



Joe Silver: Was he Jack the Ripper?

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On 31 August 1888, the Ripper killings, the perfect manifestation of vicarious terror, was launched in Whitechapel, London. Over ten weeks in the Autumn of Terror, five women (the 'Canonical Five') were brutally murdered.¹ The killer was obsessed with mutilation of the female reproductive organs. The first four victims were drink-sodden street prostitutes of a certain age, the ferocity of slaughter and mutilation escalating until the ghastly debouching of the younger and less shop-worn Mary Jane Kelly, the fifth and final victim. Undisturbed for several hours in her room, the killer eviscerated her abdominal cavity, burning the heart, severing the nose and ears, removing her rings and mutilating the rest of the body.

The Ripper Murders, as they became known², represented a new form of killing that came to define urban alienation. They not only represented a hitherto unique form of gynocide, but seemed to epitomise the social prejudices of the era.

Since 1888 Jack the Ripper has insistently propelled himself (for no one has ever suggested that the killer could be a woman) as a cultural meme, with a new candidate surfacing every decade or so, invariably followed by sensational headlines with Ripperologists leaping to defend their own case until the furore subsides before the next triumphant unveiling.

The Ripper became a tantalising chimera, able to morph into any identity that historians, writers or artists conjured up. Each new generation interpreted the Ripper according to its values. But while the hunt became an extended parlour game, no convincing candidate ever emerged to settle the debate.

Why does the Ripper hold such fascination – a lasting impression on the western imagination as one historian put it?³ Considering the brutal twentieth century that followed, there was no shortage of appalling crimes, let alone piqueristic murders. The reason for the almost unique and sustained appeal of the Ripper murders can be attributed to several factors.

John Brophy, originator of the term 'serial murderer', describes Jack the Ripper as the most famous of all serial murderers.⁴ Serial killing goes back in history, but these murders in the late 19th century occurred at a time when literacy was increasing and tabloids competed fiercely for the most sensational news. Improved printing presses and paper meant mass-production tabloid newspapers could be churned out for a news-hungry population.⁵ In the lead was Alfred Harmsworth, followed by others in fierce competition for readers and sensational crime provided perfect material to sell their papers.

The Ripper murders occurred shortly after Arthur Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet* introduced the world to the greatest detective in 1887, followed the next year



by Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* on the London stage, both perfect metaphors to pair extreme crime and the investigating hero to catch the offender.

Time and place made a difference. The killings occurred at the tail end of the Victorian era in Whitechapel, London. Beneath Victorian public life lay a sinister and tenebrous underside, an affliction of the collective soul as it were, that could be projected onto any groups labelled as hostile, marginal or just foreign. To the Victorian mind, a pure, virtuous and hygienic public life coexisted with a raft of government, church and voluntary agencies to save the lost souls and redeem them for society. Hence Lord Gladstone's frequent tours to the demimonde to 'lecture' fallen women.

In the greatest city of the world, centre of the largest empire in history and heart of culture, government, establishment and financial institutions, hypocrisy ruled supreme; a vast hoard of prostitutes existed for the sexual purposes of the Victorian upper-class male provided by women spat out by society who could only exist by selling their bodies.

That the Ripper victims were all prostitutes raised the possibility that the offender had a grudge against them, infection by syphilis being very likely. Blaming prostitutes, representing all women, for spreading the infection has been a recurrent theme of serial killers over time.⁶

Over the years suspects (to mention just a few) have included Queen Victoria's grandson, the Duke of Clarence; the celebrated doctor Sir William Gull; Liverpool merchant, James Maybrick, supposed author of the manuscript known as the Ripper's 'Diary'; and the artist Walter Sickert. When unlikely members of the British aristocracy and upper classes were excluded, this left the hapless Jews of Whitechapel as prime suspects, fitting the longstanding antisemitic trope

Why are suspects regularly dredged up by Ripperologists, writers and the indefatigable amateurs? The limited evidence and primitive detection skills left meagre pickings for later times when more sophisticated methods could be used. The surviving evidence is, by any standards, scanty and it is widely accepted that that no new historical evidence is likely to emerge. The less information there is, the more opportunity there is for speculation, often wild. When the critical faculties are loosened there is no end to the possibilities that will be considered.

