

JACK THE RIPPER
(The Whitechapel Murders)
APRON, GRAFITI, LETTERS,
AND THE KIDNEY



1888

Compiled by

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(2012)

(This material has been compiled from various unconfirmed sources)

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Piece of Catherine Eddowes' Apron

Discovery

At Catherine Eddowes' inquest, P.C. Long stated quite firmly

...I passed that spot where the apron was found about 2.20am the apron was not there when I passed then.

Detective Halse said at the inquest

...about 20 past 2 I passed over the spot where the piece of apron was found I did not notice anything.

P.C. Long reported:

....about 2.55am I found a portion of a womans apron which I produced, there appeared blood stains on it one portion was wet lying in a passage leading to the staircases of 108 - 119 model dwelling house. Above it on the wall was written in chalk - the jews are the men that will not be blamed for nothing...'

Regarding the piece of apron, Detective Sergeant Halse reported:

When I saw the dead woman at the mortuary I noticed that a piece of her apron was missing. About half of it. It had been cut with a clean cut. When I got back to Mitre Square I heard that a piece of apron had been found in Goulston Street. I went there with Detective Hunt to the spot where the apron had been discovered. There I saw some chalk writing on the wall. I stayed there and I sent Hunt to find Mr McWilliam.

Sir Henry Smith, who was present, said:

By this time the stretcher had arrived, and when we got the body to the mortuary, the first discovery we made was that about one-half of the apron was missing. It had been severed by a clean cut. (Sir Henry Smith, From Constable to Commissioner)

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The Goulston St Graffiti

On 30 Sep 1888, PC Alfred Long, 254A, Metropolitan Police, found a blood splattered piece of Catherine Eddows apron in an archway at Wentworth Model Dwellings, 108-119 Goulston Street, (c.2:55am). Additionally, Long noticed that a chalked message had been written on the black brick fascia edging of the open doorway which led to the staircase and basement door of No108-119. The message was written in chalk in cursive handwriting - not in capitals as is often depicted.

Later, DC Daniel Halse, London City Police, arrived back at Wentworth Model Dwellings, 108-119 Goulston Street sometime after 3:00am. PC Long returned at around 5:00am.

By the direct orders of Warren the writing was sponged out at around 5:30am.

Position

The exact position of the writing is uncertain, and it is not clear as to whether it was on the left or the right side of the doorway, or where it was in relation to the piece of apron, other than it was "above it."

According to DC Daniel Halse the writing was on "*the black facia of the wall*" and appeared to have been written recently.

Donald Swanson described the writing as being "*upon the wall of a common stairs*", and he also claimed that it was blurred.

Superintendent Thomas Arnold's report suggested that the writing was at shoulder height.

Sir Charles Warren stated that:

...I accordingly went down to Goulston Street at once before going to the scene of the murder; it was just getting light, the public would be in the streets in a few minutes, in a neighbourhood very much crowded on Sunday mornings by Jewish vendors and Christian purchasers from all parts of London.

...There were several police around the spot when I arrived, both Metropolitan and City. The writing was on the jamb of the open archway or doorway visible to anybody in the street and could not be covered up without danger of the covering being torn off at once...

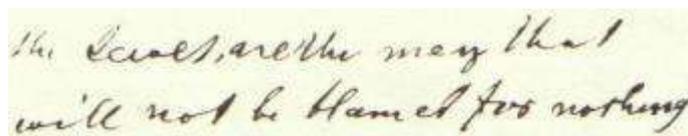
So, the location of the writing was on the jamb of the open doorway, which also indicates the location of the piece of apron, being below the graffiti, at the foot of the jamb, and just as noticeable to anyone passing along the pavement.

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Renderings

PC Long

P.C. Long's Version: "*The Jewes (Jews) are the men that will not be blamed for nothing*"



PC Long's original spelling, as seen in the above image, used "Jewes," which was corrected to "Juwes," on the scene by DC Halse. This correction was noted in PC Long's notebook and during the Eddowes Inquest.

PC Long said:

...I copied the words from the wall into my report - I could not say whether they were recently written - I wrote down into my book and the Inspector noticed that Jews was spelt Juews, there was a difference between the spelling...'

