

0. INSPECTOR FRED ABBERLINE - Story Preface

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Mary Kelly's murder was sensationally reported, among other places, in *The Illustrated Police News* on the 24th of November, 1888. Her body had been discovered on the morning of November 9th by Thomas Bowyer. This image, from the *Police News*, includes several different scenes ... including a picture of Inspector Fred Abberline. Click on the image for a very clear, full-page view. Image online via the British Library.

Fred Abberline was no stranger to Whitechapel. He had at least 14 years of prior service in that part of London. When he first took on the Ripper investigation, Abberline believed an earlier East End murder (of Martha Tabram) was also the work of the knife-wielding "Jack." Not until much later did the inspector change his mind about that.

The Metropolitan Police (Scotland Yard) were convinced that most of the many "Ripper" letters were hoaxes. Three (including the one which begins this story) were believed genuine. But Abberline and his investigation team had very little evidence with which to piece together either motives or suspects.

Some accounts claim that Abberline even worked with a self-proclaimed psychic—Robert James Lees—who reportedly consulted with Queen Victoria. The story is told that Lees led Abberline and his men to the place where they would learn the identity of the Ripper. The place to which he led them? Buckingham Palace. (Despite these assertions, the facts seem otherwise: Lees offered his services to the police, but they were declined.)

After Abberline retired from the police force, in 1892, the Ripper files were closed. The crimes have never been solved. But Abberline revealed his own thinking on the subject when he reportedly told crime writer Nigel Morland

...you'd have to look for him [the Ripper] not at the bottom of London society but a long way up. (See The Conan Doyles Notes: The Secret of Jack the Ripper, by Diane Gilbert Madsen, at page 55.)

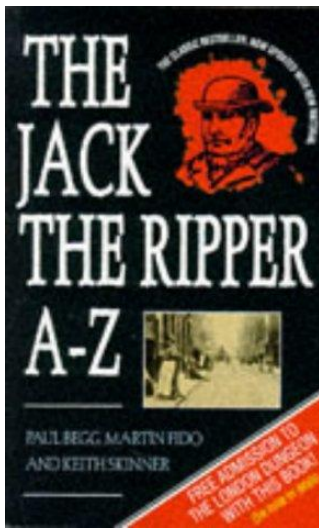
Ripperologists, however, remain doubtful that there was a royal connection to any of the Whitechapel murders. For them, and their industry, it's beneficial that the crimes were (and are) never solved.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/INSPECTOR-FRED-ABBERLINE-Jack-the-Ripper)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/INSPECTOR-FRED-ABBERLINE-Jack-the-Ripper)

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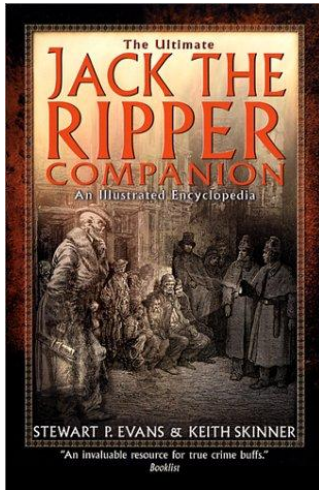


The Jack the Ripper A-Z - by Paul Begg, Martin Fido

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

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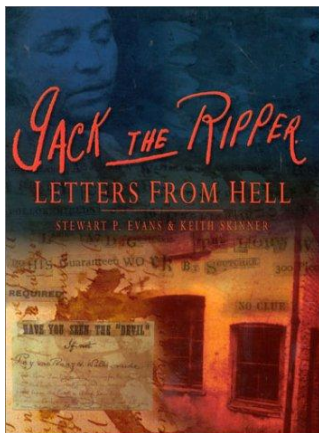


The Ultimate: Jack the Ripper Companion - by Stewart P. Evans

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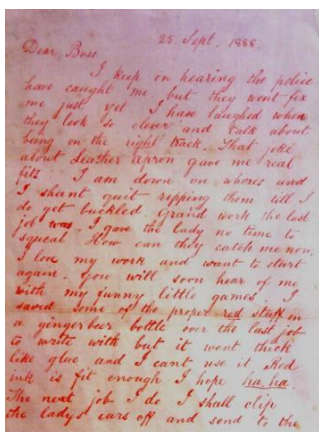


Jack the Ripper: Letters From Hell - Stewart P Evans

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

View this asset at:

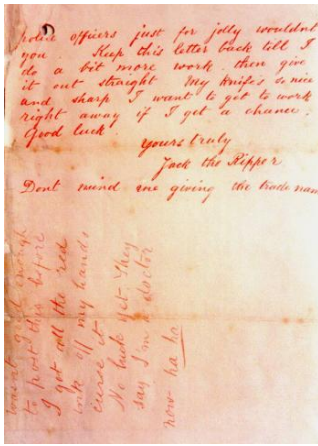
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jack-the-Ripper-Letters-From-Hell-Stewart-P-Evans>



Jack the Ripper - Actual Letter

Image online, courtesy the [Casebook](http://Casebook.com) website.

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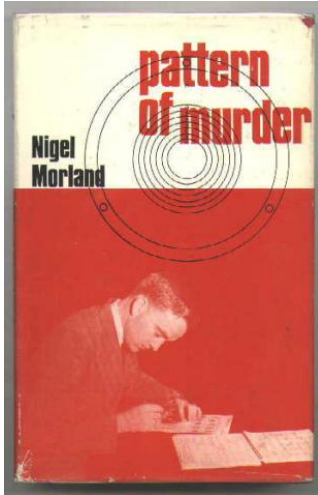


"Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper" - Actual Letter, Page 2

Image of the original letter, Metropolitan Police web site.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/-Yours-Truly-Jack-the-Ripper-Actual-Letter-Page-2>



Pattern of Murder - Nigel Morland

What did Inspector Frederick Abberline really know about the Ripper murderer? He apparently thought that the individual was a member of "high society"; someone who may have moved in impressive London circles.

In an article published in the *Evening News* (on June 26, 1976) and later reprinted in *The Ripper and the Royals*, Nigel Morland recalled a visit that he'd had with Abberline (at a time when the now-retired Abberline was living in Dorset). In addition to telling Morland that the Ripper case was shut, Abberline reportedly also said:

I've given my word to keep my mouth permanently closed about it.

In addition, Morland asserts that Abberline also said:

I know and my superiors know certain facts [and that the Ripper] wasn't a butcher, Yid [a reference to "Jewish"] or foreign skipper ... you'd have to look for him not at the bottom of London society at the time but a long way up.

Ripper scholars view these Abberline statements with a degree of caution and scepticism.

Image online, courtesy [abebooks](#) website.

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