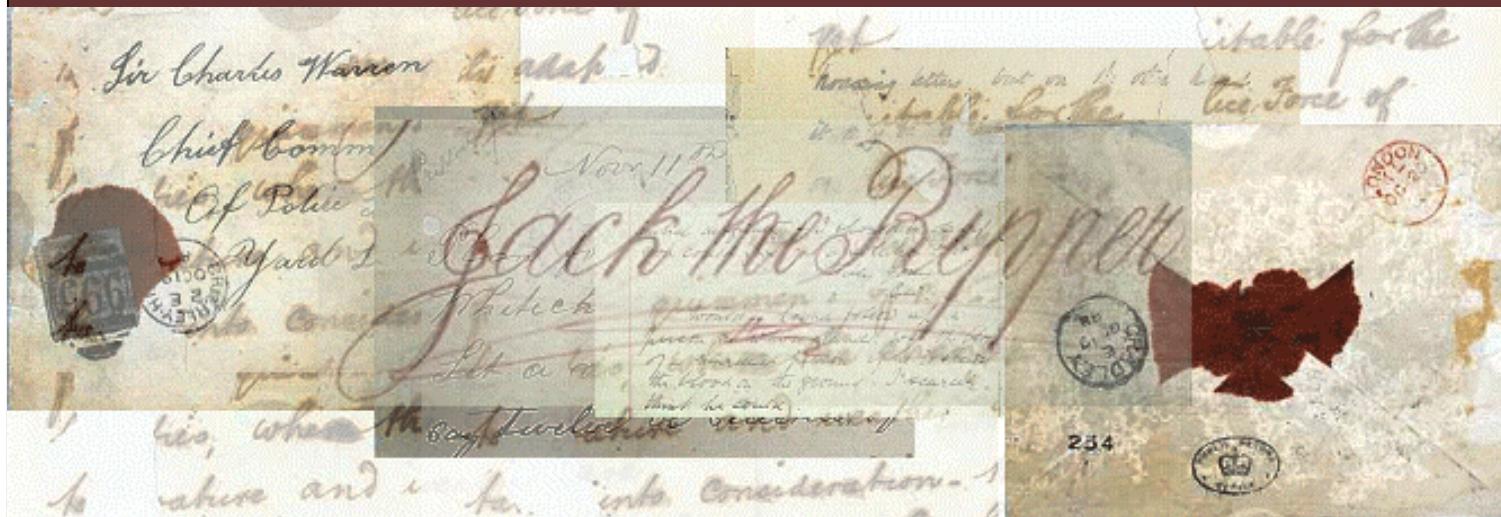


# Learning Curve Education Service Workshops

# Key Stage 4

# Jack the Ripper



# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Teachers notes                               | 2  |
| Documents 1 to 6: Police letters             | 5  |
| Worksheet for Police letters                 | 17 |
| Documents 7 to 12: 'Jack the Ripper' letters | 19 |
| Worksheet for 'Jack the Ripper' letters      | 31 |

# Teacher's notes

## Aims of the workshop

This videoconference workshop is designed for those taking the Edexcel GCSE coursework option on Jack the Ripper. Through a study of original correspondence taken from the Metropolitan Police Letter Books and the Jack the Ripper letters held here at the National Archives, students will investigate why the police were unable to catch the murderer.

They will research the different methods employed by the police in their efforts to apprehend Jack the Ripper, as well as those suggested by members of the public, to question whether or not they were to blame for not bringing him (or her!) to justice.

The Jack the Ripper letters will also be examined to understand the impact they had on the police investigation of the case, and what they reveal about society's attitudes to the murders.

In addition to this, students will examine original census returns from 1881 to build up a picture of Whitechapel at the time of the murders and consider how this evidence can also help us to understand the difficulties faced by police in their investigations into the case.

## Who's who

Sir Charles Warren: Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police until November 1888

Sir James Munro: Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police from November 1888

Sir James Fraser: Commissioner of the City of London Police

Henry Matthews: Secretary of State for the Home Office (Home Secretary)

Percy Lindley: a breeder of bloodhounds from Loughton, Essex

Thomas Blair: a member of the public from Gribton, Dumfries

## Documents

### Document 1: reference MEPO 1/55 (p.321 – 323)

Police letter, undated. From an unknown person to Henry Matthews, the Secretary of State, reporting on trials of police boots

### Document 2: reference MEPO 1/48

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Sir James Fraser, suggesting that the two police forces should be in closer communication

### Document 3: reference MEPO 1/48

Police letter, 1888. From Charles Warren to Percy Lindley on the subject of bloodhounds

### Document 4: reference MEPO 1/55

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Henry Matthews at the Home Office, regarding the offer of a pardon to any accomplices that the Ripper may have

### Document 5: reference HO 144/221 A49301C (p.204 – 205)

Police letter, 11 Nov 1888. From Thomas Gribton suggesting that policemen should dress up as women

### Document 6: reference MEPO 2/227

Police letter, 11 September 1889. From James Munro to Henry Matthews, requesting further police officers in the Whitechapel area

**Document 7: reference MEPO 3/142 (4 – 5)**

‘Jack’ letter, 24 Sept 1888. ‘Dear Sir I do wish to give myself up ...’

**Document 8: reference MEPO 3/142 (195)**

‘Jack’ letter, 4 Oct 1888. ‘Spring Heel Jack The Whitechapel Murderer’

**Document 9: reference MEPO 3/142 (160)**

‘Jack’ letter, 8 Oct 1888. ‘I am ... amongst the slogging town of Brum ...’

**Document 10: reference MEPO 3/142 (252 – 254)**

‘Jack’ letter, 19 Oct 1888. ‘Dear boss iff you are the boss ...’

**Document 11: reference MEPO 3/3157**

‘Jack’ letter, 29 Oct 1888. Sent to Dr Openshaw, ‘Old boss you was rite ...’

**Document 12: reference MEPO 3/142 (272)**

‘Jack’ letter, 17 Oct 1889. ‘Dear Sir I shall be in Whitechapel on the 20th...’

## Resources

- Worksheet for use with Police letters
- Worksheet for use with ‘Jack the Ripper’ letters

## Activity

This must be completed before the videoconference.

Divide the students into six groups. Give each group one of the Metropolitan Police letters (documents 1 – 6) plus a worksheet, and one of the ‘Jack the Ripper’ letters (documents 7 – 12) plus a worksheet. Allow them time before the videoconference to study their documents and to complete the accompanying worksheets, either in class or as a homework activity. If the students have any questions, they can save them to ask the Education Officer during the videoconference.

## The workshop

The workshop will begin with a discussion based on the preparation materials taken from the Metropolitan Police Office Letter Books. Students will be asked to share the result of their research into police methods and to draw some conclusions about the advantages and disadvantages of these methods to catch the murderer.

We then go on to examine an 1881 census return for Albert Square in Whitechapel and use this to consider some of the problems the police faced when investigating these murders, particularly the difficulties arising from the area in which they took place.

As a final activity, we consider the Jack the Ripper letters. Students will be asked to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the decision taken by the police to publish the ‘Dear Boss’ letter. We will then go on to consider how reliable the letters are, as a source for helping us to identify Jack the Ripper, and why they might also have made it so difficult for the police to apprehend the killer.

