City Reference Library; Stephen P Ryder and everyone at Casebook: Jack the Ripper www.casebook.org; and the staff at Hull City Archives, the National Archives, and East Riding Archives. Special thanks to Stewart P Evans for his help and assistance, and in providing copies of the actual Hull letters cited in his book co-authored with Keith Skinner, *Jack the Ripper: Letters From Hell*. Finally, to the brave police officers of Hull, who still stand on the front line today, 120 years after the Autumn of Terror.

up at Hull before going
to Poland,
Lilly looking in low lodgin
houses for me do not visit
them description posted at
Police Stations nothing like
me look out for Oct^r 24th
at Brum will give them
ripper

Jack a poland Jew

Better known as Jack the ripper



Dr Bond's Medical Specialty: does it merit closer scrutiny?

By ROBERT MACKENSIE

The worldwide interest in the serial killer or killers known as 'Jack the Ripper' has survived for over a century. However, even today little or nothing is known about the murderer or murderers. It is not even known how many victims were killed by the same person or people, though five canonical victims are generally accepted as being the work of one person or group. (While I acknowledge that the number of perpetrators and their sex have not been determined, I henceforth use the singular in reference to 'Jack the Ripper' for reasons of clarity.) All five victims were women and all were prostitutes (or, in the case of Eddowes, presumed prostitute). They were: Mary Anne Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes and Mary Jane Kelly.

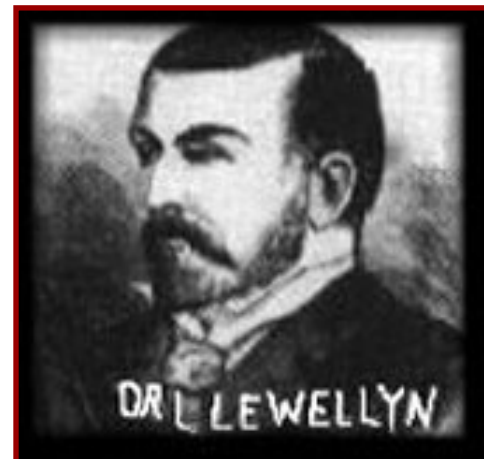
The motive for the murders also is unknown. It is generally agreed that there was a sexual element to the killings. The abdomens of four canonical victims were mutilated. The uterus was taken from two of these (Annie Chapman and Catherine Eddowes) as well as a kidney from Eddowes. It has been proposed and is perhaps generally accepted that Jack the Ripper was a misogynist, possibly a lunatic, who was driven to kill by an intense hatred of women. This is perhaps partly because of the sheer ferocity and savagery of Mary Kelly's murder, which is well known and does not require an in-depth discussion here.

A further topic of interest is whether Jack the Ripper had received medical or surgical training. The removal of organs taken from two victims led to the proposal that the killer possessed surgical knowledge. However, just as medical experts at the time did not agree, opinions on this issue differ today.

The two main issues I will address here are firstly the nature of the motive that drove Jack the Ripper, and secondly the amount of medical knowledge that the killer possessed. In my view, both issues may be inter-related. My main aim is to show that it should not simply be assumed that Jack the Ripper was a lunatic driven to kill by an insatiable hatred of women and that the possibility the killer was perfectly sane with a practical motive should not be discounted.

Turning first to the motive, I think that an important consideration that has been overlooked by many contemporary researchers is the removal of the uterus from Chapman and Eddowes. There is suggestive evidence from Nichols' murder that the removal of the uterus was the object of her murder and this possibility was in fact advanced at her inquest as well as at those for Chapman and Eddowes. It should be borne in mind that even though Nichols's uterus was not removed, she had been disembowelled. Furthermore, it appears that her body was discovered shortly after the murder had taken place. Robert Paul, one of the two men who discovered the body, thought that the breast moved slightly as he felt it and that she was breathing. Dr Llewellyn, who examined Nichols later, found that the body and lower extremities were still warm. This may suggest that the only reason Nichols' uterus was not removed was

Doctor Rees Ralph Llewellyn





George Bagster Phillips examining the body of Annie Chapman in the back yard of 29 Hanbury Street

that the Ripper feared discovery and had to leave the scene of the crime.

Similarly, Stride's throat was cut but she was not subjected to any further mutilations. Nevertheless, her body was still warm at the time it was discovered. This may suggest again that the Ripper did not have the time to carry out abdominal mutilations on the body and, perhaps, to remove the uterus. Although this is speculation in regard to Stride, Eddowes was murdered later the same night and both her uterus and kidney were taken. In summary, it is possible that while the Ripper only took the uterus from Chapman and Eddowes, he, she or even they actually wished to extract the same organ from a further two victims but did not succeed because of the risk of discovery.

It is possible that because no professional purpose for the removal of the uterus has been forthcoming, as well as Kelly's brutal murder, that this element of the killings has been dismissed as simply the product of

misogyny-driven mutilation—probably the work of a lunatic. However, it may be premature to assume that the Ripper was either a homicidal lunatic or misogynist. As the *Lancet* magazine argued at the time of the murders, the precautions the killer or killers took against detection would seem to point *against* a lunatic.

Two rings were stolen from Chapman, apparently by her killer or killers, and it was suggested at her inquest that this may have been an attempt to distract attention away from the true intention behind her murder. Moreover, while there are similarities between the murders of Chapman, Eddowes, Nichols and possibly Stride, there seem to be few reasons to assume Kelly was killed by Jack the Ripper. Like the other victims, her throat was cut and her abdomen mutilated. However, the mutilations inflicted on her was much more extensive than those of the previous victims, and more importantly, her killer or killers did not take the uterus despite having the opportunity. The possibility that Kelly was killed by the Ripper cannot and should not be dismissed, but it is worth noting that other prostitutes killed in Whitechapel the same year did not make it into the canonical list of Jack the Ripper's victims. Therefore, bearing in mind the similarities discussed between at least three of the five generally accepted victims, it seems logical, if speculative, to consider the possibility that the Ripper's motive involved the extraction of the uterus and that the kidney was considered to be of use as well. Thus, there may have been a purely practical reason, as opposed to misogyny, why the Ripper desired to procure as many specimens of prostitutes' uteri as possible.

In order to illustrate the possibility that the Ripper had a practical motive and was not driven by a hatred of women, I offer a possible, tentative explanation here. I certainly do not claim that it is necessarily or even probably the correct explanation. However, if Jack the Ripper were an expert in a medical field such as venereal diseases his specific area of expertise would explain both why he wanted to obtain specimens of women's uteri (for research purposes similar to Burke and Hare) and why he targeted prostitutes in particular, a question that researchers have frequently raised. It would also account for the apparent similarity in the attacks on Nichols, Chapman, Eddowes and possibly Stride as well as raising the possibility that Kelly may have been killed by someone other than JTR.

Turning now to the controversial issue of how much medical knowledge Jack the Ripper possessed, an expert in venereal diseases would clearly have received a considerable amount of medical and perhaps surgical training. Despite the controversy and the fact that recent medical experts have challenged the view that the Ripper had any surgical expertise at all, some trained physicians gave well-reasoned arguments at the victims' inquests that the killer possessed a considerable amount of anatomical knowledge. At the Chapman inquest, it was argued that the perpetrator who removed the uterus knew where to find it and how to remove the organ without causing injury to it as well as knowing what difficulties were involved in its extraction. At the Eddowes inquest, Dr Gordon Brown not only argued that someone who knew the position of the uterus and how to remove it must have extracted it; he also pointed out that the left

kidney is easily overlooked as it is covered by a membrane. When questioned by Mr Crawford about how much skill and knowledge it would require to remove the left kidney, Dr Gordon Brown replied 'It would require a great deal of knowledge as to its position to remove it. It is easily overlooked. It is covered by a membrane.'

Whether or not the experts who claimed that the Ripper possessed considerable anatomical knowledge are correct, the fact that the uterus was removed by someone who knew where to find it, apparently without causing injury to it, and the fact that the kidney was removed by someone who was apparently aware of the presence of a covering membrane certainly make their arguments convincing. The experts who voiced this opinion did not discount the possibility that the Ripper was an animal slaughterer and thus limit the killer's class to that of surgeon or medical expert, but the important point is that they argued with well-grounded reasons that the Ripper possessed some anatomical knowledge.

The expert witness, Dr Thomas Bond, who was asked by the investigating authorities to give his opinion on the canonical five murders, was probably by pure coincidence an expert in VD's. Therefore, the possibility he was involved in at least the planning requires discussion, even though I do not consider it likely and there is no evidence to implicate him. However, not only did Bond have an obvious motive, but he was also in the ideal position to cover his tracks and it is easy, though highly speculative, to read between lines in his report on the five murders. Firstly, he seemed insistent that the killer had no anatomical knowledge at all. Bond wrote... 'in my opinion he does not even possess the technical knowledge of a butcher or horse slaughterer or any person accustomed to cutting up dead animals'.¹ Unfortunately, though there is possibly a good basis for this point of view, none is provided in the report (admittedly there is no reason it should be). Bond's observations could therefore be interpreted as being intended to point the focus of the investigation away from the true culprit's class. I see no reason to categorically discount either a qualified surgeon or animal slaughterer in the manner Bond did. Secondly, Bond suggested offering a reward. The recommendation of a reward could be interpreted as an effective means of removing all suspicion from a surgeon as someone-else would have taken the blame. Bond wrote that he was of the opinion that the killer was probably 'solitary and eccentric in his habits' and 'not quite right in his mind at times'.² Many people in the city would in all probability have suspected a quite harmless person with strange mannerisms living with or near to them and the prospect of a reward may indeed have encouraged them to come forward to the police to propose a suspect.

However, this is all of course purely theoretical, and is only an idea that I feel requires discussion due to Bond's area of expertise and position as expert witness. With no physical evidence at all to suggest Bond was responsible even for planning the murders attributed to Jack the Ripper (and none likely to ever be forthcoming), it is wrong to consider him a serious suspect, especially as there are countless other possibilities. For example, there were reports at the time of an American who inquired about obtaining specimens of women's uteri at London area medical schools, and it seems to me to be equally likely or more likely that this 'American' was the guilty party.

Whoever Jack the Ripper was, I think it was someone (or a group of people) with medical training or considerable anatomical knowledge and that the killer or killers had a practical motive for collecting specimens of uteri. I have suggested research into venereal diseases as a possibility, though this does not exclude another reason that has not yet been considered. While a madman and misogynist cannot be discounted, the murders were apparently well planned and it is difficult to ignore the apparent method in their perpetration.



Dr. Frederick Gordon Brown

1,2 HO 144/221/A49301C, ff.220-3/ Dr. Bond's response to Anderson's letter which includes observations on the canonical five murders and observations from Kelly's post-mortem.

Jack the Ripper and the Jews: Mentor's Suspect

By CHRISTOPHER T. GEORGE

Sir Robert Anderson, retired deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police during the Whitechapel murders, confidently stated both in his memoirs serialized in *Blackwood's Magazine* in March 1910 and in his published book that same year,¹ that the Ripper was a 'low class Jew' or, as described in the book version, a 'low class Polish Jew.' Furthermore, he said that the suspect's 'people', meaning presumably the suspect's family, refused to give the man up to Gentile justice:

One did not have to be a Sherlock Holmes to discover that the criminal was a sexual maniac of a virulent type; that he was living in the immediate vicinity of the scenes of the murders; and that, if he was not living absolutely alone, his people knew of his guilt, and refused to give him up to justice. During my absence abroad the Police had made a house-to-house search for him, investigating the cases of every man in the district whose circumstances were such that he could go and come and get rid of his blood-stains in secret. And the conclusion we came to was that he and his people were low-class Jews. . . . And the result proved that our diagnosis was right on every point. [in a foot-

Sir Robert Anderson

note:] Having regard to the interest attaching to this case, I should almost be tempted to disclose the identity of the murderer. . . provided that the publishers would accept all responsibility in view of a possible libel action. But no public benefit would result from such a course, and the traditions of my old department would suffer. I will only add that when the individual whom we suspected was caged in an asylum, the only person who had ever had a good view of the murderer at once identified him, but when he learned that the suspect was a fellow-Jew he declined to swear to him.²

Sir Robert's assertion in *Blackwood's Magazine* was heatedly contested in the *Jewish Chronicle* of Friday, 4 March 1910 by a writer going under the name of 'Mentor':

Sir Robert Anderson, the late head of the Criminal Investigation Department at Scotland Yard, has been contributing to Blackwood's a series of articles on Crime and Criminals. In the course of his last contri-



1 Sir Robert Anderson, *The Lighter Side of My Official Life*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1910.

2 Sir Robert Anderson, *Blackwood's Magazine*, Part VI, March 1910.

bution, Sir Robert tells his readers that the fearful crimes committed in the East End some years ago, and known as 'Jack the Ripper' crimes, were the work of a Jew. Of course, whoever was responsible for the series of foul murders was not mentally responsible, and this Sir Robert admits. But I fail to see - at least, from his article in Blackwood's - upon what evidence worthy of the name he ventures to cast the odium for this infamy upon one of our people. It will be recollected that the criminal, whoever he was, baffled the keenest search not alone on the part of the police, but on the part of an infuriated and panic-stricken populace. Notwithstanding the utmost vigilance, the man, repeating again and again his demoniacal work, again and again escaped. Scotland Yard was nonplussed, and then, according to Sir Robert Anderson, the police 'formed a theory' - usually the first essential to some blundering injustice. In this case, the police came to the conclusion that 'Jack the Ripper' was a 'low-class' Jew, and they so decided, Sir Robert says, because they believe 'it is a remarkable fact that people of that class in the East End will not give up one of their number to Gentile justice'. Was anything more nonsensical in the way of a theory ever conceived even in the brain of a policeman? Here was a whole neighbourhood, largely composed of Jews, in constant terror lest their womenfolk, whom Jewish men hold in particular regard - even 'low-class' Jews do that - should be slain by some murderer who was stalking the district undiscovered. So terrified were many of the people - non-Jews as well as Jews - that they hastily moved away. And yet Sir Robert would have us believe that there were Jews who knew the person who was committing the abominable crimes and yet carefully shielded him from the police. A more wicked assertion to put into print, without the shadow of evidence, I have seldom seen. The man whom Scotland Yard 'suspected,' subsequently, says Sir Robert, 'was caged in an asylum.' He was never brought to trial - nothing except his lunacy was proved against him. This lunatic presumably was a Jew, and because he was 'suspected,' as a result of the police 'theory' I have mentioned, Sir Robert ventures to tell the story he does, as if he were stating facts, forgetting that such a case as that of Adolph Beck was ever heard of.

