

## Biographical Studies of Suicide, 2010, Volume 8

### BASEBALL SUICIDES AND MURDERS

#### David Lester

In his web site [www.thedeadballera.com](http://www.thedeadballera.com), Frank Russo has listed 1,100 obituaries of baseball players (and related persons) who have died, including 98 suicides and 44 murder victims.

#### The Suicides

1881: FRALEY ROGERS (31)	GUN
1889: JIM McELROY (26)	MORPHINE OR OPIUM
1889: FRANK RINGO (28)	MORPHINE
1891: ERNIE HICKMAN (35)	GUN
1894: TERRY LARKIN (?)	SLIT HIS THROAT WITH A RAZOR
1894: EDGAR McNABB (28)	GUN
1896: CANNONBALL CRANE (34)	DRANK POISON
1900: MARTY BERGEN (28)	SLIT HIS THROAT AFTER KILLING HIS WIFE AND TWO KIDS
1901: JIM GALIGAN (39)	RAZOR
1903: WIN MERCER (28)	INHALED ILLUMINATING GAS
1904: DAN MAHONEY (39)	DRANK CARBOLIC ACID
1907: CHICK STAHL (34)	DRANK CARBOLIC ACID
1908: IKE VAN ZANT (32)	GUN
1908: REDDY FOSTER (44)	GUN
1909: NICHOLAS MATHEWSON (22)	MINOR LEAGUER: GUN (CHRISTY'S BABY BROTHER)
1909: HARRY PULLIAM (44)	NL PRESIDENT: GUNSHOT TO THE HEAD
1910: ED STRICKLAND (26)	MINOR LEAGUER: GUN (AFTER SHOOTING HIS GIRLFRIEND)
1910: CHARLES NELSON BROWN (?)	MINOR LEAGUER: GUN
1910: JAMES PAYNE (?)	MINOR LEAGUER: GUN
1910: DAN McGANN (39)	GUN
1911: RANDOLPH BLANCH	PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS WRITER: GUN
1911: THOMAS SENIOR (32)	MINOR LEAGUE UMPIRE: GUN
1911: DICK SCOTT (27)	RAZOR
1914: CHARLIE WEBER (45)	GUN
1916: CARL BRITTON (40)	MINOR LEAGUE PITCHER: UNKNOWN
1916: EDDIE HOHNHURST (31)	GUN
1918: E.F. EGAN (?)	MINOR LEAGUE MANAGER: GUN
1918: PATSY TEBEAU (43)	SHOT HIMSELF
1920: LOU MEYERS (60)	STRYCHNINE
1921: NOEL BRUCE (56)	MINOR LEAGUER: GUN

1921: CLAY DAILEY (?)	MINOR LEAGUER: GUN (AFTER BEING CUT)
1921: ART IRWIN (63)	JUMPED FROM A STEAMER INTO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN
1924: WALT GOLDSBY (52)	GUN
1924: JOHN WAKEFIELD (?)	MINOR LEAGUER: UNKNOWN (AFTER AN ARGUMENT WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND)
1927: JAKE WELLS (63)	UNKNOWN
1927: BILL GANNON (50)	DROWNING
1927: DANNY SHAY (51)	UNKNOWN
1929: TONY BROTTM (37)	GUN
1929: JIM PRICE (60)	SPORTS WRITER: GUN
1930: JOHN B. SHERIDAN (61)	SPORTS WRITER: HANGED HIMSELF
1930: ZEKE ROSEBRAUGH (59)	GUN
1931: CON LUCID (57)	UNKNOWN
1931: CARL SITTON (48)	GUN
1932: BILL GREY (61)	GUN
1934: PEA RIDGE DAY (34)	SLIT HIS THROAT WITH A HUNTING KNIFE AFTER AN OPERATION FAILED TO RESTORE HIS PITCHING ARM
1934: GUY MORRISON (38)	GUN
1934: CHARLIE DEXTER (37)	GUN
1934: SY SANBORN (67)	SPORTS WRITER: GUN
1935: WALT KUHN (51)	GUN
1937: EMMET McCANN (35)	GUN
1937: BENNY FREY (31)	CARBON MONOXIDE
1940: WILLARD HERSHBERGER (30)	SLASHED HIS THROAT
1940: CHARLIE HOLLOCHER (44)	GUN (SHOT HIMSELF IN THE THROAT)
1941: RALPH WORKS (43)	GUN
1941: HARVEY HENDRICK (43)	GUN
1942: LYLE BIGBEE (48)	GUN
1943: CHET CHADBOURNE (58)	GUN
1945: HARRY McNEAL (66)	GUN
1945: HANK EIBEL (51)	GUN
1945: MORRIE RATH (58)	GUN
1947: FERDIE MOORE (51)	GUN
1947: LUKE STUART (55)	GUN
1948: JAKE POWELL (40)	SHOT HIMSELF IN A POLICE STATION
1948: BERT HALL (59)	HANGING
1949: TIM BOWDEN (58)	GUN
1950: JOHN MORRISON ALLEN (29)	
SHORTSTOP: PORTSMOUTH/ OHIO-INDIAN LEAGUE	UNKNOWN

1950: WATTIE HOLM (48)	GUN
1950: FRANK PEARCE (45)	GUN
1951: HUGH CASEY (37)	SHOTGUN BLAST TO THE NECK
1951: WALLY ROETTGER (49)	RAZOR
1954: SKEETER SHELTON (65)	GUN
1955: JIM OGLESBY (50)	GUN
1956: LIMB McKENRY (68)	GUN
1957: FRED ANDERSON (71)	GUN
1960: GIB BRACK (47)	GUN
1961: JOHN MOHARDT (63)	CUT HIS FEMORAL ARTERY
1961: GEORGE DAVIS (71)	HANGING
1962: FRED BRATSCHI (70)	DRANK BATTERY ACID
1962: OTTO MILLER (72)	JUMPED
1962: CY MORGAN (83)	RAZOR
1963: JOHNNY NIGGELING (60)	HANGING
1964: PAUL ZAHNISER (68)	GUN
1965: STAN PITULA (34)	CARBON MONOXIDE
1966: STOVER McILWAIN (26)	GUN
1966: LEW MOREN (83)	SLIT HIS THROAT
1967: ART GARIBALDI (60)	GUN
1969: EMIL KUSH (53)	CARBON MONOXIDE
1971: MURRAY WALL (45)	GUN
1972: DEL BISSONNETTE (72)	GUN
1975: DON WILSON (29)	CARBON MONOXIDE
1980: DAN THOMAS (29)	HUNG HIMSELF IN JAIL AFTER BEING CHARGED WITH RAPE
1989: VIRGIL STALLCUP (67)	GUN
1989: CARLOS BERNIER (62)	HANGING
1989: TONY LOCADELLO (?)	BASEBALL SCOUT: UNKNOWN
1989: DONNIE MOORE (35)	GUN (AFTER SHOOTING HIS WIFE FIRST)
1990: CHARLIE SHOEMAKER (51)	GUN
1991: JIM MAGNUSON (44)	ALCOHOL POISONING
1995: RON LUCIANO (57)	FORMER AMERICAN LEAGUE UMPIRE: CARBON MONOXIDE

### **The Murder Victims**

1885: ANDY SWAN (?)	SHOT
1891: FRANK BELL (27)	SHOT
1895: FRANK BOWES (29)	SHOT
1897: FLEURY SULLIVAN (34)	SHOT DURING A POLITICAL ARGUMENT
1898: MOTHER WATSON (33)	SHOT
1899: SAMUEL WHITE (?)	MINOR LEAGUE UMPIRE: HIT OVER HEAD WITH A BAT BY A PLAYER
1900: MOX McQUERY (38)	SHOT BY A THUG

1901: ORA JENNINGS (?)	SEE "SAM WHITE"
1902: TED FIRTH (47)	UNKNOWN
1902: JOHN RYAN (?)	A POLICEMAN, HE WAS KICKED TO DEATH WHILE MAKING AN ARREST
1907: PAT HYNES (23)	SHOT ON HIS 23RD BIRTHDAY BY A BARTENDER OVER A CREDIT DISPUTE
1911: GEORGE CRAIG (23)	SHOT BY A BURGLAR
1912: BUGS RAYMOND (30)	FRACTURED SKULL/HIT BY A BASEBALL BAT
1913: JERRY HARRINGTON (43)	STABBED TRYING TO BREAK UP A BARROOM BRAWL
1914: CHARLIE WEBER (45)	SHOT
1916: ED IRVIN (33)	THROWN THROUGH A SALOON WINDOW
1921: LARRY McLEAN (39)	SHOT BY A BARTENDER DURING A BARROOM BRAWL
1922: CHIEF JOHNSON (36)	FOUND SHOT TO DEATH
1923: FRANK McMANUS (47)	FOUND MURDERED IN BED IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK
1924: DOLLY STARK (39)	SHOT
1927: DRUMMOND BROWN (41)	SHOT
1932: ED MORRIS (32)	STABBED
1935: LEN KOENECKE (31)	BATTERED WITH A FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN A PLANE BY A MEMBER OF THE CREW
1935: RAY TREADAWAY (27)	SHOT
1938: MIKE DONOVAN (56)	SHOT BY A FELLOW EMPLOYEE AT WORK
1942: GORDON McNAUGHTON (32)	SHOT BY A JEALOUS HUSBAND IN A CHICAGO HOTEL
1945: FRANK GRUBE (40)	SHOT BY A PROWLER OUTSIDE OUTSIDE HIS HOME IN N.Y.C
1952: HI BITHORN (35)	SHOT BY A COP IN MEXICO ON NEW YEARS DAY
1955: HOWIE FOX (34)	STABBED IN A BAR FIGHT
1961: EDDIE GAEDDEL(36)	HEART ATTACK INDUCED BY A BEATING/MUGGING
1967: ELOY GUTIERREZ (CATCHER-VERACRUZ: MEXICAN LEAGUE)	SHOT DURING A BRAWL
1969: TIM McKEITHAN (62)	SHOT
1970: MICKEY FUENTES (23)	SHOT IN A BAR FIGHT IN HIS HOMETOWN IN P.R.

1974: BOB BAIRD (34)	SHOT DURING A QUARREL WITH A WOMAN
1978: LYMAN BOSTOCK (27)	SHOT
1979: LUKE EASTER (63)	SHOT BY TWO ROBBERS DURING A PAYROLL ROBBERY
1979: BOB SCHULTZ (55)	GUNNED DOWN IN A BAR
1984: TED PAGE (81)	NEGRO LEAGUE STAR: BEATEN DURING A ROBBERY OF HIS HOME
1988: LUIS MARQUEZ (62)	SHOT DURING A FAMILY ARGUMENT
1990: TONY SOLAITA (43).	SHOT BY A RELATIVE OVER A LAND DISPUTE
1993: GUS POLIDOR (33)	MURDERED BY DRUG DEALERS
1995: DAVE SHOTKOSKI (30)	BRAVES REPLACEMENT PLAYER: SHOT DURING AN APPARENT ROBBERY
1994: SAM PARRILLA (50)	GUN
1997: DON O'REILLY (52)	SHOT DURING A HOLD UP



Guitarist and gospel singer. He hung himself in a police cell after an arrest for drunk-driving.

Leon Chappelle  
age 53  
Born: August 1, 1909  
Died: October 22, 1962, USA

Song-writer and guitarist for The Lone Star Cowboys. Shot himself with a shotgun

Kurt Cobain  
age 27  
Born: February 20, 1967  
Died: April 5, 1994, Seattle, USA

Guitarist for Nirvana. Shot himself.

Sonny Criss  
age 50  
Born: October 23, 1927  
Died: November 19, 1977, Los Angeles, CA

Bop altoist in many jazz groups. Self-inflicted gunshot.

Darby Crash  
age 22  
Born:  
Died: December 7, 1980, USA

Member of Los Angeles punk band, the Germs. Died of an intentional heroin overdose.

Ian Curtis  
age 33  
Born: July 15, 1956  
Died: May 18, 1980, UK

Member of Joy Division. Hung himself.

Nick Drake  
age 26  
Born: June 19, 1948  
Died: November 25, 1974, UK

Singer who recorded several albums. Died from overdose.

Jim Ellison  
age 31  
Born: 1964  
Died: June 20, 1996, USA

Member of the Smashing Pumpkins. Died from moped exhaust in his garage.

Tom Evans age 36

Born:

Died: November, 1983, Surrey, UK

Member of Bad Finger; hung himself at home. Another band member had committed suicide in 1975.

Andre Dede Fortin age 38

Born: 1962

Died: May 11, 2000, Montreal, Canada

Singer and member of Les Colocs. Stabbed himself in the chest.

Danny Gatton age 49

Born: September 4, 1945

Died: October 20, 1994, Newburg, MD, USA

Guitarist and singer. Died of gunshot wounds.

Pete Ham age 27

Born: April 27, 1947

Died: April 23, 1975

Member of Bad Finger

Donny Hathaway age 33

Born: October 1, 1945

Died: January 13, 1979, New York City, USA

Singer best known for duets with Roberta Flack. Jumped from his hotel in New York City.

