Remote book clue in mystery death

Although police realise they are acting on a million to one chance, a search for a book with a torn page which may throw some light on the Somerton body mystery is continuing throughout Australia.

A torn page of Fitzgerald's translation of the "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam" was found in the pocket of the victim. Det.-Sgt. Leane and Det. Brown believe the torn book may still be on the shelves of a library. They think that if they can find it, they can trace the man to the city or town he was in before he came to Adelaide. With this information, it may be possible to establish his identity.

Melbourne police have made a search of public libraries and libraries in Victorian provincial towns, but have failed to find the torn volume.

Although a number of city and suburban libraries have been checked here, others in country districts have not yet been investigated.

The cause of death will probably never be known.

A plaster cast of the victim's head and shoulders, which was exhibited at the inquest, is now in a store room at Adelaide Museum. No request for it to be displayed has yet been made by the authorities.

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Police Test Book For Somerton Body Clue

Microscopic tests of a slip of paper found in the clothing of the unknown man known as the "Somerton body," and the book from which the slip is believed to have been taken, yesterday established that the slip could have come from the book—a copy of Omar Khayyam's "Rubaiyat."

The paper in the book and that of the slip were found to be similar. Detectives handling the case will now concentrate on tracing another edition of the book to compare the words "Taman Shud" (meaning "The End") with those on the slip found in the possession of the dead man.

Yesterday the police interviewed two suburban telephone subscribers whose numbers corresponded with those on the back of the book, but they knew nothing of the matter.

Headquarters police are still making enquiries.
BOOK FOUND: BODY CLUE?

A copy of the "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam" with a torn page which has been sought by police throughout Australia in the hope that it might provide the missing clue to the identity of the mystery Somerton body, has been found in Adelaide.

Last night an Adelaide businessman read of the search in "The News" and recalled that in November he had found a copy of the book which had been thrown on the back seat of his car while it was parked in Jetty road, Glenelg.

The book, the last page of which is torn, has been handed to police.

If scientific tests, to be conducted next week, show the scrap of paper found on the dead man's clothing had been taken from the book, police will have brought off a million-to-one chance.

On December 1, when the body of the mystery man was found on Somerton beach, police discovered that the name tags had been cut from the clothing and all he had in his pockets was a train ticket, a bus ticket, and a neatly trimmed piece of paper with the printed words "Taman Shud." In the belief that if the book could be found it might show the movements of the man before his death, police throughout Australia have been looking for it.

The finder of the book today handed it to Det.-Sgt. R. L. Leane. On the last page the words "Taman Shud" had been torn out.

On the back of the book are several telephone numbers and a series of capital letters, written in pencil, the meaning of which have not yet been deciphered.

As the scrap of paper found on the dead man had been trimmed, police were unable to identify the book merely by fitting it into the torn page. Proof will now rest with tests on the paper and the print.
Torn book gives new hope in body case

Fresh hope that the Somerton body may be solved came today with the finding of a copy of the "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," with the last page torn.

"Two authors found these words had been used by Omar Khayyam at the "end of his life," meaning the one before the final one," the police discovered. The three pockets were a blank sheet, a note, and a newspaper.

"Body of the body was found on the 1st of December. There were two finger prints on the paper, and a note in the pocket," the police said.

A study of the printing habits of the killer revealed that the words were written with a pen, and that the notes were written with a pencil.

"The evidence points to the possibility that the killer may have been trying to identify the body," the police said.

"The book, the last page of which is torn, has been handed over to the police," the police said.

"The police have been unable to identify the body, but the paper has been sent to a laboratory for examination."
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Possible Clue In Somerton Body Case

A bus conductor informed police last night that he believed he knew the whereabouts of a book which, if it were the correct one, might provide a very important clue in the Somerton body mystery.

Detective-Sergeant R. L. Leane has been trying for several months to trace a copy of the “Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam” from which the dead man believed he had cut a piece of paper bearing the words “Tamam Shud” (meaning “The End”) and placed it in the pocket of his trousers.

Last night Mr. L. P. Wyttkes, bus conductor, of Partridge street, Glenelg, told police that several months ago he found a book answering the description of the one required by the police. He handed it in to the last property office at the Tramways Trust.

Mr. Wyttkes said he was not sure when he found the book, but he believed it to be about the time the man’s body was found on the beach at Somerton.

Although it is nearly eight months since the body was found, enquiries throughout the world have so far been unable to establish the man’s identity. An inquest recently failed to reveal the cause of death.

Detective-Sergeant Leane believes that if he can find the book from which the clipping was taken, he might be able to trace from where the book came, and possibly discover the person who owned it.

New Clue In Somerton Body Mystery

A new lead to the identity of the Somerton body may have been discovered on Saturday when Det.-Sgt. R. L. Leane received from a city man a copy of Fitzgerald’s translation of the “Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam,” said to have been found in his car at Glenelg about August 3, 5, 6, 2.

