

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

Ripperologist

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George Bagster Phillips

KARYO MAGELLAN dissects the
Divisional Surgeon's ability in
The Victorian Autopsy

ADAM WOOD presents the
evidence for Phillips's
appearance in photograph

JANE CORAM CHRIS SCOTT
WLF GREGG, DON SOUDEN



RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

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QUOTE FOR FEBRUARY:

'An evil or warped mind doesn't manifest itself physically, although we would like to think we can tell the difference between the criminally-minded and the morally upright just by looking at them. Jack the Ripper was, in all likelihood, not unpleasant to look at.'

Mary Schneider, *Musings on Marriage*, *The Star Online*, 26 February 2007

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Compared to What?

EDITORIAL by DON SOUDEN

An oft-asked question in the field is whether Jack the Ripper possessed any real surgical skill. It was asked, repeatedly, in the fall of 1888 and continues to be asked with regularity today. And that the question is still raised would certainly suggest that the several (and admittedly conflicting) contemporary answers to the conundrum have not satisfied modern researchers. There is no question that the amount of surgical skill Jack displayed is an important—and vexing—question.

Anyone hoping for a definitive answer will not find it here, but it is possible that with a little thought the question—and its many answers—can be understood more fully. Indeed, the old vaudeville wheeze—Q: How's your wife? A: Compared to what?— may just sum up the entire problem. That is, just how much skill Jack did exhibit is incumbent upon who is making that comparison and to whom he is being compared.

To take the discussion from the realm of Ripperdom for the moment, consider the situation of a renowned professional actor asked to comment on the skill of the performers in a fairly well played amateur theatrical presentation. With a certain amount of honesty, albeit ill-grace, he might proclaim that the hapless cast showed no talent at all. Still, for the 90 percent of the public that would rather face root-canal work without an anesthetic than declaim in public, the performers may have displayed more stage presence than they could dream of. And, a more gracious professional thespian might also opine that the amateur performers showed a certain amount of real talent.

Or take the case of most every current Ripperologist's *bête noire*, Patricia Cornwell. Aside from thoroughly rubbing every serious student the wrong way—from putting "case closed" in her book's title to supporting a dodgy suspect with even dodgier "evidence"—Ms. Cornwell stands accused by the Ripper cognoscenti of knowing few of the facts about the case. For those for whom knowing the birth dates of Inspector Abberline's two wives' second cousins on the maternal side is a given, Cornwell's facility with the facts is abysmal. Yet, for the majority of those who bought and read her book, she is probably looked upon as the uncrowned champion of JtR trivia. It all depends on who is doing the comparing and to what.

The same test must be put to the question of the Ripper's dexterity with a knife, as well as any number of other nagging questions about the fall of 1888 in Whitechapel. We have the answers to the surgical question from several different physicians all neatly recorded, but in this case the written word fails us because we don't know the level of skill upon which they were basing their answers. Were they being the ill-mannered actor who based his answer on a comparison to the Royal Shakespeare Company or were they the gracious actor who compared the performance to a middle-school masque he once attended? We have the doctors' answers but they remain ambiguous because no one asked them the all important question "compared to what?"

The Victorian Medico-Legal Autopsy

Part II: The Whitechapel Murders - Autopsies and Surgeons

By KARYO MAGELLAN

I have examined the standards of forensic medical examination that prevailed in Victorian England at the time of the Whitechapel murders, from 1888 to 1891, and found them to be rather more impressive than is generally believed.¹ The post-mortem examination of a corpse discovered under suspicious circumstances was thorough and followed a well-established protocol for what was both a medical and a legal process.^{2, 3} Every police surgeon involved in the examination of the Whitechapel murder victims would have been aware of the protocol for medico-legal examination and would have followed it closely, even more so when it was suspected that a serial killer was at work.

By the end of the nineteenth century, forensic pathology was an acknowledged specialisation, as *Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*, a book published in 1893 by Professor J Dixon Mann, shows. Training, knowledge and experience in medico-legal science, however, would have varied considerably between different surgeons, and expertise was dependent on experience. Professor Mann wrote:

*This work has been written chiefly as a text book for Students of Medicine; it is hoped that it may also prove useful to Practitioners and others who are interested in the subject of Forensic Medicine. Since Medical Practitioners in general acquire much of their expert medico-legal knowledge from the study of reported cases...*⁴

Formal training in forensic medicine did exist at the time. Mann was an Examiner in Forensic Medicine at the University of London, and books on the subject written during several previous decades were a source of learning for many surgeons. For instance, the first edition of *A Manual of Medical Jurisprudence* by Alfred Swaine Taylor appeared in 1844, and by the time of its seventh edition, seventeen years later, it had sold 150,750 copies. Even at this early stage, the author regarded the book's sales as 'satisfactory proof of its practical utility to those members of the medical and legal professions for whose assistance it has been especially intended'.^{5, 6} After Taylor's death in 1880, his work continued to be revised and published. Thomas Stevenson edited volumes of Taylor's work which were available from the 1880s until the turn of the century.⁷ Several other medico-legal texts were also published in the 1880s, so that education in forensic medicine was easily available to those who sought it.



Alfred Swaine Taylor

1. Magellan K, (2006) *The Victorian Medico-Legal Autopsy Part I - Dissection in Pursuit of the Cause of Death*, *Ripperologist* 71, 23-43
2. Virchow R, (1887) *Post-Mortem Examination*. Translated by TP Smith, Blakiston & Son, Philadelphia.
3. Mann JD, (1893) *Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*. Charles Griffin, London, 17-21
4. Mann, Preface
5. Taylor AS, (1844) *A Manual of Medical Jurisprudence*, Churchill, London
6. Taylor AS, (1861) *Medical Jurisprudence*, Churchill, London
7. Thomas Stevenson conducted the post-mortem examination of Maud Marsh, one of George Chapman's victims, and gave evidence at Chapman's murder trial.

Regardless of whether surgeons availed themselves of such learning, they all had a responsibility to give evidence at inquests. Yet, even as late as the 1890s, many surgeons still held this formality in low regard and did not take medical contributions to inquests seriously. This was largely because of the circumstances under which inquests were held, in public house parlours where the 'fumes of bad tobacco and stale beer were not calculated to impress the public with the majesty of the law' and in the presence of the 'ignorant and uneducated class of persons who often constitute the jury'.^{8, 9} This may have been a common perception among general surgeons, who became involved in an inquest only when they were the first medical men called to tend to the victim. Police surgeons, on the other hand, would have had a rather different approach, since they were aware that their evidence might become crucial should matters progress to the prosecution of a suspect, during which they would have to testify in a far more adversarial environment. So there can be little doubt that a Divisional Police Surgeon would have adhered closely to the medico-legal guidelines for the post-mortem examination of a murder victim. Such diligence, however, may not have extended to all medical men involved in the Whitechapel murders, especially early on, before there were indications that a serial killer may have been at work.

Not all medico-legal necropsies were undertaken by the Divisional Police Surgeon or his assistants. Medical men other than police surgeons were often involved on the grounds of expediency, bearing in mind that time was of the essence in providing medical assistance and that not all bodies discovered were necessarily dead ones. However obvious death may have appeared, it was not for the police constables to make that particular assumption.

Even when the Divisional Police Surgeon had responsibility for the post-mortem examination, he need not have conducted the dissection himself. An assistant frequently performed that duty when assigned to do so by, or in the absence of, his superior. He would probably have been also present when the Divisional Police Surgeon conducted an autopsy, usually to take notes. This was much in keeping with Mann's suggestion that more than one surgeon should be present. It is worth mentioning here the advice given by Mann regarding the conduct of necropsies:

It is convenient and advisable that two practitioners should conjointly make the post mortem examination. In case of doubtful or of obscure indications, the advice and countenance of a colleague is advantageous, and the division of labour one practitioner making the section, and the other recording the results adds to the completeness of the investigation and to the facility with which it is made. Every step should be accurately recorded at the time, or in event of the examination being made by one medical man only, immediately after its completion. If the notes are made by a colleague they should be read over on the spot by the operator, and then signed by both medical men. No other persons than those concerned in making the necropsy should be present. If a medical man is implicated, he must not be permitted to be present; he may depute another medical practitioner to represent him at the necropsy, but his representative must not take any active part in the proceedings. In all cases in which a legal inquiry is likely to take place, the medical practitioner in charge should refrain from making an examination until he receives an order from the coroner to do so. When an inquest is going to be held, the dead body is technically in the possession of coroner until he has issued his order for the burial, and, consequently, it may not be interfered with without his permission.¹⁰

Any other interested party could be present only with the agreement of the Divisional Police Surgeon. There seems to have been some confusion over the interpretation of the coroner's authority regarding who could be present at autopsies. Such confusion was illustrated by Wynne Baxter's attitude during the inquest into the death of Rose Mylett, when he commented upon the procession of medical men who viewed the corpse. The coroner always had responsibility for the body until it was discharged to the relatives, and it was he who requested the post-mortem examination and appointed a responsible surgeon to conduct it. Yet it is doubtful whether he actually had any power to limit the number of surgeons or assistants involved in the process.

The procedures for dealing with an unexplained death were likely to be the same for every police division. In the case of a death by violent means, police constables were instructed to remain by the body until properly relieved; to send a messenger for an Inspector and Divisional Surgeon; not to allow the body to be moved; not to interfere with the room or place or anything about the body; and to exclude the public and give no information to the public except by permission of a superior officer.¹¹

8. *Municipal Journal and London*, January, 1899

9. Stevenson T, (1894) *Taylor's Principles and Practice of Medical Jurisprudence*. Volume I Fourth Edition, Churchill, London, 10

10. Mann, 20

11. Childs H, (1903) *Police Duty; Catechism and Reports*

It is reasonable to assume that a Divisional Police Surgeon took personal responsibility for the more demanding or politically sensitive cases and was less involved with routine autopsies. For the murders of Emma Smith, Martha Tabram and Mary Nichols, neither the Divisional Police Surgeon for the police district nor an assistant gave evidence at the inquest. But these were the first three murders in the Whitechapel series, following which a different approach was required as standardisation and accountability became more prominent factors. Only in the murder of Annie Chapman did the Divisional Police Surgeon for the Whitechapel police district become involved.

Before looking at the post-mortem examinations of the individual Whitechapel murder victims, there are some relevant points to be borne in mind. First, none of the original post-mortem notes from the examination of the corpse of any of the Whitechapel murder victims have been discovered, if indeed they have survived. These would be in the form of rough but detailed notes including the weight of major organs and other measurements. Such notes would form the basis for the subsequent post-mortem report written either immediately after the necropsy or later that same day by the surgeon responsible or by a competent assistant. One imagines that they would have been filed for future reference and it seems likely that the surgeon would have retained his own copy of his summary report, always bearing in mind the potential for criminal proceedings at a later date.

Secondly, little significance should be attached to the handwriting or to the signature in reports, since neither confirms that the person who wrote or signed the report actually performed the dissection or was responsible for the necropsy. Examination of the handwriting of authors of reports has given rise to misinterpretation as to who did what, but, as a general rule, whoever performed the dissection was unlikely to have made the original notes.¹² This would be impracticable. A medically qualified assistant to the Divisional Police Surgeon, or even to a Divisional Police Surgeon from another district, would usually have taken notes. In most cases, the surgeon responsible, who need not have been the surgeon performing the dissection, dictated the findings. Only in rare instances, when a surgeon performed an autopsy alone, would he have been forced to take notes as well. Whatever the circumstances, the notes recorded were the basis for the post-mortem report which might be edited or summarised for inquest testimony. Others present at the necropsy were entitled to make their own notes, but the notes recorded would have been taken down from the original dictation by the surgeon responsible and not from anyone else. More than one surgeon dictating on the findings would have caused chaos. This will be of significance when looking at the procedures for the autopsy of Mary Jane Kelly.

Observations and Comments on the Individual Necropsies

Based upon documentation by way of police reports and inquest testimony, either as official transcripts or detailed newspaper reports, and occasionally upon other sources, it is possible to gauge the quality and extent of the investigation generally, and of the necropsy specifically, for each of the Whitechapel murder victims. For the purposes of this exercise I am concerned more with the post-mortem examination of the corpse at the mortuary than with the findings recorded at the crime scene. Details of those present at the autopsies can also be gleaned from reliable sources and, additionally, from newspaper reports, but care must always be taken with any aspect of newspaper reporting that cannot be substantiated from other sources. Newspapers are notoriously unreliable, especially when reporting or commenting upon forensic and medical details. However, it must be conceded that much of the detail we have from the inquests comes from proceedings reported in the newspapers. Other officials were undoubtedly present at some of the autopsies in addition to the medical men, but such individuals are not considered here unless they had relevant input during the process.

Full and detailed summaries of the necropsy findings are only available for the autopsies on Alice McKenzie and the unidentified female torso discovered on 10 September 1889. Phillips wrote the summaries for McKenzie, and Phillips, Hebbert and Clark, those for the torso murder. Information on the remaining post-mortem examinations comes from police reports, official inquest statements and transcripts, and newspaper reports of inquests. As a last resort, and only in the case of the murder of Emma Smith, was it necessary to rely partially upon a newspaper editorial in the absence of a more reliable source. The level of detail of the post-mortem examination given at the inquest varied appreciably from a brief summary of the fatal injuries to a more extensive summary including other findings.

12. Regardless as to whether or not surgeon pathologists at this time wore rubber gloves, and probably they did not, their hands would have been covered in tissue and body fluids to such an extent that they would hardly have been in a position to write as they dissected. Indeed there is a good example in the case of the Stride autopsy when Blackwell 'kindly consented to make the dissection' presumably while Phillips, the surgeon responsible for the autopsy, took notes. It is inconceivable that a pathologist would turn away from the dissection every few minutes, his hands covered in blood and tissue, to make notes with pen and ink, and not leave tell-tale marks all over the paper, or changes in handwriting and structure.



Emma Elizabeth Smith (murdered on 3 April 1888)

Evidence relating to the internal injuries suffered by Emma Smith was given to the inquest by George Haslip, the London Hospital House Surgeon who attended Smith during her brief stay in hospital.¹³ Haslip was not a police surgeon and there is no direct evidence that he undertook the autopsy. It is quite likely, however, that he did, since he gave evidence to the inquest and no other surgeon appears to have been involved.

Police and newspaper reports also imply that the House Surgeon performed the autopsy. From the scant police reports available it is not possible to determine the extent of the necropsy; the abdomen must have been opened to determine that peritonitis was the cause of death, but whether or not the thorax and cranium were also opened is not known. Newspaper reports mention or imply that an autopsy was undertaken and that Smith's internal organs were generally in a normal condition.¹⁴



Martha Tabram (murdered on 7 August 1888)

The autopsy of Martha Tabram's corpse was undertaken by Dr Timothy Killeen, who also gave evidence at her inquest. There is no documented evidence that Killeen was a police surgeon. The post-mortem examination included Tabram's thorax and abdomen, both of which had suffered extensive stab wounds. There is no indication that the brain was examined and it is impossible to gauge the full extent and detail of the autopsy from the inquest testimony. Examination and reporting of the multiple stab wounds seem comprehensive enough. Some reliance can thus be placed on the surgeon's assertion that two knives were used in the killing, suggesting that two perpetrators were responsible for it.



Mary Ann Nichols (murdered on 31 August 1888)

This is probably the most contentious of the post-mortem examinations on any of the Whitechapel murder victims. The autopsy of Mary Nichols was undertaken by Dr Rees Ralph Llewellyn. There is no evidence of a contribution from any other surgeon. Nichols was murdered within the Bethnal Green jurisdiction, which is why the Whitechapel Divisional Police Surgeon was not in attendance. The Bethnal Green Division was not formed until 1886 and information is elusive concerning the identity of the police surgeon for that division.

Llewellyn is documented as being a Medical Officer, but this post is unrelated to that of Divisional Police Surgeon. Furthermore, at no time is he clearly identified as Divisional Police Surgeon. That he was called to the scene of Nichols's murder is evidence of nothing other than the efforts of the police to secure medical assistance for the victim as soon as possible. Considering the confusion prevalent throughout Llewellyn's medical evidence to the inquest, his experience in medico-legal necropsies and the interpretation of forensic evidence is questionable.

Llewellyn did not adequately assess the amount of blood at the scene, causing speculation that Nichols might have been attacked elsewhere. He also erroneously suggested that the abdominal wounds were inflicted before the throat wounds. These assertions were overruled by the coroner in his summing up. Llewellyn also thought that the murderer was left-handed when all the evidence suggests that he was right-handed. Indeed, Chief Inspector Swanson's report of 19 October 1888 revealed that the surgeon subsequently had doubts about this point.¹⁵ Llewellyn undertook only a superficial examination of the body at the crime scene and had to be called to the mortuary an hour later to examine the abdominal wounds discovered by the police.

Llewellyn's testimony at the inquest is concerned entirely with the external appearance of Nichols's corpse, including the condition of the neck and abdominal wounds. There is no indication from what he said that he actually opened any of the body cavities. The wounds were further described by Spratling in his Special Report of 31 August 1888, but the omentum and outer surface of the stomach as described could all have been visualised through the existing wounds to the abdomen. Indeed, even the description of the external wounds was not without confusion.^{16, 17, 18} It is possible that Spratling took notes on behalf of Llewellyn, which is why he was so well-informed as to the wounds. Llewellyn was recalled to the inquest on 17 September after a two-week adjournment. On this occasion, he confirmed, after a further examination of the corpse, that 'no part of the viscera was missing'. This statement arose in relation to the murder and extensive mutilation of Annie Chapman during the period of adjournment of the Nichols inquest.

13. There is confusion as to the name of the House Surgeon; Haslip was the name recorded in official reports by Inspector Reid and Inspector West (St. BG/Wh123/19); Hellier was reported in *Lloyds Weekly News*, 8 April 1888; and Hillier in *Morning Advertiser* 9 April 1888.

14. *Lloyds Weekly News*, 8 April 1888; *Morning Advertiser*, 9 April 1888.

15. HO 144/221/A49301C, ff 129-34

16. MEPO 3/140, ff 239-41

17. Magellan K, (2005) *By Ear and Eyes*, Longshot Publishing, Derby, 34

18. Wescott T, (2006) *Old Wounds: Re-examining the Buck's Row Murder*, *Ripper Notes* 26, 53-66

But did Llewellyn know this or did he assume it to be the case from the limited extent of the wounds to her abdomen? Unfortunately for Llewellyn, Mary Nichols was buried on 6 September, two days before the murder of Annie Chapman, so he must have re-examined Nichols's corpse before 6 September, and for some reason other than to establish, in the light of Chapman's murder, whether any organs were missing. On the basis of our interpretation of the wounds inflicted, it seems unlikely that any organs had been removed from Nichols's body, but there is no way of knowing for sure if Llewellyn did undertake a comprehensive necropsy, and there is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that he did. Llewellyn was also convinced that Nichols received the fatal wound to her neck from a frontal attack.



