FOUND HOLT SCARRED AS WAS DR. MUENTER

Physician Got New Evidence That Dynamiter Was Man Sought for Murder.

TEN POINTS OF SIMILARITY

Prisoner Tried to Starve Himself and Had Cut Wrist—Delayed Promised Statement.

Evidence that Frank Holt, the former instructor in German at Cornell, who shot J. P. Morgan and exploded the bomb in the Capitol at Washington, and Erich Muenter, the former Harvard instructor in German, who disappeared in 1906 and was indicted for killing his wife by poison, were one and the same man, was confirmed yesterday when an examination showed that Holt had body scars such as were known to be on Muenter.

After receiving word that Muenter had been operated on several times Dr. Guy F. Cleghorn yesterday visited the Nassau County Jail at Mineola and found scars which indicated that several operations had been performed on Holt.

Efforts were made by Thomas J. Reidy, one of Holt's lawyers, and by Assistant District Attorney Charles I. Wood of Nassau County, who knew Muenter at Harvard, to induce Holt to tell something about his early life which would support his denial that he was Muenter, but nothing could be elicited from Holt in answer to such questions.

Mr. Reidy, who was convinced on Monday that his client was not Muenter, admitted that he was in doubt yesterday. He said that, if it turned out Holt was Muenter, the identification probably would not affect the legal aspects of the case, for the authorities of Cambridge, where Mrs. Muenter was murdered, would not be likely to ask for the extradition of a man who obviously was insane and who was not in much danger of being punished beyond commitment to an insane asylum either in Massachusetts or in New York.

Difference in Speech.

Assistant District Attorney Wood, who before was undecided whether the prisoner was Muenter, saw Holt again yesterday and was more inclined to believe that the dynamiter was the wife murderer.

"The resemblance would be almost conclusive," he said, "except that Muenter spoke quickly and clearly. Holt drawls and is indistinct. The difference in the style of speaking may be due to the fact that Holt is weak and sick or he may be purposely changing his way of talking to avoid identification as Muenter. He cannot be induced to answer any questions about his past. I asked him where he was born. He said he could not remember. I asked him when he was married. He thought a long time before he answered. When I put other questions to him about his actions years ago he threw his hands to his head and said that he had pains in his brain and was fatigued."

Mr. Woods and Muenter both had teaching fellowships in Harvard, and they spent about three hours a week together. Muenter specialized in German language and literature. Holt obtained his degree at Cornell University by a thesis on "The Influence of Shakespeare on the German Language."

Mr. Reidy said it seemed unlikely that a man, after an outbreak of homicidal mania, should remain quiescent for nine years before his next outbreak. But he added:

"Still I have heard of paranoiacs who have appeared to be completely cured after spending years in an asylum, and who have committed crimes immediately after their release."

Holt's Attempts to Die.

Dr. Guy F. Cleghorn and Warden Hultz have reported the prisoner was trying to starve himself to death. He has taken food only when Dr. Cleghorn has ordered him to, and has purposely caused nausea immediately afterward.

The dynamiter's belt and suspenders have been taken away, and Warden Hultz has given directions that the cell be visited at frequent intervals to prevent him from trying to strangle himself with bedclothes.

Charles R. Apted, custodian of buildings at Cambridge, who lived near Muenter and knew him well, visited the prisoner yesterday. Holt did not move and gave no sign of recognition.

"How are you feeling?" Apted asked. Holt mumbled an indistinct answer and shut his eyes. Apted did not talk to him further. After leaving the cell he said:

"This man is a dead ringer for Muenter. Nine years have passed since I knew Muenter, and the prisoner there is in such bad shape I cannot make a positive identification, but the resemblance is very strong."

The main points indicating that Holt is Muenter are:

1. Nothing is known of Muenter since 1906. Nothing is known of Holt before that time.
2. Muenter was reported last in Mexico City, in 1906, when he wrote letters and issued a fantastic account of his wife's death and the inquest. The earliest facts revealed about Holt show he was employed as a stenographer in the office of Krupps by Mexican agents in Mexico City.
3. Muenter's special study and the subject of his teaching was German language and literature. The same is true of Holt.
4. Muenter spent much time in studying and discussing problems of sex. The same is true of Holt.
5. Muenter, like Holt, has a slight German accent.
6. Their facial resemblance is such that friends of Muenter have been sure Holt is Muenter after seeing Holt's picture. The two acquaintances of Holt who have seen Muenter say the resemblance is extremely striking. The only discrepancy is pointed out by Dr. Cleghorn, who says Holt has gray eyes, while the police circulars describing Muenter say his are brown.
7. Two experts have said the resemblance between Holt's writing and Muenter's is almost absolute proof of their identity, while a third fails to see the resemblance.
8. Friends of Muenter assert that phrases used by Holt are similar to those in Muenter's writings.
9. The mental disease which caused Muenter to commit alleged wife murder and caused Holt to commit his crimes.
10. The scars on Holt's body are similar to those left by operations performed on Muenter.

Martin W. Littleton on receiving requests by telegraph from Holt's family in Dallas, Texas, visited the prisoner, and agreed to appear for him.

Mr. Reidy gave out the following statement:

"It can be positively stated that Holt is in no way connected with any organized movement of terrorism or with any so-called conspiracy. It can also be positively stated that Holt has no malicious personal animus against Mr. Morgan, and in anything he has done has been actuated by what to him are the highest motives. He is a man of strong moral tendencies, which appear to be intensified at this time.

"Mr. Holt's physical condition is such that no plans for future steps in his behalf will be made just now, and not until after consultation with those having his interests at heart."

Holt received the following telegram from his wife yesterday:

> Have best counsel here. Advised to rest and wait, and you must do the same. Send loving greetings hourly. Beautiful tribute to you in both evening papers here. I am tarrying for details of our finances. I will come when you need me. Do not be afraid. Rest. LEONE.

Holt has said repeatedly that he would tell his full story today. Yesterday he told his keepers that he would tell his story after he had read this morning's papers. He denied the postponement was due to a wish to give time for accomplices to escape.

The New York Times
Published: July 7, 1915
Copyright © The New York Times