

FAQ 47
(July 4, 2007)

47.1

Q: There doesn't seem to be much information on Fred Sexton, who you claim was your father's accomplice in some of the murders. Any new evidence? I don't see anything to connect him to any crimes.

Well, perhaps if we provide a brief overview and chronology of what is known and documented about Sexton's life, it will put things in a better perspective. The chronology is a compilation from: friends, family members and official police, DA and other documents. (Potential triggers and actual criminality in bold letters.)

Fred Rafael Sexton 1907- 1995

- June 3, 1907 born in Goldfield, Nevada. According to his daughter, Sexton was of "Irish, Jewish, Italian decent."
- At age 13, young Fred witness's police drag his father from their home on Christmas Eve, (arrested for bootlegging) and according to his daughter, **"develops a life long hatred of police and authority."**
- 1920s- Friend/acquaintance with John Huston and George Hodel. Sexton ran and "made good money" from a "floating crap game" in Los Angeles. Believed to have **associated with known gangsters such as political boss, Kent Kane Parrot, and bootlegger, gambler, Tony Cornero.**
- 1920s- Sexton has an affair with an unnamed San Francisco newspaper woman and as a result, a son is born. The affair and birth of the son is kept secret until his daughter becomes an adult, and for the first time discovers she has a "half-brother." (No further information.)
- 1920s. Sexton becomes fairly well known in L.A. area as "an artist with talent."
- 1931 (approx) travels to Paris, France where he studies art for approximately one-year, then returns to L.A.
- June 13, 1932- Marries Gwain Harriette Nott in Santa Monica, California.
- 1933- Daughter born to them, unknown date. (To protect her privacy, I refer to this daughter in BDA as "Mary Moe.")
- 1937- Sexton purchases a residence on White Knoll Dr. in Elysian Park area of Los Angeles, just north of Sunset Blvd., one mile west of downtown.
- 1938- George Hodel with his two Dorothy's (my mother, Dorothy Huston Hodel and Tamar's mother, Dorothy Anthony) moves into residence next door to Sexton's house on White Knoll. Remain neighbors in Elysian Park area for 1-2 years.

- 1939- Sexton employed at Columbia Pictures Corp., at 1438 N. Gower St., Hollywood. Designs sets and does art work for the studio.
- 1939-40 --Hired by John Huston, (now a screen-writer, and director at Warner Bros.) to sculpt the "Black Bird" for the film *MALTESE FALCON* (1941). Sexton casts the mold and creates the famous falcon now immortalized as "the stuff that dreams are made of."



Bogey and photo of Sexton's Maltese Falcon from 1941 film

- Oct., 1940 Sexton's art work exhibited at Perls Galleries. Exhibition includes several Sexton paintings owned and loaned to the Gallery by John Huston and Edward G. Robinson.

L.A. Times article Oct 6, 1940

ART PARADE REVIEWED

FRED SEXTON'S best past canvases—the monumental sun-flowers, magnolias and other flower pieces together with several of the charming small heads of girls and the deep-toned, gleamingly colorful still lifes of fruit—are shown again in the exhibit of his work now at the Perls Galleries. With these are new pictures of foliage, painted with colors finely tempered to establish the depth in space of each part of the design. These new pictures, strange at first, grow on the beholder. Edward G. Robinson and John Huston loaned several of the Sexton paintings. . . With the Sexton pictures are shown, for the first time, small terra cotta figures modeled by Muriel Pulitzer. These are relaxed, natural in form and poetic in attitude. Here is a sculptress to watch and to collect. (To Oct. 15.)

Exquisite Corpse: Surrealism and the Black Dahlia Murder authors Mark Nelson & Sarah Hudson Bayliss have posted this short Fred Sexton bio in their Exquisite Corpse Book Map section:

<http://www.mapbuilder.net/users/exquisitecorpsebook/24595>:

