

FAQ 17

17.1

Q: In the latest updated and revised paperback edition of your book you have a new chapter called, “New Investigation: Hard Evidence and Forensics.” In that chapter you show forensic photographs and promise to “make them available for better viewing on your website.” Where can these photos be found?

Yes, I will here make some of them available for viewing. Due to the easy access of children to the web, as well as their disturbing and graphic nature, I am not going to display the crime-scene photographs showing the man’s wristwatch placed inside the open upper torso, as well as the companion photo showing the watch absent from the later autopsy photographs.

For a complete understanding of how the below photographs provide further proofs and linkage, and connect George Hodel to the actual 3800 S. Norton Ave. crime-scene, read the final revised chapter added to *Black Dahlia Avenger*, and printed by *HarperCollins* on, August 1, 2006. I will here include some excerpts from that new chapter.

Excerpt from BDA, “New Investigation: Hard Evidence and Forensics”, page 544-546:

BLOWUP

As my Dahlia investigation comes to a close, I again find death imitating art.

Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni’s thriller *Blowup*, a seminal film of the 1960s, forced us to think and question lifestyles, mores, art, and the subjectivity of perception, all focused through the lens of a photographer’s camera. In the film, a whodunit or wasitdun existentialist mystery, David Hemmings plays a mod fashion photographer who, while strolling through a London park, happens upon and takes photographs of a couple embracing. In developing the photographs, he discovers that his camera has caught a possible murder in progress. Is there a hand showing a man holding a gun in the shrubbery? A dead body? He begins to enlarge small sections of his prints (hence the title), and as they grow, they enhance the mystery as distinct pieces of the puzzle.

Some forty years after seeing this fascinating film, I now find myself cast in the same role of protagonist-photographer. The only difference: we are in the year 2005, and I have traded Hemmings’s 35mm Leica for a Hewlett-Packard computer, and Adobe Photoshop!

What my investigation has revealed forces me to make public crime photographs that are graphically horrifying. In previous printings of my book I have been able to restrict this aspect of the investigation to verbal

descriptions, which though shocking reduced significantly the violence. Hearing is a much kinder sense than sight. For the sake of truth, and the further need to prove my case, I must, I am afraid, cross the line and delve into that darker corner. I would ask that you, my readers, consider yourself a seated juror in a murder trial. Before showing you this evidence, I will do what most prosecutors do in court: apologize for having to show you scenes so violent that they will doubtless shock your senses; but this additionally compelling evidence must be added to our case.

Black Dahlia Avenger pg. 546:

Exhibit 84



George Hodel photo circa 1946



Elizabeth Short "Black Dahlia"

Exhibit 84a



George Model photo

Elizabeth Short "Black Dahlia"

Above scanned blowups show a unique and unusually placed freckle just above the left eyebrow of Elizabeth Short. (Right in color) This is compared to the photograph in my father's album which shows the same sized freckle in the same location. I believe this anatomical anomaly is as distinct as a tattoo. What are the odds of two identically appearing women having the same freckle in the same location? Astronomical ! Could it happen? Yes. People win the lottery at 24 million to 1 against it. But, the odds are most certainly very LONG.

****** UPDATE-**

As indicated in FAQ 15, ON 9/18/06, I appeared on CNN'S NIGHTLY NEWS PROGRAM, ANDERSON COOPER 360', and voiced my opinion that despite the "anatomical anomalies" (distinctive freckles), I now believe, based on my further investigation, that ONLY THE NUDE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWN BELOW (LEFT) IS ELIZABETH SHORT. Further investigation and updates to follow.



George Hodel photo to Elizabeth Short crime-scene photo
(Lacerations to face covered over by author)

Pg. 549-550:

"On the following page (below) are two photocopied excerpts from Lieutenant Jemison's official report, submitted to the 1949 grand jury. On two separate pages, he categorically informs the jury that "there were no cigarette burns on Elizabeth Short's body."

Exhibit 86

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There were no cigarette burns and no tattoo marks on the body.

Mr. Ray Pinker of the Crime Laboratory was only able to acquire a few drops of blood from this body and typed it as "A B", which is a rare type of blood appearing in less than six per cent of the human bodies.

The officers requested that the Coroner and the County Chemist analyze the vital organs chemically to determine for one thing whether or not her body contained narcotics. At a later date when the officers requested the results they were informed that these vital organs had been misplaced and had probably been thrown out at the time they were cleaning up the laboratory and further that they had made no analysis.

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On January 12th at 11:30 a.m. Leslie Dillon was released.

Upon examination of the reports of the officers in Homicide it was found that the body of Elizabeth Short had not been shaved as maintained by Dr. DeRiver.

It was found that there were no cigarette burns or other burns on her body as he had maintained.