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D.C. Halse

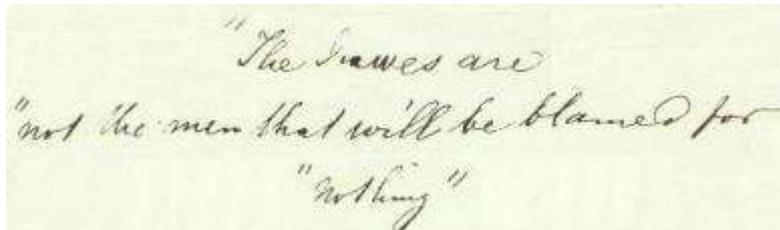
D.C. Halse's Version: *"The Juwes are not the men that Will be Blamed for nothing"*

Detective Halse said at the inquest:

I saw some chalk writing on the black facing of the wall

Halse also reported:

There were three lines of writing in a good schoolboys round hand. The size of the capital letters would be about 3/4 in, and the other letters were in proportion



*"The Juwes are
not the men that will be blamed for
nothing"*

In the above images, the text of the transcription has been maintained, but the actual "layout" of the writing on the wall at Goulston Street is not known.

At the Eddowes Inquest, Detective Halse said:

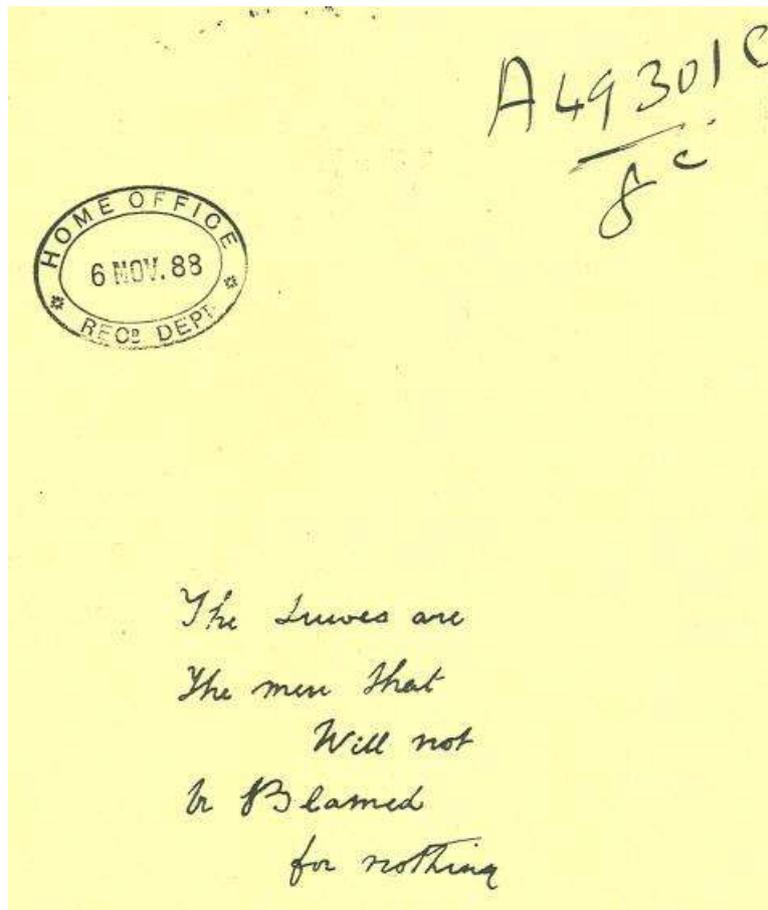
...the writing had the appearance of being recently written...

Then in The Daily Telegraph, 12 Oct 1888, in response to a question of "why did you say it seemed to have been recently written?" Halse responded

It looked fresh, and if it had been done long before it would have been rubbed out by the people passing...

