Janis Wilson and Christopher T. George

The Ripper, Sherlock Holmes, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Sherlock Holmes Versus Jack the Ripper: A Titanic Battle, Much Like Batman Versus Superman?

Sherlock Holmes Statue in Edinburgh. (Source: Flickr)
A Study in Terror, 1965, Starring John Neville as Sherlock Holmes
Murder by Decree, 1979, Starring Christopher Plummer as Sherlock Holmes
Still From Murder by Decree
Comic strip for a Sherlock Holmes vs Jack the Ripper tale.
(Source: ratatouilletv.blogspot.nl)
H.G. Wells races through time to catch Jack the Ripper!
H. G. Wells versus the Ripper: Time After Time, 1979, starring Malcolm MacDowell as Wells and David Warner as Jack the Ripper
Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) by Herbert Rose Barraud, 1893.

Doyle was knighted as a “Knight Bachelor” by King Edward VII on October 24, 1902. The knighthood was part of the King’s Coronation Honors list announced June 26, 1902. Doyle believed the honor was not for creating Sherlock Holmes but because he’d written a short work titled *The War in South Africa: Its Cause and Conduct* (January 16, 1902) in which argued that Britain’s cause in the Boer War was justified. Other reasons may be that Doyle served as a volunteer physician in South Africa, March to June 1900, and published *The Great Boer War* the same year. *(Source: Wikipedia)*
What did Doyle himself think about the Ripper Murders?

Did Arthur Conan Doyle and “the Real Sherlock Holmes” solve the Jack the Ripper mystery?

Fiction writer Diane Gilbert Madsen believes Doyle and his mentor Dr. Joseph Bell correctly deduced the identity of the Victorian serial killer.
Dr. Joseph Bell (1837-1911), Scottish physician and mentor to Conan Doyle.

Bell was apparently Doyle's model for Sherlock Holmes -- or at least one of his models for the great Baker Street sleuth.
Dr. Joseph Bell & Jack the Ripper, Milwaukee Journal, Oct 13, 1955

Tried to Catch Jack the Ripper

The sharp eyed doctor would escort his students through the outpatient department. Glancing at a newcomer, he would remark, "A cobbler, I see," and then point out to his audience that the inside of the man's trousers was worn from a cobbler's lapstone. Some of his observations were incorporated bodily into the Sherlock Holmes stories, such as the bit about deducing a person's previous whereabouts from the type of clay sticking to his shoes.

After the Holmes stories became popular, Dr. Bell even tried his hand at criminal detection, actually helping to convict one wife murderer. He also tried his hand in the classic "Jack the Ripper" affair in 1888, making an independent investigation.

From the suspects brought in, he made his choice of the murderer, checked it with a friend who had conducted an investigation of his own and found that both had picked the same man. Their findings were sent to Scotland Yard, and a week later the murders ended, although Jack-the-Ripper was never arrested.

Also like Sherlock Holmes, he had little regard for the intelligence of the average policeman: "You cannot expect the ordinary policeman to stand eight hours on his legs and then develop a great mental strength." In addition, he had a sense of humor. When visitors begged him to give some example of his powers of deduction, he usually supplied the story of humorous miscalculation.
Right: Poet and erstwhile Ripper Suspect J. K. Stephen, Cambridge University tutor to “Prince Eddy” aka Albert Victor, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, grandson of Queen Victoria and son of “Bertie” who later became Edward VII. Prince Eddy is pictured below.
JACK THE RIPPER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE — A Jack the Ripper with skill in handling animals before he slashed.
The First Sight I Had of Edalji Confirmed Me of Improbability of His Guilt

The Great Wrey Case


Continued from the First Page

In Staffordshire, from the potteries to the north and the mining districts to the south, they were toiling to work on that smoky August morning. The village of Great Wrey, less than 20 miles from Birmingham, lay in an area partly agricultural and partly mining. The Great Wrey Colliery, whose morning shift began at 6 o'clock, stood some distance away amid fields and slag-heaps and coal-tips.

The night before had been stormy, with heavy showers falling on the colliery, its yellow-red soil a mixture of clay and sand, and it had been sticky underfoot. A boy named Henry Garrett, on his way to work at 6 a.m., was killed.

In the morning, the body of a young man was discovered near the colliery. He was found with his head tied up and his feet tied together. The police were called, and an investigation began.

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Later, the body was removed to the morgue, where it was examined by a coroner's jury. The cause of death was determined to be strangulation.

The coroner's jury ruled that Mr. Garrett had been the victim of a robbery and that he had been killed by the robbers.

The police began to investigate the case, and they began to look for suspects. They started by interviewing all of the people who had been at the colliery the night before.

One of the men who worked at the colliery was a man named George Edalji. He was a young man who had recently been hired as a laborer at the colliery. He was a quiet man who kept to himself, and he was not well liked by his co-workers.