To conclude the workshop, students will be encouraged to discuss and draw conclusions based on the original evidence they have studied, as to what extent the police were to blame for not apprehending Jack the Ripper.

## Knowledge, skills and understanding

Students taking part in this workshop will develop their knowledge, skills and understanding by:

- Studying key events, people and issues in the period appropriate to their course of study
- Studying key features and characteristics of the period and, where appropriate, the social and ethnic diversity of, and the experiences of men and women in, the society studied
- Studying history through a range of sources of information, such as written and visual sources, including the use of ICT
- Using historical sources critically in their context, recording significant information and reaching conclusions
- Debating with the Education Officer leading the workshop, and amongst themselves to organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of the subject in question
- Drawing conclusions and appreciating that historical judgements are liable to reassessment in the light of new or reinterpreted evidence

## Examination board specification

- Edexcel GCSE History A (Modern World and European) Section C  
[www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/120455.pdf](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/120455.pdf)

## Useful links

- Information and activities on the origins of the Metropolitan Police:  
[www.learningcurve.gov.uk/candp/prevention/q08/default.htm](http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/candp/prevention/q08/default.htm)
- Images of a selection of 'Jack the Ripper' letters:  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item\\_id=39](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=39)
- Book a workshop  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/educationserviceform.asp?id=7&action=1](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/educationserviceform.asp?id=7&action=1)
- Find out more about workshops  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/educationservice/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/educationservice/)

## Document 1: reference MEPO 1/55 (p.321 – 322)

Police letter. Undated. From an unknown person to Henry Matthews, the Secretary of State, reporting on trials of police boots

During the past twelve months Sir Charles Warren has had trials made of several pairs of boots with waterproof or silk linings. None have been found suitable for the life zone of the constable. It is adapt to quaternary of London, where the changes of temperature and weather are taken into consideration. Though in many instances they have been found very suitable in particular cases.

The Constable has to walk duty for 8 hours, and the greatest caution is required in making

making changes in his boots, as upon these his efficiency so much depends.

Two important complaints against the noiseless boots are, that the wearer is very much more fatigued than when ordinary boots are worn, & that the feet are drawn & maddened.

Many very strong reasons have been sent to the Commissioners by the public in favor of the retention by Police on their beats of boots which are not silent.

## Document 1 transcript: reference MEPO 1/ 55 (p.321 – 322)

Police letter. Undated. From an unknown person to Henry Matthews, the Secretary of State, reporting on trials of police boots

During the past twelve months Sir Charles Warren has had trials made of several varieties of boots with [text missing] waterproof or silent [text missing] none have [text missing] suitable for the [text missing] police force of [text missing] adapted [text missing] when the changes of [text missing] and weather are taken into consideration though in [text missing] instances they have been found very suitable in particular cases.

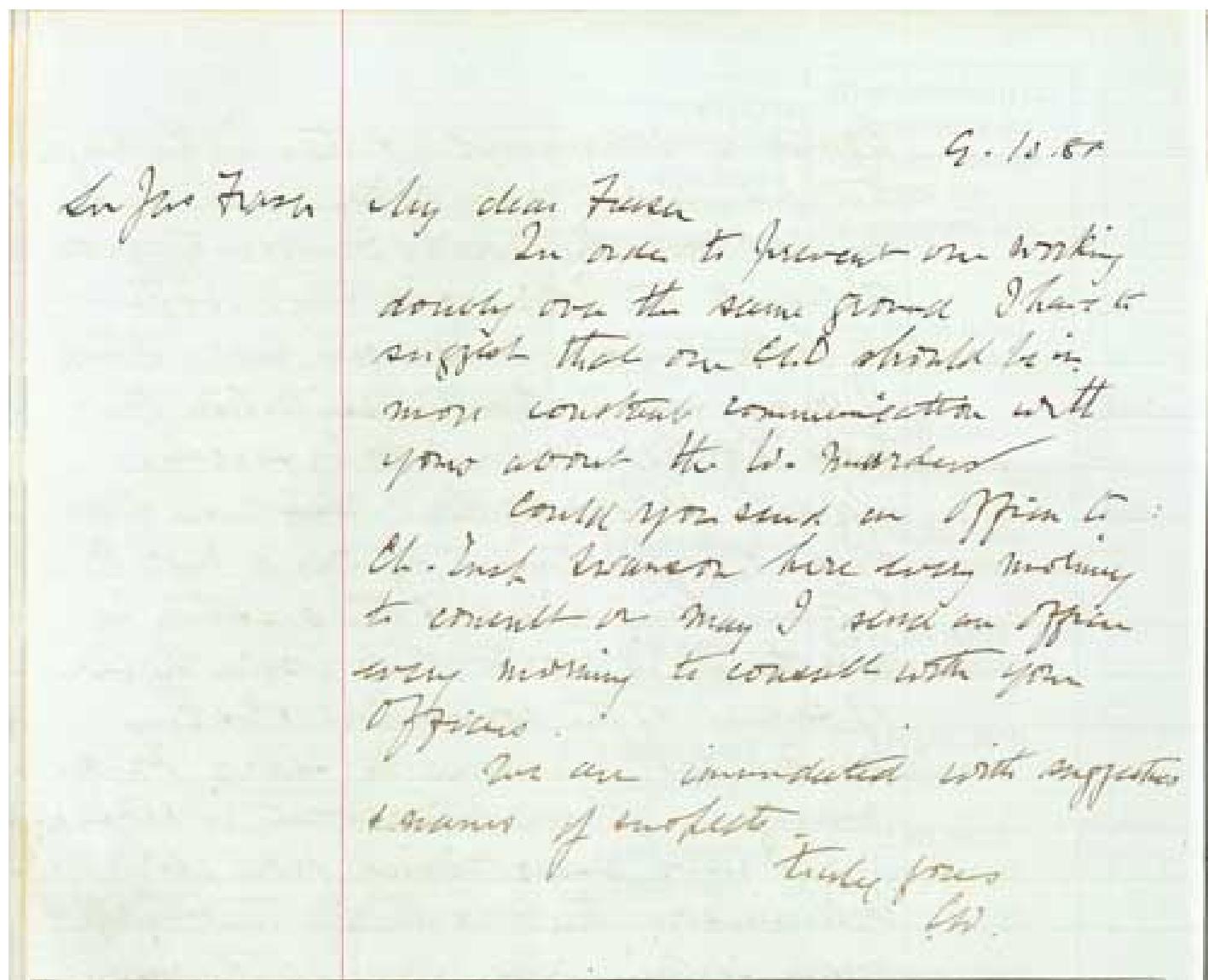
The constable has to walk daily for 8 hours and the greatest caution is required in making changes in his boots, as upon these his efficiency so much depends.

Two important complaints against the noiseless boots are that the wearer is very much more fatigued than when ordinary boots are worn, and that the feet are 'drawn' and made sore.

Many very strong reasons have been sent to the Commissioner by the public in favour of the retention by Police on their beats of boots which are not silent.