The first scientific attempt to understand the killings comes from Dr Thomas Bond who dissected the remains of all five victims. Bond has been described as the first offender profiler.⁷ In the report sent to London CID Chief Robert Anderson in November 1888, Bond's insight should not be underrated and his observations deserve respect



considering they were written at a time when forensic science was limited and psychology of crime even less understood.⁸

The Ripper killer, he wrote, was a man of physical strength, great coolness and daring. He operated on his own. He was subject to periodic attacks of homicidal and erotic mania. The mutilations could arise from a sexual condition called Satyriasis. The homicidal impulse could have developed from a revengeful or brooding condition of mind, or religious mania – but neither hypothesis was likely. In appearance he was likely to be a middle-aged inoffensive looking man, neatly and respectably dressed. He could have worn a cloak or overcoat to hide blood on his hands or clothes. In addition, he would be solitary and eccentric in his habits, without a regular occupation, but having a small income or pension. He possibly lived among otherwise blameless persons who could have some knowledge of his character and grounds for suspicion that he was not quite right in his mind at times, but would be unwilling to communicate their suspicions to the Police for fear of trouble or notoriety but the prospect of reward might overcome their scruples.

Bond thought the killer was living amongst people who suspected his behaviour, if not character. Their concerns notwithstanding, Jews in Whitechapel had few reasons for trusting the police and would be unlikely to discuss their suspicions. The implication was that that the Ripper was very familiar with that area and kept coming back to the same locality.

Satyriasis is a charming old-fashioned term for uncontrolled and excessive sexual desire in a man (the female version was called nymphomania). There was no indications that the victims had been sexually abused but sex, or rather its degraded aspects, was in high in mind of the assailant by placing of some of them in lewd positions for onlookers to view. Degrading the victims because of their sexual trade is a theme reprised by prostitute killers. The focus on ‘the belly’ and ‘the vagina’ revealed not just extreme picquerism, but extended to the mutilation zones the Ripper inflicted on his victims.

In 1970, Robert Brittain wrote a paper outlining the characteristics of sadistic serial killers⁹. Brittain’s murderers were typically obsessional, narcissistic, insecure and lonely. Obsessed with the paraphernalia of their crimes, they had rich fantasy lives. A significant number came from families characterised by absent or distant fathers who were often physically and sometimes sexually abusive. Ambivalent relationships with their mothers are critical to the shaping of their personality. When young, serial killers have been troubled by their real or imagined promiscuity. In a significant number of cases these problems were compounded by inappropriate intimate, physical contact between mothers and sons, provocative displays of nudity, or witnessing of parental sexual behaviour. Sadistic killers start young; a significant number make their first



killing by the age of twenty. Other behaviours include abuse of alcohol or drugs, callousness, sadistic sexual fantasies and homosexual experiences.

While some academics dismissed Brittain's study on the grounds that the findings were not scientific (meaning, littered with references and statistics¹⁰), its empirical basis could not be ignored on the basis of Brittain's experience with such killers and was shown time and time again to be remarkably prescient.

The Ripper murders showed the *modus operandi* of a sadistic mission killer: attacking prostitutes with overkill frenzy and displaying their mutilated bodies in lewd positions to shock onlookers. Add to that sexual ambiguity, extreme misogyny, trophy collection, extreme religion-induced vengeance fantasies and the die was cast.

One question to consider is why did the murders – in Whitechapel, at least – not recur after the fifth victim? Serial killers can stop or defer their rampaging for a range of reasons, not least the likelihood of being arrested or geographic relocation to less favourable zones.