Annie Chapman (murdered on 8 September 1888)

The medical investigation into the death of Annie Chapman appears to have been far more searching than that undertaken for Mary Nichols. Police Surgeon to the Whitechapel Division George Bagster Phillips examined the body and the surroundings at the crime scene and conducted a thorough necropsy at the mortuary, hindered though he was by inadequate staff and facilities. It is evident from inquest testimony that Phillips opened all body cavities during the post-mortem examination of Annie Chapman. Her abdomen was, of course, already open, and Phillips's comments on the lungs and meninges confirm that the thorax and cranium were also opened. In terms of general health, Chapman was 'far advanced in disease of the lungs and membranes of the brain, but they had nothing to do with the cause of death'. Furthermore, she was poorly nourished with 'signs of great deprivation'. The only controversial aspect of this autopsy was Phillips's reluctance to reveal which organs were missing from Chapman's body. The coroner eventually managed

to persuade him to give details to the inquest and, although reporting was limited, an authoritative account was given in the *Lancet*.¹⁹ It was a dispute not repeated at Wynne Baxter's inquests, and at the Kelly inquest the coroner didn't even ask the question. No other surgeon appears to have played a significant role in the necropsy of Annie Chapman.

There is an indication from Phillips's testimony as to how long he took over medico-legal necropsies. When recalled to the inquest, and in response to a question from the coroner as to how long he thought the killer might have taken to mutilate Chapman, Philips said:

*I think I can guide you by saying that I myself could not have performed all the injuries I saw on that woman, and effect them, even without a struggle, under a quarter of an hour. If I had done it in a deliberate way, such as would fall to the duties of a surgeon, it would probably have taken me the best part of an hour.*²⁰

By 'duties of a surgeon' Philips did not mean the removal of almost the entire abdominal contents as a surgical procedure but their removal as part of the detailed necropsy procedure undertaken in his capacity as a police surgeon. Thus he would have taken the best part of an hour to attend to the abdominal organs and perhaps another couple of hours for the external and internal examination of cranial and thoracic cavities - pretty much in keeping with Virchow's maximum estimate of three hours for a comprehensive autopsy.²¹



Elizabeth Stride (murdered on 30 September 1888)

Phillips once again had responsibility for the autopsy and presentation of findings to the inquest on Elizabeth Stride. On this occasion, he was assisted by William Blackwell, who was the second medical man to arrive at the scene of her murder and certified her death. Philips and Blackwell undertook the necropsy of Stride at St George's mortuary in the presence of doctors Rygate and Johnson. According to Phillips, 'Dr Blackwell kindly consented to make the dissection.' Once again the autopsy was comprehensive, with evidence that all body cavities were opened. In terms of general health Stride was 'fairly nourished'. She had adhesions of both lungs to the chest wall, deformity in the bones of the right leg and healing sores.

Phillips visited the mortuary on at least two further occasions in order to assess the development of marks upon the body. Bruising occurring about the time of death can further develop, and that is what Phillips wished to monitor. On one of these additional visits he was accompanied by doctors Brown and Blackwell.

19. *The Lancet*, 29 September 1888, 637

20. *Daily Telegraph*, 20 September 1888

21. Virchow, vi

Edward Johnson, who was Blackwell's assistant, also gave evidence to the inquest, but only in relation to his involvement as the first surgeon to tend to Stride. Likewise, Blackwell's inquest testimony did not extend beyond his observations at the scene of the murder, and the post-mortem findings were left to Phillips, even though Blackwell had actually performed much of the autopsy.



Catharine Eddowes (murdered on 30 September 1888)

Since Catharine Eddowes was murdered within the City boundary, responsibility for her post-mortem examination fell to the City Police Surgeon, Frederick Gordon Brown. Sedgwick Saunders the City Analyst, George Sequeira and Phillips were all present at the post-mortem examination and all, except Phillips, gave evidence at the inquest.

In his inquest testimony, Brown described the body and the crime scene and his post-mortem examination of Eddowes's corpse. Although his testimony was lengthy, it did not constitute a full post-mortem report but was only a detailed summary of relevant findings. Brown restricted his descriptions to external marks, the fatal neck wounds, and the mutilations, and he dealt with other organs in a single sentence stating that 'The other organs were healthy'. It is likely that Brown followed the conventional medico-legal autopsy protocol with a full external examination followed by details of the neck wounds, then the abdominal wounds and organs. There is no direct evidence from testimony that the thorax or cranial cavities were opened, although it is reasonable to assume that they were.

Sequeira was present at the post-mortem because he had been the first medical man at the scene and Saunders attended to take charge of the stomach contents for toxicological analysis. At the inquest, Saunders confirmed that the stomach was tied at both ends but its contents were undisturbed and the container was carefully sealed with Brown's private seal. Phillips was understandably present, having been responsible for the necropsy of victims Chapman and Stride.



Mary Jane Kelly (murdered on 9 November 1888)

The murder of Mary Jane Kelly fell within the jurisdiction of Divisional Police Surgeon Phillips. Both Bond and Brown attended her autopsy, possibly together with Drs Dukes, Hebbert and Clarke.

Phillips's brief inquest testimony and Bond's notes are the only records relating to the autopsy of Kelly. Phillips's testimony gives no insight into the extent of the post-mortem examination of the corpse. In that regard, Bond's notes are far more valuable. There is, however, a misunderstanding as to who did what with regard to Kelly's necropsy which will be discussed later.

According to Bond's notes, it appears that a full routine post-mortem procedure was followed, this being subdivided into external examination recorded at Miller's Court and at the mortuary and a necropsy at the mortuary. Bond's notes on the post-mortem examination progress logically from head through neck, thorax, abdomen, upper leg, lower leg, forearms, hands and fingers. Comments on the neck wounds provide some detail but there is very little on the remaining organs apart from the lungs and stomach contents. The cranium would have been opened, the brain examined and all organs minutely examined, so we are entitled to assume that, apart from some evidence of chronic but apparently not debilitating lung disease, there were no other significant pathological lesions in any of the remaining tissues.

In Bond's report to Anderson he mentioned that the heart was 'absent'. In detailing this, he meant that it was absent from the body and from the room. There's not much more he could have said, and pathology reporting has a history of terseness. This observation was later confirmed by Hebbert.²² Further support for Bond's assertion comes from what was not included in his report; had the heart been examined there would certainly have been comment on it with respect to contraction of the ventricles or absence of blood. Every other major organ was accounted for in Bond's report with the exception of the heart. I think there should be no further ambiguity about this.

22. Hamilton AM and L Godkin (1894) *A System of Legal Medicine*, EB Treat New York Volume I, 61.

Rose Mylett (murdered on 20 December 1888)

The autopsy of Rose Mylett is noteworthy as much for its political aspects as for the controversy surrounding the cause of her death. Mylett's body was discovered in Poplar, which was within the Bow Metropolitan Police District. Divisional Police Surgeon Matthew Brownfield was sent for, but it was his assistant, Mr Harris, who attended and certified death. The autopsy on Rose Mylett was undertaken the following morning by Brownfield with the assistance of Harris. That afternoon Brownfield gave testimony to the inquest that it was a case of murder, a conclusion that came as a surprise to the police. Police Commissioner James Monro did not agree with what the surgeon said and instructed Assistant Police Commissioner Robert Anderson to ask Thomas Bond to look into the death. Since Bond was otherwise engaged, Monro asked Chief Police Surgeon Mackellar to look at the body. Meanwhile Bond's assistant, Charles Hebbert, opened the note from Anderson and took it upon himself to act on Bond's behalf. Hebbert arrived at the mortuary the day after Brownfield had conducted the first post-mortem examination and after Anderson had left. Hebbert made the second post-mortem examination of the body in the company of Brownfield and Harris. Just after Hebbert had left, Mackellar appeared. Two days later, Bond visited the mortuary to verify Hebbert's notes and the body was opened for a third time. All the doctors concluded that death had resulted from strangulation, but in a subsequent meeting with Bond and Hebbert, Anderson pressed his 'difficulties and objections' to such a conclusion so Bond went again to the mortuary, made a 'more careful examination of [Mylett's] neck' and 'entirely altered his view'. Such an astounding volte-face suggests that his opinion may have been influenced by pressure from Anderson. On that basis alone, Bond's contribution would be significantly discredited. Anderson 'undertook the distasteful task of going to the mortuary and examining the body' himself at some point prior to Bond seeing the corpse and reached the conclusion that 'the death had not been caused by homicidal violence',²³ thus showing that there was little need for police surgeons in the Metropolitan Police Force at that time. This was all the more astounding because Anderson was a Doctor of Law, not a surgeon.

The procession of 'doctor after doctor' through the mortuary to view Mylett's corpse was much to the consternation of coroner Wynne Baxter, whose concerns were certainly valid if additional dissections had been performed without his permission. Baxter rightly dismissed Bond's input because the Westminster Police Surgeon had not seen the body until five days after death, by which time it had already been dissected twice. Anderson regarded as it as 'unfortunate' that Hebbert had acted of his own volition by opening Anderson's note to Bond and conducting a second post-mortem examination.²⁴

Neither post-mortem report nor inquest testimony exist other than that reported in the newspapers. In his testimony, Brownfield makes reference to abdominal organs, lungs, heart and brain, meaning that all cavities were opened in the course of a thorough post-mortem examination. It seems that Mylett was in reasonable health before she was murdered. Brownfield smelled the stomach contents and suggested that she had not taken significant amount of alcohol prior to her death nor, he concluded from the appearance of the remaining organs, was she a heavy drinker.



Alice McKenzie (murdered on 17 July 1889)

Since Alice McKenzie was murdered in Whitechapel, responsibility for the post-mortem examination and inquest testimony fell again to the Divisional Police Surgeon, Phillips. His inquest testimony was relatively brief, although it was based upon a very detailed autopsy. Together with several colleagues, Phillips undertook the autopsy in a shed used as a mortuary in the Pavilion Yard. The use of such facilities inevitably drew a protest from the surgeon.

Surgeon in Chief Alexander MacKellar and Frederick Brown attended the post-mortem examination, as did Phillips's assistant Percy Clark (together with a Mr Boswick who was apparently there for a short time without Phillips's permission). Thomas Bond was not among the 'several colleagues,' although he later inspected the body and generated a lengthy assessment of the findings and his own opinion on them in another report to Robert Anderson. Bond examined the corpse in the company of Phillips and they differed

in one or two respects. Most significantly, Bond thought that McKenzie was a victim of the Whitechapel serial killer whereas Phillips did not.

23. MEPO 3/143, ff. E-J

24. Ibid

Phillips's post-mortem report as it appears in the public records is of particular interest among the medical records of the Whitechapel murders since it represents a full and original post-mortem report as one might expect after a comprehensive necropsy. That said, the report is signed and dated 22 July 1889, some five days after the necropsy, which was conducted on the afternoon of McKenzie's death on 17 July.²⁵ Phillips's report, in his own hand, must have been compiled from other notes which formed the basis of his evidence to the inquest later on the day of McKenzie's death. There is nothing wrong with this in principle, although from a legal point of view it means that there is scope for the report to be changed from the original notes of observations when re-writing, assuming that those notes were not also filed with the rewritten report. Nonetheless, Phillips's report reveals his proper systematic approach to the necropsy broadly following Virchow's protocol: starting with his observations at the crime scene; then an external examination with the body clothed at the mortuary; examination of stripped body for external lesions; detailed assessment and internal dissection of the wounds; followed by dissection and assessment of the brain, thoracic, and abdominal organs, in that order. Apart from some old lung adhesions and localised syphilitic lesions, McKenzie was in good general health prior to her death.

Phillips examined McKenzie's body on two further occasions, once with Thomas Bond and again with Frederick Brown.



Unidentified Female Torso (discovered 10 September 1889)

Phillips had overall responsibility for the autopsy and inquest testimony concerning the torso of a woman which was discovered in the Whitechapel police district. Because he had to return from Bournemouth, the post-mortem examination was delayed. The coroner had requested that Phillips conduct the examination on 10 September, but Phillips elected to undertake it the following morning at 10.00am instead. Once again, Anderson called upon Thomas Bond to submit to him a report independently of that supplied by Phillips. Bond, however, did not attend the autopsy and Hebbert appeared in his stead. Present at the autopsy were Phillips and his assistant Percy Clark, Charles Hebbert and Frederick Brown. On this occasion there are three post-mortem summaries, all of them consequential to just one post-mortem examination and dissection.

Hebbert prepared a report on the autopsy of the torso to be sent to Anderson. It should not be inferred from this that Hebbert conducted any form of independent post-mortem examination, because he did not do so. Either Phillips or Clarke conducted the autopsy and the other took notes. Indeed, Hebbert says quite clearly in his report that he was 'present' at the post-mortem examination, not that he conducted the dissection, but he was quite at liberty to place his own interpretation on what he saw.²⁶ Although it has been suggested that Hebbert had significant involvement in this necropsy, he actually had no specific responsibility and attended as either observer or note-taker.

Clark examined the torso at the scene of discovery and re-examined it at St George's mortuary. His post-mortem report was essentially the same as that produced by Phillips. Details of the post-mortem findings as reported by Hebbert are rather more comprehensive than those reported at the inquest by the Divisional Police Surgeon.

Taking into consideration all sources of information, there is little doubt that Phillips followed the standard medico-legal protocol with a thorough necropsy of the remains, although it obviously did not include the cranial cavity. There was a detailed external examination followed by an internal examination of the thoracic and the abdominal organs. Besides the presence of some lung adhesions, the victim had, according to Phillips, a fatty and diseased liver. Hebbert, on the other hand, thought the liver was 'fairly healthy'.



Frances Coles (murdered on 13 February 1891)

The necropsy of Frances Coles's corpse was undertaken by Phillips as Divisional Police Surgeon, but Dr Frederick Oxley, who was the first medical man on the scene, gave brief evidence to the inquest, which was followed by the post-mortem evidence from Phillips. Phillips's testimony was limited to the wounds to Coles's neck and there were no details of lesions in any other organs. It is reasonable to assume that Phillips undertook his usual thorough post-mortem examination of the corpse.

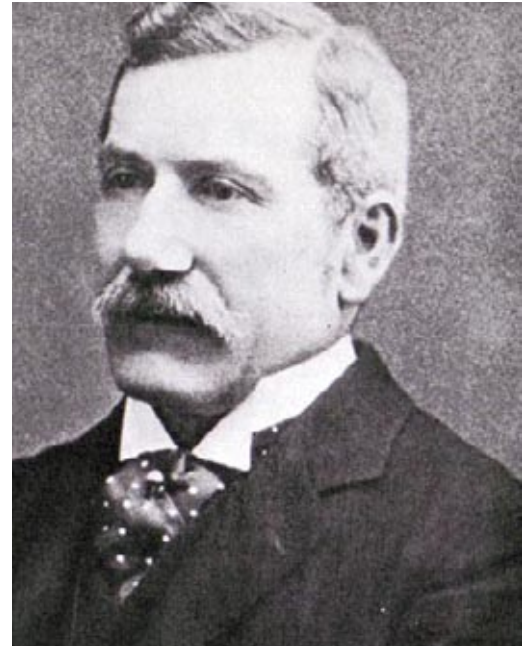
The inquest and investigation into Coles's murder were skewed by the determination of the police to have Thomas Sadler stand trial for her murder - an objective in which they failed miserably, for the most part because he was probably not her killer.

25. MEPO 3/140, ff. 263-71

26. MEPO 3/140, ff. 141-7

Thomas Bond's Report on Mary Jane Kelly

The discovery of Kelly's corpse marked the high point of public and media interest in the murders, fuelled in no small way by the manner in which she had been killed and mutilated. It is my personal belief that Kelly was not a victim of Jack the Ripper because of several significant factors that are inconsistent with murders in the series. Surprisingly, although Kelly's murder came under close examination by police and surgeons, later evaluation is hampered by the paucity of information given at the inquest into her death. While this is irritating for researchers, coroner Dr Roderick MacDonald followed generally the correct procedure by not prolonging proceedings beyond establishing the cause of death. It could indeed be perceived, in contrast to the inquests conducted by Wynne Baxter, that MacDonald deliberately conducted a truncated enquiry. That there was a political dimension to the inquest on Kelly is in little doubt, and the fact that her body was removed to Shoreditch Mortuary - outside the jurisdiction of Wynne Baxter - gives a strong indication of this. It is also possible that MacDonald may have been influenced by instructions from a higher level that on this occasion only the information necessary for the central purpose of the inquest should be available in the public domain. As a consequence, evidence from medical experts related only to establishing the cause of death.



Dr Thomas Bond

Phillips, giving evidence as Divisional Police Surgeon, was unusually succinct and very little can be gleaned from his testimony. In fact, he only reported on what he found at the crime scene examination of the body and made no mention of the post-mortem findings. Much more information became available when Dr Bond's handwritten report to Anderson revealing details of the post-mortem examination of the crime scene and Kelly's corpse turned up in 1987. However, Bond's report is not altogether what it appears to be and does not constitute a post-mortem report in the conventional sense.

Depending upon the source, and presumably also upon the ability of the newspaper reporters to recognise and name the various surgeons, the doctors attending the crime scene and post-mortem examination of Kelly included some or all of the following: George Phillips (Whitechapel Divisional Police Surgeon), Thomas Bond (Westminster Divisional Police Surgeon), Frederick Brown (City Police Surgeon), William Dukes (surgeon), John



Dr George Bagster Phillips

Gabe (gynaecologist and paediatrician), and Charles Hebbert (assistant to the Westminster Divisional Police Surgeon) were all mentioned.²⁷ Although Percy Clark was not mentioned by name, the presence of an assistant to Phillips, who in all probability was Clark, was reported. But there may have been some confusion between Dukes and Clark. Speculation as to whether Hebbert attended either crime scene or necropsy remains in spite of the assertions that he did so.²⁸

There is misunderstanding over Bond's involvement with the examination of Kelly's corpse which stems directly from the fact that the only notes available are those presented to Anderson by Bond. There is thus an automatic assumption that Bond conducted the necropsy on Mary Jane Kelly, but he did not do so. The coroner would have instructed Phillips to conduct the necropsy on Kelly and the Whitechapel Police Surgeon would have been responsible for the post-mortem report and for giving evidence at the inquest. No other surgeon had any unique input and none would be required to contribute to the proceedings.