But now listen to the 'proof' that Sir Robert Anderson gives of his theories. When the lunatic, who presumably was a Jew and who was suspected by Scotland Yard, was seen by a Jew - 'the only person who ever had a good view of the murderer' - Sir Robert tells us he at once identified him, 'but when he learned that the suspect was a fellow-Jew he declined to swear to him.' This is Scotland Yard's idea of 'proof' positive of their 'theory'! What more natural than the man's hesitancy to identify another as Jack the Ripper so soon as he knew he was a Jew? What more natural than for that fact at once to cause doubts in his mind? The crimes identified with 'Jack the Ripper' were of a nature that it would be difficult for any Jew - 'low-class' or any class - to imagine the work of a Jew. Their callous brutality was foreign to Jewish nature, which, when it turns criminal, goes into quite a different channel. I confess that however sure I might have been of the identity of a person, when I was told he had been committing 'Jack the Ripper' crimes, and was a Jew, I should hesitate about the certainty of my identification, especially as anyone - outside Scotland Yard - knows how prone to mistake the cleverest-headed and most careful of people are when venturing to identify anyone else. It is a matter of regret and surprise that so able a man as Sir Robert Anderson should, upon the wholly erroneous and ridiculous 'theory' that Jews would shield a raving murderer because he was a Jew, rather than yield him up to 'Gentile justice,' build up the series of statements that he has. There is no real proof that the lunatic who was 'caged' was a Jew - there is absolutely no proof that he was responsible for the 'Jack the Ripper' crimes, and hence it appears to me wholly gratuitous on the part of Sir Robert to fasten the wretched creature - whoever he was - upon our people.³

3 Mentor, 'In the Communal Armchair. An Aspersions Upon Jews. Police "Theory" Again. *Jewish Chronicle*, 4 March 1910. Available at www.casebook.org/press_reports/jewish_chronicle/jc19100304.html

Sir Robert Anderson fired off a letter to the editor in answer to Mentor's commentary and it was published in the *Jewish Chronicle*, of Friday, 11 March 1910:

The 'Jack the Ripper' Theory:

Reply by Sir Robert Anderson.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'JEWISH CHRONICLE.'

SIR, - With reference to 'Mentor's' comments on my statements about the 'Whitechapel murders' of 1888 in this month's *Blackwood*, will you allow me to express the severe distress I feel that my words should be construed as 'an aspersion upon Jews.' For much that I have written in my various books gives proof of my sympathy with, and interest in, 'the people of the Covenant'; and I am happy in reckoning members of the Jewish community in London among my personal friends.

I recognise that in this matter I said either too much or too little. But the fact is that as my words were merely a repetition of what I published several years ago without exciting comment, they flowed from my pen without any consideration.

We have in London a stratum of the population uninfluenced by religious or even social restraints. And in this stratum Jews are to be found as well as Gentiles. And if I were to describe the condition of the maniac who committed these murders, and the course of loathsome immorality which reduced him to that condition, it would be manifest that in his case every question of nationality and creed is lost in a ghastly study of human nature sunk to the lowest depth of degradation.

Yours obediently,

ROBERT ANDERSON.⁴

In response to receipt of this letter, the editor of the *Jewish Chronicle* wrote in a note, 'We have thought well to send Sir Robert Anderson's letter to our contributor "Mentor" for his perusal of it prior to publication. "Mentor" deals with the letter in the "Communal Armchair" column.' This new riposte by Mentor is significant in that he mentions a Jewish suspect of his own about whom he said he advised Scotland Yard. This new development appears to be a direct counter-argument and challenge to Sir Robert's contention that no Jew would inform on another Jew:

I have read the interview with a representative of the *Globe* which Sir Robert Anderson accorded that paper in order to reply to my observations upon what he said in *Blackwood's Magazine* concerning the Jack the Ripper crimes. The editor of the *JEWISH CHRONICLE* has also been so good as to send for my perusal Sir Robert Anderson's letter to him, which appears in these columns, on the same subject. With great deference to Sir Robert, it appears to me that he misses the whole point of my complaint against what he wrote. I did not so much object to his saying that Jack the Ripper was a Jew, though so particular a friend of our people would have been well-advised, knowing the peculiar condition in which we are situated, and the prejudice that is constantly simmering against us, had he kept the fact to himself. No good purpose was served by revealing it. It would have sufficed had he said that he was satisfied the murderer was discovered.

As I pointed out, the creature whom Sir Robert believes to have been the author of the heinous crimes was a lunatic - obviously his brain virulently diseased - so that if he was a Jew, however regrettable it may be that our people produced such an abnormality, in that there does not lie the aspersion. What I objected to - and pace Sir Robert Anderson's explanations still do - in his *Blackwood* article, is that Jews who knew that 'Jack the Ripper' had done his foul deeds, shielded him from the police, and guarded him so that he could continue his horrible career, just because

⁴ Sir Robert Anderson, 'The "Jack the Ripper" Theory: Reply by Sir Robert Anderson.' *Jewish Chronicle*, 11 March 1910. Available at www.casebook.org/press_reports/jewish_chronicle/jc19100311.html

he was a Jew. This was the aspersion to which I referred and about which I notice Sir Robert says nothing. Of course, when Sir Robert says that the man he means was 'proved' to be the murderer, and that upon that point he spoke facts, he also ignores the somewhat important matter that the man was never put upon his trial. Knowing what I do, I would hesitate to brand even such a creature as Sir Robert describes as the author of the Ripper crimes upon the very strongest evidence short of a conviction after due trial. I wonder whether the circumstance I am about to mention was brought to Sir Robert Anderson's notice.

Before the Ripper crimes took place there came into my hands a book which had been sent to me by the author, whom I had known since he was a little child. The book, if I remember aright, was printed by a provincial printer and was issued anonymously. The young man, whose first effort it was, had always been a strange, weird, dreamy sort of an individual. I confess that when I received it I merely glanced through its pages and wrote the writer something complimentary. I recollect that the story the book told appeared to me then to be mere extravagancies of a highly imaginative character, and seemed to have resulted from the author having dived deeper into the 'Gehenna' of modern Babylon than was good for one of his years, especially as the 'Gehenna' district he chose to explore was the most sordid and filthy it was possible to find. I put the book aside and thought no more of it till the Ripper crimes were setting the town in panic. Then I recollected that its author had prophesied that such crimes would take place and gave details of happenings, in local, in method and in manner, which convinced me could not be accounted to the long arm of coincidence when they actually took place.

The very streets in which the murders took place, the exact class of victim are all set down with weird accuracy. I read the book carefully, I re-read it, and the more I studied it the more did the horrible conviction grow upon me that it was possible the young man who had written it - a young Jew - had become mad and that the author of the book might be the author of the Ripper crimes. I consulted a literary friend of mine of great experience and he said it was 'impossible' - I remember his repeating the word three times, each with growing emphasis - 'impossible' that anyone, especially a raw youth, should so accurately have forecasted such outrages by someone else. The home of my young acquaintance was in a northern town, and enquiries I set on foot elicited the fact that while the Ripper crimes were in progress he was away from his house - in London. Enquiry at his hotel brought me the news that he invariably went out late at night, and did not return till the small hours. I am afraid I had little doubt that my 'theory' about the Whitechapel crimes was correct. I am happy to think I was quite wrong. I communicated to the Scotland Yard authorities all I knew - although I was a Jew and the one I suspected was a Jew too. I sent them the book. I took care to tell them that the youth had always been strange in manner. After some days the authorities assured me there was nothing in my 'theory,' and that they had convinced themselves that all that was in the book was purely imaginary and coincidental! I was naturally much relieved, though to this day my suspicion, formed I am bound to say upon some apparent substance, is a really painful memory. My only complaint against Scotland Yard in the matter was that they kept the book, and I could never get it from them or - from anyone else! But I believe a copy exists in one of our public libraries.

MENTOR.⁵

Who Was Mentor?

Despite the editor of the *Jewish Chronicle* saying he sent Anderson's letter to Mentor for a reply, this was a charade. Mentor was in fact that very same editor, Leopold Greenberg (1861-1931), the man who owned the paper and served as its editor-in-chief from 1907 to 1931. Greenberg was a Zionist and follower of Theodor (Binyamin Ze'ev) Herzl (1860-1904), the visionary of Zionism,⁶ as noted by Rachel J K Grace:

As a young man [Greenberg] had worked for several newspapers and was active in the early Zionist movement. He

⁵ ok.org/press_reports/jewish_chronicle/jc19100311.html

⁶ Theodor (Binyamin Ze'ev) Herzl (1860-1904) in the Jewish Virtual Encyclopedia www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Herzl.html. Retrieved 18 April 2008.



Theodor Herzl

became a leading British Zionist and opened an advertising agency that had a publishing division. He had served as Herzl's representative in London and was one of his loyal followers. At the end of 1906, when the *Jewish Chronicle* was offered for sale, Greenberg's primary motivation in purchasing it was to promote the Zionist cause. He was able to purchase it with the help of several prominent Zionists. For a political party to take ownership of a major newspaper today would be greeted with alarm, but it was hardly unusual at the turn of the 20th century in Britain. However, the purchase angered the majority of Zionists, who rightly believed that the movement was strapped for cash. Though the Zionist movement played an important role in motivating the purchase of the *Jewish Chronicle*, Greenberg's editorial hand was not controlled by the Zionist Organization or the English Zionist Federation. Greenberg was careful to protect his independence and often presented controversial views that contradicted the official Zionist position. . . . Greenberg's primary interest in purchasing the *Jewish Chronicle* was to promote Zionism, but he also saw it as a serious business venture. Once he took over the paper, Greenberg ceased most of his other activities.⁷

As Ms Grace notes, 'This passion [of Greenberg for Zionism] was expressed by what Cecil Roth called journalistic vigor, previously missing from the Anglo-Jewish press.'⁸ This is an interesting statement, and possibly one that is significant in our consideration of whether Mentor's suspect existed. The vigor—or might we hazard to say further, 'rigor' or veracity?—that Greenberg brought to the journalism practiced at the *Jewish Chronicle* would probably tell us that the story had a basis and was not merely made up as an intellectual exercise to counter Anderson's claim that Jews would not turn in a suspect. On the other hand, Andrew Spallek, writing on the 'Casebook: Jack the Ripper' message boards, wrote, 'I really think this story is a fabrication. Everything is just too convenient and made to order as a response to Anderson's accusation against the Jews for their obstruction of justice. Unless someone comes up with a copy of the alleged book I think we can give it no credence.'⁹ I would be inclined to agree except for the interesting and possibly significant detail that Mentor said he gave the book to Scotland Yard *and they didn't give it back*.

Leopold Jacob Greenberg was born in Birmingham in late 1861, the son of Simeon Greenberg, a successful jewelry manufacturer. In the 1891 British census he is listed as a 29-year-old advertisements contractor living at 123 Oxford Street, London, with his wife Marion Greenberg, born Orpington, Kent, and two small boys, aged 1 year and 4 months. The couple had married in the last quarter of 1888 at the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Square. In the census of 1871, Greenberg is shown as a 9-year-old pupil at a school at 16 Northwick Terrace, Marylebone, run by Abraham P Mendes.¹⁰

It might be presumed that possibly he knew the writer of the book that he described (if that writer, indeed, existed)

7 Rachel J K Grace, 'The Obligation of Service: *The Jewish Chronicle* and the Formation of the Jewish Legion in World War I.' MA thesis, Florida State University College of Arts and Sciences, 2006, 1. Available at etd.lib.fsu.edu/theses/available/etd-11032006-041328/unrestricted/rjkg_thesis.pdf

8 Cecil Roth, *The Jewish Chronicle, 1841-1941* (London: *The Jewish Chronicle*, 1949), 129.

9 Andrew Spallek, post in thread on Mentor's Suspect, 'Casebook: Jack the Ripper' message boards at forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?t=4&page=5

10 Genealogical research by Chris Scott and Chris Phillips posted on the Casebook: Jack the Ripper message boards at forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?t=4&page=5

either at the school in Marylebone or back in the midlands, since Greenberg (Mentor) says he had known the writer 'since he [the young man] was a little child' Mentor also says '*The home of my young acquaintance was in a northern town*', and that the book in question was published as he recalled by a provincial publisher.

"The full listing of pupils at the Marylebone school in the 1871 census is as follows:"

Eleazar Pool aged 14 born London
Vita Rickis aged 13 born Alexandria
Berthold Langner aged 12 born Surrey
Jacob Schruston aged 12 born London
Louis Auerhaan aged 12 born London
Maurice Levy aged 11 born Leicester
Michel Lamama aged 11 born Tunis
Harry M Isaacs aged 11 born London
Bertram Pinto aged 10 born London
Bernard Abinger aged 9 born London
Maurice Silverston aged 9 born London
Leopold Greenberg aged 9 born Birmingham



Leopold Greenberg (with moustache), with writer Israel Zangwill and Zionist leader Theodor Herzl (bearded), at an 1896 meeting of English Zionists

It is also possible though that one of Abraham P Mendes's children could have been the writer in question. Of the eight children of Abraham and Eliza Mendes, three were boys:

Henry P aged 18 born Birmingham
David A aged 10 born London
*Leonard P aged 8 born London*¹¹

However, it would seem more likely that the Mendes family's home would be counted as London not a northern or midlands location. Unless the boys listed among the pupils had northern connections that their places of birth do not reveal the only possibility of these boys might be

Maurice Levy aged 11 born Leicester

In the 1891 census Maurice Levy is listed as a clothing manufacturer aged 31 of London Road, Knighton, Leicester.¹² It appears that he later entered politics and that he was the same man listed in the book *Second Chance: Two Centuries of German-Speaking Jews in the United Kingdom* by Werner Eugen Mosse et al. published by J C B Mohr in 1991 as 'Sir Maurice Levy (1859-1933, knighted 1907). . . born in Leicester, the son of Jewish immigrants. . . In 1900 he was elected Liberal MP for Mid-Leicestershire and represented this constituency until he retired in 1918.'¹³ It so happens that Maurice Levy's brother, Sir Arthur Levy Lever (1860-1924) was an MP as well, for Harwich and later Central Hackney.¹⁴ This man, being two years younger than his elder brother Maurice, was closer to the age of Leopold Greenberg.

Could either of these men have been the mysterious author of the book Mentor described? Well, I am not seriously proposing that either of the Levy brothers could have been the author of the book, because surely Leopold Greenberg, with his connections, would have well known that by the time he wrote, 1910, both men were Members of Parliament. The author we are looking for is a moody and aesthetic man as described by Mentor in his article. Greenberg himself was only 27 at the end of 1888. Because the editor consistently calls the anonymous author 'young' and also uses the term a 'raw

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Werner Eugen Mosse et al., *Second Chance: Two Centuries of German-Speaking Jews in the United Kingdom*. Tuebingen: J C B Mohr, 1991, 183.

¹⁴ Mosse et al., *Second Chance: Two Centuries of German-Speaking Jews in the United Kingdom*, 183



John Martin, 'Fallen Angels in Hell,' painted 1841

youth', it's conceivable that the writer could have been as much as 10 years younger than Greenberg in 1887-1888. So not a peer in terms of age at all but a younger acquaintance aged perhaps age 17-18 or so when the book appeared preceding the Ripper crimes. Maybe then a young relation, either a blood relative or an in-law. Who could he have been?