## Document 2: reference MEPO 1/48

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Sir James Fraser, suggesting that the two police forces should be in closer communication



## Document 2 transcript: reference MEPO 1/48

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Sir James Fraser, suggesting that the two police forces should be in closer communication

9.10.88

Sir J Fraser

My dear Fraser,

In order to prevent our working doubly over the same ground I have to suggest that our CID should be in more constant communication with yours about the W[hitechapel] murders.

Could you send an officer to Ch[ief] Insp[ector] Swanson here every morning to consult or may I send an officer every morning to consult with your officers.

We are inundated with suggestions and names of suspects.

Truly Yours,

C.W. [Charles Warren]

### Document 3: reference MEPO 1/48

Police letter, 1888. From Charles Warren to Percy Lindley on the subject of bloodhounds

Percy Lindley Esq.  
Folk Hill  
Loughton

Sir,  
I have seen your letter in the Times  
on subject of Bloodhounds & perhaps  
you could answer a question I have  
put to many without satisfactory  
reply.

Supposing a hound to be brought  
up at once to a corpse after a murder  
how is he to know what are the  
tracks or which is the scent of the  
murderer or how is he to know that  
you want the particular track traced.

If the murderer left a portion of  
his clothing behind & some of his  
blood I can understand a dog  
following up or if you could show  
him a particular spot where he  
had been standing over, but on a  
London pavement where people have  
been walking all the evening there  
may be scores of scents alighted as  
soon as those of the murderer.

This seems to me to be the

initial difficulty & I should be glad if  
you could give me a solution to it.  
Truly yours  
C.W.

Would a hound follow up a  
person on whose hands was the blood  
of a murdered person if he is sheer  
the blood on the ground? I scarcely  
think he could.

### Document 3 transcript: reference MEPO 1/ 48

Police letter, 1888. From Charles Warren to Percy Lindley on the subject of bloodhounds

Percy Lindley

York Hill

Loughton

Sir,

I have seen your letter in the Times on subject of bloodhounds and perhaps you could answer a question I have put to many without satisfactory reply.

Supposing a hound to be brought up at once to a corpse after a murder how is he to know what are the tracks or which is the scent of the murderer or how is he to know that you want the particular track tracked.

If the murderer left a portion of his clothing behind and some of his blood I can understand a dog following up or if you could show him a particular spot where he had been standing even but on a London pavement where people have been walking all the evening there may be scores of scents almost as keen as those of the murderer.

This seems to me to be the initial difficulty and I should be glad if you could give me a solution to it.

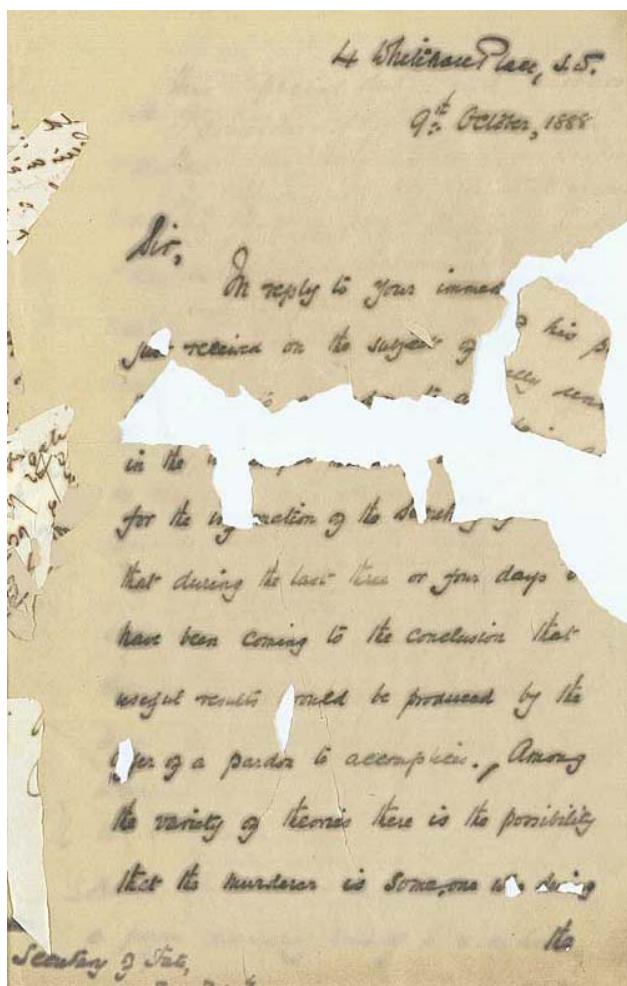
Truly yours,

C.W. [Charles Warren]

Would a hound follow up a person on whose hands was the blood of a murdered person if he is shown the blood on the ground. I scarcely think he could.

## Document 4: reference MEPO 1/ 55

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Henry Matthews, regarding the offer of a pardon to any accomplices that the Ripper may have



The day-time is sane, but who at certain  
periods is unbalanced in his mind;  
and I think it possible in that case  
that his relatives or neighbours may possibly  
be aware of his eccentricities  
have given him unwittingly  
the opportunity  
be induced any to obtain  
pardon.

On the other hand if it is the  
work of a gang in which only one acting  
Commit the murder, the free pardon may  
make the difference of information being  
obtained.

As a striking commentary on this  
matter there today received a letter from  
a person answering himself to be an accomplice  
of the

and asking for a free pardon; and  
an convincing a communication with  
him through an advertisement in a  
journal. This letter is probably a  
hoax, for we have received scores of  
threatening letters, but on the other hand  
it may be a bona fide letter, and if  
so I feel  
wishes to the discovery of the murderer  
possibly by offering to give the pardon; and  
desires so what can be done  
is this so far from me by offering a  
pardon.

I am, Sir,  
Yours most Obedient Servt.  
a person answering Charles Warren

## Document 4 transcript: reference MEPO 1/ 55

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Henry Matthews, regarding the offer of a pardon to any accomplices that the Ripper may have

4 Whitehall Place S.W.  
9<sup>th</sup> October 1888

Sir,

In reply to your immediate [text missing] just received on the subject of [text missing] for the information of the Secretary of State that during the last three or four days I have been coming to the conclusion that useful results would be produced by the offer of a pardon to accomplices. Among the variety of theories there is the possibility that the murderer is someone who during the daytime is sane, but who at certain periods is overtaken in his mind; and I think it possible in that case that his relatives or neighbours may possibly be aware of his peculiarities and may have gradually unwittingly slid into [the roles of accomplices].

On the other hand if it is the work of a gang in which only one actually commits the murder, the free pardon to the accomplice may make the difference of information being obtained.

As a striking commentary on this matter I have today received a letter from a person asserting himself to be an accomplice and asking for a free pardon; and I am commencing a communication with him through an advertisement in a journal. This letter is probably a hoax, for we have received scores of hoaxing letters, but on the other hand it may be a bona fide letter and if [text missing] would be to the discovery of the murderer by omitting to offer the pardon; and I cannot see what harm can be done in this or any further case by offering a pardon.

