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The Role of the Press in the Case of Jack the
Ripper and Its Representation in M. Belloc
Lowndes' *The Lodger*

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Anotace

Tato bakalářská práce představuje případ Jacka Rozparovače odehrávající se na podzim roku 1888 v Londýně a jeho interpretaci v knize Marie Belloc Lowndes *The Lodger* se zaměřením na vliv tisku. Teoretická část zasazuje téma do historického kontextu Viktoriánské Anglie a uvádí praktiky dobové policie a tisku. Dále informuje o případu jako takovém včetně obětí, podezřelých a dalších náležitostí. Zároveň jsou v práci zahrnuta literární fakta o knize a její autorce. Praktická část popisuje děj knihy, porovnává skutečný případ s jeho knižní interpretací a dokazuje autorčinu inspiraci na konkrétních ukázkách.

Klíčová slova: Jack Rozparovač, policie, noviny, tisk, *The Lodger*, Marie Belloc Lowndes

Abstract

This bachelor thesis introduces the case of Jack the Ripper, taking place in the autumn of 1888 in London and its interpretation in *The Lodger* by Marie Belloc Lowndes focused on the influence of the press. The theoretical part puts the topic in the historical context of Victorian England and states the practice of contemporary police and press. Furthermore, the thesis informs about the case itself, including the victims, the suspects and other necessities. At the same time, the thesis involves literary facts about the book and the author. The practical part describes the plot of the book, compares the real-life case with its interpretation, and proves the inspiration by using specific examples.

Keywords: Jack the Ripper, police, newspapers, press, *The Lodger*, Marie Belloc Lowndes

Poděkování

Velké díky patří paní Mgr. Renatě Janktové, M.A., Ph.D. za odborné a vstřícné vedení práce, poskytnutí potřebných materiálů a zdrojů a také za nesmírnou pohotovost, trpělivost a podporu při psaní.

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1 Introduction

This thesis examines the first and arguably the best-known serial killer of all time, Jack the Ripper, and his case. In the beginning, it includes the historical context of the Victorian period and the events preceding it. The first chapter also consists of a portrait of contemporary London and its inhabitants, who were later found in fear of the murderer. The thesis also describes the ways of policing in the Victorian Era as the 19th century was crucial for the development of the Scotland Yard and explains the unfortunate lack of technology, which made the investigation almost impossible. The final chapter of the theoretical part is a casebook of the Whitechapel Murders, which states the ways of murdering the Ripper's victims, who are also introduced. The police had countless suspects. Therefore, this thesis only names the important ones.

The primary attention is paid to the press and how it influenced the case. The thesis explains how the world of newspapers worked and how the journalists reported on the different versions of crime, including the Whitechapel Murders.

The practical part aims to present the interpretation of the case in the novel *The Lodger* written by Marie Belloc Lowndes and decide if it is accurate. Besides the representation of the press in the book, the thesis is concerned with the settings, the character of the killer, the victims etc.

2 Historical Context of Victorian England

Victorian England refers to the period of the reign of Queen Victoria (1819-1901). The beginning of the Victorian era in England is marked by the year 1837 when the young Victoria first ascended to the throne. Her death in 1901 then represents the end of the period. Sometimes it extends between the years of the Napoleonic Wars and the beginning of World War I. The Victorian times are deemed a long spell of omnipresent changes in politics, economy, law, education, industry, technology, agriculture and more. At this point in time, England was shaped into a modern democratic powerhouse and quite literally conquered the world. (Mitchell, 2009, pp. xiii-xv)

The country was not yet as prospering, showing numerous flaws before Victoria became Queen. Some people had difficulties coping with the new, industrial way of life. Soon after Victoria became Queen, significant waves of hunger flooded England. Criminality rates rose higher than in any other part of the century (Mitchell, 2009, p. 5), and literacy levels were slightly above 50 % of the population. Still far from perfection, Victoria's administration managed to take the necessary steps and improve the quality of life in England by a wide margin. A large number of people living in the country moved to the blooming cities with public transport, electric lights and other modern services. A broader mass of people could obtain an education as it became compulsory (Mitchell, 2009, pp. xiii-xiv). Women slowly began to fight for gaining their rights and successfully gained them, and so did children (Mitchell, 2009, p. 7).

2.1 Industrial Revolution

A crucial part of the success of Victoria was the Industrial Revolution. This process took a long time, started before Victoria was born, roughly around 1760 (Maurois, Miles, 1937, p. 407), and ended in the first quarter of the 19th century (Bezanson, 1922, p. 343). New inventions heavily affected the whole 19th century, as they almost single-handedly transformed England into one of the world's strongest economies throughout the period. Furthermore, they allowed the switch of the agricultural approach to a new, manufacturing one (Mitchell, 2009, pp. 2-3).

The first aim was to upgrade agriculture. Cotton industry was one of the first to change for the better when spinning proved to be a better way of processing wool than weaving, and power loom thus appeared. The cotton industry quickly became one of the most prominent, as it was almost exclusive to England (Maurois, Miles, 1937, p. 407). However, the arguably most relevant invention was the steam engine. It replaced

other key elements, such as man or animal power, water, or wind, in many fields of human activity (Maurois, Miles, 1937, p. 448). England's wealth was largely located underground, in coal mines (Maurois, Miles, 1937, p. 407). Coal mining probably benefited the most from the steam engine invention, as it made the process faster and much easier for the hard-working population.

The transport options before the Revolution were slim since people had been chiefly riding horses. However, the age of horses was not over yet, as buses, called coaches, were put in use. This was possible thanks to the construction of new roads and the improvement of the old ones. Except for roads, new railways for steam-powered trains crossed the country. Canals for boats were also being opened in the 19th century (Maurois, Miles, 1937, pp. 407-408). This feature supported the economy by lowering shipping prices, allowing newspapers with centralised English and fresh news to spread. Steamboats and steamships were used shortly after for both national and international transport across the Atlantic (Mitchell, 2009, p. 6).

2.2 Social Situation in Victorian England

Being as automatic as they could have been, the newly discovered machines still needed the help of a man. Around three-quarters of people made their living with hands, being part of the industrialisation that took place. Should they fall ill, most of them would have gone bankrupt or appeared in a difficult situation. That is why every family member needed to make some income (Mitchell, 2009, pp. 18-19). There was no need for almost any physical strength to run and control the machines. Therefore, sadly, the man was often replaced by children and women in this case. Another reason for this phenomenon was the price since employing children and women was at a lower cost (Mitchell, 2009, p. 3). Exploited in mines from a young age, children often had to work for many hours a day and remained uneducated or not schooled enough (Historical Association, © 2022).

Women stood in a problematic situation overall. Being put in the same bracket of working in plants as cheap work power like children (Mitchell, 2009, p. 3), few managed to educate themselves properly. Even middle-class women craved various types of education other than painting or playing instruments. For that reason, reforming groups consisting of women started to form and fight for their rights (Mitchell, 2009, p. 7). By the seventies, the problem had improved. Step by step, women's voting rights began to develop, as well as their ability to attend different

kinds of schools and universities and apply for multiple jobs such as nurses (Mitchell, 2009, pp. 10-11), physicians, or essential members in various types of organisations (Mitchell, 2009, p. 14).

Here are several examples of actions taken through the Victorian period to enhance the social situation regarding both children and women as listed in *Daily life in Victorian England* (Mitchell, 2009, pp. ix-xi):

- **1839:** Schools officially supported by the government.
- **1844:** Young people under 18 years of age banned from working more than 12 hours a day.
- **1870:** Possibility for women to be elected to the boards.
- **1872:** First women unofficially admitted to Cambridge University exams.
- **1870 & 1880:** Education provided to all children throughout England by the Education Act and declared compulsory in the latter year.
- **1870:** All degrees opened for women at the University of London.
- **1891:** Free state school elementary education for everyone.

The Victorian era is widely considered the time of the middle class (Maurois, Miles, 1937, p. 449). The number of people falling under this social group significantly grew during Victoria's reign. The middle class includes not only wealthy citizens but also well-paid workers, rated as skilful (Mitchell, 2009, p. 19). In contrast to the struggling families mentioned above, this period allowed many to earn good money in industry and business thanks to the Industrial Revolution, curiously sometimes based on their original religious intentions, for example, as former missionaries turned into travel agents (Maurois, Miles, 1937, p. 449). To name some occupations, besides clerks, railway drivers, farmers, manufacturers, bankers, it would include lawyers, university professors, headmasters, and engineers. There was a noticeable contrast between the aristocracy and the middle class. The middle class was to refuse the assumed laziness of aristocracy and support hard-working manners instead. Although, not in the matter of status, as being born to a good family and having a well-paying job was crucial to determine where men and their wives would be placed on the social ladder (Mitchell, 2009, pp. 20-21). Newly gained wealth then allowed many households to employ servants, creating new opportunities on the way (Historical Association, © 2022).

2.3 England During the Attacks of Jack the Ripper

According to Mitchell (2009), the years around 1888 when Jack the Ripper murdered his first victim were reckoned to be the very last phase of the Victorian era. International politics and expansion were considered the primary concern. England showing its dominance in naval and military areas was key to winning the competition with other countries of Europe (Historical Association, © 2022). The Empire massively expanded its overseas territories to Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East; furthermore, Queen Victoria was named the Empress of India (Mitchell, 2009, p. 15). Relations with the outside world became key due to England's dependence on imported goods from different continents caused by the high prices of local resources and the inability to produce enough. Landowners who depended on renting their lands lost remarkable amounts of money in this process (Mitchell, 2009, p. 13).

Therefore, workers rather opted for moving to industrial cities, which resulted in stacked, mostly poor suburbs ideal for the likes of Jack the Ripper to commit his crimes. "By 1901, 80 % of England's people lived in urban areas." (Mitchell, 2009, p. 13). The population doubled (Historical Association, © 2022) after the appearance of many work opportunities in industry (Mitchell, 2009, p. 13) and migration happening to and from the country. English residents mainly relocated to the United States, while foreigners came in masses from the newly conquered lands as well as Ireland, Russia and continental Europe. Among other ethnicities, important for our case are the Jewish immigrants (Historical Association, © 2022).

Respectable power was held by various organisations and unions. Unity was the key for people to push their claims, opinions and privileges. In terms of politics, all working men could finally vote and, on top of that, be elected to the House of Commons. It was high time for women to show their presence, too. Many obtained legitimate, less physically demanding jobs as secretaries or teachers (Mitchell, 2009, p. 14). Nevertheless, the same voting rights were given to women as late as 1930 (Historical Association, © 2022).

