

[Home](#)[Messages](#)[# Hashtags](#)[Theosophy@groups.io](#) / [Messages](#) / [leadbeater police](#) / [Leadbeater and the Sydney Police](#)

Single ▾

Msg #

Leadbeater and the Sydney Police

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Most Theosophists who make statements about Theosophical history appear extraordinarily lazy: they don't bother to consult the original sources.

Pedro's question about why the Sydney Police didn't prosecute Leadbeater is a case in point. Pedro lives in Sydney. All the Police files on

Leadbeater are in the New South Wales State Archives in Sydney. Pedro doesn't have to believe my report of the Police files (in "The Elder Brother" and my thesis) or even those of Ian Hooker (now Presiding Bishop

of the Liberal Catholic Church of which Pedro is a priest) in his MA thesis. Pedro can read the original documents in the Police file in the

State Archives. The Police concluded that Leadbeater was "a sex pervert" but that his boys were so dominated by him that they would not give

evidence against him, and therefore a conviction could not be obtained in any court action. This is not an uncommon sort of outcome of Police

inquiries everywhere: that a crime has been committed will not lead to a conviction in the absence of evidence. It is a particular problem in

cases involving violence and/or sexual abuse within families.

A document of considerable importance is not in the Police file: headed "Precis of the Leadbeater Police Inquiry" it was prepared by a member of the executive of the Sydney TS Lodge who had examined the Police evidence and been briefed by the Police. It includes a report by a pre-pubescent boy who Leadbeater had attempted to masturbate.

Dr Gregory Tillett

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