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The art of profiling an historical case

Dr James A Bailey takes a professional, hard-nosed look at the Ripper crimes investigation in the light of modern forensic techniques

Questioning Uncle Jack

Ripperologist interviews Tony Williams and Humphrey Price

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"The No. 1 publication"

Casebook: Jack the Ripper

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: Ripper photofit ©Adam Wood. Sir John Williams photograph ©Tony Williams

QUOTE FOR MAY: 'Tony Blair yesterday recruited the Kray twins to his election campaign... The Tories were reduced... to wondering if they could make anything of Jack the Ripper or Dr Crippen'. *Andrew Gimson, Blair rewrites history to enlist the Krays*, Daily Telegraph, 22 April 2005.

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JAMES A BAILEY

The Art of Profiling an Historical Case: The Whitechapel Murders

When the Whitechapel Murders occurred in 1888, profiling was an undeveloped scientific investigative method. As we will see, a type of profiling did take place in the case even then, even if the term 'profiling' was not used. Today, criminal profiling has evolved into an investigative technique used by a number of law enforcement agencies. The purpose of criminal profiling is to provide investigators with additional leads to pursue in an investigation which may lead to an arrest.¹

Crime genre enthusiasts are familiar with the process because the entertainment industry has popularized profiling, which is a central theme in numerous television programs and motion pictures today. One of the most popular novels about profiling, *The Silence of the Lambs* by Thomas Harris, was made into the hit motion picture of the same name with Jodie Foster and Sir Anthony Hopkins. That movie and its sequels probably have had more influence on popular opinion about criminal profiling than any other single source. As depicted in *The Silence of the Lambs* and other fictional settings, profiling is often portrayed as an exact science. However, in actual investigations, compared to fictional portrayals, profiling does not show the same success. Despite the portrayal by the entertainment industry that criminal profiling provides quick leads in solving cases, investigators are painfully aware of its limitations in solving criminal cases.

Dr George Bagster Phillips and Early Profiling

Throughout police history, investigators have made observations pertaining to unsolved cases. This was a form of criminal profiling even if it was not termed by that name at



Dr George Bagster Phillips, early profiler

the time. For example, Dr George Bagster Phillips, the police surgeon for the Metropolitan Police during the Whitechapel murders, used a profiling model to evaluate the offender's behaviour based on the interpretation of wound pattern analysis. Because of the precision of the incisions in the removal of Annie Chapman's organs, Dr Phillips believed the perpetrator to be knowledgeable and with anatomic knowledge, and in fact in his testimony he all but said that the killer was quite possibly a man skilled in medical dissection.²

Dr Phillips testified in the Chapman inquest at the Working Lads' Institute, Whitechapel Road, on Monday, 10 September 1888. The next day's *Daily Telegraph* reported on the exchanges between him and the Coroner, Wynne Baxter, as follows:

[Coroner]: Was there any anatomical knowledge displayed?

[Dr Phillips]: I think there was. There were indications of it. *My own impression is that anatomical knowledge was only less displayed or indicated in consequence of haste. The person evidently was hindered from making a more complete dissection in consequence of the haste. [emphasis mine]*

[Coroner]: Was the whole of the body

there?

[Dr Phillips]: No; the absent portions being from the abdomen.

[Coroner]: Are those portions such as would require anatomical knowledge to extract?

[Dr Phillips]: I think the mode in which they were extracted did show some anatomical knowledge.³

Although Dr Phillips's assessment of the case is not referred to in the literature at the time as a profile, by today's criminal investigative techniques it was a criminal profile, giving some idea of the killer's level of anatomic skill.