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Sir Charles Warren



The Juwes are
The men that
Will not
be Blamed
for nothing

Copy of attachment to a Police report, regarding the Goulston Street graffiti (outside 108-119 Wentworth Model Dwellings, Goulston Street), from Chief Commissioner Sir Charles Warren of the Metropolitan Police, to the Home Office

Date: 6 November 1888

Home Office archive, HO 144.221.A49301C.8c

"Juwes" is not a Yiddish spelling for the word "Jews"

Following Warren's discussions with the Acting Chief Rabbi, it was established that the word "Juwes" was not a Yiddish mode of spelling the word "Jews".

Nor is "Juwes" a Masonic term for the three murderers (Jubela, Jubelo, and Jubelum) of the freemason Grand Master, Hiram Abiff.

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Consensus

The various renderings of the graffiti are:

"*The Juews are the men that will not be blamed for nothing*" - PC Long.

"*The Juwes are the men that will not be blamed for nothing*" - Swanson

"*The Juwes are The men that Will not be Blamed for nothing*" - Attachment to Warren's report

"*The Juwes are not the men that will be blamed for nothing*" - DC Halse.

"*The Jews are the men that won't be blamed for nothing*" - Sir Henry Smith, as noted in his book: *From Constable to Commissioner*

Most researchers now accept the wording given by Long, Swanson, and Warren:

The juwes are the men that will not be blamed for nothing

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Capitalisation

From the extant documents, and variations therein, there is no way of determining what capitalisation was actually used in the original graffiti.

Further Spellings

Many spellings of "Juwes" is to be found within the official records (HO 144/221/A49301C f164, 195, 197; Eddowes Inquest Records):

Jewes, Jeuwes, Juwes, Jewws, Juewes, Juews

Additionally, a Home Office minute sheet, dated 30 Oct 1888, stated that the word Jews was spelt "Jewes" as opposed to "Juwes". (HO 144/221/A49301C)

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Sir Charles Warren's Report - 06 Nov 1888

*4 Whitehall Place, S.W.
6th November 1888*

*Confidential
The Under Secretary of State
The Home Office*

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 5th instant, I enclose a report of the circumstances of the Mitre Square Murder so far as they have come under the notice of the Metropolitan Police, and I now give an account regarding the erasing the writing on the wall in Goulston Street which I have already partially explained to Mr. Matthews verbally.

On the 30th September on hearing of the Berner Street murder, after visiting Commercial Street Station I arrived at Leman Street Station shortly before 5 A.M. and ascertained from the Superintendent Arnold all that was known there relative to the two murders.

The most pressing question at that moment was some writing on the wall in Goulston Street evidently written with the

intention of inflaming the public mind against the Jews, and which Mr. Arnold with a view to prevent serious disorder proposed to obliterate, and had sent down an Inspector with a sponge for that purpose, telling him to await his arrival.

I considered it desirable that I should decide the matter myself, as it was one involving so great a responsibility whether any action was taken or not.

I accordingly went down to Goulston Street at once before going to the scene of the murder: it was just getting light, the public would be in the streets in a few minutes, in a neighbourhood very much crowded on Sunday mornings by Jewish vendors and Christian purchasers from all parts of London.

There were several Police around the spot when I arrived, both Metropolitan and City.

The writing was on the jamb of the open archway or doorway visible in the street and could not be covered up without danger of the covering being torn off at once.

A discussion took place whether the writing could be left covered up or otherwise or whether any portion of it could be left for an hour until it could be photographed; but after taking into consideration the excited state of the population in London generally at the time, the strong feeling which had been excited against the Jews, and the fact that in a short time there would be a large concourse of the people in the streets, and having before me the Report that if it was left there the house was likely to be wrecked (in which from my own observation I entirely concurred) I considered it desirable to obliterate the writing at once, having taken a copy of which I enclose a duplicate.

After having been to the scene of the murder, I went on to the City Police Office and informed the Chief Superintendent of the reason why the writing had been obliterated.

I may mention that so great was the feeling with regard to the Jews that on the 13th ulto. the Acting Chief Rabbi wrote to me on the subject of the spelling of the word "Jewes" on account of a newspaper asserting that this was Jewish spelling in the Yiddish dialect. He added "in the present state of excitement it is dangerous to the safety of the poor Jews in the East [End] to allow such an assertion to remain uncontradicted. My community keenly appreciates your humane and vigilant action during this critical time."