2.4 London in the 19th Century

London kept its diverse yet not very smart look for the first twenty years of the 19th century. Poorly lit up streets were driven by horses carrying the weight of the city on its backs (Ackroyd, 2002, pp. 529-530). Same as in the rest of England, this slowly changed during the forties. London became the heart of both the world-class English

Empire and Europe. In a blink of an eye, it severely multiplied its size. Traders from all around the world sought out London, the “workshop of the world”, as the place for their business (Emsley et al., 2018a). It was thought to be a mixture of all the possible cultures (Ackroyd, 2002, pp. 531-533). The population grew almost seven times as much to reach 7 million people throughout the century (Ackroyd, 2002, p. 530).

A new social system began to work, the city became organised and, despite the new ways of lighting, darker. Firstly, due to the fog, but also because the visually appealing buildings of previous times were replaced by massive, neogothic, more economical ones made from dark bricks (Ackroyd, 2002, pp. 530-531). Countless streets were moulded into a kind of never-ending maze (Ackroyd, 2002, p. 539). Despite that, several parts of the town seemed flourishing, becoming more prosperous, full of sparkly palaces and villas displaying the wealth held by the rich for everyone to see. Various profitable areas were devoted for gentlemen with families, writers, journalists, stockbrokers or clerks (Emsley et al., 2018a).

On the other side, London, and its stacked suburban slums, was full of sin, filthy poverty and danger. Young orphans were strolling through the streets. There were countless lodging houses, hostels and other dangerous “dens”, especially in East London. “Fortunate” women could obtain a job in domestic service, as mentioned, while the less lucky ones very often opted for prostitution (Ackroyd, 2002, pp. 537-539). The city was heavily air polluted due to coal-ran factories. The sewage system could not possibly bear the quantity of waste produced by the inhabitants. However, many infrastructural problems were solved during Victoria’s reign thanks to the Metropolitan Board of Works, founded in 1855, which developed several plans and schemes for the future (Emsley et al., 2018a).

2.5 Crime in London

Crime was considered a significant issue in the first half of the 19th century. The usage of statistics began, so tracking crime rates became easier. For several reasons, among others being the urbanisation, the industrialisation and the Napoleonic Wars, ending in 1813 and releasing thousands of soldiers and veterans back into society, the charts were climbing up. Increasing numbers of burglaries, robberies, and other forms of property violence scared the inhabitants of London. An essential factor in this matter is the meaning of detected crime and crime itself, as the policing improvement could mislead the numbers by actually tracking more criminals. Oddly enough, violent

crimes, such as homicides, manslaughter, brawls and armed robberies, had not been frequent for the previous 200 years preceding the Victorian era. In fact, it had been on a retreat throughout the whole period and preserved this trend even in the 19th century (Durstun, 2012, pp. 1-12).

If the violent offence was relatively rare, it was especially then compared to property crimes. In 1850, the percentage of crime with violence involved was only 10 %. Among the most usual were personal robberies; less common were burglaries of rich houses. Nevertheless, as the law progressed within the Victorian period, property-related crimes joined the mentioned decreasing trend and from 1860 onwards fell simultaneously with violent crimes by a margin, despite the immense population growth in London (Durstun, 2012, pp. 1-13).

However, many exciting spikes in the declining graphs appeared, often caused by the media. The journalists would commonly write about “non-lethal” crimes, but when there was a report about a murder, it caused a short wave of fear among the people. This compelling phenomenon is called the “moral panics” (Durstun, 2012, p. 10). The press was rather interested in covering violent crimes and bringing up their own sensations. Such articles would often deny the factual retreat of crime and influence public opinion. Pessimists would often argue that the low numbers would be caused by insufficient detection in London’s new mass of people, yet this was a minority opinion (Durstun, 2012, pp. 10-11).

2.6 London’s Criminals

First, it is vital to realise that the middle and higher classes were also involved in crime despite the general opinion. Fraudulent behaviour was widespread in business. However, the widely accepted prototype of the Victorian criminal would be a quite young male, deriving from the “dangerous classes” (Durstun, 2012, p. 17). And although they were technically part of the working class, it was not considered the same by contemporary society; therefore, it needs to be distinguished. Contrary to this lowest class, the honest, hard-working members of the working class were much appreciated. Criminal individuals, primarily thieves and pickpockets, were mainly desperate and unskilled, not making enough income and wanting to feed and support their families. Alternatively, it included individuals with socially deviant lifestyles, illiterate people, and vagrants, who often begged and stole in the streets. Female criminals were often inclined towards prostitution (Durstun, 2012, pp. 17-28).

Naturally, the main areas flooded with crime were the poor slums. There used to be notorious epicentres of theft and other crimes consisting of whole districts or streets. In London, it was, for example, the East End part of the city, including Whitechapel, where the Ripper murders occurred. Such areas had one thing in common: the low-cost lodging houses, which also play an essential role in this thesis, yet in a slightly different shape. Lodging houses often accommodated tens to hundreds of people sleeping in few rooms' beds or on the floor. There was no restriction towards who slept in which room, so all sorts of individuals of both genders would be mixed. Only later do the lodging houses start to be inspected by particular authorities (Durstun, 2012, pp. 36-42).

3 Policing in London

The police had not had much of a structure before the Victorian times. London had relied upon the will of its citizens to report a crime should they see one, and testify against any criminals they witnessed in action. The introduction of rewards given by both the state and the victims for catching the thieves offered help in this matter. For that reason, a new position of “thief-takers” (Emsley et al., 2018b), people profound in London’s underworld, whose job was finding and arresting felons and collecting intel, was established. Special offices, comprised of thief-takers, became a common practice.

Furthermore, constables and members of the night watch were employed part-time from the rows of ordinary residents. However, the position of a constable was later abolished. Those who did not want to participate regularly chose to hire subordinates who would do so for them. This finally introduced aspects of modern policing and allowed further development. At the turn of the 18th and the 19th century, London had a somewhat working policing system in place (Emsley et al., 2018b).

3.1 The Metropolitan Police

The Metropolitan Police was established in 1829. Its purpose was to replace patrols strolling around London, preventing danger rather than arresting criminals. Prevention still appeared to be the sufficient method, thus the merge of the Metropolitan Police and the further rise of preventive ways of policing (Durstun, 2012, pp. 184-185). The so-called Bobbies, now uniformed, indeed helped to reduce the number of minor crimes slightly (Emsley et al., 2018b).

The Metropolitan Police was one of the two police forces in London as there was a second one created specifically for the City of London (Emsley et al., 2018b), called simply the City of London Police ("City of London Police", 2001), ten years after. The police officers were controlled by only one institution, the Home Secretary, which was a significant change compared to previous policing (Emsley et al., 2018b).

3.2 The Detective Force Unit

The establishment of the Metropolitan Police was an improvement, but it still lacked the coveted efficiency. Throughout the whole century, the effectiveness of the uniformed men was doubted. They were considered too evident and unable to detect any organised crime; therefore, almost useless in the case of catching thieves and other

sophisticated and skilled felons. For that reason, a new detective force needed to be introduced. After several years of abolishing the detectives, contemporarily called plainclothesmen, and denying their role, a separate detective branch was found in 1842. Although, officers of this particular branch were still a part of their respective Divisions instead of owning their headquarters (Durstun, 2012, pp. 185-197).

The detective units, while being understaffed, had still not been found competent enough (Durstun, 2012, p. 197). In addition to that, a big scandal involving several important detectives would come to the surface (Emsley et al., 2018b). Thus the inevitable reorganisation and creation of the Criminal Investigation Department in 1878. From then on, towards the end of the century, the staff and quality of this more or less unified unit would steeply increase (Durstun, 2012, p. 197, 200).

The Metropolitan Police detectives, specifically from Division H, were also responsible for investigating four of the five canonical murders of Jack the Ripper (Ryder, © 1996-2022a). Almost a third of all the detective forces of London were deployed to indicate the killer, while allowed to break many of the usually followed rules (Durstun, 2012, p. 201).

3.3 Police Technology and Ways of Investigating

The technological arsenal available to the police was not broad. The Police had to rely on witnesses for most of the century (Emsley et al., 2018b). In terms of tracking and identifying the criminal, the greatest weapon was knowledge. Since they were assigned to different Divisions, the detectives needed to know the territory with its inhabitants and have contacts among them, paying them good money. Informants were deemed the fundamental pillar of detective work, however unreliable they could possibly be in specific cases. Another practical feature was a good memory of faces. The detectives, therefore, knew of notorious criminals, whom they kept an eye on. This would often lead to an arrest. In addition, detectives held the same pattern as their predecessors and patrolled the city (Durstun, 2012, pp. 205-208).

Should there be a crime scene, it would mainly be approached only with deduction and backtracking of possible scenarios. Forensic tools, such as the fingerprint database, were not available yet (Durstun, 2012, pp. 210-211). It was only at the beginning of the 20th century when science made its way into policing and fingerprints were used to sentence a murderer for the first time (Emsley et al., 2018b). However, that did not hold detectives back from an advanced, successful work (Durstun, 2012, pp. 211-212).

4 Victorian Press

The 19th century's English press might have been, in fact, the very beginning of mass media in the world. As mentioned in "1.1 Industrial Revolution", industrialisation changed almost every aspect of life, and the spreading of news was no exception. Steam was the key to such success. On 29th November 1814, London's *Times* was first to be printed by a steam press. The steam press significantly enhanced the speed of the process and increased the amounts of possible prints. Furthermore, the newspaper could be distributed throughout England with formerly unimaginable effectiveness by the new steam-powered trains.

Another invention closely related to the spread of news, in the meaning of new information, was the telegraph. It was deemed a symbol of speed as it connected distant points in a matter of little time (therefore, for example, the name *The Telegraph*). Telegraphs allowed editorial offices to stop relying on agencies as the primary source of information and create their networks (NC State University, 2022).

Naturally, the centre of journalism was London, especially Fleet Street. In 1846, there were around 130 newspapers in the capital, and the number increased to almost 500 at the end of the century. In addition to the technical progress, abolishing the Stamp Duty taxation in 1855 allowed London's newspapers, such as *The Times*, to spread at a lower cost. However, there was a local newspaper in almost every city and town in England. Among the best known is Manchester's *The Guardian*, and Liverpool's *The Mail* (Hobbs, 2018, pp. 3-6).