The Beginnings of Modern Profiling

The modern concept of profiling dates to the early half of the 20th century. One of the early profilers in the United States was William Langer, a psychiatrist employed by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to develop a psychological profile of Adolph Hitler. Langer compiled a description of Hitler's personality, his mental condition and some predictions of his behaviour under certain conditions.⁴



William Langer

Although others have profiled various individuals, Dr James A Brussel, a New York psychiatrist, may have been one of the first to engage in criminal profiling. Dr Brussel used crime scene behaviour to diagnose the offender's disorder. He associated body physique with certain types of mental illness and consequently was able to give investigators a profile of the offender's physical characteristics. Dr Brussel assisted the police in the 1940s and 1950s during the investigation of the



Dr James Brussel and George Metesky

'Mad Bomber' cases in New York City. During this period, the man eventually apprehended, George Metesky, detonated bombs in train stations and theatres in the city. When Metesky was arrested, Dr Brussel's profile was determined to be an accurate profile of the bomber.⁵

Following upon Dr Brussel's profiling efforts came Howard Teten, a former California police officer who became a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In 1970, at the FBI National Academy, Teten began to teach criminal profiling as an investigative aid. Later, he teamed up with Pat Mullany and incorporated the study of abnormal behaviour into lectures on how evidence found at the crime scene could be used to determine aspects of the offender's behaviour.⁶

In 1972, the FBI formed the Behavioral Sciences Unit (BSU) to manage the efforts of the profiling agents. These agents were assigned to examine and develop profiles for

unsolved cases. Other well-known agents who worked in the unit and profiled important cases were Roy Hazelwood, John Douglas and Robert Ressler. By the 1990s, the unit responsible for profiling cases had changed its name to the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC).⁷ Today, this unit continues to profile cases.

Robert Ressler defines psychological profiling as a process of identifying individual psychological characteristics based on an analysis of their crimes to provide a general description of the offender. The five steps in the process include studying the criminal act and the types of previous offenders, analysis of the crime scene evidence, the background and activities of the victim and known suspects, any motivating factors for all parties, and development of a description of the offender.⁸

Richard Ault and James Resse, Special Agents with the FBI Behavioral Science Unit, suggest that the profile varies depending on the type of information the profilers have to assess. The information in a profile generally includes: the offender's race, sex, age group, marital status, general employment, attitude toward police, sexual maturity, the probability of additional crimes, possible past offences and the possibility of a criminal record.⁹ Other researchers have developed different profiling strategies and profiling procedures; however, the overall goal of assisting the investigative process is the same.¹⁰

American state and local police agencies began to take advantage of profiling techniques developed by the FBI and others as they began profiling their own cases. Agencies formed special task forces to adapt profiling approaches to solve crimes. Routinely, local agencies investigate a serious crime until it is solved or until another crime occurs. When additional crimes take place, investigators' resources are diluted and the amount of time allotted to a case decreases as new cases are assigned to the investigator. Developing profiles provided investigators with additional investigative leads that sometimes aided in the solution of unsolved cases.

The strategy for profiling modern criminal cases and its application to the investigation of the Whitechapel murders could provide some insight into the 117-year-old case. It will not likely offer a solution to the case,

but it might point well us in the right direction towards a likely type of individual who was the killer.

Use of a modern criminal case as a means to work up a profile of 'Jack'

The same profiling techniques employed in a modern criminal case in Wilmington, North Carolina, will be used to develop a profile of Jack the Ripper.

Like other police agencies around the United States, in 1986 the Wilmington Police Department created a special task force to profile unsolved homicides. The task force consisted of the captain of detectives, a psychologist, the investigating detective and a criminal justice instructor. The purpose of the task force was to profile cases and develop new leads in unsolved homicide cases. In each case, the investigating detective was assigned to the task force as a profiling member. Including the detective as a member on the task force provided the detective with an additional stake in the investigation. Without the detective's involvement and input into the profiling process, the detective operating independently of the task force is less likely to be as cooperative and enthusiastic in executing the investigation.



Robert Ressler

After the task force members were appointed, a police administrator selected and assigned the case to the task force. The case selection is generally an administrative decision by the agency. The criteria used for selecting cases may be whether or not the crime is a high profile case. A high profile status could result from the type of crime, the victim, or the media coverage of the case.

