

"unmentionable vice" and occasional flashes of homoeroticism. The two most prominent characters, Reginald (no last name) and Clovis Sangrail, are dandies. Reginald is a vain and good looking young man, with nice eyelashes, who compares himself with *Ganymede*, wears "a carnation of the newest shade", and takes special delight in shocking people. A few of his epigrams have become famous ("To have reached thirty is to have failed in life."). At the same time that Reginald is courted by both men and women, he himself has an interest in lift boys, gardener boys, choir boys, and page boys. Clovis Sangrail, a bit older and more sophisticated, frequents the Jermyn Street baths (as did Munro himself) and is an admirer of male beauty, in others as well as himself.

Among the gayer stories are *Gabriel-Ernest* (a masterpiece which can be read on at least three different levels: a werewolf horror story, a comedy, and a parable of pederastic temptation), *Adrian*, *The Music on the Hill*, *Reginald's Choir Treat*, *The Innocence of Reginald*, and *Quail Seed*. A central figure in *Quail Seed* is a boy, "about sixteen years old, with dark olive skin, large dusky eyes, and thick, low-growing, blue-black hair" who works as an "artist's model"; the story concludes with the artist's statement: "We enjoyed the fun of it, and as for the model, it was a welcome variation on posing for hours for 'The Lost Hylas.'"

When World War I broke out, Munro, then 43 years old, enlisted in the army. Rejecting several offers of a commission, he remained in the ranks. His two years at the front, in the company of young working class men, were apparently the happiest time of his life. He was killed by a sniper's bullet in 1916, his last words being: "Put that damn cigarette out!"

His sister Ethyl, in her *Biography of Saki*, wrote his epitaph: "He had a tremendous sympathy for young men strug-

gling to get on, and in practical ways helped many a lame dog."

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John Lauritsen

## MURDERERS

More homosexuals have been the victims of murder than its instigators, but the popular imagination has seized on certain sensational exceptions to promulgate the legend of the lust-driven, anti-social sadist preying on young men. Cheap fiction likes to show the homosexual murderer as effete and flamboyant, but this is seldom true in reality. Occasionally, as in the case of Kenneth Halliwell, lover and slayer of the playwright Joe Orton, the violent act is a domestic crime of passion, the culmination of long self-loathing and humiliation. More often, the motive is profit, as when a hustler kills a john in his apartment: the files of the European police are packed with such cases going back to the eighteenth century. Homosexual *Lustmord* or sexual murder is less common than believed, and its practitioners rarely carry on lengthy torture sessions. Serial killers are generally closeted, with an emotional life arrested in childhood; their murders may be violent, but are often prompted by an inability to make emotional contact with another human being. They are unilateral in their taking of sexual pleasure and unimaginative in the recurrent patterns of their crimes.

The earliest criminals on record to mix homicide and homosex are monarchs or nobility, whose power enabled the crimes and whose prominence lent them notoriety. Zu Shenatir, fifth-century tyrant of El-Yemen, enticed young men and boys to his palace, sodomized them, and tossed them out of windows. He is alleged to have died, stabbed through the anus by the youth Zerash. Tipu Sahib (1751-1799),

the Sultan of Mysore in India, convinced that he was the chosen servant of Mohammed with a mission to destroy infidels, would customarily sodomize every European he captured, including General Sir David Baird; their children would be burned over slow fires, or sodomized while drugged, or defenestrated, or castrated and trained as catamites.