In the 'Gehenna' District

In the Jewish religion,

Gehenna (or gehenom or gehinom (גֵּהֵנוֹם) is the Jewish hell or purgatory. In Judaism hell is a place of purification and fire for the wicked, most being punished there up to a year but some for eternity. In English, Jews commonly use the term 'hell' in place of 'gehenna.' The name derived from the burning garbage dump near Jerusalem (the Hinnom gulch), metaphorically identified with the entrance to the underworld of punishment in the afterlife. Gehenna also appears in the New Testament and in early Christian writing to represent the place where evil will be destroyed. It lends its name to Islam's hell, Jahannam. In both Rabbinical Jewish and Christian writing, Gehenna as a destination of the wicked is different from Sheol, the abode of all the dead.¹⁵

¹⁵ 'Gehenna' in Wikipedia at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gehenna. Retrieved 18 April 2008. Also see www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=611&letter=P&search=purgatory

Literary Precedents and Possibilities

Literary precedents to the type of story outlined by Mentor include Dante's *Inferno*, John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and, closer to the time of the Whitechapel murders, French poet Arthur Rimbaud's *A Season in Hell (Une Saison en Enfer)*¹⁶. All such stories bear a relationship to the morality tales of medieval times. Could any of them, or a number of them, have been an influence in the work by the young man described by Mentor, or could the 'inspiration' for his work have had darker sources?

David A Green, author of 'In Hours of Red Desire: John Barlas and the Scottish Lunatic Suspect' about suspect John Barlas aka poet Evelyn Douglas published in *Ripper Notes*¹⁷, in a post on the 'Casebook: Jack the Ripper' message boards, noted:

About a year ago I looked into the possibility (suggested by Tom Wescott) that the book mentioned by Mentor may in fact have been 'Holy of Holies: Confessions of an Anarchist' by Ripper suspect John Barlas. Barlas studied Marxism before going up to Oxford as a commoner, and the bulk of his political writings were published in William Morris's 'The Commonweal' magazine. The evolution of Barlas's radical thought isn't too well documented: On the surface he comes across (to me) more as a polemicist or an old-fashioned Chartist than as an original thinker, but it also seems clear that he was involved to some degree with anarchist and terrorist groups active in England at that time. He formed a Socialist Society in Chelmsford, and was sent up to Dundee to act as an organiser for the SDF, where he may have come under the influence of Bruce Glasier. Barlas was certainly conversant with Hebrew (although he wasn't Jewish) and there are some provocative parallels between the life of Barlas and the biographical sketch provided by Mentor. He WAS living in London round about the time of the Ripper murders, he DID hail from the North (his family home was in Crieff in Scotland) and he DID publish 'Holy of Holies' in 1887. 'Holy of Holies' WAS published anonymously and by a provincial press (JH Clarke, Cheltenham), and it's also true that this publication WAS difficult to obtain even back in the 1880s. On the other hand, 'Holy of Holies' is actually a slim (48 page) volume of verse, and it was the fifth publication by Barlas rather than the first stated by Mentor. I visited the British Library to re-read this publication to see if contained covert references to the Ripper murders - but it doesn't! It contains a few exhortatory passages but nothing remotely close to the material mentioned by Mentor. Therefore, I feel certain that 'Holy of Holies' wasn't the publication mentioned by Mentor. ¹⁸

Leopold Greenberg



It would seem indeed that Barlas was not the young friend of Leopold Greenberg aka Mentor. Neither would it appear that Barlas was Jewish.

A friend of Greenberg's through Zionist circles was the Anglo-Jewish writer and humourist Israel Zangwill (1864-1926), known for the novel *Children of the Ghetto: A Study of a Peculiar People* (1892), based on the writer's childhood experiences in Whitechapel. Zangwill was a pupil of the Jews' Free School in Spitalfields and later a teacher at the school while continuing his studies there. He certainly knew the East End intimately, but

¹⁶ *Une Saison en Enfer* en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Une_Saison_en_Enfer. Retrieved 18 April 2008.

¹⁷ David A Green, 'In Hours of Red Desire: John Barlas and the Scottish Lunatic Suspect' about Ripper suspect John Barlas aka poet Evelyn Douglas published in *Ripper Notes* 26, September 2006.

¹⁸ David A Green, post in thread on Mentor's Suspect, 'Casebook: Jack the Ripper' message boards at forum.casebook.org/showthread.php?t=4&page=5

there appears to be no evidence that he might have been the writer of the anonymously published book describing murders in some modern Gehenna that closely resembled the area of the murders of 1888.

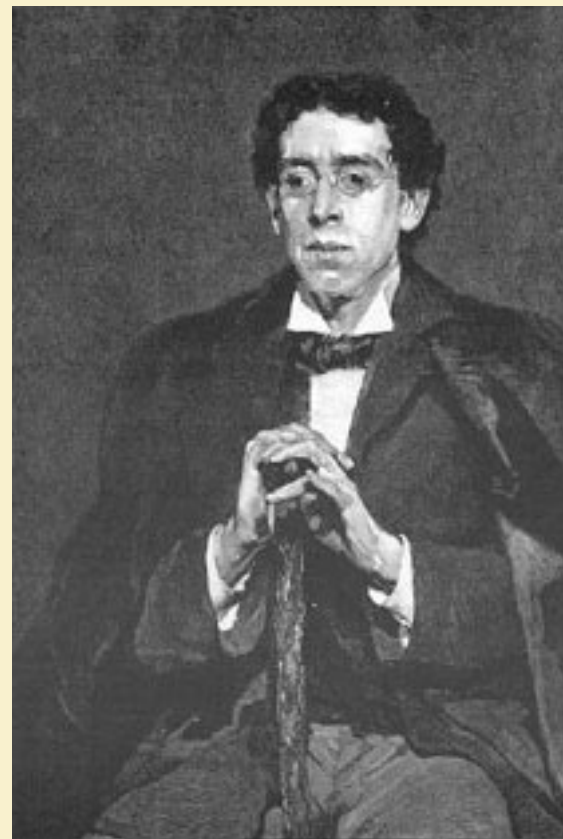
The writer was the son of Moses and Ellen Zangwill, who were married by Chief Rabbi Dr Marcus Adler on 6 February 1861 at the Great Synagogue in Aldgate. The elder Zangwill, a peddler and trader in old clothes, moved his family several times between London and Plymouth and Bristol (the future writer was born while on a visit to London). The character of Moses Ansell in *Children of the Ghetto* appears to be closely based on the writer's father.¹⁹ Thus, Israel Zangwill had West Country connections but not Northern England (or Midlands) connections as Mentor's suspect had. In addition, he came from a poorer background than the relatively affluent Greenbergs of Birmingham.

Zangwill's first writing ventures also are well documented, and they appear not to include a provincially published work such as Mentor remembers. Although, on the other hand, his first published works were written anonymously just like the book Mentor describes. The humorous and lighter tone of many of Israel Zangwill's works seem unlike the morose work by Greenberg's childhood friend. Zangwill's first book was called *Motza Kleis* ('Matzoh Balls') and was published in 1882 while he was still a teacher-student at the Jews' Free School. The book describes the market days in the Jewish community of the East End. In the book, the author caused some controversy by mocking the spoken idiom of some of his less educated Jewish brethren and by reproducing Hebrew words in dialect. Later the narrative was to be included wholesale in *Children of the Ghetto*. The book sold some 400 copies out of a small shop in Whitechapel. When a friend advertised the book in a broadside campaign around the East End, Zangwill's authorship was suddenly revealed. As the writer's biographer Maurice Wohlgernter notes, 'the authorities of Jews' Free School were disturbed, offended and incensed.' Eventually after seven years at the school, Zangwill resigned after another quarrel with the school authorities, although the exact subject of that final quarrel was never revealed by the writer. The writer protested a statement by Lord Rothschild that he had been dismissed; he demanded an apology which he never received.²⁰

In any case, Israel Zangwill would seem to be an unlikely candidate to have been the writer that Mentor (Leopold Greenberg) characterises as a '*strange, weird, dreamy sort of an individual*.' A writer who some time before 1888 wrote a book describing a district uncannily similar to the East End where murders like the crimes of Jack the Ripper would occur.

Dr David Cesarani, who in his book *The Jewish Chronicle and Anglo Jewry* identifies Greenberg as 'Mentor', notes that Zangwill's death in 1926 proved a personal blow to Greenberg, although the two men had quarrelled 'often and furiously' about Zionist issues.²¹ If Zangwill was not Mentor's suspect, he could well have been the 'literary friend. . . of great experience' to whom Greenberg turned for advice about his fears that his childhood acquaintance was the killer.

The hunt for Mentor's suspect and the book in question continues.



Israel Zangwill, from a portrait by Solomon J Solomon exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1894

19 Maurice Wohlgernter, *Israel Zangwill: A Study by Maurice Wohlgernter*. New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1964, 17.

20 Maurice Wohlgernter, *Israel Zangwill*, 32-33.

21 David Cesarani, *The Jewish Chronicle and Anglo Jewry, 1841-1991*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994, 137.

Jack the Ripper: A Farce

By Alejandro Dolina

English version by Eduardo Zinna

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Chesterton, a Chief Inspector
Shakespeare, an Inspector
Stevenson, an Inspector
Virginia Woolf, an Unfortunate
The Narrator
A Prostitute, a Police Constable, a Cabbie,
a Scottish Policeman, a Drunk,
a Japanese Man, Londoners
and
Jack the Ripper

First and Only Act

Narrator

London, 1888. It's long past midnight. Gas lamps struggle feebly against the darkness lurking round the street-corners. Whitechapel is a maze of filthy, stinking, muddy alleyways, home to petty criminals, beggars and prostitutes: society's outcasts, wandering bewildered in the thick London fog.

First Londoner

Excuse me. Are you a petty criminal?

Prostitute

No. I'm a prostitute.

First Londoner

Sorry. I was wandering bewildered in the thick London fog.

Narrator

But now Whitechapel is in the grip of fear. Someone is killing prostitutes. These are no common crimes. The police are baffled.

Second Londoner

Pardon me, Officer. Which way to the Tower of London?

Police Constable

I don't know, Sir. The police are baffled.

Narrator

Meanwhile, at Scotland Yard, Chief Inspector Chesterton talks to his men: Inspector Stevenson and Inspector Shakespeare.

Chesterton

Listen up! I've got a call from Lord Byron, the Home Secretary.

Stevenson

Wasn't he on holiday in Greece?



Chesterton

He's back and wants us to put an end to the exploits of Jack the Ripper.

Shakespeare

Jack, the Ripper. Never heard of him.

Chesterton

That's his trade name.

Shakespeare

Well, Jack is a very silly trade name, if you ask me.

Chesterton

That's enough! We are talking about a woman killer. He kills only prostitutes.

Stevenson

What's the difference, boss? In that neighbourhood they're all prostitutes.

Shakespeare

Hold it, mate! I grew up in that neighbourhood. Are you trying to insult my mother?

Stevenson

Oh, sorry.

What did your mother do for a living?

Shakespeare

Well... I'm not sure. She was a prostitute, I think.

{The telephone}

Ding-aling-aling!

Chesterton

Ah, the telephone.

Scotland Yard. Chief Inspector Chesterton speaking.

What? Another prostitute horribly murdered?

What? Her body has been all ripped up?

What? Hah hah hah?

What? The police are a passel of prats?

What? You're Jack the Ripper?

Hello! Hello!

He hung up.

Stevenson

Who was it, boss?

Chesterton

You'd never guess.

Narrator

Whitechapel. The evening of the same day. Chief Inspector Chesterton has come to see a friend.

Chesterton

Listen, Virginia Woolf, you must be careful. There's a maniac on the loose.

Virginia Woolf

It's all right. Maniacs are my best customers.

Chesterton

You don't understand! This one kills prostitutes!

Virginia Woolf

Don't call me a prostitute in the middle of the street, you dirty copper!



Chesterton

O, yeah? And what would you call your profession?

Virginia Woolf

Well, I prefer to say I'm in Public Relations.

Chesterton

All right. Have it your way. I just want you to know that I love you.

Virginia Woolf

I love you too. Chesterton, why don't you leave your job? I earn enough for both of us. There is no need for you to demean yourself any longer. If you left the police I could introduce you to my parents. You know how they are: very strict, very old-fashioned. They would never allow their daughter to date a policeman.

Chesterton

I know, Virginia. Many sweet girls like you have tried to redeem me. But it's no use. I was born a policeman, I'll live a policeman and I'll die a policeman. I do it for money. So what? Besides, I don't know how to do anything else. But pay attention. I want you to take precautions.

Virginia Woolf

You know I always do.

Chesterton

That's not what I mean. Look. This Swiss knife has two blades, two screwdrivers, a can opener, a corkscrew and a toothpick. Take it. Now you can defend yourself against Jack the Ripper.

Stevenson

Hold it right there! We are from Scotland Yard! Throw away that weapon and raise your hands. Hah! What d'you think, Shakespeare? We've caught Jack the Ripper!

Chesterton

You fools! It's me!

Shakespeare

Yes, of course. You, Jack the Ripper.

Chesterton

You twats! I'm Chief Inspector Chesterton! Your boss!

Stevenson

Why, I'd never have believed it! Chief Inspector Chesterton is Jack the Ripper.

Chesterton

You fools! I was showing my girlfriend how to defend herself against the Ripper! All right, Virginia. Be on your way and tell the girls to be careful. As for you two, follow me. I'll show you how the British police work. Here comes a hansom cab. Cabbie! Take us to Scotland Yard!

Narrator

Yes, Chief Inspector Chesterton has a plan. As the hansom cab winds its way through the thick London fog, Chesterton explains to his men his clever strategy to catch Jack the Ripper.

Chesterton

You'll go out in the streets of Whitechapel disguised as prostitutes. Sooner or later, the Ripper will try to kill you.



Stevenson

I don't follow you, boss. Jack the Ripper kills only prostitutes. He wouldn't dare tangle with policemen.

Chesterton

You idiot! You'll be in disguise!

Shakespeare

Oh, no! I don't want to do it. Jack the Ripper will come and kill us. We'll die like rats!

Chesterton

Be quiet! I'll explain the plan again.

Narrator

The hours go by slowly as the hansom cab continues to wind its way through the thick London fog. It is nearly six in the morning.

Stevenson

Why, I get it, boss. You want us to disguise ourselves as prostitutes!

Chesterton

Cabbie, are we near Scotland Yard yet?

Cabbie

Dunno, guv'nor. Can't see anyfink in this fog.

Chesterton

There's a policeman. I'll ask him. Pardon me, officer, are we near Scotland Yard?

Scottish Policeman

Welcome to Scotland, sirrr!

Chesterton

Damn fog! Cabbie! Head south!

Narrator

Whitechapel. That evening. Stevenson and Shakespeare walk the streets, disguised as prostitutes.

Shakespeare

Why, Stevenson, where d'you get that lovely dress?

Stevenson

Well, I was walking down Oxford Street and there was a sale at Selfridge's...but, wait, something is going on round the corner!