It may be realised therefore if the safety of the Jews in Whitechapel could be considered to be jeopardised 13 days after the murder by the question of the spelling of the word Jews, what might have happened to the Jews in that quarter had that writing been left intact.

I do not hesitate myself to say that if that writing had been left there would have been an onslaught upon the Jews, property would have been wrecked, and lives would probably have been lost; and I was much gratified with the promptitude with which Superintendent Arnold was prepared to act in the matter if I had not been there.

I have no doubt myself whatever that one of the principal objects of the Reward offered by Mr. Montagu was to shew to the world that the Jews were desirous of having the Hanbury Street Murder cleared up, and thus to divert from them the very strong feeling which was then growing up.

I am, Sir,

*Your most obedient Servant,
(signed) C. Warren*

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Police Superintendent H Division (Whitechapel) Thomas Arnold's Report - 06 Nov 1888

In his report of 06 Nov 1888 to the Home Office, Police Superintendent Thomas Arnold suggested that with the strong feeling against the Jews that already existed, the message might have become the means of causing a riot:

I beg to report that on the morning of the 30th Sept. last my attention was called to some writing on the wall of the entrance to some dwellings No. 108 Goulston Street, Whitechapel which consisted of the following words: "The Juews are not [the word 'not' being deleted] the men that will not be blamed for nothing", and knowing in consequence of suspicion having fallen upon a Jew named 'John Pizer' alias 'Leather Apron' having committed a murder in Hanbury Street a short time previously, a strong feeling existed against the Jews generally, and as the Building upon which the writing was found was situated in the midst of a locality inhabited principally by that Sect, I was apprehensive that if the writing were left it would be the means of causing a riot and therefore considered it desirable that it should be removed having in view the fact that it was in such a position that it would have been rubbed by persons passing in & out of the Building. (HO 144/221/A49301C)

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Graffiti Expunged

Superintendent Thomas Arnold, on first viewing the writing, was anxious that it be erased - he was fearful of anti-Jewish disturbances, and Sir Charles Warren agreed with him. The City Police requests to have only the contentious parts of the message removed prior to photographing were rejected by their Metropolitan Police counterparts.

The final decision however, rested with the Metropolitan Police as Goulston Street was within its jurisdiction; and by order of Police Commissioner Charles Warren, Police Superintendent Thomas Arnold had the graffiti washed from the wall at 5:30 am on Sun, 30 Sep 1888.

Consequently, the City Police and even Sir Robert Anderson said that the removal of such an important potential clue was "an act of crass stupidity".