Case selection can range from the most recently unsolved case to the oldest case. At any rate, a police administrator usually selects the case to profile. This releases the task force from sifting through the cases trying to decide which one to examine first.

The case selected for the Wilmington Police Department task force was a recent robbery homicide investigation of a full service gas station. Once the case was selected the original investigators presented a detailed chronology of the investigation. During the next several meetings, the task force reviewed the files. The items of physical evidence were exhibited in the meetings and photographs were examined. In order to develop new leads, the task force discussed case details. The leads that developed were prioritized before the detective began the investigative process.

profile based on statistical information from similar crimes. However, in this case the team decided to analyze the available crime information and only consider a statistical profile if one could not be developed from this information. As the team re-enacted what happened during the commission of the crime based on the information and evidence, one aspect of the crime scene that was puzzling was the key in the front door lock on the inside of the store. The final question contemplated was what type of person would commit a crime like this.

It was the team's consensus that the offender probably knew the owner and may have had some type of relationship with him, either business or personal. The offender came to the station while it was still closed and the owner opened the door and

who was living in another state. By this time her husband had left her. During the interview, she described their relationship as abusive. The investigator had already visited the location where the husband fired his rifle into the air hoping to retrieve some spent cartridges but found none. Information obtained from the step-daughter, however, led to the arrest and conviction of her estranged husband.

When the step-daughter's husband was first questioned by investigators, he told them he only worked at the station part time and had been off for three days. The offender could just as well have been someone else and the investigators did not pursue him as a suspect. In this investigation, the profile did not solve the case but offered new leads in the investigation which ultimately led to an arrest. The profiling team did not develop a statistical profile of the offender because the investigative leads from the study of the crime led to an arrest.

Human behaviour is not always predictable. The victim could have opened the door to a stranger asking for assistance. If this had been the case, the profiling outcome would have been different. Profiles are rarely 100% accurate. The FBI reported that, out of 192 cases profiled, only 88 cases were solved, and of those, only in 15 cases were profiles useful in the identification of the suspect. That is 17% of the solved cases or 8% of the total cases.¹¹ As a general rule, as offender specificity increases, the accuracy of the profile decreases.

Applying profiling to an historic case

The same principles apply to profiling a case whether it is a modern or historic case. The objective of a profile is to provide additional information that can be used in an investigation. The only disadvantage in profiling an historic case is that an investigator cannot follow newly developed leads, re-examine the witnesses, or view the physical evidence. In some historic cases, physical evidence exists but, as with the Jack the Ripper case, it is usually not as abundant as in modern cases.

Applying the same five-step process to the Whitechapel murders as applied to the Wilmington robbery homicide investigation can yield a profile of the offender as well. However, in the Whitechapel murders, a statistical profile of Jack the Ripper will be developed prior to considering the

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During the profiling process, the team focused on the same five-step process as that developed by the FBI. This included: examining the criminal act, analysis of the crime scene, study of the background and activities of the victim, motivating factors for all parties, and then developing a profile for the suspect.

A summary of the case revealed that the owner, a Caucasian male, arrived early to open the store one morning. The first customer arrived, entered the station and called to the station attendant for assistance. When he received no response, he proceeded into the station and found the victim lying behind the counter. The customer telephoned emergency services and when they arrived the attendant was found to be deceased. Later, the autopsy revealed that the victim's death was caused by a small gun shot wound to the chest. The investigation yielded numerous unidentified latent fingerprints. There was no money in the cash register and a large ring of keys was found in the keyway of the interior station door.

Without any information about the case, the team could have developed a

voluntarily permitted the perpetrator to enter. The lock was of a dead bolt type and the team believed that the owner would not have allowed a stranger in the business before it was time to open. Besides, had it been time to open, he would not have left the key ring in the lock.

The initial profile of the offender was thus that the offender was someone known to the victim. Based on this profile, the investigative strategy was to re-interview close associates and employees of the victim.

