



JACK THE

RIPPER

Whitechapel, 1888



This topic will be a mini investigation, you will be expected to play the role of a police officer looking at a range of sources, making notes and coming up with some ideas of your own at the end...

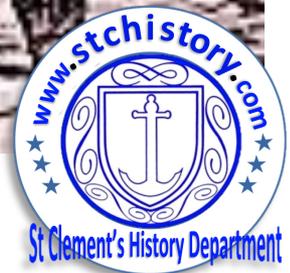
I'll provide you with some questions as we go through, but you need to be asking your own questions of the evidence too...



Life was hard in Victorian Britain. Prostitution was one of the only reliable means through which a single woman or widow could maintain herself.

The police estimated that in 1888 there were some 1,200 prostitutes in Whitechapel, not including the women who supplemented their small earnings by occasional prostitution.

Remember also, the Police force was a relatively new creation and didn't have the facilities we might think of today



Jack the Ripper was not the first serial killer but his killings were particularly brutal and shocking.

His identity remained unknown, some say still to this day.

All this contributed to create a fascination around him which is still alive today.





- Nobody exactly knows when the Ripper's murders began and how many women he killed. Crime in Whitechapel was a common thing, about 200 murders were committed in this area of London each year.
- The Ripper's victims were **all** prostitutes living and working in Whitechapel.
- Most historians attribute 5 victims to the Ripper. All of them had their throat cut and 4 of them had their body mutilated. The fury of the mutilations increased in each case.

The 5 'known' victims of Jack the Ripper.



5- Mary Jane Kelly, November 9th, 25, body mutilated and heart missing



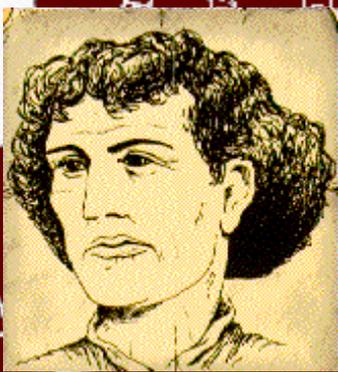
2- Annie Chapman, Sept. 8th, throat cut, stomach & private parts badly mutilated & some of the entrails placed round the neck



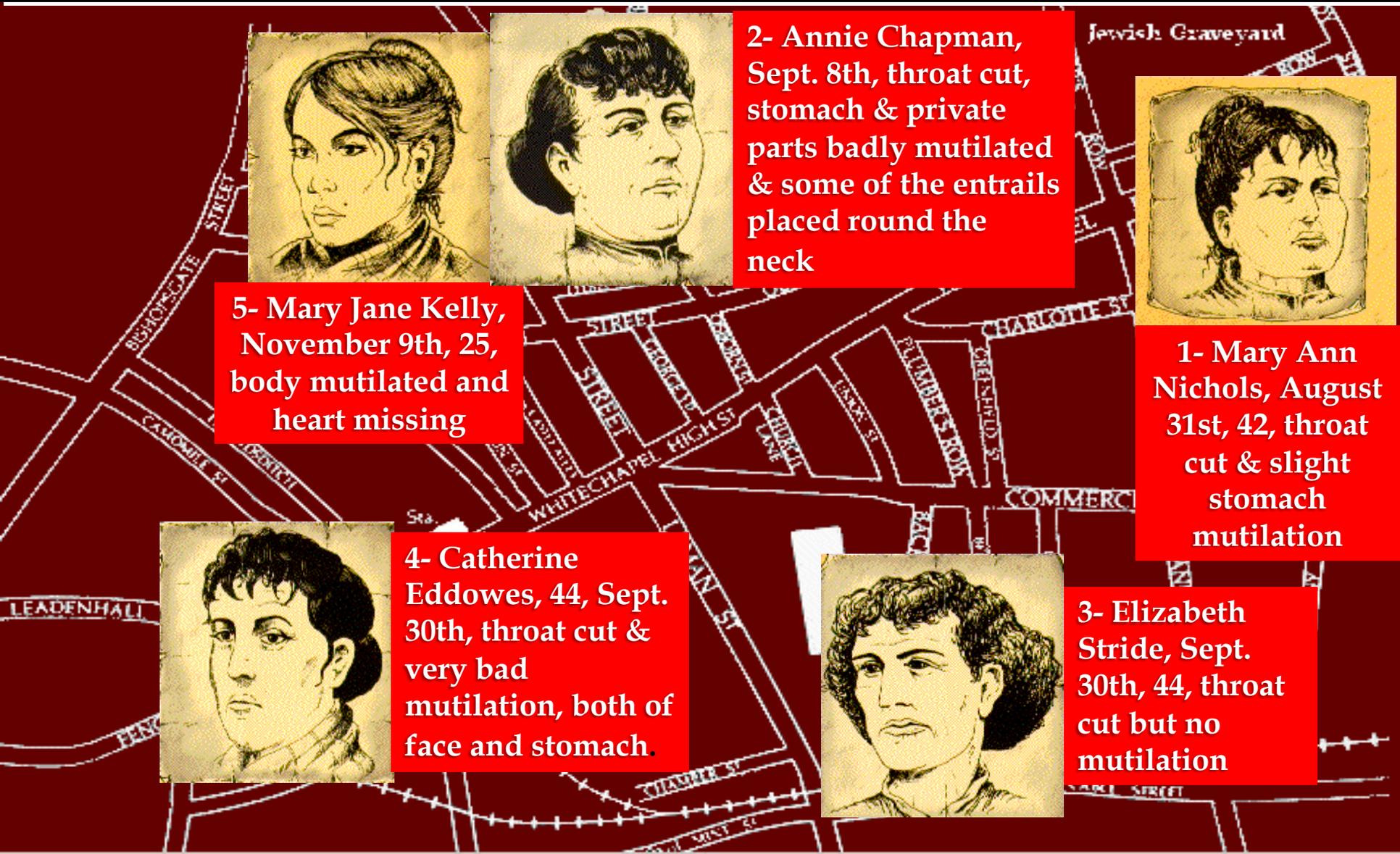
1- Mary Ann Nichols, August 31st, 42, throat cut & slight stomach mutilation