*Gilles de Rais.* Gilles de Rais (1404–1440), companion-in-arms of Joan of Arc and one of France's richest noblemen, a youth of "rare elegance and startling beauty," was renowned for piety and courage. After Joan's death, he separated from his wife, retired to his castle at Tiffauges, and gave himself over to extravagance and dissipation. To repair his fortunes, he had recourse to alchemy and under the influence of Prelati, a comely Italian sorcerer, commenced torturing and murdering young boys, to use their blood for pacts and spells. Hundreds of children in his territories disappeared (up to 800 according to some authorities). At his trial in 1440, he and his confederates confessed that he used the children sexually as he tortured them and enjoyed orgasms as they died, arranging beauty contests of their decapitated heads. Although sentenced to be strangled and burned, his body was retrieved by his family and given a Christian burial. Gilles de Rais has achieved mythic status and is the subject of a study by Henry Bataille, a play by Roger Planchon, and a novel by Michel Tournier. But one may question whether the trial testimony, extorted from underlings, was authentic or fabricated by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in order to seize the holdings of a lord who had grown too independent and powerful. As an emblem of divine good turned diabolically evil, the image of Gilles de Rais still exercises a powerful hold on the imagination.

*Báthory.* Erzsébet Báthory (1560–1614), the "Blood-Thirsty Countess" of a family which long showed a strain of madness and cruelty, is credited by legend with the death of more than 600

girls and young women. An adept in witchcraft and alchemy, with the aid of her handmaiden-lovers Barsovny and Ötvös, she kidnapped local girls and imprisoned them in her castle in Csej, northwest Hungary. Here she fattened and regularly bled them to provide beauty baths for her white skin. She would then have herself licked dry by virgins and anyone showing disgust would be tortured in various ingenious ways. Although her cousin was prime minister, he could not protect her castle from being raided and she was arrested and tried. Her accomplices were burned and decapitated, but in view of her high birth Báthory herself was immured in her apartments, where she died after four years of this living tomb.

*The Rise of the Common Murderer.* A signal difference between these slayers of the past and those of the present is that of rank. Royal or aristocratic murderers were in a position of privilege; their sexual tastes were considered as out of the ordinary as their crimes. The rise of the common man seems also to herald the rise of the common murderer, whose depredations and lusts must be rationalized within his society. With the emergence of forensic psychiatry and "criminal anthropology," the connection between sexual inversion and homicide has been studied in considerable, often obtuse, detail. It does seem certain that the anonymity of sexual promiscuity in the modern metropolis is both a temptation and a facilitation of mass murder.

The first "Romantic everyman" murderer was Pierre François Lacenaire (1800–1835), who wrote his memoirs while awaiting the guillotine. Although Lacenaire admitted to homosexual liaisons during earlier prison terms, he denied that he continued them in "civilian" life; nevertheless, police authorities were convinced that he and his accomplice Avril were more than good friends. Their last victim was a notorious *tante* ("auntie"). But, except for his self-aggrandizement and pretensions to literature, there was

little to distinguish Lacenaire's criminal career from that of any heterosexual felon. The same might be said of Joseph Vacher (1869–1897), the "Ripper of Southeast France," who raped and ripped both sexes without discrimination; or of Ronald Kray [b. 1933], who with his twin brother Reggie terrorized the London underworld in the 1960s: Ronald was gay, his brother straight, but their records for brutality and viciousness were almost identical.

Although the number of heterosexual mass murderers is high, the homosexual serial killer exercises a special fascination for alienists and journalists alike. However, social taboos have prevented the homosexual murderer from being idealized by the media, with the exception of Wayne Williams, whose guilt was questioned in a TV special; so far, even homophobes have boggled at exploiting the crimes of Dean Corll and Dennis Nilsen. The most celebrated cases of murder by homosexuals in modern times are the following.

*Haarmann.* The German Fritz Haarmann (1876–1924) was an escapee from an asylum to which he had been sent because of child molestation. Once an exemplary soldier in a Jäger regiment, he turned petty criminal and police informer. In Hannover during World War I he became a successful smuggler, aided by his police connections. During the postwar inflationary period, Haarmann, posing as a detective, would pick up unemployed lads at the railway station, take them back to his room, and murder them, often by biting their throats during the sexual act. He would dismember the body and dispose of it in the river that ran outside his lodgings; charges that he sold the flesh for butcher's meat were never proven, but it is a strong likelihood. Infatuated with a petty thief and hustler, Hans Grans, who encouraged his activities, Haarmann stepped them up and may have been responsible for over 50 deaths of good-looking youths from 13 to 20. Despite complaints from parents, po-

