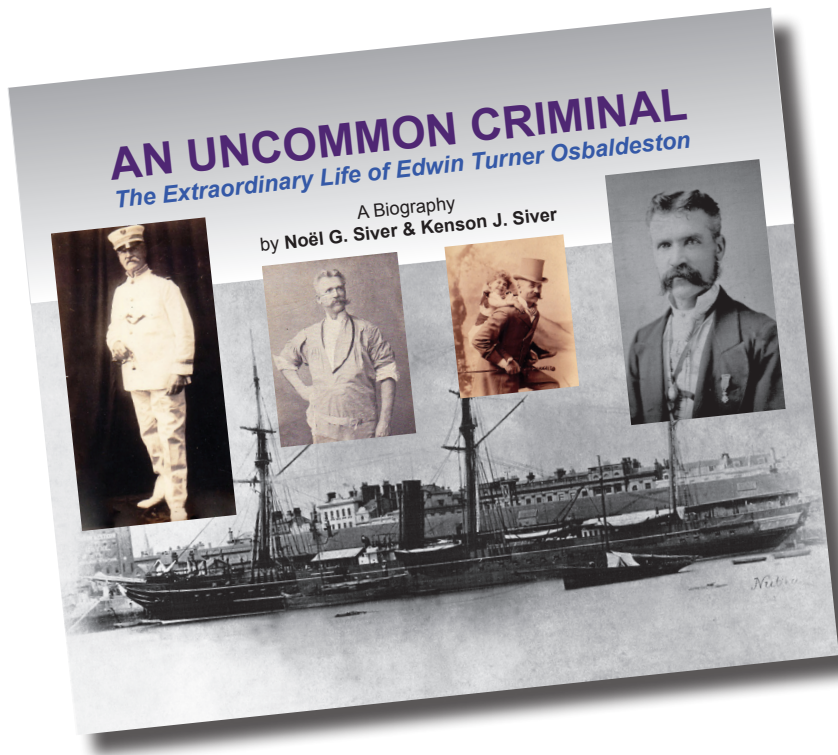


AUTHOR'S BOOK TALK

The Fascinating Story of a 19th-Century International Con Man



Edwin Turner Osbaldeston went from an errand boy in working-class Great Britain in the 1850s to an international con artist who got away with scores of misdeeds during his 70-year crime spree.

Seldom caught and rarely held accountable, he used his charm, good looks, and resourcefulness to get away with a host of crimes, including murder.

This biography traces the life of a daring con artist who moved around the world selling the promise of good health in the age before modern medicine.

It is fairly remarkable that Edwin Turner Osbaldeston was able to escape the shackles of the underclass in Victorian England and travel so widely and live as well as he did.

Osbaldeston had a strong grasp on the power of advertising and self-promotion. In this age of mass marketing and brand identity, Osbaldeston was a forerunner of these practices.

He convinced many that he was a doctor, professor, and hero, claiming to have served gallantly in the Crimean War and have fought for the unification of Italy under the leadership of Giuseppe Garibaldi. In truth, he was a deserter from the British Royal Artillery.

Catch Me if You Can

Edwin Turner

Osbaldeston was much like another real life con artist, Frank Abagnale Jr., whose true story was featured in the 2002 film "Catch Me if You Can," starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks.

Both had the ability to convince others that they were something other than who they really were.



To arrange a complimentary book talk, contact one of the authors:

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