4- Catherine Eddowes, 44, Sept. 30th, throat cut & very bad mutilation, both of face and stomach.



3- Elizabeth Stride, Sept. 30th, 44, throat cut but no mutilation





Miller's Court

29 Hanbury Street

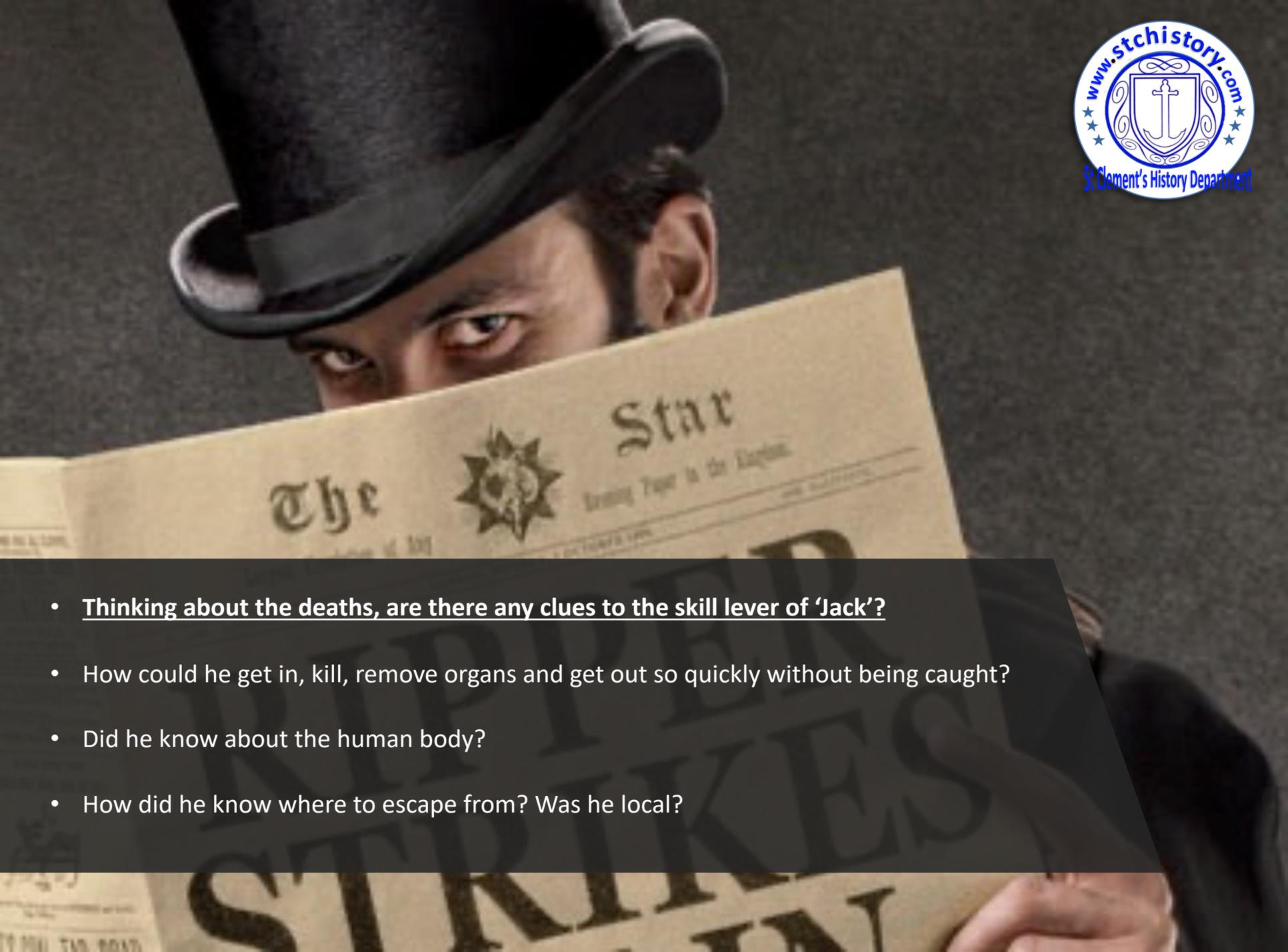
Buck's Row

Goulston Street

George Yard Buildings

Mitre Square

Dutfield's Yard



- Thinking about the deaths, are there any clues to the skill level of 'Jack'?
- How could he get in, kill, remove organs and get out so quickly without being caught?
- Did he know about the human body?
- How did he know where to escape from? Was he local?

Ripper Modus Operandi

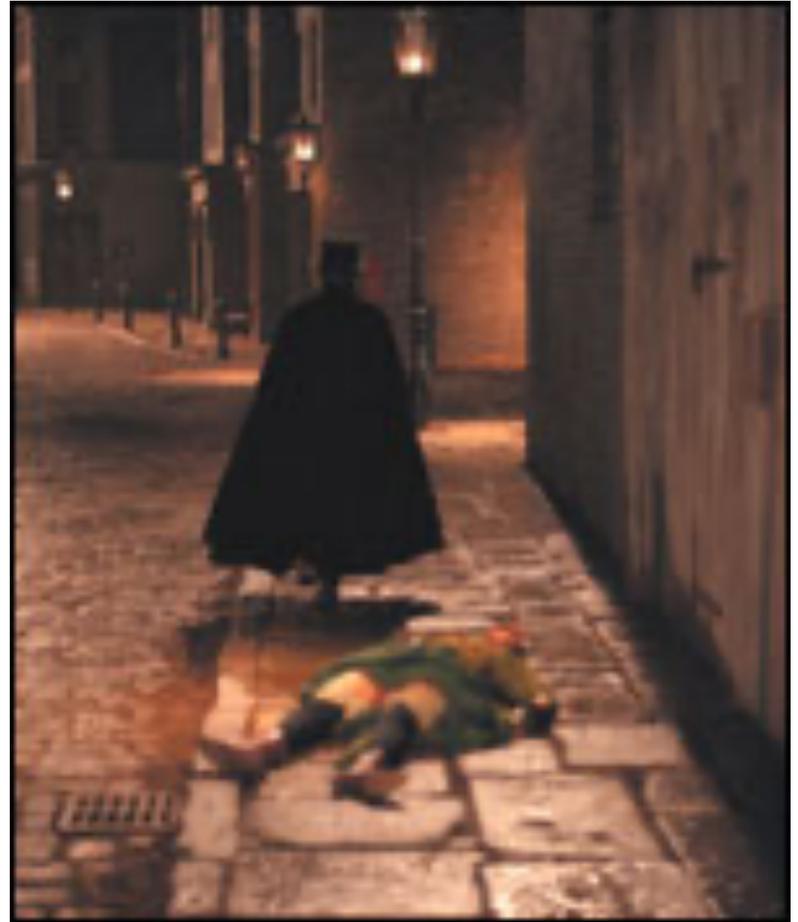
The murderer and his victim always faced each other.

The Ripper seized the women by their throats and strangled them.

The Ripper lowered his victims to the ground.

He then cut the throats with a knife from the right side to the left side of her throat.

The Ripper then made his other mutilations.



Who?

The police had a basic idea about the person they were looking for...

- A white male.
- Average or below average height.
- between 20 – 40 years old.
- Did not dress as a labourer or homeless person.
- Had accommodation in the East End of London.
- Possibly had medical connections.
- May have been a foreigner.
- Right handed.
- Had a regular job as murders took place at the weekend.
- Was single so that he could commit the murders.