4.1 Influence of the Press on Victorian Society

Newspapers are considered a reflection of the times they were printed in. However, what needs to be taken into account is that the editors are to decide what they think is worth making the news. They would often present sensational articles to catch the reader's attention and promote the business of the rich. Therefore, the obtained reflection can be a slightly modified version of the historical truth (Perry, 2001, pp. 49-50).

Same as today, the press played a significant role in contemporary perception of the world. In addition to the informative and amusing role of the news, it held considerable power in communication with the government. According to Perry (2001, pp. 48-49), most experts in this matter agree that newspapers were an essential political

tool. The editors had the power to influence their readers' minds in more than political thinking.

Another task of the press was to draw the fine line between what was and what was not tolerable. It was the newspapers that partly defined the social deviances, holding a certain amount of social control over society. (Perry, 2001, p. 53).

4.2 Crime Journalism

Crime news was particularly popular among all demographic groups. It reported all kinds of crimes, ranging from small muggings to murders. Usually, the primary purpose was to entertain the readers. However, another function would be posed by the crime-related newspapers, and that was provoking social unrest. Journalists would supposedly convince readers that they are living in a rotten society. The trend was to connect each minor crime into big waves of "moral decline and the disease of violence" (Perry, 2001, p. 51) by using clever formulation and carefully picking the presented information.

Crime journalism was the prime example of the mentioned modification of truth. To support their claims, journalists included "factual" scientific contributions provided by academics. This way, they avoided lying and appeared more trustful. To exploit natural human curiosity, the papers gave out several speculations and plot twists in order to keep the reader's attention (Perry, 2001, pp. 50-52). To attract the attention in the first place, scandalous news, such as upper-class scandals or murders, would often have a visible, more prominent headline (Perry, 2001, p. 84).

However, sensationalising the reports was not strictly a bad thing. Showing the inhabitants what happens when they cross the line and commit a law infringement and perhaps shocking them with the sensational reading was an essential implement of the crime news (Perry, 2001, p. 62). Despite that, many contemporary critics labelled the rising popularity, therefore rising numbers, of morbid sensational crime news in the second half of the 19th century as a "new age of journalistic barbarism" (Perry, 2001, p. 66).

Perry (2001, p. 50) indicates that news also worked as a demonstration of the work of any crime-suppressing means and the government. It highlighted the work of the forces which ensured safety for English citizens. On the contrary, he says that crime news might be considered a "naive political protest", but it was simply the presentation of contemporary threats to society (Perry, 2001, p. 52).

4.3 The Practice of Murder Reporting and Murder News

Murder news, after all, like any other crime news as mentioned previously, kept the trend of entertaining the readers. Therefore, they enjoyed great popularity. Although the readers were scared by the horrible events, they relished the win of justice, where the murderer would be convicted and usually executed after. Among the most popular stories were love triangles leading to murder, domestic murders, theft murders and murders connected with emotions such as greed or jealousy. By including murder stories about men and women of status and wealth, the newspapers proved that anyone could commit a crime and kept people aware of it in an attempt to prevent it (Perry, 2001, pp. 83-87).

The murders news in the Victorian era used to be very explicit. Although the reports came through the process of editing in the office, and the editors did try to spare the readers the atrocities, they often described bodies in various conditions in great detail. At first, only rich vocabulary could describe the crime scenes due to the lack of photography. Occasionally, the scene or the felon would be sketched on the journal's front page. (Perry, 2001, pp. 68-69). Therefore, the language used to outline the murder was explicit, even "gory" at times (Perry, 2001, p. 94).

A classic reportage of a murder would generally follow an established pattern. The beginning of the reportage described, in explicit language, the victim's body and its condition as well as the crime scene. Next, it included the testimony of the witnesses and, if available, a police statement. Certain cases would inquire longer interest. The newspapers then covered the suspects as well as the final sentence in case the murderer was caught (Perry, 2001, p. 95).

4.4 Interaction of the Press and the Police

It is clear that the police had affected the newspapers' work regarding what it published. However, it worked vice versa as well. After the newspapers caused the mentioned panics, the intensity of arresting and overall police work would multiply. Journalists helped the police win the fight over controlling the city between London's lawful and unlawful citizens. After such collaboration, the police would be praised and glorified by the news (Perry, 2001, pp. 54-55).

However, what must be considered in this matter is where the particular publishing newspaper would be placed on the political spectrum. Since the police force

was created by the members of the conservative party, the so-called Tories, it naturally received broader support from the journals based on conservative conviction. In such media, the police would be described as indispensable, and sometimes even overpraised. Even in cases where the justice system might have been wrong, the newspapers would deny such claims and stand up for the officers. In terms of expensiveness, the conservatives saw an outstanding balance between the cost and the efficiency of the police. Another argument of the conservative newspapers on behalf of the police was that it kept a safe gap between the “decent” (Saunders, 2018, p. 55) middle class and the lowest class comprising criminals by protecting its members and their belongings (Saunders, 2018, pp. 50-57).

Against the Tories’ journals then stood the liberal, sometimes considered even radical, newspapers of the Whigs. Liberal journals were of the opposite opinion and commonly criticised the police forces. Already in the very creation of the unit, they would deem the idea corrupted. The police were called names such as “untrustworthy” (Saunders, 2018, p. 62) and financially inefficient. In fact, it was labelled almost unbearable for an English taxpayer as the police held no use, according to the liberals. Furthermore, the practices of the police were supposedly indiscriminate, brutal and perhaps even cruel in their minds as the journalists would demand mercy for several criminals. Therefore, the liberals indeed were not the officers’ favourites (Saunders, 2018, pp. 62-68).

Standing between and being the majority of the contemporary press were the neutral newspapers. Although they might have been political, they would not lean towards any of the mentioned parties and their respective political thinking. The critique of the police created by the popular press was, therefore, more unbiased and objective. On that account, various opinions could be found in the “non-partisan” (Saunders, 2018, p. 70) journals. Several found the police tasks well-executed and praised the hard work, while others criticised the use of their physical power and called them incompetent. A great demonstration of the influence of the popular press on the police was shown when several officers got fired from work after the *Examiner*, a neutral journal, published an article describing the overly barbaric practices of the police (Saunders, 2018, pp. 70-73).

In terms of detective work, it drew the attention of the press rather frequently. Detectives would cooperate with the press to highlight and elevate their names in the newspapers. In such cases, the relationships could be even described as “symbiotic”

since the journalists would advance the detectives' careers, and in return, they would have a basis for writing. Nevertheless, from time to time, they would still be deemed unreliable (Durstun, 2012, p. 202).

The interaction between the police and the press could be very well concluded as a kind of love-hate relationship.

5 The Case of Jack the Ripper

The case of Jack the Ripper, filed as the Whitechapel Murders (Jones, 2022a), represents the case of the five murders of prostitutes that took place in the autumn of 1888 in London, specifically in the East End. Jack the Ripper is often considered the first serial killer in the current understanding of the term. He chose exclusively the same typology of victims (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 1).

The Whitechapel Murders drew the attention of the whole British Empire and later of the entire world. The case came at the time of the rise of the newspaper and education. Therefore, it was covered on a daily basis by the press. The police and their work were under the microscope of both the media and the political parties. It started a great wave of panic and fear in London, especially in East London's Whitechapel.

The reason why Jack the Ripper became almost iconic is that the true identity of the murderer remains uncovered to this day (Ryder, © 1996-2022b). Even though he was seen and variously described by the witnesses and the police had a file full of suspects, it was of no use in catching the murderer (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 1). According to Perry (2001), the large amount of researchers have now formed an unofficial science called Ripperology. However, this scrutiny has been quite stagnating as there is not much left in the files of Scotland Yard and it is not expected to come to a conclusion (Perry, 2001, p. 27). There have been several findings over the more than a hundred years, but none has been decisive (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 1).

What adds to the mystical appeal of Jack the Ripper is the London settings associated with Sherlock Holmes, dark streets and fog. There are indeed many reasons for people to keep studying the case, for some, perhaps the heritage of Whitechapel (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 2), for others, the endless, yet exciting, search for the truth.

5.1 East End & Whitechapel

The first key determinant of Jack's success in quite literally getting away with murder was the environment he rampaged in. East End was, like all of London, a display of contrasts. Poor pubs full of drunks and prostitutes were neighbours to magnificent buildings with history. The streets of the east part of London were dirty with dust, diseases, pollution and alcohol. Furthermore, the inferior parts of East End were often poorly lit, almost allowing the committing of a felony (Perry, 2001, pp. 33-34).

East End varied from other parts of London and most other cities of England in the lack of industrial job opportunities for its community. That is where the central problem of unemployment arose. Thus, people suffered from horrible conditions as they often could not pay for basic needs. The excessive amounts of male immigrants caused women to opt for prostitution. Around 1200 prostitutes worked in known brothels, and perhaps thousands more “streetwalkers” were present on the streets (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 2).

The district of Whitechapel was defined as a poverty-stricken slum in the times when Jack the Ripper committed the murders. The numbers showed that Whitechapel had the highest percentage of poverty level in all of London (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 1). Whitechapel ticked all the boxes mentioned in this thesis regarding poverty. Families and strangers were stuck in small rooms of lodging houses, and the workers did not have any other option than menial work as the mentioned industry was on a steep decline.

At the same time, the district still accepted thousands of new inhabitants who were expelled from other parts of London throughout the 19th century. The number of residents went up by almost twenty times. Furthermore, the population of Whitechapel consisted of many immigrants from all around the world, especially Western Europe, South-East Asia and Jews from Eastern Europe. Due to such diversity of inhabitants and their occupations, Whitechapel was tough to control. The district was a nursery for crime and diseases and was considered a place of horror by other Londoners (Perry, 2001, pp. 32-33). Curiously, however dangerous Whitechapel seemed, murder was not a common practice as none had been committed there in the previous year (Rubinstein, 2000, pp. 1-2). That is, of course, only considering the records. East End’s residents were especially sceptical toward police as the number of unregistered and unpunished crimes was much higher (Perry, 2001, p. 45).

5.2 Characteristics of Jack the Ripper

The name Jack the Ripper possibly came from the killer himself. Under this pseudonym, he signed one of his letters called Dear Boss (see “5.5 Correspondence of Jack the Ripper and the Press”), which was anonymously sent to the Central News Agency on September 25th 1888. It might never be known if the letter was authentic and not a false alarm written by a journalist who wanted a sensation, but the name remained (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 2).