A phenomenon noted in some serial killers is deliberately or unwittingly making errors that lead to their capture.¹¹ The explanation is that this is a control issue. Serial killers exert utter control over their victims to meet their urges – it could even be argued that control is the central feature of their killing. If they get to the stage where they sense they are losing control of these urges, then an external control needs to be brought in, usually arrest. Could it be that the Kelly extirpation – or rather debouching – had been so extreme that the killer feared future loss of control? Alternately, killings may cease for a while a safer location is sought to avoid being detected.

A newer and promising approach comes from David Canter who incorporated features of FBI profiling but developed the spatial location or 'circle hypothesis'. Unknown at the time of the killings, this has now been given a scientific basis.¹² While serial murderers are the unique product of a combination of biological, psychological and social processes, their interaction with the environment is influenced by generic spatial processes. The psychological importance of the home, familiar surroundings and individual mental maps influence the decision making of the killer.¹³

Spatial location involves mapping all the crimes thought to have been committed by the offender and identifying the two crime locations furthest apart from each other. Using these locations as the diameter, a circle can then be drawn that includes all the offenses. The hypothesis is that the criminal will be found to live inside that circle, possibly close to the middle.

The 'circle hypothesis' assumes an even distribution of both familiarity and opportunity for crime. This is the concept of mapping all the crimes thought to have



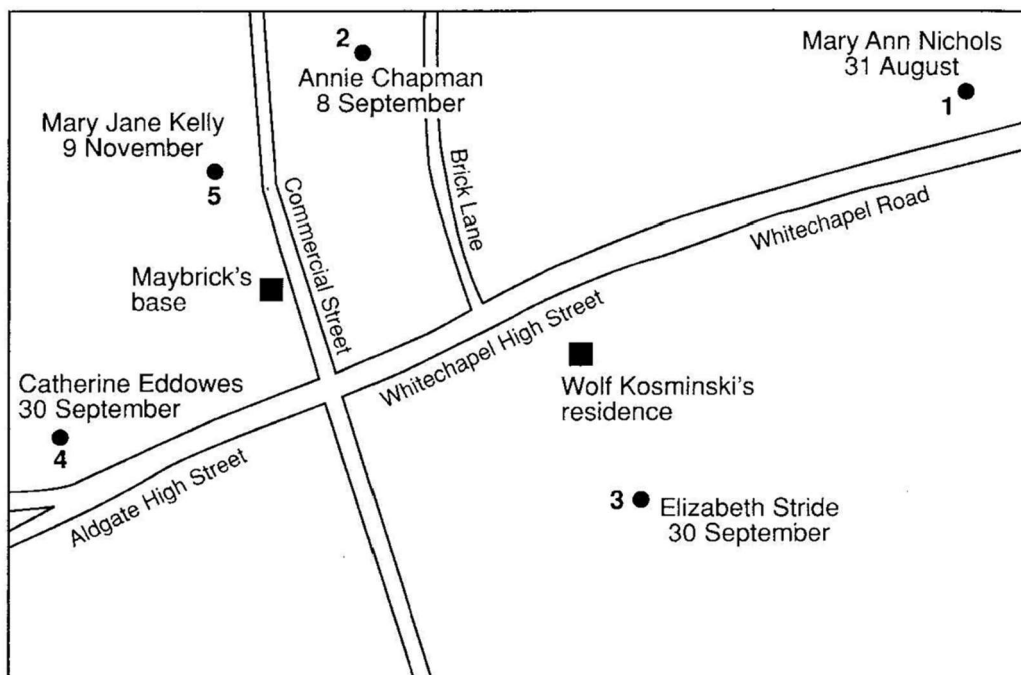
been committed by the offender(s) and identifying the two crime locations furthest apart from each other. Using these locations as the diameter, a circle can then be drawn that includes all the offences. The hypothesis is that the criminal will be found to live inside that circle, possibly close to the middle.

