

Ripper Notes

The American Journal for Ripper Studies

*Madmen,
Myths
&
Magic*

October 2004

Paul Begg • Jan Bondeson • Bernard Brown • Amanda Howard • Dan Norder
Jennifer Pegg • Roger Peterson • Antonio Sironi • Wolf Vanderlinden • Tom Wescott

The Vesica Piscis Connection

Jack the Ripper, Jesus Christ and the Lindbergh Tragedy

By Tom Wescott

Tom Wescott is a frequent contributor to Ripper Notes. Past articles include "Lusk Kidney Revelation," "An Inspiration 'From Hell'?" and "Sickert, Ennui and the Ripper Letters." He welcomes comments about this article. His can be reached via email at tcwes@aol.com

Charles Lindbergh is a name to be remembered. Whether it be for the Spirit of St. Louis and the 33 hour flight that made a boy and his plane American icons, or his rise in becoming one of the world's most powerful men, or even his later fall from grace when it became apparent that he was more than just a little sympathetic towards the Nazi party. He left in his wake plenty for modern historians to spill ink over.

However, it is a period between these highs and lows that today attracts the attention of true crime buffs the world over, when "Lucky Lindy" took center stage in what has become known as the "crime of the 20th century."

On March 1st, 1932, Lindbergh's twenty-month-old son, Charles Jr., was abducted from his crib in a second story room of the Lindbergh's new home. Left on the window sill was a ransom note. More ransom notes would follow, each with an enigmatic symbol at the bottom where a signature should be. This symbol is the Vesica Piscis,

and, if author Ivor Edwards' theory of the Jack the Ripper murders is correct, it serves to link the most baffling crimes of two centuries.

Although this essay should not be read as an endorsement of Mr. Edwards' suggestion that Robert D'Onston Stephenson (a.k.a. Roslyn D'Onston) as Jack the Ripper used the Vesica Piscis as an outline to design his map of murder, it is only because of Mr. Edwards' book, *Jack the Ripper's Black Magic Rituals*, that I became aware of the symbol and therefore was able to recognize it when watching a documentary on the Lindbergh kidnapping/murder.

What follows is some new information on the Vesica Piscis and how it is seen by some

practitioners of Magik and the occult. The purpose of this essay is not to present this information as *proof* that Roslyn D'Onston, himself a black magician, was the Ripper, but simply to ask the reader to consider that if he had been, could he have been influenced by the Vesica Piscis? The reader



Charles Lindbergh, Jr.

is encouraged to make up his own mind as to its possible relevance. Following this will be a discussion of how this symbol lends itself to the name of a contemporary suspect in the Lindbergh Jr. case. To the best of my knowledge — and the knowledge of the experts I've communicated with — this connection has never before been made in any published work on the case.

Let us begin with a short look at the Vesica Piscis itself.

The Latin term "vesica piscis" translates literally as "fish bladder," or "vessel of the fish," or may simply mean "fish." When displayed vertically, the ovular center created by the interlocking circles resembles a fish with no tail, the earliest known Christian symbol. Jesus Christ himself was greatly associated with the fish by early Christians: The phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior," translates into Greek as "Iesous CHristos THEou Uios Soter" — the capital letters from this spell "ICHTHUS," the Greek word for "fish." During their time of persecution, Christians used the symbol of the fish as a secret code to identify themselves to other Christians. Variations of this

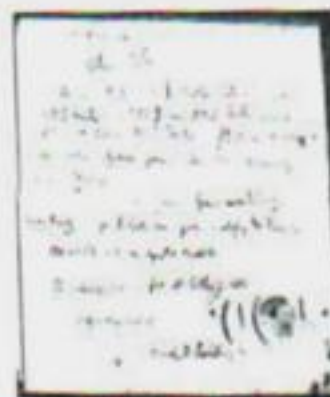
sign can now be seen as bumper stickers on cars across the globe — the fish is once again a Christian symbol.

The almond-shaped center (called the "mandorla" or "vesica" or "vesica piscis") represents many things, including the passageway taken by Christ to enter onto Earth from Heaven. It also stands to represent certain portions of the human anatomy:

"Because of its shape, the Vesica Piscis has symbolized the womb and, in Christianity, of the Virgin, therefore Christ is often placed inside it. This image of Christ inside the womb of the Virgin itself symbolizes the immaterial form of Christ entering the material realm or more specifically, the intangible spiritual form of Christ becoming human flesh and becoming tangible."¹