I am,

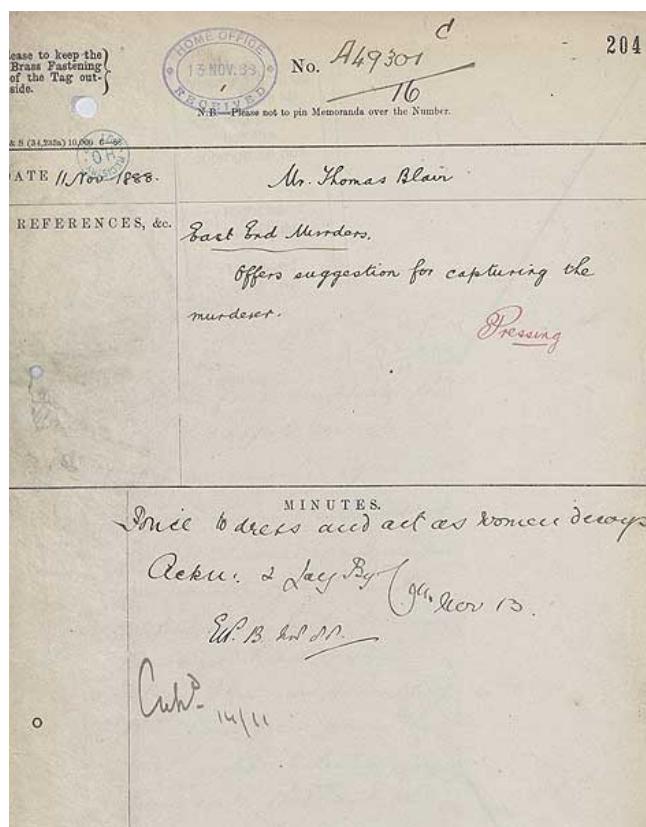
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Charles Warren

## Document 5: reference HO 144/221

Police letter, 11 Nov 1888. From Thomas Gribton suggesting that policemen should dress up as women



Putting  
Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 88 A 49301 C  
13 NOV 88 10  
HOME OFFICE  
RECEIVED  
204  
N.B. Please not to pin Memoranda over the Number.  
Date 11 Nov 1888. Mr. Thomas Blair  
REFERENCES, &c.  
Bart End Murders.  
Offers suggestion for capturing the  
murderer.  
Pressing  
MINUTES.  
Men to dress and act as women always  
Reku. & Day By (get. Nov 13.  
W.B. Blair  
C.W. 11/11

and distribute them over  
the district haunted by the  
murderer.

Note, The men would require  
to be fair actors, and behave  
in the natural manner of  
women of that class, further  
they would require to be  
shadowed by helps, in an  
unobtrusive way, and the  
whole scheme would require  
to be kept absolutely secret,  
for once let the forces get  
a hint of it, and farewell

to any chance of success.  
This plan is based  
on the theory that the  
murderer solicits intercourse,  
and that the woman  
accompanies him to a quiet  
spot, where the crime is  
committed, while in the act.  
So that men who undertook  
the duty of capturing him  
would require to have all  
their wits about them.  
Thos. Blair  
Gribton  
Dumfries  
W.B.

## Document 5 transcript: reference HO 144/221

Police letter, 11 Nov 1888. From Thomas Gribton suggesting that policemen should dress up as women

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Date 11 Nov 1888 | Mr Thomas Blair   |
| References, &c   | <u>East End Murders</u><br>Offers suggestion for capturing the murderer.<br><u>Pressing</u>               |
|                  | MINUTES<br>Police to dress and act as women decoys.<br>Ackn[owledge] and Lay by C[harles] [Warren] Nov 13 |

Pressing

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 88

Plan for entrapping the Whitechapel Murderer. Let a number of men – say twelve be selected, of short stature, and as far as possible of effeminate appearance, but of known courage and tried nerve.

dress them as females of the class from whom the victims are selected, arm them with the best and lightest weapons and distribute them over the district haunted by the murderer.

---

Note. The men would require to be fair actors, and behave in the natural manner of women of that class, further they would require to be shadowed by help, in an unobtrusive way, and the whole scheme would require to be kept absolutely secret, for once let the press get a hint of it, and farewell to any chance of success.

This plan is baised [sic] on the theory that the murderer solicits intercourse and that the woman accompanies him to a quiet spot, where the crime is committed, while in the act. So that men who undertook the duty of capturing him would require to have all their wits about them

Thomas Blair

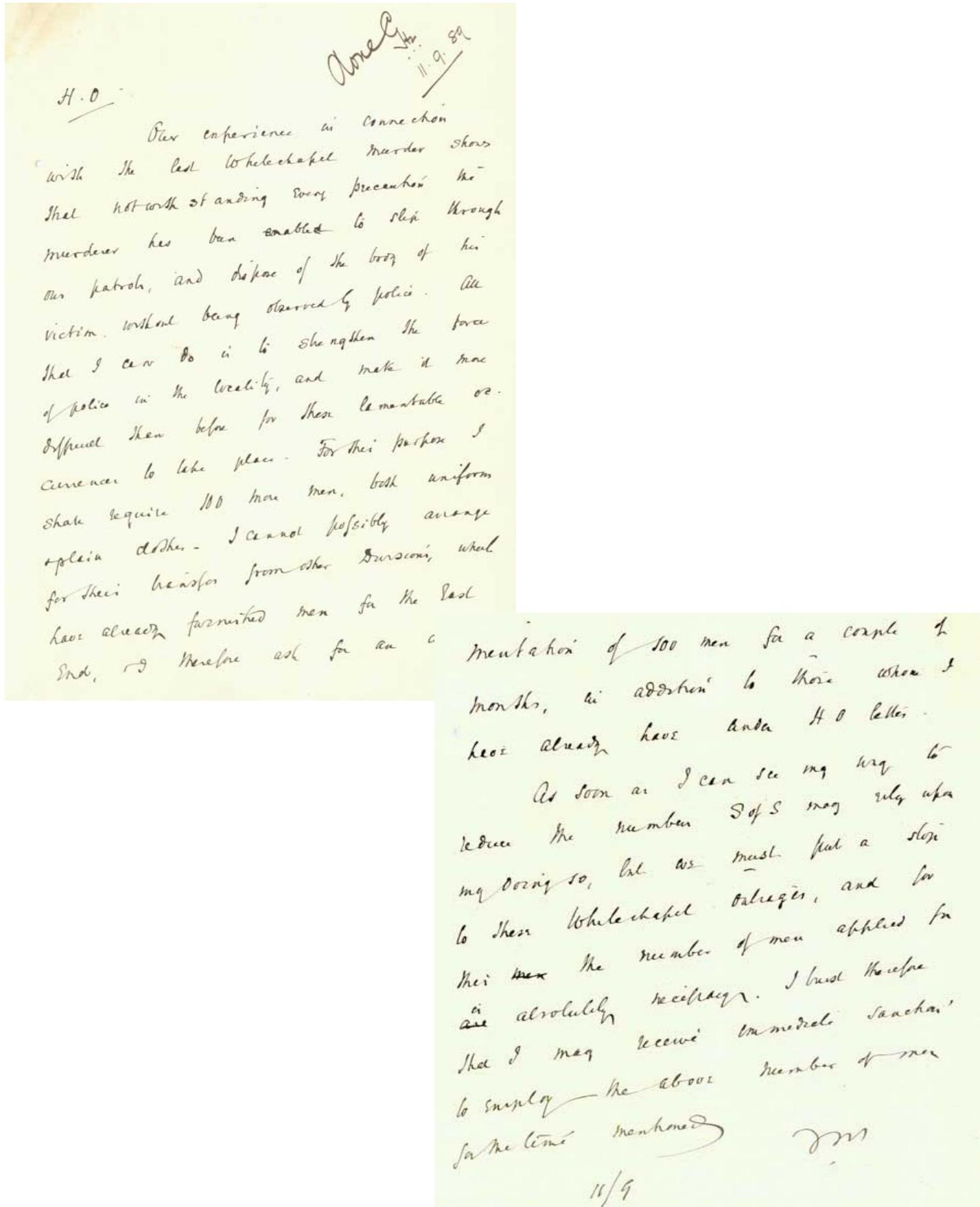
Gribton

Dumfries

---

## Document 6: reference MEPO 2/227

Police letter, 11 September 1889. From James Munro to Henry Matthews, requesting further police officers in the Whitechapel area