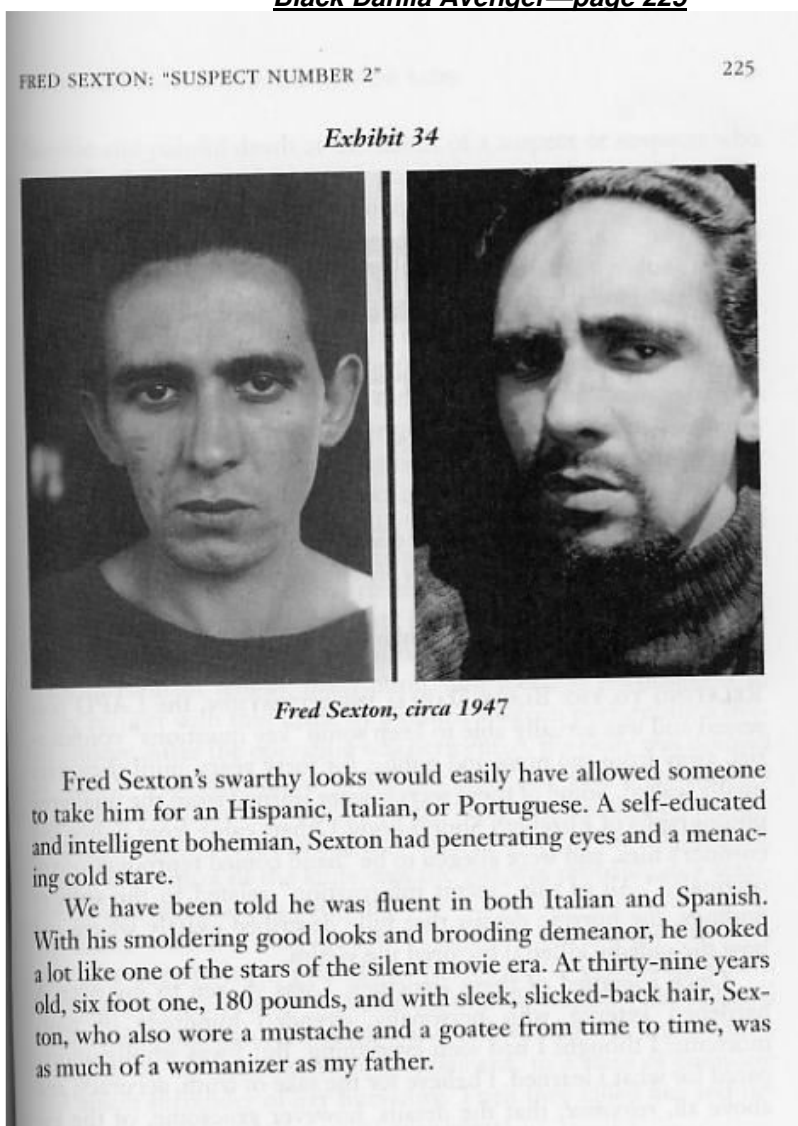
"Teenage friend of George Hodel's and John Huston's, Sexton was an accomplished artist in his day. He was given his debut exhibition by Earl Stendahl in 1935, and he designed the statuette of the Maltese falcon for Huston's 1941 film of the same name. An Arthur Millier column in the *Los Angeles Times* of May 12, 1940, noted that Edward G. Robinson had "bought and hung among his famous Cezannes, Van Goghs and Renoirs three new paintings ... from the brush of Los Angeles artist Fred Sexton." Another article in the *Los Angeles Times* of September 5, 1948, noted that Sexton was the first California artist asked to join the roster of Associated American Artists Galleries and that his work was in the collections of Edward G. Robinson, John Huston, Paulette Goddard, Ruth Maitland, Alfred Wallenstein, and Mrs. John J. Pike. Fred Sexton was accused along with two other adults of participating in sex acts the night that George Hodel was alleged to have had intercourse with his daughter Tamar."

- 1940-1944- Sexton during the war years continues working for the film studios, drives cab, and works in the Naval shipyards. Sexton exempt from the war because he had to care for his wife, Gwain, who was bedridden. (Dr. George Hodel was her personal physician, and gave her "gold injections" to treat her illness, presumably, severe rheumatoid arthritis?) **Sexton commits incest with his 8-year-old and repeatedly molests her during this next three-year period, until age-11.**
- **1948- Sexton again attempts to have sexual intercourse with his daughter at the White Knoll residence. Daughter threatens to run away unless he leaves the home.** Sexton moves out and lives with John Huston and Paulette Goddard in West Hollywood.
- **July, 1949- Involved with George Hodel in the sexual molestation of Tamar Hodel (age 14) at the Franklin House. Agrees to be a witness for LAPD and to testify for the prosecution. At the December 1949 trial, "admits being in the room with George Hodel & Tamar along with two female adults and to kissing Tamar, removing her blouse and attempting to have intercourse with the 14-year-old, but claims he did not penetrate her."** (California law requires penetration for the act of statutory rape to be complete. Tamar testifies before the jury that Sexton did complete the act.)
- **1949 (approx) Sexton, has an art studio at 2nd & Spring Sts, downtown L.A. Is having an affair with a married woman. Husband discovers it and comes after Sexton "intending to kill him." Sexton flees his 2nd story studio and jumps from roof to parking-lot which resulted in a severe injury to his leg. Sexton incapacitated for several months. George Hodel treats the leg injury and provides Sexton with a handgun, which Sexton's daughter reported "was kept in a cigar box for protection in case the jealous husband showed up."**

