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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Paul V. Trovillo

FINGERPRINTING: A MANUAL OF IDENTIFICATION. By Charles Edward Chapel (First Lieutenant U. S. Marine Corps, Retired). Coward McCann, Inc. (New York, 1941.) Pp. xiv+299, with frontispiece, 23 full-page plates, and 64 text illustrations. \$3.75.

Fingerprinting is concluded with a bibliography of ten well-chosen publications, headed by this statement: "More than one thousand books and pamphlets on fingerprints were consulted in checking the facts presented in this book, but the majority of them are out of print, difficult to obtain, and of little practical value to either the student or the expert. The following are currently obtainable and worthy of consideration." Chapel's book itself now claims a place in such a selected list; it would not be omitted even if the number allowed were much smaller than ten. While the volume is primarily adapted to the needs of the novice in finger-print identification, it should prove useful as well to more experienced workers, especially as a manual of methods and as a guide to procedure in expert testimony. Jurists also will find *Fingerprinting* a convenient reference, and it will afford the general-reader easy acquaintance with the principles and practice of finger-print identification. The style is admirably simple and direct.

The scope of the work may be best indicated by listing the chapter headings, some explanatory notations being added within brackets: The history and romance of fingerprints [a successful treatment in but eight pages]; Fingerprints vs. the Bertillon System [an introduction to the principles of classification, together with a demonstration of the superiority of fingerprints over anthropometric methods]; How to search for fingerprints at the scene of a crime [practical directions for procedure, with emphasis on precautionary measures]; The development of latent prints [various powders and their application, the silver nitrate process, iodine

methods, etc., each described in adequate detail]; Photographing and "lifting" latent prints [detailed practical directions]; How to discover the person who left the latent prints; Can fingerprints be forged? [see comment below]; How to take good fingerprints; How to prepare fingerprint evidence for the court; Qualifying in court as an expert witness; The fingerprint expert on the witness stand [this and the preceding chapter provide useful advice to the expert who is inexperienced in court proceedings]; What the courts have said about fingerprint evidence [decisions condensed and phrased in plain English]; Fingerprint patterns [types, ridge counting, and tracing]; Primary classification [Henry system]; Secondary classification of scarred, amputated, bandaged, and missing fingers; The modifications and extensions of the Henry system of classification [F. B. I.]; Pattern-type frequencies and their application to file searching; Single fingerprint classification [Battley system, with F.B.I. modifications]; The Taylor single fingerprint system for small bureaus; Fingerprints in foreign lands; Fingerprints south of the border—the Argentinian way [history and present status of the Vucetich system]; How to get a fingerprint job; How to etch fingerprints on metal [the Taylor method].

The two pages devoted to acknowledgments merit special mention as an index of the substantial quality of this book. Mr. Chapel has sought information and assistance from an impressive array of authorities, and the fact that some of them have read manuscript and proof gives assurance that effort has been made to attain up-to-dateness and accuracy. It is therefore not surprising that few points call for unfavorable comment. Illustrations borrowed from other authors are not credited. There are eighteen full-page plates of finger-print sets which would have rendered greater advantage to the student if reproduced from zincs instead of half-tones: one of them (plate

