

Tuesday night 10/9/29
Re the late Miss Norma McLeod
- Two or three times every week for my health's sake I
take a four or five mile walk. Yesterday (Monday) afternoon
I walked from Malvern to Toorak Railway Station, thence
along Beattie Rd and turned north into Mansfield Crescent
looking over the grounds of the Court, then crossed
over to the bowling green which stands alongside
the green. I overheard two women arguing & disputing
in a room at the back on the left hand side
of the Villa alongside of bowling green.
I took no notice and continued on my walk to
South Yarra Station. - When I saw The Herald
this afternoon, and saw the account of Miss McLeod's death
I thought that in the house in which I heard the
voices - I entered Mansfield Crescent about 2-30 pm.
and feel certain that no one came out or went into
No 15 between that time and 3 o'clock -
I saw Mrs McLeod of the Daw an old feathered
creature 1/2 past 2 and 3 o'clock yesterday (Monday)
walking up towards Malvern Rd in company with
two women

FIRST ASMODEUS LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT WALSH OF THE POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH
(DATED 10 September 1929) (Cont'd)

Page two of two-page Asmodeus (Source: Public Records Office of Victoria, VPRS 807/P0000 Inward
Correspondence Files, unit 831, item 1929)

Theory Mrs M^s Leed may be ^{tempted} ~~tempted~~
had a quarrel with her daughter
and, in the heat of the moment
struck her on the head with some
heavy flat instrument (something iron)
She then layed Noona on the
bed, and backsped her head with
her brother's under pants.
I feel certain that noone but
Mrs M^s Leed intend that Villa
alongside the bowling green
between 1/2 past 2 and 3 o'clock
I saw noone about during that time
Of course, Mrs M^s Leed may have
been troublesome & obstinate.
Was she Virgo intacta?

Asmodeus

**TRANSCRIPTION OF FIRST ASMODEUS LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT WALSH OF THE POLICE CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION BRANCH (DATED 10 September 1929) (Cont'd)**

ASMODEUS (To Walsh. Dated 10th September 1929) Handwritten and transcribed in records:
Typed covering note from police to Lee reads: 'letter from A. Smodens'.

Two or three times every week for my health's sake, I take a four or five mile walk. Yesterday (Monday) afternoon I walked from Malvern to Toorak Railway Station: thence along Beatty Avenue, and turned north into Mandeville Crescent, looked over the grounds of the convent, then crossed over to the bowling green. Whilst standing alongside of the green, I overheard two women arguing and disputing in a room at the back on the left hand side of the villa alongside of bowling green. I took no notice, and continued my walk to South Yarra station. When I saw the Herald this afternoon and saw the account of Miss McLeod's death, I thought that is the house in which I heard the voices, I entered Mandeville Crescent about 2-30pm and feel certain that no one came out or went into No. 15 between that and 3 o'clock. Ask Mrs McLeod if she saw an old gentleman between half past two and three o'clock yesterday (Monday) walking up towards Malvern Road, and he carried a stick in his hand.

Theory – Mrs McLeod may be quick tempered, had a quarrel with her daughter in the heat of the moment struck her on the head with some heavy flat instrument (smoothing iron) she then lifted Norma up on the bed and bandaged her head with her brother's under-pants. I feel certain that none but Mrs McLeod entered that villa alongside the bowling green between half past two and three o'clock. I saw no one about during that time, of course, Miss McLeod may have been troublesome and obstinate. Was she virgo intacta?

On the back of the typed version of the letter, the police provided the following definition of Asmodeus:

"ASMODUES" (Hebrew) derived from the words "SAMED" meaning to destroy. Jewish demonology, a destroying demon.

In the book of Tobit he is said to have loved Sara and to have destroyed in succession her seven husbands, appearing as a Succumbus on their bridal nights. Hence he is jocularly described as being a destroyer of domestic happiness.

**SECOND ASMODEUS LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT WALSH OF THE POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH
(DATED 9 October 1929)**

(Source: Public Records Office of Victoria, VPRS 807/P0000 Inward Correspondence Files, unit 831, item 1929)

Second Asmodeus letter (only a typed version in the police records, but a tantalising corner scrap, written in pencil, and an envelope remains – tan coloured letter with YMCA Melbourne on the corner – see image below).