Dr Brown

27. *The Times*, 12 November 1888; 'As early as half past 7 on Saturday morning, Dr. Phillips, assisted by Dr. Bond (Westminster), Dr. Gordon Brown (City), Dr. Duke [sic] (Spitalfields) and his (Dr. Phillips's) assistant, made an exhaustive post-mortem examination of the body at the mortuary adjoining Whitechapel Church.' According to *The Echo*, 10 November 1888, cited by S G Ryan: 'the post-mortem examination-in-chief was only commenced this morning at the early hour of half-past seven, when Dr. Phillips, Dr. Bond, Dr. Hibbert [sic], and other experts attended.'

28. Ryan SG, (2006) *Another Look at Mary Kelly's Heart - Part 2: Further Revelations*, *New Criminologist*, 23 April

The Shoreditch Mortuary was certainly a busy place at 7.30am on Saturday 10 November 1888, occupied as it was by several surgeons and the corpse of Mary Jane Kelly. Brown would reasonably have been invited by Phillips in view of his autopsy of Eddowes and the need for comparison, and Dukes and Clark (if both were present) were in attendance as assistants to Phillips. Bond was only involved at the request of Anderson and would have had no authority to view Kelly's autopsy or the scene of her murder without the agreement of Phillips. The presence of Hebbert makes little sense other than to take notes for Bond. Phillips and Brown were sufficient in expertise and number to provide an agreed version of necropsy findings, but it is also likely that Phillips preferred to have the security of other opinions in case Bond reported anything likely to be controversial. Indeed, such was precisely the case with the murder of Rose Mylett several weeks later.

There is no way of knowing exactly who undertook the dissection and reassembly of Kelly's remains, who recorded the observations and who was merely a bystander, but we can reasonably speculate that the practical aspect was a combined effort by Phillips, Brown and Bond, with the Whitechapel Divisional Police Surgeon in overall charge and either Dukes or Clark taking notes on Phillips's behalf. If Hebbert were present he would have made notes on behalf of Bond. It is inconceivable that Bond would have dictated observations to Hebbert at the same time as Phillips did the same to Dukes or Clark; to do so would have been pointless and unnecessarily confusing. One man gave commentary and Bond or Hebbert made their own notes.

Interestingly, if the notes supplied to Anderson by Bond were the only documentation of the post-mortem examination of Kelly's corpse, they would be a pretty sparse record and Phillips undoubtedly had his own record of findings of crime scene and necropsy which would have been far more extensive than those made by anyone else in attendance.

Although S G Ryan nicely demonstrated that Bond's notes to Anderson were in fact written by Hebbert, and this indeed appears to be the case, this is no great surprise and is not proof that Hebbert attended either the crime scene or the autopsy.²⁹ Indeed, had Hebbert not been present at the mortuary, it is quite conceivable that Bond gave his notes made separately at the crime scene and the autopsy to Hebbert in order that he rewrite them in a presentable and coherent manner for presentation to the Assistant Chief Commissioner. In any event, Bond's report, written by Hebbert, is unlikely to be an original version recorded at the crime scene and autopsy because it is far too uniform in presentation. Ryan also suggests that there may be pages missing from Bond's report but it was no more than a summary of the salient points that he or Hebbert noted down and as such his report covers pretty well every aspect of the crime scene and autopsy and there is nothing left to include. There was also no need to sign or date the document since it had no particular authority. Although Bond's post-mortem notes to Anderson are not dated, the likelihood is that they were written on 10 November, the day of the autopsy, and accompanied Bond's profile of the killer, which he wrote on the same day and sent to Anderson.

Matters Arising from the Murder at Miller's Court

It is useful to reproduce the text of Hebbert's contribution on the murder of Mary Jane Kelly to *A System of Legal Medicine*. In addition to providing post-mortem reports for each of four 'torso murders', Hebbert referred to the murder of Kelly in a chapter dealing with the determination of the sex of mutilated or decomposed bodies when it is not immediately obvious. The text is as follows:

*In the particular illustrative instance, the woman was murdered in a bedroom. The body was naked when found. The eyebrows, eyelids, ears, nose lips, and chin had been cut off, and the face gashed by numerous knife-cuts. The breasts had been cut off and the whole abdominal parietes, together with the external organs of generation, had been removed. The skin and much of the muscular tissue, not, however, exposing the bone, had been slashed away from the anterior aspect of the thighs as far as the knees. The abdominal viscera and pelvic viscera, including bladder, vagina, and uterus with appendages, had been torn from their cavities, and in fact there was no sign of [the] sex [of the victim] except the long hair upon the head, and, as is well known, that alone is not a positive sign as in some nations hair is worn long by men. The fact that the whole bladder had been removed did away with the help that might have been afforded by the presence of the prostate gland. In this case, to be sure, all organs except the heart were found scattered about the room, and showed the sex without doubt.*³⁰

29. Ibid

30. Hamilton, p 61. This contribution is assumed to originate from Hebbert although it is not directly attributed to him. However, since Francis Harris, the author of the chapter in which it appears, acknowledges Hebbert's contribution and refers to the Whitechapel murders, it is unlikely to have been derived from any other source.

Hebbert could have recalled everything that he reported with regard to Mary Jane Kelly from having recorded or transcribed the original notes. Given the absence of any detail, there is no evidence that he had in his possession any formal documentation relating to Kelly's murder or autopsy. This contribution from Hebbert remains of dubious significance and certainly isn't proof that he attended either the crime scene or Kelly's autopsy. However, Hebbert's contribution on the torso murders is rather more detailed and the *in extensio* post-mortem findings appear remarkably like verbatim transcripts of the original post-mortem reports, although these could of course have been provided with all the necessary permissions. Hebbert's findings for the torso murder of 11 September 1889, discussed above and reproduced in *A System of Legal Medicine*, are identical to his report held in the National Archives.^{31, 32}

It is interesting to note that Hebbert mentions in the record of Kelly's autopsy that the thigh bone was not exposed. This does not contradict what is stated in the report to Anderson that 'the right thigh was denuded in front to the bone' and is consistent with my assertion that the longitudinal white strip visible on the ventral surface of Kelly's right thigh in the photograph of her corpse is, contrary to popular belief, a flap of skin and not femur.³³

Bond asserted that the serial killer of the canonical victims had no scientific or anatomical skill whatsoever, by which he contradicted the opinions of other medical men on previous cases.³⁴ Bond's conclusion was perhaps a little overconfident, given that the only body that he personally saw was that of Kelly. He only read the notes concerning the previous victims, so it is difficult to see how he could have reached such a conclusion. I suspect that he assumed all five were killed by the same man who killed Kelly, ergo the standard of mutilation must have been the same as that for Kelly, which clearly displayed no skill whatsoever! We have to be very careful about Bond's interpretations.

Another discrepancy is the matter of the chemise. Kelly was 'naked' according to Bond and Hebbert, but wearing a linen under-garment or chemise according to Phillips. I am more inclined to follow Phillips's description at the inquest, which should be more reliable.³⁵ Thus, the killer must have cut or torn the chemise - commonly a smock type of under garment - in order to expose the abdomen and thorax for mutilation. This is one of several factors that is inconsistent with other murders attributable to the serial killer, because on no occasion did Jack the Ripper tear or cut the clothing of any victim. The differences between the murder of Mary Jane Kelly and murders in the series are not merely a consequence of the amount of time available to the killer. They are qualitative and not quantitative differences.

The Death of a Victim

Descriptions of death by wounds to the throat are documented in contemporaneous text books. Syncope was the mode of death reported for each of the cutthroat victims. Although this is a word little used today, except perhaps as a synonym for fainting, it was frequently referred to in the 1880s and for several decades afterwards. An 1894 dictionary definition of syncope is given as:

*A sudden suspension of the heart's action, accompanied by cessation of the functions of the organs of respiration, internal and external sensation, and voluntary motion.*³⁶

Stevenson elaborates and describes the symptoms of haemorrhage leading to death:

In order that the action of the heart should be maintained, it is necessary, first that the blood supplied to it should be of sufficient quantity, and secondly, that this blood should be of proper quality. In death from haemorrhage we have an instance of deficiency...

*One of the most striking of the phenomena which attend this mode of dying (death from haemorrhage or anaemia), is an extreme pallor of the face, hands, and lips, and, indeed, of the body generally. The patient is very restless, tossing the limbs about in all directions. Giddiness and nausea are often complained of, and actual vomiting may occur. In many cases vision is extinguished, everything appearing black. There is transient delirium, which soon passes into insensibility. The pulse becomes more and more weak and irregular, until at length it is imperceptible. The respiratory movements are repeated at uncertain intervals, and have a sighing or gasping character. Towards the last there are general convulsions. In these cases the heart is found empty and contracted at the autopsy.*³⁷

31. Ibid, 85-87

32. MEPO 3/140, ff. 141-7 and MEPO 3/140, ff. 146-7

33. Magellan, (2005), 146

34. HO 144/221/A49301C, ff. 220-3

35. It is possible that what is visible across Kelly's left shoulder in the image of the crime scene are the remains of a garment, but there is an alternative interpretation by Christopher Scott that the cloth visible may be sheeting. This does not contradict Phillips's observation. Scott C (2005) *Will the Real Mary Kelly*. Publish and be damned, 72.

36. Price JAP, (1899) *Hoblyn's Dictionary of Medical Terms*. Thirteenth Edition, Whittaker: London, 730

37. Stevenson, 165

A victim with a wound to the neck which severed a carotid artery would die from haemorrhage. The speed of that death would depend upon whether vessels on one or on both sides of the neck were severed and upon whether the vessels were cut through completely or partially. Death from haemorrhage, even by this means, would not be instantaneous, and victims would experience at least some of the above symptoms in the moments before they lost consciousness. It is of course the absence of an adequate flow of blood to the brain that causes unconsciousness and death. This flow is instantly interrupted by severance of the common or internal carotid arteries that supply the brain with oxygenated arterial blood. In much the same way that the brain ceases to function within seconds of cardio-respiratory arrest, it would cease to function with the collapse of cerebral blood pressure following the opening of a major artery. Unconsciousness would occur in a few seconds where the carotid arteries on both sides were completely severed, but sentience would be prolonged if blood loss were less rapid.

Death from haemorrhage is covered at some length in contemporaneous medico-legal texts, where the general consensus is that the rate of blood loss is more significant in determining the speed of death of the victim than the actual quantity of blood lost:

A sudden loss of blood has a much more serious effect than the same quantity lost slowly. A person may fall into a fatal syncope from a quantity of blood lost in a few seconds, which he would have been able to bear without sinking had it escaped slowly. This is the reason why the wound to an artery proves so much more rapidly fatal than that to a vein. Death speedily follows the wound of a large artery like the carotid; but it takes place with equal certainty, although more slowly, from wounds of smaller arteries.

It is difficult to say what quantity of blood should be lost, in order that the wound may prove fatal. The whole quantity contained in the body of an adult is calculated at about one-thirteenth of its weight - i.e. about twelve pounds. According to Watson, the loss of from five to eight pounds is sufficient to prove fatal to adults. But while this may be near the truth, many persons will die from a much smaller quantity; the rapidity with which the effusion takes place having a considerable influence.³⁸

Phillips determined that Alice McKenzie had lost only 1½ to 1¾ pounds of blood, equivalent to no more than 2 pints, in the course of bleeding to death from a severed left common carotid artery. This firmly supports the suggestion that death can ensue from the loss of relatively little blood if such loss occurs rapidly.³⁹

Wounds to the throat are also covered quite comprehensively in medico-legal texts of the latter decades of the nineteenth century and the distinction between suicidal and homicidal wounds was of obvious importance. By examining prevailing knowledge we can gain further insight into the nature of such wounds - perhaps more so than by examining present day forensic medical texts. In particular, contemporaneous texts illustrate the criteria that police surgeons employed when arriving at conclusions as to the direction of cut and nature of the knife used. Stevenson covers these topics:

In examining a wound on a dead body, it is proper to observe its situation, extent, length, breadth, depth, and direction: whether there is about it effused blood, either liquid or coagulated; whether there is ecchymosis, i.e. a livid discolouration of the skin from the effused blood; whether the surrounding parts are swollen, whether adhesive matter or pus is effused, and whether the edges of the wound are gangrenous, or any foreign substances are present in it. In the dissection every muscle, vessel, nerve, or organ involved in the injury, should be traced and described.⁴⁰

In incised wounds, the sharpness of the instrument may be inferred from the cleanness and regularity with which the edges are cut.⁴¹

Wounds of the throat, when inflicted by suicides are commonly at the upper part, involving the hyoid bone and the thyroid or cricoid cartilages; the large vessels often escape, but the larynx is opened. The wound does not always cause death by haemorrhage. It has been somewhat hastily laid down as a general rule, that an extensive wound of the throat, involving all the vessels and soft parts of the neck to the spine, could not be inflicted by a suicide. Although in general suicidal wounds of this part of the body do not reach far back, or involve the vessels of more than one side, yet we find occasionally that all the soft parts are thus completely divided. These are cases in which, perhaps with a firm hand, there is a most determined purpose of self-destruction.

38. Ibid, 609-10

39. MEPO 3/140, ff. 263-71

40. Stevenson, 509

41. Ibid, 522

Unless the person attacked be asleep or intoxicated, resistance may be offered - evidence of which may be obtained by the presence of great irregularity in the wound, or the marks of other wounds on the hands or on the person of the deceased. In some instances, however, it is extremely difficult to say whether the wound is homicidal or suicidal - the medical facts being equally explicable on either hypothesis.

Homicidal incisions, especially in the throat, are often prolonged below and behind the skin forming the angles of a wound, deeply into the soft parts. Those which are suicidal rarely possess this character; they terminate gradually in a sharp angle, and the skin itself is the furthest point wounded, the weapon is not carried either behind, below, or beneath it.

The end of an incised wound in the throat is often digitated, owing to the skin being dragged forward in folds by the cutting instrument; and when recent the minute saw-like serrations of the skin point towards the commencement of the wound.⁴²

Llewellyn, who suggested that Nichols had been attacked and wounded from the front, would have been interested to read the following paragraphs from Stevenson and from Mann:

A murderer, by surprising his victim from behind; by having others at hand to assist him; or by directing his attack against one who is asleep, intoxicated, or from age or infirmity incapable of offering resistance, may easily produce a regular and clean incision in the throat.

The direction of a wound has been considered to afford presumptive evidence sufficiently strong to guide a medical jurist in this enquiry. It has been remarked that in most suicidal wounds which affect the throat, the direction of the cut is commonly from left to right, either transversely or more often passing obliquely from above downwards. In left-handed persons, the direction would, of course, be in the opposite direction. It is obvious that if a murderer makes an incised wound in the front of the throat from behind, the direction may be the same as that commonly observed in cases of suicide.⁴³

Homicidal incised wounds of the throat, when inflicted by a right-handed man facing his victim, are from right to left, and are usually more horizontal than suicide throat wounds. If the assailant stands behind the victim the wound may closely resemble one of suicidal origin, the position and movement of the hand and arm being very like that of a person who inflicts a wound on his own throat. In such a case the incision will be from left to right, and will probably sever the whole of the soft structures down to the vertebrae, one of which may be nicked.⁴⁴

It is virtually impossible for a right-handed assailant standing in front of a victim, or even over a victim lying on her back on the ground, to make an instantaneous single continuous cut six to eight inches long round the throat from left to right with the greatest depth on the left side and reaching down to the vertebrae. Such a cut is more easily inflicted from behind by a right-handed assailant.

There can be no doubt that the Whitechapel murder victims who received fatal wounds to the throat would have been unconscious within seconds as arterial blood pressure collapsed. Merciful though this may seem, considering what mutilation followed in some instances, the women would have been sentient for those frightening few seconds and some for longer than others. There is, moreover, no certainty that the victims were unconscious by the time further mutilation commenced, such was the speed with which Jack the Ripper worked.

Given the considerable amount of medical evidence that we are fortunate enough to have available, I am puzzled that there is continued popular support for the suggestion that Jack the Ripper, as part of his killing routine, partially throttled his victims before wounding them and that the initial neck wound was inflicted with the victim on the ground. I hope to visit these aspects of Ripper folklore at a later date.

42. Ibid, 536-9

43. Ibid, 537-8

44. Mann, 291



“A century-old painting”

More on the ‘H Division’ photograph
and the true identity of ‘Doc Summers’

By ADAM WOOD

Much has been made of a photograph published in Neil Storey’s *A Grim Almanac of Jack the Ripper’s London 1870-1900*, which shows what is believed to be H Division officers posing at Leman Street police station.

The photograph, supplied to Mr Storey by Stewart Evans, was subsequently the subject of an article by Julie Stangeland in *Ripper Notes* in which the possibility of Detective Inspector Abberline making an appearance was raised, Ms Stangeland making a suggestion for the most likely ‘Abberline’.

Naturally, the article drew plenty of comment and when Stewart placed the image on the *Casebook*, viewers had the chance to identify various officers in the shot.

Ripperologist 72 published the results of Andy Aliffe’s research into the usage of the *Toby* sketch of Abberline, and his attempts at matching this illustration with the figure in the photograph as well as naming fellow H Division officers. In the same article Andy examined the later career of Abberline and suggested possible avenues for future research, and that’s where this article begins.

The original photograph is held at the Metropolitan Police Museum at Charlton, filed there after being sent in 1963 to the editors of the Met’s *District Three* publication, a quarterly magazine for those ‘on the job’. Used to illustrate an article on Leman Street in the Winter issue, the caption runs:

A reader from Teignmouth sent us this picture of Leman Street saying that her grandfather is in it somewhere. Thanks to the skill of P.C. Denny (GC), of the District Camera Club, and to careful handling by our blockmakers, the picture is worth studying. The wheelbarrow for drunks is partly visible: look at the dog handler on the window sill, the “aspidestras”, the “aids to C.I.D.” on the left, the senior officers’ hats - and their waistlines. That gentleman on the right - obviously the Divisional Surgeon! We know that Doc Summers has served us good and faithfully for many a year and that his father was also our surgeon for many years before that... could this be his grandfather?

I was recently allowed access to the original photograph, which I have scanned both back and front.