The detective accordingly began locating individuals who had a close association with the victim. By this time, several months had passed and one of the employees, the victim's son-in-law, had moved away from the area. When the investigator examined his background, several people who knew him described him as deviant and impulsive. He lived in the county. It was not unusual for him to drink a few beers on Saturday night and periodically go outside and fire his rifle in the air. Through family member interviews, the investigator located the son-in-law's estranged wife, the victim's step-daughter,

five-step process. A statistical profile of a case is developed by comparing modern statistical data to the case. The comparison is not the same as if data from the 1880s were used, but even with the lack of data pertaining to serial murderers during that period, current data could be used to profile possible characteristics of the nineteenth century serial killer. Even though the statistical profile provides some useful information, it does not provide enough specific information about the suspect to direct the investigation. By combining statistical data with specific information from cases, a more comprehensive profile may be developed.

Statistical profile of modern serial killers

For serial killers, one source of statistical data for the age distribution suggests that 12% of killers are aged 32-36 years, 17% are aged 18-25, 18% are over age 42, 25% are aged 37-42 and 28% are aged 26-31 years; 95% of the offenders are male and 5% are female; and at least in the United States, 82% are Caucasian, 16% African-American and 2% Hispanic. Around half, 51%, of the killers are employed; 56% do not complete high school and 80% are not married. Around 90% of the victims are strangers to the offender, and 69% of the offenders have some type of psychiatric assessment or confinement history. Sometimes there is an assumption that serial killers have no criminal record; however, 61% have a prior conviction of theft, burglary, or robbery.¹²

Other research suggests that a significant number of serial killers are psychopathic sexual sadists who derive pleasure from torturing victims.¹³

An analysis of these statistics will be included in the profile developed for Jack the Ripper following the victims' case summaries. Furthermore, to develop a comprehensive profile of Jack the Ripper, a review of his victims and their injuries will be examined in the order in which their deaths occurred. The information about the victims and their injuries is summarized from Donald Rumbelow's *Jack the Ripper: The Complete Casebook*.¹⁴

Students of the case will be aware that there is disagreement about the number of victims who fell prey to Jack the Ripper. For purposes of discussion, five victims, Mary Ann Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes, and Mary Jane Kelly (usually termed the 'canonical five') will be considered for profiling. Each case

will be reviewed individually and then collectively to complete the profile.

Mary Ann Nichols

The first victim was found about 3:40am on Friday, 31 August 1888, in Buck's Row, near London Hospital, by two carmen on their way to work. Her name was Mary Ann 'Polly' Nichols, an estranged wife and alleged prostitute, with a history of alcohol abuse. Polly was a 42-year-old Caucasian female, 5'2" in height, with brownish grey hair and missing five front teeth. She had last been seen intoxicated about 2:00am that morning in Whitechapel Road. Her body was found in the doorway to a stable-yard just off the dimly lit street. She was lying on her back with one hand near her bonnet and the other reaching towards the stable gate. Her dress was up around her waist and her body was cold to the touch. The first policeman arriving in the scene, however, reported the body to be still warm to the touch above the elbows.

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Because of the lack of light, the carmen who found the body did not observe any blood. At first, they believed the woman was intoxicated and proceeded to find a policeman to give her assistance. When the policeman arrived with a light, they noticed two cuts to her throat. One cut located just below her left ear, about one inch below her jaw, was about four inches long. The second cut, about one inch below the first cut, was about 8 inches long. The cut was also so deep that it had severed the windpipe and gone to the spinal column. The main arteries had been severed. When the victim

was moved to a stretcher, it was noted that blood had collected on her back and had been absorbed by her clothes down to her waist. After the body was removed, there was a blood stain about 6 inches in diameter on the pavement where it had been found. Her post mortem interval was estimated to be 30 minutes. Polly was wearing an overcoat, dress, wool stockings, one flannel slip and one wool slip. During the removal of the clothing, a deep jagged incision on the left side of the lower abdomen was observed. The abdomen was cut from the centre of the bottom ribs on the right side to the left side of the stomach. There was also bruising on the lower left jaw and a circular bruise on the right side of the face. There were two minor stab wounds to the genital area.

