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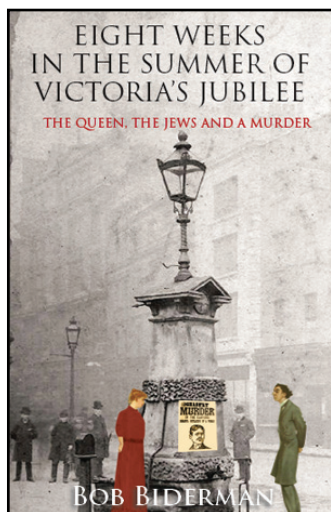
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EIGHT WEEKS IN THE SUMMER OF VICTORIA'S JUBILEE: The Queen, the Jews and a Murder

by Bob Biderman

ISBN: 9781900355711

Pages: 320

Price: £13.95 / \$19.95

Print:: Quality Paperback, 140 x 216 mm

eBook formats: Kindle, epub

Subject Categories: Jewish Studies; Urban Studies; Victorian Studies

Jubilee Summer - June 1887. Britain is deep in lavish celebration of Empire. That same month in the East End of London, a quiet young man, recently arrived from Warsaw, is accused of murdering an Angel. Two writers at the start of their career – Z, a brilliant Anglo-Jewish novelist and Maggie, a fiery social reformer – are brought together in a remarkable encounter as they investigate a crime that would change their lives and their vision of themselves, England and the world. Biderman deftly uses a momentary cause célèbre as a vehicle to probe the very tenuous world of London's Jewish East End at the dawn of the new century. The trial itself becomes a mirror to view the shifting nature of Empire and institutions in the final years of Victoria's rule. Seen through the eyes of two contemporary writers, based on Margaret Harkness and Israel Zangwill, the questions of assimilated Englishness and the nature of British justice become bound up in the multiple notions of guilt or innocence concerning a nation, a people and a young immigrant Jew.

***Eight Weeks** is about an actual murder case and Maggie and Z are based on real people, Margaret Harkness and Israel Zangwill, who were both writers. But what Biderman has done with the basic facts, which he clearly researched in detail, is to open them out so that larger issues are discussed. He connects this particular case and these specific people to the historical and cultural contexts, commenting on society's behaviour towards and treatment of immigrant Jews...* Wales Arts Review



In Darkest London

Margaret Harkness

Quality Paperback

ISBN 9781900355636

Pages: 204

Size: 216x140

£12.00

Subjects: Victorian Studies,
Women's Studies, Late Victorian
Literature, Urban Studies,
London History, Poverty

*M*argaret Harkness, who wrote under the pen name of John Law, is considered one of the important expounders of 'social realism' in late 19th century England. Her passionate sense of justice and determined desire for social reform are paramount in all her writings; and her description of the impoverishment in the East End of London, where she lived for several years gathering first hand material about the lives and labour of the people there, is keenly observed. The novels which she came to write, based on her experience living with the unemployed in the slums of London, are excellent examples of the social realist genre which had become popular in the late 1800s and was read by many in the reform movements of the day, including Friedrich Engels who complimented her books as being both political and artistic.

In Darkest London, set in Whitechapel, the epicentre of the East End ghetto, has long been considered one of the best sources of social description and commentary for the period, giving a penetrating insight into the lives and labours of the people who lived in one of the most impoverished areas of England.



Children of the Ghetto

Israel Zangwill

Quality Paperback

Price: £13.95

Pages: 336

Size: 216x140

ISBN 9781900355629

Subjects: Victorian Studies, Jewish Studies, London History, Migration Studies

Israel Zangwill (1864-1926) was born in London's East End, the son of poor Russian - Polish immigrants. A brilliant student at the rigorous Jews' Free School, he turned to writing after a brief and rather misdirected stint teaching there. Zangwill soon established a reputation as a quick-witted journalist wielding a trenchant pen, casting a gently sardonic eye on the colourful lives around him. His talents brought him early fame and catapulted him into the orbit of a new wave of writers based around Jerome K. Jerome's frothy literary magazine, *The Idler*. A prolific author, Zangwill published numerous plays, stories and novels about Jewish life in London at the turn of the century, including *The King of Schnorrers* (1894) and *Ghetto Comedies* (1907). His plays include *The Melting Pot* (1908) and *We Moderns* (1924).