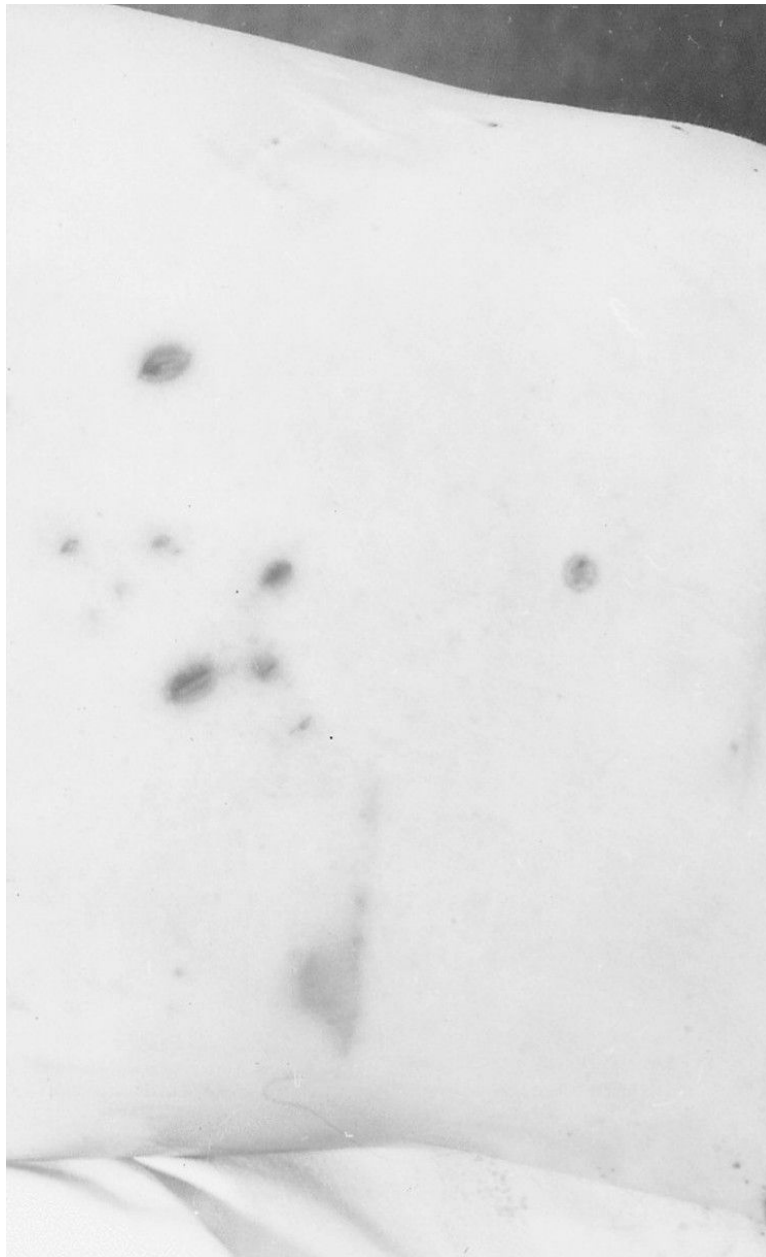
"That statement is false. Lieutenant Jemison either knowingly lied or was kept in the dark by LAPD detectives as to the actual condition of the body."

In fact there were by my count eight or nine large cigar or cigarette burn marks clearly visible on the body. (Confirmed through an examination of photographs by D.P. Lyle, M.D., a nationally respected forensics expert and consultant for CSI,

(NB: George Hodel was a heavy smoker of both cigarettes and cigars until approximately age-70)

To my knowledge, the publishing of this photograph in my August 1, 2006 printing of BDA, is the first time that this Elizabeth Short autopsy photograph has ever been shown. Many self-professed "Dahlia experts" previously claimed "there were no cigarette burns to the body, and the claims were pure fiction." Based on the physical evidence before us, those "experts" will have to revise their "fiction" to FACT.

Exhibit 87



Elizabeth Short autopsy photo showing cigarette burns to back

Hair follicle found on the body compared to George Hodel's hair as shown in his 1949 booking photograph for incest. (LAPD criminalist Ray Pinker, examined the trace evidence hair follicle and stated publicly that , " it has been eliminated it as belonging to the victim and believe it belongs to her killer."