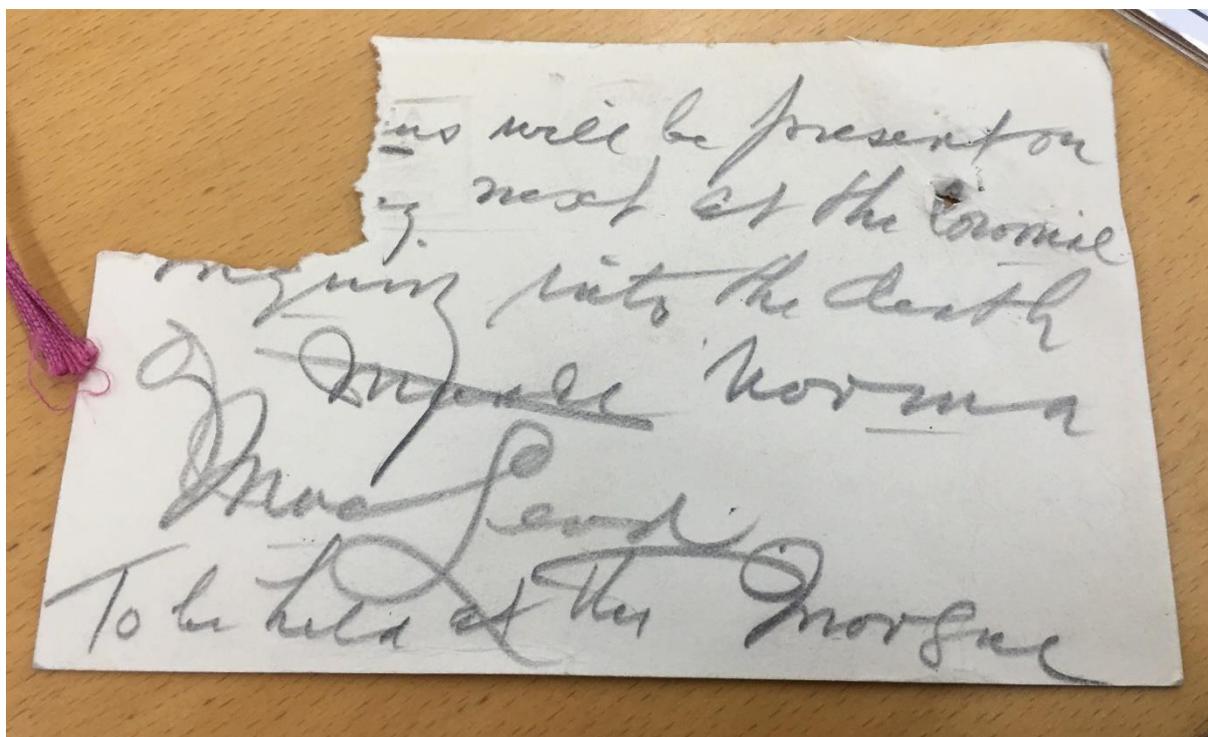
ASMODEUS (To Walsh. Dated 9th October 1929)

When I posted my last letter on the 10th ultimo I felt fully convinced that the culprit would have confessed long ere this. Not having read anything about it in the meantime. I had quite forgotten about the affair. I fail to see how my evidence could in any way assist the police – of course, I may be wrong. I saw no one either enter or leave the villa situate in Mandeville Crescent between the hours of 2-30 and 3 o'clock pm on the 9th ult. I heard voices which took no notice of. I would not like to be the mean of having sex "muocen" [possibly mis-transcribed – 'some innocent'] man or woman placed in the dock.



**THIRD ASMODEUS NOTE TO SUPERINTENDENT WALSH OF THE POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH (DATED
25 October 1929)**

(Source: Public Records Office of Victoria, VPRS 807/P0000 Inward Correspondence Files, unit 831, item 1929)



Asmodeus will be present on
Friday next at the Coronial
inquiry into the death
of ~~Maude~~ Norma
Mcleod.
To be held at the Morgue

ASMODEUS (To Walsh. Received 25th October 1929). Handwritten and typed version in records:
Thick postcard, post marked Melbourne. Written in pencil.

*Asmodeus will be present on Friday next at the Coronial Inquiry into the death of [Maude crossed out] Norma Mcleod.
To be held at the Morgue.*