Just how reliable is this assumption? In some samples of rapists as many as 80% have actually been found to live inside the circle and more than 60% in a central area half the radius of the large circle. Commuting rapists often show the same behaviour as serial killers (and some progress to this).

These patterns are a product of thought habits and behaviour rather than conscious choices. The concept of the band of criminal opportunity is for the offender to maintain the optimum balance between familiarity and risk he has to commit the crimes in a circular region around the home.¹⁴

That the Ripper killings occurred within a limited area indicates both that he was familiar with that area and that something kept bringing him back to the same limited locality. By assigning the name of a victim to each of the five crime locations, a map of the Whitechapel killings can be made. Whitechapel had narrow streets, lanes and pathways, in addition to many potential victims in the streets at late hours.

Canter provides a map to locate and centralise the Ripper killings.¹⁵





Assigning the victim's name to each five crime locations shows that the location of Nichols, the first victim, on Whitechapel Road, was furthest out on the circle. Chapman, the second victim, lay between Brick and Commercial Streets. Stride, the third victim, was on the opposite side. Eddowes, victim four, was close to Aldgate High Street. Finally, Kelly was west of Commercial Street. While her location may not have fitted the pattern of the other four, a man known as Isaacs (to whom we shall return) was seen talking to her earlier; furthermore, access to her bedroom allowed several hours of privacy which was not possible with the earlier street victims.

The map shows that the centre of the intersecting lines is at the top end of Mulberry Street: 'the very heart of the district where the murders were committed'. Based on findings derived from the map, Canter proposes Aaron Kosminski as the likely killer.¹⁶

Who was Kosminski? In 1910, Assistant Commissioner Sir Robert Anderson claimed that the Ripper was a 'low-class Polish Jew'.¹⁷ Chief Inspector Donald Swanson, who led the Ripper investigation, wrote 'Kosminski' in the margin of his copy of Anderson's memoirs.¹⁸ A Polish Jew who worked as a barber in the Whitechapel area, Kosminski was found at his brother's home in Whitechapel, was taken to Colney Hatch Asylum where he ended his days believing that his movements were controlled by 'an instinct that informs his mind'.¹⁷

Kosminski's location at the time of the murders is not known, but his brother stayed at the top end of Mulberry Street, a few doors away from the centre of the zone where the murders were committed. According to Canter Kosminski's likely residence is the 'base' on the map.

If not Kosminski, then whom? The only way to find another Ripper candidate is to apply the null hypothesis: use evidence that *disproves* eligibility, then see who is left. With Kosminski as the *control*, the subject for this investigation was – significantly – not known to the world until 2007 with the publication of *The Fox and the Flies: The World of Joseph Silver, Racketeer and Psychopath*.¹⁹

The accoucheur of Joseph Silver (hereafter *Joe Silver*) was historian Charles van Onselen, who studied the great transmigration of Jews from the Pale of Settlement into the New World from 1881 to 1914 – a social phenomenon in which crime was a feature that came out in the fault lines they were forced to occupy.

The long path to Silver started three decades earlier when Van Onselen's attention was caught by an item in the *Standard & Diggers' News* about a louche Joseph Lis, using the nom-de-crime of Joe Silver, a Polish Jewish brothel-owner in the raucous environment of early gold-mining Johannesburg. His racketeering posed such a threat to social order in the mining town that Jan Smuts, the new ZAR State Attorney (and



future prime minister and statesman), set up a special force to contain him.

Intrigued, van Onselen looked further afield to learn more of the man who started life as Joseph Lis (*Lis* means fox in Polish and Russian), mostly known as Joe Silver – as we shall now refer to him – the alibi derived from his mother’s name of (quicksilver or mercury).

Van Onselen’s research revealed a psychopath, police informer, sex slaver, safe cracker, thief, spy and serial murderer extruded by the depredations of Russian oppression into the fault lines between the Old and New Worlds.