{A woman's blood-curdling scream}

Aaaaaarrrrrggghhhhhh!

Stevenson

Oh my God! The Ripper's got another prostitute. That makes five tonight.

Shakespeare

S-S-S- Stevenson, s-s-someone is coming. D'you think it's Jack the Ripper?

Stevenson

Come on, no need to be afraid. We'll seduce him.

Drunk

Hello girls! The blonde's not bad. It's a shame she got such hairy legs.

Stevenson

Hi handsome, how're you doing? I say, how'd you like to show a pretty girl a good time?



Drunk

Why, sure! Everybody needs a little love. Long live love! Long live brotherhood!

Shakespeare

I think he's just a drunk. Hey, friend, money first, all right?

Drunk

What? Me, give you ugly mugs money? D'you think I'm drunk? Bye, bye, dogs. Long live culture!

Shakespeare

Why, you...

Stevenson

Come on, Shakespeare, never mind. Let's go on with our job.

Narrator

Scotland Yard. Chief Inspector Chesterton's office. One week has gone by.

Chesterton

So, how have you done?

Stevenson

Not bad, boss. I've got fifty quid and a pearl necklace.

Chesterton

A pearl necklace?

Stevenson

Yes. A sailor gave it to me.

Know what, boss? I'm making more money now than I ever did as a policeman.

Chesterton

How about you, Shakespeare?

Shakespeare

Frankly, boss, I've had enough of this. My clients come and go too fast. There's no time for romance to blossom.

Chesterton

Damn fools! You don't know how to do this. Remember, Jack the Ripper stalks beautiful, desirable women.

Stevenson

But, boss, what's wrong with me?

Chesterton

You have no class. No self-respecting Ripper would look twice at a woman who uses Brylcreem. You need a nice wig, a touch of lipstick, some blusher - and shave off that ridiculous moustache! I see I have no choice. Tonight I'll wear a disguise and come along with you.

Narrator

Whitechapel. That evening. The three policemen, disguised as prostitutes, walk the streets looking for customers.

Chesterton

Hello, handsome.

Third Londoner

Keep away from me, you filthy slag!

Chesterton

Bloody poofter.

Shakespeare

See, boss? It's not that easy.



Narrator

The hours go slowly by. Suddenly, a shadowy figure walks down the street. It's a tall man wearing a hat and a long, billowing black cape.

Shakespeare

Look, boss. Zorro.

Chesterton

Shut up, you fools! That's Jack the Ripper!

Shakespeare

Jack the Ripper? Run away! Run away!

Chesterton

We can't run away, we are the police! Go proposition him.

Shakespeare

Are you out of your mind? Get me out of here! I didn't want to come! He'll kill us all!

Chesterton

Quiet! The whole district will know we are policemen!

Stevenson

Policemen? I thought we were prostitutes, boss.

Chesterton

Once and for all, shut up!

You, Stevenson, approach him and try to seduce him. We'll hide here and catch him by surprise.

Shakespeare

He's coming, he's coming...

Stevenson

Hello big spender! You look like a true gentleman, with that smart cape, that smart top hat and that smart butcher's knife. Butcher's knife? Help! Help!

Jack the Ripper

Come back here, you damn slut! I'll kill you!

Stevenson

Help! Help! Jack the Ripper is trying to kill me!

Chesterton

Let's go! We must save Stevenson and catch the Ripper!

Shakespeare

I've got him, boss, I've got him!

Chesterton

Let go, you fool! That's my arm! Stevenson! Use your big stick!

Stevenson

Can't do that, boss. You forget I'm a girl now!

Narrator

After a fierce struggle, Chief Inspector Chesterton and his men wrestle the Ripper to the ground.

Chesterton

Take this, damn you! And this! I've got you! Your reign of terror



has ended! Now, Jack the Ripper, we'll finally learn who you are!
You!
So you are Jack the Ripper. You, Virginia Woolf.
Jack the Ripper is a woman.

Virginia Woolf

Yes. A woman.

Stevenson

A woman!

Shakespeare

A woman!

Narrator

Yes, a woman. A crowd of curious Londoners starts gathering.

Fourth Londoner

What's goin' on?

Shakespeare

Oh, just routine. A man disguised as a woman has arrested a woman disguised as a man who was trying to kill a policeman disguised as a prostitute.

Fourth Londoner

I see. And, who might you be, Miss?

Shakespeare

Me? I'm Inspector Shakespeare of the Yard.

Fifth Londoner

Weird world, innit?

Chesterton

Why did you do it, Virginia? Why?

Virginia Woolf

I had to do it. No-one but you loved me anymore. I had almost no customers left. There are more prostitutes every day. Even the police are on the game now!

Chesterton

I'm sorry, Virginia. But I must do my duty. I am taking you in.

Virginia Woolf

I'll come quietly.

Narrator

The mystery of the Jack the Ripper murders has been solved. Skilful British surgeons have restored to life all the murdered prostitutes. Chief Inspector Chesterton – incurably sad - and Inspectors Stevenson and Shakespeare have resigned from the police and taken up the world's oldest profession. As for Virginia Woolf, she was duly sentenced, but the carriage that was conveying her to prison was lost in the thick London fog and she was never seen again.

Virginia Woolf

Pardon me, friend, are we near Holloway Prison?

Japanese Man

Welcome to Japan, Miss. Welcome to the land of the Rising Sun.

THE END





WHITECHAPEL TIMES

By JENNIFER PEGG

Welcome

This month the focus is on the 3rd of April 1888, the day that Emma Smith was assaulted by a gang in 1888. On the whole, I would call this one, a bad news day.

In the News – 3rd April 1888

Throat Cutting, Bow

James Brown, aged 24, a Private in the Seventh Dragoon Guards (stationed at Canterbury), was charged at Thames Police Court, with attempting to murder Eliza Jane Lowe. It was alleged the prisoner attempted to take Lowe's life by cutting her throat and stabbing her on the right arm with a razor. The attack happened at 24 Bantridge-street, Bow.

Sophia Betts, the landlady of the house stated that Lowe had been lodging there for about twelve months, occupying one room. The prisoner had lived with her until he had enlisted in the army. The witness saw Brown enter the house between 9-10 on Monday morning. Betts spoke to the prisoner and then went upstairs to summon Lowe who got up and then she and Brown were left together. Some ten minutes later the witness heard Lowe scream. She ran to see what was going on, Brown opened the door and he appeared to have a knife in his hand, Lowe was at an open window screaming, her throat cut. Betts ran downstairs to summon a policeman. Lowe said to

the policeman when he arrived, "He has cut my throat; get a cab and take me to the hospital."

Thames Police Court



Constable Birch 260 K said he was on duty on Burdett-road when he received information and went to 24 Bantridge-street. On entering the house he saw the accused standing on the landing, the door to the room that Lowe occupied was open and Lowe was standing in there, she was covered in blood. The victim said "He has cut my throat with a razor. Take him into custody." Her throat was bound and a doctor and cab sent for and she was taken to the London Hospital.

Brown was arrested and later at the Bow-road station he took out the razor from his great coat pocket, it was smeared in wet blood, he then gave the razor to PC Birch making no remark. The prisoner declined to answer questions at the court and was remanded.

Pegg Assaulted!

Edith Graham, a riding mistress, was charged with assaulting Arthur Pegg, a horse dealer, of Droop-street, Queens Park and with damaging a parlour door (as if both were of equal grievance!) The complainant said that he had known prisoner for several years and that she was bound over to keep the peace with him for six months but that this had just expired. He said, if she consented to be bound over to keep the peace again, he would not press charges.

The prisoner consented and asked to make a statement. She said that she had lived as Pegg's wife for fourteen years, but he was now living with another woman. All that Graham had wanted was to get her pictures back and they were in Pegg's house. The complainant then stated that this was all lies. Magistrate asked complainant if it was true he had lived with the accused, and he replied that it was, the magistrate commented that it was not therefore lies. The complainant said it was only about seven years he had lived with the woman. The magistrate then said that Pegg should not have stated that Graham's statement was a "tissue of lies" and ordered that the prisoner was to be discharged.



Police Violence?

George Baker, a sawyer, and Elizabeth, his wife, were charged with being drunk and disorderly in Battersea-park-road. There was a second charge against Elizabeth Baker for attempting to rescue her husband from custody.

Mr Baker accused PC 200 W of striking his niece in the face after she accidentally ran into him. He further stated that when he spoke to the constable he had been seized by the collar and then taken to the police station. The constable said all of the statement was false. Elizabeth Baker complained that she was ill treated and insulted by the police when she was in the cell at the station. PC 496 W said that the prisoners behaved in a violent manner when they were on the way to the station. At this point, George Baker drew the magistrate's attention to his collar, as it was smeared with blood, and to an injury on his head that he said was inflicted on him by a constable when he was in custody. PC 496 W said he believed the injury had in fact occurred when the cell door was closed and Mr Baker had butted at it with his head. At this point, it was stated, he came into contact with the door and the force of this blow knocked him backwards, causing him to fall on his head. Inspector Spencer, said no complaint was made when the prisoners were brought into the station.

PC 156 W, who was alleged to have struck George Baker, was called and he denied having hit him. At this point two witnesses were called for the defence and both proved that they had seen PC 200 W strike the Baker's niece with his open hand.

The magistrate stated that a serious charge had been brought against the police and if it were true, it would be dealt with by another tribunal. The magistrate noted that the prisoner had received a blow on the back of the head and that the explanation of the PC was, in his opinion, not possible. He remanded the Bakers for further evidence.



Battersea Park Road

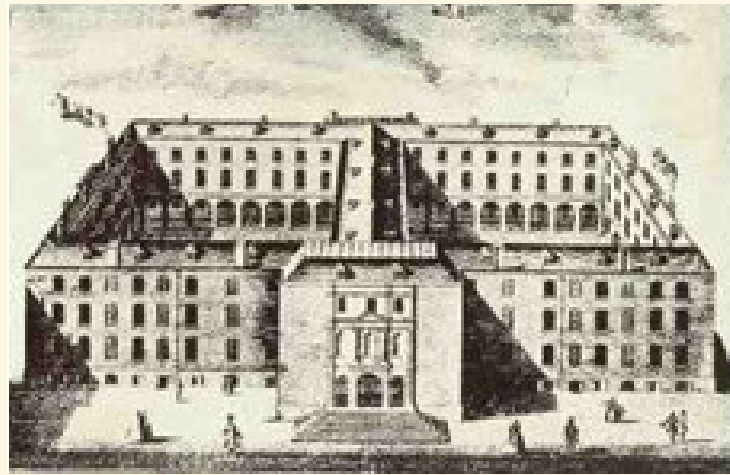


Knife Attack

William Currier aged 32, a tanner of 13 Bell-court, Tooley-street, was charged with stabbing Louisa Davis on the right hand with a knife. The offence occurred early on Sunday morning. Just after one on Sunday morning, the prisoner went up to a police constable at Star-corner, Bermondsey, and said that he had stabbed two women. He gave up the knife he said he used. He stated that one of the women was his wife, with whom he had quarrelled, and said that he was also dangerously afraid he had stabbed another woman. He asked the police officer to go with him to his father's house at 23 Gelding-street and there the officer would see that what he had stated was true.

Currier told the officer that he was sorry for what he had done. When taken to the house the officer found out that Davis and the prisoner's wife had both been taken to Guy's Hospital, the former being stabbed on the arm and the latter on the hand. It is reported that the wounds, although severe, were not serious in character. In answer to the charge the prisoner said that he was in drink when he stabbed his wife and Louisa Davis. He was committed for trial in the next Sussex Sessions.

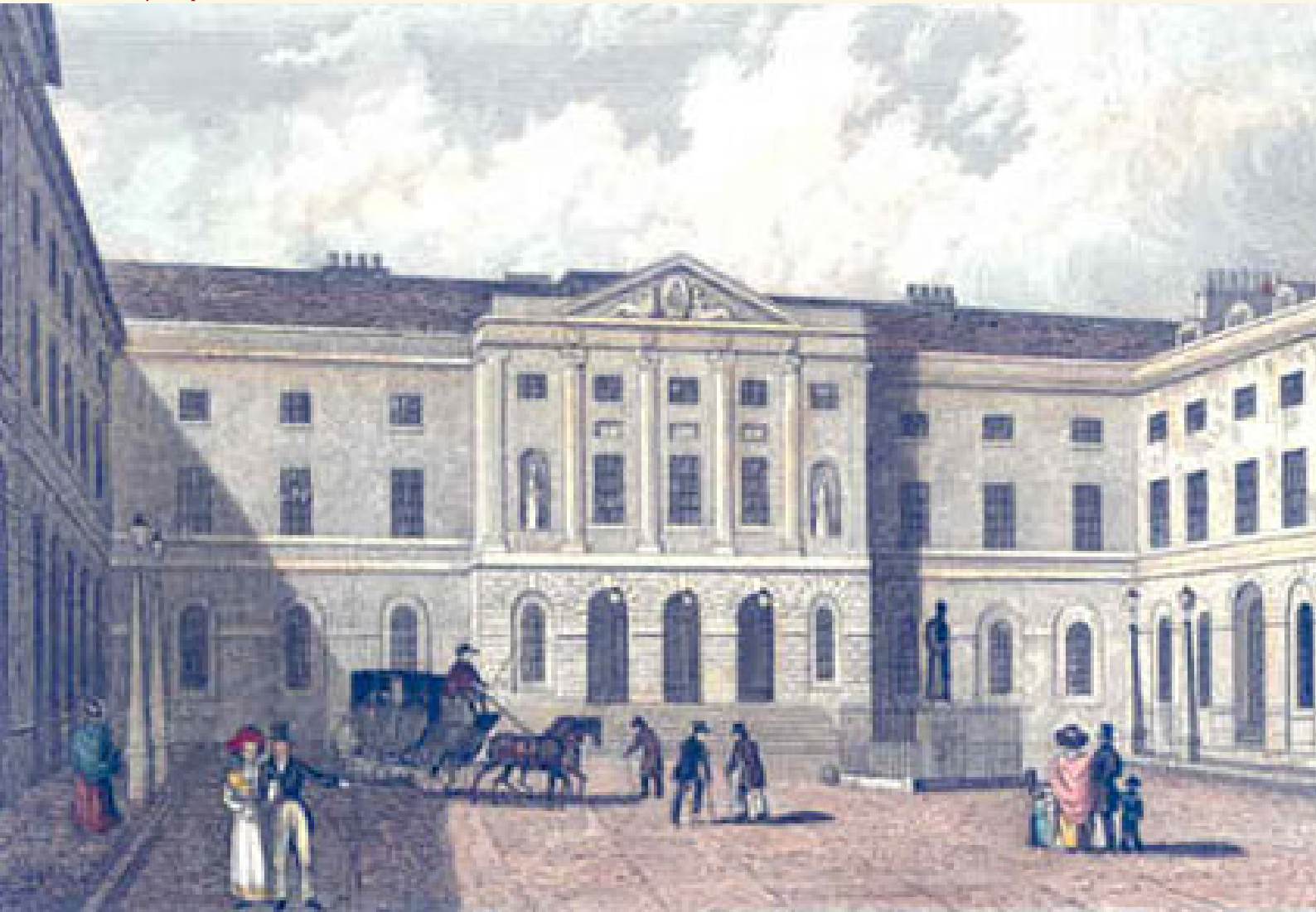
Court Circular



Guys Hospital



Guys Hospital



Villa Palmieri, March 29th,

It was reported that the Queen and Princess Beatrice drove to Quarto to visit their Majesties the King and Queen of Wurttemberg. In attendance were the Dowager Lady Churchill, the Hon. Harriet Phipps and Sir Henry Ponsonby, whilst the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh later dined with the Queen. That afternoon the Queen with Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg went to the Uffizi palace. The British Consul, Mr Colnagli was also present.



