

HOLT IS MUENTER, SAY ASSOCIATES

Student Friend Tells of Fugitive Harvard Professor's Return Under New Name.

OTHERS RECOGNIZE PICTURE

New York Detectives Working on the Theory That the Two Men Are the Same.

New York detectives are trying to develop the theory that Frank Holt, the former Cornell Professor of German, who shot J. P. Morgan and tried to blow up the Capitol at Washington, is none other than Erich Muentner, the Harvard Professor of German who disappeared from Harvard in 1906 following the death of his wife from poisoning. Erich Muentner was of German birth; Frank Holt admits that he is of German descent, although claiming birth in this country. Where, he has not told.

Pictures of Erich Muentner, sent to Glen Cove from Cambridge, show a close resemblance between the former Harvard professor and Holt. Attendants who went to Holt's cell last night and looked at him, with a picture of the man wanted for the murder of his wife in 1906 in their hands, declared that with his beard shaven off Muentner might easily be Holt.

Identify Holt as Muentner.

P. W. Hillier of 107 Oxford Street, Cambridge, the house in which Mrs. Muentner died, who lived under the Muentners, while they were in Cambridge, said last night that Holt and Muentner were the same, judging from the picture of Holt shown to him.

"This picture looks as I should imagine Muentner would look without the beard. I should say it was a picture of Muentner, but of course you know pictures are sometimes deceptive."

Hillier knew Muentner well. He was in the habit of driving him about Cambridge from his livery stable. Muentner frequently went to the Hillier stable, and Mr. Hillier says that at one time Muentner called up Chicago on the phone and left a telephone toll charge of about \$10 for the call that he never paid.

A. E. Long, the undertaker who prepared Mrs. Muentner's body for the funeral, when shown a picture of Holt said that it was a striking resemblance to Muentner.

A dispatch from Chicago said that two University of Chicago professors last night identified a photograph of Holt taken soon after his arrest for shooting Mr. Morgan as a likeness of Muentner, whom they had known well. When the two professors were shown the picture, one of them said: "I know it is Muentner, because I know it is Holt."

Last night a reporter showed a picture of Holt to Miss Bertha Muentner, a sister of the missing Harvard professor. "I am unable to say whether this is a picture of my brother," she said. "He was tall like that, but the features don't seem to be those of the boy I knew."

J. M. Binckley, Jr., 612 Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, who was a personal friend of Holt, denied last night that Holt was Muentner.

Dr. H. B. McIntyre of Boston, the physician who was called to attend Mrs. Muentner in 1906, and who refused to have anything to do with the case, said last night at his home when a picture of Holt was shown him that it bore a strong resemblance to Erich Muentner.

"Of course," said Dr. McIntyre, "the fact that Holt's eyes are closed and that the bandage over his head covers his forehead, makes it impossible to say positively that it is Muentner. However, there are remarkable points of resemblance. The lines on either side of the nose, the peculiar chin and the neck, as well as the carriage and build of the man, all look like Muentner."

School Chum Sure He's Muentner.

Another dispatch from Chicago last night said that an associate of Muentner during the days he was a student at the University of Chicago said he was confident Holt, the man who shot Mr. Morgan, was Muentner. He said he knew of Muentner's fleeing from Harvard and of rehabilitating himself in Mexico. Holt often told his associates at Cornell that he had learned the Spanish he knew when he was on a prospecting trip in Mexico. The informant, whose name is protected, said he knew of Muentner as Holt at Vanderbilt University and at Cornell.

"Frank Holt, who shot J. P. Morgan," said this informant last night, "is the Erich Muentner who took his degree of A. B. at the University of Chicago in 1899 and later fled from Cambridge, Mass., following the death

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of his wife and has since been a fugitive.

"There is no doubt about Holt and Muentner being the same man. He has kept hidden all these years through a remarkable rehabilitation under the name of Holt.

"Muentner was born in Germany, but since his rehabilitation as Holt has claimed to have been born in Texas of German parentage. For a time he taught German in the Harvard School of Chicago, a private preparatory institution. He also taught German in Radcliffe College for Women.

"His wife was a pleasant German-American woman, as I remember her. Muentner's mind ran on sex matters. With others he formed a secret organization for the study of mediaeval mysticism.

Fled to Mexico.

"His wife was about to give birth to their third child when her death occurred. Muentner ran away from Cambridge with the two children, and brought them to Chicago, where he turned them over to Mrs. Muentner's parents. Then, still undetected by the authorities, he went to Mexico.

"He worked for a while in Mexico City as a stenographer. He shaved his full beard and wore a soft hat instead of the derby he had affected as Muentner. A reward of \$1,000 for his arrest has never been claimed. While a fugitive he issued a badly printed review of his case couched in sarcastic terms, and mailed it to some of his acquaintances."

"In this connection a dispatch from Cambridge said that the police there received a year after Mrs. Muentner's death such a document.