Silver’s life was the product of massive social forces: persecution, marginality, migration, the inability of government agencies, especially police, customs and immigration, to regulate movement and crime, and the constant need of society, whether in London, New York, Kimberley or Johannesburg, for illicit services such as prostitution provided by those who operated on the margins.

Silver’s course was like a fleeting asteroid across the cosmos with only occasional flashes of light to indicate its path. Frustrating and infuriating authorities on four continents, Silver was driven by urges that made sense to nobody. He glided from one jurisdiction to another, juggling social chaos and fortunes of war to his advantage. He used the Atlantic littoral as his backyard, utilizing telegraphs and steamships to his advantage, moving with casual abandon to pursue his criminal activities in New York, South African diamond and gold mining towns, Windhoek, Valparaiso, Buenos Aires and Paris. He was transported under armed guard from German South West Africa to Germany. He robbed a jewellery store in France and financial institutions in Belgium before heading to South America. Spells in prison were no more than an occupational hazard and failed to interrupt his criminal trajectory.

Silver’s mind manufactured calculation, deception, manipulation, acquisitiveness and carried violence and hate, so much hate. His body carried something else: the syphilitic infection he had obtained in 1888. Over time, the disease became more evident. Photographs show him looking run down and scruffy with moth-eaten hair, rather than the snappy outfits he usually preferred. His handwriting had the characteristic waterfall pattern. Control and planning now followed a pattern, rather than careful calculation.

From a Jewish background in the Polish town of Kielce, Silver’s grandfather and father were low-life criminals, his slatternly mother had a son (his half-brother Jack) to another man. This made the family marginal within the already marginalised Jewish community. On 14 August 1884, Silver, then 15, obtained – most likely from the proceeds of theft – a passport to travel to England.



Silver arrived in London in 1885 and frequented the barber shops, boxing rings and brothels of Whitechapel, jammed with Jewish refugees from Russia. He took to thieving and prostitution with remarkable aptitude, organising a gang of relatives to run Jewish prostitutes.

The best known and arguably most tragic victim of Silver's appalling violence was Rachel Laskin, born in Poland in 1880, brutally raped and subjugated by Silver in Whitechapel and forced into prostitution. Brought with him to South Africa, recurrently beaten by him into a state of mute incomprehension, she spent the last forty years of her life in mental hospitals, known only by the name he had given her, Lizzie Silver.

1888, April (the cruellest month); Silver's life changed forever. His daughter Bertha was born to a prostitute 'Rose' from whom he caught syphilis. Here was the classic nidus observed in serial killers who murdered prostitutes for infecting them with venereal disease or representing the ultimate fallen women. For a man with confused and reverberating feelings about his mother, projected onto women, especially prostitutes, the birth of a child was a deeply confronting event.

Violent hate-filled psychopath that he was, Lis turned to family when it suited him. His half-brother Jack, skilled with knife and gun, was to follow him from one robber domain to another. After ignoring her for seventeen years, he added Bertha to his entourage as a prostitute before she had two children to Jack. The Lis family boundaries were ever porous.

A remorseless and rebarbative criminal and killer, Silver strode the stage like no other, keeping ahead of the game until at the end, his mind crumbling, that last best hope that had driven him to such horrific extremes became undeniable and he set off on home. In his final voyage, in the middle of World War, 1 Silver went to Przemysl, near his home town of Kielce, where the Austrians were fighting the Russians on the Eastern Front, smuggling and spying to keep his hand in. He was arrested and executed six weeks before the end of the war.

Why, van Onselen wondered, did Silver go to such efforts to hide the fact that he had been in London from 1885 to 1889?²⁰ Could he have been the Ripper? It is no surprise that Silver's presence in London at the time of the murders is undocumented considering his demi-monde existence and determination to constantly hide behind various aliases. Time and time again he was recorded to provide addresses away from Whitechapel in 1888 when there was no evident reason for doing this.

