

‘The worst thing to
happen to Feminism
since Jack the Ripper...’

Jack is a Feminist Issue.

What is Historical Feminism?

‘Feminist History is the study of history from a female perspective and is a movement to promote women’s place in History, by ensuring equality of representation’

How do we judge the relationship?

- What was the situation at the time of the events?
- Did people at the time see a link?
- Has that link lasted through time?
- Do we still think the link is important now?
- Are the issues raised still important for us today?

The Star

‘Unsexed’

‘Dehumaised’

‘Creatures’

‘Violated their womanhood for the price of a night’s lodging’

Kathleen 'Kit' Watkins.







JACK THE RIPPER

TRADITIONAL ALE



Official statement of AARC

'Jack the Ripper', killer of five women in 1888, has become a folk hero, seized on for profit and entertainment value by the media, publishing and tourist industries. In 1988, the year of his centenary, interest in the Ripper has intensified dramatically: his exploits are being celebrated in new books, computer games, records, TV features and even on T-shirts. The women he murdered are meanwhile forgotten.

Aims of the AARC

- TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE CONTINUITY BETWEEN THE ACTS OF JACK THE RIPPER AND THE MALE SEXUAL VIOLENCE STILL GOING ON NOW.
- TO PROTEST AGAINST ALL EVENTS OR ENTERTAINMENTS WHICH TRIVIALISE OR GLAMOURISE SEXUAL MURDER.
- TO STOP THE MEDIA SENSATIONALISING AND GLORIFYING VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN.
- TO COMMEMORATE THE WOMEN MURDERED BY JACK THE RIPPER, AND ALL OTHER WOMEN KILLED OR DAMAGED BY MALE SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

Melanie Clegg - Feminism and Jack the Ripper – a ramble through a disordered mind

In a nutshell then, I don't believe that, done properly, Ripperology is intrinsically 'un-feminist' or women hating or misogynistic or using murder victims as some sort of bizarre historical snuff porn.



P Gainey on A P Wolf

She takes a definite feminine line. She's quite critical of people who study the case: I blanched a bit when I read that. [But] I don't write about it because it's about killing women. It's like a true-life crime story with the final page torn out."

The Independent August 31 1995.

“If Wolf were a woman, and others strongly dispute it, this would be a rare thing. The Ripper case is conspicuous for its lack of appeal to female writers, perhaps because their concern for the victims obliterates their interest in the murderer; perhaps because the debates so rarely remain clinical.”



Post on jtrforums

Aren't we all, the male and females of this community who post regularly, trying to distance ourselves from this very type of glorification ? Documenting the lives and times of these women as accurately as possible is the passion of many of the male researchers. I can't think of one male poster who hasn't shown empathy and compassion for the plight of these women. Glorification is a separate issue and is seldom found on these boards.