Children of the Ghetto, his best-known book, was published in 1892. It documents the lives of immigrant Jews who lived and worked in the Yiddish-speaking streets and densely packed alleys emptying into Petticoat Lane, the East End bazaar that was both marketplace and communal watering hole. His portrayal of the uncertain situation of 'his people,' which all too often had been painted in dreadfully sombre tones by earnest social reformers and drum-beating evangelists, is insightfully told with affectionate honesty and wryness of humour.



Romance of a Shop
Amy Levy

Quality Paperback

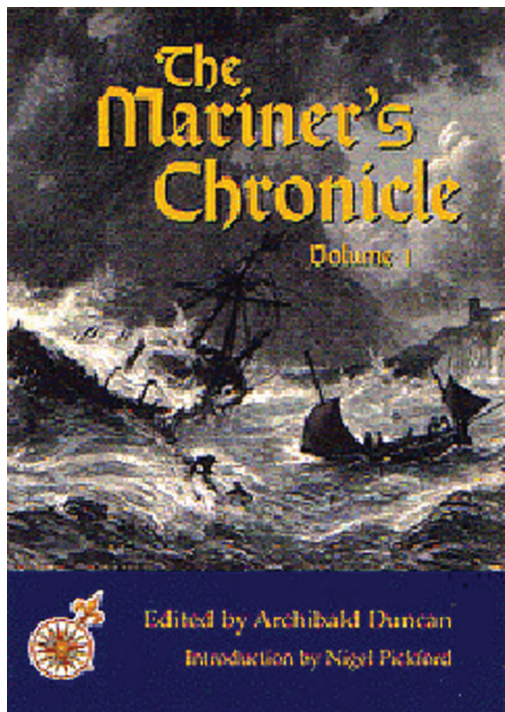
Price: £12

Size: 216x140

ISBN 9781900355752

Subjects: Victorian
Literature, Women's Studies,
Urban Studies, Social
Anthropology

Amy Levy was born in London in 1861 and died in 1889, just a few months short of her 28th birthday. In her brief life she wrote two novels, both well received, and several volumes of poetry which explored the changing role of Victorian women in the closing years of the 19th century. *Romance of A Shop*, her first novel, was published in 1888. Praised by Oscar Wilde who, reviewing it for *Woman's World*, thought it 'admirably done ... clever and full of quick observation,' her little novel seemed to herald a brilliant career. Ostensibly the story of four young ladies who, after the death of their father, decide to open a photographic studio in the heart of London's bohemia (to the dismay of their more priggish relatives) the book, like much of Levy's work, is concerned with the contradictions besetting the 'new' Victorian woman who, in her quest for independence finds herself constrained by anachronistic social mores and conflicting values. Written just two years before her tragic suicide, *Romance of A Shop*, at times sweet and charming, has a resonance that goes beyond its apparent innocence, echoing an undertone of despair and hunger for a liberation that, to Levy's misfortune, came only some years afterwards.



The Mariner's Chronicle

Edited by Archibald Duncan

RRP £13.95

Paperback

ISBN 9781900355292

Subjects: Maritime history, Victorian studies, Travel literature, Social anthropology

Originally published two hundred years ago, *The Mariner's Chronicle* was the first comprehensive collection of disasters at sea in the English Language and was an immediate best seller. This new edition, with introduction and notes by Nigel Pickford, author of *The Atlas of Shipwreck and Treasure*, has become a valuable resource not only for maritime historians but also social scientists who have found in these stories of suffering and survival some fascinating insights into Victorian notions of popular culture and travel.