The Ripper was even cocky enough to send 'clues' to people he thought were important. he sent clues to the police, press and even local men in Whitechapel.



This letter is typed exactly as Jack wrote it, spelling and grammar too. Are there any clues you can pick out from this letter?

- Does he seem intelligent?
- Does he sound English?
- Might he be foreign?

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 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 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 I want to get to work right away if I get a chance.
Good luck.

Yours truly Jack the Ripper

Let's look at a few more...

25. Sept. 1888.
Dear Boss
I 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 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 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 jolly 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 I want to get to work right away if I get a chance.
Good luck.



The 'From Hell' letter,
16/10/1888

From hell.

Mr Lusk,

Sor

I send you half the Kidne

I took from one woman

and 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





17th Sept 1888

Dear Boss

So now they say I am a Yid when will they
lern Dear old Boss! You an me know the
truth dont we. Lusk can look forever hell
never find me but I am rite under his nose
all the time. I watch them looking for me an
it gives me fits ha ha I love my work an I
shant stop until I get buckled and even then
watch out for your old pal Jacky.

Catch me if you Can

Jack the Ripper

Sorry about the blood still messy from the
last one. What a pretty necklace I gave her.



SEP 24 1888

keep the Boro road clear

Sept 24 1888
 Dear Sir
 I do wish to give myself up I am in misery with
 nightmare I am the man who committed all
 these murders in the last six months my name
 is [silhouette of coffin] so and so I am a horse
 slauterer [sic] and work at name [blocked out]
 address [blocked out] I have found the woman
 I wanted that is Chapman and I done what I
 called slautered [sic] her but if any one comes I
 will surrender but I am not going to walk to the
 station by myself so I am yours truly [silhouette
 of coffin]
 Keep the Boro road clear or I might take a trip
 up there photo of knife[silhouette of knife]
 This is the knife that I done these murders with
 it is small handle with a large long blade
 sharpe both sides

Dear Sir
 I do wish
 I am in misery
 I am the man
 all these murders
 six months
 I am ^{have} a slauterer
 [redacted]
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 that is Chapman
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take a
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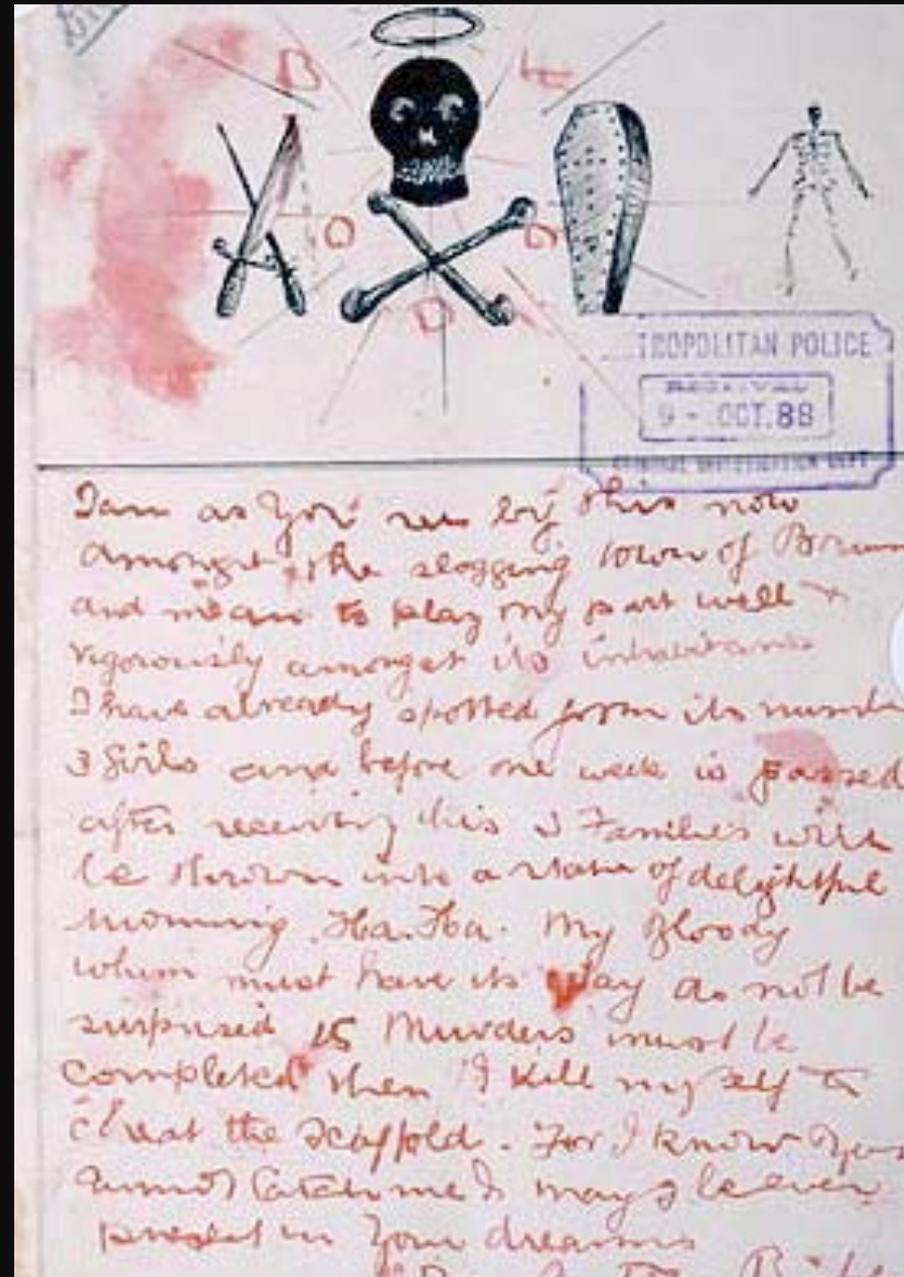
Detective Offices Scotland Yard London