In reviewing the injuries sustained by Mary Ann Nichols, the cuts to her throat and abdomen suggest that the attacker was armed with a knife and that he was of considerable strength. Even with a sharp knife, substantial force is required to cut the throat to the vertebral column. The bruising on the face around the jaw could have resulted from an attempt to muffle any sounds from the victim. Considering the victims history of alleged prostitution, the encounter could have been for sexual exploitation.

Annie Chapman

The second canonical victim, Annie Chapman, estranged wife and alleged prostitute, with a history of alcohol abuse, was found on 8 September 1888 in the backyard of a lodging house on Hanbury Street by one of the lodgers. She was a Caucasian female, about 45-years-old, 5 feet tall, with a large wide nose and dark brown wavy hair, blue eyes and two teeth missing from her bottom jaw. She was last seen at 5:30am in the company of a man by a woman on her way to the market. Annie was found lying on her back next to a fence. Her knees were bent with feet on the ground and legs spread open. Her left arm was over her left breast. Her face and hands were bloody. Her throat had been cut twice; the cuts were parallel and about a quarter of an inch apart. One wound was deep and jagged and almost decapitated the victim. Her long overcoat and skirt were pushed up over her stockings. She had been eviscerated and the mesentery of the intestines had been cut in order to stretch the intestines, which had been draped on the victim's shoulder.

The uterus, including part of the vagina and two-thirds of the bladder, had been removed. Two pieces of skin from the abdomen were located above the victim's left shoulder in a puddle of blood. Her face and tongue were swollen and there were bruises on her face. She also had abrasions on her ring finger. A brass ring had been removed and was located at the bottom of her feet. Blood stains were found about 14 inches high on the fence from the ground. Blood stains ranging in size from a pin head to half an inch in diameter were also found on the back of the house.

was Michael Kidney. Elizabeth was 45 years old, had blue eyes, brown hair, a straight nose, and was recently treated for venereal disease. When she was found, her dark clothing was wet from the rain, but her body was still warm. She was on her back with a bag of cachous in her left hand and her right hand was bloodstained and on her chest. Her throat had been cut on the left side 2.5 inches below the jaw. The cut continued to the right side 1.5 inches below the jaw. The cut coincided with the lower edge of a scarf around her neck. The bow of the scarf appeared to be

beat policeman had checked the place where Catherine would be murdered by 15 minutes before the body was discovered. Catherine was lying on her back with arms beside her body. She wore an ankle-length skirt and three slips. Her left leg was extended and her right leg was bent. The body was warm when discovered. Her throat and the left carotid artery were cut to the spinal column. The incision was about 6 inches in length. Marks from the knife blade were on the vertebral cartilage. The carotid artery on the right had a small opening in it and the jugular vein was cut open as well. The cartilage below the vocal chords was severed. She had a cut on her right cheek and the tip of her nose and lobe of her right ear had been severed. The wall of the abdomen was cut and laid below the breast. The liver had two incisions. She had been cut open from the rectum to the sternum and disembowelled. The intestines were placed on her right side with the exception of one piece that was placed between the body and the left arm. There was no bruising on her face. Prior to her death she had been in police custody and released about midnight. Her body was located about a half mile from the police station.

The body mutilations to Chapman provide more insight into the offender's psychological state, even though little is still understood about the offender's behaviour concerning evisceration. In this case, the victim had some organs removed and the mesentery along the length of the intestines was cut, permitting them to be stretched out; however, this does not suggest medical or surgical training. Sexual deviance in this case does provide the investigator with an offender's signature: a cut throat and evisceration.

