



Dr. H.H. Holmes: America's First Serial Killer (True Crimes Book 35)

By Andrew Alexander

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In 1995, a New York collector bought a batch of one-hundred-year-old wax cylinder recordings. When he played them, on one he heard a man admitting to multiple murders: "I regret only one murder, and that was of Minnie Williams because I think I loved her."

The recording was made in May 1896, just a few days before the execution of Dr.H.H. Holmes.

Holmes was the owner of a large hotel in Chicago, who for four years murdered his guests, their children, his employees and his mistresses to sell their bodies as either cadavers for dissection or as articulated skeletons to the local medical schools.

Although he was charged with only one murder, he confessed to twenty-seven. In reality, the death toll was probably closer to two hundred, as Holmes turned his hotel into a production line of murder.

Holmes was thus one of America's first serial killers. His criminal exploits occurred during the same era as Jack the Ripper and were far more extensive. However, Holmes has not endured in the public's memory as has the notorious London archfiend.

After his arrest, Holmes confessed: "I was born with the Devil in me. I could not help the fact that I was a murderer, no more than a poet can help the inspiration to sing."

This illustrated review gives an insight into H.H. Holmes' life and crimes, both as a study in its own right and as a stepping-stone to further research into the true crime genre.

Topics covered include:

- Introduction

- Early Life
- The Murder 'Castle'
- The Killings
- Arrest
- Trial and Execution
- Aftermath

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John Christie – The 10 Rillington Place Murders

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Harold Shipman – Doctor Death

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