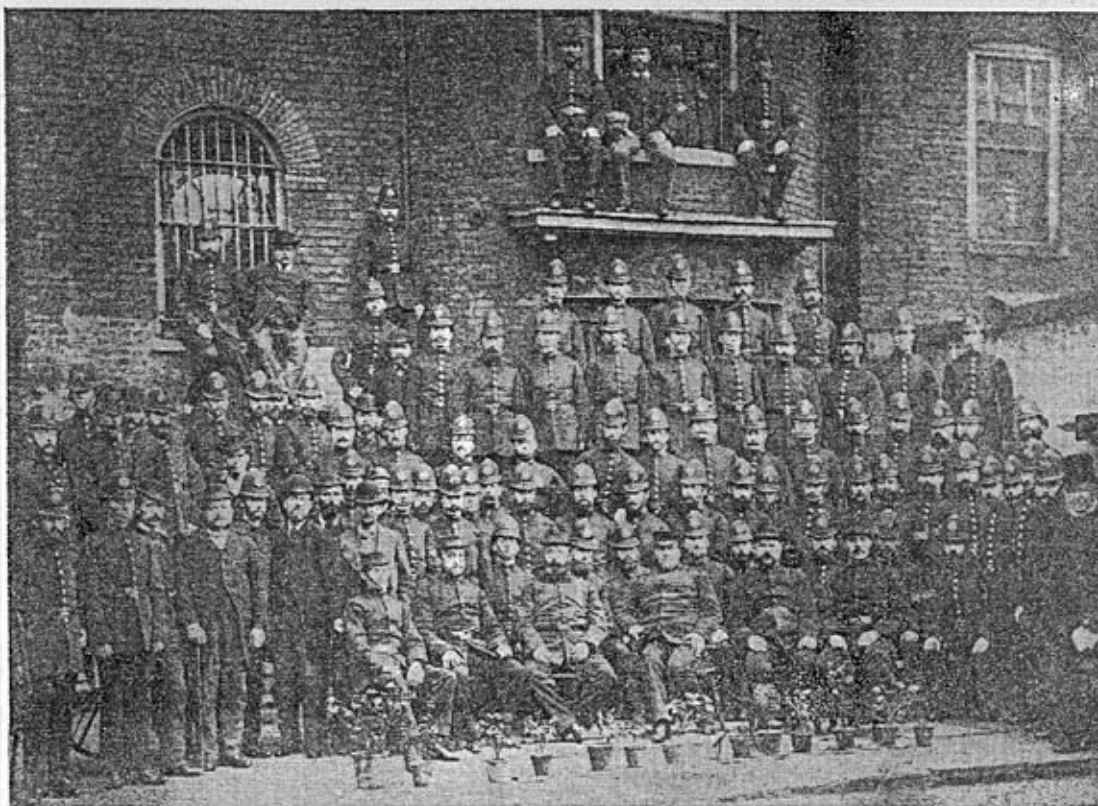
The photo has been mounted at some stage on board, and there are no captions on either side, just pencil markings on the back obviously made by the layout artist of *District Three* to indicate the area to be used for the article. The protective plastic sleeve has a handwritten label bearing ‘Leman Street c1890’.

The official scan held in the Museum is on Kodak paper, and has the handwritten pencil annotation ‘X Division’ on the reverse. It’s tempting to assume that this annotation has been made because on the print the PC between the two main suggestions as Abberline appears to bear an X Division number on his collar.

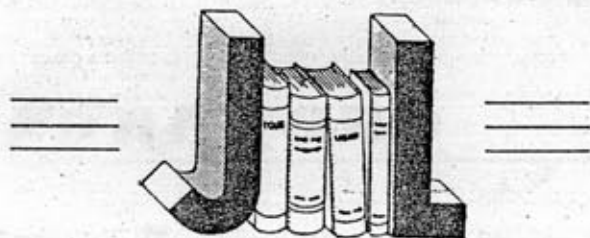
By scanning the original photograph at 900%, it’s possible to zoom in on individual faces and therefore to judge the accuracy of the attempted identifications made by various viewers. We can also see that the PC mentioned above bears the number H40.

family man with no pretensions to fame, Mr. Brough is full of the Leman Street Spirit. "The best nick I've served at," he says, and, of the many who have done a stint at HL, we have not found one to disagree with him.

* Our Chairman, Dep. Commander Batson, is one of those who has "done his stint at H.L.", says that he does not think that Det. Inspector Wensley had a beard. Is there a story behind this, did the Inspector use one of those false beards as a disguise? Anyone know the answer? The answer could be below?



A reader from Teignmouth sent us this picture of Leman Street saying that her grandfather was in it somewhere. Thanks to the skill of P.C. Denny (GC), of the District Camera Club, and to careful handling by our blockmakers, the picture is worth studying. The wheelbarrow for drunks is partly visible: look at the dog handler on the window sill, the "aspidestras", the "aids to C.I.D." on the left, the senior officers' hats—and their waistlines. That gentleman on the right—obviously the Divisional Surgeon! We know that Doc Summers has served us good and faithfully for many a year and that his father was also our surgeon for many years before that . . . could this be his grandfather?



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Abbertine and Andrews?
Scan from the original photograph



Scan from the original photograph: 1 Frederick Abberline?; 2 Walter Andrews?; 3 Edmund Reid?; 4 Thomas Arnold?; 5 'Doc Summers'

Apart from the opportunity to get the clearest view yet of the officers in the photograph, viewing the original image allowed me to see areas on the edges which have up to now been cropped on reproductions, probably due to the irreparable crease on the top right corner (now completely cut with scissors to avoid further damage).

On the far right, leaning against what appears to be a porch or post, is a person identified by *District Three* as the Divisional Surgeon, one 'Doc Summers'.

However, allowing for the probability that this is a photograph of Leman Street prior to 1887, the Divisional Surgeon in any photograph of H Division would have to have been Dr George Bagster Phillips.

Could the figure on the right of the image above be the first known appearance of Phillips in a photograph?

At the present time, we have just two contemporary newspaper sketches of Phillips to compare with this photo (see next two pages), along with Walter Dew's description in his *I Caught Crippen*:

An elderly man, he was ultra-old-fashioned both in his personal appearance and his dress. He used to look for all the world as though he had stepped out of a century-old painting.

Look at the clothing worn by the figure on the next page, and compare it with the outfit worn by George Bagster Phillips in the sketch of him with Annie Chapman's body. Long, dark coat, top hat... the white whiskers worn on the chin only, no moustache... this is, I submit, the well-respected H Division Divisional Surgeon during the Whitechapel murders.

'Doc Summers' or George Bagster Phillips?
Scan from the original photograph





"An elderly man, he was ultra-old-fashioned both in his personal appearance and his dress. He used to look for all the world as though he had stepped out of a century-old painting."

Walter Dew's description of Phillips in I Caught Crippen





The medical symbol painted on the rear window of the building adjacent to the police station

So, if the persons assembled in the photograph appear to be known H Division police officials, how can we date the shot itself?

What else can we see that might help to identify the building once and for all as Leman Street?

Andy Aliffe alerted me to a mark on the window on the top right of the photograph, which on closer inspection on a scan of the original photograph can be confirmed as the ancient medical symbol, the caduceus, apparently painted on the rear window of the building adjoining the police station.

Research is continuing to identify this medical neighbour, as well as an attempt to find out more about the two Doc Summers (Senior and Junior) who served H Division up to 1963; could George Bagster Phillips be in some way related as suggested way back in 1963? I'll also be searching for information on the 'reader from Teignmouth' who sent in the photograph all those years ago.

The results will appear on these pages in a future issue..

Got something to say?

Got comments on a feature in this issue?
Or found new information?

Please send your comments to contact@ripperologist.info



THE VICTORIAN LARDER

Pie and Mash

by JANE CORAM

Pies were a very popular and handy way to grab a snack in the street back in 1888, mainly because they could be eaten from one hand while walking, with the whole meal wrapped in a neat little package of pastry. This was very handy for the lowest stratum of society, as they invariably spent almost their entire lives roaming the streets until they could find their doss money for the night. Even then a pie was handy to take back with them because it could be tucked in their clothing out of the reach of any light-fingered compatriots.

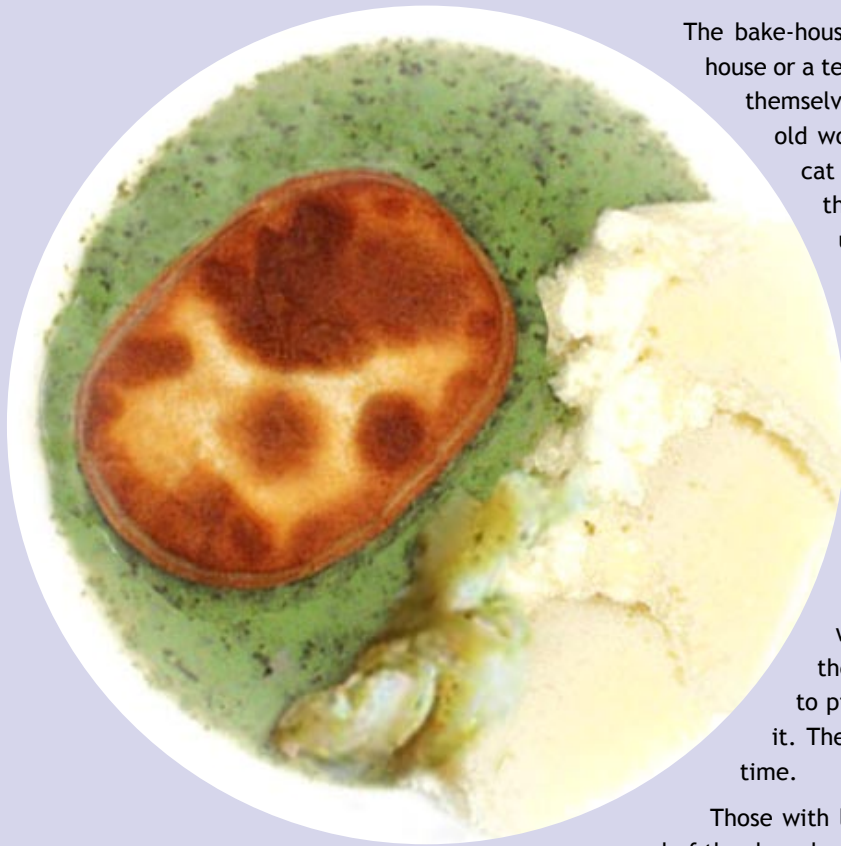
The street piemen were mostly bakers, who were unable to obtain employment at their trade and resorted to getting money any way they could. How much they could earn depended entirely on their pitches. One enterprising soul with his pies stacked on a pony and cart sold around the Billingsgate area and took in as much as £1 a day, which was two-thirds the average week's wage of a labourer in the East End. Not a bad day's money. Other poor souls with less lucrative pitches might only take 1s and 6d, which would barely get them a doss for the night and a pie of their own for supper.

The piemen could be found on any street corner selling pies of all descriptions—big pies, little pies, fruit, meat, vegetable and even fish and eel pies would lie uncovered on large open trays or would be sold from pie-cans. The piemen in the streets of London seldom stood still. Those that carried the large trays on their heads could barge their way through the crowds with impunity, knowing that everyone would get out of their way or get smacked in the head by the corners of the tray. Those who favoured the pie-can would walk along with their pie-can on their arm, crying "Pies all hot! Meat and fruit, pies all hot!"

The pies were kept hot by means of a wonderful contraption—a metal can held over the pieman's arm, which had two compartments. There was a charcoal fire underneath, with two tin drawers, one at the bottom where the hot pies are kept, and above these were the cold ones. As fast as the hot pies were sold, the cold ones above were placed on the drawers below. No one seemed to mind the flies that littered them, or the hands that mauled them. A health inspector's worst nightmare, but things were different back then; as long as it didn't walk off the tray of its own accord, it was good food.

Without the luxury of refrigeration, everything had to be done in a hurry, from the making to the eating. The meat and fish or eels had to be got from the abattoir or from the ships at the docks in the middle of the night, taken back to whatever premises were being used to make the pies, thrown together and finally put out on the streets before the ingredients went bad. The meat was mostly bought as "pieces," and paid for at the rate of 3d. a pound—not exactly premium-rate beef, it would seem. One pieman, probably speaking for many of his fellow purveyors, remarked: "People, when I go into houses, often begin at me, crying 'Meow!' and 'Bow-wow!' at me; but there's nothing of that kind. Meat, you see, is so cheap now." Possibly not a budding Sweeney Todd, but I don't doubt that the thought did cross the mind of the odd pieman when meat wasn't quite so cheap.

One great trick to cover up the identity of the meat was to put a lot of seasoning in the pie. One unlucky soul remonstrated: "I bought one there the other day, and it nearly took the skin off my mouth; it was full of pepper." Piemen, it seems, were not generally very particular about the flavour of the meat they bought because they knew they could season it up until it was totally unidentifiable anyway. The usual part of beef used is what was called "the stickings". This was what was mostly used for sausages, and was cheap. (Nowadays the same cuts go into burgers and cheap sausages; generally the bits the animal didn't even know it had).



The bake-houses were often just a kitchen or squalid room in a house or a tenement building, the pies being made by the piemen themselves. All that was needed was to throw the cat off the old wooden table, a quick wipe with a duster to get the cat hairs off, and they were in business. They had to get the pies made and out on the streets for the morning, usually by seven or eight o'clock.

The best produce would be sold early on, of course, and the leftovers would become more and more rancid and unappealing as the day went on. Piemen would often stick more to selling seasonal fruit pies in the summer months, and meat and eel in the winter, for obvious reasons, although apple pies were available all year around thanks to the durability of the good old English apple. At the end of the day, the produce that was too damaged or too bad to be sold would be left behind when the stalls and shops closed and packed up, and the homeless and destitute would scour the markets to pick up what they could and make a pathetic meal of it. The pies would be sold off for almost nothing by that time.

Those with less money to spend would of course wait until the end of the day when traders, anxious to get rid of all the fare that they might be lumbered with, would lower the prices more and more until they were almost giving them away anyway. This would certainly include women like Polly Nichols and Annie Chapman, who would have waited until the afternoon to buy their food as they could get it for a pittance, and not care too much about the quality as long as it filled their stomachs.

The pieman actually had some novel ways of getting rid of produce in poorer areas. He would "toss" the customer for them. Now it might be prudent of me to explain the term "tossing". The pieman was a gambler by nature and he would go into the local pub or club and offer to toss a coin for the pies. He would let the customer toss the coin and if the punter won, he could have the pie for a halfpenny or even for nothing if the customer won a few tosses. If the pieman won, the punter had to pay the penny for the pie. That might seem like desperate measures, but rather than get landed with stock he couldn't sell he could guarantee shifting his wares, and have a bit of fun in the process.

Eventually, though, the good old East End "pie and mash" shop superseded the street pieman to a large extent, and the peripatetic pieman became an increasingly rare sight on the streets.

Of course, the pie and mash shops of the East End are still known the world over and they had a very prominent place back in 1888 on the streets of London. Pie, mash and eel shops were around in London since the 18th century, although how they came to be sold together is an enduring mystery. The pie in question is minced beef and actually did appear to be pure minced beef, surprisingly enough, with very little seasoning or gravy. The pastry is quite glutinous and tough but very tasty for some undefined reason. This is served with plain mashed potato, with no butter or milk and little seasoning added. A parsley sauce, the "liquor", is always poured over the top. Now that might not sound like anyone's idea of a culinary delight, but ask any older East Ender what their favourite food is and it is very likely to be pie and mash or jellied eels. There is something exquisite about a well-made pie and mash. Simple, honest fare.

The pie and mash shops that still exist with their original décor intact in the East End are fitted out with marble and ornate tiles and are rather lovely architecturally speaking, with mirrors and wooden tables and even pictures around the walls. Surely palatial splendour compared to the dreadful conditions in the area. In their heyday, many would go there just to get away from the elements and to get a sit down, and they were always very well patronized. The first one appeared around 1850, and it sold mashed potato as well as pies, with the famous parsley liquor introduced to moisten the dish. Add to that a nice big mug of tea and the average East Ender was in Heaven. The pie and mash could be eaten there for a very modest sum, or the locals would take their own bowls to the shop and get the meal as a take-away. Surprisingly enough, the standard of hygiene was quite high compared to the iniquities being committed elsewhere by purveyors of grub; everything was kept very clean and the food could be seen to be fresh and wholesome, which made the shops very popular and probably saved a few lives. Well worth a visit even today if you are ever in London.

Jane Coram's East End Pie and Mash

Here is my recipe for pie and mash, as close as possible to the fare that you could buy in a pie and mash shop back then, and hopefully good enough to give the flavour of the real thing. This recipe was taken from an original piaman's recipe of the time, so it's about as authentic as you can get. I did stick to pure minced beef though, so Rover can get back in his basket again.

The original Victorian recipe just states "flour" without specifying which kind, but plain wheat flour is used here.

The pastry

*350g./12oz. Plain flour
pinch of salt
175g/6oz of lard. (can be vegetable lard to keep the cholesterol down)
5-6 tablespoons of cold water.
One pair of cold hands.*

Sift the flour and salt into a cold mixing bowl. Rub in the fat until the mixture resembles fine bread crumbs. Add the water and mix to a dough (too much water will result in tough pastry; if you can press the mixture into a lump that just about holds together, then it will be lighter.) Chill for 15 minutes before using for the best results.

Making the pie

*25ml/1 tablespoon oil
1/2 kg/1lb minced beef
salt and pepper to taste.
350g/12oz pastry as above (this means pastry made with 350g of flour,
not the finished weight of the pastry with other ingredients)
1 egg, beaten.
Individual rectangular pie dishes if you want to be very authentic!*

Heat the oil in a frying pan or saucepan. Add the minced beef and fry for about five minutes adding salt and pepper to taste, until it loses its pinkness, and looks cooked. The traditional pies didn't use any gravy or extra ingredients, just the beef and seasoning. Lots of liquor (ie, parsley sauce) poured over it, stopped it from being too dry and added flavour.

Divide the dough in half. Roll out one half and cut into pieces large enough to push into each dish and go right to the edge of it. Turn one of the pie dishes upside down and use it as a template to cut out the lids for the pies. There should be enough for six pies here using an average size individual dish. Line each dish with the pastry and spoon enough mince in to make it look as if you have at least tried to be generous. Put on the lids and seal the edges by dampening the rim with water before you put the lid on and press them to seal with a fork prong to make the decoration around the rim. Make a small slit in the lid to let the air out as it cooks and glaze the top with the beaten egg and a pastry brush. Put the pies in the oven preheated to medium (180C/350F or Gas Mark 4) and bake until the crust is brown. Traditionally the pies sold in pie and mash shops were quite well done on top. Check after half an hour and take it from there!

The mashed potato is purely and simply mashed potato without any additions whatsoever, except a little salt in the water.

The Liquor

This is a basic parsley sauce. Traditionally, it was made with the water that the eels had been stewed in, but allowing you might not have any eels handy, it can be made with fish water or fish stock cubes instead.

*50 Gram/(2 oz) Butter
50 Gram/(2 oz) Plain flour
600 ml/(20 fl oz) eel or fish stock
8 Tablespoon Chopped fresh parsley
Salt and freshly ground pepper
1 Teaspoon Malt vinegar, optional*

Melt the butter in a saucepan. Add the flour and cook for 1 minute. Gradually add the water or stock. Bring to the boil, stirring continuously. Add the parsley and seasoning and vinegar if using.

This is traditional pie and mash, served the East End way. Enjoy.