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Elizabeth Stride

The third victim was found at 1:00am, 30 September 1888, lying on the ground in Dutfield's Yard, Berner Street, by Louis Diemschutz, arriving with his horse and cart. She was a Swedish woman called Elizabeth Stride, a widow and alleged prostitute, with a history of alcohol abuse. Her common-law husband

pulled tightly to the left side. The cut was deep, severing the windpipe and carotid on the left side but not as deep on the right side. Coagulated blood was observed beneath the body and bruising on both shoulders and the collar bone but no bruising to the face. The left side of the body was soiled with more mud than the right side. Approximately 2 quarts of blood had spilt on to the pavement. There were no mutilations similar to those of the other victims.

It's difficult to say whether this victim was killed by the same offender as the other victims because of the lack of mutilations. However, her murder occurred in the same area as the other crimes and her cause of death was her throat being cut. The traditional view is that the attacker fled the scene to avoid detection before he had an opportunity to perform post mortem mutilation.

Catherine Eddowes

The fourth victim was found at 1:45am on September 30, 1888, the same day as Elizabeth Stride, in Mitre Square. She was Catherine Eddowes, a 45-year-old Caucasian female with a history of alcohol abuse. Her common-law husband was called John Kelly. The

This is the same signature killing as Nichols and Chapman. All four victims had similar socio-economic circumstances and lifestyles. The geographic proximity of the crime scenes is consistent with a single killer.

Mary Jane Kelly

The fifth victim was discovered murdered in her room at 13 Miller's Court. She was an Irishwoman called Mary Jane Kelly, who was estranged from her common-law husband, Joe Barnett, and believed (at least by some sources) to be pregnant. The 24-year-old Caucasian female and alleged prostitute had a history of alcohol abuse. She was last seen alive at about 11:45pm on 8 November and was found deceased at 10:45am on 9 November by Thomas Bowyer, the rent collector for her landlord, Mr McCarthy. Bowyer knocked at the door. When there was no answer, he looked in through the window and saw her corpse on the bed. She was lying in bed dressed in a chemise. Her face was cut and disfigured beyond recognition and her throat was cut

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almost severing the head from the body. The abdomen was cut open and the viscera removed. The intestines were on the right side of the body. Her breasts were cut off. The nose had been partly cut off and the thighs stripped of skin and flesh, the left one, down to the knee. The flaps removed from the abdomen and thighs were on a table. Time of death was estimated between 3:30 and 4:00am.

This is the same signature as used in the murders of Nichols, Chapman, and Eddowes. The victim's background is similar. The degree of mutilation, however, was more extensive in this case. This might be attributable to the attacker having felt more secure in a room out of public view, where he was able to act out his fantasy without fear of discovery by witnesses.

Conclusions as to a profile of Jack the Ripper

Based on my interpretation of the statistical data collected on the 1888 case together with the information analyzed in modern cases, a profile of the Ripper would characterize him as a Caucasian male aged 26-31 years. He apparently had little education but was employed in some type of vocation. He also most likely had some type of psychological problem that may have been brought to the attention of the mental health medical community. Indeed, the Ripper's identity may have been known to the police because of past convictions for petty crimes such as theft, burglary, or robbery.

A further analysis of the crimes would indicate that it's likely that the killer was able to gain the trust of the victims. He probably knew or developed a brief relationship with the victims, but because of their past involvement with prostitution, it is likely that they were approachable by strangers. In one study of eighty-three modern cases, 28% of the victims offered no resistance to the attacker, 31% attempted verbal negations, 7% refused verbally, 10% screamed, 5% attempted escape and 19% resisted the attacker. In two-thirds of the cases, the attacker countered the victim's resistance and the victim was subjected to greater force and aggression.¹⁵