Douglas Hopkins age 32

Born: 1961

Died: December 5, 1993, Tempe, AZ, USA

Member of Gin Blossoms, songwriter. Shot himself.

Michael Hutchence age 37

Born: January 22, 1960

Died: November 20, 1997, Sydney, Australia

Member of INXS. Hung himself with his leather belt in a hotel room.



Phyllis Hyman age 45  
 Born: July 6, 1941  
 Died: June 30, 1995, New York City, USA

Jazz singer.

J. J. Johnson age 77  
 Born: January 22, 1924  
 Died: February 3, 2001, Marion County, USA

Jazz trombonist and arranger.

Philip Taylor Kramer age 42  
 Born: 1952  
 Died: February 12, 1995, Los Angeles, USA

Member of Iron Butterfly. Found dead in his car at the bottom of a ravine

Jon Lee age 33  
 Born  
 Died: January 7, 2002, Miami, USA

Drummer for the Welsh band Feeder.

Oupa Mafokate "Makhendlas" age 27  
 Born:  
 Died: November 7, 1998, South Africa

A rising star of kwaito, a rap-derived style. Shot himself.

Richard Manuel age 42  
 Born: April 3, 1943  
 Died: March 7, 1986.

Member of The Band. He hung himself in a motel room while on tour.

Susannah McCorkle age 55  
 Born: January 1, 1946  
 Died: May 19m 2001, New York City, USA

A pop-jazz singer. Jumped to her death from her Manhattan apartment.

Joe Meek age 35  
 Born: 1929  
 Died February 3, 1967

Shot himself after killing his landlady.

Phil Ochs age 35

Born: December 19, 1940

Died: April 7, 1976, USA.

Folk singer. Hung himself at his sister's home.

Brian O'Hara age 58

Born: March 12, 1942

Died: June 27, 1999, Liverpool, UK

Singer and guitarist with the Fourmost. Hung himself at home.

Danny Rapp age 41

Born: May 10, 1941

Died: April 4, 1983, Arizona, USA

Lead singer of Danny and the Juniors. "At the hop" was their most famous hit song.  
Shot himself.

Frank Rosolino age 52

Born: August 20, 1926

Died: November 23, 1978, Los Angeles, USA

Big band trombonist. Killed himself after killing his family.

Del Shannon age 55

Born: December 30, 1934

Died: February 8, 1990, Los Angeles, USA

1960s Pop vocalist. Shot himself.

Mel Street age 45

Born: October 21, 1933

Died: October 12, 1978, Hendersonville, TN, USA

Country and Western singer. Shot himself.

Screaming Lord Sutch age 58

Born: November 10, 1940

Died: June 16, 1999, UK

Leader of the The Savages. Ran for public office and lost 40 times. Hung himself.



Died: September 3, 1907, USA

Harmonica player for Canned Heat.

Faron Yuong age 64

Born: February 25, 1932

Died: December 10, 1996, USA

Hillbilly singer and honky tonk player. Shot himself.

## JOEY COYLE: THE MAN WHO FOUND \$1 MILLION<sup>2</sup>

**David Lester**

Joey Coyle, an Irish-American, was twenty-eight years old and an amphetamine addict. He worked on the docks as a longshoreman in Philadelphia but, since the economy was in bad shape, he was not working regularly. For the last month he had been idle. Joey never finished high school, but he was good with machinery and he repaired the lifts on the docks.<sup>3</sup>

Joey's father had died of a heart attack eight years earlier after an argument with Joey about the length of Joey's hair. Joey felt guilty, thinking that he had contributed to his father's heart attack. Joey lived in his mother's house on Front Street in South Philly, close to the Delaware River waterfront, but she had liver disease and, because Joey was not good as a caretaker, she had moved a few blocks away to live with her daughter, Ellen.

Joey's friends had mostly gone to school, learned skills and moved on. But Joey was stuck in a permanent adolescence. He hadn't adapted to the adult world. But he was fun, and people liked him. His skin was pink, his hair blonde and his eyes blue. He was generous, but unreliable. In a fight with a man (in an early example of road rage) Joey had got cut on his face, and so he had a scar from his eye to his earlobe.

On Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup>, Joey woke up at noon and went out with two friends, John and Jed, to get some speed. On their ride they saw a yellow metal tub and, when they examined it, found two sacks of money which, it turned out, had fallen from a Purolator Armored Car. They threw the sacks into the car and drove off. They had just found \$1.2 million.

The police did not catch Joey until Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>. Those seven days were filled with incredibly stupid behavior on the part of Joey if he wanted to keep the money (which was illegal). He declined to give it back when, after a few days, he was told that Purolator was offering a \$50,000 reward. Joey believe that "finders, keepers."

In those seven days, Joey bought and used a great deal of speed, which probably did not help his decision making. He approached a friend whom he thought had mob connections and could launder the money for him. He kept splitting the haul into parts and leaving parts with various friends in their houses. Although he realized that secrecy was crucial, he told everyone he met that he was the guy who found the money, even bartenders from whom he bought drinks. He gave scores of people \$100 bills, telling them where the money came from. His behavior was made even less rational by the fact that the speed was making him paranoid so that he began to distrust everyone whom he had asked to help him. Eventually, he persuaded one friend to help him, and they devised a plan to have him fly to Mexico

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<sup>2</sup> This is based on Bowden (2002).

<sup>3</sup> Joey had an older brother and two sisters.

under his friend's name with about \$100,000, but they were arrested by the FBI at the gate at JFK Airport in New York.

On Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Philadelphia detectives found the car which had been seen at the "scene of the crime" and went to the car's owner (John's father). John and Jed confessed to the police and, after the news hit the newspapers, those to whom Joey had given or entrusted the money began to return it, voluntarily or under threat of prosecution. The police recovered about \$2 million, leaving \$196,400 unaccounted for.

Joey came home a hero. The Philadelphia community welcomed him back, and the media played up the romantic folk-hero theme. The fact that this poor kid has suddenly found a million dollars appealed to everyone. The press asked people what they would have done with the money, and most said that they would have kept it too. The press stressed how Joey had given friends and strangers \$100 bills and bought drinks for everyone in the bars. The judge released Joey on bail. Stores sold "Free Joey Coyle" t-shirts, and Joey stopped by the stores to sign them.

Joey's mother died, after a long illness with liver disease, on Mother's Day in 1981. Joey again felt guilty as he had after his father's death. He thought that her worry over his predicament had hastened her death. A few weeks later, Joey slashed his wrists with a razor blade in a parasuicidal act.

The trial began on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1982, and many jurors were dismissed because they had read about the case and had already formed an opinion. The defence based its case on the notion that finding all that money had created temporary insanity in Joey. The prosecution was not allowed to bring up Joey's addiction to speed and had difficulty countering the argument. All of Joey's friends stated, on the witness stand, that Joey was acting "crazy" after finding the money. The jury acquitted Joey. Even the police who had investigated the crime thought that bringing Joey to trial was a mistake, an attempt at headline grabbing by the District Attorney which failed. Joey remained a folk hero. People always asked him where the missing money was, and he always carried the lead that was used to seal the bags of money in his pocket.

For the next seven years, life went on. Joey continued to use drugs, and he was arrested several times and sent for treatment. There were attempts to make a movie out of the story (for which Joey would get a some up-front money), but they came to nothing until Mark Bowden wrote a series of articles in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about Joey. Disney paid everyone involved in the case so that the company was able to make the movie. *Money for Nothing* was released on September 1993, with John Cusack playing Joey. Disney changed the facts quite a bit of course. No mention was made of Joey's drug addiction, and the people who were Joey's friends and helpers in real life were of different sex and character in the movie. For example, the male friend who helped Joey attempt to go to Mexico became a woman and an ex-girl friend in the movie. The pre-publicity for the movie called for a joint tour for Joey and John Cusack. It never came off.

Joey was terrified of the movie and its release. He dreaded the attention it would bring him. He thought that the movie would portray him as a drug addict and that the city would take away the money that Disney had paid him for permission to make the movie. The movie money had also fuelled Joey's addiction since it gave him money to buy speed, and this increased his paranoia. Joey looked pale, puffy, and old. His face was soft and pasty. He had framed Mark Bowden's newspaper stories about him, but he had never read them. "I've never been a reader," he said.

Joey hung himself on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1993, three weeks before the movie's release, in the stairwell of his South Philly home, using an electric cord.

### **Reference**

Bowden, M. (2002). *Finders keepers*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press.

## **IVAR KREUGER<sup>4</sup>**

### **David Lester**

Ivar Kreuger was born in 1880 in Sweden. Ivar's great-grandfather had founded many factories in Sweden during Sweden's Industrial Revolution, and he left a vast fortune to Ivar's father, including some factories that made matches.

(The safety match had been developed in Sweden in 1844 by Gustaf Erik Pasch, and the major manufacturer of the new safety matches was the Jonkoping Trust, established by the Lundstrom brothers.)

Ivar was an unremarkable boy. He was bright but not outgoing. He obtained decent grades and went on to university in Stockholm where he got a degree in civil engineering. He left for New York City, but he had difficulty finding a job in construction. He tried selling real estate to immigrants, but he wasn't good at this. He obtained a surveyor's permit and joined work crews moving down to New Orleans. There he was hired to work on a bridge being built in Veracruz (Mexico), but malaria decimated the workers, and Ivar returned to Sweden to recuperate. He returned to New York City in the Fall of 1901 and got a job for the Fuller Construction Company. For the next seven years, Ivar worked on construction jobs around the world. One job (the stadium at Syracuse University) used reinforced or trussed concrete. Ivar saw its potential and returned to Sweden in 1909 where he borrowed money to set up a construction company, Kreuger & Toll, with an engineering friend, Paul Toll.

The company was successful. Customers were impressed with trussed concrete, and Kreuger & Toll finished their jobs ahead of schedule. Ivar publicly incorporated the company, and then began his financial dealings.

In 1914, the company began trading securities on the Stockholm Exchange. Ivar consolidated eleven factories into the United Match Factories (later called the Kalmar Trust). During World War I, he persuaded the Jonkoping Trust to share the aspen trees in northern Sweden and then made secret deals with Germany to provide the nation with matches. He built companies to eliminate middlemen, and his profits grew. After the war, he persuaded the Jonkoping Trust to merge with his company by inflating the Kalmar Trust's value. Ivar became head of the combined company, the Swedish Match Company.

It is difficult (and perhaps unnecessary here) to understand Ivar's complex financial dealings. He formed several companies, and switched funds from one to another, sometimes in reality and sometimes just on paper. He persuaded banks to lend his companies huge sums of money, often based on fraudulent balance sheets that he made up. He dumped low grade matches in Germany and Russia for huge profits. He offered stock on various stock exchanges for shares in his companies, and he made millions from these sales. When

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<sup>4</sup> This essay is based on Wells (2000).



directors of his companies, banks and shareholders demanded accountings, Ivar made up figures and often eliminated discrepancies by stating “Debit it to Ivar Kreuger.”

He built a 23-room house in Stockholm and owned apartments in Berlin, Warsaw, Paris and New York City, and he kept a permanent suite at the London Carlton. His dwellings were extravagantly furnished but not homey. He never married (he said that his company was all he needed), but he had mistresses in most cities. He had only one extended affair, for about ten years, with Inge Hassler which persisted even after her marriage to another man. After Ivar’s suicide in 1932, women in Paris, Stockholm and New York petitioned the executors of Ivar’s will for continued “pensions.”

Ivar and his companies were so wealthy that governments came to him for loans. He lent \$6 million at 7% interest to the Polish Diet (for which Ivar also got leases on ten Polish factories), and he also lent money to Greece (to repatriate refugees), Hungary, Latvia and Estonia (to institute land reforms) and France, Ecuador and Romania (to provide them with economic stability).

All because of matches! At the end of the 1920s, Ivar owned 250 match factories around the world. Of the 40 billion boxes sold each year, 80 percent were made by Ivar’s companies. (Ivar smoked a lot too, but never carried a match with him!)

The stock market crash in 1929 and the Great Depression ended his success. The value of his stocks dropped (though not as much as those of other companies). Some of his government loans were paid back early, but Ivar continued to make loans. He got \$75 million back from France, but then lent \$150 million to Germany. He tried to work with Mussolini’s Italian government, but the deal fell through. Ivar then issued batches of counterfeit Italian bonds, as well as five promissory notes. He then pledged this \$142 million of phoney issues as collateral to borrow money from Swedish banks. Other problems arose. England went off the gold standard, and Germany won a reprieve in paying back its loans to foreign investors. Ivar stockholders began dumping shares, lowering the value of his companies, leading banks to demand more collateral.

The situation deteriorated, and Ivar fell into a depression. He tried one last deal - a merger in 1932 of his Ericsson Telephone Company with ITT in America. But Edwin Chinlund, leading the ITT negotiating team, tried to verify and trace Ivar’s assets. When Chinlund uncovered the frauds, ITT withdrew from the talks.

Ivar returned to Paris, dined with one of his lovers, met his associates, and arranged to meet them for lunch the next day. That day, he sent his assistant off to Stockholm, waited until his housekeeper had gone to the market, and then shot himself with a 9-millimeter revolver. He had scribbled a note: “I’m too tired to continue.”