Sources: *Harper's new monthly magazine*, August 1851; *The Morning Chronicle: Labour and the Poor*, 1849-50; Henry Mayhew - Letter XIV; *London Labour and the London Poor*; 1851, 1861-2; Henry Mayhew.

The Portuguese Penguin

A SAM CLUB ADVENTURE
by DON SOUDEN

Inspector Abberline was sitting in his office. He was a middle-sized man, given now to a paunch. His hair was thinning, though he still sported muttonchops. He seemed to wear a perpetual frown these days as the Whitechapel murders were taking their toll. And he smelled badly of stale tobacco, a few crinkly cut leaves still scattered across his waistcoat. Suddenly, he was disturbed by a commotion in the outer office and before he could investigate the door was flung open and three figures burst into the room.

"We've got him... sir," said one the sergeants wrestling with a wiry individual.

"Got him? Not Jack the..." began Abberline.

"Oh, no, sir," said the second sergeant. "That American what's been asking lots of questions among the wh...um, unfortunates, sir."

Abberline nodded, bade the American to sit and indicated the sergeants could leave. He looked closely at the American, who seemed mildly amused at what had happened. He was tall and lean, a typical Yank. His clothes, if not slept in certainly looked as if they had spent many a day in close rapport with the wearer. The fellow's face also seemed well worn. It was lined and seamed, with the dark brown hair fading toward a widow's peak. In all, he was rather unprepossessing, yet he also suggested a great deal of pent energy.

"Your name, sir?"

"Club, Sam Club," said the American with a hint of a lazy drawl.

"You're an American? Where from, might I ask?"

"Yep, I'm an American, proud of it. San Francisco's where I usually work. And what's the hassle about, boss?"

Abberline frowned a bit more, as he spoke. "I'll ask the questions, if you please. What are you doing in London, Mr. Club?"

"Working, why else would I be here," Club replied with a shrug.

"Working...at what?"

"I'm a detective. A private detective. A gumshoe, a shamus. Whatever terms you got."

Abberline cleared his throat and sorted through a few papers before he continued.

"Well, we've had many reports lately that you have been wandering around the East End asking lots of questions of people, especially, um, unfortunates. What's that about?"

Club rubbed his chin and looked as if he was pondering just what he might say. Finally, having satisfied himself as to an answer, he replied. "I suppose you might say I'm looking for someone—and something. It's my job."

"Enough playacting, Mr. Club," Abberline shot back with obvious irritation. "Who are you looking for?"

Club stretched his legs, yawned, and then spoke.

"You know, you Scotland Yard bulls, you could learn a lot from the cops back home. But I'll be nice because I want to leave. I was looking for a gungel collector, a quack named Tumblety. Thought he had what I'm looking for."

Abberline snapped to attention at the name.

"Tumblety? Tumblety indeed. And what did he have you wanted, a womb perhaps?"

"What?" asked the puzzled Club.

"Womb!"

Light seemed to dawn upon Club. "Oh, yeah. I forgot you Limeys were so la-de-dah when you talked. Whom? Why Tumblety."

"No, no. Womb. Uterus."

"You to us," queried Club, "well, yeah, just between us—and everyone else—I was looking for Tumblety."

"Colonial idiot," Abberline thought to himself. Then, in quite graphic terms, he made clear to Club what he had meant.

Club just laughed. "Nope, I like my women very much alive and with their parts intact and their plumbing working."

Abberline scowled. He was never comfortable with Americans, never sure if they were joking or not. Plus, they had no respect for authority—all that democracy nonsense.

"Well, I'd like to speak to this Tumblety, do you know where he is?"

"Oh, I think he's headed back to the States. Queer sort of fellow. Said something about wanting to go to Cleveland."

"Cleveland or Cleveland Street?" asked Abberline.

Club shifted in his chair and pondered the question for quite a while before answering. "You know, boss, I'm not sure."

"Pah!" replied Abberline and he made a dismissive gesture. "Look, Club, you're not in America, you're in my London and I want some honest answers—just what is it you're looking for?"

"Okay, I'll be straight with you," said Club, leaning forward earnestly as he spoke. "What I'm after is the Portuguese Penguin. I find it and deliver it to the right party, there's a lot of money in it for me."

"And what is this Portuguese pelican, penguin, whatever? Some kind of bird?"

"You know boss, I'm not exactly sure." Club's face was set in a whimsical grin. "But, the Kelly woman has it and I'm going to find it."

"Well it should easy finding a Kelly in Whitechapel. I'm starting to think every other woman is named Kelly," said Abberline. Then, he looked straight at Club and made his point. "I'm not sure what your game is Sam Club, but if you get into trouble I'm not going to help you. And don't leave London without letting us know, understand?"

"Sure thing, chief," was all Club said before getting up and slouching out of Abberline's office.

* * * * *

It was several days after his meeting with Abberline that Sam Club found himself wandering the streets and alleys of Whitechapel, still searching for the elusive Penguin and the Kelly woman who held the answer. If he could understand the church bells he heard dimly in the distance, it was well after midnight. He was cold, it was raining and he was about ready to call it quits for the night. Maybe quits for the whole case. London didn't agree with him and he figured London felt the same.

Then, in the gloom, he saw a woman walking toward him. She swayed just a bit, as if she'd spent the night gargling with gin. As she drew closer, he could smell the gin, along with unwashed clothes and a body that hadn't been touched by water since the last time it was caught in a monsoon. She wasn't that bad on the eyes, probably younger than she looked. She appeared to be sturdily built, as if dolphin-breasted and bolster-thighed. With a shudder, he hoped he'd never find out for sure. Still, she smiled nicely as she spoke to him..

"Hello sailor," she said as she got close and Club pulled back, assaulted by the fetid farrago of her breath.

"I'm no sailor."

"Neither am I," the woman giggled. "Have you got sixpence for me anyway."

"Is your name Kelly?" Club asked.

"Now how did you know that?"

"The Fat Man sent me."

"You know Georgie?" the woman answered in surprise. "Well any friend of George Hutchinson is a friend of mine—as long as you got sixpence," she added while clumsily trying to put her arms around Club.

"Hutchinson, huh? I didn't know that was the Fat Man's name. But if you've got what I want, you'll get a lot a more than sixpence."

"Oh, I've got what every man wants and a lot more for you, handsome." He noticed her speech was slurred as she continued: "You just come with me to my room and you'll be all right."

Kelly tried to look the coquette, though she struck Club as looking more like a leftover croquette. Still, he followed her to her room, always trying to stay upwind from the rancid odor that covered her like a heavy coat. Kelly led him down a narrow passageway and, after reaching in through a broken window pane to trip the door latch, she and Club entered the small room.

At once, most of Club's senses suffered. Sam Club was not particularly fastidious, as the few women who'd spent any real time with him could attest, but the squalor of Kelly's room was more than he'd bargained for. What he could see of the place was scarier than any booze-induced nightmare he'd endured, he could hear the unsettling scuttle of rats and the smell was worse than that of the San Francisco Ancient Order of Hibernians' privy after a St. Patrick's Day celebration. As for his other senses, he was wary of touching anything in the room and not even starvation would make him taste anything here.

Kelly lit one small candle and said, "There, isn't this better?"

"No, sweetheart, this place is more hospitable in the dark. And light is not your friend either."

"You Yanks are funny, you know," said Kelly with a throaty laugh before continuing. "So, what do you want—and I'd like to see some money."

"I told you, I want what the Fat Man wants." As he spoke, Club took a few coins from his pocket and threw them on the bed. He wasn't sure how much it was in real, that is American, currency but it certainly got Kelly's attention.

"The fat man, oh Georgie. Well, Georgie always like me to start with a song."

Putting thought into action, Kelly immediately broke into song, a boozy, crooning and slightly flat rendition of "He Wasn't Born an Irish Lad And Now He's Green With Envy."

As Kelly staggered to the end of the first verse, an angry voice called from outside.

"Mary, you drunken cow, do you know my old man's sick down the court?"

"No," Kelly hollered back, "but if you hum a few bars maybe I can fake it."

Fearing the start of a row and wanting to get the business over with, Club quickly cut in: "Can the songbird stuff, sweetheart, and let's get to business. Show me where it is."

At that, Kelly flopped back onto her bed and began to pull up her clothing.

Sam Club was not one to pass up a glance at a female's charms, but in this case he feared that, like the Peeping Tom of legend, he might be struck blind (or, more likely, wish he had been), so he quickly averted his gaze. And as he did he spied an object nestled in the back of a cabinet. It was large enough, black enough and looked as much like a penguin as anything else. This was it, the Portuguese Penguin!

Club walked over the cabinet and pulled the object out, almost caressing it in his joy.

"Here, this is what I want, what the Fat Man wants." Club grabbed the penguin and slipped into a small sack he'd kept in a coat pocket.

"That?" Kelly almost screeched. "Sure you can have it, but I have to say you Yanks are kinkier than even the Frenchies. Or do you want to cuddle too?"

"No, sister, this is all I want."

Kelly sat up in petulant surprise. "That's all? You're going to leave me, and I thought you were cute too."

Club just grinned. "I am, sweetheart, but business before pleasure. Sorry."

"And about me," Kelly whined. "Are you just going to leave me like this, what's going to happen to me?"

"Well, I've been known to love 'em and leave 'em, but for now I'm just leaving. But here, for your troubles."

Club emptied his pockets of most of his money and put the mound of coins on the table as he quickly left the apartment. And as he did, Kelly leapt up, her misgivings speedily forgotten as she eagerly began to count what seemed a fortune.

* * * * *

Sam Club wasted no time, but hurried back to his hotel, packed and booked passage the next morning on a boat headed to the United States. Once aboard, he stayed within his cabin to guard his prize. It wasn't until the vessel was well beyond the six-mile limit that he finally took the coveted Portuguese Penguin out of its sack. In the light of day it looked more like a giant potato than a penguin, but then besides pigeons he didn't know much about birds. Club took a sharp knife and began to scrape away the black outer covering. And scraped...and scraped until he finally realized with an angry scream that what he had actually taken from Kelly was a very badly burned bread pudding!



CHRIS SCOTT's

Press Trawl

North Eastern Daily Gazette
1 October 1888

WHITECHAPEL AND BIRTLEY FELL

Political and other platform controversy, of which there was abundance and in spare on Saturday, vanish into insignificant interest in view of the records of horrible crimes which are commanding universal, and to a large extent panic stricken, attention today. At our doors we have had during the past few days experience of sensation which can make us appreciate all the more keenly the feeling of excitement and alarm which has taken possession of London. The Birtley Fell murder has produced a state of terror which it is easy to understand, and which will not be speedily dissipated unless the police are successful in tracking the perpetrator. A week has elapsed since the Birtley murder was committed, and yet there is no abatement of the consternation which has seized the community. There need be little surprise that in the local churches and chapels yesterday the tragedy formed a theme upon which preachers discoursed. We observe that one clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Rutherford, deprecated the minute manner in which every horrible detail and suspicious circumstance was printed in the newspapers. He advised his hearers not to wade through the ghastly details that had unhappily become so frequent of late. He stated that he did not raise that note of warning because there was no likelihood of Christians being led to misdeeds through such reading, but his advice was based on the fact that no good could in any sense be derived from the full perusal of such sickening accounts. This criticism is not very appropriate at a time when all honest men are anxious to render such service as lies in their power to make crime, if not impossible, at least difficult, and also to detect the villains who are going about the country perpetrating horrible outrages. At another time it might be worth while to examine Dr. Rutherford's criticism, but for the present we are content to fall back upon the justification offered the other day by the Whitechapel Coroner, who testified to the value of the service rendered by the Press. It is no pleasure, but quite the contrary, to journalists to have to report crimes, especially when it is absolutely necessary to furnish the fullest details; but he is a poor blind creature who does not see that discreet publication of the facts promotes the end of justice, and serves as a warning to the people in the other parts of the country than the locality of the scenes of the atrocities. The runaway murderer fleeing from his pursuers knows that the Press, by the publicity it gives to descriptions of his personal appearance, his habits, and his peculiarities, adds a thousand fold to the difficulties which he experiences in concealing himself, or in getting out of the reach of the long arm of the law. There are many cases which could be recalled where it has been proved that but for the help the Press has afforded all the skill of the police would have been baffled in their attempts to detect crime and capture criminals.

In London popular excitement is generally wilder, if, at the same time, it is more short lived than it is in the country. The people are more impressionable and more hysterical when face to face with danger of any kind, whether it be to life or to property, than are their countrymen who dwell in the provinces. But of their fears are quickly aroused, they are also quickly allayed. The fact is easy enough of explanation. Londoners are constantly in a whirligig of some sort or another, and the event of today obliterates that of yesterday. The panic that was created by the murder of Annie Chapman was towards the end of last week, if not entirely, at all events greatly allayed. People had ceased to make the story of the murders the chief theme of conversation. But once again the Londoners have been thrown into a new and greatly intensified terror, the police have had their dismay magnified and their helplessness illustrated anew, and the attention of the whole country has once more been attracted by the perpetration of two atrocious murders in the Whitechapel district, murders similar in their character to the other four which have been committed within a few weeks, and within a radius of a third of a mile - committed, too, in a locality densely populated and which

has always been believed to be particularly well guarded by the police. It is not surprising that all London is once more excited, that alarm prevails in every part of the great city, and that confidence in the police system is breaking down completely. Two more horrifying and yet two more skilfully planned, murders could not be conceived than those perpetrated on Sunday morning. The outrages must have been committed while policemen were almost within hearing distance. In the first case it seems as if the villain had his victim in his grasp when disturbed while at his fatal work, for of the two women who were slain the first was not disembowelled, while the second had been mutilated with even greater violence and brutality than has proved to have been practised in the case of poor Annie Chapman.

Yesterday morning's fiendish like work all tends to give strength to the theory set up by the Coroner on the occasion of the inquest of Annie Chapman. It may be right, or it may be altogether wrong, but the idea that these outrages, these series of the murders of women, and the mutilations which follow, are committed to meet a demand for portions of human bodies, for which large sums of money are paid, is at least intelligible. Similar things have happened before. Another view is presented by a writer in a London contemporary, who says, *"The skill with which the murders are perpetrated and the skill of the mutilations point to someone with some anatomical knowledge. This might be possessed by a butcher or someone who had had medical knowledge; but there are so many nowadays with mechanical knowledge of the body, in the form of post mortem room and anatomy room porters, that to suppose the murders to be the work of a medical man is, to my thinking, going too far. The cunning of the evasion, the ferocity of the crimes, the special selection of the victims, seem to me to depend either on a fiendishly criminal revenge, or else upon some fully organised delusion of persecution or world regeneration."*

Of course, it is possible that both the Coroner for Whitechapel and the writer whose opinion we have quoted are altogether wrong, but if either of them is right it is difficult to conceive how the detectives should long be baffled in running the villain or villains to earth. In the meantime the citizens generally will cooperate with the police to the utmost of their capacity and of their opportunity in the endeavour to arrest the murderer, and no clue should be despised or neglected even if it seems unlikely. Many bye-paths lead to the high road.

THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE MURDERER APPALLING ATROCITY LATEST TELEGRAMS

The districts of Whitechapel and Aldgate are this morning in a state of ferment and panic. All night long there have been people in the streets, standing round the coffee stalls and at other points in the main thoroughfares, talking of the latest horrors, and even the men seemed to be in a state of terror. Extra police have patrolled the streets, 900 additional constables having become available by reason of one of the crimes being in the precincts of the City. There is now a change in the demeanour of the police authorities, who now seem to have come to the conclusion that publicity is the greatest aid to the detection of the perpetrators of the murders, and all information is cheerfully imparted to the Press. A man was arrested last night at a coffee shop opposite the Thurlow Arms public house at West Norwood on suspicion of being connected with the murders. Suspicion appears to have been excited by his face being much scratched, and by marks apparently of blood upon his clothes. No guilt, either of complicity or of actual commission of the crime, has, however, been proved against him.

Another telegram says;- *Two arrests were made this morning, one man being detained at Leman street and the other at the Commercial street Station, but nothing has been discovered to implicate them. The police found a portion of an apron in Goldstein street, corresponding with the apron worn by the victim found in Mitre square. A man says he saw an individual sitting on some steps in Church lane at half past one this morning, wiping his hands, concealing his face meanwhile.*

THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS TWO MORE WOMEN MURDERED FIENDISH MUTILATION DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPOSED CULPRIT

London was thrown into a state of renewed consternation yesterday by the announcement that the bodies of two more murdered women had been discovered on the East End. The report unhappily proved to be too true, and the terrible character of the crimes is intensified by the circumstances that the locality and the manner in which the murders were committed point very strongly to the conclusion that the same miscreant who was responsible for at least two of the previous murders is also guilty of these latest crimes. It will be remembered that the first of the

series of murders was committed so far back as last Christmas, when a woman, whose identity was never discovered, was found murdered in, or contiguous to the district known as Whitechapel. There were circumstances of peculiar barbarity about the mode in which the body was treated. This fact did not attract so much attention at the time as it did when, on August 7th last, a woman named Martha Turner, aged 35 years, was found dead on the first floor landing of some model dwellings in Spitalfields, with thirty nine dagger wounds on her body. On the 31st of the same month the woman Nichols, an unfortunate, was found dead in Buck's row, Whitechapel. With this probably begins the series of crimes which have lately horrified and terrified the public, for the mutilation of the body was done with so much technical skill and audacity as to suggest a definite but extraordinary, and at the same time unexplained, purpose. What that object was the Coroner recently suggested in the summing up at the inquest on the woman Chapman, who was murdered in the same district, and under similar circumstances on September 8th. This crime created almost a panic which had scarcely died away when it became known yesterday that two more murders of apparently the same kind had been committed.