The last few lines of the poem, including the words “Tamam Shud” (meaning “the end”) have been torn out of the book.

When the book was searched some time ago a scrap of paper bearing the words “Tamam Shud” was found in a pocket. Scrawled in pencil on the back of the book, on the back of the cover of the book are groups of letters which appear to be foreign words and some numbers.

These, it is hoped, may be of assistance in tracing the dead man’s identity.

The busman told Det.-Sgt. Leane that the copy of the Rubaiyat in the rear of his car while it was parked in Jetty Road, Glenelg, about the time of the RAAF air pageant in November.

He said he had known nothing about the much-publicized word “Rubaiyat,” until the police told him.

POLICE TEST PAPER, BOOK

Microscopic examination of the slip of paper found in the clothing of the Somerton body and of the book from which the slip is believed to have been torn, is being made by police today.

If experts are able to say that the texture and color are the same, detectives will then try to decipher the block letters pencilled on the back of the book—a copy of Omar Khayyam’s “Rubaiyat.”

Det.-Sgt. R. L. Leane is in charge of inquiries.
Phone number found on cover of book

The Somerton body mystery deepened today with the discovery of an Adelaide woman's telephone number on the cover of a book linked with the case.

A fragment found in the victim's clothing is believed to have come from the book — "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam."

Police have discovered that the woman gave a similar copy of the book to an Army lieutenant in Sydney about three and a half years ago, and that the lieutenant later tried to contact her in Melbourne when he wrote back saying she was now married.

Police have also discovered that the Somerton body was found within a quarter of a mile of the woman's home.

Today, police in Melbourne and Sydney are checking missing people to see if the Army lieutenant is among them.

Det.-Sgt. R. L. Loner yesterday obtained the opinion of an authority that the piece of paper bearing the words "Tamam Shud" was of the same texture and color as that of the book handed to police on Saturday.

The book had been thrown into the back seat of a motor car in Jettie Road, Glenelg, shortly before the victim's body was found on the beach at Somerton on December 1.

Woman's story

All efforts yesterday to obtain a similar copy of the book from city book shops failed. If police could obtain a similar copy, they would be able to check on the print used in the words "Tamam Shud."

The woman whose telephone number appears in pencil on the cover of the book told police that when she was nursing at North Shore Hospital in Sydney about three and a half years ago, she gave a similar copy to a lieutenant who served in the Water Transport section of the Army.

Later, she said, the lieutenant wrote to her mother's home in Melbourne. She replied to his letter, telling him she was married.

Subsequently, the woman told police she and her husband settled in Adelaide. Last year a man called at the house of a neighbor, inquiring for a nurse he once knew.

This afternoon the woman is being shown the plaster cast of the Somerton victim, which is now in a storeroom at Adelaide Museum.

Acting on the possibility that the "Rubaiyat" in their possession did belong to the lieutenant, police set out to decipher a number of block letters pencilled on the back of the book.

Although the lettering was faint, police managed to read it by using ultra-violet light. In the belief that the lettering might be a code, a copy has been sent to decoding experts at Army Headquarters, Melbourne.

EX-OFFICER FOUND AND HIS "RUBAIYAT"

SYDNEY, July 27.

The latest clue in the "Tamam Shud" mystery at Somerton beach (SA) broke down in Sydney today.

Sydney detectives, at the request of Adelaide police, interviewed a former Army lieutenant whose book it was believed might have been that of the man found on Somerton beach last December.

The clue was given by a former Army nurse, now married and living in Adelaide, who told police that about three years ago she had given the man, Lieut. Alfred Boxall, a copy of Omar Khayyam's "Rubaiyat" when he was in hospital.

She thought the book might have been identical with one found in a car at Glenelg.

After enquiries in the city and suburbs today detectives traced Boxall to Randwick bus depot, where he is employed on the maintenance staff.

Boxall told police he had hero been at the bus depot for 10 years except during his army service.

The copy of the "Rubaiyat" was given to him by the nurse was later shown to the police.

Boxall said he had given the book to his wife in June, 1945, and it had been in her possession ever since.

POLICE are looking for anyone who has an exact copy of this book "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam." It was published in New Zealand by Whitcombe and Tombs.
Belief book is right one

Police today obtained further evidence to substantiate the belief that they hold the actual book from which the mystery Somerton victim tore the last words “Tamam Shud”—meaning “The End.”

Following an appeal in “The News” yesterday for a similar copy of the “Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam” to that found in the back of a car at Glenelg last November, several people came forward with the book.

A comparison of the type used in the printed words “Tamam Shud” was found to be identical with those on the back of the paper found in the victim’s clothing.