When one mentions Jack the Ripper, a notoriously known image of a man covered in darkness, wearing a black coat with a tall hat and a thick moustache with chops on his face appears in the minds of many people. Such depiction is mainly based on the testimonies of many supposed witnesses. It started to mould after the second murder. On September 10th, 1888, *The Daily Telegraph* printed an official, and quite specific, police statement in search for a man „aged thirty-seven, height 5 ft. 7 in., rather dark, beard and moustache; dress, short dark jacket, dark vest and trousers, black scarf and black felt hat; spoke with a foreign accent." (Jones, 2022b). In fact, a surprising amount of witnesses saw what was most likely Jack the Ripper before he committed his murders. Most of the testimonies are not far from the first description given by the police. The witnesses agreed on the killer's height of approximately 5'5" to 5'7", his dark appearance and that he certainly did not look like one of Whitechapel's lower class as he was very well dressed and groomed. Nonetheless, the witnesses disagreed on the information about the killer's age. The data ranged from late twenties to early forties, but that is of low value as it cannot be exactly observed. For that reason, the testimonies from people need to be taken with reservation. That, however, excludes the witnesses who later identified the victim and stated that they saw her with the killer; such were taken very seriously (Jones, 2022b).

Jack's modus operandi of murdering his victims was very neat and obviously prepared in advance. He, at first, strangled his victims to either death or unconsciousness, approaching them from the front as opposed to former theories, which suggested him coming from behind. He could do so because he made contact with the victims first, leading them to think he wanted to pay for intercourse with them. After the strangulation, he mutilated the victims with his knife. The knife cuts were precise and made in a way so as little blood as possible would stain the murderer. The experts who have examined the bodies have agreed that the killer had to have enough experience working with a knife, perhaps even education in anatomy, as he exactly knew where to cut for specific organs without damaging any other. Curiously, no signs of sexual intercourse or masturbation were ever recorded before or after the victim's death. After he was done with the murder, the killer would take one of the organs, supposedly as a kind of trophy (Ryder, © 1996-2022b).

5.3 Victims of Jack the Ripper

As of today, the exact number of Jack the Ripper's victims is unknown. Some say he killed only four, while different theories involve six or even eight murders (Ryder, © 1996-2022b). The official police file Whitechapel Murders includes eleven killings (Jones, 2022a).

The victims “varied in both age and appearance”. Although, in most cases, they were in a small age range. What connected them was that they all were under the influence of alcohol while being murdered by Jack the Ripper (Ryder, © 1996-2022b). Another connection was in the unprecedented brutality of the murders and the following mutilations of the bodies.

Generally, the victims could be divided into two categories. First is the so-called canonical five, the five prostitutes accepted by most as murdered by Jack the Ripper listed below. In the second group are involved the victims that are not confirmed to be Jack's work. Some of those were more likely to really be killed by Jack the Ripper, while some might have been fabricated by the journalists (Ryder, © 1996-2022c). As it is not certain which victims were truly killed by Jack the Ripper, this thesis only contains descriptions of the canonical five.

5.3.1 Mary Ann (Polly) Nichols

Figure 1: Mortuary photo of Polly



Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.a)

Mary Ann Nichols (1845-1888), known as Polly, was murdered on August 31st 1888. She was a petite woman with dark features. Although she was an alcoholic, her friend described her as “a very clean woman who always seemed to keep to herself.” (Ryder, © 1996-2022d)

Her body was discovered in Buck's Row at around 3:45 in the morning by two men, Charles Cross and Robert Paul, on their way to work. Polly seemed yet alive to them, which was confirmed by a doctor just a moment later as he stated that she had been dead only for a few minutes. There were bruises on her neck and jaw, suggesting she had been strangled. Her neck was also severely cut with a long knife from one side to the other. The only further injury was in her stomach area, as it was slashed several times with the same knife. (Ryder, © 1996-2022d).

5.3.2 Annie Chapman

Figure 2: Mortuary photo of Annie



Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.b)

Annie Chapman (1841-1888), the second canonical victim, nicknamed Dark Annie, was murdered on September 8th 1888. Despite her leaning toward alcohol, her friend called her a “sober, steady going woman who seldom took any drink” (Ryder, © 1996-2022e). She had three children with her former husband, John Chapman.

Her corpse was found around 6:00 in the morning by John Davis in the yard of the house at 29 Hanbury Street. The body was left in terrible condition. Her face was bruised, mainly around the jaw. There were several cuts rounding the neck,

which suggested an attempt at beheading the victim. The torso was split open, and many of the organs of the stomach and lower parts were missing, such as the bladder and the intestines. The intestines were placed around the shoulders of the victim. Parts of the genitals of the victim were precisely cut off. It was evident that the killer wanted to avoid damaging certain parts of the genitals, and he managed to do so. Therefore, he indeed had to possess excellent anatomical skills, as stated above (Ryder, © 1996-2022e).

5.3.3 Elizabeth Stride

Figure 3: Mortuary photo of Liz



Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.c)

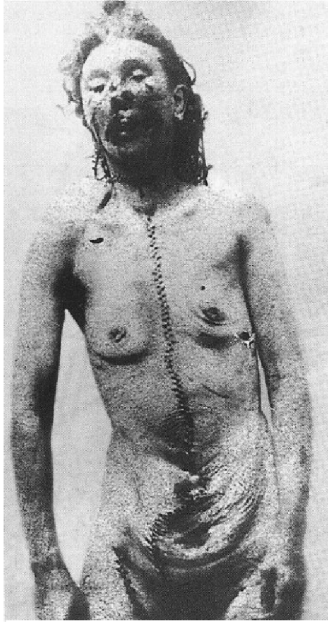
Elizabeth Stride (1843-1888), a.k.a Long Liz, was an occasional prostitute of Swedish origin killed on September 30th 1888. She was a quiet woman, although often arrested for public drinking and breaking the law. Her other occupation was sewing and housekeeping.

Her body was discovered at 1:00 in the morning next to the International Worker’s Educational Club by Louis Diemschutz, whose pony refused to continue when he approached the body. Several determinants show that the killer was still present when Mr Diemschutz arrived: the repeated strange behaviour

of his pony, which refused to continue, the fact that Elizabeths' s body was still warm when he found her and not yet mutilated in any way (Ryder, © 1996-2022f).

5.3.4 Catherine Eddowes

Figure 4: Mutilated body of Catherine



Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.d)

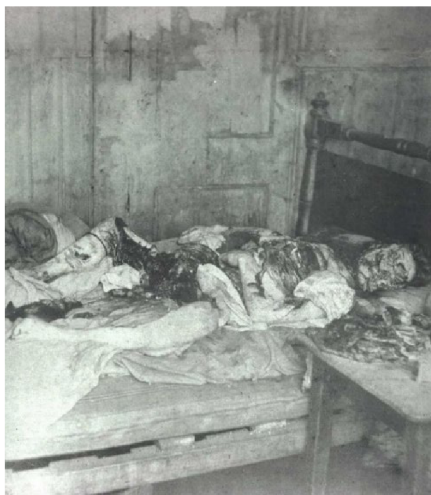
Catherine Eddowes (1843-1888), or Kate Kelly, was killed on September 30th 1888. She was a short woman with dark features. She had been suffering from uremia before her death. She was told to be an intelligent and academic, yet tempered, woman.

Catherine was arrested the same evening she was killed. After being released from the police station, she was seen by several passersby. Her body was discovered at 1:45 in the morning by police officer Edward Watkins at Miltre Square. The murder of Eddowes was so far the most brutal. Curiously, there were no bruises on her face this time. However, it was full of cuts over her eyelids, nose, mouth, and cheeks. Her throat was deeply cut open as the killer probably made a more extensive slash and

cut her ear with it. The victim lost vast amounts of blood from the wound. Together with the blood and body liquids, the intestines were laid out of the broad open torso and again placed on the victim's shoulders. A high amount of other cuts in the abdominal cavity were made, again with chirurgical precision, as the killer did not damage any organs he did not mean to (Ryder, © 1996-2022g).

5.3.5 Mary Jane Kelly

Figure 5: Mutilated body of Mary Jane



Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.e)

Mary Jane Kelly (\approx 1863-1888) was murdered on November 9th 1888. She was considerably younger than other victims as she was approximately twenty-five when she died. She was an attractive blonde with blue eyes. Others said that she was a "good, quiet, pleasant girl, and was well liked by all of us", although "when in liquor she was very noisy; otherwise she was a very quiet woman." (Ryder, © 1996-2022h)

Mary's body was found in one of the apartments of Miller's Court at 10:45 in the morning by Thomas Bowyer and John McCarthy, who were about to collect rent from her. The unrecognisable body was lying on the bed, covered in blood like the wall and the floor. Mary's face was harshly harmed, with most of the parts being partially removed. The victim's neck was cut way down the throat to the spine. The breasts were cut off. The abdomen muscles were missing, leaving the cavity uncovered and emptied as the killer removed all the organs, including the heart. Deep cuts were found on all four of the limbs. The thigh bones were stripped naked as the muscles and skin were removed entirely. The cut-off parts could be found around the body and on the table (Ryder, © 1996-2022h).

5.4 Suspects

The true identity of Jack the Ripper will most likely never be uncovered. The police tried their best to find the identity of the killer. However, without any forensic help and fingerprinting, they had to catch the killer in action. That sadly did not occur. Therefore no one was ever charged in the Whitechapel Murders case (Ryder, © 1996-2022b).

In the past century, identifying the killer has become quite a discipline. Many people, calling themselves Ripperologists (Ryder, © 1996-2022b), are still trying to solve the case and name the killer. It does need vast amounts of time to study all the different sources. The most used sources are police diaries, reports, official statements, memorandums or letters (Jones, 2022c).

Contemporary people needed someone to blame. There was a large community of Jews in Whitechapel, which had suddenly expanded in the years preceding the murders. Therefore, they were the first to be pointed at by society. Their customs were supposedly behind all the murders (Ryder, © 1996-2022i). The theory of the killer being Jewish was supported by a writing over a door right next to the body of Eddowes. It said, "The Juwes are the men That Will not be blamed for nothing". The Commissioner, Sir Charles Warren, did not want to further promote the already present hatred towards the Jews and ordered to erase the writing as quickly as possible. However, there indeed were several Jewish men on the suspect list of the police (Ryder, © 1996-2022b).