Exhibit 88



Excerpt from BDA, Pg. 557 Blowup 6: The Earring

"I had found the trace-evidence hair follicle on the body from the crime-scene photographs. Was I missing anything? To make sure, I decided to recheck the remaining few photographs taken at the coroner's office. More scans, this time from foot to head. I moved slowly upward, forced to endure *in magnification* the many visible horrors of my father's sadism. I finished with the head. I had seen enough. I reach to turn off my screen, and again an object caught my eye. Perhaps it was just a small white mark on the nearly sixty-year-old print? I zoomed in on it. Something was there. Inside her left ear. Too blurred to see. Again, I rescanned with higher resolution. Another blowup. Now I could make it out. An earring. But not just any earring. It was hers. *The same earring Elizabeth Short wore in my father's nude photograph*. Small circular pearls. An additional link to the second photograph!

Exhibit 90 The Earring**1****2****3****4**

- 1- Blow-up of Elizabeth Short autopsy photograph with 90° rotation
- 2- George Hodel nude photograph showing circular pearl earring
- 3- Blow-up of Elizabeth Short autopsy photograph
- 4- Scanned enlargement showing portion of circular pearl earring placed inside the ear of victim by the suspect.

George Hodel photo**Elizabeth Short at crime-scene**

(lacerations to mouth and trauma to head are covered over)



Many readers have contacted me through letters and e-mails commenting that they believe the two photographs in my father's album are of two separate women. While expressing doubt that the standing, posed female is Elizabeth Short, many do believe the reclining nude could be she, and many go on to state that they believe, "she appears to be either unconscious or dead."

While I was initially skeptical of my readers suspicions, I now freely admit that based on this most recent forensic discovery of the earring evidence, along with the additional observations presented below, I must consider the very real possibility that George Hodel's nude photograph (above), could well be a postmortem, "trophy photo." (Not an uncommon M.O. or signature, especially as relates to-- serial-killers.)

In the below enlargement of George Hodel's nude photograph we can see that the lipstick application appears extremely heavy and extends beyond the lip-line, as if it was painted on by another. Compare this to the lips seen in one of Man Ray's famous photographs.

George Hodel photo



Man Ray "Lips"



In the early stages on my investigation, I was under the original impression that the nude woman (shown below) in my father's photograph was reclining on the floor, on a carpet. Based on our new evidence, let us reexamine the photograph.

In the nude photograph, note the 45 ' angle of the woman's breast line. This would cast doubt on my original assumption that she was supine. It is obvious that she is not standing, so that opens the door to suggest that she is- semi-recumbent.

In the photographs shown below we see my father seated on his desk in the office/living room of the Franklin House. The photo was taken circa 1949. We see two upholstered chairs. The bottom photo shows a close-up comparison to the chair material to the background material in the nude photograph. They appear similar.



Based on the fact that the distinctive circular pearl earring seen worn in this photograph appears to be the identical earring placed/posed Elizabeth Short's left ear at the crime-scene and discovered by me through blow-ups of the autopsy photographs, raises the real possibility that the above photograph is a "death mask." Considering the time factor, George Hodel may have taken this photograph of a drugged and unconscious Elizabeth Short, at the Franklin House, just hours before the "operation" and removal of the body to the vacant lot. The physical evidence (earring) linking the Hodel photograph to the victim and to the crime location, strongly increases the probability that this photograph is of Elizabeth Short, and provides hard physical evidence-- connecting him as her killer.

17.2

Q: Some of your critics argue that your father was NOT A SURGEON and that only a skilled surgeon could have performed the bisection on the body. They also point out that the source of this information was your own mother when interviewed by the DA investigators said her ex-husband never performed surgery. Any comment?

Yes. I have touched on this before, but will add some new information:

- 1) Recently, at least three different surgeons have examined the autopsy photographs and opined that the skill shown required that the suspect have medical training, but not necessarily that he be a practicing surgeon. George Hodel, like all doctors in the 1930s, was taught surgery as well as specifically taught the procedure performed on Elizabeth Short, known as a "Hemicorpectomy."
- 2) George Hodel did perform surgery while assigned to the Indian Reservations and a logging camp in AZ and NM. Also on the DA surveillance tapes he admits to performing curettage (D&C) "many times". This was a surgical procedure and the 1940s medical term used for performing ABORTIONS.
- 3) Finally, as relates to my mother's March 1950, interview (three days before my father fled the country), as pointed out in previous FAQ's, she was stonewalling the investigators and reporting all questions directly back to my father. If we want to consider her statements then let's consider what she said in a legally binding, sworn affidavit.

Below is a never before published AFFIDAVIT. It relates to their divorce. It is dated, and signed by mother UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY on November 9, 1944. This was six-months BEFORE my father was under suspicion by LAPD of murdering his secretary, Ruth Spaulding, by an overdose of barbiturates, (1945) and some two-years before the surgical murder of –Elizabeth Short.

In the affidavit, DOROTHY HODEL VS. GEORGE HILL HODEL, near the bottom she states the following:

"OCCUPATION OF DEFENDANT: PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON."

