The Body snatcher/ Grave robber

A body snatcher is one that steals bodies from their graves and sells them to another, usually for the use of dissection. Burke and Hare killed 16 people over the course of 12 months. From January through to October 1828, they killed three men, twelve woman and one child.

The pair were discovered when two of Burkes lodgers Ann and James Gray became suspicious when a visitor suddenly went missing, Madgy Docherty, whom they had met the night before was never seen alive again. Her dead body was found under the bed. So they went for the police.

Burke, M'Dougal, and William and Margaret Hare were arrested for Docherty's murder. Burke and M'Dougal were tried for murder on December 24, 1828. M'Dougal was acquitted with the distinctively Scots verdict, Not Proven. Burke was convicted and sentenced to death.

Burke was executed on January 28, 1829.

His body was dissected and publicly exhibited.

Their preferred method of murder was suffocation. They did this by leaning on, and compressing the chest. This has been known ever since as "burking." Burking left no forensic evidence that would point to Burke and Hare.

Robert Knox MD, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, brought all seventeen of the bodies. One died of a natural cause and the other sixteen were murdered.

Sarah McKinney

Information from *burkeandhare.com*