### Reference

Wells, J. T. (2000). *Frankensteins of fraud*. Austin, TX: Obsidian.

## PHILIP MUSICA<sup>5</sup>

### David Lester

Philip Musica was born on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1884, at home on the lower East Side of Manhattan. He was the first-born for his mother, Assunta Musica, who then had three more boys and four girls. Assunta was just over four feet tall and weighed 300 pounds. In Naples, Italy, she had married Antonio, twelve years older, a barber by trade, and insisted they emigrate to America.

Philip grew up in the slums of “Mulberry Bend,” known for its vicious criminal gangs. After working for a while at his barbershop, Philip’s father had enough to open a small shop selling pasta and sausages. Philip dropped out of school at the age 14 to run the shop while his father continued to cut hair.

As the family fortunes improved, Assunta moved the family to Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, and she pushed Philip into the wholesale business while his younger brothers ran the grocery store. In 1909, Philip was caught bribing the cheese inspectors on the docks, and he claimed sole responsibility and served five months in the Elmira Reformatory, before being pardoned by President Taft, perhaps as a favor to the Italian ambassador to the United States!

The family then entered the hair products business. Assunta went to Italy where she raised \$1 million to set up U.S. Hair which traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Soon, the company was profitable with offices in London, Berlin, St Petersburg, Hong Kong and Yokohama. The family bought an estate in Bay Ridge. The company was, in fact, a fake. Its main business was laundering money. The family fled New York City before they could be arrested, but they were caught trying to flee the country on a ship sailing from New Orleans to Panama.

Philip again claimed sole responsibility. His father had a heart attack as he was being led into prison, but Philip won the release of the rest of his family by offering to serve as an informant in The Tombs, which he did dutifully for three years.

During and after the First World War, Philip may have assumed the name William Johnson and worked in the New York Attorney General’s Office chasing gangsters, with a promotion to the U.S. Attorney’s office in 1917 chasing draft dodgers and seditionists. Thompson tried to bring down William Randolph Hearst, the newspaper owner, but Hearst used his connections in the U.S. Senate to have Thompson investigated, and the possibility that Thompson was the convicted criminal, Philip Musica, came out in Senate hearings. Philip had to take on a new identity.

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<sup>5</sup> Based on Wells (2000).

With the aid of a younger brother (who went by the name of Ben Simon) Philip adopted a new identity, Frank Costa. Frank claimed to have a PhD in chemistry from the University of Heidelberg and he was also an MD. He set up a pharmaceutical company (Adelphia) to sell hair tonics and colognes as well as furniture polish. In fact, the company took the government-supplied denatured alcohol legally destined for their products (this was the era of prohibition) and removed the alcohol before selling the products. They then turned the alcohol into bootleg liquor. Frank was recognised by Guiseppe Brandino who had met him in the Tombs while he was still known by his real name, Philip Musica, and Guiseppe and his wife blackmailed Frank. Frank dealt with this by informing the Treasury Department that the Brandinos ran Adelphia. The company was raided, and the Brandinos sentenced to prison. Frank then changed his name to Frank Coster and set up another pharmaceutical company, Girard & Company, to continue the same business.

Frank had met Carol who was married to an old colleague from the U.S. Attorney's Office (Edward Hubbard) and, after her divorce from Hubbard, Carol (ten years younger than the 42-year-old Frank) married Frank (in 1926). She spent his money and furnished his 18-room mansion in Fairfield, Connecticut. Frank had ruined Hubbard and broken up his marriage in order to get Carol by getting hired to investigate Hubbard's brokerage firm and manufacturing evidence that Hubbard's partner was defrauding him and by spreading rumors that Hubbard had defrauded a customer and that he was having affair with a teenage girl.

In 1926, Girard took over a 100-year-old firm, McKesson & Robbins, that had fallen on hard times. Frank (and his brothers, all working under fake identities) built McKesson & Robbins into a leading wholesale pharmaceuticals distributor and "took over" hundreds of independent drug stores who exchanged their family-owned stock for stock in McKesson & Robbins.

But the treasurer of the company, Julian Thompson, after doing business with Frank for twelve years, began to have suspicions about the company and to investigate. Was the company selling securities without having any assets? \$20 million of raw pharmaceuticals were missing, and Frank could not explain why. Thompson went to the authorities and Frank and the other officers of the company were charged with fraud. Company offices were found to be empty buildings; inventories of raw materials were found to be inventions. Frank was arrested on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1938, and released on bail.

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Frank was desperate. Although alcohol inflamed his ulcer, he drank highballs all day. Only a year before, business colleagues had wanted him to run for President of the United States as the Republican candidate. Now, his family had removed all the guns and kitchen knives from the house. At about noon, some FBI agents arrived at the house, along with the assistant treasurer of McKesson & Robbins (George Dietrich - actually Frank's younger brother, George Musica) with orders to revoke Frank's bail. As they rang the door-bell, Frank shot himself with a .38 revolver.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> His brothers got sentences ranging from 18 months to three years.

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## HUGH MILLER<sup>7</sup>

### David Lester

Hugh Miller was a Scottish geologist (born: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1802; died: December 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 1856). He is known for his writings on various topics, and his specimens are owned by the National Museums of Scotland.

Hugh was born in Cromartie. He was the oldest child of Hugh Miller and Harriet Wright. The father was a 47 year-old widower when he married Harriet aged 21. The father was a seafarer but drowned in 1807 when his trading schooner sank in a storm. Harriet had to raise Hugh and his two younger sisters in small cottage, supported by a small inheritance from her husband and help from her two unmarried brothers.

The brothers had little education, but they had a library of 150 books, and Hugh became an avid reader. He was rather unruly at school, however, and quit at the age of 15 after a brawl with a school master. His two sisters died in 1816, and his mother remarried in 1819. Hugh decided against university and became a stonemason. He apprenticed himself to his uncle with the aim of working in the summer and pursuing his interest in literature and the natural sciences in the winter.

Despite not earning much and despite contracting a lung disease from the work, Hugh was able to travel a lot, read, study the strata and rocks, and collect fossils. However, his health broke down in 1824 and he returned to his mother in Cromartie to recover. He earned a little carving tombstones, built a house for an aunt, and continued to study rocks and fossils. He began to correspond with professional and amateur geologists and zoologists, and he also became more involved with evangelical Presbyterianism. He wrote a book of poems but, after failing to find a publisher, produced it at his own expense in 1829.

The editor of the *Inverness Courier*, who had refused to publish the poems, recognized Hugh's ability and published five articles by Hugh - *Letters on the Herring Fishery*. Published as a pamphlet, they were very popular, and Hugh's name became widely known in Scotland. He also discovered some fossil fishes which made his name in the scientific field.

Lydia Fraser was ten years younger than Hugh, and her mother had moved to Cromartie after the death of her husband. Lydia earned some income by teaching a few pupils. Lydia and Hugh met in 1831 and quickly fell in love, but Lydia's mother disapproved of the match because Hugh was uneducated and earned little. Initially she forbade Lydia to meet Hugh alone, but she eventually permitted an engagement. These difficulties led them to wait several years before they were able to marry - on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1837.

Hugh was much impressed by Lydia's intellect and her views. They argued over

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<sup>7</sup> This essay is based on Sutherland (2002).

philosophical issues such as predestination, and they would develop a romantic and an intellectual partnership.

Hugh considered emigrating to America, but help came with the offer of a job as an accountant at the Commercial Bank of Cromartie in 1834. Hugh had many poems and articles published in the *Inverness Courier*, and he decided to seek to become editor of a magazine or newspaper in order to support his wife and family. To establish his credentials, he published a small book entitled *Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland* privately in 1835 after failing to secure a publisher. It was well received.

After their marriage, they set up home in Cromartie with no savings and a slender income. They did, however, have a servant. Lydia supplemented their income by giving lessons to young ladies, and Hugh received some income from his articles in a weekly magazine called *Border Tales*. Hugh also continued his geological and fossil studies.

Their daughter, Elizabeth, was born on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1837. Hugh got smallpox in the summer of 1838 and Elizabeth later became ill and died (on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1859). The death of their child coincided with a crisis in the Church.

There were those who wanted to separate the Church from the State, but Hugh saw some value in the connection. However, after much consideration, Hugh came to resent the patronage in the State assignment of ministers to the churches, and he argued against the connection. His letter on this issue was widely disseminated and led to his being offered the editorship of a newspaper which was started to promote these views, *The Witness*. Hugh accepted and moved to Edinburgh, but he hoped to continue his geology and writing of literature.

In the personal sphere, Hugh and Lydia had a daughter Harriet born on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1839, (after which Lydia was ill for some time), a son William on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1842, and a daughter Bessie on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1845. Lydia's health was not good (she developed a "spinal disease"), and she was especially unwell after the births of her children (she took calomel for diarrhea). The children themselves had the usual childhood diseases of whooping cough and measles. Hugh was so busy that he often was not able to get home at nights, and Lydia began to use her time alone to write children's stories (which eventually were published to great success) and a novel. Four books for children were published in 1845 and 1846, and her novel (*Passages in the Life of an English Heiress*), the events of which took place during the Disruption, was published in 1847 (but was not a great success). Between 1847 and 1856, she wrote seven more books for children.

The newspaper kept Hugh busy, but he was an excellent editor and wrote many well-received articles for it. The long hours were bad for his health, and he came down with the flu and other ailments. (His lungs never recovered from his work as a stonemason.) His demeanor began to change. In Cromartie, Hugh had been relaxed, mild in expression and gentle in manner. Now he was tense and under pressure from the work and from the strong feelings aroused by the debate over the Church. He took to carrying a pistol to protect

himself both from criminals and from his enemies. Eventually the Disruption of the Church was accomplished and much credit for this was given to Hugh.

Despite the heavy load of work for the newspaper, Hugh managed to continue his studies of geology and fossils and to publish several books (*The Old Red Sandstone*, *Scenes and Legends*, and *My Schools and Schoolmasters*). His fame in the field grew such that the Swiss zoologist Louis Agassiz named a fossil fish after him.

By 1847, Hugh was a co-proprietor of *The Witness*, and a great deal of effort went into raising money to build new churches (now that state aid was no longer given). Conflicts arose, and there was a move to remove Hugh from the newspaper. At the same time, some colleagues who had been supporters of Hugh died, leaving his enemies with greater influence. Yet, despite all of this stress, his marriage with Lydia remained sound.

Hugh continued to be busy with lecturing, writing letters and reviews for his own and other journals, editing the newspaper, and preparing his own books for publication. In 1854, he bought a better house and moved the family out from the center of Edinburgh. But by 1856, Hugh was showing the effects of overwork and his bouts of recurrent illness. He began to be irritable with his children, and he slept poorly. He sought help from his doctor who later reported that Hugh complained that “his brain was giving way” (p. 106). He could not put thoughts together, had nightmares, and experienced pains (like a stiletto stab or an electrical shock) in his brain. He reported being overcome by giddiness and brief periods of unconsciousness. On the night of December 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 1856, he shot himself in the chest at the age of 54.

According to Taylor and Gostwick (2003), Hugh went to see his doctors the day before his suicide, and they prescribed a haircut and a regular bedtime (before 11 p.m.) after a light supper and warm sponge-bath. They also recommended a complete break from work. The post-mortem ruled his suicide as committed under the impulse of insanity, that is, a sudden act. Michael Taylor who is writing Hugh’s entry for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* is of the opinion that Hugh was depressed, perhaps because of a fear that he was going mad and from the stress of overwork and chronic disease.

Hugh Miller has been remembered in many ways. There is a Hugh Miller Glacier in Alaska, the Hugh Miller cliffs in Quebec and a memorial collection at the National Museums of Scotland.

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## ALBERT HEPPNER<sup>8</sup>

### David Lester

Albert Heppner was an American competitor in the 50 kilometer (31 mile) walking trials for the 2004 Olympic Games. They were held in February, 2004, at Chula Vista Marina, south of San Diego. The start was at 7.30 a.m. Heppner was 29 years old, 5 foot 8 inches tall. His peers liked him, but he was emotional - crying if he was disqualified, exuberant after a race. He helped newcomers to the fraternity, eating with them if they were alone, taking them to the airport, mediating disputes and making his room a lounge for all the athletes. Online, he wrote a log of his activities and thoughts, and sent them to periodicals for publication and to 500 friends and colleagues in the field. But Heppner told his mother, "I *have* to get to the Olympics."

Four years earlier, Heppner had become hypothermic during the trials and lost a spot on the team. He became depressed for the next six months and left the training facility. He joined the Army that August. Boot camp lifted the depression, and the Army put him in their World Class Athlete Program and sent him back to the training center. He had a hernia in 2003 but, after that healed, his times dropped, he lost his room in the dormitories, and the depression returned for a while. He took Prozac, learned yoga, swore off women, and lived in a condo his parents helped him purchase in Chula Vista.

His father, Max Heppner, was 71 years old and could not fathom Heppner's commitment to the sport. Max had hid from the Nazis in the Netherlands for three years, losing his grandfather and father, and emigrated to America after the war along with his mother. Max, and his wife Evelyn, eventually conceived the one child, Albert. Four years later, Max left his wife and son and married another Holocaust survivor. Evelyn fell into a depression and turned Albert over to a sister in Cleveland for a while. Eventually, she settled down in Maryland with him. Heppner later grew closer with his father, and Max paid for Heppner to attend a four-day Landmark Forum (the resurrection of the old EST workshops).