lice were very slow to take action until bones and clothes too numerous to ignore began to turn up. Haarmann and Grans were indicted for 27 murders in 1924; the former behaved with remarkable insouciance during the fortnight's trial and wrote a confession that revealed his delight in his sexual tastes and homicidal practices. He was decapitated; Grans was sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment. Haarmann's career formed the inspiration for the film, *Zärtlichkeit der Wölfe* (1973), made by Fassbinder's disciple Ulli Lommel.

*Seefeld.* Adolf Seefeld (1871–1936), a German tramp and religious fanatic, killed boys with natural poisons. When arrested and tried in 1936, he confessed to 12 murders, committed at ever-decreasing intervals between April 16, 1933, and February 23, 1935. (There may have been more, since he had been charged with a murder as early as 1908.) The Nazi court moralized over his deeds and sentenced him to be executed.

*Leopold and Loeb.* Nathan Leopold, Jr. (1905–1971) and Richard Loeb (1906–1936), brilliant scions of wealthy Jewish families in Chicago, were lovers who, under the influence of Nietzsche's "superman" philosophy, decided to commit a "Raskolnikovian" crime. In 1924, they kidnapped a younger acquaintance, Bobbie Franks, battered in his skull with a chisel, drowned him in a culvert, disfigured his face with hydrochloric acid, and hid the body in a drainpipe, before phoning ransom demands to the parents. They were traced by eyeglasses Leopold dropped at the culvert and, under police interrogation, Loeb confessed; both men accused the other of wielding the chisel. At their trial, they were defended by Clarence Darrow, who argued they were paranoid schizophrenics, thus irresponsible for the crime. They were both imprisoned for life plus 99 years; in the Joliet prison shower-room, "Dickie" Loeb was stabbed to death in a brawl; "Babe" Leopold, believed to be the mastermind of the Franks crime, was

paroled in 1958 and served as a health worker in San Juan, Puerto Rico, until his death.

*Corona.* Juan V. Corona, Mexican labor contractor, was convicted in 1971 of killing 25 vagrants and migrant workers, whom he buried in the fruit orchards near Yuba City, California. The motive was apparently sexual, since most of the victims had their pants off or down, and one had gay pornography in his pocket; they had been stabbed and hacked about the head with a machete. Corona's defense tried to argue that he was a married man with children and therefore not a homosexual, whereas his half-brother Natividad, convicted of an earlier attack on a young Mexican, was a homosexual who returned to Mexico. Corona was sentenced to 25 consecutive life terms, although doubt remains as to whether he had an accomplice or was in fact the guilty party.

*Corll.* Dean Allen Corll (1939–1973) was the child of a broken home, a "mamma's boy" who allegedly "came out" during his service in the U. S. Army. In 1969, while living in Houston, he began to exhibit signs of moroseness and hypersensitivity, organized glue-sniffing parties, and indulged in sadistic activities. He would pick up boys for sex, torture and murder them; eventually he enlisted two youths, Elmer Wayne Henley and David Owen Brooks, as procurers and assistant torturers. The victims were often tormented for days at a time, occasionally castrated, before being despatched and buried in beaches and boathouses. Henley later claimed there were 31 victims, but only 27 bodies were recovered. The end came in 1973 when Henley made the mistake of bringing a girl to a party; the enraged Corll threatened to kill him, and Henley shot him. Henley and Brooks were sentenced to life imprisonment.

*Toole.* Otis Toole of Jacksonville, Florida, ex-hustler and arsonist, claims to have committed his first murder at the age of 14. Between 1975 and 1981, he and his close friend Henry Lee Lucas killed ap-

proximately 50 persons, including a six-year-old boy they beheaded; the victims were often tortured before death and sexually molested afterwards. Toole concentrated on the boys, Lucas on the girls. Although they confessed to some 700 crimes, they have since repudiated their confessions; Toole is serving a life sentence in Florida State Penitentiary, Lucas is on Death Row in Texas.