"Under the name of Holt," continued the Chicago informant, "he showed up at the Agricultural and Mechanical College at College Station, Texas, passed the examinations there, and was graduated. He married a classmate at the Texas school, and has three children by her.

"He later taught German in Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tenn., and

attended Cornell University, where he obtained his Ph. D. He was elected head of the department of German of the Southern Methodist University of Dallas, Texas, and was to have begun his work there next Fall.

"I always considered him odd, but to talk with him you would not suspect his eccentricities."

Muentner's sister, Miss Bertha Muentner, a teacher in the public schools of Chicago, who lives with her aged mother, was interviewed by a representative of THE TIMES in her Chicago home last night. She said she had not heard from her brother since his disappearance nine years ago.

Muentner's Sister Alarmed.

"I hope he has not got into trouble again," she said. "His poor mother is 84 years old and has nearly forgotten the terrible times of his disappearance in 1906. I hope he has not turned up to bring it all to the surface again."

Mrs. Muentner taught school in Chicago after her marriage to Muentner in 1902, while her husband prepared himself for higher work in the universities. He was born in Germany, Chicago acquaintances said, and came to this country twenty-five years ago.

The description sent out by the Cambridge police at the time of Muentner's disappearance in 1906 was:

"Age 35 years; height 5 feet 9 or 10 inches; weight about 150 pounds; florid complexion; dark hair; long face; slanting forehead; full dark vandyke beard; loose-jointed walker."

The description of Holt entered on police records is:

"Age 40 years; height 5 feet 11 inches; weight 150 pounds; dark-brown hair; long, thin face; high forehead; loose-jointed walker; clean-shaven face."

Mrs. Muentner died April 16, 1906. There was no one but her husband with her at the time of her death, as the Muentners did not believe in doctors. The undertaker to whom the body was sent became suspicious when he was embalming it, and called in Professor Whitney of the Harvard Medical School, who found she had died from slow arsenic poisoning. Although he made this report to the Cambridge police, Muentner was allowed to leave Cambridge with his two small children, taking the body to Chicago with him. The funeral and cremation of the body took place the day after his arrival in Chicago on April 18. Muentner immediately disappeared.

The day after a warrant for him came from the Cambridge police, but he could not be found. It was found on investigation that Mrs. Muentner had taken the arsenic in beef tea fed her while she was in confinement.

It was recalled by Muentner's associates at Harvard that he said he had been born in Germany and that he came there from the University of Kansas.

A dispatch from Dallas, Texas, said that the Rev. O. F. Sensabaugh, whose daughter married Frank Holt in 1910,

after hearing that Holt was thought to be Muentner, exclaimed:

"I can't believe it. It is so unreasonable compared with anything that I know of Mr. Holt. I have never even heard or suspected anything of the sort."

Dr. Sensabaugh said that Holt had not claimed to be a native of Texas but of Wisconsin. He said his daughter was a classmate of Holt's at the Polytechnic College at Fort Worth, Texas, where Holt entered in 1908.

Holt's father-in-law said he had not received any word direct from Holt to confirm the supposition that the man under arrest for the Morgan shooting was his son-in-law. Dr. Sensabaugh said his daughter did not believe the man under arrest was her husband, although she admitted Saturday night the receipt of letters from him from the Mills Hotel, Seventh Avenue and Thirty-sixth Street, and Holt is known to have sent her a telegram following his arrest Saturday.

Checking Up Holt's Story.

Holt has accounted for himself to the New York police since 1910, during which time he has been teaching in various colleges in this country. The police yesterday obtained from him a statement of where and what he was previous to 1906. Telegrams went last night to all parts of the country in an effort to check up Holt's story. If there are discrepancies Holt will get the third degree again in an effort to make him tell if he was ever a teacher at Harvard.

Police Commissioner Wood was asked by THE TIMES yesterday to put the question squarely to Holt. After his examination of the would-be assassin of Mr. Morgan Mr. Woods was non-committal when asked if he had put the direct question to Holt. Detectives who worked with Captain Tunney of the Bomb and Anarchist Squad and with Commissioner Woods said last night that the detectives didn't wish to question Holt closely on the Muentner theory until they had discovered possible discrepancies in his life story with which to confront him.

A dispatch to THE TIMES from Cambridge last night said that Captain Patrick F. Hurley, in charge of the Cambridge detective force, who took an active part in the investigation of the Muentner case, declared that the description of Holt tallied closely with that of the missing Harvard instructor. He telegraphed to New York last night for a more detailed description. Should this description uphold the striking superficial similarity between Holt and Muentner, Captain Hurley said that some one who knew Muentner would be taken to Glen Cove to make a positive identification. Pictures of Muentner and a full description were mailed to the New York police on Saturday night from Cambridge, but the New York police refused last night to say whether or not they weakened or strengthened the theory that the two are the same.