- **1950- Sexton, with his now 18-year-old daughter present, admits to his wife, Gwain, to having had sexual intercourse with his daughter when she was a child.** (Previously he had continued to deny his daughter's allegations.)
- Sexton is hired as an art instructor at Herb Jepson Art School, 7th & Hoover, near downtown, Los Angeles. Begins to instruct students in art. **Half or more of the young females quit his class, complaining that Sexton had attempted to sexually molest them. Sexton was fired but refused to leave the campus and had to be forcibly ejected by the owner, Herb Jepson and a couple of his friends.**
- January 1950- Fred Sexton and Man Ray's separate art works are exhibited simultaneously at the opening of the new Frank Perls Gallery, at 350 N. Camden Dr., Beverly Hills. (Also exhibited were works by: Picasso, Georgia O'Keefe, Matisse, Miro, and many others. (See L.A. Times article at end of chronology.)
- **1950- Sexton informs his daughter that "Man Ray was talked to by LAPD regarding George Hodel's arrest for incest" and tells her "Man Ray would have been arrested, but he got a letter from his doctor saying he was "impotent."** (SKH Note- Presumably for the misdemeanor charge of, "contributing to the delinquency of a minor" related to taking the nude photographs of her at age 13, as Tamar never alleged any sexual activity with Man Ray.)
- 1950-1960- Sexton separates from his wife Gwain and travels and lives in Mexico. Travels back and forth between Mexico and California.
- 1961 (approx) In Mexico he meets and marries his second wife, a successful artist. They move back to the U.S. and live in Palos Verdes Estates, (a beach town 15 miles south of Los Angeles) with her three children from a former marriage. (Two sons and a daughter.)
- **Mid to late 1960s-- Sexton sexually molests his 11-year-old stepdaughter at their home in Palos Verdes. Daughter discloses it to her mother who obtains Sexton's handgun from a dresser drawer and puts it to his head while he is sleeping. She attempts to pull the trigger, which won't operate. (Apparently the safety was on, and she admitted in the interview she was "unfamiliar with guns.") Sexton awakes, grabs the gun from his wife, runs from the house, empties her sizable bank account and flees to Mexico. There he removed all the cash from her second bank account. (It is believed the combined total cash taken from the two accounts amounted to \$500,000. A fortune in 1960s dollars.)**
- **1969- Sexton provides his daughter with a list of various L.A. banks where he had used different names on different accounts. One of the alias' she recalled was- "Siegfried Raphael Sexton." Sexton also showed his daughter his passport, where he was using the name "Robert Sexton." (His deceased brother.)**
- 1969- Wife refuses to pursue criminal prosecution for the molestation of her daughter or the grand theft out of concern for the "harm and disgrace it would bring to her family." She obtains a divorce from Sexton in the U.S. while he remains safe and untouchable in Mexico.

- 1971- Sexton **at age 63 marries a teenager in Guadalajara, Mexico.**
- Sexton's activities and movements during the final twenty-four years of his life are unknown. It is believed he traveled back and forth between Mexico and the U.S. One reliable source who contacted me indicated that there was mail correspondence between Sexton and George Hodel's, ex-wife, Hortensia, then living in the Philippines.
- 9/11/95- Sexton dies in Guadalajara, Mexico. **(Just prior to his death Sexton orders his third wife to "destroy all of his personal effects." She complies destroying everything.)**