## Document 6 transcript: reference MEPO 2/227

Police letter, 11 September 1889. From James Munro to Henry Matthews, requesting further police officers in the Whitechapel area

11. 9. 89

Done G

H.O.

Our experience in connection with the last Whitechapel Murder shows that notwithstanding every precaution the murderer has been enabled to slip through our patrols, and dispose of the body of his victim without being observed by police. All that I can do is to strengthen the force of police in the locality, and make it more difficult than before for these lamentable occurrences to take place. For this purpose I shall require 100 more men, both uniform and plain clothes. I cannot possibly arrange for their transfer from other Divisions, which have already furnished men for the East End, and I therefore ask for an augmentation of 100 men for a couple of months, in addition to those whom I here already have under HO letter.

As soon as I can see my way to reduce the number S[ecretary] of S[tate] may rely upon my doing so, but we must put a stop to these Whitechapel Outrages, and for this the number of men applied for is absolutely necessary. I trust therefore that I may receive immediate sanction to supply the above number of men for the time mentioned.

JM

11/9

# Worksheet for Police letters

It is December 1888. The Metropolitan Police and the City Police still have no clue as to the identity of Jack the Ripper.

As part of a Home Office investigation into the way in which the police have been handling the case, you have been asked by the Secretary of State to study a selection of police records. It is your job to decide whether the police are to *blame* for not yet apprehending the murderer.

When drawing your conclusions, consider how the police have sought to discover the murderer and the way in which they have used and handled any possible evidence. Also consider how reliable and useful these sources really are in providing information about police methods.

## 1. Document analysis

|   |  |
|---|--|
| What method for trying to catch the murderer is suggested here?   |  |
| What does it say in the document about the advantages of this method?   |  |
| What does it say in the document about the disadvantages of this method?  |  |
| What is your judgement on the usefulness of this method as a way of catching the murderer?<br><br>Explain your answer |  |

## 2. Usefulness and reliability

Now you need to consider the usefulness and reliability of this document as a piece of evidence in deciding whether or not the police were to blame for not catching the murderer.

There are five points you always need to think about when examining a document in this way – do this for your document in the table below.

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Who wrote it? <i>Get your teacher to show you the who's who section in the preparation pack for help, or search the internet for more information about them</i> |                                  |
| When did they write it?<br><i>Is this close in date to the events the document describes?</i>  |                                  |
| Where was it written   |                                  |
| Why was it written   |                                  |
| What does it tell us   | You've covered this in number 1! |

## 3. Judgement time!

Finally, summarise your thoughts about the usefulness and reliability of the documents.

- As a historian, do you think these are useful sources for evidence of police methods in the late 1880's? Explain why. (you may need to use a separate sheet for this)
- What do you think are their strengths and weaknesses as sources for understanding the effectiveness of police methods at this time?

| STRENGTHS | WEAKNESSES |
|-----------|------------|
|           |            |
|           |            |
|           |            |
|           |            |

## 4. Conclusions

Chose the statement you most agree with:

We believe that the police

- are to blame
- are not to blame
- are partly to blame

for not apprehending Jack the Ripper.

The evidence to support our argument is (continue on a separate sheet and remember to use the sources as evidence, and bring in your own knowledge at this point)

## Document 7: reference MEPO 3/142 (p.4 – 5)

'Jack' letter, 24 Sept 1888. 'Dear Sir I do wish to give myself up ...'



Dear sir  
I do wish to give myself up  
I am in misery with nightmare  
I am the man who committed  
all these murders in the last  
six months my name is [REDACTED]  
I am a [REDACTED] and work at  
[REDACTED] I  
have found the woman I wanted  
that is Chapman and I done what  
I called slautered her but if  
any one comes I will surrender but I  
am not going to walk to the station  
by myself so I am yours truly [REDACTED]

keep the Boro road clear  
or I might take a  
trip up there  
photos  
[REDACTED]  
of knife  
this is the knife that  
I done these murders  
with it is a small  
handle with a large long  
blade sharpe both sides



## Document 7 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142 (p. 4 – 5)

'Jack' letter, 24 Sept 1888. 'Dear Sir I do wish to give myself up ...'