6) is reduced to the point of loss of ridge characteristics. In addition to these minor faults involving illustrations there are three text statements to which objections may be raised. Lest these objections be regarded as carping trifles, it should be understood that the fine quality of the book makes imperative the mention of even the smallest lapses in statement which may mislead readers. *Fingerprinting* will be used by many whose working libraries are limited to this and similar compilations. It will be consulted as authority, and as such the following points are open to question. It is asserted (p. 7) that Galton failed to find indications of heredity of finger-print characteristics, when as a matter of fact Galton did establish hereditary tendencies, a finding which has been since confirmed and extended by other investigators. Chapel remarks of handwriting (p. 22): "There is still a third means of identification. . . . This is the *pseudo-science* [*his italics*] of handwriting identification." Would he stigmatize the work of the U. S. Weather Bureau as *pseudo-science* on the score that predictions of weather and river stages are not infallible? In the manner of most writers on finger prints this author disposes of the question of finger-print forgery (chap. 7) by a summary denial of the possibility of its successful execution, though granting that the Wehde and Brown processes "might fool a layman or an inexperienced finger-print specialist." The chapter begins: "Can fingerprints be forged? If such a thing is possible, tens of thousands of convicts sent to prison on fingerprint evidence will demand their freedom, and thousands of parents of soldiers and sailors whose bodies were identified only by means of fingerprints will forever suffer a doubt as to whether or not their sons are still alive somewhere on earth." As if in answer to this very paragraph, Captain C. D. Lee had stated six years ago (this Journal, 1934, XXV, 671-674): "It is with considerable reluctance that finger-print experts have come to realize that fingerprints can be forged, and to have to admit as much when testifying in court. But we might as well face the facts, at the same

time considering just how much harm is done by such admission." Chapel cites at length the 1923 investigation of Lee and Abbey on this question, but he omits mention of the reversal of opinion expressed by Captain Lee in his 1934 article, *Finger-Prints Can Be Forged*.*

HAROLD CUMMINS.

Professor of Microscopic Anatomy,
School of Medicine, Tulane University.

AMERICAN GUN MAKERS. By L. D. Saterlee and Arcadi Gluckman (Lieut. Col., United States Army). Otto Ulbrich Co., Inc. (Buffalo, New York, 1940). Pp. 186.

This compilation of information concerning American firearms manufacturers lists alphabetically 2608 names of both modern and early American manufacturers of small arms or their major parts. Under many of the listed names included in this volume there have been noted short "thumb nail" historical sketches of the activities, production or output, patents applied for, notable contributions, and connections with other gun makers. Where possible, notes have been included as to government contracts awarded and deliveries of firearms made under such contracts. Several of the biographical and historical sketches of listed names were checked by the reviewer and found to be accurate. In many instances the information included is not generally available, and for this reason the reviewer considers this volume a valuable addition to the libraries of firearms identification technicians and collectors of firearms.

The authors state in the foreword of this volume that they extend an invitation to readers to submit corrections or amplifications of included information pertaining to listed gun manufacturers, which is believed by the reviewer to be a notable step in the direction of collecting and preserving available information concerning the history and development of firearms in the United States. The authors also state in this foreword that due to the limited amount of information available to them for many of the entries included, it is hoped that additional information may

* [Editor's Note: For other articles upon this subject of fingerprint forgery see this Journal at

vol. 25, no. 4, 666-671; vol. 25, no. 6, pp. 982-992; vol. 28, no. 4, 573-580.]

be obtained from gun collectors, firearms technicians, and others, which will enable them to revise and re-edit the volume to include such additional information as they are able to obtain.

L. D. Saterlee is well known to collectors of small arms as he has been a collector for many years and lists among his contributions "Catalog of Firearms" and "Ten Old Gun Catalogs." Colonel Gluckman entered the Service in 1915 and obtained his commission as an infantry commander in 1917, serving with distinction in France. Later he saw service with the army of occupation in Germany. From 1929-1933 he was military attache of the American Legation at Peking, China. Later he served as unofficial observer during the Sino-Japanese conflict at Shanhaikuan and Jehol. For years his hobby has centered around guns, both Long and Short, American Military, flint locks, and percussion types.

The authors state that their sources of information were the Congressional Records, the forty-nine titles listed in the bibliography, and many outstanding gun collectors in the United States whose names are included as sources of information.

This volume is considered by the reviewer to be a companion to Saterlee's "Catalog of Firearms" and Gardner's "Arms Fabricators, Ancient and Modern."

C. M. WILSON.

Chicago Police,
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

THE YEARBOOK. International Association of Chiefs of Police. I. A. C. P. (Washington, D. C., 1940), 443 pp., \$2.00.