The police interviewed Mr. Edalji, but he had no connection to the crime. He had been working at the colliery for only a few months, and he had no criminal record.

The police then began to investigate the possibility that the crime had been committed by a group of men who worked at the colliery. They interviewed several of the workers, but they were not able to find any suspects.

The case was eventually closed, and Mr. Edalji was released. The police believed that the crime had been committed by a group of men who worked at the colliery, but they were unable to find any evidence to support their theory.

The case of Mr. Edalji was a sad reminder of the power of misunderstanding and prejudice. The police had no evidence to support their theory that Mr. Edalji was involved in the crime, but they were able to use their prejudices to condemn him.

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Accounting for the Murders.

London, Sept. 20. — Lawson Tait, the eminent gynecologist, to-day said he was of the opinion that the Whitechapel, Chelsea and Battersea murders were committed by the same criminal, probably a lunatic woman employed in a slaughter house and subject to fits of epileptic furor.
Gynecologic Surgeon
Lawson Tait (1845-1899)
THE WHITECHAPEL MURDER.

STRANGE SUGGESTION BY A SPECIALIST.

Dr. Lawson Tait, the eminent specialist of Birmingham, has been interviewed regarding Dr. Forbes Winslow's theory on the Whitechapel crimes. "My opinion is," he said, "the police fault lies at the beginning. Their investigations, I suggest, have been blocked by the question of sex. Looking at the subject as a surgeon, the first conclusion is that the whole murders in Whitechapel, Battersea, and Chelsea are the work of one and the same individual. Secondly, the crimes are the work of a lunatic; the absolute motiveness of the whole business shows this. Then the operator must have been a person accustomed to use a sharp knife upon meat. The work was done by no surgeon; a surgeon cuts in a nie kind of way. The murderer in these cases has worked in a free, slashing manner. The criminal must have been a butcher, and a London butcher. The cuts would have been made quite differently if the operator had hailed from Dublin or Edinburgh. What ought the police to do? They should find out what licensed slaughter-houses are in the neighbourhood, who are in charge of them, what persons (male or female) have access to the slaughter-houses after workmen go home. Slaughter-houses are about the only spots in which the work could be done with any great probability of non-discovery. Could not the criminal there kill and cut up the victim, putting the remains in a cloth and disposing of them at leisure? The police are accustomed to meet slaughter-house men with bundles of tripe and offal going to and fro constantly. On Tuesday I got a cab and went through the district where the remains have been found, and to me nothing is more likely than that "Jack the Ripper" is some big strong woman engaged at a slaughter-house in cleaning up, and now and then in actually cutting up meat. In a number of instances the women, when found, were hardly dead. The police promptly made a circuit round the neighbourhood; no man was arrested, but they did not look for a woman. It must be clearly understood that whoever was the criminal would be thoroughly splashed with blood. A man who thus besmeared himself could not possibly have got clear away in the time. Yet the thing would be perfectly easy for a woman. All she has to do is to roll up her skirt to the waist, leaving her petticoats, and fold up the shawl that is over her shoulders and tuck in at her middle; then she might pass through a crowd with the very slightest risk of detection. As to washing the blood-dyed garments, what would a man do? Plunge them into hot water, with the result that the blood coagulates, won't come off, and stains the clothes. And where is he to get hot water, or how is he to pour away the bloody water undetected? A woman is always at the washing, and she would put the clothes in cold water, when, with a little soap and rubbing, they would become clean, practically unsuspected, and she would go unsuspected. An important point is to be noted in connection with what has been termed the fiendish disembowelling of bodies, and with reference to the particular place at which the incisions have been begun. It is no wild slashing done without method by a novice. Having cut the victim's throat from behind with all the force and completeness which the position would render possible, the operator simply by an act of unconscious cerebration goes to work in regular butcher fashion. Having slit the calf's neck, the next thing to be done is to make an incision at the bottom of the abdomen, and lay aside the various organs in the very fashion reported at the inquests as having been done. There is scarcely any place but the slaughter-house where the cutting up could be done without leaving evidences of the crime. Hair is one of the most useful matters in the detection of crime. The last woman murdered had her hair cut through. Now there must be some of that hair in the gratings and the corners of the slaughter-houses. Then there must be bits of cartilage. Why? Because the criminal is not a skilful butcher, nor likely to be in regular employment. He hacks right through with his sharp knife. These little bits of hacked cartilage, on microscopic examination, would prove human.
It looks as if Tait is including the torso murders as well, going by the *Birmingham Daily Post* story of September 21, 1889 in which he mentions that "the whole murders in Whitechapel, Battersea and Chelsea are the work of one and the same individual."

It would appear to me that it might be easier to conclude that the torso murders were the work of a butcher, perhaps, than those of the Ripper. Although, as we have noted, why he would favor a London butcher over any other, or a woman butcher over a male butcher is a mystery, particularly when he admitted that he had not seen the bodies.

Christopher T. George, JtRForums Com, April 27, 2013