On Her Majesterys [sic] service

Sir Charles Warren

Commissioner of Police

Scotland Yard

[Postmarked] London SE 12 SP 24 1888

Sept 24 1888

Dear Sir

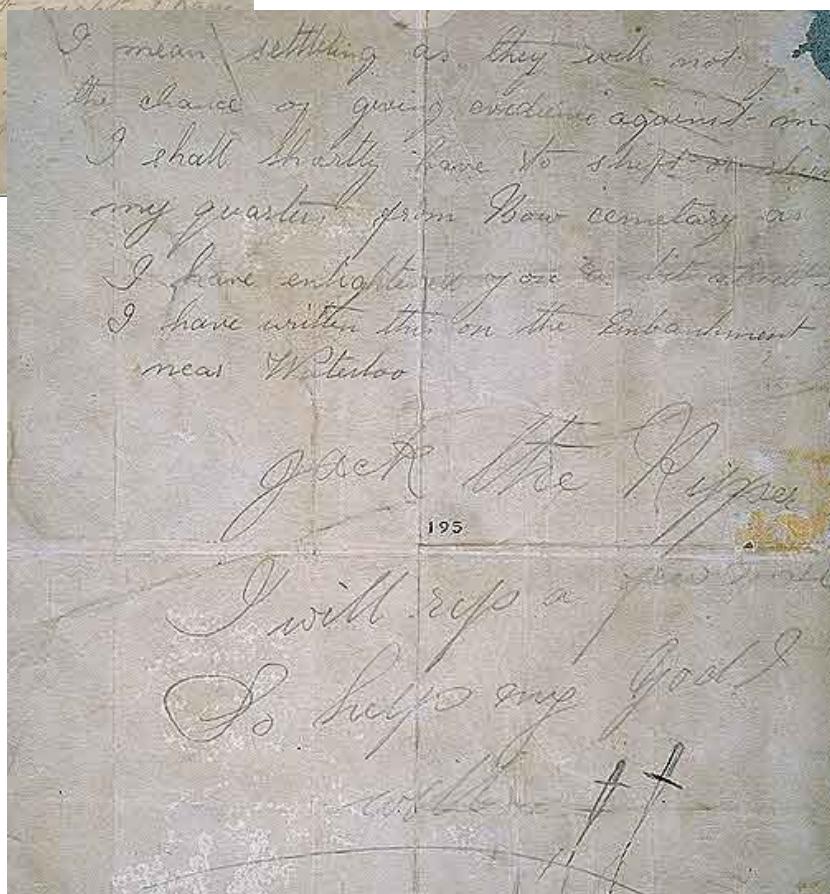
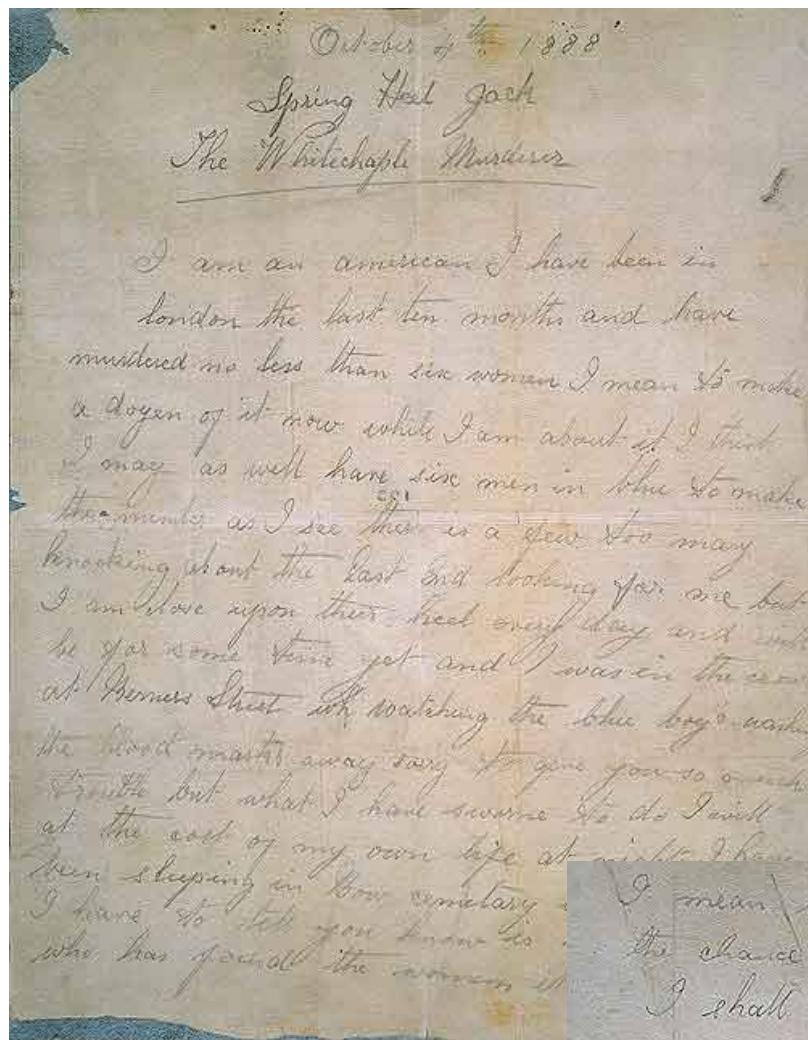
I do wish to give myself up I am in misery with nightmare I am the man who committed all these murders in the last six months my name is [silhouette of coffin] so and so I am a horse slaterer [sic] and work at name [blocked out] address [blocked out] I have found the woman I wanted that is Chapman and I done what I called slaughtered [sic] her but if any one comes I will surrender but I am not going to walk to the station by myself so I am yours truly [silhouette of coffin]

Keep the Boro road clear or I might take a trip up there photo of knife[silhouette of knife]

This is the knife that I done these murders with it is small handle with a large long blade sharpe both sides

## Document 8: reference MEPO 3/142

'Jack' letter, 4 Oct 1888. 'Spring Heel Jack The Whitechapel Murderer'



## Document 8 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142 p.195

'Jack' letter, 4 Oct 1888. 'Spring Heel Jack The Whitechapel Murderer'

October 4 1888

Spring Heel Jack

The Whitechapel Murderer

I am an American I have been in London the last ten months and have murdered no less than six women I mean to make a dozen of it now while I am about it I think I may as well have six men in blue to make the number as I see there is a few too many knocking about the east End looking for me but I am close upon their heel every day and will be for some time yet and I was in the crowd at Berners Street watching the blue boys wash the blood marks away sorry to give you so much trouble but what I have sworne to do I will at the cost of my own life at nights I have been sleeping in Bow cemetary one thing I have to tell you know is the policemen who has found the women it is those I mean settleing[sic] as they will not g[et] the chance of giving evidence against me I shall shortly have to shift or [illegible] my quarters from Bow cemetary as I have enlightened you a bit about I have written this on the Embankment near Waterloo.

Jack the Ripper

I will rip a few more

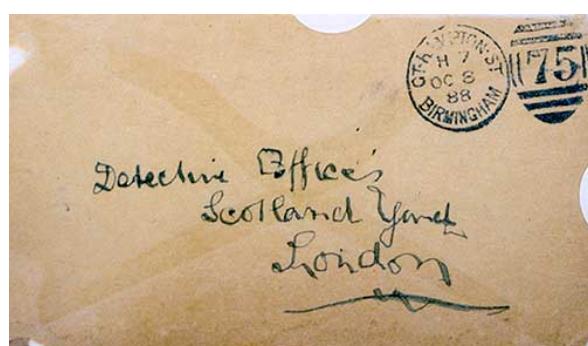
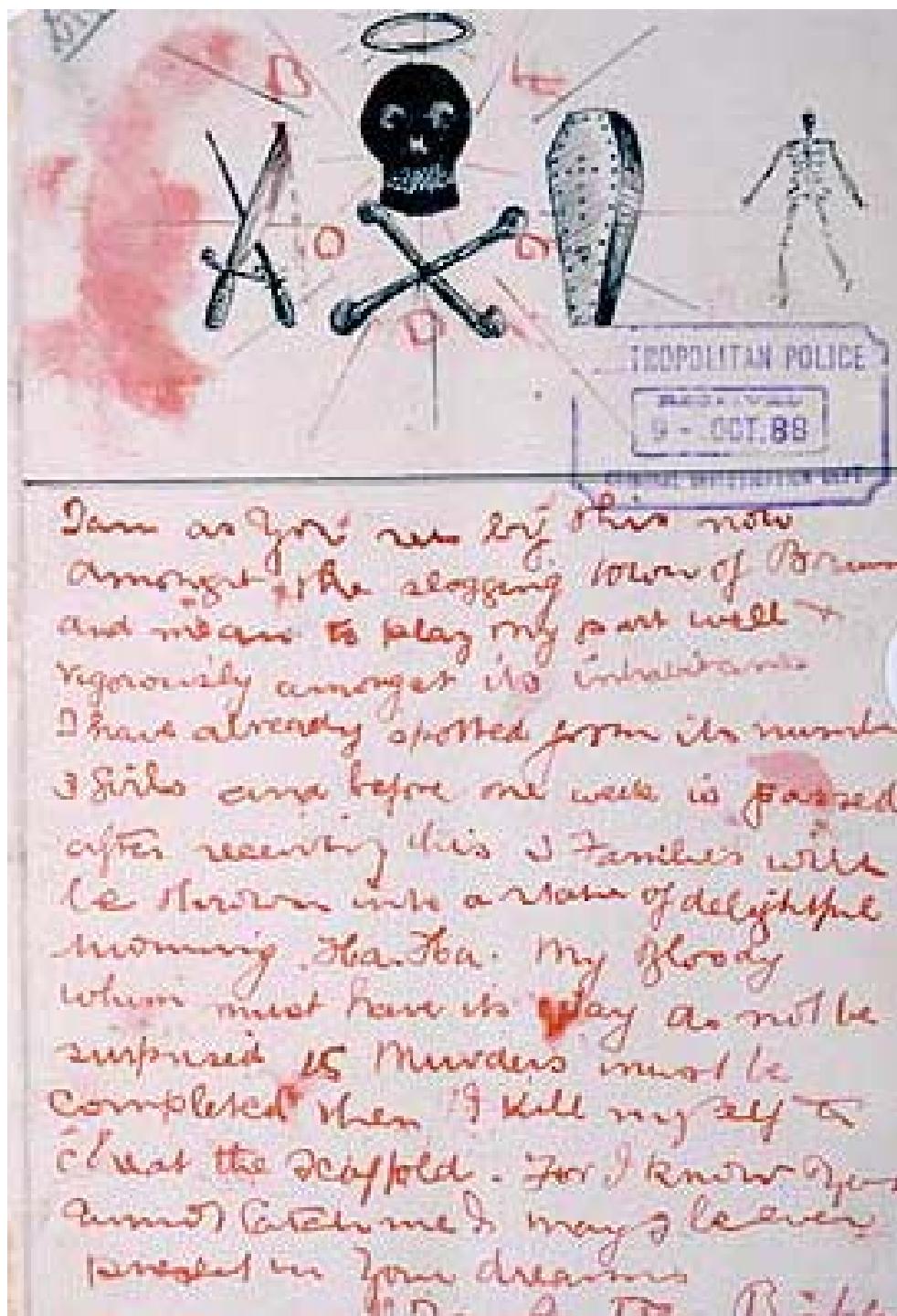
So help my God I