[Postmarked 8 October 1888 Birmingham]

[Images and the letters B L O O D at the top]

I am as you see by this note amongst the slogging town of Brum and mean to play my part well & vigorously amongst its inhabitants I have already spotted from its number 3 girls and before one week is passed after receiving this 3 Families will be thrown into a state of delightful mourning. Ha. Ha. My Bloody whim must have its way do not be surprised 15 murders must be completed then I kill myself to cheat the scaffold. For I know you cannot catch me & may I be even present in your dreams

Jack the Ripper



Oct 19 1888

Wouster

Dear boss iff you are the boss you have not got the right man 100 miles off scent bloodhounds no use will not catch me have been in Wouster a week have spotted 3 out will visit them again shortly dont no much about this part off too
252



Post this on me way hope I shall have luck there The Atmosphere was to hot at Whitechapel had to clear off smelt a rat saw last victim buried I felt rather down hearted over my knife which I lost coming here must get one to night, I shall kill 15 at Brum call and settle 3 I have spotted at Wouster Shall then finish

October 19 1888

Wouster

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

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

Silly looking in low lodging houses for me do not visit [sic] them description posed at Ploise [sic] stations nothing like me look out for Octer. 27th at Brum will give them ripper.

Jack a Poland Jew

Better known as Jack the Ripper

A drop of Strides Blood

up at Hull before going to Poland

Silly looking in low lodging houses for me do not visit them description posed at Ploise stations nothing like me look out for Octer. 27th at Brum will give them ripper

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253



A drop of Strides Blood



Dr Openshaw

Pathological Curator London Hospital
Whitechapel

[Postmarked London 29 October 1888]

Old boss you was rite it was the left kidney I was goin to hopperate agin close to your ospitle just as I was goin to dror mi nife along of er bloomin throte them cusses of coppers spoilt the game but I guess I will be on the job soon and will send you another bit of innerds

Jack the ripper

O have you seen the devle with his mikerscope and scalpul a looking at a Kidney with a slide cocked up

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the left kidney i was goin to
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innerds grrrr the ripper

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with his mikerscope and scalpul
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Who were the
suspects?



In 1992 Michael Barrett, from Liverpool, found a diary reputedly written by James Maybrick who died in 1889. In this diary, Maybrick confessed to being Jack the Ripper.

A well known theory is that Prince Albert was the Ripper because he liked to slum it in the East End and he had the influence to cover up murders

A Mr. Druitt, was a doctor in a good family, who disappeared at the time of the Miller's Court murder, & whose body was found in the Thames on 31st December.

Michael Ostrog, a Russian surgeon and convict, who was held in a lunatic asylum as a homicidal maniac. His whereabouts at the time of the murders could never be discovered.





Aaron Kosminski was placed in an insane asylum. His records show him to be a docile and harmless lunatic that heard voices in his head.

The dates of his incarceration are wrong, and he did not die soon after his incarceration but lived until 1919.

Otherwise Kosminski was Jewish and he hated women, especially prostitutes, and had strong homicidal tendencies so the police took this hypothesis very seriously.

Kosminski was also a barber!

Recent evidence using DNA has led the authorities to say that Aaron Kosminski was in fact 'Jack, the Ripper'...

What do you think...