At school he was outgoing, the only boy among the African-American girls on the high school pep squad. When he was 15 and looking for a sport to excel at, he saw some walkers and recognized that his physique was ideal for that event. He even got a college athletic scholarship.

He had four main competitors at the trials for an Olympic spot, and all five had trained together for years at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista. After 7 kilometers, Curt Clausen pulled away, surprisingly. Heppner had to decide what to do - follow or stay with the pack. He followed. But Curt had needed a toilet and, after going to the toilet, let the pack catch back up with him. Heppner decided to go all out and build up his lead. Those watching groaned. They knew it was a mistake, but Heppner thought he could win.

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<sup>8</sup> This essay is based on Smith (2004).



His lead grew to two minutes, and then he cracked. He slowed, and the others caught up with him. He finished 5<sup>th</sup> in 4 hours, 23 minutes, way behind Curt who won in 3 hours and 58 minutes (just under the Olympic qualifying time of 4 hours and the only one to qualify for the Olympics).

Heppner still had a few races in which he could beat the 4-hour time and qualify. His father consoled him and flew home. His mother stayed at the condo. On the third day after the race, he had breakfast with the other athletes and California Congressman Randy Cunningham. Cunningham gave Heppner a silver dollar that his father had given him with the admonition never to give up.

Heppner ran an easy 3 kilometers afterwards with the others and then left in his SUV at 11 a.m. At 5 p.m., instead of picking up his mother's cousin in San Diego as he had promised, he drove to the gorge at Pine Valley and jumped to his death.

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## SUICIDES IN OPERA

DAVID LESTER

composer	opera	date	country	suicide
Monteverdi	Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in patria	1641	Italy	Iro
Monteverdi	L'incoronazione di Poppea	1642	Italy	Seneca
Purcell	Dido and Aeneas	1689	land	Dido
Mozart	Idomeneo	1781	Germany	Electra
Wagner	Rienzi	1842	Germany	Adriano
Wagner	Der Fliegende Hollander	1843	Germany	Senta
Wagner	Gotterdammerung	1876	Germany	Brunnhilde
Donizetti	Lucrezia Borgia	1833	Italy	Lucrezia Borgia
Donizetti	Lucia di Lammermoor 1835		Italy	Edgar
Bellini	La straniera	1829	Italy	Arturo
Bellini	Norma	1831	Italy	Norma/Pollione
Verdi	Nabucco	1842	Italy	Abigaille
Verdi	Ernani	1844	Italy	Ernani
Verdi	Luisa Miller	1849	Italy	Luisa/Rudolfo
Verdi	Il trovatore	1853	Italy	Leonora
Verdi	Aida	1871	Italy	Aida
Verdi	Otello	1887	Italy	Otello
Ponchielli	La gioconda	1876	Italy	La gioconda
Catalani	La Wally	1892	Italy	Wally
Mascagni	Iris	1898	Italy	Iris?
Giordano	Andrea Chenier	1896	Italy	Madeleine
Giordano	Fedora	1898	Italy	Fedora
Auber	La muette de Portici	1828	France	Fenella
Meyerbeer	Le prophete	1849	Germany(France)	Bertha/John/Fides
Meyerbeer	L'Africaine	1865	Germany(France)	Selika/Nelusko
Berlioz	Les Troyens	1863	France	Cassandre(+chorus)/Dido
Gounod	Romeo et Juliette	1867	France	Romeo/Juliet
Lalo	Le roi d'ys	1888	France	Margared
Saint-Saens	Samson et Dalila	1877	France	Samson
Delibes	Lakme	1883	France	Lakme
Massenet	Werther	1892	France	Werther
Moussorgsky	Khovanshchina	1886	Russia	Andrew/Martha/chorus
Tchaikovsky	The Queen of Spades	1890	Russia	Herman/Lisa
Rimsky-Korsakov	Snegurochka	1882	Russia	Misgir
Smetana	Dalibor	1868	Czech	Dalibor
Dvorak	Rusalka	1901	Czech	The Prince
Strauss	Salome	1905	Germany	Narraboth
Schoenberg	Moses and Aaron	1954	Germany	some suicides
Berg	Wozzeck	1925	Germany	Wozzeck
Berg	Lulu	1937	Germany	The painter
Zimmermann	The soldiers	1965	Germany	Stolzius
Puccini	Tosca	1900	Italy	Tosca/Angelotti
Puccini	Madame Butterfly	1904	Italy	Cio-Cio-San
Puccini	Suor Angelica	1918	Italy	Suor Angelica
Puccini	Turandot	1926	Italy	Liu
Montemezzi	The love of three Kings	1913	Italy	Manfredo??
Wolf-Ferrari	The jewels of the Madonna	1911	Italy	Gennaro/Maliella
Roussel	Padmavati	1923	France	Padmavati
Stravinski	Oedipus Rex	1927	Russia	Jocasta
Delius	A village Romeo and Juliet	1907	England	Sali & Vreli
Shostakovich	Katerina Ismailova	1934	Russia	Katerina
Walton	Troilus and Cressida	1954	England	Cressida
Britten	Peter Grimes	1945	England	Peter Grimes
Britten	The rape of Lucretia	1946	England	Lucretia
Janacek	Katya Kabanova	1921	Czech	Katya
Janacek	The Makropoulos affair	1926	Czech	Janek
Menotti	The consul	1950	USA	Magda Sorel

Monteverdi 1641: Il Ritorno D'Ulisse in Patria

Three acts

Ulysses is off at war, while his wife Penelope is lonely. Thinking Ulysses may be dead, Penelope is wooed by suitors. Iro is a jester and the suitors are his patrons. Ulysses in disguise beats Iro in a wrestling match and then is the only "suitor" able to draw Ulysses's bow. Ulysses then kills the four rival suitors. Iro laments his horror in an aria (a masterpiece of parody) and resolves on suicide in Act III.

Montverdi 1642: L'incoronation di Poppa

Three acts

Poppaea has taken Emperor Nero as a lover, and Nero wants to put the Empress aside and marry Poppaea. The philosopher knows that his intervention in the quarrel will result in his death, but he warns Nero not to do so. Nero leaves in fury. With Poppaea's urging, he send a guard to Seneca ordering him to kill himself. Seneca kills himself in Act II by slitting his wrists in a hot bath, consistent with his Stoic philosophy.

classic theme

motive: victim-precipitated homicide (committing suicide by getting the state to execute you)  
male/slit wrists

Purcell 1689: Dido and Aeneas

Three acts

Dido, the Queen of Carthage, has Aeneas from Troy as her guest, and is considering marrying him to solve Carthage's troubles. However, the Sorceress wants the destruction of Dido and Carthage and persuades Aeneas to return to found the new Troy. In Act III, Aeneas sails away and Dido commits suicide.

classic theme

motive: unrequited love.  
female

Mozart 1781: Idomeneo

Three acts

Idamante, son of the King of Crete, has fallen in love with Ilia, the imprisoned daughter of the King Priam. Electra, a Greek princess, is in love with Idamante too. The King of Crete sails home safely after promising Neptune to sacrifice the first person he meets, who is his son Idamante. To save him, Idamante is sent into exile, and Electra plans to go with

him. But Neptune is angry, and so the King decides to sacrifice his son as he promised. The Oracle says that Idamante can be spared if the King abdicates in his favor. Thus, Idamante can now marry Ilia, and Electra kills herself (in some versions).

classic theme

motive: unrequited love, but Electra is also angry.

female

Wagner

1842: Rienzi

Five acts

Orsini, a Roman patrician, tries to abduct Irene (sister of the Papal notary, Rienzi) but is thwarted. Adriano is in love with Irene. The nobles are seized and executed by the people. The people then turn on Rienzi, and Adriano warns Irene and urges her to flee with him. She stays to support her brother. The crowd burns Irene and Reinzi in the capitol, and Adriano rushes into the building to die with them.

motive: unrequited love

male/burns

Wagner

1843: The flying Dutchman

Three acts

The Dutch captain is allowed by the devil to land once every seven years to find a woman who will save him through he faithful love. He lands in Norway one day and asks to woo a Norwegian's captain's daughter (Senta). Eric, a local lad is in love with Senta, and the Dutchman thinks he is forsaken and sails off. Senta runs after him and throws herself into the sea.

motive: unrequited love

female/drowning

Wagner

1876: Twilight of the Gods

Three acts

Siegfried and Brunnhilde are engaged, and Siegfried has given Brunnhilde the "ring." He goes off on more adventures and meets the siblings, Gunther and Guttrune Gibichung. Guttrune gives Siegfried a magic potion which makes him forget Brunnhilde and fall in love with Guttrune. Siegfried and Gunther go off to capture Brunnhilde as a bride for Gunther. All involved decide that Siegfried must die, and it is planned to kill him during hunt so that it looks like an accident. During the hunt, Siegfried is killed. Brunnhilde learns of the treachery, and rides into the funeral pyre of Siegfried.

motive: loss of love  
female/burning

Donizetti 1833: *Lucrezia Borgia*

Two acts

Lucrezia meets Gennaro (a young Venetian nobleman, who is her son but does not know it), but when he realizes that she is a Borgia, turns from her in loathing. Gennaro defaces Borgia property and Lucrezia demands that her husband (her fourth) punish the perpetrator but, when she realizes it is Gennaro, pleads for his life. Her husband insists she poison Gennaro; Gennaro refuses the antidote she gives him, even after she tells him she is his mother; he dies, Lucrezia then drinks the poison too and dies.

motive: loss of her son  
female/poison

Donizetti 1835: *Lucia di Lammermoor*

Three acts

Lord Ashton arranges a marriage between his sister, Lucy, and Lord Bucklaw in order to achieve financial and political gain. Lucy is in love with Edgar despite a feud between the two families. Ashton forges letters to prove Edgar's infidelity to Lucy, and so she consents to marry Bucklaw. Edgar returns and thinks Lucy has betrayed him. She goes mad, kills Bucklaw and dies. Upon hearing of Lucy's death, Edgar stabs himself.

motive: loss of love  
male/stabbing

Bellini 1829: *La straniera*

Two acts

Isoletta is to marry Arturo (Count of Ravenstal), but she thinks (correctly) that he is in love with a different woman (Alaide, the stranger). Arturo thinks that Valdeburgo is Alaide's lover and tries to kill him, but then finds out he was her brother. Alaide is accused of the murder, but her brother appears and all are freed. Alaide (who is to become the queen of France) insists that Arturo marry Isoletta, but Arturo falls on his sword.

motive: unrequited love  
male/stabbing

Bellini 1831: *Norma*

## Two acts

Pollione (Roman proconsul in Gaul) has had two sons with Norma (a Druid priestess) but no longer loves her. Norma senses that Pollione is going to desert her with Adalgisa (another priestess). Adalgisa refuses to go with Pollione, but he refuses to return to Norma. The Gauls declare war on the Romans, and they capture Pollione. To spare him, Norma confesses her affair, and she is condemned to burn on a pyre, whereupon Pollione joins her.

motive: Norma is victim-precipitated homicide (death by execution); Pollione out of lost love/guilt and atonement

male/burning

female/burning

Verdi

1842: Nabucco

## Four acts

King Nabucco of Babylon defeats Jerusalem. Fenena, a hostage in the hands of the Jews, loves Ismaele (the King's nephew). Abigaille, who thinks she is Fenena's sister, but who is Nabucco's daughter, also loves Ismaele and threatens the couple with exposure unless Ismaele chooses her. Nabucco leaves Fenena as ruler, but Abigaille finds out the truth and tries to seize command, but is thwarted by Nabucco who is then turned mad by supernatural forces. Abigaille becomes regent, and Fenena is condemned to death. In Act IV, Nabucco is restored to sanity and rushes to save Fenena, and Abigaille kills herself with poison in remorse.

motive: suicide out of guilt

female/poison

Verdi

1844: Ernani

## Four acts

The King of Castile has slain Ernani's father, and Ernani has become a bandit, fled to the mountains and leads a band of rebels. He loves Elvira (as does the King) who is engaged to an aged relative, Silva. Elvira believes that Ernani has been killed and so consents to marry Silva. Silva finds Ernani and Elvira kissing, but protects Ernani from the King. The King pardons Silva for hiding Ernani and carries Elvira off, and Ernani promises to let Silva kill him when Elvira is saved. Ernani and Silva plot to save Elvira, the King hears of the plot, but spares the conspirators. Elvira and Ernani marry but, when Silva reminds Ernani of his promise and offers him poison or a dagger, Ernani stabs himself

motive: honor

male/stabbing

Verdi 1849: Luisa Miller

Three acts

The master's son (Rudolfo) is in love with the miller's daughter (Luisa). The Duchess Federica, a widow, is in love with Rudolfo; Wurm is in love with Luisa. Rudolfo's father puts Luisa's father in prison. She writes a letter saying she never loved Rodulfo in order to free him. Rudolfo's father makes sure Rudolfo sees the note. Rudolfo resolves to kill Luisa and himself. Luisa also decides to kill herself. They both drink poison, and Luisa confesses why she wrote the letter. Before he dies, Rudolfo kills Wurm with his sword.