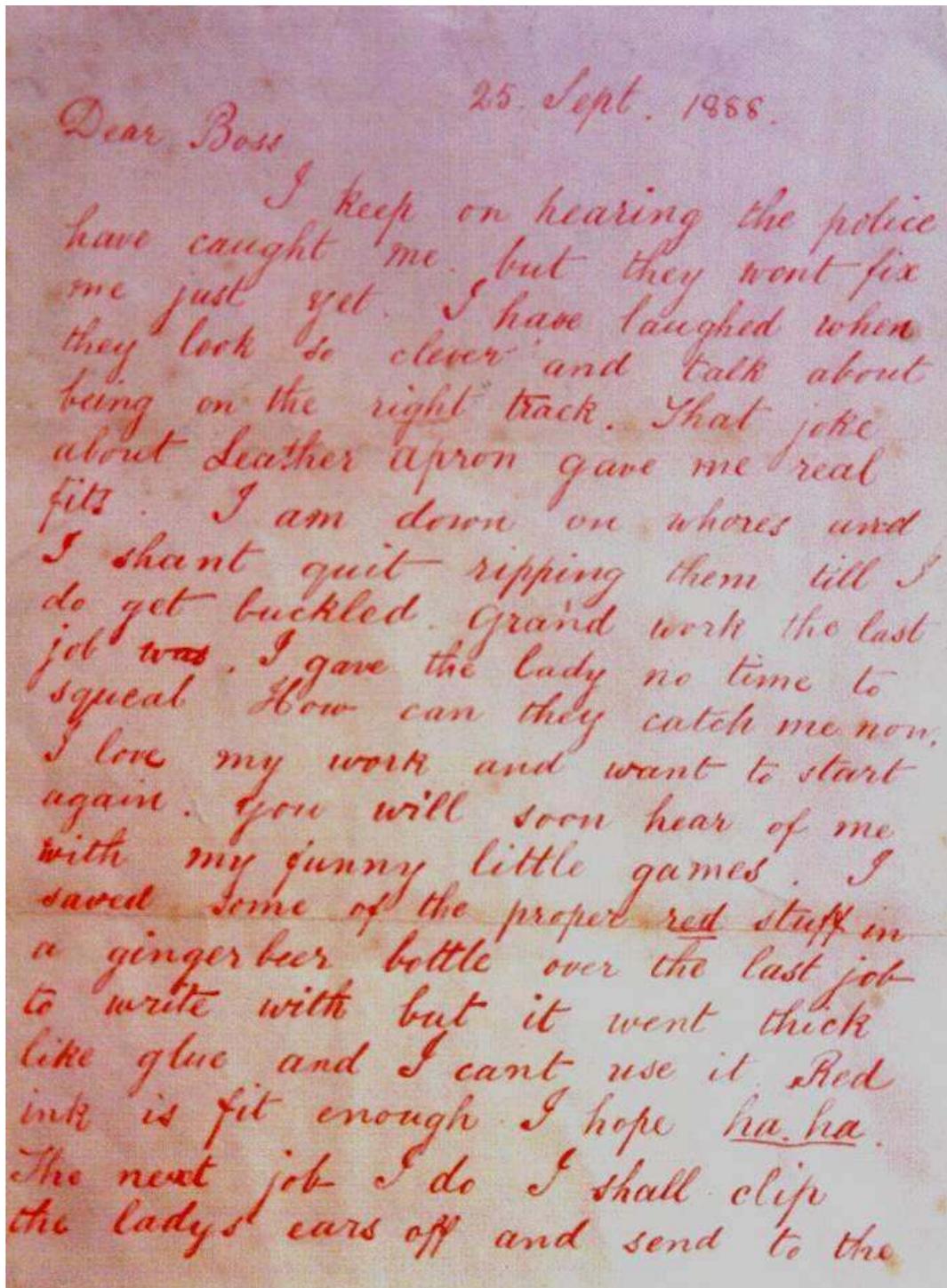
According to the "police officer supervising the Whitechapel murders investigation", the writing on the wall did not match the handwriting of the "Dear Boss" letter.

Walter Dew, a detective constable in Whitechapel, believed that the writing was irrelevant and unconnected to the murder. However, Chief Inspector Henry Moore and Sir Robert Anderson, both from Scotland Yard, believed that the graffiti was the work of the murderer.

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The 'Dear Boss' letter

This letter, dated 25 September 1888, was received on 27 September 1888 at the Central News Agency,



25. Sept. 1888.

Dear Boss

I keep on hearing the police have caught me. but they wont 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 whores and I shant 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 gunny 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 like glue and I cant 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 jolly wouldnt
you. Keep this letter back till I
do a bit more work. then give
it out straight. My knife's so nice
and sharp I want to get to work
right away if I get a chance.
Good luck.

yours truly

Jack the Ripper

Dont mind me giving the trade name

want good enough
to post this before
I got all the red
ink off my hands
cuse it.
No luck yet. They
say I'm a doctor
now- ha ha



25 Sept. 1888.

Dear Boss

I keep on hearing the police have caught me but they wont 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 whores and I shant 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 like glue and I cant use it. Red ink is fit enough I hope ha. ha. The next job I do I shall clip the ladys ears off and send to the

police officers just for jolly wouldnt you. Keep this letter back till I do a bit more work then give it out straight. My knife's so nice and sharp I want to get to work right away if I get a chance. Good Luck.