Fatal Accident at Pond

An accident that resulted in two deaths and injuries to two other people had occurred at Upper Caterham the previous day. A party consisting of Mr Burt of Crown-hill, Croydon, his wife, his twelve-year-old son and eighteen-year-old niece had driven out on a homeward journey. They stopped at a pond at Upper Caterham to water their horse.

Mr Burt, who was driving, let the horse walk into the pond as he was not aware that the bank was very steep at the particular spot. A man, who lived nearby, shouted a warning but it was too late and the horse slid down the slippery bank and in doing so dragged the vehicle and its occupants into the water. Owing to recent flooding, the pond was 20 feet deep. Mrs Burt and her son sank immediately and were not seen alive again. Ropes were brought out and Mr Burt was rescued from the pond in an exhausted condition. His niece clung to him and was saved despite the fact that she was in a scarcely conscious condition. The dead bodies were recovered an hour after this.



Queen Victoria and Princess Beatrice

Burglary in Bethnal Green

At Worship-street, Francis Sullivan, aged 22, a labourer of Queen-ann-street, Whitechapel, was charged with breaking and entering the Crown and Anchor public house in Cheshire-street, Bethnal Green and stealing eighty-eight weight of half-ounce packs of tobacco, 230 cigars, £1.8s in money and other articles valued in total at £7.6s. This was the property of John Nelson, the landlord. The premises had been secured at approximately one on Sunday morning. At five thirty the same morning, the prisoner was seen by PC Kemp 439 J in Queen-ann-street carrying a bag and coat. He was watched and was seen to deposit the bag inside the door of one of the houses, he was then arrested. The stolen property was found in the bag. It was subsequently discovered that the premises in Bethnal Green had been broken into via a back window. The prisoner made no defence and the case was committed to the Central Criminal Court.

The Crown and Anchor, Bethnal Green



Court

A total of fifty-two charges were brought before Mr Hannay, the number being above average for a normal Monday morning. Twenty-one prisoners were charged with drunkenness or disorderly conduct whilst drunk, the rest with gambling, assault and felony.

(Source, *Times*, 3rd April, 1888)

Sport

Cricket

The Nottinghamshire Colts' Match

Due to the heavy state of the Trent Bridge Ground, this annual match that should have started on the previous day was postponed indefinitely.

Rugby Union

Lancaster v Broughton Rangers

The match was played at Broughton, the home side won by two tries to none.

Wigan v Radcliffe

The match was played at Wigan, the home side won by a goal and a try to none.

Football

Grimsby v Mitchell's St George's

The match was played at Grimsby, the home side won by two goals to none.

Wolverhampton Wanderers v Wilton

The match was played at Wolves, the home side won by six goals to one.

Crewe Alexandra v Stoke-on-Trent

The match was played at Stoke, the home side won by one goal to none.

(Source, *Times*, 3rd April, 1888)



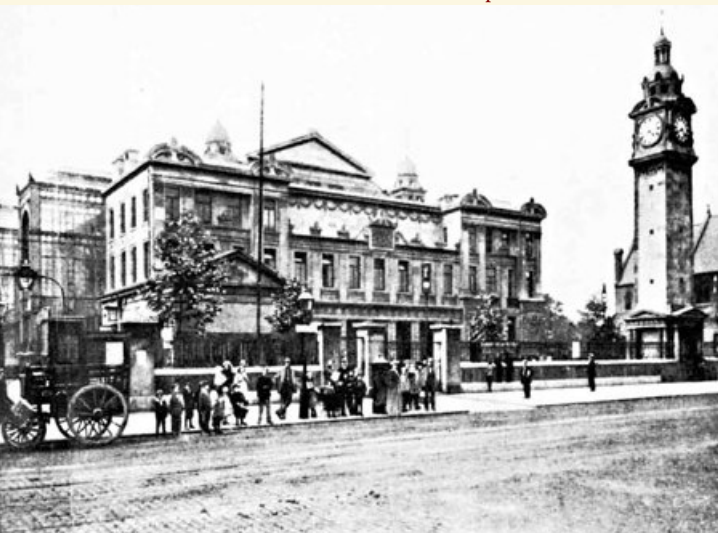
Trent Bridge

The London Hospital



Notices

The People's Palace for East London



Medical

London Hospital – Private Nursing Institution, Whitechapel-road, E. Thoroughly trained nurses for medical, surgical, mental or fever cases could be immediately obtained from the Matron.

Guy's Hospital – Trained Nurses Institution- fever, medical and surgical nurses were supplied. Address Lady Superintendent 12, St Thomas-street, S.E.

Charities

The People's Palace for East London –Beaumont Trust (Bankers – London and Westminster Bank, Whitechapel) were urgently requesting contributions to their building fund.



London Orphan Asylum, Watford

London Orphan Asylum, Watford – Patron Her Majesty the Queen, announced their 75th Anniversary Dinner to be held at the Hotel Metropole on Monday 9th April.



Ellen Terry and Henry Irving

Theatre

Savoy, *The Pirates of Penzance*, was to play every evening. There were to be morning performances on Saturdays.

Lyceum – Mr Henry Irving, Miss Ellen Terry and the Lyceum Company were to make their reappearance on Saturday 14th April when *Faust* was set to play until 7th July.

(Source, *Times*, 3rd April, 1888)

Weather

3rd April 1888

Temperatures:-	Rochefort 45 F
Biarritz 52 F	Stockholm 26 F
Lisbon 58 F	York 36 F
London 44 F	London 44 F



There had been five and one-quarter hours of bright sunshine recorded at Westminster although the temperatures were low for the time of year. The prevailing winds were northerly. Snow fell at the north-eastern stations and there was drizzle at Aberdeen but the weather remained fair in all other localities.

Outlook for the 4th April 1888

It was forecast that the weather would remain unsettled and that there would be snow in many parts of the UK.

(Source, *Times*, 4th April, 1888)

It Also Happened On...3rd April



Jesse and Frank James

It was the day in 1882, that Jesse James was killed. He was shot in the back of the head in his home by Robert Ford.



Jesse James

In 1895, it saw the beginning of Oscar Wilde's Libel trial. Wilde sued the Marquess of Queensbury for libel, the trial collapsed and Wilde was subsequently arrested on charges of gross indecency culminating in his jail sentence of two years hard labour.

It marks the beginning of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia as it was this day in 1917 that Lenin returned to Russia from exile.

It was the date of the signing of the Marshal Plan, by President Truman, in 1948. The plan gave aid to post-war Europe.

It is the birth date of:-

Marlon Brando, actor, born 1924,

Tony Benn, British politician, born 1925,

Alec Baldwin, actor, born 1958,

Eddie Murphy, comedian and actor, born 1961

And Leona Lewis, singer and winner of UK TV talent show *The X Factor*, born 1985.

It was also the day, in 1990, that jazz singer Sarah Vaughan died.

Did you know that in Germany the year 1888 is known as the year of the three emperors?

(Sources, Wikipedia, <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/WWjamesJ.htm>, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/2932713.stm>, <http://www.bistoryguide.org/europe/april.html>, <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0408/9342.html>)

Marlon Brando



CHRIS SCOTT'S

Press Trawl

Manitoba Daily Free Press (Canada)
10 October 1890

AFTER JACK THE RIPPER

The London Police Round to Catch the Whitechapel Fiend - They Regard the Recent Warnings as Genuine.

London Special Cable: The Whitechapel scare has been thoroughly revived again. Everybody is waiting to hear now of another murder. Very little heed was paid by the public to the three or four letters the Ripper sent out last week saying he was going to begin operations, but the police, evidently acting on information of which the public was kept in ignorance, have taken extraordinary precautions. Superintendent Arnold and the most experienced detectives are persuaded another horrible crime is about to be perpetrated. The police incline to the belief that the various postcards and letters received of late emanated from the real murderer and it is a mistake to regard them as a hoax.



Superintendent Thomas Arnold

Patrols in Whitechapel have been completely reorganized since Sunday. In every possible instance the officers who were on duty at the time the former crimes were committed have been recalled to their old beats. These men are more likely than others to detect the presence of strangers. Every person whose appearance causes suspicion is shadowed by plain clothes men, who are got up in every style. If the suspicion is verified the party is politely conducted to the nearest police station to give an account of himself.

Some beats have been greatly shortened, particularly in those spots where the seclusion and quietness are likely to be selected by a murderer. Plain clothes men patrol these quarters while others are concealed in the courts and alleys frequented by low women. But the most important precaution made to entrap the assassin is the employment of the class of women formerly chosen as prey by the Ripper. A number of these outcasts of about the same age and character of those murdered have practically been engaged by the police to aid in the endeavor to capture the Ripper. They have been converted for the time being into female detectives, for which, provided they can be kept sober, the police consider them as well qualified. They are instructed not to repulse any man that solicits them. They are guaranteed that they will be followed and that there will also be help near at hand should their companions attempt to harm them. The women have unrestrained license to go just where they please, the privilege strangely contrasting with their treatment by police at the period of the former murders. Then the police were persistent in their efforts to clear the streets of the women as early as possible. Seldom were women seen out alone after 1 in the morning. Now, from midnight till almost daylight they are prowling about in all directions. These recent letters may be canards; all the police precautions may end in smoke, but the London bobbies are not prone to do more work than necessary, and the fact of taking this extra precaution is significant.

THE HAUNTS OF CRIME.
THE SCENES OF THE WHITECHAPEL MURDERS.

A Midnight Interview with One Armed Liz -
Morbidity Curiosity of People to See the Slums

A Cincinnati Commercial correspondent has been making a tour of Whitechapel in London, the scene of the horrible series of murders recently perpetrated. He says:



The poorer women of Spitalfields and Whitechapel who spent much of their time hanging about on the streets

It was a few moments after 9 o'clock when we began our tour of inspection in the disturbed territory. Wending our way through the labyrinth of narrow byways that lead into Spitalfields, we found ourselves in Hanbury street, the scene of the most revolting of the horrible series of crimes previous to the Mitre Court outrage. We encountered little groups of poorly clad, pinch faced women, standing under the flickering glare of the street lamps, or huddled together in doorways, discussing with eager voices the details of the ghastly topic of the hour.

"He'll be comin' through the houses and killin' us in our beds," I heard one women exclaim.

"Not he," cried another. "He's too sly for that; he'll lay for the late birds - them's that are out all night."

"Then he won't catch me," replied the first speaker with a coarse laugh.

"I don't leave the doorway after dark!"

We drew closer together as we groped our way into the lighter places. And one of our party, a fastidious little dame, in frightened tones, begged us to retrace our steps. Here and there we met odd looking groups speaking in a most outlandish tongue, and later on we overheard opinions expressed in the well known Whitechapel vernacular. Once in Brick Lane we began to pay the penalty of being well dressed, for we were assailed at every step by whining beggars. While we were discussing between ourselves the miserable straits which reduced the poor wretches to such persistent begging the leader of our party, an ambitious young reporter, was approached by a policeman who knew him and offered to escort us to Flower and Dean street. We followed our guide down a narrow, ill smelling lane, and found ourselves before a low, barrack like lodging house.

We paused while our guide spoke to a miserable looking old man puffing away at a short pipe.

"Do you want to see 'er, she's in 'ere," he remarked with a gesture, indicating the door.

Our young reporter suggested that the woman should come out and speak to us.

"Oh, you walk right in," he said assuringly. "You needn't be afraid; they're all ladies and gentlemen in there."

Thus encouraged we entered. The door opened into a large room with a ceiling so low that a tall guardsman, who arose from his seat between two girls on seeing us, could not stand upright. The filth of the room was terrible. The walls were black with grime and dirt, and the floor was inches deep in a greasy mud, while the atmosphere seemed so thick with fetid smoke that it could have been sliced with a knife. The dim lights threw the room, with its groups of men and women, into fantastic relief, until it resembled some masterpiece of Hogarth. The huge fireplace at the end, with its display of cooking in course of preparation, gave the whole a weird and fiendish aspect, well calculated to send a creeping chill of horror down one's back.

There, in a halo of vapor and amid an incense of fried fish, stood the woman we had come to see - one armed Liz. Her gaunt, yellow features bore a self satisfied smile, and she bowed with an assumption of great dignity when she

learned the object of our visit. She was ready to answer any questions the “quality” pleased to ask, she observed with a grim smile.

“Yes, I knowed Liz Stride, the murdered woman, well. I’m sorry she’s dead, but I’m glad if poor Liz’s death will lead to the arrest of the butcher.”

Here one armed Liz made use of certain adjectives sufficiently expressive of how deeply she felt on the subject. She did not refuse the price of her bed, tendered for the information; neither did the unkempt keeper of the door, who politely opened it for us when we turned to leave the loathsome atmosphere. As we walked away, a woman with a bundle of canes approached us, offering her wares for sale. An examination showed them to be swordsticks of a cheap but dangerous pattern. The woman cried:

“Here you are now: sixpence for a swordstick; that’s the sort to do for them.”

We were astonished, but the old doorkeeper assured us the woman did good business.

“She’s down in Berners street all day,” he added, “and lots of the women carry whistles now.”

When we emerged from the dark and narrow lane we proceeded to find our way to Berners street, where the unfortunate victim, the subject of one armed Liz’s commiseration, had met her fate. It required moral courage to wend one’s way through the dark, sinister looking streets, where at any turning the eyes of the lurking murderer might be peering out at us.

The moon had risen and her pale light gave a ghostlike aspect to the forms in the semi darkness hurrying by. When we reached the little court in Berners street it was empty, and looked mournfully desolate in the moonlight. The policeman showed us the spot of the tragedy. We looked at it a few moments and spoke in whispers. It seemed that the unavenged spirit of the dead woman hovered around it. We passed out of the court with a shudder and a silent prayer for that lost soul.

New York Times

20 June 1890

LAWYER BRAGUE’S NEMESIS.

HE HAS A CORRESPONDENT WHO SIGNS HIMSELF “JACK THE RIPPER.”