A number of names are mentioned by the police officers who happened to work on the case. There have been many theories, some even including the member of the

Royal Family, Prince Albert Victor, or even a woman nicknamed Jill the Ripper as the killer (Ryder, © 1996-2022j). However, this thesis only lists a selection of the main suspects that have been repeatedly mentioned by the police officers and the Ripperologists, whether contemporarily or today.

5.4.1 Montague John DrUITT

Figure 6: Montague John DrUITT



Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.f)

Montague John DrUITT (1857-1888) was a well-educated lawyer. In the span of a few years before the Whitechapel Murders, his mother and father both died. The loss of his parents left a mark, and he started to suffer from depression. DrUITT was declared missing on November 31st 1888. He was found in the Thames river on December 31st 1888, and declared to have committed suicide. The date of his death was not confirmed as his body was reported to be in the river for three or more weeks (Ryder, © 1996-2022k).

DrUITT was the number one suspect of Sir Melville MacNaghten, the former Chief Constable of Scotland Yard. It was not until 1959 that the name DrUITT appeared as one of the possible suspects. MacNaghten mentioned him in his report, together with two other names included in this list of suspects below. He was almost certain DrUITT was his man. However, what needs to be taken into account is that MacNaghten's information about DrUITT was inaccurate. He stated that DrUITT was 41 years old, a doctor and committed suicide right after the murder of Mary Jane Kelly, which cannot be guaranteed (Ryder, © 1996-2022b). DrUITT is confirmed to have been playing gold only six hours after the first murder had occurred. He is now considered unlikely as there is not enough evidence to support the theory, but because of MacNaghten, he yet remains one of the primary suspects (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 3).

5.4.2 Aaron Kosminski

Figure 7: Aaron Kosminski



Source: (Whitechapel Jack, 2022)

The second name in the MacNaghten Memorandum was Aaron Kosminski (1865-1919). Kosminski was a Polish barber who emigrated to London around the year 1881. In 1891, he was placed in an asylum for lunatics and died 1891 (House, © 1996-2022).

Kosminski was a Jew, the primary suspect of the Jewish representation in the Whitechapel Murders case. Kosminski emigrated to London around the year 1881. The Jewish community played a significant role as there have been more suspects from their rows, such as Nathan Kaminsky or Aaron Nathan Cohen. It was thought the Jewish community knew the killer's identity but refused to testify against a "fellow Jew". Unlike the DrUITT theory, the Kosminski theory is supported by other police force members (Rubinstein, 2000, p. 3). Nevertheless, Kosminski was never charged as the police were uncertain if they had the right Kosminski because Aaron did not match the description nor showed any signs of violence (Ryder, © 1996-2022).

At the break of the last decade, a couple of scientists, Jari Louhelainen and David Miller, performed a genetic analysis of a biological trace from a silk shawl found next to the body of Catherine Eddowes. The results showed that the DNA found on the handkerchief "matches that of a living relative of Kosminski." (Adam, 2019) However, the paper published seems to lack a portion of the scientific data. Therefore, this discovery fully satisfied neither those interested in Jack the Ripper, nor the fellow scientists, and cannot be considered as a conclusion to the case (Adam, 2019).

5.4.3 Michael Ostrog

Figure 8: Michael Ostrog



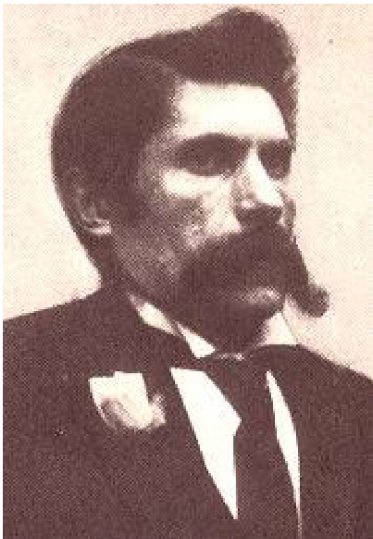
Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.g)

The third person listed by MacNaghten was Michael Ostrog, born in 1833. His name was first mentioned in connection to Jack the Ripper in 1962. Ostrog had a rich criminal history, but he was never proved to be violent. He found himself in prison several times, primarily for fraud and theft. He was also placed in asylums on numerous occasions. For his criminal history, he was known under countless pseudonyms. After his last release from prison in 1904, nothing is known of him.

MacNaghten described him as a homicidal Russian doctor with obvious problems against women. Supposedly, Ostrog possessed several surgical tools, such as knives. Nothing of that sort was confirmed to be accurate as Ostrog was declared harmless (Ryder, © 1996-2022m).

5.4.4 Severin Klosowski (George Chapman)

Figure 9: Severin Klosowski



Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.h)

Severin Klosowski (1865-1903) was a Polish native who arrived in London in 1887 or 1888. He had graduated as a surgeon in Poland. In London, he became a barber and later owned a barbershop. After marriage and the birth of his child, he and his wife moved to the USA, where he attacked his wife with a knife and later ended the relationship. He married several women in his life; after one, he decided to take the surname Chapman. Chapman was later found to have poisoned three of his wives and was therefore charged with three murders. In 1903, he was hanged in prison.

After his death, Chapman was accused of being Jack the Ripper by a prominent Chief Inspector, Frederick Abberline. According to him, Chapman's anatomical education of Chapman fit perfectly into the pattern of murdering the victims and the murders of his later wives. To push his opinion, he pointed out that the murders stopped after Chapman had moved to the USA, where he, as mentioned, attacked his

wife with a long knife. Furthermore, roughly around the time when Chapman was in the USA, there was a murder of a prostitute in Jersey, where Chapman stayed, but he would have only a little time to move to the USA and to commit the murder. The prostitute was strangled and mutilated after in a similar manner to Jack the Ripper. It indeed is not easy to commit a series of murders, and Klosowski was known to be able to do so. Chapman was also said to enjoy being out until morning hours.

The only inconsistent fact was that he was twenty-three years old when the murders happened, while all the witnesses described the killer as thirty-five years or older. The modern profiling science dealing with offenders also denies this theory. The experts say that it is scarce for the modus operandi to change, making Chapman unlikely to commit the murders (Ryder, © 1996-2022n).

5.4.5 Francis Tumblety

Figure 10: Francis Tumblety



Source: (Wikimedia Commons, n.d.i)

The last serious suspect was Francis Tumblety (1833-1903). He spent most of his life in the USA and Canada, where he was arrested for supposedly assassinating Abraham Lincoln because of his pseudonym J. H. Blackburn. Such accusation was later taken back. He was present in London while he travelled through Europe. He lived in Whitechapel, being quite aware of the district's requisites. He died in 1903 in St. Louis.

Tumblety possessed a collection of wombs and was known for hatred towards women, especially prostitutes. In the USA, he underwent a medical practice, although in a small manner. He was actually arrested in the months of the Whitechapel Murders as the primary suspect. When he was bailed from prison, he fled to France and later back to the USA. Curiously, no British newspapers informed on Tumblety, while the press in the United States frequently published, mentioning Tumblety. This was probably caused by the Scotland Yard since their primary suspect escaped, and they wanted to spare the embarrassment.

The theory of Francis Tumblety being Jack the Ripper emerged in 1993 after discovering a letter written by Chief Inspector John Littlechild to journalist G. R. Sims. Afterwards, Tumblety was widely considered the most convincing option by several

experts. The opponents of this theory state that Tumblety was a homosexual; therefore, there was a low chance of him murdering women (Ryder, © 1996-2022o).

5.5 The Letters Received By The Press

The case of Jack the Ripper is well known for its coverage in the press. A considerable backlash was caused by the received letters that were supposedly written by Jack the Ripper. There have been countless letters sent to the news agencies and the journal offices, but sadly, most of them are deemed not written by the killer. Only three are at least considered to be possibly written by Jack the Ripper. They are called “Dear Boss”, “Saucy Jacky” and “From Hell” (Ryder, © 1996-2022p).

However, the letters from either the killer or his imitators were not the only ones the editorial offices received. The newspapers were flooded with hundreds of letters written by London citizens. Except for those trying to prove that their author was the killer and ensure there would be more bloodbath, people fiercely attempted to help the police and presented their ideas and solutions to the case. *The Daily Telegraph* posted more than ninety such letters at the beginning of October 1888, ranging from degrading the police to plans for trapping the killer or identifying him (Perry, 2001, pp. 239-240).

5.5.1 Dear Boss

The letter titled „Dear Boss“ was submitted to the Central News Agency on September 27th, 1888. This letter contains the first remark about the name Jack the Ripper. The author promises that he will cut the ear of the killer’s next victim, which indeed happened in the murder of Catherine Eddowes. That made the police consider it serious enough to print it in the newspapers. As with the other letters, it is not known whether the letter was written by the killer.

The transcription of the letter is as follows:

“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 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

Dont mind me giving the trade name

PS 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" (Ryder, © 1996-2022p)

5.5.2 Saucy Jacky

Saucy Jacky is the name of the postcard acquired by the Central News Agency on October 1st, 1888. It seems to be written by the same author as “Dear Boss” as the handwriting is very similar to the first letter. Furthermore, it contains information about the “double murder” only one day after while it had not been covered in the newspapers yet and referred to the last letter by taunting the police who did not print it straight away. This supports the idea of the letters being authentic instead of a work of a sensation-thirsty journalist.

The transcription of the postcard:

“I was not coddling dear old Boss when I gave you the tip, you'll hear about Saucy Jacky's work tomorrow double event this time number one squealed a bit couldn't finish straight off. ha not the time to get ears for police. thanks for keeping last letter back till I got to work again.

Jack the Ripper” (Ryder, © 1996-2022p)

5.5.3 From Hell

George Lusk, the head of a vigilance committee in Whitechapel, received a small package on October 16th, 1888. The box contained a conserved half of a human kidney and a letter titled From Hell. Curiously, the kidney was much the same as the one missing from the body of Catherine Eddowes. It was infected with the same disease Catherine had suffered from. The author again taunts the receiver by proposing to send the murder weapon.

The transcription of the letter is as follows:

“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*” (Ryder, © 1996-2022p)

5.6 The Press Reporting On The Whitechapel Murders

The journalists knew that what concerned the readers sold the most copies. Contemporary society was mortified by the rampage of Jack the Ripper, although only the East End prostitutes seemed to be the victims of the killer. The press made extensive amounts of money by covering the case daily and taking advantage of the panic not only among women. The case was covered not only in London and England, but all over the Empire and Europe (Warkentin, 2015, pp. xxiv-xxv).