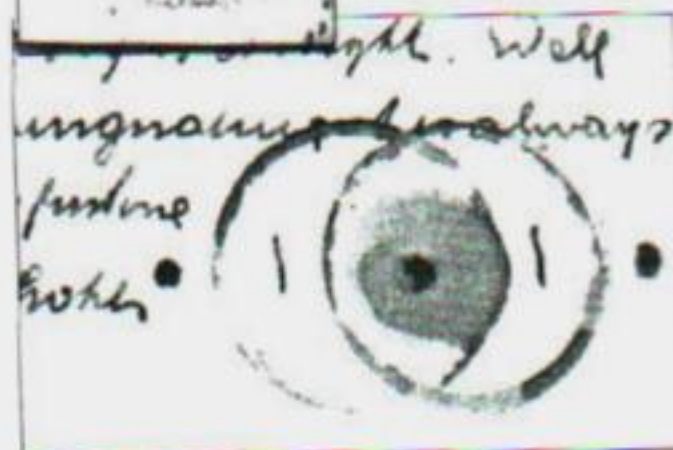
Over the years, as the Vesica Piscis has become embraced as a powerful symbol in the occult, it has been given its own rituals. Most of these, of course, are harmless and intended to be productive and not destructive to their practitioners. The purpose of such rituals is for the Higher Self (Guardian Angel, Daemon, or Christos) to descend as the Lower Self (personality, eidolon or Magdelene) ascends; the idea being that Spirit and Man will intersect in the middle — in the Vesica Piscis itself — and will become equal. To a warped individual worshipping darker spirits, a defilement of this ritual could mean great power as to his mind he ascends to become equal with the evil forces he worships.

Following is a portion quoted from one variation on the Vesica Piscis ritual still practiced today. It requires placing the Vesica Piscis on its side so that the two intersecting circles are above and below each other — "Put this way, the higher circle symbolizes Spirit (pneuma), the lower is



Left: One of the ransom notes.

Below: A close-up of the symbol used as a signature on these messages.



Matter or Body (hyle), and the Vesica Piscis itself, the intersection of Spirit and Matter, is Soul (psyche)." As will be seen, the ritual consists of five "initiations":

"If we bisect the two spheres with a vertical line, the spheres intersect the line at four points: (1) at the lower circle's bottom, (2) at its center (the upper circle's bottom), (3) at the upper circle's center (the lower circle's top), and (4) at the upper circle's top. These four points divide the vertical line into equal thirds. Subdividing the line again into sixths gives us seven points, the cerebrospinal seven chakras – all of the body's nine chakras except the extreme bottom (Foot) and top (Crown): the two transcendental chakras. This leaves us with (1) Base, (2) Sex, (3) Navel, (4) Solar Plexus, (5) Heart, (6) Throat, and (7) Head (Brow). Now we can see that the Lower Self or Magdalene has ascended to embrace the Base (First Initiation), Sex (Second Initiation), Navel (Third Initiation), Solar Plexus (Crucifixion or Fourth Initiation), and the Heart (Fifth Initiation). Likewise, the Higher Self or Christos has descended to embrace the Brow (First Initiation), Throat (Second Initiation), Heart (Third Initiation), Solar Plexus (Crucifixion or Fourth Initiation), and Navel (Fifth Initiation). The Vesica Piscis is thus the result of the Fifth Initiation, or Mastery. The symbol proper embraces the Navel, Solar Plexus, and Heart: the three chakras of the Soul (psyche); the Soul now knows itself to be thoroughly the product or Child of the marriage of Spirit and Matter."

Now, this describes two concurrent

sequences: one ascending (the Magdalene, or Man, or for the sake of argument here, the Ripper) and one descending (the Higher Self, or if D'Onston were the Ripper, then Satan or some other dark spirit). The only sequence that requires our attention is the one of ascension, as that would be the route set upon by the Ripper. However, as he would approach the ritual as a defilement of Christ, it is likely his course would vary. Nevertheless, the points of comparison are striking. The Five chakras embraced by the "lower self" are, in order of Initiation, base (legs), sex, navel, solar plexus (crucifixion or Fourth Initiation), and Heart (Fifth Initiation).

1) Mary Ann "Polly" Nichols: If the Ripper's first murder was intended in part to represent the first chakra, then it appears his initiation ritual differed in its first chakra (replacing "base" with "throat"), which is quite possible.

2) Annie Chapman: The Ripper removed Annie's womb and took it with him. Also taken, according to Chief Inspector Donald Swanson's report, was "part of the belly wall including navel." So, Initiation two (Sex) and three (Navel) are satisfied in this one murder.

3) Elizabeth Stride: Only Strides' throat was cut, the Ripper having already ascended to the third chakra, but if he indeed had an occult plan that also required a certain number of victims found at certain spots (a theory that originated with D'Onston himself), then Stride's murder certainly served its purpose.

4) Catherine Eddowes: The Fourth Initiation, called the "Crucifixion," embraces the solar plexus. The Ripper's knife appears to have entered Eddowes at the solar plexus and proceeded to cut downwards in jagged motions. Reaching inside, he removed her left kidney. He also took her uterus.

5) Mary Kelly: In this most indulgent of atrocities the Ripper managed to attack and

annihilate all seven of the chakras incumbent in the Vesica Piscis ritual, as it was with this Initiation that the Lower Self and Higher Self melded and Mastery was achieved. This Initiation, the Fifth and final, embraces the Heart. This was the only portion of Kelly's anatomy her killer chose to take with him.