Stephen B. Brague, a lawyer, has an office in the Bennett Building. When he opened his mail on June 12 he found among his letters a strangely addressed envelope. The name and address was written in imitation of printing, and the lawyer noticed that the envelope was made of very fine, soft English paper. It bore the stamp of the General Post Office, June 11, 6 P.M. The lawyer glanced at the signature of the enclosed letter and saw the words “No. 7, yours truly, Jack the Ripper.” Then Mr. Brague tried to read the letter, but in vain. The words looked very much as the print that would be made by a blotting paper impression, and Mr. Brague found it to be quite legible when he placed its face against the window pane and read it through the wrong side of the paper. It bore a threat and a warning from the writer that he had come from England for the purpose of purging America, that he would probably begin operations in New York, and that Mr. Brague had been selected as the first of seven victims that he proposed to dismember. Mr. Brague took the letter to Joseph A. Britton, agent of the New York Society for the Enforcement of the Criminal Law, who at once began his investigations.

Last Friday evening Mr. Brague received a second letter, which was enclosed in the same kind of envelope and mailed at Station D at 10am. It was written in the same manner and conveyed another warning to Mr. Brague to prepare for the inevitable. The writer concluded with this information: “I could have slain you today in the private chamber. I refer you to Byrnes, who can’t catch me.”

Mr. Britton advised Mr. Brague to say nothing about the matter, but to be on his guard, and await developments. Monday last he received his third letter from Jack the Ripper. It was mailed at Station A Sunday, and was adorned with grotesque and blood curdling hieroglyphics. It was in the same peculiar style of writing. Here it is:

NEW YORK.

Aha, you're watching J.R. But he is watching you and more carefully! My order is to remove you. I must do it. Thou art a pestilence on earth. You shall live only at my pleasure. Thou rotten heart, thou art watching me. Remember, I am an outlaw and used to it. Ha! ha! ha! You shall die by my hands. Prepare yourself! Have a pistol or a dagger with you!

Remember that a man who has a duty to perform cares not for death!

Prepare yourself and be on your guard!

Jack the Ripper.

My last letter.

During his investigation Mr. Britton secured a photographic copy of a letter of the original Jack, and he said yesterday that an expert in penmanship ventured the opinion that Mr. Brague's correspondence was in the same handwriting.

Mr. Britton believes that he has traced the writer of the letter that disturbed Mr. Brague's slumbers and that he will be in custody in a very few days. Mr. Brague refused to say whom he suspected, but one of Inspector Byrnes's men, who was told the whole story, said that some client or other person to whom the lawyer had possibly given offense in the course of professional duty would be found to be the author of the letters.

New York Times

4 January 1889

ENGLAND'S MURDER PANIC.
MORE ATROCIOUS CRIMES ADDED TO THE LIST.
IMITATORS OF THE WHITECHAPEL FIEND BECOMING NUMEROUS.
BY COMMERCIAL CABLE FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Jan. 3.

The English New Year begins with a gruesome epidemic of murder, and murder literature, which fills the newspapers and forms the most frequent topic of conversation. The frightful murder and mutilation of a little boy at Bradford last week, with attendant atrocities clearly copied from the Whitechapel fiend, and which will apparently be fastened upon a local milkman, was followed today by news of the terrible murder of a little girl in a field close to a village road in Somersetshire with much the same general details. In the same paper which gives two columns to these is another column narrating the hanging of two lads under 20 years of age, for a murder at Tunbridge wells, and giving the facts regarding an inquest upon the body of a woman found at Poplar. The whole subject of murder has become so familiar during the last couple of weeks and has occupied such a predominant place in the public mind that another Whitechapel murder now would throw the community into a frenzy of excitement. The police are watching the whole East End of London with redoubled vigilance just now, as heretofore the crimes there have almost invariably happened during a new moon.

New York Times

4 September 1888

WHITECHAPEL'S MYSTERIOUS MURDERER.
BY COMMERCIAL CABLE FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Whitechapel has a murder mystery which transcends anything known in the annals of the horrible. It is Poe's "Murders in the Rue Morgue" and "The Mystery of Marie Roget" rolled into one real story. It is nothing less than a midnight murderer, whose step is noiseless, whose strike is deadly, and whose cunning is so great that he leaves no trace whatever of his work and no clue to his identity. He has just slaughtered his third victim, and all the women in Whitechapel are terrified, while the stupidest detectives in the civilized world stand aghast and say they have no clue.

When the murder of Mary Ann Nichols, who was cut into ribbons last Friday night, was investigated it became evident

that the murder was the work of the same hand that committed the two preceding ones. All three were moneyless women of the lowest class. All were killed in the street between 1 and 3 o'clock in the morning, and all were mutilated in the same fiendish and peculiar way. The coincidence was so great as to strike even the detectives, and they are now looking for the one man whom they believe to be guilty of all three crimes. The man is called "Leather Apron" and nobody knows him by any other name. He is in character half way between Dickens's Quilp and Poe's baboon. He is short, stunted, and thick set. He has small, wicked black eyes and is half crazy. He is always hanging about the deep shadows that fill the intricate network of the courts, passages, and alleyways in Whitechapel. He does not walk, but always moves on a sharp, queer run and never makes any noise with his feet. In addition to the three women he is believed to have murdered, he has scared a hundred more of them nearly to death. Every streetwalker in Whitechapel has her own story to tell of him. He lives by robbing them late at night and has kicked, cuffed, or knocked down two score of them in the last two years. His usual lodging place is a four penny lodging house in a poverty stricken thieves' alley off Brick lane. He has left there now, however, and nobody knows where he is.

He is suspected of having done the three murders from the fact that he has frequently drawn a knife on women, accompanied by the same threats which have been carried out on the dead women. The story of Mrs. Colwall, who heard the screams of the woman as she was being murdered, is to the effect that she was clearly running away from somebody who was murdering her, and yet she could hear no other footsteps. The blood stains on the sidewalk indicated the same thing - that the murderer, whoever he was, was noiseless in his pursuit, and this quality points directly to "Leather Apron." He is a slipper maker by trade, and gets his nickname from the fact that he always wears a leather apron and is never seen without it. One peculiar feature of the case is that none of the police or the detectives appears to know him, he having always kept out of their sight, and they are now gleaning information concerning him from women he has assailed.

Galveston Daily News

5 October 1888

THE WHITECHAPEL ATROCITIES ARE STILL ENGROSSING THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE IN LONDON

Arrest of an Alleged American Under Suspicious Circumstances

London, October 4.

The excitement caused by the recent murder of a number of women in the eastern section of London increased this morning on the announcement that a watchman had been killed in Shadwell by a man who was in company with a woman, and who was being shadowed by the watchman. It appears that last night the watchman saw a man and woman go behind a board fence erected in front of a building in course of construction. Becoming suspicious of the man's actions the watchman followed the couple, and finally called a policeman. The man then turned on the watchman and stabbed him to death. The murderer was arrested after a desperate struggle.

THE REPORT DENIED

The police authorities this afternoon deny the report circulated this morning that a watchman was murdered in Shadwell last night by being stabbed by a man who was in company with a woman and whose movements were being observed by a watchman.

INQUEST ON THE BODY

An inquest on the body found murdered in Mitre Square Sunday morning was held today. The testimony of surgeons who made an examination of the body proved that the uterus and one kidney were missing.

AN ARREST IN WHITECHAPEL

London, October 4 (Special.)

At 10 o'clock last night a slight built, well dressed man accosted a woman in Whitechapel and asked her to go with

him, and threatened, if she refused, to “rip her up.” The woman screamed and the man rushed for a cab. The police gave chase, seized the man and took him to the Leaman street police station. He refused to give his name or any account of himself further than that he had recently arrived from New York. Before being placed in a cell he exclaimed to the inspector in charge: “Are you the boss? I guess I’m in a pretty fix now.” The prisoner will probably be brought up for examination tomorrow.

The Echo London

1 Oct 1888

THE STEWARD REPEATS HIS STORY

There are a pair of iron-studded and iron-capped gates at the entrance to the yard, in which are one or two cottage residences, besides stables. These on Sunday morning, at one o’clock, were open- as is usually the case during the night. The steward of the International and Educational Club reached the gate just as the clock struck one. “It was very dark,” he said. “There is no light near here, and the darkness is consequently much more intense between these two walls” - pointing to the walls of the Club and a house on the other side of the yard- “than out in the street. The gate was pushed back, and the wheel of my cart bumped against something. I struck a match to see what it was, but the wind blew it out. However, the flash was enough to show me that the person was on the ground either asleep or dead.



Louis Diemschutz discovering the body of Elizabeth Stride

DISCOVERING THE VICTIM

I struck another match, and then (pursued the steward) the scene that burst upon me completely appalled me. Without stopping to take a complete survey of the body, I hurried into the Club to see my “missis.” I saw her inside the door, and hurriedly called some of the members of the club, who at once came down. You know what we found, Sir. The poor creature’s throat was horribly cut. Her head lay towards the yard, and her feet were pointing towards the street. There was a great pool of blood on one of the stones, and some of it had trickled down into that gutter” - pointing to a perforated stone grating.

ANNOUNCING THE DISCOVERY

“Is this where the ‘sing-song’ took place,” asked the reporter, glancing around the room in which the conversation took place. The informant replied in the affirmative. It was a room on the second story of the house - all the houses, or nearly all, in this street are, by the way, two-storied houses. At the upper end of it was a platform, on which stood a table and a musical instrument. It was furnished with deal tables and chairs, and afforded accommodation for some hundred persons. The members were just about to break up when the steward burst in upon them and changed their mirth with startling suddenness. The last song was being sung. Instantly there was a dead silence, and a crowd of eager men were hurrying down the narrow stairs and out into the yard, where they gazed horror-stricken at the sadly-mutilated figure at their feet.

THE HOUR OF HER DEATH

It is established almost beyond doubt that the poor creature met her death some time between twelve and one o’clock. And yet no one seems to have heard a struggle, or a groan, or the slightest indication of what was going on. From twelve o’clock till half-past a young girl who lives in the street walked up and down, and within twenty yards of

where the body was found, with her sweetheart.

"We heard nothing whatever," she told a reporter this morning. "I passed the gate of the yard a few minutes before twelve o'clock alone. The doors were open, and, so far as I could tell, there was nothing inside then." "I met my young man (she proceeded) at the top of the street, and then we went for a short walk along the Commercial-road and back again, and down Berner-street. No one passed us then, but just before we said "Good night" a man came along the Commercial-road; and went in the direction of Aldgate."

IN MITRE-SQUARE THIS MORNING



At Mitre-square, this morning, there were even more persons assembled than in Berner-street. There was a large body of police on duty. They very vigorously kept the crowd moving, and no one was allowed to approach the spot where the body was found. There are now no marks of blood on the pavement. They have been washed away, and lime has been sprinkled around the pavement. One of the watchmen in the large warehouses around the square told a reporter that he was at the door of the warehouse, smoking his pipe, sometime after midnight. He heard nothing at all.

"Yes, this is a quiet spot at night," he continued in response to interrogatories. "I've lived here over ten years now, and I never see anybody round here but the policeman who is on duty all through the night. I didn't hear any cry at all, but I saw the body soon after Watkins found it. Poor woman; she'd been terribly mutilated. I never saw anything like it before. It looked as though she had been cut up just like a pig or any other animal you see in the market."

THE MURDER COMMITTED THERE

The watchman is of the firm belief that the murder was not committed in the square. He says he cannot believe any such sound as would naturally arise under these terrible circumstances could have escaped him, and he is inclined to the belief that the murder must have been committed not far from the square. A diligent search of the neighbouring streets, however, does not bear out this supposition, for no traces of blood are observable anywhere.

TERROR IN THE EAST-END. A NIGHT ON THE SCENE

A reporter of the Press Association, who has been engaged during the night in prosecuting inquiries in the East-end concerning the revolting murders on Sunday morning, says - "Whitechapel appears to have a charm for one person, only, and that person who is at present known as the "Whitechapel murderer" continues to make his presence dreaded in every nook and corner in the locality. The dreaded word "Whitechapel" was to be heard on all sides. Policemen, cabmen, coffee-stall keepers, the very lowest types of humanity, to whom the open thoroughfares in this quarter of London appear to afford a home - were to be found eager to discuss the latest tragedies which have not only brought before all grades of society the shocking condition of our East-end poor, and have revealed a state of things hitherto incomprehensible.

UNIVERSAL FEAR OF THE MURDERER

Mr. Walter Besant provided some remarkable details of East-end life, but never before has the character of the neighbourhood been revealed more strikingly than at the present time, when not only women and children go in fear of their

lives, but even men express a dread of the “Whitechapel murderer.” The exception in this fear-stricken community are the policemen, who, with measured tread, patrol the thoroughfares and small byeways with an anxiety which almost amounts to a determination to track the dastardly coward to justice. Until the perpetration of the murders on Sunday morning the murderer had confined his operations to the Metropolitan police district, but on that day he put about nine hundred more officers on his track.

THE POLICE AWAKENED

Those present in the vicinity of the crimes at midnight may well have felt surprised at the augmentation of the ordinary patrols which had been made by the authorities both of the Metropolitan and City forces, who have now, undoubtedly by the latest additions to the long list of tragedies in that quarter, been awakened to a vigorous and susceptible sense of duty. In every street was to be heard the “regulation” step of the policeman. It was he only who disturbed the silence of the night, for, with very few exceptions, the detective officers were invisible.

VIGILANCE OF THE OFFICERS

Walking along the main thoroughfare one would occasionally be startled by the sudden and unexpected appearance of a plain-clothes officer from some obscure doorway or recess, where, unless he had made his presence known, he and his comrades might have been passed unobserved. Notwithstanding all this vigilance now, one cannot but doubt that the strength of the force in this rough and notorious locality is sadly deficient, and that many blunders have been made in investigating the recent crimes. Two facts, however, must be remembered. The force is deficient, and an exceptional emergency has had to be dealt with.

PUBLICITY THE BEST DETECTIVE

Since Sunday morning a remarkable change has occurred in the disposition of the officers towards the Press. Information that was hitherto denied is now willingly supplied, possibly at the instigation of the chiefs, who now apparently are ready to admit in an indirect manner that publicity is the best detective. Both Sir Charles Warren, for the Metropolitan Police Force, and Col. Fraser for the City Police Force, have since Sunday drafted a large force of men into the neighbourhood for special duty. The former has ordered constables on to Commercial-street and Leman-street Police-stations from the “A” and “B” Divisions; while Colonel Fraser has drawn men from every district in the City for duty in that portion of the area nearest Whitechapel which is considered dangerous.

These augmentations are only at night. Thanks to the courtesy of an officer, the reporter was escorted through what he thought the worst slums in the East-end, but was informed that “this was nothing compared to some.”

The police conducting house to house investigations



A POLICEMAN'S OPINION

“Why,” remarked my guide, in anything but an encouraging manner, “murders might at the present time be perpetrated on either side of us here. How should we know? And yet,” he said, “we are supposed to know, and be there also.” After trying to force several doors, not of private houses, for they had no doors to force, he said, “Why, that might be the very murderer who has just passed us. How are we to know? We can’t arrest the man.”