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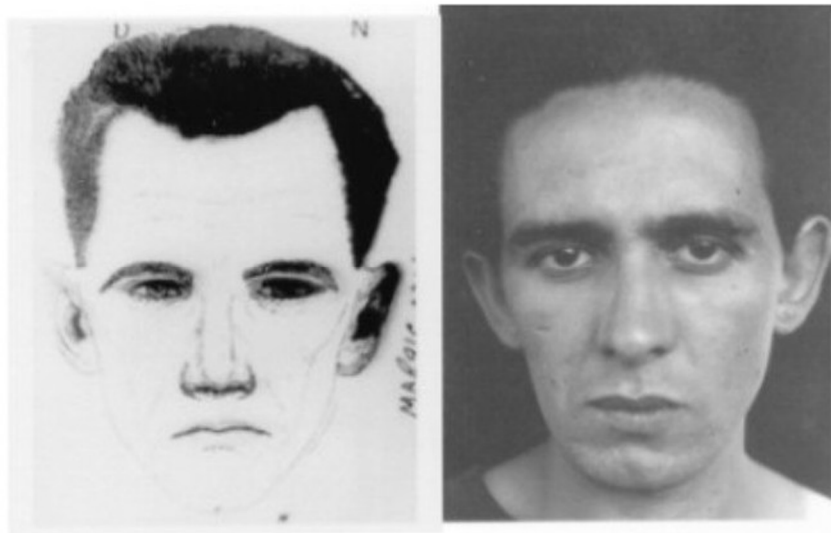


Fred Sexton was fluent in both Spanish and Italian and had a dark Swarthy complexion

FRED SEXTON--- “THE SWARTHY MAN?”

I am not going to attempt to here restate all the evidence presented in BDA that suggests Fred Sexton could have been the suspect in the 1958 El Monte murder of Jean Ellroy (mother of novelist, James Ellroy) and what I believe to be a second and related--1959 serial killing of Bobbie Long, just a few miles away.

1958 Jean Ellroy composite suspect compared to an earlier photo 1948) of Fred Sexton



On November 6, 2006 (coincidentally my birthday) a one-hour television program aired in Paris, France entitled, *THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BLACK DAHLIA*. The program taped in the U.S. in the summer of 2006, summarized my investigation through witnesses interviews. The program also explored the possibility of the Sexton/Ellroy connection to the murders of Jean Ellroy and Bobbie Long, and addressing that subject they questioned both retired Head Deputy District Attorney, Stephen Kay, and retired Los Angeles Sheriff's Detective Bill Stoner (co-investigator with James Ellroy in the book, *MY DARK PLACES*).

Below are photo clips and verbatim excerpts from the French television show, where each of us separately addresses the subject of Fred Sexton being the possible murderer of Jean Ellroy:

Steve Hodel:

“I think there is a possibility, and of course I introduce this in my book that James Ellroy’s mother could have been killed by Fred Sexton, an accomplice in several of the murders that my father was involved in. It’s something that should definitely be looked at, but I’m not going as far as to say that he (Sexton) actually committed the crime.”

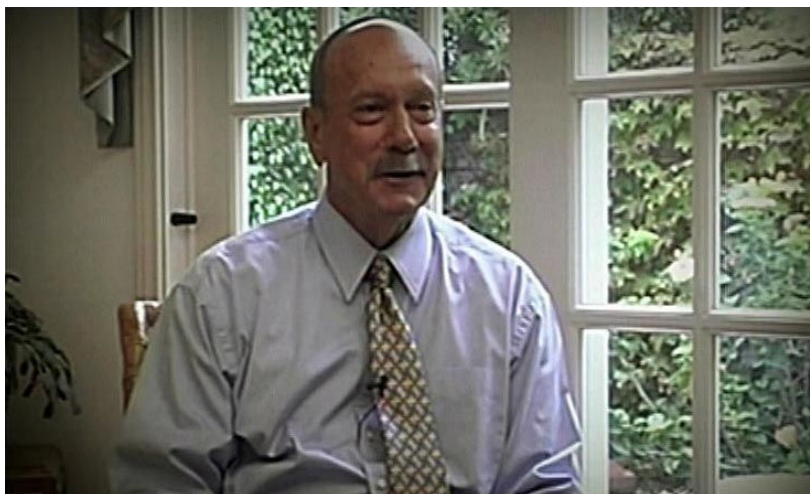
Stephen Kay:

After stating unequivocally that in his opinion Dr. George Hodel was responsible for both the Elizabeth Short and Jeanne French murders, and that both crimes “are solved.” He is asked about Fred Sexton’s involvement? He replies as he did in my BDA:



“There is clearly not enough evidence on any of the cases to prove that Fred Sexton was one of the killers.”