THE MAN WHO FOUND THE BODY

It was Lewis Diemschitz (sic), the steward of the club above referred to, who found the body. Diemschitz, who is a traveller in cheap jewellery, had spent the day at Weston Hill Market, near the Crystal Palace, in pursuance of his avocation, and had driven home at his usual hour, reaching Berners street at one o'clock. On turning into the gateway he had some difficulty with his pony, the animal being apparently determined to avoid the right hand wall. For the moment Diemschitz did not think much of this occurrence, because he knew the pony was given to shying, and he thought perhaps some mud or refuse was in the way. The pony, however, obstinately refused to go straight, so the driver pulled him up to see what was in the way. Failing to discern anything in the darkness, Diemschitz poked about with the handle of the whip and immediately discovered that some large obstacle was in his path. To jump down and strike a match was the work of a second, and then it became at once apparent that something serious had taken place. Without waiting to see whether the woman whose body he saw was drunk or dead, Diemschitz entered the club by the side door higher up the court, and informed those in the concert room upstairs that something had happened in the yard. A member of the club named Kozebrodski, but familiarly known as Isaacs, returned with Diemschitz into the court, and the former struck a match while the latter lifted the body up. It was at once apparent that the woman was dead. The body was still warm, and the clothes enveloping it were wet from the recent rain, but the heart had ceased to beat, and the stream of blood in the gutter terminating in a hideous pool near the club door, showed but too plainly what had happened. Both men ran off without delay to find a policeman, and at the same time other members of the club, who had by this time found their way into the court, went off with the same object in different directions. The search was for some time fruitless. At last, however, after considerable delay, a constable was found in Commercial road. With the aid of the policeman's whistle more constables were quickly on the spot, and the gates at the entrance to the court having been closed, and a guard set on all the exits of the club and the cottages, the superintendent of the district and the divisional surgeon were sent for. In a few minutes Dr. Phillips was at the scene of the murder, and a brief examination sufficed to show that life had been extinct some minutes. Careful notes having been taken of the position of the body, it was removed to the parish mortuary of St. George's in the East, cable street, to await identification.

THE WOMAN IDENTIFIED

Later on the victim was identified as Elizabeth Stride, who, it seems, had been leading a gay life, and had resided latterly in Lower Dean street. She was identified by a sister living in Holborn. Her husband, who resides at Bath, has lived apart from her for nearly five years.

GREAT EXCITEMENT IN THE DISTRICT

The fact that another murder had been committed soon became known in the neighbourhood, and long before daybreak the usually quiet thoroughfare was the scene of great excitement. Extra police had to be posted right along the street and even with this precaution locomotion from an early hour was a matter of extreme difficulty. A large crowd followed the body to the mortuary, and here, again, it was found necessary to take unusual precautions to keep back the crowd. As the news circulated farther afield immense numbers of people rushed to Whitechapel, and before noon the neighbourhood of Aldgate and Commercial road was invaded by persons curious to see the spot selected for this and other murders of the series.

THE SECOND MURDER

FRIGHTFUL MUTILATION OF THE BODY

About three quarters of an hour after the crime described above it was discovered that a second women had been horribly murdered and mutilated, this being in Mitre square, Aldgate, within the City boundaries, but on the confines of the now notorious district. It appears that Police constable Watkins of the City police was going round his beat, when, turning his lantern upon the darkest corner of Mitre square, he saw the body of a woman, apparently lifeless, lying in a pool of blood. He at once blew his whistle, and several persons being attracted to the spot, he despatched messengers for medical and police aid. The scene disclosed was a most horrible one. The woman, who was apparently about forty years of age, was lying on her back quite dead, although the body was still warm. The throat was cut half way round revealing a dreadful wound, from which blood had flowed in great quantity, staining the pavement for some distance round. Across the right cheek to the nose was another gash, and a part of the right ear had been cut off. Following the plan of the Whitechapel murders, the miscreant was not content with merely killing his victim, but had mutilated the body frightfully. After careful notice had been taken of the position of the body when found, it was conveyed to the City mortuary in Golden lane. Here a more extended examination was made. The murdered woman was apparently about forty years of age, about five feet in height and evidently belonged to that unfortunate class of which the women done to death in Whitechapel were members.

THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY

The scene of the murder is an enclosed place in the read of St. Katherine's Church, Leadenhall street. It has three entrances. The principal one, and the only one to have a carriage way, is at the southern end, leading to Mitre street, a turning out of Aldgate High street. There is a narrow court in the northeast corner leading into Duke street and another in the northwest by which foot passengers can reach St. James's square, otherwise known as the Orange Market. Mitre street contains two dwelling houses, in one of which, singularly enough, a City policeman lives, whilst the other is uninhabited. The other buildings, of which there are only three, are large warehouses. In the southeast corner, and near to the entrance from Mitre street, is the back yard of some premises in Aldgate, but the railings are closely boarded. It was just under these that the woman was found, quite hidden from sight by the shadow cast by the corner of the adjoining house. The officer who found the body is positive that it could not have been there more than a quarter of an hour before he discovered it. He is timed to "work his beat" as it is called, in from ten to fifteen minutes, and is spoken of by his superior officers as a most trustworthy man. The police theory is that the man and woman who had met in Aldgate watched the policeman pass round this square, and that they then entered it for an immoral purpose. There her throat was cut as described above, causing instant death. the murderer then hurriedly proceeded to mutilate the body, for the wounds, though so ghastly, do not appear to have been made so skilfully and deliberately as in the case of the murder of Annie Chapman, in Hanbury street. Five minutes, some of the doctors think, would have sufficed for the completion of the murderer's work, and he was thus enabled to leave the ground before the return of the policeman on duty. Taking everything into account therefore, the murder must be pronounced one of extraordinary daring and brutality. The effect it has had upon the residents of the east of London is extraordinary. All day crowds thronged the streets leading to Mitre square discussing the crime, and the police in the neighbourhood of the square, under Inspector Izzard and Sergeants Dudman and Phelps and other officers, were fully occupied in keeping back the excited and curious people. The woman, up to the time of writing, has not been identified, and the police admit that they have no information which can possible be termed a clue.

A MAN WITH A BLACK BAG

A man named Albert Backert has made the following statement:-

I was in the Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, on Saturday night, when a man got into conversation with me. He asked me questions which now appear to me to have some bearing upon the recent murders. He wanted to know whether I knew what sort of loose women used the public bar at the house, when they usually left the street outside, and where they were in the habit of going. He asked further questions, and from his manner seemed up to no good purpose. He appeared to be a "shabby genteel" sort of man, and was dressed in black clothes. He wore a black felt hat, and carried a black bag. We came out together at closing time (twelve o'clock) and I left him outside Aldgate Railway Station.

Mrs. Mortimer, living at 36 Berner street, four doors from the scene of the first tragedy, says:-

I was standing at the door of my house nearly the whole time between half past twelve and one o'clock on Sunday morning, and did not notice anything unusual. I had just gone indoors, and was preparing to go to

bed when I heard a commotion outside, and immediately ran out, thinking that there was another row at the Socialists' Club close by. I went to see what was the matter, and was informed that another dreadful murder had been committed in the yard adjoining the Club house, and on going inside I saw the body of a woman lying huddled up just inside the gates, with her throat cut from ear to ear. A man touched her face, and said it was quite warm, so that the deed must have been done while I was standing at the door of my house. There was certainly no noise made, and I did not observe anyone enter the gates. It was just after one o'clock when I went out, and the only man whom I had seen pass through the street previously was a young man carrying a black shiny bag, who walked very fast down the street from Commercial road. He looked up at the Club, and then went round the corner by the Board School. I was told that the manager or steward of the Club had discovered the woman on his return home in his pony cart. He drove through the gates, and my opinion is that he interrupted the murderer, who must have made his escape immediately under cover of the cart. If a man had come out of the yard before one o'clock I must have seen him. It was almost incredible to me that the thing could have been done without the steward's wife hearing a noise, for she was sitting in the kitchen, from which a window opens four yards from the spot where the woman was found. The body was lying slightly on one side, with the legs a little drawn up as if in pain, the clothes being slightly disarranged, so that the legs were partly visible. The woman appeared to me to be respectable, judging by her clothes, and in her hands were found a bunch of grapes and some sweets. A young man and his sweetheart were standing at the corner of the street about twenty yards away before and after the time the woman must have been murdered, but they told me that they did not hear a sound.

AN EXTRAORDINARY LETTER

The Central News says:-

On Thursday last the following letter, bearing the E.C. post mark, and directed in red ink, was delivered at the agency:-

25th Sept. 1888

Dear Boss - keep on hearing the police have caught me, but they won't fix me just yet. I have laughed when they look so clever and talk about being on the right track. That joke about Leather Apron gave me real fits. I am down on w_____s and I shan't quit ripping them till I do get buckled. Grand work the last job was. I gave the lady no time to squeal. How can they catch me now? I love my work, and want to start again. You will soon hear of me, with my funny little games. I saved some of the proper red stuff in a ginger beer bottle over the last job to write with, but it went thick, and I can't use it. Red ink is fit enough, I hope, ha! ha! the next job I do I shall clip the lady's ears off, and send to the police officers, just for folly (sic), wouldn't you? Keep this letter back till I do a bit more work, then give it out straight. My knife's so nice and sharp and I want to get a chance.

Good luck - Yours truly.

Jack the Ripper.

Don't mind me giving the trade name. Wasn't good enough to post this before I got all the red ink off my hands; curse it, no luck yet. They say I am a doctor now, ha! ha!

The whole of the extraordinary epistle is written in red ink, in a free, bold, clerkly hand. It was, of course, treated as the work of a practical joker, but it is singular to note that the latest murders have been committed within a few days of the receipt of the letter, that apparently in the case of his last victim the murderer made an attempt to cut off the ears, and that he actually did mutilate the face in a manner which he has never before attempted. The letter is now in the hands of the Scotland Yard authorities.

COMMENTS OF THE LONDON PRESS

The Times says: *The recurrence of these several murders at brief intervals of time and with details more or less closely resembling one another, makes it more than likely that the two murders of Sunday morning will not be the last of their kind. There has been too much system and method and too obvious a brutal daring which cares little for the chance of detection. But if this is so, it becomes morally certain that the murderer must be found at last. He had a close escape from the unlighted yard in Berners street. At Mitre square the police must have been close upon his heels. The fact that he gives proof of the possession of anatomical knowledge does much to narrow the inquiry. Not one man in a thousand could have played the part of Annie Chapman's murderer. In one of these new crimes, if not in both, we have evidence of a similar hand.*

The Daily News says: *There has been no hearty cooperation with the Press, which on a hundred occasions has saved the detective department from the worst consequences of its own mistakes. There must be something incurably faulty in the organisation and management of the force and to all appearances the gallant soldiers who do all the hard work of it will never be able to tell us what it is. The public are fast coming to the belief that it is the military organisation and the absence of local interest and control which make our metropolitan police so inefficient in the very first of their duties - that of preventing violence and crime. The most agonising feature of the East End mysteries is the utter paralysis of energy and intelligence on the part of the police.*

The Daily Telegraph remarks: *If it be of any avail, we would once more urge Mr. Matthews to wake up and do his duty. If it be of no avail - if public impatience and the perpetual recurrence of assassinations find him still of opinion that there is nothing in the present case to justify departure from the rules - then the protest against his ineptitude will assuredly become a clamour, a demand, an insistence, and Lord Salisbury will have to dismiss the Minister who had not good sense enough to resign.*

The Standard says: *The murderer must have a haunt somewhere near the western portion of the Whitechapel area, from which he leaves before the commission of one of his crimes, and to which he returns swiftly after the deed is done. The murders, it must be recollected, have been peculiarly local in their character. A square of one mile at the outside would include the whole, and the sites of the last four cluster even more closely together in a circle, the centre of which may be placed somewhere near Whitechapel Church. Considering the rapidity with which the police cordon was drawn round the suspected region yesterday morning it can hardly be doubted that the murderer must have secreted himself in some place of refuge within a few minutes of the revelation of his night's handiwork.*

The Morning Advertiser says: *We should have thought there would have been a policeman in almost every secluded street and that the constable's lantern would have been every moment flashing upon the dark nooks and crannies. Yet this does not appear to be so. The police may be able to show that they have done everything that it was possible for mortal man to do, not only in bringing the author of these crimes to justice, but in preventing him from continuing his work. But here is the fact that at the time when the police may reasonably be supposed to be exercising their greatest vigilance, an undetected murderer goes into the district of his recent crimes, murders one woman, and then walks through the streets, and shortly afterwards murders and mutilates another. One murder is discovered by a policeman, but the other is not. We do not say as yet that the police are actually in fault, but the force is called upon to cope with a state of things for which it is apparently inadequate.*



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Ian Richardson as Sir Charles Warren in *From Hell*

Obituary: Ian Richardson

Actor; 7 April 1934 - 9 February 2007

The Scottish-born actor Ian Richardson, who made a [career](#) of playing polished upper class British types such as Sir Charles Warren in the 2001 Johnny Depp film *From Hell* and Dr Joseph Bell in the BBC television series *The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes (aka Murder Rooms)*, has died suddenly in London at age 72. While known for numerous stage, motion picture, and television roles, Richardson's greatest claim to fame was in the role of the unscrupulous but charming British politician Francis Urquhart in the BBC TV mini-series *House of Cards* who always had the glib line, no matter what the dire event that he himself had helped to happen, 'You may very well think that; I couldn't possibly comment.' The actor was reportedly not ill; according to his agent, in mid-February, Richardson had been due to begin filming an episode of ITV's *Midsomer Murders*.

Ian Richardson was born into a working class family in Edinburgh with no theatrical tradition. His father, John Richardson, worked for the biscuit manufacturers, McVitie and Price, and while the actor was growing up Richardson senior loaded biscuit onto a horse and cart for transportation. In a 1976 interview, he claimed his father was the inventor of the Jaffa cake. He was educated at Tynecastle School in Edinburgh.

Although his father was a strict Scottish Presbyterian who frowned on the acting profession, his mother encouraged him to join a local amateur dramatic group while his father was abroad serving in the armed forces at the outset of the Second World War. Richardson's patented upper class delivery was developed by the actor during his own National Service in the 1950s. After serving in the British Army Special Investigations Branch - the military's equivalent of the CID - he transferred to Forces radio where he became an announcer.

Richardson studied for the stage at the College of Dramatic Art in Glasgow, where in 1957 he was awarded the James Bridie Gold Medal. A year later, he joined the Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company where he replaced Albert Finney. While with the rep, he played Hamlet as well as John Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Two years later, he was recruited by Peter Hall for the forerunner of the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. In a 15-year association with the RSC, Richardson appeared both in Stratford and at the Aldwych Theatre in London, drawing good notices for his roles in productions of *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *King Lear*, among others. In 1960, he met his wife, RSC actress Maroussia Frank.

In 1964, Richardson played the role of the Herald before advancing to the title role of Jean-Paul Marat in the stunning, avant-garde RSC production of *Marat-Sade*. Wife Maroussia played an asylum inmate. He made his Broadway debut as Marat in late 1965, and recreated it to critical acclaim in Peter Brooks' film adaptation with Glenda Jackson as murderess Charlotte Corday. On Broadway, he received a Drama Desk Award and Tony nomination for playing Henry Higgins in a revival of *My Fair Lady* in 1976.

Richardson appeared twice in the [role of Sherlock Holmes](#), in *The Sign of Four* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* both made in 1983. American film maker Sy Weintraub along with English producer Otto Plaschkes had originally planned to film six Sherlock Holmes stories. The writer was American Charles Pogue, known for his screenplay for David Cronenberg's *The Fly*. Only two of the films were made because during the shooting of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, news broke that Granada TV was going to make all the Sherlock Holmes stories with Jeremy Brett. Richardson later commented, '...Weintraub was furious, because he'd paid a lot of money to get permission from the [Conan Doyle] estate and here was Granada saying, "Thank you - but we're going to do it." So Weintraub took them to court. He had a very good case, apparently; but eventually there was an out of court settlement for an extraordinary sum of money - something like two million pounds...'

Richardson's best work was reserved for television mini-series. He played Indian Prime Minister Nehru in *Lord Mountbatten: The Last Viceroy* (1986) and was triumphant as the Machiavellian politician Francis Urquhart in the political satires *House of Cards* (1990), *To Play the King* (1993), and *The Final Cut* (1995). He received a Bafta award in 1991 for his work in *House of Cards*. Richardson stated that he based the character on Richard III, his last role for the RSC. In a 2005 interview, he said, 'Francis Urquhart has been the best opportunity for my reputation. The only trouble is getting rid of it. So many people seem to think that I am like him.'

Richardson's earlier experience in the role of Holmes stood the actor in good stead with the 2000-2001 mini-series *The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes*, known in the USA as *Murder Rooms*. The premise for the series was ingenious: a serial killer in 1870s Edinburgh is pursued by history's real-life Sherlock Holmes, Dr Joseph Bell (Richardson), assisted by a young Arthur Conan Doyle (Robin Laing). The scenario was based on the actual activities of Bell, who was Doyle's model for Sherlock Holmes. *The Sunday Telegraph* felt that it was 'a premise with a real touch of genius... the script skillfully weaved episodes from Doyle's own past into a richly textured, constantly wrong-footing plot [which reached] a denouement as clever as anything that had gone before...'

In the Hughes Brothers movie *From Hell* (2001) with Johnny Depp as Chief Inspector Abberline, Richardson, in the role of Warren, is at first supportive of the investigation into the Whitechapel murders but helps to implement a cover-up when he realises the 'Juwes' inscription on the wall implicates a masonic plot to murder East End prostitutes. Richardson's talents could have been better used instead of in the service of a heard-before and discredited theory but he is nonetheless chilling and characteristically aristocratic and overbearing as befits the role. It might have been interesting to see Richardson play 'Jack' instead of Ian Holm, who, as Sir William Gull, turns out to be the bloody killer.

Queen Elizabeth II bestowed upon Ian Richardson the honour of Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1989. His final stage appearance was in a West End production of *The Creeper* (2006). Ian Richardson is survived by his wife Maroussia Frank and two sons, one of whom, Miles, was a resident actor with the RSC.

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

I Beg to Report

SERIAL MURDER IN INDIA. The Indian government, media and public are shocked at the recent killings in Nithari and the murder of at least nine men by a serial killer in Mumbai. Perhaps worse, they are beginning to realise that serial murder is not, after all, a new phenomenon in India. One of many commentators on the subject, Hiranmay Karlekar points out in the *Daily Pioneer* that while Jack the Ripper 'has historically become the emblematic criminal of this genre,' there are many other notorious serial killers in Britain, the United States and elsewhere. He adds: 'While the Nithari killings could certainly have been halted earlier if Noida police had not been abysmally negligent and worse, the global incidence of serial killing suggests that policing alone cannot prevent crimes of this nature. One must investigate their causes and try to eliminate them or minimise their impact.'

Mr Karlekar believes that the focus of such an investigation should be on childhood, as experiences during this period have a lasting, if not defining, influence on the evolution of personality. He cites the work of Sigmund Freud and George Herbert Mead and recalls, in particular, that Eric W Hickey, in *Serial Murderers and Their Victims*, suggests that the serial murderer is a product of trauma caused by familial rejection in childhood. John Dollard and Neal E Miller also point out, in *Personality and Psychotherapy*, that frustration in seeking social affection and approval leads to anger, which is vented on weaker creatures including animals. John M MacDonald, in *The Murderer and His Victim*, cites bedwetting beyond the age of five, obsession with fire and animal cruelty as possible indicators of future aggression and even proneness to homicide. In *Childhood Cruelty Towards Animals among Criminals and Non-criminals, Human Relations*, Vol. 38, No 2, 1985, Stephen Kellert and Allen Felthouse found that aggressive criminals were more likely to have been cruel to animals in childhood compared to non-aggressive criminals and non-criminals.

