



# Press Release

MANDRAKE CLASSIC CRIME STUDIES



## EXHUMATION OF A MURDER

THE LIFE AND TRIAL OF MAJOR ARMSTRONG

BY

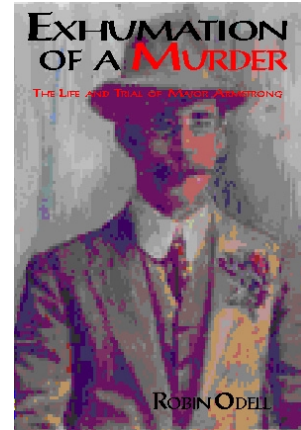
ROBIN ODELL

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'The case of Major Armstrong, the celebrated Hay Poisoner, the only solicitor ever to hang, is one of those classic, old-fashioned English murders which hail from the heyday of courtroom drama when, with the hangman lurking in the pine-and-panel wings and the black cap an object of horrifyingly alarming currency rather than mere symbolism, the loser in 'the black dock's dreadful pen' lost all. It comes straight out of the pages of George Orwell's essayed nostalgia ['Decline of the English Murder' in *Tribune*] for the era of the Great British Murder, when, after a Sunday lunch of roast beef and Yorkshire, you put your feet up on the sofa and, with a good strong cup of mahogany-brown tea, read all about the latest 'good' murder in the *News of the World*. And the Armstrong case was unquestionably one of the best; right up there in the grand tradition of Dr Palmer of Rugeley, Neill Cream, Mrs Maybrick, Dr Crippen, Seddon, and George Joseph Smith.'

- RICHARD WHITTINGTON-EGAN

### The Author

ROBIN ODELL acknowledges his debt to the researches of the late Dr Hubert Trumper a medical practitioner in Hay-on-Wye, and the late Joe Gaute, distinguished crime historian and publisher. Their combined efforts sustained over several years brought many insights to bear on the life and trial of Major Armstrong.

Booksellers can order direct through Gardners or Gazelle  
Details of forthcoming lectures by Robin Odell can be found on  
[www.mandrake.uk.net/robinodell.htm](http://www.mandrake.uk.net/robinodell.htm)

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