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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Paul V. Trovillo

THE FIFTH COLUMN IS HERE. (Third Edition). By *George Britt*. Wilfred Funk, Inc. (New York, N. Y., 1940.) Pp. 126. \$1.00.

This booklet with its flamboyant cover presents a well documented portrayal of subversive activities in North and South America but principally in the United States. In a high-powered journalistic style the well known newspaper correspondent, George Britt, stirs up a considerable amount of emotional appeal in the nine chapters which expose the activities of those who are apparently undermining the defensive operations of this country.

The first few chapters reveal the methods in use among those who have been found guilty of acts of sabotage and destruction against the welfare of the United States. Less violent attacks against the morale and patriotism of citizens are also described in vivid detail. By direct quotation from *Mein Kampf* and from other authentic sources we are told of the organized menace from totalitarian masters abroad and especially from Hitler. "The assault from within has been proclaimed, observed, tried out, proved effective and, in fact, launched already."

Especial attention is directed to the work that goes on under diplomatic immunity. Associated herewith are the informational services of certain bureaus which present the German point of view and which become the target of charges of unpatriotic activity. Of course all these activities are easily classified as propaganda or counter-propaganda, depending upon the emotional bias of the classifier. But the gravest accusations are hurled by the author against the *Bund* and its allies. The far reaching penetration of such organizations, even to Mexico and Latin America in general, is astounding. Here the subversion is sponsored by both Mussolini and Hitler who have also joined in similar ventures, of course, in the United States, where Father Coughlin is congratulated, for his preachments, in the newspapers of both Italy and Germany.

The material furnishes apparently factual instances and events in the form of numerous selected cases. One who is looking for illustrations of various types of sabotage, espionage, and undercover work will be well repaid for the reading of this booklet. It represents a great mass of material on the subject. We must bear in mind that this country has not felt inclined to pay much attention to tricks that are almost "as old as the hills" in Europe: we are childish in our naïveté concerning the profession of spying and its ramifications. Some alarming explosions during the first World War awakened our suspicions, but we are still as a nation too complacent in the matter of the so-called "fifth column" activities, especially as they have been stepped up in modern warfare.

So, while the author almost shouts at us throughout his book and we discount at first the pungency of his style, later we feel that our customary lethargy really required prodding. Anyway, human nature is usually such that by the time we have read the first twenty pages or so, we become accustomed to the din of continuous shouting and, if we have become interested in the collection of data itself, we shall hear the turmoil only in the distance. In some cases we may even doubt whether the author's interpretation of the facts, due to his own alarmed state of mind, is not somewhat overdrawn.

CHRISTIAN A. RUCKMICK.

Secretary, C. H. Stoelting Co.,
Chicago, Illinois.

COPYING TECHNIQUE. Compiled by *Frank R. Fraprie* and *Robert H. Morris*. American Photographic Publishing Company (Boston, 1940). Pp. 128. \$1.50.

With the publication of *Copying Technique* appears the first handbook devoted exclusively to copy photography. Elementary in its scope, it should appeal primarily to the photographer who is inexperienced in this type of work rather than to the laboratory photographer who

is frequently called upon to make photographic copies. Its scope is comprehensive, touching upon such problems as equipment; preparing the subject; photographing and developing; techniques for copying black and white originals, colored originals, and oil paintings; use of infra-red, ultra-violet, and X-ray; discussion of the copying of certain specialized subjects, such as Daguerreotypes, coins, etc.; and microfilm copying; but the discussions are as a rule sketchy and at several points material is omitted which should appear even in an elementary text on this subject.

While the sections dealing with equipment touch upon such essential points as cameras, lenses, copying stands, and lights, the discussion of each is rather incomplete. The apparatus described is of particular interest to the amateur photographer who desires to construct inexpensive devices for occasional copy work. For this purpose the design of the equipment is satisfactory and of course embodies the fundamental principles of more elaborate apparatus. Nevertheless, no treatment of this phase of the work should be considered complete which does not at least mention the apochromatic lens; the desirability of a copying easel which allows quick vertical, horizontal, and rotational adjustment of the subject matter; and a discussion of illumination by means of photofloods and spot lights.

Except for a general discussion of classes of emulsions and scattered references to one type of film or another, no comprehensive film treatment is included. The three emulsions—Agfa Isopan, Defender Fine-Grain Panchromatic, and Eastman Super XX—recommended for copying colored originals, suggest lack of thorough investigation by the authors, as Eastman Super XX, at least as a cut film, is not particularly well suited for copy photography while Eastman Panatomic X, which is not mentioned, is excellent all-purpose copy film. The authors could have added much to the usefulness of the book by including a section in which a careful evaluation was made of all available emulsions for copy photography.

The section on *Expert Photographic Examination of Documents* adds little to the book and because of its treatment of the subject it gives the reader a distorted

view of this work. Copy photography plays an important role in document examination but in a far different manner than herein described. In this section most of the discussion is taken up with photographic differentiation of inks which is seldom if ever used as it is inferior to either microscopic or chemical examination. Another paragraph deals with the rather uncommon problem of deciphering charred documents. Only one technique, infra-red photography, is described, although there are a number of other photographic methods which should be included if the authors feel that the problem is worthy of any mention in this monograph. Furthermore, experiments at the Chicago Police Laboratory have shown that infra-red photography in document examination is not of value in the detection of erasures, contrary to the statement on page 100.

The experienced copy photographer will undoubtedly find that the use of filters has been over-emphasized throughout the book. In some instances the suggested use would add nothing to the results as in the case of copying a "bright black-and-white full-tone original . . . with process pan film and a red filter" (page 52). In other instances it might even defeat the intended purpose. Such is the case when the authors suggest to copy an olive green original with "a film with a high green sensitivity, such as Defender Portrait HGS, and a green filter with a multiplying factor of 5" (page 52).

One of the most thorough and well-developed portions of the book is the chapter on photographing oil paintings. It is written in a manner so as to prove helpful to all inexperienced workers who have such problems at hand, and the cuts which accompany this discussion add much to the text.

The experienced copy photographer will undoubtedly find that except for some special types of work with which he is unfamiliar this book presents very little new information. On the other hand, even though additional information could have been included, the photographer who has had little experience with copying techniques will find this book of help in such work.

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Chicago Police
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.