INVESTIGATING THE "DENS"

"We passed (says the reporter) through several narrow streets, if such they could be called, from which at a glance there appeared to be no escape for a stranger. At every house was to be found the door wide open. These afforded ingress for any person who felt disposed to run the risk of entering. The clock chimed three as we passed through some dreadful "dens." "Every one of these places," said the guide, "are full of the worst of thieves. We have to provide men to watch the ends of the thoroughfares. As if this was not sufficient evidence of the character of the locality, he pointed to a dirty street of small houses opposite, and guaranteed to show me "thirty women sleeping in a shed." This was only one illustration of Whitechapel life presented that night. One could not credit the dreadful surroundings unless they had observed them. A person who had seen them can easily conceive how crime goes unconvicted.

The police force is blamed, but the responsible parties are the Board of Works.

MITRE-SQUARE - A RESPECTABLE LOCALE

Inquiries as to the general condition of the neighbourhood of Mitre-square, the spot where the mutilated body was found, elicited the fact that it was very respectable. The square is very small. There is only one occupied dwelling in the square, which is tenanted by Police-constable Pearce. The square has three entrances, the main ingress being from Mitre-street, while the second and third are by Church-court and Mitre-passage respectively.



PC Watkins

CONSTABLE WATKINS'S STATEMENT - HOW HE FOUND THE BODY

It was in the south-east or right-hand corner of the square entering from Mitre-street that the body was found by Watkins. He says: - "I passed the spot at half-past one, but there was nothing in the corner then. I came round again at 1.45, and entering the square from Mitre-street on the right-hand side, I turned sharp round to the right, and flashing my light I saw the body in front of me. The clothes were pushed right up to her breast, and the stomach was laid bare with a dreadful gash from the pit of the stomach to the breast. On examining the body I found the entrails cut out and laid round the throat, which had an awful gash in it, extending from ear to ear. In fact, the head was nearly severed from the body. Blood was everywhere to be seen. It was difficult to discern the injuries to the face, for the quantity of

The discovery of Catherine Eddowes by PC Watkins



blood which covered it. I cannot say whether one of the ears had been cut off. The murderer had inserted the knife just under the left eye, and, drawing it under the nose, cut the nose completely from the face, at the same time indicating a dreadful gash down the right cheek to the angle of the jawbone. The nose was laid over on the cheek. A more dreadful sight I never saw; it quite knocked me over. I went to the watchman, Morris, at Heseltine, Kearley, and Tonge's tea warehouse, and asked for his assistance. He went for other officers, and I sent for Dr. Sequeira, of 34, Jewry-street, and Dr. Brown subsequently attended, and the body was removed to the mortuary in Golden-lane."

THE CONSTABLE'S SUGGESTION

The constable points out that it is decidedly probable that the murderer, hearing his approach, left his ghastly work unfinished, and escaped by either of the narrow courtways above referred to. The murder must have been committed expeditiously and quietly, for the persons living in the house at the back of which the body was found, the policeman and his family, and the watchman (Morris), who was cleaning the warehouse, with the assistance of his son, all agree that no sounds were heard.

THE OPINION OF THE DOCTORS

Although there appears to be very little doubt that both this crime and the murder of the unfortunate in Berner-street about the same time is the work of the miscreant who perpetrated the previous tragedies, the doctors are of opinion that the murder in Mitre-court is a "brutal imitation" of the Hanbury-street murder. At the post-mortem examination, there were- it is stated- indications of an attempt having been made to remove the organ alluded to, but nothing was missing from the body. It is also asserted that there are indications discovered that mutilation was evidently meant in the case of the Berner-street victim.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS OF THE POLICE

The police are of opinion that the same person murdered both these women. They favour the theory that, being disturbed with his first victim, he left her, and induced the second one to go with him; being disturbed in this case by Constable Watkins just as he was completing his operations. It is suggested that the murderer decoyed the women in selected spots by means of gold which he had taken from the pockets of his previous victims after he had taken their life. Hence the turning out of their pockets. They do not believe the motive of the crimes is robbery. It is further believed that he wears gloves when cutting the poor women to pieces, and he takes these off immediately his work is done. The Mitre-square victim is, it is feared, too dreadfully mutilated to be recognised, other than by her clothes or the pawn-tickets which were found lying near her.

THE MAN "WANTED"

The description of the man "wanted" by the police is: - Aged 30, 5ft. 5in., complexion fair, hair dark, full face; cap with peak, dark jacket and trousers, small brown mustache, stout build, and broad shoulders.

Eastern Morning News
25 Sept 1888

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDERS. WHITECHAPEL AND GATESHEAD.

The Central News is enabled to state that Dr. Phillips, who made the post mortem examination of the body of Annie Chapman, the victim of the last Whitechapel murder, has been sent to Durham in connection with the terrible crime committed in that district. Dr. Phillips, who left London last evening, will examine the body of the young woman who was murdered and mutilated at Birtley, with the view to ascertain whether the injuries inflicted on her resemble those inflicted on the Whitechapel victims.

We further learn, the Central News says, that Inspector Roots, of the Criminal Investigation Department, also left London last evening for Durham, with the object of ascertaining whether any of the facts connected with the murder of Savage on Saturday night are likely to be serviceable in elucidating the Whitechapel mysteries.

Up till a late hour last evening the local police had obtained no clue to the murderer, and the fact that several hours must have elapsed between the committal of the crime and the recovery of the body greatly increases their difficulty. The whole neighbourhood has been scoured, and the people have everywhere shown the greatest zeal to assist the police in the search; but, as stated, their efforts have been so far without reward. The method and success of the murderer so closely resembles those of him in Whitechapel that the local authorities are strongly inclined to connect the two crimes, as in each of the last two London cases the murder was effected without any violent struggle on the part of the victim. The actual cause of death was the cutting of the throat, and the same parts of the body were mutilated, and in a very similar manner.

Even the pitiful detail of the manner in which the victim's hands were upheld, as though in the vain endeavour to save her throat from the murderer's knife, agree in the three crimes. For the present, however, the police suspend final street of a parcel of bloodstained clothes. The garments were submitted without delay to a medical expert, who expressed the opinion that they had not been connected any crime, but had been thrown away by some person suffering from skin disease.

All the news that's fit to print...

I Beg to Report



London Museum in Docklands

BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE FOCUS ON JACK AND DOCKLANDS EXHIBIT. The May issue of *BBC History Magazine* (Volume 9, no. 5) contains a four-page article on Jack the Ripper. The issue retails for £3.60 and includes a 2 for 1 admission voucher to the London Museum in Docklands valid from 15 May to 2 November 2008. The voucher includes admission to the 'Jack the Ripper and the East End' at the museum located at West India Quay, Canary Wharf. Admission to the museum can be pre-booked on 0870 444 3855 and the voucher can be presented at the admission desk. Further details on the exhibition can be found at www.museumindocklands.org.uk/jacktheripper.
www.bbchistorymagazine.com

RIPPER DANCE PROGRAM WINS CONTEST. A dance routine based on the grisly theme of Jack the Ripper earned Ryde High School on the Isle of Wight first place in its tenth year of entering the Global Rock Challenge. The contest judges at Portsmouth Guildhall on 22 April were impressed by the ensemble performance by the cast from the school, likening it to a professional West End production.

'Autumn of Terror' held off strong competition from ten mainland schools. The routine garnered awards for best stage crew and make-up design along with the coveted Hampshire Constabulary Award for the best performance, chosen by the evening's other performers. Tim MacFarlane of Rock Challenge and himself a former Ryde High student remarked, 'It was a spellbinding performance—a truly original and dynamic interpretation of the Jack the Ripper story. The whole ensemble gave 100 per cent to the performance and truly embodied the spirit of Rock Challenge.' The Ryde ensemble's rehearsal video, moreover, has become a hit on You Tube.

www.iwcp.co.uk/default.aspx

www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1vQpKZ1FCY&feature=related



Ryde High School Rip it up with their dance routine.



Patricia Cornwell

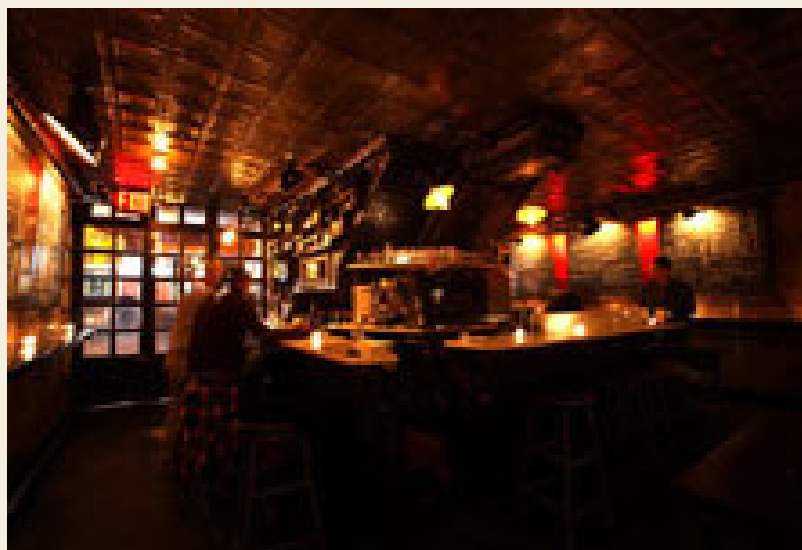
PATRICIA CORNWELL WINS BRITISH BOOK AWARD. At this year's Galaxy British Book Awards, Patricia Cornwell, author of *Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper—Case Closed*, won the crime thriller award for her novel *Book of the Dead* (Little, Brown). The awards, known as the 'Nibbies' are billed as the UK publishing industry's answer to the Oscars. The winners are decided by public voting. At the awards ceremony at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, on 9 April, Harry Potter author J K Rowling won an Outstanding Achievement award and author Ian McEwan was crowned the Author of the Year for *On Chesil Beach* (Cape), which was also named the Book of the Year.

Ms Cornwell has signed a deal with Lifetime to adapt two of her crime novels into movies, a first for the best-selling author. The Lifetime movies, "At Risk" and the upcoming sequel, "The Front," will mark the first time any of her books will be adapted for the big or small screen.

www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1159320

www.reuters.com/article/entertainmentNews/idUSN1427466520080414?feedType=RSS&feedName=entertainmentNews

TEN BELLS IN NEW YORK CITY. 'The Ten Bells' is famous as the name of the East End pub where Jack the Ripper may have met his victims, or at least where some of his victims drank. Now there's a counterpart pub in New York City's Lower East Side. *New York* magazine on 15 April reported, 'It's a morbid moniker for an all-natural, organic wine bar, but that's exactly what Yassine Bencaleb, owner of Le Pere Pinard, and Fabrice Vautrin, his partner there and also an owner of Les Enfants Terribles, have named their new Chinatown Lower East Side venture, which opened last Tuesday.' Visitors to Manhattan can find the Ten Bells at 247 Broome St., nr. Orchard St., New York City. Tel. 914-316-0356.



The new Ten Bells Pub, Broome St., New York City.

nymag.com/daily/food/2008/04/le_pere_pinard_partners_open_chinatown_wine_bar.html

'DEMONIC MAPPING' IN ANOTHER WORLD CAPITAL? Authors Ivor Edwards and the late Melvin Harris claimed that Ripper suspect Robert D'Onston Stephenson aka Roslyn D'Onston committed the Whitechapel murders according to a demonic plan superimposed on London's East End. D'Onston himself in an anonymously written article for the *Pall Mall Gazette* on 2 December 1888 showed a 'profaned cross' that he said he believed a black magician used to carry out the murders. Similar demonic designs are being claimed for Washington, DC, USA according to an article in the *Washington Post* on 9 April.



A pentagram laid out on a map of Washington, DC.

In 'A Capital City With The Devil in the Details? These Roads Aren't Paved With Good Intentions,' reporter Dan Morse spoke to David Bay, director of Cutting Edge Ministries of Lexington, South Carolina, who claims that Washington's streets are positioned to usher in Lucifer as 'the ultimate master of Government Center.' Using Dupont and Logan circles as northern points, Bay says, you can trace various interlocking streets to form a demonic pentagram focused on the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Other satanic hot spots cited by believers include the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument. Bay describes the Washington Monument as a 'filthy, phallic and satanic homage to the god Baal.'

It's not the first time in fact and fiction that the city has been linked to the devil. In his 2007 bestseller *The Book of Fate*, novelist Brad Meltzer's character Nico Hadrian similarly advanced the demonic pentagram theory of Washington's street layout and described the White House as the doorway to Hell itself.

Almost sixty years ago, a front page story in the 20 August 1949 *Washington Post* told of a 14-year-old boy in nearby Mount Rainier, Prince George's County, Maryland, who underwent 'between 20 and 30' exorcisms. During the exorcisms the boy broke into violent, cursing tantrums and bouts of Latin, a language he had never studied. The article quoted unnamed 'Catholic sources' for its information. The case inspired the novel *The Exorcist* by William Peter Blatty that became the 1973 movie of the same name, set in Georgetown, Washington, DC, which scared the wits out large swathes of theatregoers worldwide. Susan Gibbs, a spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Washington stated that the archdiocese knows of no officially sanctioned exorcisms since the 1949 Mount Rainier case.

Washington, DC, will not be let off the hook any time soon. It is understood that *Da Vinci Code* author Dan Brown is at work on a novel that 'explores the hidden history of our nation's capital,' as 'set deep within . . . the enigmatic brotherhood of the Masons.' Mmm, we are sure we all can't wait for that tasty treat.

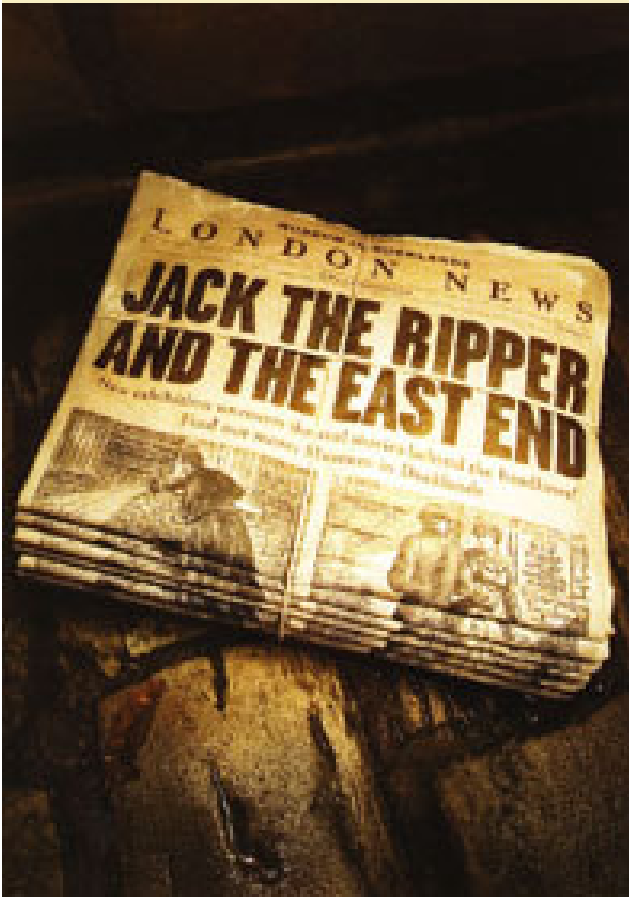
Is the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., a 'filthy, phallic and satanic homage to the god Baal'?



www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/story/2008/04/09/ST2008040900976.html

MUSEUM OF DOCKLANDS RIPPER EXHIBITION

Plans continue for the major series of events taking place at the Museum of Docklands from 15 May to 2 November, starting with a lecture on 17 May featuring three well-known Ripper experts.