Will

[Image of two knives with blood dripping from them]

## Document 9: reference MEPO 3/142

'Jack' letter, 8 Oct 1888. 'I am ... amongst the slogging town of Brum ...'



## Document 9 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142, p.160

'Jack' letter, 8 Oct 1888. 'I am ... amongst the slogging town of Brum ...'

Detective Offices

Scotland Yard

London

[Postmarked 8 October 1888 Birmingham]

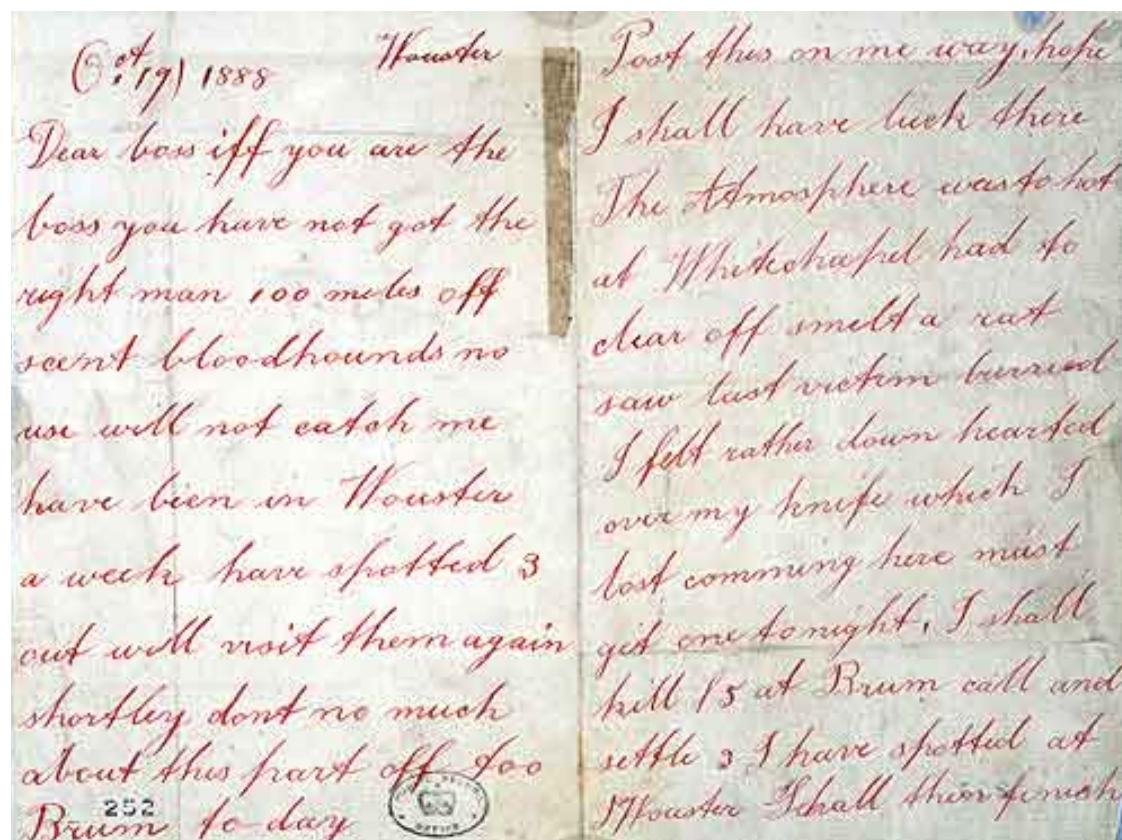
[Images and the letters B L O O D at the top]

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

Jack the Ripper

## Document 10: reference MEPO 3/142

'Jack' letter, 19 Oct 1888 sent to Charles Warren. 'Dear boss iff you are the boss ...'



## Document 10 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142 p. 252

'Jack' letter, 19 Oct 1888 sent to Charles Warren. 'Dear boss iff you are the boss ...'

October 19 1888

Wouster

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

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

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

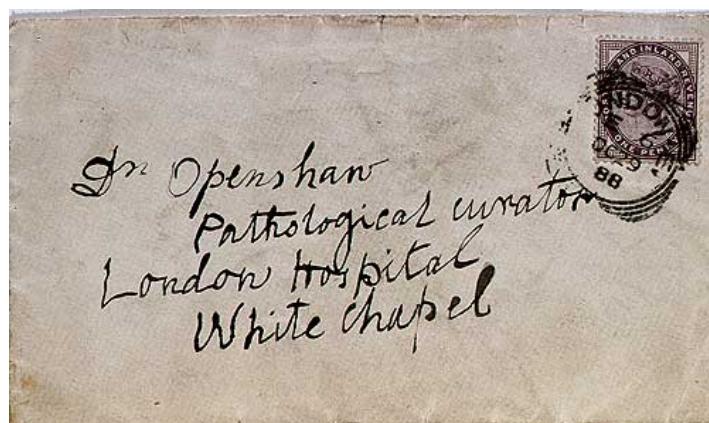
Jack a Poland Jew

Better known as Jack the Ripper

A drop of Strides Blood

## Document 11: reference MEPO 3/3157

'Jack' letter, 29 Oct 1888. Sent to Dr Openshaw, 'Old boss you was rite ...'