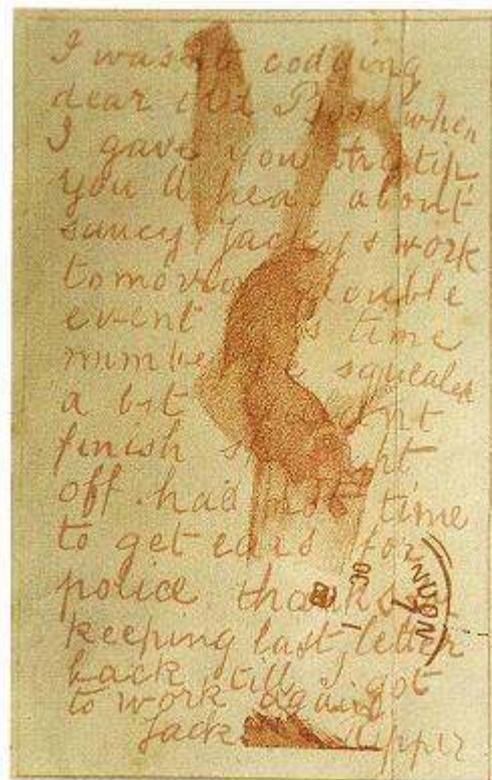
Yours truly
Jack the Ripper

Dont mind me giving the trade nam

Wasnt good enough
to post this before
I got all the red
ink off my hands
curse it. No luck yet. They
say I'm a doctor
now. ha ha

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The "Saucy Jacky" Postcard



I wasnt coddling
dear old Boss when
I gave you the tip[,]
you ll hear about
saucy Jackys work
tomorrow double
event this time
number one squealed
a bit couldnt
finish straight
off. had not time
to get ears for
police thanks for
keeping last letter
back till I got
to work again.
Jack the Ripper

This "Saucy Jacky" postcard was both postmarked and received on 01 October 1888 at the Central News Agency.

It was Warren's opinion, at the time, that the letter and postcard were hoaxes. On 10 Oct 1888 he told Lushington:

I think the whole thing a hoax but we are bound to try and ascertain the writer in any case.

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The 14 Oct 1896 Hoax Letter

This letter was written in red ink and said:

Dear Boss,

You will be surprised to find that this comes from yours as of old Jack-the Ripper. Ha Ha If my old friend Mr. Warren is dead you can read it. you might remember me if you try and think a little Ha Ha. The last job was a bad one and no mistake nearly buckled, and meant it to be best of the lot & what curse it, Ha Ha Im alive yet and you'll soon find it out. I mean to go on again when I get the chance wont it be nice dear old Boss to have the good old times once again. you never caught me and you never will. Ha Ha

You police are a smart lot, the lot of you could nt catch one man Where have I been Dear Boss you d like to know. abroad, if you would like to know, and just come back, ready to go on with my work and stop when you catch me. Well good bye Boss wish me luck. Winters coming "The Jewes are people that are blamed for nothing" Ha Ha have you heard this before

Yours truly

Jack the Ripper

Chief Constable Melville Macnaghten asked Chief Inspector Henry Moore to make a comparison between the present letter and the others received. In his report, dated 18 Oct 1896, Moore stated:

I beg to report having carefully perused all the old 'Jack the Ripper' letters and fail to find any similarity of handwriting in any of them, with the exception of the two well remembered communications which were sent to the 'Central News' Office; one a letter, dated 25th September 1888, and the other a postcard, bearing the postmark 1st October 1888...

On comparing the handwriting of the present letter with handwriting of that document, I find many similarities in the formation of letters. For instance the y's, t's, and w's are very much the same. Then there are several words which appear in both documents; viz:- Dear Boss; ha ha (although in the present letter the capital H is used instead of the small one); and in speaking of the murders he describes them as his 'work' or the last 'job'; and if I get a (or the) chance; then there are the words 'yours truly' and - the Ripper (the latter on postcard) are very much alike. Besides there are the finger smears.