Who was Jack the Ripper? Saturday 17 May, 2pm

Who was Jack the Ripper? Will we ever know? A look at some of the many suspects with three of the leading authorities on Jack the Ripper, Robin Odell, Stewart Evans and Paul Begg.
Event organised in conjunction with Ripperologist magazine.

Tickets £10, Concessions £7

Notes on speakers:

Jack the Ripper in Fact and Fiction (1965) by Robin Odell is still regarded as a major contribution to the subject. In a writing career spanning more than thirty-five years, he has written or co-written sixteen books, and last year published Ripperology, an overview of Ripper studies.



Robin Odell



Stewart Evans

British writer Stewart P. Evans is regarded as a leading authority on the Whitechapel murders.



Paul Begg

Paul Begg is a noted British researcher, writer and author. His major credits include Jack the Ripper: the Uncensored Facts and co-authorship of The Jack the Ripper A-Z, now in its third edition.

For full information visit the Museum website at:

[/www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/JTR](http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/JTR), and read our report in the next issue of Ripperologist.



'Jack The Ripper and the East End'
15 May to 2 November 2008
The Museum in Docklands
West India Quay, Canary Wharf, London

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of talks, walks, films and discussions that will explore some of the issues raised, from policing, the press and prostitution to Jack the Ripper's enduring presence in popular culture. The Museum is targeting a total of 36,000 visitors to the exhibition.

Adam Wood, on behalf of *Ripperologist*, has been asked to assist with the organisation of some of the events, so watch this space for regular updates.

Saturday, 17 May, 2:00pm

'Who was Jack the Ripper?'

Who was Jack the Ripper? Will we ever know? A look at some of the many suspects with a panel of experts and Ripperologists.

Tickets £10, concessions £7

Thursday, 22 May, 7:00pm

'Would the Ripper be caught today?'

A comparison of police techniques between 1880s London and today, with police and forensic experts from the Metropolitan Police

Tickets £7.50, concessions £5

Sunday, 8 June, 2:30pm

"Where's Jack?" - The Gruesome and Highly Successful Career of the Ripper on Screen.'

Jack the Ripper's many film appearances are examined by Ian Christie, Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck College, and a film expert well known to film buffs. Using film clips, he will give a fascinating account of Jack the Ripper's screen career.

Tickets £7.50, concessions £5

Sunday, 22 June, 2:30pm

'The Jewish East End.'

Discussion on the Jewish East End of the late nineteenth century with a fascinating panel of writers and historians. The discussion will be chaired by Jerry White, renowned social historian, author of *London in the Nineteenth century and Rothschild Buildings*. The panelists will be Iain Sinclair, author of numerous books on London including *London; City of Disappearances*. Rachel Lichtenstein, author of *On Brick Lane*, co-author with Iain Sinclair of *Rodinskys Room*, and Professor Bill Fishman, author, social historian and leading expert on the Jewish East End.

Tickets £7.50, concessions £5

Saturday 13 September, all day

'Jack the Ripper and Popular Culture.'

A day conference chaired by Professor Clive Bloom, Emeritus Professor author of *Violent London: 2000 Years of Riots, Rebels and Revolts, and Fiction Since 1900* and *Gothic Horror: A Reader's Guide from Poe to King and Beyond*, exploring why Jack the Ripper has exercised such a strong and lasting hold on the popular imagination, inspiring hundreds of books, films, plays and graphic novels.

Fee £20, concessions £15

Saturday, 11 October, all day

Jack the Ripper 2008 conference

A day conference comprising an itinerary put together by the organisers of the biannual UK Ripper conferences.

Delegate cost: TBA, inclusive of refreshments.

Jack the Ripper and the East End - Guided walks

Guided walks with Blue Badge guides Denise Allen and Sue Jackson will look at the sensational story of Jack the Ripper in the context of contemporary life and social conditions in the Victorian East End.

Wednesdays 28 May, 25 June, 16 July, 30 July, 13 August, 27 August, 24 September, and 29 October at 6:00pm

Tickets £7.50, no concessions

The Victorian East End - Lunchtime talks series

A series of Thursday lunchtime talks associated with the exhibition Jack the Ripper and the East End. In each session an expert speaker will explore a different aspect of the Victorian East End.

All talks free, 1:10-2:00pm

5 June	Dr Anne Kershen, QMW, 'Victorian East London, A Bubbling Cauldron'
12 June	Dr Richard Dennis, UCL, 'Housing and the Poor'
3 July	Dr Kate Bradley, University of Kent, 'Philanthropy and the Slums'
17 July	Sue Donnelly, LSE, 'The Booth Enquiry'
24 July	Dr Nicholas Evans, University of Hull, 'The White Slave Trade'
4 September	Kate Bradley, University of Kent, 'Alcohol and Social Morality'
18 September	Louise Raw, London Met, 'The Match Girls strike'
2 October	Natasha McEnroe, UCL, "'Foul of mouth and evil eyed': Francis Galton and the Victorian Criminal"
16 October	John Marriott, 'The Imaginative Geography of the Whitechapel Murders'
23 October	Peter Higginbotham, 'Victorian Workhouses'

Further details can be found at www.museumindocklands.org.uk/jacktheripper, including information about the exhibition book, available at a cost of £25.

Book tickets on 0870 444 3855.

Book Review

Into the Abyss: The Life and Works of G. R. Sims

W. J. Fishman

Introduction by Beryl Bainbridge

London: Elliott and Thompson, 2008

www.elliottthompson.com

Softcover, 95pp, ISBN: 9781904027638, £9.95

George Robert Sims was born in London in 1847 and after schooling entered his father's successful cabinet manufacturing business. The lure of the pen and the footlights, though, drew him to writing theatre reviews and he shortly graduated to becoming a full-time writer for *Fun* and later the *Referee*, and a freelance columnist for other newspapers. As a playwright, Sims met with great success. A number of his plays, such as *The Lights o' London* (1881) and *Romany Rye* (1882) enjoyed long runs in London's West End. Some of these plays became the staple of repertory and amateur dramatics and were adapted for the flickering silent movie screen in the opening decades of the 20th century. He is best known today for his books of social commentary about the plight of the London poor, being regarded in this respect as the successor of Dickens. In 1917, he published his autobiography, *My Life: Sixty Years' Recollections of Bohemian London*. He died in 1922.

Ripperologists know Sims best for his various references to Macnaghten's suspects and as the author of an inquiring letter of 1913 to to ex-Scotland Yard Inspector John George Littlechild which provoked a response from the former Yard official naming herbalist Francis Tumblety as a Ripper suspect.

Sims deserves a major biography. Professor William Fishman, a knowledgeable and able researcher and writer, was perhaps just the right authority to have brought it off. Unfortunately, this book is a slim pamphlet-like book, overpriced at £9.95, that falls far short of delivering the promise of its subtitle. The book has little to do with either the entire life or work of George R Sims beyond providing extracts from Sims's writings about the extreme plight of the London poor. As observed, this was only a tiny part of Sims's extraordinary literary output. Fishman barely touches on the milieu in which Sims, a self-confessed bohemian, wine, dined and entertained himself. It's here, too, that one stumbles across various errors. After referring in passing to Sims having interviewed several noted criminals of his time, in an endnote Fishman remarks that one of notable criminals Sims met was 'Leroy', the murderer of Mr Gold on the London to Brighton express. The murderer's name, of course, was *Lefroy*: Percy Lefroy Mapleton.

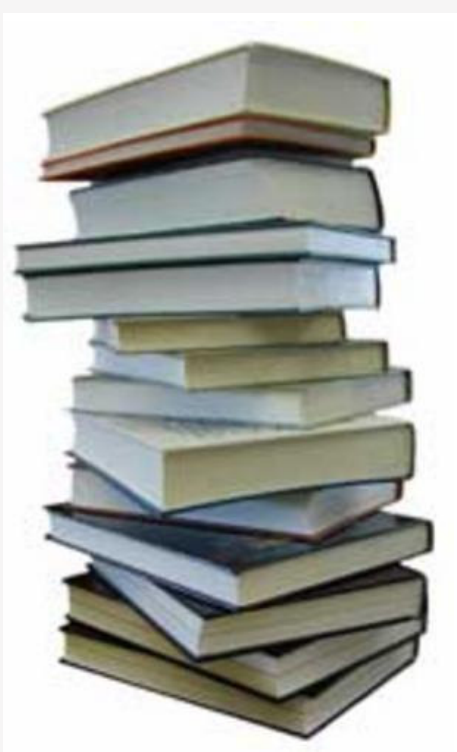


Free soup for the poor of the East End

Perhaps 'Leroy' was a typo or maybe that was how Sims spelt it. It might also be a typo when Fishman states that 'Christmas Day in the Workhouse', probably the most enduring of Sims's dramatic monologues, was first published 'in the Dragonet Ballads' of 1879. Apart from the poem having probably been first published two years before that, the book itself was called *The Dagonet Ballads*, i.e., without the 'r' in the first word. Typos are generally forgivable, but in this case Sims for many years famously wrote a column called 'Mustard and Cress' for *The Referee* under the pen name of 'Dagonet'—Dagonet being King Arthur's court jester.

An error which can't be dismissed as a typo is Fishman's statement that Sims gave details of a man believed to be Jack the Ripper who has been identified as Montague John Druitt, whom Fishman characterises as the 'son of the Queen's physician'. It is disturbing that Professor Fishman, an expert on London's East End, would go into print with this garbled misunderstanding of a major Ripper suspect. And no less worrying is the absence altogether of mention of Tumblety. Based on a reading of Professor Fishman's little book, an uninformed reader will come away with the impression that Sims had a passing interest in the case born simply from the fact that a coffee-stall operator once told the police that someone he thought was the Ripper looked like Sims. This was an anecdote that Sims told about himself, but it only scratches the surface of his interest in the Ripper case. The Littlechild letter—a response to a tentative request from Sims for more information about a 'Dr D' (generally believed to be Druitt)—shows that Sims's interest in the case went much deeper than that.

Into the Abyss is not about the life and work of George R Sims as much as it is a book in which Fishman extensively quotes Sims's writings about conditions among the poor of London at the turn of the century. Yet, there are other books which deal more comprehensively with that subject. *Into the Abyss* offers nothing new or different. Sims unquestionably painted the most harrowing portraits of the degraded conditions among the poor of the metropolis, which justly earned him literary immortality as a social commentator. However, his status as such needs to be seen in the wider context of his life. The errors suggest a lack of interest in topics outside the main theme or a lack of care when proofreading. Neither idea encourages the reader to think that the author's heart and soul were in this book.



MAIL ORDER ONLY
24 Grampian Gardens,
London NW2 1JG
Tel 020 8455 3069
www.laybooks.com
lorettalay@hotmail.com

Loretta Lay Books

Over 200 Jack the Ripper and associated titles on the website

STEWART (WILLIAM)	Jack the Ripper 1st edn. h/ back	£900
Archer (Rodney) & Jones (Powell)	The Harlot's Curse p/ b	£35
Begg/Fido/Skinner	The Jack the Ripper A to Z hb/dw signed labels : Begg/Skinner/Rumbelow (wrote Intro')	£60
Colby-Newton (Katie)	Jack the Ripper h/b (ex- lib.)	£45
Eddleston (John J.)	Jack the Ripper An Encyclopedia 1st US edn. h/b	£50
Evans (Stewart) & Skinner (Keith)	Jack the Ripper Letters From Hell hb/dw signed labels	£15
Fuller (Jean Overton)	Sickert & The Ripper Crimes (with unique bookmark) 1st edn. hb/dw	£30
Griffiths (Major Arthur)	Mysteries of Police and Crime 3 vols (1920) h/b	£75
Harrison (Paul)	Jack the Ripper The Mystery Solved hb/dw	£25
Hinton (Bob)	From Hell p/b signed label	£10
Horsler (Val)	Jack the Ripper h/b (The National Archives)	£8
Leeson (Ex-Det. Sergeant B.)	Lost London 1st edn. (1934) h/b v.scarce	£100
Rumbelow (Donald)	The Complete Jack the Ripper hb/dw signed labels Rumbelow and Colin Wilson	£30

On the Crimebeat

WILF GREGG looks at the new additions to the True Crime bookshelf

THE SUSPICIONS of MR WHICHER or THE MURDER at ROAD HILL HOUSE

Kate Summerscale

H/B, 360 pp., Illus., Bloomsbury. £14.99

The murder in 1860 of four-year-old (Francis) Saville Kent, who was taken from his bed, suffocated, stabbed and his throat cut before being stuffed down an outside privy, horrified Victorian Britain.

It was always accepted that this was what we would now call an “inside job”, but the initial investigations by the local police were largely abysmal as they concentrated on Elizabeth Gough, the unfortunate housemaid who first raised the alarm when she found Saville was missing from his bed. Eventually it was decided to seek the help of Scotland Yard’s newly formed Detective Squad and Detective Inspector Jonathan Whicher was sent to lead a new investigation.

Whicher’s investigation was much more organised, and his suspicions pointed towards Saville’s stepsister, 16-year-old Constance Kent, a product of their father Samuel Kent’s first marriage. Constance was arrested and charged but at a committal hearing the case was thrown out, and Constance freed. Whicher was pilloried by the local media and returned to London with his reputation badly dented.

Investigations again centred on Elizabeth Gough and she was arrested and charged. As with Constance, however, the case was dismissed.

There the matter rested until 1865, when Constance went to a London police station and made a detailed statement confessing to the murder of little Saville. She was arrested and charged, and appeared at Salisbury Assizes in July of that year, when she pleaded guilty and was sentenced to death. The capital sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life, presumably on the grounds of her youth at the time of the crime.

She served 21 years and on release set sail to Tasmania under the assumed name of Emilie Kaye. There she worked assiduously as a nurse and became a pillar of the community. She passed her 100th birthday, which was widely celebrated, and died soon after in an aura of sanctity far removed from her albeit youthful but extremely brutal murder of her little step-brother.

Kate Summerscale draws some interesting parallels between the case and the work of those literary giants of the period, Wilkie Collins and Charles Dickens.

There have been several books on the Road Hill House murder but, even allowing for Summerscale’s obvious sympathy for Whicher, I feel quite justified in feeling that this is the last word on this remarkable case. Excellent research, annotated and extremely well written.

