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ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF MURDER

Colin Wilson & Pat Pitman

THIS UNIQUE VOLUME ...
provides a horrifying exposure
of the character, background,
mentality, bitter unconscious
humour and pathos of more
than 300 murderers. Its impact
is as brutal as its subject

DAILY EXPRESS



ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MURDER

Not since the publication of the NEWGATE CALENDAR (1828), LIVES OF THE CRIMINALS (1735), and PELHAM'S NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR (1886) has a compilation of this kind been attempted. Succinct but intensely readable accounts are given of murders going back in time from the Hounslow footpath case in 1960 to the case of the legendary Sawney Bean who preyed on his victims from a cave-dwelling in fifteenth century Scotland. The scope is world-wide too, and the classic cases – Crippen, Lizzie Borden, Christie, Heath, and the rest – are given especially detailed treatment: but there are hundreds of other murderers whose names even addicts of murder cases will read here for the first time; names such as Robert James, the Californian barber who, before drowning his wife, attempted to kill her by thrusting her leg into a box of rattlesnakes. In addition to murder cases, articles on fingerprints, assassination, the death penalty, etc., are included under the various letters of the alphabet.

Each of the joint authors contributes a preface: Colin Wilson, in a brilliant essay, relating the subject of murder to his Outsider thesis; Patricia Pitman presenting an entirely opposing viewpoint in which she adds the reservation—'this encyclopedia does not intend to be inclusive, nor indeed could it be. In the last hour two murders will have been committed in Mexico alone'.

ERRATUM

BYRNE, Patrick

The last sentence of the penultimate paragraph on page 144 is a misstatement and should be disregarded. The Publisher much regrets its inclusion in this edition.

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