*Cooper.* Ronald Frank Cooper (1950–1978) was an unemployed laborer in Johannesburg who recorded in his diary in 1976 the intention to "become a homosexual murderer . . . [I] shall get hold of young boys and bring them here where I am staying and I shall *rape* them and then kill them. I shall not kill all the boys in the same ways." He then went on to list the ways, planning 30 murders, following which he would begin a campaign against women. After three unsuccessful attacks, he managed to throttle a 12-year-old, failed at raping him and, with a change of conscience, sought to loosen the rope. Identified by another boy he had molested, he was soon arrested, convicted with the aid of the diaries, and hanged.

*MacDonald.* William MacDonald was responsible for the murder and mutilation of four men in Sydney, Australia, in 1961; one of them was found castrated in a bathhouse, another castrated in a public toilet. MacDonald passed himself off as his last victim, Allan Brennan, but was picked up from Identikit descriptions. Sentenced to life imprisonment, he was later transferred to a home for the criminally insane.

*Bartsch.* Jürgen Bartsch (b. 1946) was a West German butcher's apprentice who between 1962 and 1967 lured four boys from a carnival in Langenberg, slaughtered them in an abandoned air-raid shelter, attempted anal intercourse, cut them up like beef carcasses, and masturbated over their bodies. On trial, he declared attempts to abduct 70 more. The fact that Bartsch had confessed his first crime to a priest shortly after committing the mur-

der and that the priest had observed the confidentiality of the confessional occasioned debate about the sacrality of such confidence. Bartsch was condemned to life imprisonment.

*Gacy.* John Wayne Gacy, Jr. (b. 1942), Chicago salesman and contractor, may have suffered a personality disorder when struck on the head at the age of eleven. A man desperate to be liked, often serving as a clown at children's parties, he was a sorry mythomaniac, pretending to be a precinct captain and a friend of President Carter. Twice married and twice divorced, Gacy, who had a history of forcing sex on young men, lured at least 33 of them to his house in Des Plaines, sodomized them, often with violence, before murdering them. The bodies were buried there until he ran out of space and dumped the last five in the Chicago River. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1980.

*Bonin.* William G. Bonin (b. 1947) was a truck driver. Occasionally accompanied by friends, he cruised the streets and freeways of Los Angeles in his self-styled "death van," picking up young men. Inside the van, the victims were robbed, raped, tortured, and killed, their bodies strewn along the highway. Bonin varied his techniques, strangling with T-shirts, puncturing with an icepick, castrating, and stabbing endlessly. Altogether 44 bodies were recovered in the "Freeway Killings," which began in the mid-1970s. Bonin stood trial for ten of them in 1980, four more subsequently. He was sentenced to death and is awaiting execution.

*Williams.* Atlanta's Wayne Bertram Williams (b. 1958) is a problematic case: many are persuaded of his innocence and James Baldwin, in *The Evidence of Things Not Seen* (1985), writes: "It is unlikely, as well as irrelevant, that he is homosexual." For 22 months, between 1979 and 1981, 28 corpses of poor black children, two of them girls, were found murdered, shot, stabbed, bludgeoned or strangled. The spoiled and arrogant Williams, himself black, was charged with the

murders of two grown men, Jimmy Raye Payne and Nathaniel Cater; the prosecution relied heavily on circumstantial evidence and innuendo, implying that the children's murders could be put down to Williams as well. He was sentenced to life imprisonment and the police declared the earlier cases closed.