motive: unrequited love  
female/poison; male/poison

Verdi 1853: Il Trovatore

Four acts

The count killed a gypsy who was found near his infants. Her daughter (Azucena) vowed to avenge her mother's death and stole one of the infants (Manrico) whom she brought up as her own. Manrico's brother is now the new count. The count loves Leonora, but Manrico has been serenading her, and she loves him from a distance. They all meet in a garden, and Manrico defeats, but does not kill, the count. Leonora decides to join a convent, believing Manrico dead. Manrico takes Leonora to his force and the count lays siege to it. They are about to marry, when they learn that Azucena has been caught by the count and is about to be killed. Manrico rushes to save his mother but fails; he is captured too by the count. Leonora promises to marry the count if he will free Manrico. He agrees. Leonora goes to Manrico, poisons herself, whereupon the count orders Manrico executed. Whereupon Azucena tells the count he has just killed his brother.

motive: unrequited love  
female/poison

Verdi 1871: Aida

Four acts

Radames, an Egyptian captain, loves Aida, an Ethiopian slave. She loves Radames (as does Amneris, an Egyptian princess), but she is a princess too, and Radames is off to fight her father's army. Radames routs the Ethiopia army and captures her father. The King gives Radames Amneris as his reward. Aida's father persuades her to find out Radames plan of attack on the new Ethiopian army. Radames plans to defeat the Ethiopians and ask the King for Aida's hand, but she persuades him to flee with her and he discloses the plan of attack. The Ethiopian king hears this and Amneris hears it all too. Radames tells Aida and her father

to flee. Radames is arrested and sentenced to be entombed alive. Aida joins him in prison and they die together entombed.

motive: unrequited love  
female/starvation in prison

Verdi 1887: Otello

Four acts

In the familiar tale, Otello kills Desdemona for supposedly being unfaithful to him, and then kills himself out of guilt and loss after finding out about Iago's villainy.

motive: guilt and loss  
male/stabbing

Ponchielli 1876: La Gioconda

Four acts

Barnaba, a spy for the Inquisition, loves La Gioconda, a ballad singer, but she loves Enzo, a nobleman in trouble with the law in Venice. Barnaba persuades the crowd that La Gioconda's mother is a witch and Enzo saves her until the head of the inquisition (Alvise) appears and his wife calms the crowd. Barnaba knows Enzo was in love with Laura, the wife of Alvise, and arranges for them to be together and then informs Alvise of this. La Gioconda hears the plans and believes that Enzo no longer loves her.

Laura comes to Enzo's boat, and La Gioconda sneaks on board and confronts Laura. Alvise approaches and La Gioconda helps Laura escape. Alvise tells his wife Laura to poison herself for being unfaithful, but La Gioconda gives her a soporific instead and takes the poison with her. When Laura is discovered, apparently dead, Enzo tries to kill Alvise but is captured. La Gioconda promises to marry Barnaba if he saves Enzo. Enzo arrives and, after an argument, goes to stab La Gioconda, but Laura revives for the soporific and calls Enzo. They embrace and flee, leaving La Gioconda alone. When Barnaba arrives, she stabs herself.

motive: unrequited love  
female/stabbing

Catalani 1892: La Wally

Wally loves a youth (Hagenbach) but Gellner loves Wally. Wally's father tells her that she must marry Gellner. Much later, Wally's father is dead and she has inherited a fortune. Hagenbach is engaged to Afra, but is dared to kiss Wally. He does, and wins a bet, after which Wally says that if Gellner wants to marry her, Hagenbach must die. Gellner tries to kill Hagenbach, but he survives a fall into an abyss. Hagenbach comes to Wally to tell her that he loves her, but she throws herself into an avalanche.



motive: difficult love relationship  
female/buried in avalanche

Mascagni 1898: Iris

Three acts

In Japan, Iris, living with her blind father, is desired by a rake, Osaka, who has her abducted. She refuses to return his love and he father, believing that she had voluntarily become a prostitute, throws mud at her, whereupon she drowns herself in the sewer.

motive: shame  
female/drowning

Giordano 1896: Andrea Chenier

Four acts

Gerard, a servant, is in love with Madeleine, the Count's daughter. At the party, Gerard protests his position as a slave. After the French Revolution, Chenier, who is also in love with Madeleine, is urged to flee the persecution, but he refuses. Madeleine and Chenier meet, but Gerard, who is now a revolutionary leader, appears; he and Chenier fight, and Gerard is wounded.

Chenier is arrested, and Gerard, swayed by his love for Madeleine, signs the indictment. Gerard explains this to Madeleine, and she offers to be with him if he will help Chenier. Despite Gerard's help, Chenier is sentenced to death. Gerard arranges for Madeleine to take the place of a condemned female prisoner, and so she joins him in death

motive: lost love  
female/victim-precipitated homicide by the state

Giordano 1899: Fedora

Three acts

In Paris, Princess Fedora is engaged to Count Vladimir, but he is murdered, and Fedora believes that it is Count Loris who has murdered him. At a party, Loris declares his love to Fedora. He admits that he was responsible for the death of her fiance but that is innocent of his murder. He tells her that her fiance was having an affair with his, Loris's, wife. In confronting the lovers, Vladimir shot at Loris and Loris shot back, killing Vladimir. Fedora then admits she loves Loris. They marry and move to Switzerland.

Loris is invited back to Russia, pardoned, but told that a woman had prolonged his exile and caused the arrest of his brother. Loris realizes that Fedora's original plan for vengeance has caused all this. She drinks poison, and Loris forgives her.

motive: shame/guilt at her husband finding out her past actions  
female/poison

Auber 1828: La muette de Portici

Five acts

It is Naples 1647. The Spaniards rule Naples. The viceroy's son (Alfonso) had seduced a Neapolitan woman (Fenella who is mute). Fenella loves him, but he is to marry Elvira, a Spanish princess whom he loves. Fenella asks Elvira for protection and indicates that it is Alfonso who has betrayed her.

Fenella's brother, Masaniello, leads the revolution, and he also swears revenge for Fenella. Elvira forgives Alfonso, and, as the mob attacks the Spaniards, Alfonso and Elvira seek shelter in Fenella's house. The rebels want to kill Alfonso and Elvira, but Masaniello promises them safe conduct. The rebels threaten to kill Masaniello. Masaniello is poisoned and hallucinates by the rebels, and Alfonso then leads the Spanish forces against the rebels. Masaniello recovers and leads the rebels. In the fighting, Masaniello save Elvira and Alfonso, and is killed by his troops. Fenella then commits suicide

motive: loss (of a brother)  
female/method not clear from Kobbe.

Meyerbeer 1849: Le prophete

Five acts

Holland, 1500s. The people want to revolt against the tyrants who rule. John is engaged to Bertha. The Count refuses to give permission for them to marry and seizes Bertha for his own pleasure. She escapes and asks John to hide her. The Count orders John to surrender Bertha or he will kill John's mother (Fides). John does so to save his mother. John joins the revolt. Bertha escapes and the Count is captured. John proclaims himself Emperor, while his mother (Fides) has become a beggar. The rebels tell her that her son John is dead, and she tells Bertha. John claims divine origin, and dares his followers to kill him. His mother then denies she is his mother. John is reunited with his mother and Bertha, but the German Emperor is marching on him, and some of his supporters are ready to betray him.

When Bertha realizes that her lover and the crazy prophet are the same person, and that she has set fire to the palace to kill him and his followers, she stabs herself. Then John and Fides willingly go into the palace to die in the fire.

motive: loss - of power/love & guilt  
female/stabbing/guilt  
male & female/self-immolation/facing defeat

Meyerbeer 1865: L'Africaine



## Three acts

Margared, the King's daughter, is betrothed to the defeated enemy leader, Karnac, but she is in love with Mylio. Her sister, Rozenn, also loves Mylio, who loves her too. Margared declares she cannot marry Karnac who goes back to war. Mylio leads the army against him. The King blesses the union of Rozenn and Margared promises revenge.. Mylio defeats Karnac, but Margared offers Karnac help by showing him how to flood the city. Mylio and Rozenn marry and Karnac floods the town. Margared repents, kills Karnac, and tries to warn everyone. She then drowns herself as a sacrifice to spare the town.

motive: guilt and expiation  
female/drowning

Saint-Saens 1877: Samson et Dalila

## Three acts

The old story

motive: expiation for his sin of letting Dalila and the Philistines defeat him  
male/crushing

Delibes 1883: Lakme

## Three acts

Lakme is an Indian priest's (Nilakantha) daughter. He hates the British. Gerald, an English soldier, engaged to Ellen, meets Lakme, and they are attracted. Nilakantha vows to kill Gerald for profaning his temple. Nilakantha has Gerald stabbed, but it is not fatal. But Gerald chooses to join his troops and leave Lakme. She takes poison.

motive: lost love  
female/poison.

Massenet 1892: Werther

## Four acts

Werther falls in love with Charlotte, the Magistrate's daughter, but Albert is the parent-approved fiancée of Charlotte. Charlotte and Albert marry and are happy. Later, Charlotte realizes that she loves Werther. They meet and embrace, but then Charlotte rushes away. Werther goes away and shoots himself with Albert's pistols.

motive: unrequited love

male/firearm

Moussorgsky 1886: Khovanshchina

Five acts

1680s, Russia: the Streltsy and the Old Believers are struggling against Peter the Great. The son of the Strelsky leader, Andrew loved Martha but left her. They fight - Andrew tries to stab her, but she parries the blow. Prince Galitsin has Martha read his fortune, dislikes it and orders her to be killed. The Tsars troops arrive and the Strelsky leader and his son are denounced as traitors, and the leader advises submission to the Tsar, but he is murdered. As the rebels realize that their cause is lost, Andrew and Martha die on a funeral pyre.

motive: impending defeat and arrest; Martha perhaps because of loss of love

male/fire

female/fire

Tchaikovsky 1890: The Queen of Spades

Three acts

Herman, an officer, has fallen in love with an unknown woman, but he finds out that she is engaged to Prince Yeletsky. But Lisa is not happy with the engagement. Herman comes to her room and they realize that they love each other. Lisa gives Herman a key to the house and he goes, sees her grandmother, tries to get a gambling secret from her (so that he can be rich enough to marry Lisa), but she dies. Lisa appears horrified that Herman loves gambling more than her.

Lisa forgives him, they arrange to meet, Herman tells her that he must go and gamble, and Lisa throws herself into the canal. Herman goes to gamble and loses and then stabs himself.

motive: lost love

female/drowning; male/stabbing

Rimsky-Korsakov 1882: Snegurochka

Four acts

Spring and Winter have a child, Snegurochka. When she is 16, they entrust her to the Spirit of the Wood. She goes out into the world where she is adopted by Bobil and Bobilicka. Snegurochka falls in love with Lehl, but he rejects her. Misgir falls in love with Snegurochka, but she ignores him. The Tsar promises a reward to anyone who succeeds in winning Snegurochka's love. Snegurochka appeals to her mother - she wants to love and be

loved. This time she and Misgir connect, but the Sun Good will not let her be happy. She must die. She melts away, and Misgir drowns himself.

motive: lost love  
male/drowning

Smetana 1868: Dalibor

Three acts

As a result of some civil war, Dalibor is on trial for killing the Burgrave. Dalibor claims it was in revenge for the murder of his friend, Zdenek. Dalibor is imprisoned for life. The Burgrave's sister (Milada) vows to free Dalibor, and she gets into the prison. They meet and fall in love. Dalibor is caught before he can escape, his supporters attack the prison, Dalibor and Milada appear, but Milada is wounded and dies. Dalibor stabs himself and dies.

motive: lost love and imminent capture/death  
male/stabbing

Dvorak 1901: Rusalka

Three acts

Rusalka, the daughter of the Spirit of the Lake, tells her father that she loves in human Prince and wants to be human. She is made human, but mute. If her prince is false, both must die. They meet and fall in love. The prince, however, is attracted to a foreign princess. Rusalka is the victim of her lover's infidelity, and she sinks back into the lake. The Prince comes to the lake, and begs the ghost of Rusalka to kiss him, knowing that if she does he will die. She does, and he dies.

motive; lost love  
male/magic kiss

Strauss 1905: Salome

One act

Narraboth, a captain, is in love with Salome, the step-daughter of the ruler of Judea. Salmoa persuades him to let her see the prisoner, John the Baptist. She tries to seduce him, but he declines. Watching this, Narraboth kills himself with his sword. The plot continues.

motive: unrequited love  
male/stabbing

Schoenberg 1954: Moses and Aaron

Three acts

Moss and Aaron bring God's word to the people. Aaron wins over the people with miracles, and the Israelites begin their journey through the desert. Aaron and the Elders reach Mount Sinai and wait for Moses. Aaron produces the golden calf, and the crowd goes into ecstasy, ending in suicides and an orgy of rape. Moses appears with the tablets of the laws and argues with Aaron. The Israelites then resume their march to the promised land.

motive: ?  
the crowd/?