Developing further the connection between cruelty to animals and serial murder, Mr Karlekar evokes the study by Jeremy Wright and Christopher Hensley entitled *From Animal Cruelty to Serial Murder: Applying the Graduation Hypothesis*, published in the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* (Volume 47:1, February-March). They write: 'Since the late 1970s, the FBI has considered animal cruelty to be a possible indicator of future serial murder. The FBI documented the connection between cruelty to animals and serial murder following a study of 35 imprisoned serial murderers... More than half of the serial murderers admitted to hurting or torturing animals as children and adolescents.' They further state: 'The 354 cases of serial murder that we examined revealed that more than 21 per cent of serial killers had engaged in animal cruelty.' The study includes case studies of five convicted serial killers in the United States: Carroll Edward Cole, Jeffrey Dahmer, Edward Emil Kemper, Henry Lee Lucas and Arthur Shawcross, all of whom have histories of cruelty to animals in childhood.

Mr Karlekar continues: 'Neurobiological disorders, particularly in the prefrontal cortex, an area of the brain involved in long-term planning and judgement, and the temporal lobe, which is associated with personality, emotion and behaviour, are common among criminals. CT scans, EEG and neuropsychological testing have in many cases revealed such disorders and head injuries. Early detection of symptoms is needed for clinical treatment and surveillance, which can prevent people from turning into serial killers. An important early indication is cruelty to animals.'

To conclude, Mr Karlekar has an interesting proposal: 'It is a very thin line that separates people who actually torture from those who visualise and sanction it. Those who demand, sanction and facilitate mass torturing and killing of animals, but do neither of these themselves, often seek vicarious psychopathological gratification. They have not only



Hiranmay Karlekar

to be identified and treated but also prevented from holding positions of authority from which they can act on their psychotic impulses. Study of the psychological profile of those selected candidates must precede important public appointments.'

Hiranmay Karlekar, The mind of a serial killer, Daily Pioneer, New Delhi, India, 1 February 2007

SERIAL MURDER IN CAMPUS. From India to the United States, serial murder is fast becoming a subject of public and academic concern. On 1 February 2007, Richard Walter, a founder of the Pennsylvania-based crime-solving group known as the Vidocq Society, spoke on serial murder for approximately 75 minutes before a group of criminal justice students at Mansfield University, Mansfield, Pennsylvania. He discussed, in particular, the factors which cause someone to become a serial killer, defined as taking the life of three or more people over a period of time. According to him, extreme neglect or overindulgence during childhood is a 'recipe' for this behaviour, although anyone, no matter how loving the environment in which he was raised, has the potential to become a serial killer if he convinces himself he doesn't care about the consequences of his actions. 'Life is made up of choices, and most serial killers choose to become serial killers,' said Mr Walter.

He felt that it's up to those who investigate these horrible crimes not only to gather evidence, but also to weigh how important a fact is. To do so, they must look at a crime from the inside out. 'Learn as many facts as you can,' Mr Walter advised the students. 'Facts are important, but they are meaningless without assigning value to them.'

Mr Walter specifically discussed Ted Bundy, John Wayne Gacy and Jack the Ripper. 'All serial killers,' he said, 'tend to fall into one of four categories: those whose actions are purposeful, those who fantasize about their crimes, those who are retaliating against what they consider to be another strong personality and those who ritualize their killings.'

Mr Walter's final words to the students? 'Follow the evidence.'

Elmira Star-Gazette, Elmira, NY, USA, 2 February 2007



Pickton's pig farm under police control

SERIAL MURDER IN CANADA. As previously reported in *Ripperologist*, Canadian pig farmer Robert 'Willie' Pickton, 57, is on trial in British Columbia, Canada, for the deaths of six women who vanished from the streets of the Downtown Eastside, Vancouver's poorest neighbourhood: Sereena Abotsway, Mona Wilson, Andrea Joesbury, Brenda Ann Wolfe, Georgina Faith Papin and Marnie Frey. A second trial on 20 charges is expected to be held later.

As the trial continued through February, the court viewed more than 20 hours of videotapes filmed without Pickton's knowledge. In one of these videotapes Pickton told an undercover police officer in his jail cell that he had little hope following his arrest. 'I'm screwed, tattooed and nailed to the cross, and now I'm a mass murderer...' he said. He added that his farm had 'buried him.' The undercover officer testified that Pickton had told him he wanted to kill 50 women, take some time off and then kill another 25. In the video, the court heard Pickton brag that he had baffled and stumped police. 'I was gonna do one more, make it an even 50,' he said, and added: 'I made my own grave by being sloppy... Mister Sloppy. Sloppy at the end.' Pickton held up four fingers. 'Four I was sloppy with,' he said.

Pickton also told his cellmate he was going to be famous; bigger than Seattle's Green River killer, who killed 42 women. 'I'm on top of the world,' he added. In the video, the cellmate said the best way to dispose of a body was in the ocean. 'I did better than that,' Pickton said. He leaned forward, giggled and whispered: 'A rendering plant.'

On a different note, a videotape showed an obviously moved Pickton recounting the death of his favourite pet. At 13, he was given a calf, bought for him at a farm auction. He was delighted. 'I was going to keep this calf

for the rest of my life,' he said. 'I went to sleep with it, I played with the calf, and everything else.' But he came back from school one day to find his calf missing and was told to look for it in the barn. 'There's my calf, upside down, cleaned out, butchered,' he recalled.

Defence lawyer Peter Ritchie has spent the past few weeks dismantling Pickton's tales and questioning the 'mental capacity' of his client, whom he calls 'slow' and 'simple-minded.' Ritchie has said: 'You can't tell if he's telling a real story or recounting the story how a complete idiot would recount it'.

As the trial proceeded the court heard how Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Constable Nathan Wells had applied for a warrant to search Pickton's seven-hectare farm in semi-rural Port Coquitlam for illegal firearms on a tip from an informant. When Wells entered Pickton's name into a computer database, a warning came up to contact Vancouver police attached to the Missing Women Task Force investigating the disappearances of women. Wells informed them that he was applying for a search warrant of Pickton's property and they asked to come along to monitor the raid.

Just before 8:30 p.m. on 5 February 2002, four RCMP officers entered Pickton's farm and walked down a muddy road towards his trailer. As they approached, they saw headlights as a vehicle pulled up outside the trailer. They heard the vehicle's door open and close and then a door to the trailer open and close. As a light went on inside the trailer, the Mounties smashed open its door, took Pickton into custody and started a systematic search. Corporal Howard Lew came empty-handed out of a bathroom and bedroom, but in the third room he found a silver sports bag containing some novels, a pair of running shoes and an asthma inhaler with the name Sereena Abotsway on it. The name did not mean anything to him. But a member of the Missing Women Task Force who was close by sent the name out over a police radio. Shortly afterwards, the search for firearms was called off and the Task Force took over with its own search warrant.

Constable Wells testified that Dwayne Scott Chubb, the police informant who gave him the tip justifying the initial warrant to search Pickton's farm, was paid over \$1,400 for his work. Defence lawyer Adrian Brooks questioned Chubb's credibility, noting that he was paid \$750 the day after the initial search warrant was executed. 'My feeling was that one of Mr Chubb's motivations was to be paid,' he said. Under cross-examination, Wells said that police gave Chubb another five payments totalling an additional \$700 and that Chubb told police he needed \$10,000 for unpaid child support payments and inquired about the \$100,000 reward offered in the missing women case.

Based on the information Chubb gave Wells, the search warrant mentioned that there could be several firearms in Pickton's farm. On 8 February, Corporal James Petrovich testified that the RCMP found a .22-calibre revolver with a sex toy attached to it. Inside the weapon were five live rounds and one spent casing. Earlier, the court had heard that the dildo on the revolver bore Mona Wilson's DNA. The court had previously been told that three of the six women whom Pickton is on trial for murdering, including Wilson, had been shot in the head with a .22.

On 15 February, RCMP Sgt Margaret Kingsbury, a field investigator with Project Evenhanded, the joint RCMP-Vancouver police department task force investigating the disappearance of women from the Downtown Eastside, testified that police were trying to keep an open mind when the Task Force was formed early in 2001. 'We looked at what Vancouver city police had done to attempt to find these 27 missing women over a period of time and the checks they made,' she said. 'We assumed that these women weren't missing any longer but they were deceased but we did keep an open mind.' One of the first things discovered was that the list of missing women was a lot longer than originally thought - 45, not 27.

The court also heard it wasn't until the middle of 2001 that police decided to take a proactive approach in their investigation. 'What that was was a body of people who would go down to the Downtown Eastside and speak to sex trade workers and determine who was a good date, who was a bad date,' Sgt Kingsbury said. In the early days of the investigation, she was mostly in charge of gathering massive amounts of data in an attempt to link a suspect with the disappearances. But once police obtained a warrant to search Pickton's property, she also went along.

Sgt Kingsbury detailed the items police found at Pickton's farm. A syringe with blue fluid was found on an entertainment unit. An old Pepsi-Cola box filled with shampoos and conditioners stood nearby. In a laundry room closet was a brown jacket. Strewn across a box at the foot of Pickton's bed was a black jacket, with some papers sticking out. 'Mellow, yellow, fellow,' read one note. 'Andrea 201 Roosevelt Hotel.' Sgt Kingsbury later found out that the Roosevelt Hotel was the last known address of one of the missing women, Andrea Joesbury.

The police examined unidentified human remains and old attempted murders to see if there was DNA they could match and they followed up on thousands of tips. They also developed theories. 'There was an investigative theory that the person who was responsible or could be responsible for the missing women of the Downtown Eastside could be one or more persons,' Sgt Kingsbury said. 'Or it could be, say, one or more serial killers, so the theory was that this person or persons may have entered the police universe at one point in time.' As the volume of information grew, police switched the database they used to the one designed for the Swiss Air disaster in Nova Scotia. The Evidence and Report database, as it was called, held every single scrap of information generated in the case. Eventually, Sgt Kingsbury testified, it would come to list 12,700 items on the police's investigative to-do list and over 100,000 actions that had been taken in connection with those items. 'If one was to print the whole Evenhanded database it would be over two million pages,' she added.

The Canadian Press, Canada.com, 8 February 2007

The StarPhoenix, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, 8 February 2007

The Globe and Mail, Toronto, ON, Canada, 8 February 2007

The Canadian Press, Canada.com, 15 February 2007

Edmonton Sun, Alberta, Canada, 15 February 2007

AN EXPERT APPROACH. Orato, named for the Latin word meaning I speak, is a Vancouver-based website. As part of its efforts to promote first person, citizen journalism, Orato has designated two former prostitutes, Pauline VanKoll and Trisha Baptie, to cover the trial of Robert Pickton, who is believed to have killed at least 26 women working in the sex trade. Ms VanKoll said she would have a perspective traditional media wouldn't. 'I've been there,' she said. 'I've had pretty bad dates where I didn't think I was coming home.' VanKoll, 42, worked for 20 years the Downtown Eastside streets from which women have been disappearing since the 1980s. She's mostly interested in giving sex-trade workers a voice. 'There's so many people out there that judge us and stereotype us,' says VanKoll, who has been off the streets for six years. 'They figure that we're good for nothing, that we're not people. We don't feel things. We're just objects.'

'I feel I will shed tears for the rest of my life for these women,' says Trisha Baptie, the other prostitute turned journalist. "'There but for the grace of God go I,'" I think. I walk with gratitude everyday that I was able to untangle myself from the web of self destruction down there and begin a second chance at life.'

'The traditional media, while playing a crucial role, operate in a kind of glass bubble, where there is no room for subjective feelings, unless reported objectively from a detached point of view,' says Orato Editor Heather Wallace. 'Pauline and Trisha cannot possibly detach from their coverage. I think their reporting will be rich with texture precisely because they identify first and foremost as women, survivors, friends, colleagues and acquaintances. If they need to take a minute to heal or to honor, the cameras and the microphones will have to wait.'

Reports on the Pickton trial by Trisha Baptie and Pauline VanKoll can be found at the Orato site.

Orato.com, 23 January 2007



Dr Steven Egger



Professor Neil Boyd

ANOTHER EXPERT APPROACH. Robert Pickton's trial in Vancouver for the murder of 6 prostitutes - with 20 more to come at a future trial - and the arrest of Steven Wright in Britain on suspicion of killing five Ipswich streetwalkers has once again focused attention on the murder of prostitutes. Why do they seem to be singled out as targets? And what sort of person commits these crimes? For answers to these questions, the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) approached two of North America's leading experts in this field, Dr Steven Egger, a criminologist at the University of Houston, and Professor Neil Boyd, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University.

Dr Egger stated that prostitutes were such a target because they are vulnerable and they are vulnerable because they are available. 'This provides relative anonymity for the killer because when you pick up a prostitute in an area where they ply their trade, everyone expects to see cars picking them up,' he added: 'The other aspect is: Who is going to report a missing prostitute? If it's another prostitute, she may not have credibility with the police. [Prostitutes] are the most at-risk people for serial killers that I know of, at least in the U.S. and Canada.'

Professor Boyd felt that not all prostitutes were equally at risk. 'It is only certain kinds of prostitutes who have become a target,' he said. 'We have massage parlours and escort agencies in virtually every city and the women who work there engage in prostitution but they are protected by credit cards and the like.' He added: 'The violence that does occur is against the most vulnerable women who are working as street-level prostitutes.'

The CBC asked the experts: 'Is there anything else about their line of work, the symbolism of it for example, that makes them targets?' Professor Boyd saw the killing of prostitutes 'as both a crime of opportunity as well as a symbolic crime. There are obviously opportunities for men who want to act with sexual violence against women. But I think these acts are also something of a symbolic statement about the perpetrator's attitudes toward women. It is really in some sense an expression of male power, male rage taken out against the most vulnerable members of society because these are people who through a variety of reasons don't have the protections that most prostitutes do have.' Dr Egger thought that 'it may simply be availability or it may be symbolic significance, or it may be a specific symbolic significance where the killer picks out blonds or redheads or something like that'. To him, the greatest similarity among all serial killers was the vulnerability of the victim.

Professor Boyd did not believe there was a common profile for those who commit this kind of murders. 'They are mostly like other men in the penitentiary population,' he said. 'They are in their 20s, they come from working class or poor backgrounds. There is nothing that really separates them from the more general category of criminal offenders except for what

they have done.' Dr Egger found one similarity that seemed to be present among all serial killers: they have had some traumatic event in their early childhood. 'It can be a physical event where there has been some head trauma,' he said, 'or a psychological event where there has been some physical or sexual abuse or neglect.'

The CBC noted that all the most prominent serial killers seem to be white males. The experts, however, were not in agreement as to this point. Dr Egger believed the preponderance of white males among serial killers was a bit of a myth. Research had found that, at least between 1980 and 2005, between 15 and 20 per cent of serial killers were black. Professor Boyd, on the other hand, stated that 'Almost invariably we are looking at white males.' Both agreed, however, that the rise of the serial killer was not a Western, but an international phenomenon.

Asked whether the approach of some of the Scandinavian countries that have legalized prostitution and areas where prostitutes can ply their trade was a possible solution to this problem, Dr Egger replied: 'The legalization and red zones may reduce these crimes to some extent because it provides less anonymity for the killer.' He did not believe, however, that there were no serial killers in the Scandinavian countries. 'All civilizations,' he concluded, 'have experienced this to some extent or another.'

Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC), CBC News, 19 December 2006

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS. Canadian television company CTV is currently in talks with Barna Alper Productions to make a movie on alleged serial killer Robert Pickton. 'This project, which was brought to CTV some time ago, is in a very early development phase and has yet to be ordered into production,' says Mike Cosentino, CTV's vice-president of communications. 'The creative direction of this sensitive material is still to be determined.' Barna Alper, a Toronto-based production company, has optioned the rights to the upcoming Stevie Cameron book on Pickton, *The Pig Farm*, and hired Peter Mitchell, of *Cold Squad* fame, to write the screenplay. 'We'd like to have it close to release after the trial,' says Loren Mawhinney, Barna Alper's vice-president of programming.

The Toronto Star, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 5 February 2007

FETCH, RIPPER, FETCH. A report in *USA Today* listed sports figures (athletes, coaches, sports administrators and professional team owners in every sport from Boxing, Tennis and Golf to Field Hockey, Baseball and Basketball) who have adopted or rescued dogs. Under Snowboarding we found Jake and Donna Burton Carpenter, co-founders of Burton Snowboards, who adopted a whole litter of homeless puppies, including Ripper, a mixed mutt, 'probably part pit bull, part greyhound'. Donna says: 'Ripper seemed to be the shyest, maybe the saddest. He seemed like the one who needed the most love.' So far so good, but why call your pooch 'Ripper'? Because a 'ripper' is a snowboarder, that's why. No new theories, please. There was no snow in Whitechapel on the nights of the murders.

Jill Lieber Steeg, A list of sports notables and their dogs, USA Today 7 February 2007

L'HUMOUR, TOUJOURS L'HUMOUR. How would you like to watch a video of Jack the Ripper's trial? How would you like to practice your French? How would you like to show your friends and relatives that your obsession with the Ripper case is in fact a harmless cultural activity? Go to [YouTube](#) or to [Dabble](#) to watch a 4:26-minute-long French-language video entitled *Procès De Jack L'Éventreur* - that is, *The Trial of Jack the Ripper*, a sketch from the series *Grands Procès de l'Histoire* by the comedy troupe Les Robins Des Bois. You might get a couple of laughs. Then again, you might not. C'est la vie.



Les Robins Des Bois

THE STRANGLER VS THE RIPPER. It sounds like Saturday night at the World Wrestling Federation, but actually it is about two rival Palestinian political factions. Israeli analyst Yoram Ettinger came up with the following simile: 'We're not talking about a moderate person. The idea that [Abbas] is not as bad as Hamas is like saying, "let's legitimize the Boston Strangler because he's better than Jack the Ripper".' The Bush administration and the Israeli government reportedly characterize Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas as a moderate and a counterweight to Hamas, which has close ties to Iran.

Cybercast News Service, CNSNews.com, 7 February 2007



Sun bear: clairvoyant powers?