The attacker was most likely a male of considerable strength, proportional to the amount of force required to cut a victim's throat through to the vertebral column. Even if the knife used was sharp, it would have required substantial force to cut through skin,

muscle, and vessels to the vertebrae. Large quantities of blood would be present at the scene as a result of the type and location of injuries inflicted on the victims. Some of the victims had bruises on their faces; however, that does not necessarily indicate that a struggle occurred, because alcohol abusers bruise and bleed freely if cut or handled roughly.¹⁶ Even though there was no reported evidence of an initial struggle, a victim's natural instinct in a life-threatening assault is to resist an attacker. Victims generally will resist up to sustaining severe injuries to the hands, arms, or other non-vital parts of the body when attacked.¹⁷ However, there appear to be no defence wounds on any of the victims with the exception of the last one, Mary Jane Kelly. It seems therefore likely that in the majority of the murders the offender manipulated the victim after a brief encounter so that he was able to grab her from behind.

Jack the Ripper had a distinctive signature of cutting the throat and post mortem mutilation by evisceration. The signature of a criminal is different from the modus operandi. The signature has been defined as 'behavior that goes beyond the action needed to commit the crime; it is a fantasy-based ritual or combinations of rituals that represent a unique and personal expression of the offender.'¹⁸

It is estimated that in 1888, the East End of London, a few square miles of area, was populated with about 900,000 inhabitants. Most lived in impoverished conditions and about 50% of the children died before the age of five. About 80,000 people lived in Whitechapel, 8,500 of them in boarding houses with 5-7 people occupying each room. The Metropolitan Police estimated that there were about 1,200 prostitutes walking the streets. Even though some of the crime scenes were a considerable distance apart, all the victims lived within a few hundred yards of each other.¹⁹ Due to the proximity in which the victims lived, their killer probably lived and worked in the same geographical setting and thus could well have frequented the same public houses as his victims.

Another noteworthy distinction about the Whitechapel murders is that, unlike many modern serial killers, the murderer did not mutilate the body for purposes of torture. The psychopathic sexual sadist tortures the victim for pleasure; however,

in the Whitechapel murders the reported medical evidence suggests that the victims were dead when the body mutilations occurred. This post mortem finding is based on the lack of blood from the mutilated areas on the body. Therefore, the killer's sexual fantasy was unlikely to have been sadistic but some other psychopathological condition that caused morbid desires.

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The assailant travelled the streets late at night or in the early hours of the morning without attracting attention from patrolling policeman. Even if the attacker had been wearing bloodstained clothes, the dim gas lights and dark clothing possibly would have prevented persons on the street from detecting a wet substance like blood at night. Blood would not show on dark clothes in dim lights. After the death of Mary Jane Kelly, the signature killing of Jack the Ripper ended.

Trace evidence in Modern cases

A major difference between the 1888 crime scene analysis and modern forensic investigations is the concept of searching for trace evidence that might be useful in identifying the offender. The investigative process that includes identifying witnesses, interviewing citizens in the vicinity, determining when the victim was last seen and who saw the victim, was similar to an investigative process today.

Unfortunately, twenty-first century techniques and technology were unavailable to the investigators at the time. Since the 1888 murders, modern crime-scene investigations include the analysis of crime-scene bloodstains and the search for evidence such as hairs,

fibres, fingerprints, the assailant's DNA, or impression evidence.

Each of these types of evidence would be a source for additional information about the killer had the investigators collected such evidence in 1888. A thorough post-mortem examination of the victims by a forensic pathologist using radiography, detailed photographs and the ever-evolving tests of a modern forensic laboratory would have exposed even more evidence for analysis and consideration.

Conclusion

Disagreement will always exist among investigators and Ripperologists about the profile and identity of Jack the Ripper. That's what makes this case - or any unsolved historical case - an interesting challenge worthy of investigative debate. As researchers continue to learn more about serial killers and to refine profiling techniques, more investigators will be able to adapt profiling techniques to profile historical cases such as the 'Ripper' crimes. The mystery and intrigue of Jack the Ripper's identity will keep many searching for innovative methods to answer questions about the 117-year-old case.

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