*Nilsen.* Dennis Nilsen (b. 1945), a Scottish civil servant, holds the record for multiple murder in Britain. After a career in the army and the police, Nilsen became known as an excellent worker in the London Manpower Services Commission; a frequenter of gay bars, he often took young men, both homosexual and heterosexual, home for the night. Overwhelmed with a sense of loneliness and convinced that only death could keep his companions from leaving him, Nilsen began to strangle many of them, finishing them off by drowning in the bathtub. He would sleep beside the corpses, occasionally masturbating, or retain them on his premises, until corruption or overcrowding compelled him to dissect them and dispose of the remains under the floor-boards, in bonfires, or, in his last residence, down the toilet. It was the clogged drains which led to his discovery. On his arrest in 1983, he made a full confession, later amplified by circumstantial diaries; in prison, awaiting trial, he fell in love with David Martin, the bisexual murderer of a policeman. Nilsen was sentenced to life imprisonment. Of all homosexual serial killers, although he conforms in some respect to the standard profile, Nilsen seems the most intellectual, the most questioning of his own motives: these appear to be a profound need for affection, combined with a sense of the permanence and stillness to be found in death. It is significant, though not exculpatory, that he always committed his murders when thoroughly drunk, the alcohol releasing his inhibitions and permitting the suppressed violence in his nature. He seems to have finally located his identity as a reviled mass murderer.

*Paulin.* Thierry Paulin (b. 1963), a black cabaret performer from Martinique, appeared in drag as Diana Ross in Parisian night clubs. In tandem with a Guyanese boyfriend Jean-Thierry Mathurin (b. 1965), he brutally murdered 29 elderly widows between 1985 and 1987, until he was identified by a survivor. His motive was apparently mere robbery.

*See also Violence.*

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Laurence Senelick

### MURET, MARC-ANTOINE (1526-1585)

French Renaissance humanist. Born at Muret in the Limousin, he was an autodidact who became a professor at the age of eighteen. Recommended by Julius Scaliger to the magistrates of Bordeaux, he taught literature at the college of Guienne. Among his pupils was the young Michel Montaigne, who later boasted that he had played the lead in the Latin tragedies composed by his teacher. Settling in Paris, Muret taught at the college of Cardinal Lemoine, delivering lectures so brilliant that Henri II and Catherine de' Medici attended them. By 1552 he was giving courses on philosophy, theology and civil law all at the same time, while publishing his poetic *Juvenilia*. But accused of unnatural vice, he was imprisoned at the fortress of Châtelet, and would have died of self-starvation had his friends not intervened to secure his release. Disgraced in Paris and reduced to poverty, he fled to Toulouse, where he eked out a living by giving lessons in law. He was accused a

second time of having committed sodomy, in this instance with a young man named L. Memmius Frémot, and on the advice of a councilor in the parlement he absconded once more. He was sentenced to death in absentia and burned in effigy with Frémot in the Place Saint-Georges as a Huguenot and sodomite. He crossed the Alps in disguise and was warmly received for a time in Venice, while in France his memory was ceaselessly vilified. Théodore de Bèze remarked that "For an unnatural penchant Muret was expelled from France and Venice, and for the same penchant he was made a Roman citizen."

Muret found his fortune only under the patronage of the princes of Ferrara, in whose palace everything was at his disposal: several libraries, the precious manuscripts of the Vatican, and his protector's villa. In Rome he lectured on Aristotle, taught civil law, and was one of the first to apply it to the study of history and philosophy. His Latin was judged so perfect that his auditors believed that they were hearing the voice of another Cicero. In 1576 he entered religious orders and there conducted himself in a manner that won the approval and generosity of Pope Gregory XIII. As a defender of the Catholic party he even composed a eulogy of the massacre of Saint Bartholomew's eve. In addition to works on law he wrote numerous Latin commentaries on the Greek and Roman classics.

Muret was a type of Renaissance scholar and intellectual who had his brushes with the law because of his homosexual activity, but thanks to his enormous talent and the protection of influential friends managed to escape the penalty which the law then decreed and even to have a distinguished academic career. His mastery of Latin and his commentaries on the ancient authors belonged to an age that saw as its main task the recovery and assimilation of classical antiquity rather than original scholarship.