Like a dog going back to its vomit, Silver kept returning to London to re-live his work and visit the site of his depredations while doing everything he could to obliterate any



connection with the events in Whitechapel in 1888. Even Bertha went to extraordinary lengths whenever questioned by authorities to cover up that she had been born in London.

Why not avoid the place that held so many bad memories? Was it the voyeuristic need in serial killers to revisit the site of their depredations? If Whitechapel's morbid attraction was irresistible, at the same time it posed the greatest threat: to be discovered to have committed far worse crimes than the more routine transgressions he had perfected would have earned far more than a few years in jail.

Contrary to the often expressed view that the killer was a doctor or surgeon, the Ripper killer would have required no more than the lower-grade skills of a tailor, barber or butcher – if that. Silver, physically powerful and dangerous from honing his violence in the boxing booths, worked for some time as a tailor and a *feldscher* (barber–surgeon). Autopsy of the five victims confirmed that the killer was right-handed – as Silver was.

Prostitutes are a recurrent target of the 'mission killer'. All his life, Silver bore an extraordinary hatred towards women, especially street prostitutes, going to great lengths to extract sadistic revenge. Violence, threats and intimidation were his stock in trade and whores were brutally beaten and raped to enforce his demands. He plotted to insert blue vitriol into a prostitute's vagina and threatened to 'cut open' several others. In Johannesburg in 1899, when Lillie Bloom, another prostitute threatened to give evidence against him, he pulled her aside, threatening in Yiddish to 'open up her belly' if she testified against him. On another occasion he and his henchmen attempted to chloroform a recalcitrant prostitute, spirited enough to stand up to him, and insert 'blue vitriol' (hydrated copper sulphate) into her vagina.

What would make a criminal opportunist leave the relative safety of South America and return to Poland in the middle of World War 1? The attraction was home: Kielce, where Silver's mother lived, an opportunity to resolve the conflict that had driven him all his life.

Silver, like all serial killers, was haunted by extreme and contradictory feelings towards his sexually louche mother. Hannah Kwekzylber Lis had brought a bastard child – a *mamzer* – into the family, providing the maternal betrayal so often experienced by the serial murderer. Ansel Lis, his father, was an inadequate and distant role model failing at minor crime. That mixture of love-hate was never to leave him, following his trail around the Atlantic with so many of his aliases derived from her surname: Silver.

Silver was sexually ambivalent. He raped prostitutes at will to inflict violence but hated women. Yet he almost certainly had a relationship with Adolph Goldberg, with whom he was in jail for two years, and sodomised a black prisoner in Johannesburg Gaol.



To a mind preoccupied with the symbolism of disease-carrying women, there was a critical difference between street prostitutes and those kept in brothels such as he ran.²¹ The latter were under some form of control; men sought them out. The former, in contrast, were not under the control of a pimp; they offered themselves to men and were thus perceived as a greater danger of contamination.

The ambivalence towards his mother spilled over into his Jewish identity. All his life he was extremely hostile towards Jews yet, at the same time, invariably positioned his brothels near baths, including the ritual Jewish mikvahs that menstruating women were required to use to remove impurity.

Two wives, only leaving ephemeral traces, worked for him as brothel (not street) prostitutes. Hannah Opticer, married in London, and Hannah Vygenbaum (Annie Alford) vanished from the record. Two of these mysterious wives shared his mother's name: Hannah/Anna. What else could explain their convenient disappearance other than murder? This, coupled with his history of sadistic violence, show that murder meant no more to him than a morning shave.

Trained in Jewish ritual for his bar mitzvah, Silver would have been exposed to the Book of Ezekiel, the prophet who swore punishment on the whores of Israel and Babylon, threatening to excise jewellery, fingers, noses and ears as punishment for venery, hubris and perfidy. Added to this was the projection of his hatred onto their sexual organs, the zones carrying both attraction and disease. This is reprised by the Ripper to several victims, notably Kelly when he had hours in her room to do as he wished.