Detective Bill Stoner:



The Truth about the Black Dahlia
Produced for French Television 13th Street,
Aired November 6, 2006

“You know, I read Mr. Hodel’s book and he’s got some very strong circumstantial evidence pointing to his father as the suspect (Black Dahlia) in the book. I understand he’s come up with some more information since he’s written the book that’s even more defining that his father is the killer of Elizabeth Short. I don’t know. When I read the book, I felt that yes, he’s very possibly right that his father probably was the killer, but it’s possible that his father wasn’t the killer. It wasn’t so defining that I would go to court on it at that point. (2003)

As far as his father’s friend being involved in James’ mother’s murder, I don’t think so. I think as James thinks, she went out on a date that night, and whoever this person was, got angry with her, and ended up raping and killing her. I think it was just that type of case. (Re. Sexton as her killer) I don’t think so, but I don’t have any evidence to prove it one way or the other.

(SKH Note- As I reiterated in the French television interview, I do not, nor have I ever claimed the evidence connecting Fred Sexton to the murder of Jean Ellroy was ever enough to file a criminal complaint or to clear the crime. What I have said all along is that “he should be looked at and investigated as a possible suspect.” James Ellroy, Bill Stoner, and I all agree that “it was a date rape gone bad.” That has never been in question or doubt. My position simply extends that to the possibility that the person she was dating could have been- Fred Sexton. In Book II I will be presenting additional evidence and information that while not conclusive, will certainly add further weight to the possibility that Sexton could have been the perpetrator.)

**JAN. 1950 ARTICLE REVEALING MAN RAY AND FRED SEXTON ART WORK DISPLAYED TOGETHER
AT FRANK PERLS GALLERY, BEVERLY HILLS**

Los Angeles Times, Jan 29, 1950

Art

New Gallery Offers Cross Section of Art

BY ARTHUR MILLIER

The first professional art-dealing establishment to open here in two years, the Frank Perls Gallery, made its debut last week at 350 N Camden Drive, Beverly Hills. The inaugural exhibition, garnered from five New York galleries and Southern California, looks like a cross-section of New York's 57th St. offerings.

Works by top-rank American and European painters and sculptors of varying trends such as are seldom exhibited together in one intimate room may at first prove bewildering. Few tastes are so broad as to like them all.

Good Quality

The offerings, however, have good quality in common. Picasso and John Marin, Georgia O'Keeffe and Matisse, Miro and Man Ray—these names from two continents will give art followers some idea of the range of works in this first show on view to Feb. 25.

I used the term "professional art dealing establishment" advisedly. The world of art presentation is much like that of the theater. Many kinds of places show and sell artists' works.

Wolf Kept From Door

There are "little" galleries the country over which come and go, and, in the process, foster many talents, and help keep the wolf from entirely devouring the struggling, half-formed artist. These parallel the little theaters.

Museums and universities, with their huge regional and national exhibitions, provide an over-all picture of contemporary art and, by purchases and prizes, help make reputations for art-

nard street scene, all mellow sunshine.

Some may like Picasso's large "Cock of the Liberation," strutting Gallic-style in gaudy colors. I am much more drawn to its neighbor, John Marin's "Boat, Sea and Gulls," all in near-white and a first-rate Marin.

'Mob With Flares'

Still more contrast: Rico Lebrun's "Mob With Flares," a panel of violence painted in blue and crimson duco, and Paul Clemens' lovely "Figures With Flowers," the figures being exquisitely drawn likenesses of his wife and daughter.

Chagall, Max Beckmann, Eugene Berman, Ben Shahn, Fred Sexton, William Brice, Matisse (in drawings and sculpture), Channing Peake, Henry Moore, Howard Warshaw and Mary Callery are still other artists interestingly represented.

Graham Sutherland of England, with "The Garden," and Man Ray of Hollywood, with "Afterthought," a handsome abstraction, are seen to particular advantage in this auspicious opening show.

(SKH NOTE- This article appeared just two weeks prior to the electronic surveillance and bugging of Dr. George Hodel's Franklin House by LAPD and the DA investigators.)