Since the killer’s identity remained unknown, the newspapers were allowed to theorise constantly. The articles often resembled fantastical literature. It contained “the narrative themes and motifs of modern fantasy”, such as “acts of violation” and “descent into a social underworld”. (Warkentin, 2015, p. xxv) The sensational description of Ripper’s character and his deeds caused, except for the fear, a great portion of excitement. People were fascinated by the courage of the killer and the immense wit with which he continuously escaped the justice.

Nevertheless, the case of Jack the Ripper helped to create and push the class discrimination toward the minorities mentioned in this thesis. The damaged social groups, meaning the women, the Jews, and the East End inhabitants, disagreed with how the press presented the terror. Sadly, their voice did not receive enough recognition in the daily press. The women, for obvious reasons, refused to accept that Jack the Ripper should be heroised while he is a horrible murderer mutilating one of their own. Furthermore, women tried to demonstrate the living conditions of prostitutes and the poor life, which led the victims to death. The Jews then refused that the killer would be of Jewish origin, and if he was, he must have been a foreign Jew. The inhabitants of East End felt that the daily press, which depicted the district as a poor centre of crime, damaged the reputation of their part of the capital (Warkentin, 2015, p. xxvi).

6 The Lodger by Marie Belloc Lowndes

The Lodger is a detective novel written by Marie Belloc Lowndes (1868-1947). It was first published in 1911 as a short story in a monthly journal called *McClure's*. After Lowndes decided to develop the story in more depth, it was published as a series in *The Times* and later in 1913 as a book (Warkentin, 2011). It was the first time Jack the Ripper was depicted in a novel as there had been several short fictional stories in sensational newspapers, but none as long. (Warkentin, 2015, p. xii).

The book revolves around one of the main characters, Mr Sleuth, who was a lodger in the Bunting residence. A lodger was basically a tenant who used to rent a room from a family or a couple in their house for a certain fee. This way, the families would make a side income while making use of a spare room in their dwelling. The lodger would typically be a single man who was on his temporary journeys or simply could not afford more expensive accommodation. (Beito & Royster Beito, 2016).

According to her memoirs, the thought of writing *The Lodger* came to mind to Lowndes after hearing a similar story from a man sitting next to her at a modish diner party (Warkentin, 2015, p. xi).

6.1 Marie Belloc Lowndes

Marie Belloc Lowndes (1868-1947) was a French-English journalist and novelist. Despite her many interests in geography, memoirs and other fields, she is best known as a crime novelist. During her lifetime, she wrote 44 novels, several plays and memoirs, and plenty of articles and other journalistic work (Warkentin, 2015, p. xvii). While she is deemed a popular author, she never received much academic attention (Warkentin, 2015, pp. xii-xiv).

She was born in France into a great family of writers and lawyers and spent her childhood commuting between France and Britain. Later in 1888, she moved to London to find success as a journalist and writer. Crucial to her work was meeting W. T. Stead of *Pall Mall Gazette*, who broadly supported female authors and introduced her to journalism. Later she moved to *The Review of Reviews*, where she finally became a successful writer and could focus on solo writing of novels as well as her other work. Lowndes was known for her social skills as she was an active member of the writing community and acquainted with several world-class writers as well as their significant others. She was married to a fellow journalist Frederic Sawney Lowndes with whom she had three children (Warkentin, 2015, pp. xiv-xvi).

After her father died early in her life, Lowndes was raised in a strongly feminist environment. That was thanks to her mother and her peers, who shaped her into a fighter for women and their rights. Lowndes herself supported young women writers as she introduced them to various artists of the English writing nobility and helped them establish themselves in the same way she did. Lowndes is known for fiercely projecting feminism into her work and presenting her stories from a characteristic woman's point of view. (Warkentin, 2015, pp. xiv-xvii).

6.2 Contribution of *The Lodger*

The Lodger immediately enjoyed great success. Shortly before Lowndes' death, she stated that "over a million copies of the novel were sold, and it has been translated into almost every language" (Warkentin, 2011).

That was, however, only among the readers. One would struggle while searching for positive contemporary reviews as the critiques did not value *The Lodger* high. Only long years later, the book was acknowledged by other writers, compared to the likes of Hemingway and Stein and rated highly in terms of crime fiction (Warkentin, 2015, p. xiii).

The Lodger has become a subject of many adaptations both on theatre stages and on screen. The most popular theatrical adaptation is *The Lodger: Who is He?* and although this play generally did not receive many positive reviews, the world-famous director Alfred Hitchcock decided to shape it into an admired silent movie in 1927. *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog* is then deemed the first movie in the director's notoriously distinct style (Warkentin, 2015, pp. xxvii-xxviii).

Arguably the most significant contribution of *The Lodger* is rooted in its feministic view. The role of women in the case of Jack the Ripper is frequently debated as some experts refer to the case from the female perspective, dubbing it a showcase of "sexual danger" (Warkentin, 2015, p. xix). That occurred as one of the reasons Lowndes decided to respond to this by means of *The Lodger*. Mrs Bunting, the main character, moreover an amateur detective, showed the usually frowned upon women's features in a way that helped her solve the case of The Avenger. Mrs Bunting is not portrayed as a victim but as a capable citizen. She also used typical woman's fields of activity, such as cleaning, in her favour (Warkentin, 2015, pp. xxi-xxii). By that, Lowndes shows that Mrs Bunting's power is expressly womanly. Lowndes also refers to the outcast role of women in society and perhaps shows their inclination towards other

outcasts as Mrs Bunting did not report Sleuth to the police. Nevertheless, Lowndes indeed showed women's competence in a case that so many men, extensively policemen, could not solve (Warkentin, 2011)

7 The Representation of the Case of Jack the Ripper in *The Lodger*

The aim of *The Lodger* was to portray one of the theories about Jack the Ripper, that he was a lodger in one of the many London's lodging houses. However, it manages to include many other factors in the Ripper's case, some perhaps forgotten or somewhat overlooked. This chapter, being the practical part of the thesis, consists of a look into such determinants and compares the fiction of *The Lodger* with the reality of Jack the Ripper.

7.1 Plot Summary

The story begins in the house of Buntings, a married couple living in London. The reader is introduced to their backstory and learns how the married couple met when they worked in domestic service for the wealthy higher class members in the country. But since neither of them is young anymore, they decide to move to London and buy a house to make a living by renting out upper floors to lodgers. Despite the place being well-furnished and taken care of, there have not been many lodgers, and the Buntings are on the verge of poverty.

It is then a great relief when a gentleman appears and loves the rooms Mrs Bunting offers him. The gentleman's name is Mr Sleuth, and he claims to be a lonely scientist who has come back from his journeys. He decides to pay an entire month's rent in advance, giving the Buntings the money they need to live a happy life. For that reason, Mrs Bunting grows fond of him and treats him with kindness despite his odd customs.

Meanwhile, London is terrorised by a murderer who calls himself the Avenger. He lets everyone know by leaving a small note pinned to every victim's clothes. Avenger's murders are exclusively performed on women and mainly occur in East End, although they progressively move more west as they happen throughout the book.

The Buntings have a close friend, Joe Chandler, a detective from the Scotland Yard, who works on the case of the Avenger with almost every policeman in the capital. Mr Bunting is highly interested in learning all the details, seemingly like all of the London citizens, after all, and spends a daily portion of money on the newspapers. Joe visits the couple almost daily and provides further information for Mr Bunting. Mrs Bunting, on the other hand, is reluctant of hearing such horrid things and gradually gets sick of it.

Mr Bunting has a beautiful daughter from his first marriage, Daisy, who has to stay at their house for some time due to an illness spreading at her aunt's where she lives. Joe Chandler is attracted to her and thus visits the Buntings even more frequently than before. He even accompanies Daisy and Mr Bunting to a police museum in an attempt to learn more about Daisy and talk to her.

That is not convenient for Mr Sleuth, who seems, among his other oddities, to be mortified by strangers in the house. Among his other queer customs are reading the Bible aloud, using the couple's stove for his peculiar experiments and going out at night. That causes Mrs Bunting to grow suspicious as she is a light sleeper and gets waken up by Mr Sleuth's tiptoe stepping every time he leaves the house at night. When Mr Sleuth catches an illness and stays at home, the murders suddenly stop. Mrs Bunting later connects the facts and realises it is most likely Mr Sleuth killing the poor women. This information takes a toll on her. She is constantly nervous and can hardly think about anything else. However, she is determined not to turn Mr Sleuth in, not only because she has a mere suspicion, but because he gave her and her husband the stability they had been longing for.

In addition, when Mr Bunting is given the opportunity to work as a waiter at a birthday party and goes home late at night, he meets Mr Sleuth swiftly walking through a park, carrying his bag matching the one described by the case's witnesses. Mr Bunting shortly touched Mr Sleuth's pocket soaked with blood. Mr Bunting connects the facts as Mrs Bunting did and gets the same impression as her. And in the same manner, he decides not to turn Mr Sleuth in as he does not want the scandal of accommodating a murderer upon his and his wife's heads.

The story culminates in Madame Tussaud's as Mr Sleuth invites Mrs Bunting and Daisy to visit the museum of wax figurines with him. The trio meets a high ranked police officer there, who discusses the case with his guests. After overhearing him, Mrs Bunting is confident that the killer is Mr Sleuth, as he is the lunatic who stole a significant portion of sovereigns, which he is now paying the Buntings with. Mr Sleuth thinks Mrs Bunting has tried to set a trap for him, and after threatening her with another of his avenges, he runs away.

Concluding the book, Mrs Bunting and Daisy return home. Mrs Bunting waits for several nights for the return of Mr Sleuth, worrying about him as the great housekeeper she is, but he never comes back to collect the rest of the money that he left upstairs of the house of Buntings. The Buntings can finally rest peacefully, and Mrs Bunting even

starts to show more affection towards her husband and Daisy, who gets engaged to Joe Chandler. At last, the Buntings get the job in domestic service they had been waiting for.

The Lodger is by no means a classic detective story. The moment he enters the scene, it is evident that Mr Sleuth is the killer. Therefore, the reader is not supposed to unmask the killer like Mrs Bunting and later Mr Bunting did, but instead observe the thought process of the character we follow at the time and enjoy the thrill it brings. We mostly get to see the thoughts of Mrs Bunting, as she is undoubtedly the main character. Still, occasionally we have the opportunity to observe Daisy and Joe, as well as Mr Bunting, when he realises who the killer is and troubles his mind afterwards. In the end, we can feel the betrayal of Mr Sleuth, or rather the misunderstanding that occurs (Belloc Lowndes, 2014).