While he remained below the radar during the Autumn of Terror, Silver was not the only Lis in Whitechapel. 'General dealer' Lewis Lis was in Plumber's Row, just south of the Whitechapel Road²² – a central zone with the first four murders in the close radius and Mary Jane Kelly not that far away in the aphelion. The likelihood of him living there cannot be excluded either. Lis is an unusual name; it would be surprising if Lewis was not a relative and therefore suitably compliant in Silver's criminal activities.

Another link in the immediate Whitechapel area was Haskel Brietstein, otherwise Adolph Goldberg, a poor actor in Yiddish theatre and even worse burglar. Goldberg was involved in a warehouse break-in directly opposite the Lis store on Plumber's Row. Reinforcing their connection, Goldberg's association with Lis was to continue the next year in New York followed by their incarceration in Sing Sing.

The geography of serial killings is important, if not critical. Whitechapel was a dense warren of narrow streets, courts, yards, alleys, lanes, doorways, passages and tunnels. Anyone seeking to kill women in the street needed a detail knowledge of the area, as



much to find the victims as to escape successfully. Silver would have had no problem with the killing zone – that inner circle of the four murders was his hunting ground for break-in burglaries and home of his relatives.

While serious historians accept only the canonical five as Ripper murders, there were of course other murders both and after that, Whitehall being a high crime area. Of particular interest were two ‘tryout’ assaults that lead us even closer to the Ripper’s identity. On 28 March, a man came to the house of Ada Wilson and stabbed her twice in the throat, an odd and excessive assault for what would be expected to be no more than a typical housebreaking.²³ Surviving, Wilson described her assailant as a man of about 30 with a moustache. Possibly in the zone, but not much more.

On 3rd April (note the month), Emma Smith, walking from Whitechapel road to Brick lane, was attacked and raped by three men. Horrifically a blunt object was thrust through her vagina which ruptured. An ear was badly torn. Before she died Smith said she recognised one of them, a young man of nineteen. This was only weeks before Silver turned 20. While the two older assailants were not named, a number of Whitechapel reprobates were considered. Among them was one Joseph Anker, a template of Silver: a violent sexual predator of similar origins. Their link cannot be doubted – it was Anker who introduced the tragic Rachel Laskin to Silver. Walter Dew, one of the investigators of the killing of Mary-Anne Kelly, always believed that Smith was the first Ripper murder.

Following the Kelly killing, police suspected a Joseph Isaacs. The description of ‘Isaacs’, the man observed talking to Kelly shortly before she died, is remarkably similar to that of Silver. For three days after the murder until April 1889, the Isaacs/Silver character was in custody for a minor theft. This is the reason why he did not feature in the regular line-up of suspects favoured by Ripperologists.

Isaacs disappears while Silver sails to New York and was in Sing Sing Prison from October 1899 to October 1891. Goldberg was to tell a New York court that he was in contact with Lis in London – which must have meant Whitechapel – in 1889. This fits with Lis vanishing after the last killing before surfacing later and then going to New York.

By the time he was 20, Silver had syphilis. A prostitute was carrying his daughter. Echoes of his mother’s seductiveness collided head-on with fears of intimacy, commitment and betrayal. If there is ever a case for a catathymic crisis, it was the circumstances of Silver’s life in early 1888. He had impregnated a street prostitute who gave him syphilis and bore his daughter. It was August 1888 and the Autumn of Terror was to commence.



This leaves the reader to choose the most likely suspect: Kosminski or Silver? The evidence for the former is listed above. Silver meets the same criteria and then some; he shows the typical profile of a serial killer with abundant examples to confirm this. He was not mad, but psychopathic and therefore more organised. His presence in not just London, but Whitechapel, at that time must be considered not just highly likely but located in the centre of the circle of the first four murders. Finally, the man identified talking to Mary Jane Kelly shortly before she was killed – the best described details of the potential killer – closely matched Silver's appearance.