Old boss you was rite it was  
the left kidney i was goin to  
hopperate agin close to your  
espite just as i was goin  
to drop mi wife along of  
er bloomin strote them  
lasses of copperas spoilt  
the game but i guess i wil  
be on the job soon and will  
send you another bit of  
innerds gack the ripper  
D have you seen the article  
with his microscope and scalpel  
a lookin at a kidney  
with a slide cocked up

## Document 11 transcript: reference MEPO 3/3157

'Jack' letter, 29 Oct 1888. Sent to Dr Openshaw, 'Old boss you was rite ...'

Dr Openshaw  
Pathological Curator  
London Hospital  
Whitechapel

[Postmarked London 29 October 1888]

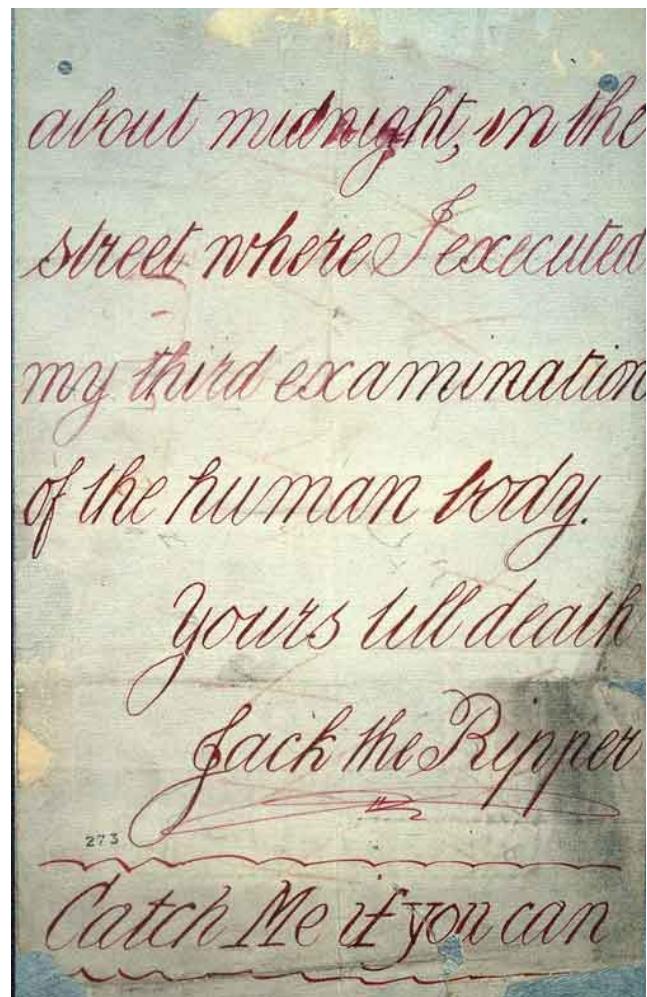
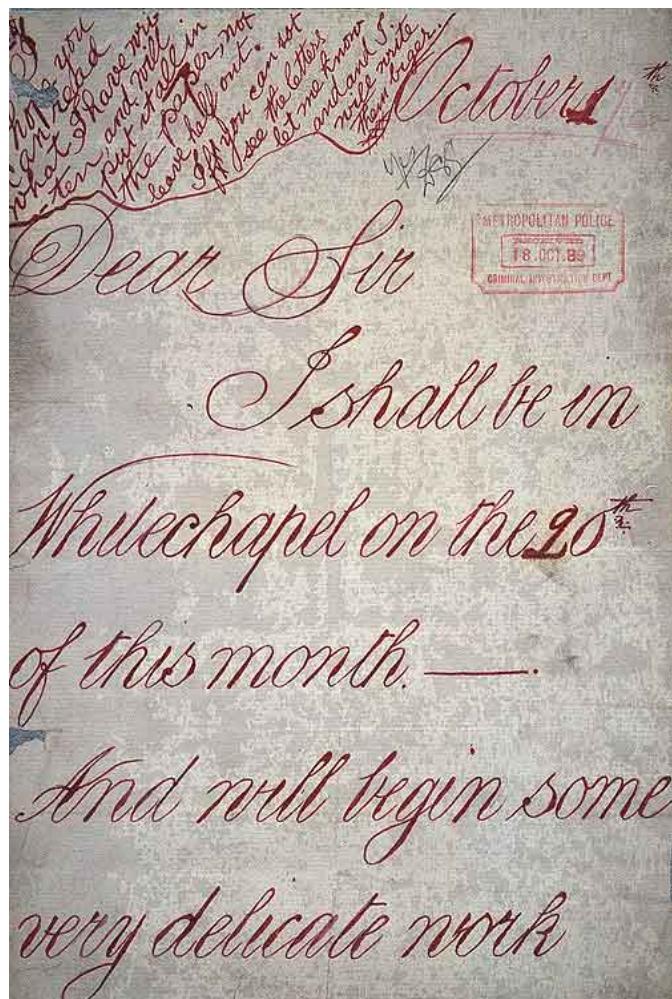
Old boss you was rite it was the left kidney I was goin to hopperate agin  
close to your ospitle just as I was goin to dror mi nife along of er bloomin  
throte them cusses of coppers spoilt the game but I guess I wil be on the  
job soon and will send you another bit of innerds

Jack the ripper

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

## Document 12: reference MEPO 3/142

'Jack' letter, 17 Oct 1889. 'Dear Sir I shall be in Whitechapel on the 20th...'



## Document 12 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142, p.272

'Jack' letter, 17 Oct 1889. 'Dear Sir I shall be in Whitechapel on the 20th...'

October 17

Dear Sir

I shall be in Whitechapel on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month - And will begin some very delicate work about midnight, in the street where I executed my third examination of the human body.

Yours till death

Jack the Ripper

Catch Me if you can

PS I hope you can read what I have written, and will put it all in the paper, and not leave half out. If you can not see the letters let me know and and I will write them bigger [sic]

XXX

HA!!!

## Worksheet for 'Jack the Ripper' letters

Read, and also look very carefully at all the details in the 'Jack the Ripper' letter for your group, then complete the following worksheet:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Is the letter dated? If so, when was it written?  |  |
| Who was it sent to?   |  |
| What colour is the ink?   |  |
| How would you describe the handwriting in the letter? (E.g. neat, educated, scrawl etc)   |  |
| How would you describe the writer's use of grammar? Give examples. (Consider spelling, use of sentences, accurate use of tenses etc)  |  |
| Are there any common phrases that match those in the first 'Dear Boss' letter?  |  |
| <p>You can see the original Dear Boss letter on our website at<br/><a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=39&amp;sequence=1">http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=39&amp;sequence=1</a></p>            |  |
| Is the letter illustrated? If so, describe the illustrations.   |  |
| What message is the writer trying to convey through the illustrations?  |  |
| Does the letter reveal any information about society/social tensions in existence at this time? (E.g. Does the writer blame the murders on a particular section of society, such as Jewish people? What is the author's opinion of prostitutes or women?) |  |