7.2 The Settings

The Lodger is situated in London, the city of gloomy fog. “It’ll be awful thick at Hyde Park Corner,” said Bunting.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 138) The fog accompanied many of the misconducts in London, including the murders of Jack the Ripper. It allowed both the killers to escape the justice, making the city more dangerous than it already had been. The book draws the atmosphere perfectly as everything is covered in darkness, literally and metaphorically. The tension perfectly represents the feelings the inhabitants of East End had to feel when a serial killer ran free among them. The dark is only broken by the word “MURDER!” shouted by the boys selling newspapers. Lowndes chose to portray the story in winter, which sensationally underlined the tension. It left a mark on the characters, adding to their exhaustion and occasionally an illness throughout the book. The sickness also presented a clue because when Mr Sleuth caught a cold, the murders stopped.

„It was a good bit farther West—in fact, not so very far from here. Near King’s Cross.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 79) Although the book and most of the murders are situated in East End, the murders progressively move to West End, making it a problem for the wealthier inhabitants. This is contrary to the Whitechapel Murders, which only occurred in the East End and on the borders of the City of London.

7.3 The Character of the Killer

Alike Jack the Ripper, if the letters are considered genuine, the Avenger, alias Mr Sleuth, named himself. Not in a letter (although there was a letter written by the

Avenger which we never get to see, according to Joe), but on every crime scene, there „had been found a three-cornered piece of paper, on which was written, in red ink, and in printed characters, the words, “THE AVENGER“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 12). It gives a similar feeling as in the case of the Ripper, almost as if they both wanted to taunt the police by giving them an elusive thread to catch. Perhaps it was only to show what the purpose of his murders was. However, we never learn what Mr Sleuth wants to avenge, although it is apparent that a woman, or even more women, had offended him in the past.

“I hardly have to speak to a human being - especially to a woman" (and he had drawn in his breath with a hissing sound)” (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 50) was what Mr Sleuth said when talking about women. The hatred he bore was apparent as he not only read out loud verses from the Concorde, but according to the witnesses, he cited them after his murders: ““She hath cast down many wounded from her; yea, many strong men have been slain by her.”” (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 171) This matches the profiles of respective suspects in the case of Jack the Ripper, several notoriously known for notably despising women. Some of them were very open about it, such as George Chapman.

George Chapman was, among other things, known for his history of killing women. Other suspects were also stale in their criminal deeds. And the Avenger, Mr Sleuth, was no exception. It is confirmed he was put in an asylum for it at the end of the book when he was scared Mrs Bunting would turn him to „the official, that is, who had entered into a conspiracy years ago to have him confined—him, an absolutely sane man with a great avenging work to do in the world—in a lunatic asylum“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 287).

The modus operandi of both killers seemed to be alike. „Why, Ellen, if the poor soul had had time to cry out—which they don’t believe she had“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 174). Although Lowndes skips the vivid descriptions of the dead bodies that can be read in the Ripper case, it can be assumed that the Avenger also strangled them as they could not yell for help and butcher them after because Joe was utterly disgusted when he saw one of the bodies yet warm. The Avenger used a similar weapon to mutilate the victims. It was „a very peculiar kind o’ knife—‘keen as a razor, pointed as a dagger’“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 89). Like Jack the Ripper, the Avenger carried his knife from the crime scene instead of throwing it away, as most criminals do. „He’s done for two of ’em this time!“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 73) It was common for the

Avenger to murder two women in one night. This is remarkably similar to the night of 30th September 1888, when Jack the Ripper murdered two of his victims, Elizabeth Stride and Catherine Eddowes.

“It had at once become clear that the lodger preferred to be waited on only by one person, and that person his landlady“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 50). Mr Sleuth always ensured that he did not meet more people than necessary. That was the best way to stay unmasked for as long as possible. When he heard the Buntings had guests, his face would turn pale, and he would complain to Mrs Bunting. When he needed to do any shopping, he sent Mrs Bunting to buy him everything he needed, only so that he would not have to go out. If Jack the Ripper indeed was a lodger, or, in fact, even if he was not, he certainly needed to behave as securely as he could, for they both had official descriptions printed in the newspapers. The Avenger’s one differed in some aspects: „A man, of age approximately 28, slight in figure, height approximately 5 ft. '8 in. Complexion dark. No beard or whiskers. Wearing a black diagonal coat hard felt hat, high white collar, and tie. Carried a newspaper parcel. Very respectable appearance“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 87).

Immediately after Mr Sleuth was introduced, Mrs Bunting noticed that he was a gentleman. “I hope I know a gentleman when I see one,” she said, with a break in her staid voice.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 29) His language and appearance pointed to him having excellent manners, although unusually quirky. But Mrs Bunting grew so fond of him that she overlooked the queerness as much as she could, despite the fact „It hadn’t taken the landlady very long to find out that her lodger had a queer kind of fear and dislike of women.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 50). She did not judge him; she instead kept condoning his actions.

Mrs Bunting liked her lodger so much that „It was the first time she had told a bold and deliberate lie“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 86) when she wanted to spare him from any suspicion. Curiously, the kind feelings were reciprocated. Mrs Bunting was an exception for Mr Sleuth. He treated her with respect and felt comfortable around her. Jack the Ripper surely must have known a way with women since he persuaded them to go with him. Several witnesses even saw them laughing with the man they thought was the killer. He was also described as a respectable gentleman, well-spoken and groomed, who surely did not come from the poor slums of Whitechapel or East End at all.

What differs is that, according to the testimonies, Jack the Ripper was seen with his then future victims on the street. Mr Sleuth was not so unwary at first. He was only seen while escaping the scene, not allowing anyone to see him closely. Thus, the witnesses could not describe him truthfully: “Dark!” she answered dramatically. “Dark, almost black!” (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 210) Only towards the end of the book did he let slip a leak of his description when he visited a bar before one of his murders (where he ordered, oddly enough, a glass of milk). Joe then described the man to the Buntings as „the eccentric-looking gent who had given the barmaid a sovereign, picturing Mr. Sleuth with such awful accuracy“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 267). It almost looked as if he was not concerned with being uncovered anymore since he allowed himself to go to the public and visit the museum. Although, he then tried hard to escape.

7.4 The Contemporary Inhabitants of London

The Lodger makes a great effort to show the situation of the contemporary people that were on the edge of poverty. It shows that people had to choose if they could have a bite that evening. Although once doing quite well, Buntings fell into the carousel of poverty and left an irreversible toll on them. “I’m still feeling the worry now. I don’t seem able to forget it. Those days of waiting, of—of” she restrained herself; another moment and the word “starving” would have left her lips.” (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 82) Even when they finally found the lodger they had been waiting for for so long, Mrs Bunting could not shake the fear of tomorrow.

During the times of the Whitechapel Murders, the inhabitants of London, especially the East End, were a stressful group. Not only they had had enough problems to make a living and survive, but a killer running around murdering women joined their struggles. Mr Bunting witnessed the anxiety that tormented Mrs Bunting when “His wife, with a curious sighing moan, had slipped down on to the floor, taking with her the tablecloth as she went. She lay there in what appeared to be a dead faint.” (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 80) It felt almost unbearable for Mrs Bunting to live; she was terrified by the Avenger. That adds to the strangeness of the fact that she did not turn Mr Sleuth in.

„Now the person who knows the terrible secret is evidently withholding information in expectation of a reward, or maybe because, being an accessory after the fact, he or she is now afraid of the consequences“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 121). Mrs

Bunting refused to turn him in because she was a good, kind and honest woman. Maybe not wholly truthful towards the world, but towards her ideas. When she caught the first glimpses of Mr Sleuth possibly being the Avenger, she had already decided she would not betray him. Certainly, the fact that he lifted the Buntings from the poverty level helped, but that does not take away from Mrs Bunting. Neither when they had such a great friend like Joe from the police force nor when they met a high ranked police officer, she would break. Not only does it make Mrs Bunting a very likeable main character, but it represents the connection with the actual case of Jack the Ripper. It is doubtful that no one knew of the Ripper's actions, yet no one had ever said a word. It could also refer to the Jews, who openly refused to expose their own. That is before mentioning the consequences one would have to bear for associating with a serial killer. "Well, it is a horrible idea!" said his wife sullenly. "To go and sell a fellow-being for five hundred pounds." (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 90) Both killers had a hefty bounty, yet that did not persuade anyone to snitch.

Everyone, the "good" and the bloodthirsty people, regardless of their social status, wealth or nature, was interested in the murders even if it would cost their last money, as in the case of the Buntings. „With an eagerness which was mingled with shame, Bunting drew a penny out of his pocket and took a paper—it was the Evening Standard—from the boy's hand." (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 14) Society was thirsty for information, and Mr Bunting was the prime example. Even the opinionated Mrs Bunting could not resist the natural curiosity and eagerly listened to her husband reading or Joe telling his stories. Bloodthirsty is the perfect term for people who visited the inquests, crime scenes and followed daily information about the cases. The book is an excellent reflection of contemporary society, according to the research for this thesis.

7.5 The Female Victims

„And then, helplessly, Mrs. Bunting began to laugh. She laughed, and laughed, and laughed, rocking herself to and fro as if in an ecstasy of mirth.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 75) The case was nerve-wracking for women especially. Lowndes lets the reader take a look into a woman's mind in such a situation. It is a rollercoaster of emotions for Mrs Bunting, who was at first disgusted by the news, later went almost mad, and in the end, was interested in the case as it became a necessity. Men could hardly understand the fear women had to go through. When there was a chance to see

into Mr Bunting's mind when he reflected on it, he thought „it was natural that he should be thrilled and excited by the dreadful, extraordinary thing which had just happened close by. Ellen wasn't reasonable about such things.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 168) That summarises the men's point of view more than enough.

„We're right in the middle of everything now, ain't we?“ He spoke with evident enjoyment, almost pride, in the gruesome fact.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 177) What often seems to be omitted are the victims of the killers. It is not only the case in the examined series of murders but also in other crimes. And Lowndes noticed the phenomenon too. Although Mr Bunting and the London inhabitants were interested in the details, they almost forgot that the victims were real human beings. In the Whitechapel Murders, several victims had children. It was multiplied in the case of the Ripper, as contemporary society generally did not show much interest. Only the latter experts considered it a major issue. “Up to now she had given very little thought—if, indeed, any thought—to the drink-sodden victims of The Avenger. (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 207)” There is little known about the victims of the Avenger as they are significantly overlooked even by Mrs Bunting, such a considerate woman. It is only in the last third of the book that this thought is expressed.