It had long been clear to serious historians of the Ripper murders that new historical evidence is not going to emerge. As a historian points out, in situations of this kind when the historical evidence runs out, all that is left is to pursue a psychological path.

Ultimately, there is no more certainty about Silver's candidacy than the others – but from now on he cannot be excluded as a likely Ripper.²⁴ If he is profiled, he easily passes the test. But for the curiosity of an historian about a newspaper entry in a dusty archive room of the Johannesburg Public Library Silver would have disappeared forever from the historical record.

The Ripper game will no doubt continue ad infinitum, but from now on Silver will have to be included in the list of serious candidates. This is indeed food for thought.

Somewhere around Przemysl, Silver lies in an unmarked grave among the bones of hundreds of other soldiers. From the five sad graves of the Whitechapel victims to the Hebrew section of Potschefstroom cemetery wherein lies Rachel Laskin, and any number of places between, rest the bones of Silver's victims. Who could ever imagine anything but unquiet sleep for any of them?



¹ Other murders in Whitechapel around the same time have been excluded by historians.

² Thanks to a letter that was later discovered to be fake.

³ Charles Van Onselen (2007). *The Fox and the Flies: The World of Joseph Silver, Racketeer and Psychopath*. Jonathan Cape, London. Page 418.

⁴ John Brophy. *The Meaning of Murder*. Corgi, London, 1966, p. 172: David Canter. *Criminal Shadows: Inside the Mind of the Serial Killer*. Lume Books. Kindle Edition p. 286.

⁵ David Finkelstein (ed.) (2020). *The Edinburgh History of the British and Irish Press, Volume 2: Expansion and Evolution, 1800-1900* Edinburgh University Press, p.56.

⁶ Added to which is the likelihood that the police will pay less attention to their disappearance and murder.

⁷ Wayne Petherick. *Serial Crime: Theoretical and Practical Issues in Behavioral Profiling*. Academic Press (2005), 1.

⁸ David Canter. *Criminal Shadows: Inside the Mind of the Serial Killer*. *Ibid.* p. 14-15.

⁹ Brittain R. The sadistic murderer. *Med Sci Law* 1970;10-198-207.

¹⁰ Brittain, in fact, only included one reference.

¹¹ For example, it is thought that Dr Harold Shipman ended his killing career by writing a poorly forged will that was highly likely to lead to his arrest.

¹² David Canter. *Criminal Shadows: Inside the Mind of the Serial Killer*. *Ibid.* p. 82; and Lundrigan S, Canter D (2001). Spatial Patterns of Serial Murder: An Analysis of Disposal Site Location Choice. *Behav. Sci. Law* 19: 595-601.

¹³ Lundrigan S, Canter D. Spatial patterns of serial murder: an analysis of disposal site location choice. *Ibid.*

¹⁴ David Canter. *Criminal Shadows: Inside the Mind of the Serial Killer*. *Ibid.* p.84..

¹⁵ David Canter. *Criminal Shadows: Inside the Mind of the Serial Killer*. *Ibid.* p. 84-85..

¹⁶ David Wilson (2009). *A History Of British Serial Killing: The Shocking Account of Jack the Ripper, Harold Shipman and Beyond*. Sphere, London, page .

¹⁷ Robert Anderson (1910). *The Lighter Side of My Official Life*. Hodder and Stoughton. Retrieved 26 August 2022.

¹⁸ The copy of Anderson's memoirs containing the handwritten notes by Swanson was donated by his descendants to Scotland Yard's Crime Museum in 2006.

¹⁹ Charles Van Onselen. *The Fox and the Flies: The World of Joseph Silver, Racketeer and Psychopath*, 2007.

²⁰ Charles van Onselen. *Ibid.* Page 422.

²¹ Charles van Onselen. *Ibid.* Page 429.



²² Charles van Onselen. *Ibid.* Page 423.

²³ Several historians find her account implausible it should be noted.

²⁴ Charles van Onselen. *Ibid.*



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