



H.H. Holmes

Kaitlin Smith pd. 2

Timeline

- He was smart young boy who excelled in school but he tortured animals as a child.
- During his childhood, some bullies in his class forced him in front of a human skeleton in the local's doctor office and made him touch the skeleton.
- After graduating high school at 16, Herman Mudgett changed his name to Henry Howard Holmes
- Holmes studied medicine in University of Michigan's Department of Medicine and Surgery. Here is where he requested insurance coverage for nonexistent people and then stole cadavers from the laboratory, disfigured them, and then planted the bodies to make it appear as if they had been killed in an accident. Holmes would then collect the money once the bodies were discovered

- June 1884, graduated and then moved to Chicago around 1885-1886. He got a job working as a pharmacist then purchased the pharmacy from the owner's widow and she mysteriously disappeared
- Continued to scam people who visited the drug store until he got enough money to build his “castle” in the lot across the street (The World's Fair Hotel)



Details of Crimes

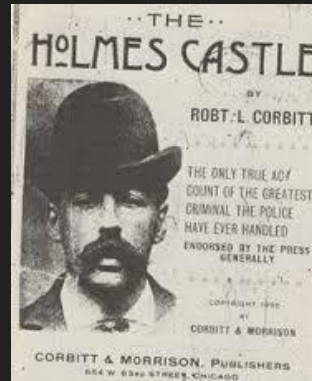
- While building his castle he constantly replaced his workers so no one knew what going on.
- Since he had a charming nature, he would charm the women, become engaged to them, and then murder them after sucking control of their life savings
- Other women were lured to his castle by the prospect of employment (any employee of Dr. Holmes was required to have life insurance policies that names him as sole beneficiary)
- His murder castle contained gas jets and a series of trap doors and chutes for body disposal.

After the Crime

- Attempted to cover up his murders by putting chutes in his hotel that took the bodies straight to the basement to be disposed of.
- Tried to cover up his insurance scams too by killing his partner in crime, Benjamin Pitezal, after he squealed to police

Finding the Suspect

- The suspect was found because Pitezal tipped off the police
- He was only going to be convicted of insurance scams but after Pitezal disappeared he was charged for his murder as well



The Trial

- The prosecution didn't really make any mistakes because Holmes told different stories to police including one that said he killed over 27 people
- Confessions are a priority in any trial


HOLMES CONFESSES 27 MURDERS:
THE MOST AWFUL STORY OF MODERN TIMES TOLD BY THE FIEND
IN HUMAN SHAPE.

Every Detail of His Fearful Crimes Told by the Man Who Admits He Is Turning Into the Shape of the Devil.

THE TALE OF THE GREATEST CRIMINAL IN HISTORY

The following statement was written by me in Philadelphia County Prison for the Philadelphia Inquirer as a true & accurate confession in all particulars. It is the only confession.

The Evening Star.
CHICAGO, ILL., THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1896




HH HOLMES
AN ARCH-FIEND'S RECORD

GREED! THE MURDERS HE COMMITTED WERE NOT CRIMES OF PASSION, NAY, THEY WERE CRIMES OF FINANCIAL GAIN, AS MANY WERE PART OF LIFE INSURANCE SCHEMES AND THE SELLING OF BODY PARTS!

HISTORY & STATS:

NAME: HERMAN WEBSTER MUGDET
BORN: MAY 16, 1861
DIED: MAY 7, 1896



In his 34 years, he confessed to 27 murders, 9 confirmed, but many think he could have killed up to 250 people.

As a child, after discovering his fear of the local doctor, schoolmates forced him to view and touch a human skeleton. The bullies initially brought him there to terrify him, but instead, he became fascinated, thus starting his obsession with death.

My Opinion & Other Interesting Information

- Definitely guilty, he built a whole castle with different rooms to murder people in.
- He insisted “[He] was born with the devil in [him]. [He] could not help the fact that [he] was a murderer, no more than a poet can help the inspiration to sing”