„But, of course, they was drunk. He 'ave got a down on the drink“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 74). Both the cases are connected to alcohol, which played a significant role and was enjoyed by most of the victims. „You see, she'd been a good wife and a good mother till she took to the drink.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 197) Women who had drunk alcohol openly were frowned upon in the Victorian Era, and it was explicitly shown to them. They are also a more approachable target for the killers as they are easier to seduce.

7.6 The Police

The Lodger is greatly concerned with the work of the police in the case of Jack the Ripper and portrays it directly in the case of the Avenger. Everything that is mentioned in this chapter is transferable to the Whitechapel Murders. The connection with the police is provided by Joe Chandler, who is a representation of an actual police detective, not “like some of those detective chaps that are written about in stories—the sort of chaps that know everything, see everything, guess everything—even when there isn't anything to see, or know, or guess!“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, pp. 134-135). The book expresses that the police officers and the detectives working on the case of

Jack the Ripper were not superheroes or the Sherlock Holmeses that people read about in detective books, and perhaps that the hate they received was not deserved and quite disgraceful. In the hundreds of letters sent to the press and the police headquarters, everyone had supposedly the best idea of who Jack the Ripper was or the best plan on how to catch him, but most of the senders had, in fact, zero experience in field action.

Joe was at the heart of the Avenger case as he was put into action several times, even in disguise. Every time he comes to visit the Buntings, it can be noticed that he is more and more marked by the immense pressure of the outside world. People were hungry for information and did not give much thought to the police force members who clearly tried their best. The case made him hate his new job, for „the people round him had taken to taunt him with the remissness of the police.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 120) It is mentioned that he indeed wished he could quit the job for the time. That might have been a wish of every police officer, as the names they were called were not pleasant. Even Joe’s dearest friends made fun of him as if it was his fault that the killer had not been caught. And not only that, the friend proceeded to protest against the police.

„One of his pals, a man he’d always looked up to, because the young fellow had the gift of the gab, had actually been among those who had spoken at the big demonstration in Victoria Park, making a violent speech, not only against the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, but also against the Home Secretary.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 120). Riots were held in the Trafalgar Square in London in 1886 and 1887, preceding the Ripper murders. The riots were handled poorly by the police, according to the press. (Perry, 2001, p. 52) Lowndes shows a nice detail when she mentions similar riots preceding the murders. It shows the influence on society and makes the world of the Buntings and the Avenger real.

„You see, there are some queer fellows even— even—” (he lowered his voice, and looked round him as if the walls had ears)— “even in the Force, Mrs. Bunting, and these murders have fair got on our nerves.“ The tension went as far as that several police officers thought it was one of their own who committed the murders. That shows how serious the situation must have been for them. Furthermore, the horrid things the officers who were first to arrive at the crime scenes must have seen are unimaginable.

In both examined murder series, there was very little to work with. “No one person did see all that. The man who’s described here is just made up from the description of two different folk who *think* they saw him.” (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p.

88) The police did not have any other clues than the ones provided by the witnesses. However, the testimonies were often inaccurate and unreliable as the inquests were sometimes held even ten days after the murders happened. According to one of the police officers in the book, the inquests would be more valuable if they „could be held at once. Say, on the very day the discovery of a fresh murder is made.“ Moreover, as mentioned above, none of the witnesses caught either Jack the Ripper or the Avenger in action.

Therefore, „Unless he be caught red-handed in the act, it will be exceedingly difficult to trace the crime committed to any individual, for English law looks very askance at circumstantial evidence.” (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 121) For that reason, the number of patrols strolling around the city was multiplied in an attempt to increase the chances of catching the murderer. In the book, there were five thousand police officers in the streets.

However, there was one interesting contrast in the technology available to the police. „Wonderful, but also a very fearful thought for the poor wretches as has got their finger-prints in there, Joe.“ There is a fingerprint database which can be seen when Joe Chandler takes Daisy and Mr Bunting to visit the Black Museum in Scotland Yard. Although the records seem yet limited, it is an advantage compared to the real-life police. Fingerprints technology was first used to catch a criminal at the very beginning of the 20th century. Therefore, the book is either situated more than ten years after the Whitechapel Murders, or the appearance is a historical mistake, which is unlikely.

7.7 The Press

Lowndes gives an essential role to the press in her novel. The book is flooded with reports from the news. And as a journalist, she could give her valuable opinion on the produced reports. According to Warkentin (2015, p. xxiv), Lowndes was passionately interested in criminality and crime news. She proves so by constructing her own story about the infamous killer, where the descriptions of the journalistic practice correspond with every aspect of the model.

The inspiration from the Ripper-concerned articles from contemporary journals could be further proved in several ways. For instance, Lowndes used real-life newspapers headlines twice (Warkentin, 2015, p. xxvi) and made her characters develop the ideas. The first one went: “BLOODHOUNDS TO BE SERIOUSLY

CONSIDERED“. However, the argument about using trained dogs was swept off the table by Joe Chandler, who said: “Bloodhounds ain’t no use,” he said; “no use at all!“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 120) because of the butcher shops and all the other smells of the city. The second title was: „PARDON TO ACCOMPLICES“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 121). This was a fantastic idea provided by the press, which Lowndes apparently felt was key to uncovering the case. It supposed that there was someone who had met the killer and perhaps kept him hidden. However, they would not turn him in, for they were scared of the consequences of helping a serial killer. Therefore, it was suggested that the police would pardon the accomplices if they uncovered the murderer’s identity.

Most people did not have an acquaintance in the police force. Therefore the news was the only source of information for them. Thus, the journalists reported on everything. Every insignificant statement, letter or inquest was included in the articles among the vital information and reports. “It’s a special early edition of the Sun, just because of The Avenger.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 163). The journals published special attachments or editions covering the fresh pieces of information to deliver it as soon as possible.

Even when the journalists fell short of new factual information, they must have kept publishing. „But in spite of all the supposed and suggested clues, there was nothing—nothing at all new to read, less, in fact, than ever before.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 174) The papers presented theories and „clues“ to keep the reader’s attention. However, this only seems like an attempt to release another sensation that would sell more copies. This phenomenon can be seen in almost every case, not only in the past but also today.

Such high interest in both murderers was caused by the sensationalisation of their respective cases. The newspapers presented the murders as something exciting and thrilling. „Bunting had read out little bits about it while they ate their breakfast, and in spite of herself Mrs. Bunting had felt thrilled and excited.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 44) It almost feels as if the murderers were some heroes in their story, which is terrifying considering that they took away actual people’s lives.

Another activity run by the newspapers to repel idleness was slandering the police. „Even the more sober organs of the Press went on attacking, with gathering severity and indignation, the Commissioner of Police.,, (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 114). They called the detectives amateurs who focused their attention on wrong impulses and even

harsher names. The press strictly forced demands on the police when they wanted them to go house by house and investigate everyone. However, that would stain the reputation of the police, and when they refused, the press proceeded to scold them. The journalists went so far that they made the Commissioner of Police resign. This is an excellent representation of reality as there have been several changes in the leading positions of the police. In the book, Joe Chandler stood up for the Commissioner: „He done his best, and so’s we all. The public have just gone daft—in the West End, that is, to-day. As for the papers, well, they’re something cruel—that’s what they are. And the ridiculous ideas they print!“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 177)

It needs to be taken into account that the interaction was not always harmful. When required, the press was a great helping hand in spreading information. The news was spreading fast thanks to being sometimes released even the night the police handed the piece of information. Among such information were the descriptions of the murderer and the weapon or any clues that could help resolve the case. „But we have reason to believe that they possess several really important clues, and that one of them is concerned with the half-worn rubber sole of which we are the first to reproduce an outline to-day.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 257)

Furthermore, the newspapers in the book hired, as they called him, a Special Investigator. This investigator was a retired member of the police who was supposed to examine the crime scenes and the investigation process and pinpoint little details that the detectives missed. „You read what he says—I shouldn’t be a bit surprised if he ends by getting that reward! One can see he just loves the work of tracking people down.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 183) This feature could help solve such cases as there is always a tiny thread that the investigator would miss.

The press held power not only in the matters of the police work but also against the society. „Londoners are now in such a state of nerves—if I may use the expression, in such a state of funk—that every passer-by, however innocent, is looked at with suspicion by his neighbour if his avocation happens to take him abroad between the hours of one and three in the morning.“ (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 178) In this article the newspapers make the suspicion grow more extensive in the inhabitants of London and suspect each other. Such reading makes people even more uneasy in the hard times they had already been living through as they had to be careful even around their neighbours. Even the witnesses were in fear of speaking out because the press would immediately swerve them and complicate their lives.

One of the keys to the sales of newspapers were the boys who ran around shouting the headlines of fresh news and selling the papers. “But the boy, scarcely stopping to take breath, shook his head. “Only penny papers left,” he gasped. “What’ll yer ’ave, sir?” (Belloc Lowndes, 2014, p. 14) Once a new sensation was released, they could not catch a break.

8 Conclusion

The case of Jack the Ripper will most likely remain unsolved for eternity, but that only adds to its attractiveness. There still seems to be enough to be found of the case to this day and perhaps someone will make the great leap and uncover the true identity of the world-famous murderer.

It is proven that the press played a significant role in the case and *The Lodger* is a testimony to this fact. The power held by the media should not be overlooked as it sometimes is, because it can shape any case for the possible future investigator like the Ripperologists. While it is true that the journalists often tend to sensationalise the news in order to sell as much as possible, it still remains the primary source of any current happenings.

When it comes to the work of the police officers, it is a shame they were slandered by the press to such extends. As *The Lodger* proves, the police force members were a group of capable men, but catching such criminal was almost impossible in their time. Luckily, it is now a known fact now and the police is rather sympathized with.

Although her work is not quite praised enough, Marie Belloc Lowndes met the aim of portraying the Ripper case in a fresh way with keeping the important determinants, although they could at the first sight seem minor. As a renowned journalist of her time, she presented not only an excellent illustration of the press, but also a unique perspective of a woman who was present in the times of the Whitechapel Murders. The thick atmosphere of the gloomy city of London reflected in the book closely mirrors the reality and enables readers to feel the fear rooted in the contemporary inhabitants.

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Figure 3

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