Berg 1925: Wozzeck

Three acts

Wozzeck is a soldier servant, unmarried but with a child. Marie, the mother of the child, takes the drum-major as a lover. The captain and doctor tease Wozzeck about Marie's infidelity. Wozzeck sees Marie and the Drum-Major dancing, and later the Drum-Major beats up Wozzeck. Wozzeck kills Marie by cutting her throat later that night. He later drowns himself.

motive: guilt? loss of his love?  
male/drowning.

Berg 1937: Lulu

Three acts

The painter is painting a portrait of Lulu. They begin to make love, when Lulu's husband appears and falls dead in shock. Lulu and the painter marry. Dr. Schon is engaged, but Lulu is his lover. Schon tells the painter about Lulu's past life and lovers. The painter commits suicide. Lulu forces Schon to break off his engagement and marry her. Several more men are now in love with Lulu (including Schon's son). Schon give Lulu a gun and tells her to commit suicide, but she shoots Schon, her only true love. Lulu is tried, condemned and catches cholera. A female friend helps her escape with Schon's son, Alwa, to Paris. There she escapes the police and goes to London, where Lulu works as a prostitute and Jack-the-Ripper kills her.

motive: painter/lost love (unfaithful wife)  
male/?

Zimmerman 1965: The soldiers

Four acts

Wesener is a merchant with two daughters - Marie and Charlotte. Marie is in love with Stolzius, and he loves her. Baron Desportes is wooing Marie. Marie is in two minds, but lets Desportes seduce her. Marie then takes up with Major Mary, for whom Stolzius now serves as batman. Desportes wants to get of Marie to Major Mary. Marie is raped by Desportes' gamekeeper and becomes a prostitute. Stolzius poisons Desportes and then poisons himself. In the last scene, Marie as a beggar begs from Wesener who does not recognize his daughter.

motive: lost love  
male/poison

Puccini 1900: Tosca

Three acts

Angelotti, a political prisoner, has escaped from prison and hides in a church. He meets a painter there, Cavaradossi. Tosca, Cavaradossi's lover, enters and they arrange to meet. Scarpia, the Chief of Police, believes that Cavaradossi has helped hide Angelotti. Tosca comes to believe (incorrectly) that her lover loves another woman. Scarpia plans to have Tosca and execute Cavaradossi.

Tosca finds that Cavaradossi has been arrested and hears him being tortured. To save him, Tosca reveals the hiding place of Angelotti. Angelotti poisons himself to escape capture. To save her lover, Tosca agrees to be Scarpia's mistress but then stabs him fatally. They think that Cavaradossi must have a mock execution, but he is shot dead. Tosca jumps to her death.

motive: male/to escape capture; female/lost love  
male/poison; female/jumping

Puccini 1904: Madame Butterfly

Three acts

M Bfly has a child by an American naval officer, but he (Pinkerton) married an American wife and comes back to Japan for his child. When she realizes the truth, M Bfly stabs herself.

motive: lost love  
female/stabbing.

Puccini 1918: Suor Angelica

One act



Angelica has a baby while unmarried and becomes a nun. Seven years later, she is told by her aunt that her child has died and that she must commit suicide to atone for her sin. Angelica poisons herself in despair.

motive: loss of child  
female/poison

Puccini 1926: Turandot

Three acts

Peking, China. Princess Turandot is seeking a husband, but if a suitor cannot solve three riddles, he is killed. The blind banished King of Tartary (Timur) has a blind slave girl (Liu). The King's son (Calaf) falls in love with Turandot and decides to submit to the test. Liu loves him secretly. Calaf solves all three riddles, but Turandot doesn't want to marry him. Calaf agrees that if Turandot can find out his real name, he will allow himself to be killed. Turandot has Timur and Liu captured and threatens to torture Timur. Liu says that only she knows Calaf's real name. She is tortured, but stabs herself.

motive: self-sacrifice for love/to avoid torture  
female/stabbing

Montemezzi 1913: The love of three kings

Three acts

Archibaldo, the King, is old and blind. His son Manfredo is married to Fiora. Fiora was originally engaged to Altura, but married Manfredo to bring peace. Manfredo is away fighting, and Fiora and Avito are lovers. Manfredo returns to see Fiora and returns to the battle. The King accuses Fiora of being unfaithful and kills her. Manfredo returns and learns what has happened. The King puts poison on Fiora's lips and, when Avito comes to kiss the corpse, he is poisoned. Manfredo sees him dying and learns that he was Fiora's lover. Manfredo then kisses Fiora and dies a possible suicide if he knows about the poison?????

motive: loss of love  
male/poison

Wolf-Ferrari 1911: The jewels of the Madonna

Three acts

Gennaro is a blacksmith. His mother, Carmela, has adopted a girl, Maliella. Rafaele is in love with Maliella, and she returns his love. Gennaro steals the church's jewels for Maliella because he loves her too. They become lovers. Maliella confesses to Rafaele that

she gave herself to Gennaro. She claims she was in a trance, but he sees that she has the jewels. Maleilla drowns herself and Gennaro stabs himself.

motive: male/loss of love; female/shame & loss of love  
male/stabbing; female/drowning

Roussel 1923: Padmavati

Two acts

Padmavati is the wife of Ratan-Sen, King of Chitoor. The Mogul Prince, Alauddin, and the King discuss peace. Alauddin wants Padmavati or he will sack the city. The Mogul army defeats the king, and Ratan-Sen is wounded. She kills her husband the king so that she can die on the funeral pyre (suttee).

motive: suttee  
female/fire

Stravinski 1927: Oedipus Rex

Two acts

The old story. Jocasta's suicide.

motive: shame/guilt  
female/hanging

Delius 1907: A village Romeo and Juliet

Three acts

Manz and Marti are rival farmers. Sali is the son of Manz, Vreli the daughter of Marti. The farmers argue and become enemies; they forbid their children to associate. Six years later, Vreli and Sali are in love. When discovered, Sali attacks Vreli's father, Marti, and he loses his mind. The house and land is sold, and the two lovers are poor. They are urged to become vagabonds, but they reject this instead for death, drowning in the river.

motive: difficult life of poverty  
male & female/drowning

Shostakovich 1934: Katerina Ismailova

Four acts

Katerina has a loveless marriage (to Zinovy) but is forced to promise to be faithful. The servant Sergei and she become lovers while Zinovy is away fixing a dam. Her father-in-law (Boris) catches Sergei and flogs him. Katerina poisons Boris. She and Sergei continue their affair. Zinovy comes back and catches them in the bedroom. The lovers kill Zinovy. Katerina and Sergei are about to marry when a drunk finds the decomposing body of Zinovy in the cellar. The police arrest the newly-weds. They are prisoners, marching off to Siberia, and now Sergei resents Katerina and flirts with other women. He gets Katerina's stockings from her as a gift for another woman. She commits suicide by taking Sergei's new girl-friend and jumping into the river with her.

motive: loss of lover  
female/drowning

Walton 1954: Troilus and Cressida

Four acts

Troy, 12<sup>th</sup> Century BC. The people are starving. The oracle urges a peace treaty with the Greeks. Troilus, Prince of Troy, loves Cressida, daughter of the high priest. She is a widow and about to become a priestess. Her father plans to defect to the enemy. Cressida falls in love with Troilus. The high priest wants his daughter back, but Troilus vows to visit her in the Greek camp. Diomed, a Greek prince, wants Cressida to marry him, and she yields. Troilus arrives with a ransom, and he and Diomed fight. Cressida's father stabs Troilus in the back, and Diomed sends the high priest back to Troy in chains. Cressida is forced to stay as a prostitute. She kills herself with Troilus's sword.

motive: loss of love, to escape rape  
female/stabbing

Britten 1945: Peter Grimes

Three acts

Peter is a fisherman, suspected of causing the death of his six-year-old apprentice who died at sea. The death is ruled accidental, but the townsfolk distrust and dislike Peter. Peter is advised to leave and work on a merchant ship, but Peter thinks marriage to Ellen, a friend, would help. In the pub, Ellen arrives and Peter's new apprentice, John. On Sunday, at church, Peter hits Ellen and goes off with the apprentice to work. The townsfolk go off to Peter's hut. Peter hurries the apprentice down the cliff, but the boy falls to his death. Later, Grimes' boat is back in the harbor and the mayor goes to find Peter. One of the townsfolk advises Peter, now mad, to take his boat out to sea and sink it.

motive: ????  
male/drowning

Britten 1946: The rape of Lucretia

Two acts

The old story. The bet that Lucretia would be unfaithful to her husband Collatinus. Tarquinius arrives at Lucretia's house, enters her bedroom and rapes her. She sends for her husband, tells him of the rape, and stabs herself.

motive: shame and guilt  
female/stabbing

Janacek 1921: Katya Kabanova

Three acts

Kabanicha is a widow, Tikhon her son, and Katya Tikhon's wife. Kabanicha and does not like Katya. Tikhon has to go away on business, and Katya loves Boris who loves her back. They meet in the garden. Days later, Tikhon is back, and Katya confesses her adultery and flees the family. Tikhon loves Katya but also wants her dead. Katya drowns herself

motive: unhappy marriage, guilt at adultery, lost love  
female/drowning.

Janacek 1926: The Makropoulos affair

Three acts

Makropoulos has discovered an elixir of life. The Emperor did not believe him, but Makropoulos's daughter (Elina) had her life prolonged after she took it. Every 70 years she changes her identity (but keeps the initials E.M.) and has lived 300 years. As Ellen MacGregor in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century she had an affair with Baron Prus and had a son, Ferdinand MacGregor. The estate went to a cousin, until Ferdinand appeared to claim it. The Gregor and Prus families fight over the inheritance for the next 100 years.

The lawyer's office - Albert Gregor is there for the case, as is the lawyer's daughter (Krista) as well as Emilia Marty who is interested in the case. Emilia seems to know where documented proof of Ferdinand being Prus's son is. The lawyer returns with the evidence.

The present Baron Prus and his son Janek (who loves Krista) come to the opera house looking for Emilia Marty. Baron Prus seems to have guessed the details of E.M.'s life. Gregor proclaims his love for Emilia, but she is indifferent. Janek returns and offers to steal a sealed packet addressed to Ferdinand for her. Prus appears and offers her the packet in return for her favors. Prus delivers the packet and hears that his son, Janek, has killed himself over love for Emilia. Emilia does not take the elixir to prolong her life for another 300 years, and dies at last.

motive: unrequited love

male/?

Menotti

1950: The Consul

Three acts

John Sorel had a secret meeting and was shot in the leg by police. His wife, Magda, and his mother bandage his leg. He hides, and the women handle the secret police who arrive. John flees. Magda goes to the consulate to get a visa but fails to get help.

A month later, Magda gets news that her husband is in the mountains over the border, waiting till she can get a visa to leave the country. Magda's baby dies of starvation. The consulate still won't give her a visa. After she leaves, John rushes in, followed by the secret police who take John captive, despite protests that the consulate is foreign soil. When Magda hears the news, she commits suicide with gas.

motive: loss of hope (family, etc)

female/gas

## PETER COLE<sup>9</sup>

### David Lester

Peter Cole, a London bookseller, hung himself in his warehouse in Leadenhall Street, London, on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1665. He was under stress from business pressures and illness, and his friends thought his volatile personality played a role in his decision.

Cole was born in 1613 in Barfold, Suffolk. His father was a clothier. Cole was apprenticed to a stationer in London who published Americana. He obtained his freedom on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1637, and set up as a printer and bookseller. One of his earliest works was *News from America*, written by John Underhill, published in 1638. In 1643, he opened his new business, the Printing Press, in Cornhill, and situated his living quarters, warehouse and printing plant in Leadenhall Street. His possible melancholic nature was suggested by his printing and selling of the scaffold speeches of those beheaded at Tower Hill, such as the Earl of Strafford in 1641 and the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1644.

An active Puritan, he published the petitions circulated by the Puritan leaders and books and pamphlets by independent thinkers. After the Stuarts were restored to the throne, he published more ordinary works on such topics as shipping. When Cole started publishing, printers/publishers held the copyrights of his works, but Cole had a reputation of being opportunistic, appropriating and reappropriating texts to which he did not have a valid claim.

Cole was a Puritan and outspoken republican, opposed to the monarchy. He made his fortune from selling popular medical books written in English. He commissioned Nicholas Culpepper to translate into English books written in Latin and published by the Royal College of Physicians. Cole wanted to bring medical information into the hands of ordinary people, and eventually Culpepper wrote for Cole a series of books explaining medicine and instructing people where they could find medicinal herbs in the countryside with which to medicate themselves. By identifying and personifying popular, unlicensed medicine, and by challenging the establishment, Cole earned himself the enmity of physicians.

After Culpepper's death in 1654 at the age of 38, Cole published 17 further manuscripts written by him, and Culpepper's widow had plans to produce 79 more. However, a rival bookseller, Nathaniel Brooke, expropriated some of these manuscripts and invented others, purportedly written by Culpepper, but not in actuality. Brooke attacked Cole in print for publishing spurious works himself, and Cole was hurt financially by Brooke's actions.