San Francisco opened its Golden Gate to the 46th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police on September 9-12, 1940. The retiring President, Chief Wm. J. Quinn of San Francisco, spoke for a closer cooperation of law enforcement officials and a better coordination of effort in reducing crime. The thesis of his address revealed the basic aims of the organization. Emphasis throughout the articles in this book and during this convention was placed on Crime Prevention and Safety.

This Association now has a membership of over one thousand—representing most

of the heads of State, City and Governmental law enforcement agencies. Many of these articles are written by other than heads of law enforcement agencies. In fact, it becomes increasingly difficult from year to year to ascertain whether this is an Association of Chiefs of Police or a gathering of citizens from many fields who are interested one way or another in criminology.

This volume is the best of the Yearbooks yet published, covering as it does a wide range of police work. There are several articles on Police Organization and Administration, headed by a talk given by J. Edgar Hoover on "Problems of Law Enforcement." This is followed by many instructive articles under the following classifications: Communications; Cooperation and Coordination; Crime Prevention and Juvenile Delinquency; Parole; Police Practice and Procedure; Public Relations; Selection and Training of Personnel; State and Provincial Police; Traffic Control and Accident Investigation.

A great deal of space is wasted on arguments as to whether one or two men should man squad cars; which is about as sensible as arguing how high is up. In the main, articles such as those on Crime Prevention, Selection and Training of Personnel, and Traffic Control, put this book on the "must" list for every police official's library.

JOHN I. HOWE.

Captain, Chicago Police Department.

MEET THE MURDERER. By Lewis E. Lawes (Warden of Sing Sing Prison). Harper and Brothers, Publishers (New York, 1940). Pp. 339. \$3.00.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF MURDER. By Joseph Catton, M.D. (Clinical Professor of Medicine at Stanford University; Director of Stanford Psychopathic Wards at San Francisco Hospital; Consulting Psychiatrist, San Francisco). W. W. Norton and Co., Inc. (New York, 1940). Pp. 355. \$3.00.

The titles of these two books aptly describe their contents and especially the differences in point of view of the authors. Warden Lawes, in *Meet The Murderer*, merely introduces the reader to the murderer, while Dr. Catton, in *Behind The Scenes of Murder*, takes one with him on

professional visits to murder suspects whom the reader sees intimately and understandingly.

The subject matter of the two books is the same; they have almost the same number of pages; both were published in New York; both are in popular style and large print, with frequent reference to cases and personal conversations. Both authors apparently have a flair for the dramatic, and this quality enlivens their stories.

Warden Lawes has talked with hundreds of murderers in his 35 years of experience, and here he tells of the first murderer he ever met, and of paradoxes in murder. He asks, "What kind of people are murderers?" and presents in case illustration and anecdotal form some very superficial answers; in newspaper lingo he describes how killers die, and briefly reconstructs the "perfect" crimes that led to the "chair"; as only a warden can, he illuminates the "ethics and fantasies in Condemned Row" and lets the reader look in momentarily on the abortive lives of the Death House inmates. In the chapter on "Does the Death Penalty Deter Murderers?" he shows that a man who is impelled to kill does so with no regard to the possible punishment awaiting him. Other chapters are: "Stratagems to Cheat the Chair"; "There, but for the Grace of God—" (in which the author states that the average man on the street is more apt to commit murder, under provocation, than he ever imagines); "Murderers Make the Best Prisoners"; "A Warden's Mail Bag"; "Have Innocent Men Been Executed?"

But the reviewer finds Warden Lawes morbid—even though the reviewer interrogates murder suspects every week in the year and is accustomed to listening to confessions of every conceivable type of crime of violence and passion. The Warden has built, in his 20 years at Sing Sing, an eminent reputation for kindly and efficient dealing with prisoners; as he says, "I have come into contact with hundreds of murderers whose lives and per-

sonalities I have carefully studied. For years I have been compiling case histories, anecdotes, and other data about them. All the most interesting material that I have accumulated is incorporated in *Meet The Murderer!*" Indeed, there's the trouble. Reading Lawes' book is like watching a hanging or an electrocution: you learn how it's done and you see the torments of the condemned and you try vainly to reconstruct from the last words and the behavior of the condemned the kind of a person he must have been. *But in vain.* You leave, satiated, curiosity deadened, and with regret for the morbid futility of your experience.