Yesterday police traced a telephone number pencilled on the cover to an Adelaide woman who had given a similar copy of the book to an Army lieutenant in Sydney 3 years ago. This man was last heard of in Melbourne, and eastern States police are still trying to locate the man.

If the Army lieutenant is missing, he might be the Somerton “mystery man.” If he is alive, police will then try to learn what he did with the copy of the book.

Efforts to decipher several rows of block letters, believed to be a code, on the back of the book are continuing.

A Navy “code cracker” is tackling the task this afternoon.

Indication of the public interest in the mystery was shown last night and again today, by 60 phone callers, who have offered copies of the book. Most of them were different editions from the one required.

Detect-Sgt. Leane today received an appeal from the woman in the clothing in an unclaimed suitcase at the Adelaide Railway Station luggage office, and may be linked with the victim.

Army Officer Sought To Help Solve Somerton Body Case

Detectives investigating the Somerton body mystery yesterday interviewed a woman who had given an Australian Army lieutenant a copy of the “Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam,” which she believed could be identical with the book found in a motor car at Glenelg last year.

The book handed to the police was found in the back seat of an Adelaide businessman’s car in Jetty road, Glenelg, shortly before the body was discovered at Somerton on December 1.

The words “Tamam Shud” had been torn from the last page of the book. Similar wording was printed on a piece of paper found in the clothing of the dead man.

Tests made yesterday revealed that the piece of paper found on the body was of the same texture and color as the torn page in the back of the book.

Yesterday’s discovery caused local police to enlist the aid of Sydney and Melbourne CIB’s in an effort to trace the man mentioned by the woman.

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27/7/49
All he sought was
time to think
By MAX MILNE
A Persian who lived to be 100 and died 826 years ago, wrote the poem which may solve the Somerton beach body mystery.

Police in all States are trying to locate a missing copy of the poem, the "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," from which the cryptic Persian ending "Tamam Shud" meaning "the finish" has been cut.

It is said that Omar Khayyam and two other students agreed that if one of them became rich, he would share his wealth with the others.

One did become rich. The student who had suggested sharing the wealth asked for a Government job, but Omar Khayyam had other ideas.

"The greatest boon you can confer on me," he said, "is to let me live in a corner under the shadow of your fortune, to spread wide the advantages of science."

The generosity of his boyhood friend allowed Omar Khayyam to devote the rest of his life to study and the search for truth until he became recognised as the wisest man of his day.

500 verses

It was said that after reading a book seven times, he was able to repeat it by heart.

Omar reform ed the existing calendar and compiled astronomical tables, but the "Rubaiyat" was his life's work.

It's "eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." philosophy was written in a setting of enchanted rose gardens, orchards of apple and almond blossom, and jasmine scent.

Some old copies contain more than 500 verses, although most have about a quarter of that number.

The translation into English was made by Edward Fitzgerald 90 years ago.

Omar Khayyam revolted against the religion of his country, because he could not believe in the existence of any other world he set about making the most of this one.

Unable to get a glimpse of tomorrow, he fell back upon today, and accepted things for what they were rather than for what they might be. He says in his "Rubaiyat":--

"Ah, fill the Cup: what boots it to repeat
How time is slipping underneath our feet:
Unborn Tomorrow, and dead Yesterday,
Why fret about them if Today be sweet?"

Because he was convinced that there was no satisfactory solution of the problem of the origin and end of man he often sought solace in wine.

At his own request he was buried "in a place where the north winds would scatter roses over it."

Tamam Shud

Mystery may be unsolved

The Somerton body case is becoming more involved than ever.

A high police official said today that if the body were not identified soon, the mystery would probably remain unsolved.

Three and a half years ago an Adelaide woman gave a former Army lieutenant a copy of the "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam" similar to the one from which the Somerton victim tore the last words "Tamam Shud," meaning "The End."

Sydney detectives yesterday interviewed the lieutenant, Alfred Boxall, at his employment at Randwick bus depot.

The copy of the "Rubaiyat" given to him by the Adelaide woman was shown to the police.

Boxall said he had given the book to his wife in June, 1946.

Boxall's wife yesterday showed a Sydney newspaper reporter her husband's copy of the "Rubaiyat." The book was completely intact and undamaged. There was no writing on any of the pages.

Mrs. Boxall said her husband gave her the book at Christmas, 1944, and she had had it ever since.

A copy of the "Rubaiyat" found in the back seat of a car at Glenelg last November had a piece torn from the last page.

The texture and color of the paper in that book is considered by police to be identical to the clipping of the words "Tamam Shud" found on the body.

Police believe they hold the actual book from which the words were torn.

On Tuesday police traced a telephone number pencilled on that book's cover.

Detective-Sgt. Leane is leading investigations to decipher several rows of block letters believed to be a code on the back of the book.