It is vital to mention here that the fifth and final initiation represents the Risen Christ, and thus the fourth initiation (as can be seen from this excerpt) must always represent the Crucifixion. In relating this point to the Ripper murders, it is interesting to note that the fourth victim, Catherine Eddowes, was the only one known to be found without an arm folded over her chest (they were laid out at an angle to her sides), and if her murder were, in fact, intended to represent, or blaspheme, the Crucifixion of Christ, then the cryptic words found chalked in Goulston Street — "The Jewes are the men that will not be blamed for nothing" — make perfect sense. The Jews have been blamed by many people for the death of Christ, so paying tribute in such a way, if that were the Ripper's intention, would be considered an appropriate way to blaspheme Christianity. Another fascinating observation made from the above excerpt is that the Vesica Piscis consists of only seven of the body's nine chakras, the Foot and Crown (the two transcendental chakras) being excluded. This conjures forth the image of the Ripper's fifth and final victim, Mary Kelly, utterly shredded to ribbons... except for her feet and crown. The mutilating of Mary Kelly was not done in frenzy, as witnessed by the lack of violence to her eyes. One of her legs was literally skinned to the bone, but the feet and crown of her head went untouched.

And what of Kelly's eyes? Why was the Ripper so careful not to damage them? The various sources I consulted for information regarding Vesica Piscis noted its resem-

blance to the human eye — "A commonly-used icon in the early Christian churches is the 'Vesica Piscis' — that shape which also resembles a human eye or a fish without a tail," reads one, "The shape of the human eye is a Vesica Piscis, therefore, there is a spiritual meaning behind 'seeing eye to eye'," reads another. As the Vesica Piscis was Christ's gateway to earth, it also symbolizes "nature's gateway": the womb, as well as the human eye — the gateway to the soul. Perhaps the Ripper refrained from damaging Kelly's eyes in order to leave a clue to his true motives. It should also be noted that all of the Ripper murders were committed at or by gateways and/or passages.

And what of the strange symbols carved into Eddowes' face?

Derek Osborne, in a recent article for *Ripper Notes*, noted how previous writers have taken the large inverted "V"s to be pyramid-shaped and pointed out that "a more reasoned approach... would be to view the triangular cuts more as arrow-shaped. Markers, if you will, that focused attention towards Eddowes' eyes. And the addition of those nicked eyelids reinforces that suspicion."

If Roslyn D'Onston were, in fact, Jack the Ripper, is it possible that the Vesica Piscis was more than just a Christian symbol to be defiled as part of his ritual? Might it have been the basis for the ritual itself? And what does all this information tell us about the kidnapers of Charles Lindbergh's less-than-lucky son? Fortunately, a simpler and far less tenuous explanation is available.

At the time of his arrest Bruno Richard Hauptmann was found to have over \$14,000 of the Lindbergh ransom money. This was more than two years following the discovery of poor Charles Jr.'s body and the trail leading to his kidnapers had long grown cold, until a gas station attendant suspected

a bill handed him by Hauptmann to be counterfeit and informed the police. He marked the bill with Hauptmann's license plate number, and to their shock the police discovered that this bill was from the Lindbergh ransom money. Soon the police would tell the world they "had their man," though many doubted whether it could have been a one-man operation. Some believe that what followed was one of America's most well-known and well-documented examples of severe injustice.

What concerns us here is Hauptmann's defense: he claimed he'd been given a wrapped and string-tied shoe box full of "important documents" by a friend and business associate who was traveling back home to Leipzig, Germany, and asked to keep it safe pending his return. When a leaky roof prompted a cleaning of the closet where the box had been stored and forgotten (though

Hauptmann's wife couldn't remember ever having seen a box in the closet), Hauptmann found the shoe box dilapidated from the moisture and its contents revealed — \$14,600. He took the money to his garage, dried it, and hid it under and behind wooden boards. As his associate was in debt to him for \$7,000 and had since died, Hauptmann felt justified in keeping the full sum for himself. Despite his suspicious concealment of the money, he claimed to have not known it was a portion of the ransom funds extorted from Lindbergh for his son who was already dead.

The name of Hauptmann's business associate was Isidor Fisch.

Hence referred to by investigators and reporters as the "Fisch Story," Hauptmann's tale was essentially ignored and never fully investigated. Instead, he was fit up as a lone kidnapper/murderer, prosecuted, convicted, and executed. Although it's likely that Hauptmann played some hand in the kidnapping and/or subsequent ransom caper, to what extent he was involved cannot be adequately determined (though, as a carpenter by trade, it is possible he constructed the intricate folding-ladder used to reach the baby's window). The possibility exists that either an innocent man was murdered or his co-conspirators were allowed to get away by a system bent on a hasty resolution. In either case, a mystery remains.

But what of the "Fisch Story"? Because it was not fully and competently investigated at the time, we may never know how much truth it holds, though no evidence exists that contradicts the pertinent points of Hauptmann's argument. It is interesting to note that Fisch applied for his passport on May 12th, 1932 — the same day little Charles' body was discovered. Fisch had died of tuberculosis by the time of Hauptmann's arrest and therefore could not be questioned. His family, it would seem, had no knowledge either of the money or of his alleged



Hauptmann having his fingerprints taken after his arrest.