On the other hand, readers of *The American Journal of Police Science* will find in Dr. Catton's *Behind the Scenes of Murder* a deeper understanding of crime and criminals. Attorneys and investigative officers will find specific guidance in handling their own cases. Interrogation techniques are described in connection with such well-remembered cases as those of Winnie Ruth Judd, William Hickman, and Dorothy Ellingson. Any reader will discover drama enough to sustain interest in psychiatrist Catton's reconstruction of events, reports, trials in which the author has figured, and personal interviews with criminal suspects. In addition, he will learn the psychological approach to a killer's feigned insanity; the difference between the medical and the legal attitude toward suspects; the difference between true insanity and temporary abnormality; the psychological background of courtroom duels between attorneys and expert witnesses. An appendix defines degrees of homicide; describes those which are not punishable, those which are justifiable; the appendix explains the legal tests of "responsibility," "right and wrong test," "irresistible impulse test," "punishability test." An index concludes the book.

PAUL V. TROVILLO.

Chicago Police Scientific
Crime Detection Laboratory.

THE MILITARY CIPHER OF COMMANDANT BAZERIES. By *Rosario Cadela*. Cardanus Press. (New York, 1938). Pp. 137. \$3.50.

In this book, Rosario Candela, an architect, approaches the subject of cryptography in a unique and pleasing manner. The author, choosing to look upon the problem of cryptography as a science and the work of decrypting as an art, has presented his subject with unusual attention to technical exactness but without detracting from the aesthetical appeal. The volume's analogy to an architectural masterpiece is instantly apparent to the reader. Throughout the book the hand of the artist is strikingly evident. The symmetrical style of presentation is quite different from the usual progressive arrangement employed by most writers on technical subjects, and though the style is unconventional, it is indeed refreshing.

The book is of greater interest to students of cryptography than the title would suggest, for though the major portion of the book is concerned with the specific cipher system of Commandant Bazeries, it is liberally interspersed with information of general interest, one entire chapter being devoted to comment on the general subject of cryptography and cryptanalysis.

In the opening chapter, the author briefly introduces Commandant Bazeries and his work as a cryptanalyst of the French Army, and relates the events leading up to the Commandant's claim of having perfected an impregnable system of encipherment.

The second chapter presents an English translation of the communication of Bazeries to the French General Staff, explaining his proposition of a perfect military cipher. This chapter is liberally annotated by the author.

In the third chapter the author submits a critical analysis of Bazeries' system, commenting upon the Commandant's be-

lief in the indecipherability of his system, the inconsistency of his views on security, and the salient features of the system.

In these first three chapters the author has cleverly inoculated the reader with the virus of "cryptographitis," an affliction which he describes as "a sort of subtle all prevailing, incurable malady," and even though the reader may have been apathetic in the beginning he will avidly participate with the author in the problems of decryption presented in Chapters IV and V, which explain the general procedure, the preparatory steps, and the final attack followed in the solution of the cipher. Though these chapters are highly technical, the successive steps are so painstakingly explained that even the novice will find little difficulty in following through to the final solution.

Chapter VI is of special interest to students of cryptography for here the author discusses the general subject of cryptanalysis in a novel manner, and the reader, whether expert or novice, will find this chapter particularly valuable. An interesting section of the chapter is the comment on heresies, those ambitious though false theories that are occasionally encountered in the literature on the subject.

The book also contains three appendices, the first covering the essentials of cryptography, the second being the original French version of Bazeries' communication, and the third consisting of a translation of the solution to the three cryptograms presented in Bazeries' proposition.

In general, this book is a valuable contribution to the literature on cryptography and is of interest not only to students of the art but to the lay reader as well.

DON L. KOOKEN.

Supervising Lieutenant, Division of Education, Indiana State Police, Indianapolis.