In 1661, a movement began to give licensing power for medical books to the Royal College of Physicians, which would have hurt Cole's business. He tried unsuccessfully to obtain an exemption from Parliament. The King approved the Press Act in 1662. Cole

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<sup>9</sup> This essay is based on Furdell (2004).

moderated his attacks on the College and tried to mend fences with its members, but he killed himself in 1665.

Suicide was a crime in England, and the estate of a suicide was confiscated on behalf of the Crown. Both the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England forbade burial in consecrated ground. At the time of Cole's suicide, there was growing compassion toward suicides, and an indication that the suicide was psychiatrically disturbed often allowed his heirs to inherit his estate. But Cole's fortune was too large, and King Charles II needed funds for a new palace in Greenwich. As a consequence, Cole's carefully prepared will, written three weeks before his death, was ignored. The man who opposed the monarchy provided funds for the King's new home!

Cole's friends tried to portray him as "distracted" and preoccupied prior to his death. Cole never married, but his came from a sizeable family with many siblings, and his will documented his concern for their welfare after his death. His suicide was not a result of economic jeopardy - he left a large fortune, which the King was happy to confiscate.

Printers lived and worked in atmosphere full of lead, antimony, copper, arsenic and tin, and many printers died young from lead poisoning or had symptoms of the poisoning. Perhaps Cole had such symptoms and an expectation of an early, painful death. There is the possibility that Cole had plague in 1665, the year of London's greatest epidemic, but plague killed quickly whereas Cole had prepared his will weeks in advance (on November 14<sup>th</sup> 1665).

The conclusion is that perhaps a looming business crisis and a chronic medical condition caused by lead and other toxic chemicals led Peter Cole to kill himself.

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## LIZZE SIDDAL

### David Lester

Lizzie's parents, Charles Siddall and Elizabeth Evans, married on December 13, 1824. They lived in London for a while, moved back to Sheffield where Charles had lived, but soon moved back to London. His family had owned an inn in Derbyshire, and Charles spent a great deal of effort and money trying to prove he was the rightful owner of the inn, and this resulted in his family being much less well-off financially than it might have been. He was forced to earn a living as a cutler, and the family had become lower class as a result of Charles's legal battles, but they had aspirations of owning a home and employing a servant. Charles ran his business out of the home, and they did not live in anything approaching a slum.

Charles and Elizabeth's first children were Annie and Charles, and then Lizzie was born July 25, 1829, in Hatton Garden in London. The family moved to Southwark in 1831 in south London, where more siblings were born: Lydia, Mary, Clara, James and Henry. Henry, born in 1843, seems to have had learning difficulties but nonetheless entered the family business.

The parents had aspirations for their children. Although Lizzie does not appear to have attended school, Lizzie could read and write and developed a love of poetry. From an early age, she wrote her own poetry. The parents also taught the children middle-class manners. To support the family, because Mr. Siddall ran through the profits from the business in his legal battles, all the children had to go to work. Lizzie went to work for a hat maker, Mrs. Tozer, for about 24 pounds a year (about 1,500 pounds today).

Lizzie was 20 in 1849, tall, slender, with long red (copper-colored) hair, which in those days was considered unlucky and associated with witches, but she was striking. One of her co-workers, Jeanette, had a friend, William Allingham who had published a volume of poetry and who was friends with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Allingham met Lizzie through Jeannette and saw that would make a great model for his friend Walter Deverall who needed a model for his painting of Viola from *Twelfth Night*. Deverall went to meet Lizzie, was impressed and prevailed upon his mother to get permission for Lizzie to be his model, both from Lizzie's mother and from Mrs. Tozer.

Lizzie was paid for the modeling and allowed to keep her job at the hat shop. Her respectability was preserved since Deverall's mother and sisters kept her company in the studio. As a result of this experience, Lizzie met the rest of the Brotherhood.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood consisted of seven idealistic young artists who rejected the conventional style in art and set out to challenge conventions. Among them was Dante Gabriel Rossetti whose parents had come to London from Italy as political refugees. Dante's father was a university lecturer which gave the family status, but not a large salary.



When Deverall's painting was finished, the rest of the group all felt that Lizzie would make an ideal model. She sat for Holman Hunt and then for Dante, and so Lizzie found a new lucrative career that changed her life. Perhaps the most famous painting of Lizzie is *Ophelia* by John Everett Millais (1852). These young men made her feel idolized, and this was one of the happiest times of her life.

### **Lizzie and Dante**

Dante was born May 12, 1828, the second of four children. Lizzie was very different from his two conventional sisters. In his and his family's eyes, Lizzie was from a lower social class, yet she saw herself as superior to him. Just as Dante felt his family would disapprove of Lizzie (and his sister Christina did disapprove when they met in 1854), Lizzie held off introducing Dante to her family because they would not have approved of him.

Dante fell in love with her and soon made sure that she modeled only for him. He tried to improve her, suggesting she change her name from "Siddall" to "Siddal," teaching her and encouraging her to be an artist too. Once Lizzie became his exclusive model, the other painters had to find other models and one, Annie Miller, became her rival, with much friction between them.

Once she became Dante's exclusive model and possibly lover, Lizzie gave up working for Mrs. Tozer which placed her in a vulnerable position financially since Dante was not responsible as far as money was concerned. Lizzie moved out from her parents in 1854 and into rooms, apparently paid for by Dante. There are rumors that they became engaged in 1851 and 1854, but Dante probably did not propose until Lizzie was near death in 1860.

Dante moved into an apartment paid for by his brother William and, although Lizzie did not move in with him, she was there with him constantly. (Had she moved in, Lizzie's reputation would have been ruined, and Dante would not have been able to marry her.) At this time too, in the early 1850s, Lizzie's health began to worsen. In 1852, Lizzie went to Hastings for a rest cure. Lizzie's artistic talent developed, and Dante was very excited by her work. However, now no longer a supermodel, Lizzie had become a mistress, a status that felt like a "living death."

### **Lovers**

Hawksley could find no concrete information of when Dante and Lizzie became lovers and, indeed, whether they did become lovers before their marriage. Hawksley noted that Dante slept with other women during this period, and so he was not against sex outside of marriage. Hawksley considers the possibility that Lizzie refused to have sex with Dante, and there are no indications that Lizzie was ever pregnant before their marriage (nor that she had a miscarriage or abortion). Yet, on the other hand, the two spent so much time together, including in Dante's rooms.

## **Marriage**

Hawksley discusses at length why Dante did not marry Lizzie. Did Dante ever propose and, if so, when? There is little information on this issue. Dante's family would have disapproved of the marriage. Lizzie was seen as socially inferior to the Rosettis, and Dante's brother and sisters did not particularly like Lizzie. However, other painters in the group did marry their models. Furthermore, Dante's father died in 1854.

In 1856, after Dante had an affair with Anne Miller, he did talk of marriage to Lizzie with his family and friends and planned a honeymoon in Algeria (where he planned to paint). But the plans never materialized. Everyone noted that Dante and Lizzie were in love with each other, and their love survived their arguments and Dante's affairs. In fact, Dante's friends thought that he was obsessed with Lizzie, to the point that it impaired his creative work.

Hawksley concludes that Dante was averse to marriage. After Lizzie's death, he never married again despite having passionate relationships. Hawksley observed that only one of the four Rosetti children did marry – neither of Dante's sisters married.

## **Lizzie's Health**

Lizzie's health has puzzled commentators. It seems to have dated from the time when she lay in cold water, modeling for the painting of Ophelia. She often fell ill and took rest cures at the beaches. Hawksley rejects the suggestion that Lizzie had tuberculosis, but she did seem to have a digestive disorder – maybe irritable bowel syndrome, chronic indigestion or an eating disorder. To deal with this, Lizzie took laudanum (a mixture of alcohol and opium that was a commonly used medication in those days) and became addicted to it. Many of her symptoms (nausea, lack of appetite, a nagging cough, vomiting, breathlessness, weakness and dizzy spells) are symptoms of such an addiction. In 1855, Dr. Henry Acland at Oxford could find nothing wrong with her, and he concluded that her poor health was largely in her mind.

Lizzie also suffered from chronic depression, which could have led to her taking laudanum or resulted from the laudanum. Lizzie also used her illness to get attention and love, and she manipulated Dante by means of her illness. He would rush to her side when she was ill, whereupon she would recover in a few days. Hawksley noted also that Lizzie invented a story of an unhappy childhood with undertones of abuse, possibly also to gain the attention and sympathy of others. It appears that Dante liked his role of being Lizzie's chivalrous knight who protected and healed her. Indeed, the two months he spent with Lizzie in Hastings (where she was recuperating from a spell of ill health) after the death of his father were among the happiest times of their life together.

## **Lizzie's Creative Work**

During her time with Dante, Lizzie developed her skills as an artist, both sketches and paintings, under the tutelage of Dante. She also continued to write poems. In a plan devised by Dante, John Ruskin, a leading art critic, was introduced to Lizzie, liked her work, purchased some of it, and eventually became her patron, giving her 150 pounds each year. In 1855, Ford Madox Brown took Lizzie to buy her own artist materials for the first time.

### 1854-1860

The years passed with little change. Dante had affairs with other models (usually mistresses of his friends), Lizzie's health continued to ebb and flow, yet getting steadily worse, and the pair argued, separated, and came back together. Her addiction grew, fueled in part by Dante's affairs and her guilt that, now she had a patron in John Ruskin, she should produce more artworks. After an exhibition in May 1857 of Pre-Raphaelite paintings in London, in which Lizzie was the only female painter included, she decided to give up her allowance from Ruskin, and she moved north to cousins in Sheffield and to Derbyshire in order to break with Dante.

Ruskin put pressure on Dante to marry Lizzie, and from time to time, Dante considered it. His failure to go through with it led Lizzie to stop eating on occasions and attempts to break with him permanently. In 1860, Lizzie's health worsened, and her family, convinced that she was near to death, informed Dante who rushed to her side. This crisis led Dante to propose marriage, and they were married on May 23, 1860, in Hastings. They honeymooned in France and rented a cottage on their return in London. Lizzie's health improved, and she became pregnant. Rates of infant and mother mortality were high in those days, and Lizzie's addiction made prospects even worse. Her age (31) made the birth even riskier. Although there was anxiety, Lizzie was also happy and artistically creative.

The year of 1860 was a year of friendship and sociability. Several couples joined the Rosettis (including Janey and William Morris and Georgie and Ned Burnes), and even Dante's family became more accepting of Lizzie now that she was pregnant. However, Lizzie's health worsened in 1861, and in April Lizzie sensed that the baby had died (since it had stopped moving inside her). The baby was still-born in May 1861. Lizzie was depressed by the death of the baby and guilty over the fact that her addiction to laudanum had probably caused this. Added to this was a postpartum depression. Lizzie barely ate and sat staring into space for hours on end. Although Dante did not seem to have any affairs during this period, Lizzie was probably suspicious that he would do so. By the end of 1861, Lizzie had not recovered. By January, Lizzie was pregnant again but still taking large amounts of laudanum.

On Monday, February 10, 1862, Dante and Lizzie ate out (as was their custom) with their friend, Algernon Swinburne. They went back home, and Dante left to teach at the Working Men's College at 9 pm. Perhaps Lizzie was worried that he was having an affair. She took a huge overdose of laudanum. Dante returned home at 11.30 pm to find her comatose. A suicide note was pinned to her nightgown (which Dante later burned, but which asked him to take care of Harry, Lizzie's handicapped younger brother [Angeli, 1977]). Doctor's were called, to no avail, and she was pronounced dead at 7.20 am the next morning.

At the inquest on February 13<sup>th</sup>, her death was classified as accidental, and Dante was able to bury Lizzie in a cemetery.

There were many rumors after her death, even that Dante had murdered her. Dante had put a book of new poems he had written in her coffin, and in 1869 permission was given by the Home Secretary to exhume the coffin (buried in the Rosetti family grave) to recover the poems. Charles Howell arranged this and was present at the exhumation, and he declared that Lizzie's body was perfectly preserved and that her hair had continued to grow, filling the coffin with her copper-colored hair. This became a well-known myth which is still current today.

### References

- Angeli, H. R. (1977). *Dante Gabriel Rossetti*. New York: Arno Press.  
Hawksley, L. (2004). *Lizzie Siddal*. New York: Walker & Co.