THE BEAR NECESSITIES. Miller Park Zoo, of Bloomington, Illinois, appears to have developed a brand-new way to gaze into the future: divination by bear. On 4 February, a few hours before the Chicago Bears and the Indianapolis Colts fought it out at Super Bowl XLI in Miami, the Zoo's resident sun bears had already predicted the outcome of the game. At 2pm, zoo employees entered the bears' habitat and placed a Colts-coloured box filled with treats on one bench and a Bears-coloured box on another. Then the bears, Candy and Chapin, were allowed back in. They immediately headed for the Colts box and started destroying it, meaning that team was going to be 'destroyed' at the Super Bowl. The clairvoyant bears ended their forecasting feat completely covered in their favourite snack, peanut butter. Yes, but what is the connection with Jack the Ripper? We thought you might ask. Mr Jack Ripper is a senior keeper at the zoo. 'I think it will be a close game until the end, just like the bears predicted,' said Mr Ripper. 'It will be a difficult fight, but in the end, in that last quarter, it will all be over.' Did the bears' prediction come true? No. The Colts mauled the Bears 29-17 in a game played during a driving rainstorm. A waste of good peanut butter, Mr Ripper, if you ask us.

Connie Seastedt, Miller Park Zoo sun bears predict Super Bowl outcome, The Pantagraph, Bloomington, Illinois, USA, 5 February 2007

CSI JACK. Jack the Ripper, from a CSI point of view, was presented at 6:30 p.m. 22 February in the Community Room of Lansing Public Library, 2750 Indiana Ave., Lansing, IL, 60438, USA. For information on future scheduling of this free programme call, in the United States, (708) 474-2447, ext. 122.



Shaun Pollock: less mercy than the Ripper

BOWLER JACK. 'Shaun Pollock, supported by an assembly line of bristling seamers, set Pakistan up for the kill, before South Africa's openers finished it with a lack of mercy that Jack the Ripper would've shivered at.' Non-Cricket-Lovers, take note: Shaun Pollock is the captain of the South African team that on 11 February 2007 beat the Pakistani team at Cape Town by ten wickets with 36 overs to spare.

Central Chronicle, Rajkot, India, 12 February 2007

MUSICAL JACK. *Ripper, the Musical*, words and tunes by Gerry Ware, ran from 5 to 10 February at the Actors Church Theatre, Covent Garden. 'It is the year 1888...' said the producers. 'The world's first serial killer is stalking the streets of London... People are filled with dread as night falls and curfew begins... Amid the terror and speculation, two people unite to unlock the mystery, find the killer and bring him to justice.' Fat chance. *The Spectator's* Theatre Critic, Lloyd Evans, was not enthused. He found the show was 'energetically performed' but its plot-line and characterisation were 'as blunt as the Ripper's cosh'. The Ripper's what? Mr

Evans found some Cockney-ish accents acceptable but thought the script groaned with anachronisms. 'It's like hearing a donkey going miaow,' he said graphically. He thought the show lacked any trace of suspense and doesn't seem to have liked the ending either. Oh well, critics.

The Spectator, 17 February 2007

CRACKERJACK. 'Consider Noam Chomsky - Hugo Chavez's favorite philosopher. Sure he wants to see Israel destroyed, and trusts in the good will of Hamas and Fatah for the safety of those Jews left in Palestine. Sure he associates with Holocaust-deniers. And sure he admires Iran's version of Jack the Ripper. But is the Jewish-born Chomsky an anti-Semite?' Don Feder, *The ADL Discovers Leftist Hate*.

Defending America For Knowledge and Action (DAFKA), FrontPageMagazine.com, USA, 12 February 2007

SENSITIVE JACK. 'I am a Van Gogh unknown to mankind, a Picasso you haven't yet learnt to appreciate. I am a Casanova, who incarnates as Jack the Ripper, and walks the nights as Dracula, without the flourish of the Count.'

Vivek Sharma, Confessions of a Murderer, Desicritics.org, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 14 February 2007

SPANISH JACK. 'Como dijo Jack el Destripador, vamos por partes' Roughly translated: 'Like Jack the Ripper said, let's go bit by bit.'

Mi Primera Cana, lyrics by Estopa

CAPED CRUSADER JACK. 'I was a large, scary and brutish mutant with a heart of gold. Something of a cross between Jack the Ripper and Batman.' Australian Marc Ridyard on his love for online chat-gaming, where players at sites such as exodus-chats.org create their own characters and enact fantasy role-playing scenarios in chat rooms.

Fran Molloy, Love at first byte, The Age, theage.com.au, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 15 February 2007



The policeman and the serial killer from Antibodies

SLACKER JACK. 'Engel is an archetypal movie psycho, directly descended from Hannibal Lecter, reveling in the artistry of his work. He dismisses Jack the Ripper and Charles Manson as slackers and torments the city cops with his self-perceived superiority.' Film critic Kevin Crust on *Antibodies*, a new German psychological thriller directed by Christian Alvart and starring Wotan Wilke Möhring as police officer Michael Martens and André Hennicke as serial killer Gabriel Engel. The reviewer recommends the film highly though he warns it 'lays on the biblical allegory too heavily at times'. We can see how naming a serial killer after the Archangel Gabriel might lead in that direction.

Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 15 February 2007

FIGHTING JACK. 'In boxing, if you've got a good jaw, you're going to take shots all night long. That doesn't happen here. If a fighter doesn't protect himself, the fight is stopped.' Jack 'the Ripper' Nilsson, a trainer and former fighter on the safety of amateur martial arts events such as Ruckus in the Cage compared with boxing.

The Roanoke Times, Roanoke, Virginia, USA, 17 February 2007

FATHER JACK. 'Worse than Charles Manson or Jack the Ripper.' An unnamed Irish newspaper on paedophile priest Oliver O'Grady, who was the subject of a film called *Deliver Us From Evil*.

Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 17 February 2007

FUNNYMAN JACK. A one-hour documentary called *Vic Reeves Investigates Jack the Ripper* has begun production and will air later this year at Sky One in Britain. Comedian Reeves will study historical documents, look for undiscovered evidence and see if modern day police methods can shed new light on the crimes. He will also consider the main five suspects and draw his own conclusion on who the murderer was. In his efforts to identify the Ripper, Reeves will meet with historians, forensic experts, criminal psychologists and even a psychic detective. Paul Flexton is executive producer for Ruggie Media and Emma Read executive producer for Sky One. Ms Read said: 'It is incredible that over a century since the horrific Jack the Ripper killings the case remains unsolved. The mystery has always fascinated and baffled in equal measure and Vic Reeves, with his insatiable appetite for facts, will be an ideal guide to cut through the myths and intrigue surrounding these murders.'

Digital Spy, UK, 15 February 2007



Vic Reeves

JACKAROO JACK. 'Once upon a time country people knew everyone in their community. There were the ringers and jackaroos, the people everyone knew. Now you could have Jack the Ripper there and you wouldn't know.' Detective Senior Sergeant Terry urging farmers in Bowen, Queensland, Australia, to be on the alert and to adopt modern security practices in order to prevent crime

Townsville Bulletin, Townsville, Northern Queensland, Australia, 15 February 2007



Amanda Tapping

BRIDE OF THE RIPPER. Essex-born Canadian online television star Amanda Tapping is slated to appear in a new fantasy series, *Sanctuary*, set to debut on the Internet in the spring. She will play Dr Helen Magnus. 'She's 157 [years old],' Ms Tapping said of her character. 'She's a doctor. She was one of the first doctors in the Royal College back in Victorian England. She was engaged to Jack the Ripper.' Dr Magnus also has a daughter by Jack the Ripper, Ashley. 'The daughter's pretty cool,' Ms Tapping said. 'She's kick-ass.' The series is set in a modern-day sanctuary established for a variety of otherworldly creatures. 'So anyone from werewolves to vampires,' said Ms Tapping. 'They have to have some sort of skill, otherwise they're not interesting!' *Sanctuary* is produced by Stage 3 Media, created by writer Damian Kindler, directed by Martin Wood and executive-produced by Tapping and N John Smith. The series will reportedly make

use of state-of-the-art special effects, video-game technology and cutting edge Web development to take the audience into a whole new world. For the Sanctuary teaser trailer, go to its [official Web site](#).

Darren Sumner, New Sanctuary details revealed, GateWorld, USA, 12 February 2007

SHE DONE HIM WRONG. In his recently published *The Camden Town Murder*, John Barber assails Patricia Cornwell's theories on Jack the Ripper. Ms Cornwell has asserted that prostitute Emily Dimmock was killed by Impressionist painter William Sickert, whom she claims was the Ripper. But in a chapter of his book entitled 'Was Emily Dimmock a Ripper Victim?' Mr Barber writes: 'In attempting to answer this question, one problem springs to mind. Why was there a gap of 19 years between the murder of Mary Kelly and Emily Dimmock?' He continues: 'Surely a serial killer kills and then kills again until he is caught or dies. Rarely do they wait 19 years to strike. Yet this is what Patricia Cornwell would have us believe.'



Sickert's The Camden Town Murder

In an interview with his local newspaper, the *Hertfordshire Mercury*, Mr Barber said: 'Ms Cornwell has got it wrong. It's highly improbable that Emily was the Ripper's victim. Her throat was cut but the Ripper's trademark was tearing open vital organs and sometimes taking body parts. Sickert might have been the Ripper but he didn't kill Emily - you'll have to read the book to find out who did.'

Mr Barber will participate in a BBC documentary on Sickert leading a film crew to the key sites of the Ripper attacks and the Camden Town murder in north London and the East End.

The Camden Town Murder is published by Mandrake and costs £19.99.

Hertfordshire Mercury, Hertford, Hertfordshire, 16 February 2007

ARE WE AMUSED? 'Alas, Berger's earnest and largely humourless script is unlikely to bring meaning to your life unless your favourite books are *The Da Vinci Code*, *The Road Less Travelled*, and the travel agent's brochure; or you are the kind of person who revels in the coincidences which prove beyond doubt that Queen Victoria was Jack the Ripper, and Shakespeare's sister wrote all his plays.' Theatre Critic Lyn Gardner on Glen Berger's one-man play, *Underneath the Lintel*. In case Queen Victoria is your favourite Ripper suspect, Richard Schiff, White House communications director Toby Ziegler in *The West Wing*, stars in the play at the Duchess, London, until 14 April.

Guardian Unlimited, London, UK, 13 February 2007



Statue of Thomas Guy outside the hospital

GUY'S HOSPITAL MUSEUM. A new permanent exhibition on the colourful history of Guy's Hospital set up in cooperation with St Thomas' Charity is on display in Atrium 1 at the Hospital with free admission for patients, their families and other visitors. The museum consists of three areas. The first area, *The Mysterious Mr Guy*, deals with Thomas Guy, bookseller, printer and publisher, who funded the original building in 1721. The second area, *Mr Guy's Southwark*, explores the neighbourhood's past. The third area, *Mr Guy's Hospital*, looks at some of the eminent physicians and personalities associated with the institution. Among them is Sir William Gull, a Guy's alumnus who treated the Prince of Wales for typhoid in 1871 and was the first medical man to use the term 'anorexia nervosa.' As Ripperologist readers know, he is sometimes mentioned in connection with the Whitechapel murders.

London SE1Community Website, South Bank, London, UK, 15 February 2007

THE LITTLE OLD LADY WHO LIVED DOWN THE LANE. By the time you read this, voters at a town meeting at South Kent, Connecticut, will have decided whether to change the name of a local thoroughfare called Old Stone Road to Golf Course Road. The Bull's Bridge Golf Course, the major landowner, taxpayer and traffic generator on the few hundred remaining yards of the road, requested the change, and the only family currently living on the road endorsed it. No opposition is therefore expected.

But long-time residents still remember the old dirt lane, which once ran south from Bull's Bridge Road to just above Gaylordsville in New Milford, as Chandler Road. The road was named about 80 years ago after its only inhabitant in those days, an ageing, reclusive woman who had built a small house some way down the road. Her name was Florence Chandler, but she was better known locally as the 'Cat Lady' because of her numerous feline companions.

When the Cat Lady died on 23 October 1941, the few locals who had known her secret felt free to reveal it. Her full name was Florence Elizabeth Chandler Maybrick and she had been tried, convicted and sentenced to hang in 1889 in Britain for the murder of her husband. An American citizen, she escaped the hangman's noose when public protests led to her sentence being commuted to 15 years in prison. Released after serving her full sentence, she returned to America. For a year or two she made a steady living on the lecture circuit. When the notoriety became too much for her, she moved to Connecticut, where she built her home near the South Kent School.

Local residents reminisced about Florence. 'I knew her when I was a boy,' recalled former South Kent headmaster George Bartlett. 'Nobody knew who she really was, of course. She was a great friend of our old school nurse, a Scottish lady, Amy Lyon, and once or twice when we had a real crisis she helped out at the school infirmary.' The school boys 'took wood to her in winter so she'd stay warm,' he added. 'My sister and I sometimes took food that our mother sent down to her. Unfortunately we ate most of it, but that's another story. Anyway, she was a lovely lady with beautiful handwriting, a lovely script.' When she died, Bartlett said, 'the funeral was at the school chapel and my father wouldn't let anyone from outside attend except one reporter, from the New York Times, I think.'

Other residents remember walking down the Old Stone Road to look at what remained of the Cat Lady's house, its porch still half-covered with cat cages. Kent Historical Society President Marge McAvoy has such memories. She read the book putting forward the theory that Florence's husband was Jack the Ripper - Shirley Harrison's *The Diary of Jack the Ripper*, we assume - but didn't find it persuasive. Yet her first reaction was dismay when she learnt of the proposed name change, since it would move this bit of local history one step further from current memory.

Selectman Vincent D LaFontan, another lifetime resident, abstained when the request to take the road renaming to a town meeting came before selectmen in early February 2007. He has too many fond memories from his days as a youth program director showing young people the remains of Florence Maybrick's house and telling them the history. LaFontan said he probably won't oppose the change at the town meeting, but 'there'll be a tear in my eye.'

Florence Chandler Maybrick is buried in the little South Kent School cemetery on the hillside behind St Michael's Chapel. A small, flat stone has replaced the wooden cross placed over her grave upon her death 66 years ago. The gravestone bears only her initials: F.E.C.M.

David Parker, Kent: Road name change recalls legendary Cat Woman, Waterbury Republican-American, Waterbury, CT, USA, 11 February 2007



The young Florence Maybrick

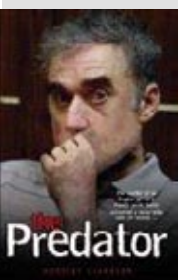
In Future Issues...

Future issues of *Ripperologist* will feature... William Michael's Ripper victims' photographs, John Ruffels on *The East End Murderer - I Knew Him*, Colin Roberts's geo-political divisions of Jack the Ripper's territory: Civil and Ecclesiastical Parishes, Parliamentary Boroughs and Metropolitan Police Force Divisions, Claudia Aliffe on the Wicked Women of Britain, Jeffrey Bloomfield on the Charles Bravo murder case, Howard Brown on Privies and Outhouses in Victorian Times, Nicholas Smith on St Patrick and the Crown Jewels, Leslie A Klinger on Jack the Ripper and Sherlock Holmes, John Crawford on Algernon Haskett-Smith, Stepan Poberowski on Russian perceptions of Jack the Ripper. ...plus regular columns from Jane Coram, Chris Scott, Wilf Gregg, Christopher-Michael DiGrazia, Don Souden and Adam Wood.

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On the Crimebeat

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



THE PREDATOR

Wensley Clarkson

H/B, 307pp., Illus., John Blake, £17.99

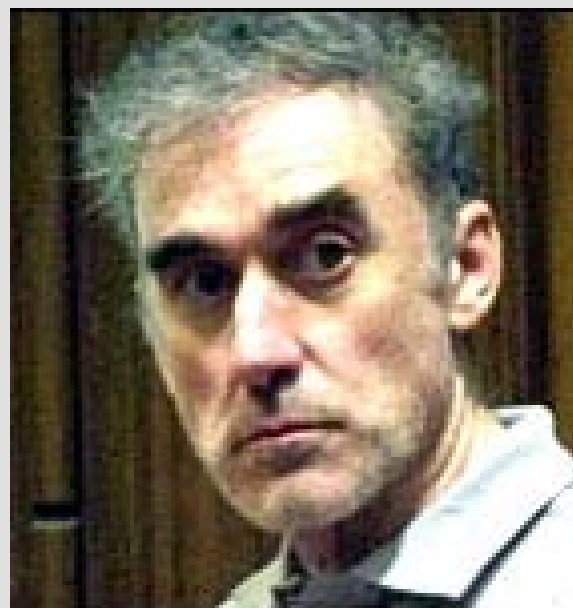
Though the central theme of this book is the murder of British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson in a French youth hostel, the author has expanded it by examining the life and world wide travelling of her killer Francisco Montes in his search for other young girls to assault and probably kill. The research for this is quite mind blowing, considering that Montes moved around not only in Europe but also North and South America. In addition, the author carried out interviews with Montes's family and associates in Spain.

An amazing feature of one of his initial attacks is that Montes managed to form a relationship with the victim - they lived together and had a child, However, she eventually left him and took great pains to keep herself and her child away from him. Montes was regarded as stranger in his home town and was detested by his family, who were apparently quite happy to give him money when he returned home on condition he went away again.

Mr Clarkson describes the original bumbling and totally inefficient investigation of Caroline's killing, and how Montes was identified as the prime suspect eventually when it was revived. This was given worldwide circulation and in April 2001 an American immigration official in Miami, reading of the case, checked records and discovered that Montes was in jail locally on burglary charges.

He was extradited to France, where he stood trial for the murder of Caroline Dickinson. Under interrogation - and indeed at the trial - he admitted the sexual assault on Caroline, but continued to deny murder, a position he has maintained to this day. Convicted, he was sentenced to 30 years jail, with no parole for 20 years.

A fascinating study of a major psychotic sexual pervert who may well be, as Mr Clarkson claims, the first global serial killer. Strongly recommended.



Francisco Montes



CRIME LORD

David Leslie

S/B, 239 pp., Illus. Mainstream Publishing, £7.99

This book tells the story of the life of Tam McGraw, known in Scottish criminal circles as the Licensee and leader of the notorious Barlanark team, who during the late 1980s were responsible for a vast upsurge in drug smuggling into Scotland. Hash valued in the millions was getting into the country and making fortunes for the smugglers. A special investigation pointed to the Barlanark team as the major players. Surveillance established that buses taking deprived families on holidays were being used to carry the drugs.

McGraw and ten of his associates were arrested and stood trial at Edinburgh High Court. The prosecution claimed that McGraw was the leader but, defended by Donald Findlay, QC, Scotland's top defence barrister, he and seven others were acquitted, with the remaining three convicted and jailed.

It seems that the strength of the Licensee in avoiding justice lies quite strongly in his reclusive character, as judging by this book he is a major mover in Scottish criminal circles.

A good read.

Lady Justice, F W Pomeroy's golden statue
on top of the dome of the Old Bailey.

The current version of London's
most famous criminal court was opened
100 years ago this month, on 27 February 1907,
by Edward VII with Queen Alexandra.

It is on the site of the old Newgate Prison,
some of whose stones were used in the new building.