*Considering the lapse of time, it would be interesting to know how the present writer was able to use the words 'The *Jewes are people that are blamed for nothing'; as it will be remembered that they are practically the same words that were written in chalk, undoubtedly by the murderer, on the wall at Goulston St., Whitechapel, on the night of 30th September, 1888, after the murders of Mrs Stride and Mrs Eddows [Eddowes]; and the word Jews was spelt on that occasion precisely as it is now.*

Although these similarities strangely exist between the documents, I am of opinion that the present writer is not the original correspondent who prepared the letters to the Central News;

as if it had been I should have thought he would have again addressed it to the same Press Agency; and not to Commercial Street Police Station.

In conclusion I beg to observe that I do not attach any importance to this communication.

Swanson wrote a capital "A" in the margin against Moore's final sentence. He then endorsed the report saying: *"In my opinion the handwritings are not the same. I agree as A."*

[* The word, on the Goulston Street graffiti is generally accepted as being spelt "Juwes" not "Jewes" as written in the present letter.]

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The Kidney

Adapted from http://wiki.casebook.org/index.php/Lusk_Kidney

Half of a human kidney, divided longitudinally, was sent to George Lusk of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee on 16th October 1888. The accompanying note alleged that the kidney had been taken from one of the victims (Catherine Eddowes). It was accompanied by the Lusk Letter in a 3.5 inch square cardboard box wrapped in brown paper.

The note

From hell
Mr Lusk
Sor
I send you half the
Kidne I took from one women
prasarved it for you tother piece
I fried and ate it was very nise. I
may send you the bloody knif that
took it out if you only wate a whil
longer
signed Catch me when
you Can
Mishter Lusk.

The post mark on the parcel was not distinct enough to see anything other than 'OND' (part of LONDON) and further assistance from the Post Office resulted in no distinction between it being posted from the E or EC districts.

Initially considering it all to be a hoax (and that the kidney was probably that of a dog), Lusk placed the parcel in a drawer in his desk.

After mentioning it to members of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee on the 18th October, Lusk was encouraged to have it examined by a medical expert. The kidney was taken to the surgery of Dr. Frederick Wiles at 56 Mile End Road, but in his absence, it was examined by his assistant, Mr. Francis Reed (usually known as F. S. Reed). Reed, feeling that it warranted further inspection took the piece to Dr. Thomas Horrocks Openshaw, curator of the Pathology Museum at the London Hospital.

From there it was taken, along with the accompanying letter, to Leman Street Police Station. The kidney was passed on to the City of London police, into the hands of Inspector Abberline, for further examination by Dr. Frederick Gordon Brown and the letter went to Scotland Yard

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Contemporary Opinion

Mr. Reed believed the kidney to be human, that it was divided longitudinally and that it had been preserved in spirits of wine. He was also reported as stating that it was probably genuine.

The initial reports on Dr. Openshaw's findings were highly misleading. According to a press interview with Vigilance Committee member Joseph Aarons:

On his return Mr. Reed said that Dr. Openshaw, at the Pathological Museum, stated that the kidney belonged to a female, that it was part of the left kidney, and that the woman had been in the habit of drinking. He should think that the person had died about the same time the Mitre-square murder was committed.

The doctor examined it, and pronounced it to be a portion of a human kidney - a "ginny" kidney, that is to say, one that had belonged to a person who had drunk heavily. He was further of opinion that it was the organ of a woman of about 45 years of age, and that it had been taken from the body within the last three weeks. It will be within public recollection that the left kidney was missing from the woman Eddowes, who was murdered and mutilated in Mitre-square.

However, interviewed in the press the following day, Dr. Openshaw refuted nearly all the claims attributed to him:

Dr. Openshaw told a Star reporter to-day that after having examined the piece of kidney under the microscope he was of opinion that it was half of a left human kidney. He couldn't say, however, whether it was that of a woman, nor how long ago it had been removed from the body, as it had been preserved in spirits.