## WRITERS WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE<sup>10</sup>

### David Lester

	born: date	died	born: place	
Louis Adamic	3/23/1899	9/4/1951	Slovenia	non-fiction/novels
Arthur Adamov	8/12/1908	3/15/1970	Russia	plays
Ryunosuke Akutagawa	3/1/1892	7/24/1927	Japan	short stories/poetry
Jean Amery	10/31/1912	10/17/1978	Austria	non-fiction
Hubert Aquin	10/24/1929	3/15/1977	Canada	novels/essays
Reinaldo Arenas	7/16/1943	12/7/1990	Cuba	novels/poetry/plays
Jose Maria Arguedas	1/18/1911	11/28/1969	Peru	novels
Thomas Lovell Beddoes	6/30/1803	1/16/1849	England	poetry/plays
Gerturde Bell	7/14/1868	7/12/1926	UK	non-fiction
Victoria Benedictsson	3/6/1850	7/21/1888	Sweden	novels
Steven Jesse Bernstein	12/4/1950	10/22/1991	USA	poetry/stories
John Berryman	10/25/1914	1/7/1972	USA	poetry
Kawakami Bizan	1869	1908	Japan	novels
Jens Bjerneboe	10/9/1920	5/9/1976	Norway	novels/poetry
Jack Black	19 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	USA	memoir
Samuel Laman Blanchard	5/15/1804	2/15/1845	UK	novels/journalism
Barcroft Boake	3/26/1866	5/10/1892	Australia	poetry
Ernest Borneman	4/12/1915	6/4/1995	German	crime writer
Karin Boye	10/26/1900	4/24/1941	Sweden	poetry/novels
Richard Brautigan	1/30/1935	9/14/1984	USA	novels
Andres Caicedo	9/29/1951	3/4/1977	Columbia	novels
Kevin Carter	9/13/1960	7/27/1994	South Africa	journalism
Paul Celan	11/23/1920	4/20/1970	Romania	poetry
Ana Cristina Cesar	6/1952	10/29/1983	Brazil	poetry
Iris Chang	3/28/1968	11.9.2004	USA	history/journalism
Thomas Chatterton	11/20/1752	8/14/1770	England	poetry
Charmian Clift	8/30/1923	7/8/1969	Australia	poetry
Elisabeth Cowen	1933	2/1/1962	USA	poetry
Hart Crane	7/21/1899	4/27/1932	USA	poetry
Thomas Creech	1659	1700	England	translations
Rene Crevel	1900	1935	France	novels
Harry Crosby	6/4/1898	12/10/1929	USA	poetry
Will Cuppy	8/23/1884	9/19/1949	USA	humorist/journalism
John Davidson	4/11/1957	3/23/1909	Scotland	poetry/plays
Osamu Dazai	6/19/1909	6/13/1948	Japan	novels
Gilles Deleuze	1/18/1925	11/4/1995	France	philosophy
Penelope Delta	1874	4/27/1941	Greece	children's books
Pierre Drieu La Rochelle	1/3/1893	3/15/1945	France	novels/essays
K. Sello Duiker	4/13/1974	1/19/2005	South Africa	novels
Tristan Egolf	12/19/1971	5/7/2005	USA	novels
Alexander Fadeyev	12/24/1901	5/13/1956	Russia	novels
Fan Changjiang	1909	10/1970	China	journalism
Ham Fisher	9/24/1900	9/7/1955	USA	comic strips
John Gould Fletcher	1/3/1886	5/20/1950	USA	poetry
Romain Gary	5/8/1914	12/2/1980	Lithuania	novels
Peter George	3/24/1924	6/11/1966	Wales	novels

<sup>10</sup> Thanks to Wikipedia, 6/6/2006

Charlotte Perkins Gilman	7/3/1860	8/17/1935	USA	non-fiction
Adam Lindsay Gordon	10/19/1833	6/24/1870	Australian	poetry
Spalding Gray	6/5/1941	1/10/2004	USA	plays
Richard Green	7/10/1953	3/27/2004	England	non-fiction
Juan Carlos Gumucio	11/7/1949	2/25/2002	Bolivia	journalism
Lois Hamilton	10/14/1943	12/23/1999	USA	non-fiction
Horace Hart	1840	1916	England	non-fiction
Walter Hasenclever	7/8/1890	6/22/1940	Germany	plays
Sadagh Hedayat	2/17/1903	4/9/1951	Iran	fiction
Carolyn Gold Heilbrun	1/13/1926	10/9/2003	USA	mystery novels
Erenst Hemingway	7/21/1899	7/2/1961	USA	novels
James Leo Herlihy	2/27/1927	10/21/1993	USA	novels/poetry/plays
Robert E. Howard	1/22/1906	6/11/1936	USA	fantasy fiction
Merton Hodge	3/28/1903	10/9/1958	New Zealand	plays
Evald Ilyenkov	2/18/1924	3/21/1979	Russia	philosophy
William Inge	5/3/1913	6/10/1973	USA	plays
B. S. Johnson	2/5/1933	11/13/1973	England	novels/poetry
Ingrid Jonker	9/19/1933	7/19/1965	South Africa	poetry
Sarah Kane	2/3/1971	3/20/1999	England	plays
Kostas Karyotakis	10/30/1896	7/20/1928	Greece	poetry
Yasunari Kawabata	6/14/1899	4/16/1972	Japan	novels
Douglas Kenny	12/10/1947	8/27/1980	USA	magazines
Kitamura Tokoku	1968	1894	Japan	poetry/essays
Heinrich von Kleist	10/18/1777	11/21/1811	Germany	poetry/novels/plays
Jochen Klepper	3/22/1903	12/11/1942	Germany	poetry/
Fletcher Knebel	1911	1993	USA	novels
Arthur Koestler	9/5/1905	3/3/1983	Hungary	novels/journalism
Hannelore Kohl	3/7/1933	7/5/2001	Germany	cooking recipes
Jerzy Kosinski	6/18/1933	5/3/1991	Poland	novels
Paul Lafargue	1842	1911	France	non-fiction
Lao She	2/3/189 9	10/14/1966	China	novels/plays
Napoleon Lapathiotis	10/31/1888	1944	Greece	poetry
Mariano Jose de Larra	3/24/1809	2/13/1837	Spain	prose
Primo Levi	7/31/1919	4/11/1987	Italy	non-fiction/novels
Vachel Lindsay	11/10/1879	12/5/1931	USA	poetry
Ross Lockridge Jr	4/25/1914	3/6/1948	USA	novels
Gherasim Luca	7/23/1913	2/9/1994	Romania	poetry
Marcus Annaeus Lucanus	11/3/39	4/30/65	Rome	poetry
Lucretius	94 BC	49 BC	Rome	poetry
Torquato Neto	1944	1972	Brazil	poetry/journalism
Leopoldo Lugones	6/13/1874	2/18/1938	Argentina	non-fiction
John Henry Mackay	1864	1933	Scotland	non-fiction
Philipp Mainlander	10/5/1841	4/1/1876	German	philosophy
Klaus Mann	11/18/1906	5/21/1949	Herman	novels
Sandor Marai	4/11/1900	2/22/1989	Hungary	journalism
Eugene Marais	1/9/1871	3/29/1936	South Africa	poetry
Eleanor Marx	1/16/1855	3/31/1898	England	non-fiction
F. O. Matthiessen	1902	4/1/1950	USA	non-fiction
Vladimir Mayakovsky	7/19/1893	4/14/1930	Russia	poetry
Charlotte Mew	11/15/1869	3/24/1928	England	poetry
Carlo Michelstaedter	6/3/1887	10/17/1910	Italy	non-fiction
Watler M. Miller Jr	1/23/1923	1/9/1996	USA	science fiction
Yukio Mishima	1/14/1925	11/25/1970	Japan	novels
Vilhelm Moberg	8/20/1898	8/8/1973	Sweden	novels

Henri de Montherlant	4/21/1896	9/21/1972	France	novels
Gerard de Nerval	5/22/1808	1/26/1855	France	poetry/essays
John O'Brien	5/21/1960	4/10/1994	USA	novels
Andre Paiement	6/28/1950	1/23/1978	Canada	plays
Breece D'J Pancake	6/29/1952	4/8/1979	USA	short stories
Dillwyn Parrish	7/25/1894	8/6/1941	USA	children's books
Cesare Pavese	9/9/1908	8/27/1950	Italy	novels/poetry
Petronius	27	66	Rome	satires
Richard Piggott	1838	1889	UK	journalism
H. Beam Piper	3/23/1904	11/11/1964	USA	science fiction
Alejandra Pizarnik	4/29/1936	9/25/1972	Argentina	poetry
Sylvia Plath	10/27/1932	2/11/1963	USA	poetry
John Polidori	9/7/1795	8/24/1821	England	fantasy fiction
Raul Pompeia	1863	1895	Brazil	novels
Jan Potocki	1761	1815	Poland	novel
Lucien Prevost-Paradol	8/8/182	7/20/1870	France	essays/journalism
Qiu Miaojin	1969	1995	Taiwan	novels
Horacio Quiroga	12/31/1879	2/19/1937	Uruguay	short stories
Alexander Radishchev	8/31/1749	9/24/1802	Russia	non-fiction
Ferdinand Raimund	6/1/1790	9/5/1836	Austria	plays
Mario de Sa-Carneiro	5/19/1890	4/26/1916	Portugal	novels/poetry
Emilio Salgari	8/21/1862	4/25/1911	Italy	novels
Anne Sexton	11/9/1928	10/4/1974	USA	poetry
Eli Siegel	8/16/1902	11/8/1978	Latvia	poetry
Edward Stachura	8/18/1937	7/24/1979	Poland	poetry/prose
Adalbert Stifter	10/23/1805	1/28/1868	Austria	poetry
Alfonsina Storni	5/29/1892	10/25/1938	(Argentina)	poetry
David Stove	1927	1994	Australia	non-fiction
John Suckling	2/10/1609	6/1/1642	England	poetry
Robert Tannahill	6/3/1774	5/17/1810	Scotland	poetry
Sara Teasdale	8/8/1884	1/19/1933	USA	poetry
Menno ter Braak	1/16/1902	5/14/1940	Netherlands	essays
Hunter S. Thompson	7/18/1937	2/29/2005	USA	novels/journalism
James Tiptree (Alice Sheldon)	8/24/1915	5/19/1987	USA	science fiction
Ernst Toller	12/1/1893	5/22/1939	Germany	plays
John Kennedy Toole	12/17/1937	3/26/1969	USA	novel
Georg Trakl	2/3/1887	11/3/1914	Austrian	poetry
Marina Tsvetaeva	10/9/1892	8/31/1941	Russia	poetry
Kurt Tucholsky	1/9/1890	12/21/1935	Germany	journalism
Urmuz	3/17/1883	11/23/1923	Romania	prose
Johannes Vares	1/12/1890	11/29/1946	Estonia	poetry
Tudo Vianu	1/8/1898	5/21/1964	Romania	critic
Juhan Viiding	1948	1995	Estonia	poetry
Ilarie Voronca	12/21/1903	4/8/1946	Romania	poetry
Gary Webb	8/31/1955	12/10/2004	USA	journalism
Otto Weininger	4/3/1880	10/4/1803	Austria	non-fiction
Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz	2/24/1885	9/18/1939	Poland	plays/novels
Wally Wood	6/17/1927	11/2/1981	USA	comic strips
Virginia Woolf	1/15/1882	3/28/1941	England	novels
Peyo Yavorov	1/1/1878	10/17/1914	Bulgaria	poetry
Segei Yesenin	9/21/1895	12/28/1925	Russia	poetry
Unica Zurn	7/6/1916	1970	Germany	poetry
Stefan Zweig	11/28/1881	2/22/1942	Austria	plays/translations

## ARTISTS WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE<sup>11</sup>

### David Lester

Diane Arbus	3/14/1923	7/26/1971	America	photographer
George Ault	1891	12/30/1948	America	painter
Charles Belden	11/16/1887	1966	America	photographer
Robert Bishop	1945	1991	America	bondage artist
Gabor Body	30/8/1946	10/25/1985	Hungary	director
Barney Bubbles	1942	1983	England	graphic designer
Rembrandt Bugatti	10/16/1884	1/8/1916	Italy	sculptor
Dora Carrington	3/29/1893	3/11/1932	England	painter
Adolphe Cassandre	1/24/1901	6/19/1968	Ukraine	painter, etc
Jack Cole	12/14/1914	8/13/1958	America	comic book artists
Jan Cox	1919	10/7/1980	Netherlands	painter
Nicolas de Stael	1/5/1914	3/16/1955	Russia/France	painter
Oscar Dominguez	1906	1957	Spain	painter
Terence Donovan	9/14/1936	11/22/1996	England	photographer
Dominic Elwes	8/17/1931	1975	UK	painter
Mark Gertler	12/9/1891	6/23/1939	England	painter
Arshille Gorky	4/15/1904	7/21/1948	Armenia	painter
Antoine-Jean Gros	3/16/1771	6/25/1835	France	painter
Benjamin Haydon	1/26/1786	6/22/1846	England	painter
Jeanne Hebuterne	4/6/1898	1/26/1920	France	painter
Starr Kempf	8/13/1917	1995	America	sculptor
Ernst Kirchner	5/6/1880	6/15/1938	Germany	painter
Wilhelm Lembruck	1/4/1881	3/25/1919	Germany	sculptor
Mark Lombardi	1951	3/22/2000	America	painter
Pierr Molinier	4/13/1900	3/3/1976	France	painter
Julius Pascin	3/31/1885	6/5/1930	Bulgaria	painter
Mark Rothko	9/25/1903	2/25/1970	Latvia/America	painter
Antonio Soares dos Reis	10/14/1847	2/16/1889	Portugal	sculptor
Vincent van Gogh	3/30/1853	7/29/1890	Netherlands	painter
Wally Wood	6/17/1927	11/2/1981	America	comic book artist
Unica Zurn	7/6/1916	1970	Germany	painter

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<sup>11</sup> Thanks to Wikipedia, 6/19/2006