

## The Truth about the Whitechapel Mysteries told by Harry Cox

Ex-Detective Inspector, London City Police. Specially written for "Thomson's Weekly News" 1906

It is only upon certain conditions that I have agreed to deal with the great Whitechapel crimes of fifteen years ago. Much has been written regarding the identity of the man who planned and successfully carried out the outrage. It is my intention to relate several of my experiences **while keeping this fellow under observation.**

We had many people under observation while the murders were being perpetrated, but **it was not until the discovery of the body of Mary Kelly had been made that we seemed to get upon the trail.** Certain investigations made by several of our cleverest detectives made it apparent to us that **a man living in the East End of London** was not unlikely to have been connected with the crimes.

To understand the reason we must first of all understand the motive of the Whitechapel crimes. The motive was, there can not be the slightest doubt, revenge. Not merely revenge on the few poor unfortunate victims of the knife, but revenge on **womankind.** It was not a lust for blood, as many people have imagined.

**The murderer was a misogynist, who at some time or another had been wronged by a woman. And the fact that his victims were of the lowest class proves, I think, that he was not, as has been stated, an educated man who had suddenly gone mad. He belonged to their own class.**

Had he been wronged by a woman occupying a higher stage in society the murders would in all probability have taken place in the West End, the victims have been members of the fashionable demi-monde.

**The man we suspected was about five feet six inches in height, with short, black, curly hair, and he had a habit of taking late walks abroad. He occupied several shops in the East End, but from time to time he became insane, and was forced to spend a portion of his time in an asylum in Surrey.**

While the Whitechapel murders were being perpetrated **his place of business was in a certain street,** and after the last murder I was on duty in this street for nearly three months.

There were several other officers with me, and I think there can be no harm in stating that the opinion of most of them was that the man they were watching had something to do with the crimes. You can imagine that never once did we allow him to quit our sight. The least slip and another brutal crime might have been perpetrated under our very noses. It was not easy to forget that already one of them had taken place at the very moment when one of our smartest colleagues was passing the top of the dimly lit street.

**The Jews in the street soon became aware of our presence. It was impossible to hide ourselves. They became suddenly alarmed, panic stricken, and I can tell you that at nights we ran a considerable risk.** We carried our lives in our hands so to speak, and at last we had to partly take the alarmed inhabitants into our confidence, and so throw them off the scent. We told them we were factory inspectors looking for **tailors** and capmakers who employed boys and girls under age, and pointing out the evils accruing from the sweaters' system asked them to co-operate with us in destroying it.

They readily promised to do so, although we knew well that they had no intention of helping us. Every man was as bad as another. Day after day we used to sit and chat with them, drinking their coffee, smoking their excellent cigarettes, and partaking of Kosher rum. Before many weeks had passed we were quite friendly with them, and knew that we could carry out our observations unmolested. **I am sure they never once suspected that we were police detectives on the trail of the mysterious murderer; otherwise they would not have discussed the crimes with us as openly as they did.**

We had the use of a house opposite the shop of the man we suspected, and, disguised, of course, we frequently stopped across in the role of customers.

Every newspaper loudly demanded that we should arouse from our slumber, and the public had lashed themselves into a state of fury and fear. The terror soon spread to the provinces too. Whenever a small crime was committed it was asserted that the Ripper had shifted his ground, and warning letters were received by many a terror stricken woman. The latter were of course the work of cruel practical jokers. **The fact, by the way, that the murderer never shifted his ground rather inclines to the belief that he was a mad, poverty stricken inhabitant of some slum in the East End.**

I shall never forget one occasion when I had to shadow our man during one of his late walks. As I watched him from the house opposite one night, it suddenly struck me that there was a wilder look than usual on his evil countenance, and I felt that something was about to happen. When darkness set in I saw him come forth from the door of his little shop and glance furtively around to see if he were being watched. I allowed him to get right out of the street before I left the house, and then I set off after him. I followed him to Lehman Street, and there I saw him enter a shop which I knew was the abode of a number of criminals well known to the police.

He did not stay long. For about a quarter of an hour I hung about keeping my eye on the door, and at last I was rewarded by seeing him emerging alone.

**He made his way down to St George's in the East End, and there to my astonishment I saw him stop and speak to a drunken woman.**

I crouched in a doorway and held my breath. Was he going to throw himself right into my waiting arms? He passed on after a moment or two, and on I slunk after him.

As I passed the woman she laughed and shouted something after me, which, however, I did not catch.

My man was evidently of opinion that he might be followed every minute. Now and again he turned his head and glanced over his shoulder, and consequently I had the greatest difficulty in keeping behind him.

I had to work my way along, now with my back to the wall, now pausing and making little runs for a sheltering doorway. Not far from where the model lodging house stands he met another woman, and for a considerable distance he walked along with her.

**Just as I was beginning to prepare myself for a terrible ordeal, however, he pushed her away from him and set off at a rapid pace.**

In the end he brought me, tired, weary, and nerve-strung, back to the street he had left where **he disappeared into his own house.**

Next morning I beheld him busy as usual. It is indeed very strange that as soon as this madman was put under observation, the mysterious crimes ceased, and that very soon he removed from his usual haunts and gave up his nightly prowls. **He was never arrested for the reason that not the slightest scrap of evidence could be found to connect him with the crimes.**

**COMMENT: If the man is Kosminski, we are told that he walked a lot at night - explaining how the Ripper could see so well in the dark that he could get a kidney out of Eddowes and even have doctors wondering if he had medical knowledge.**

**The man was violent to women even under police watch. Kosminski was described as a brute like that in the Dott letter.**

**He was poor so what was his shop? Sounds like he had his shop but was not really working. Kosminski didn't work much if at all. Reports say he didn't but however it is possible he did a little. Was it a barber shop? Kosminski was a barber.**

**The Jews knew it was one of their number which fits what the police said that they would give up the killer to Gentile justice. No wonder the killer wrote that the Jews are the men who will not be blamed for nothing.**

**The killer hating women in general not just prostitutes may be reflected in how Polly Nichols was attacked in an ambush by the killer who may not have known she was a prostitute. The same could have happened with Kelly.**

**An explanation is given for how a man like Kosminski who was at large after the killings and who presented reasonably in public was at large for so long and didn't commit any more murders except maybe Alice McKenzie. The reference to being committed before the murders to an asylum reminds us of how the medical certificate said Aaron was mentally ill for six years. He was ill for a few years before the murders and there could have been a spell in an asylum before that.**

**Cox rules out Jacob Levy as the Ripper for Levy was not poor. Some think he means some mad butcher in Middlesex Street which could be Levy. But why does the story tell us that they kept an eye on the clothing industry? Kosminski's family was into tailoring...**

The way the report matches the truth about the killings and this man was writing before the Ripper industry and had no agenda points to Kosminski.