Another report made reference to Dr. Gordon Brown's as yet incomplete assessment and subject of the renal artery:

It may be remembered that it was Dr. Gordon Browne who gave evidence at the Mitre-square inquest with reference to the organs missing from the body of the woman Eddowes. He then intimated that only the right kidney could be found, and that now submitted to him is a portion of a left kidney, the suggestion being that it forms part of that which was taken away. It is stated, however, that on this point no definite opinion can be pronounced, as these organs vary considerably in the same person, and conclusions based on the condition of the right kidney may very well prove misleading. On the other hand, it is asserted that only a small portion of the renal artery adheres to the kidney, while in the case of the Mitre-square victim a large portion of this artery adhered to the body. It may be mentioned that Dr. Openshaw, of the Pathological Museum attached to the London Hospital, confirms the statement that in his view the article enclosed in the parcel addressed to Mr. Lusk is a portion of a human organ, and not of any animal, as has been suggested by those who regard the whole affair as a hoax.

Dr. Gordon Brown's post mortem report on Catherine Eddowes sheds some light on the condition of the (right) kidney which remained in her body; "pale bloodless with slight congestion of the base of the pyramids. Dr. William Sedgwick Saunders, however claimed that the kidney remaining in Eddowes' body was perfectly healthy:

You may take it that the right kidney of the woman Eddowes was perfectly normal in its structure and healthy, and by parity of reasoning, you would not get much disease in the left. The liver was healthy, and gave no indications that the woman drank. Taking the discovery of the half of a kidney, and supposing it to be human, my opinion is that it was a student's antic. It is quite possible for any student to obtain a kidney for the purpose.

Dr. Saunders, however had not seen the kidney.

Taking Openshaw's press statement as his definitive word on the kidney, it is therefore apparent that other characteristics were merely added by others. Such statements have served to cloud objectivity regarding the provenance of the organ; a good example is from the memoirs of Major Henry Smith, acting Commissioner of the City of London Police from September 1888. In his book *From Constable to Commissioner* he relates his own ideas about the Lusk Kidney (this account, was published more than twenty years later) Smith says:

I made over the kidney to the police surgeon, instructing him to consult with the most eminent men in the profession, and send me a report without delay. I gave the substance of it. The renal artery is about three inches long. Two inches remained in the corpse, one inch was attached to the kidney. The kidney left in the corpse was in an advanced stage of Bright's disease; the kidney sent me was in an exactly similar state. But what was of far more importance, Mr Sutton, one of the senior surgeons at the London Hospital, whom Gordon Brown asked to meet him and another practitioner in consultation, and who was one of the greatest authorities living on the kidney and its diseases, said he would pledge his reputation that the kidney submitted to them had been put in spirits within a few hours of its removal

from the body - thus effectually disposing of all hoaxes in connection with it. The body of anyone done to death by violence is not taken direct to the dissecting-room, but must await an inquest, never held before the following day at the soonest.

Major Smith's comments regarding Bright's Disease have been regularly referenced and despite his memoirs being wholly unreliable as far as the Ripper investigation is concerned, Dr. Gordon Brown's comments regarding the remaining kidney ("pale, bloodless with slight congestion at the base of the pyramids") is a description of the physical signs of Bright's Disease. Dr. Gordon Brown's report on the Lusk Kidney has not been located, however in an obscure press interview, he gave information which effectively negates major Smith's assertions about the artery:

As has been stated, there is no portion of renal artery adhering to [the kidney], it having been trimmed up, so consequently, there could be no correspondence established between the portion of the body from which it was cut.

As it exhibits no trace of decomposition, when we consider the length of time that has elapsed since the commission of the murder, we come to the conclusion that the possibility is slight of its being a portion of the murdered woman [Catherine Eddowes] of Mitre Square.

Conclusion

It is impossible to prove either way the genuineness of the kidney supposedly removed from Catherine Eddowes and sent to George Lusk. Author, researcher and practising surgeon N. P. Warren made seven points of identification (based on the contemporary reports) in 1989:

- 1) The Lusk Kidney was human
- 2) It came from a woman
- 3) It came from a person approximately 45 years old
- 4) It had been extracted from the body within three weeks of its examination
- 5) It came from an alcoholic
- 6) It was severely affected by Bright's disease
- 7) It had approximately 1 inch of renal artery adhering to it

Warren was able to deduce that only one of the above statements was beyond reasonable doubt - that the kidney was human. The others points were either uncertain or negative.

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