

1942

Police Science Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 32 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 484 (1941-1942)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Paul V. Trovillo [Ed.]

THE TROJAN HORSE IN AMERICA. By *Martin Dies*. Dodd, Mead & Company (New York, N. Y., 1940). Pp. 336. \$2.50.

In *Martin Dies'* sensational book, "The Trojan Horse in America," the most important and transcending problems in America are discussed in detail, the Nazi and Communist "Fifth Columns." In considering this bulky volume from a superficial aspect most people might ask themselves: To what extent has Dies played on alarm, exaggeration, passion, and pessimism? However, considering the book more carefully, the reader will find that Dies has assembled a large mass of data, records, names, and dates, which appear not to present false denunciations of those concerned, and which are presented by the author openly and critically and with full awareness of the critical situation the world is facing at present. The author presents this information with extraordinary courage, energy, and perseverance, and he here offers historical, political, and social testimony which gives evidence of specific activity of "Fifth Column" groups in America's most vital spots.

Dies was compelled to verify previous investigations, which were followed by minutely precise analyses in the elaboration of this brave and sincere book. His words reflect a clear and methodical plan of obtaining information. Dies' arduous work gives space to every aspect and factor of the problem, furnishing detailed accounts of some of them, and including notes as to whether Dies considered them transcendental or of real consequence.

Readers may have their own opinion as to the degree of the importance of Nazi and Communist "Fifth Column" activities concretely outlined by Dies; but no one with a sincere approach will be able to doubt or deny the existence of such activities. Besides, many readers who have remained indifferent to our collective problems, and not a few who have been concerned about the future of the United States, will be astonished by the revela-

tions of Dies. Furthermore, there will be in North America and Abroad many readers who know personally of the silent, secret, continued, and persistent work carried through by Hitler's agents and followers.

The author considers his book as a "Report to the Nation"; although, in fact, its pages constitute a most interesting report and warning to the whole Hemisphere. In the United States of America, men and committees, citizens and corporations, have called out loudly to awaken attention and unite the wills and efforts of people without regard to social or political distinctions, so that irreconcilable enemies of Democracy may be crushed. Unfortunately, in Latin America where low politics debilitate civil energies and where political bossism blackens the horizon of national progress, nothing practical or truly effective has been realized toward limiting or eliminating activities of Nazis and Communists, who, in several of our Republics, with a more or less official support, are acting impudently and are instigating racial conflict and deeply undermining the American peoples.

Indeed, in Cuba, as well as in other countries, the author of this review has had the sad opportunity and painful surprise of contemplating the destruction wrought by the "Trojan Horse." In schools, workshops, factories, farms, in the homes of students, laborers and countrymen (particularly among the colored races), as well as among the so-called intellectual classes—we have seen the deep impressions of the beast's hoofs as they appear in every sector of the Country.

In the free America of Washington and Lincoln, utilizing records, data, dates, numbers, and names, and with every detail required by law and demanded by decency, *Martin Dies* has announced the dangers and without hesitation pointed out the conspirators. In every place where a true democracy prevails the examples

given by Dies should be imitated as it would render incalculable benefit to the Hemisphere and supreme comfort to humanity.

Dies' book has demonstrated the Trojan Horse in America, a fact which no one will now doubt. The vigorous pages of this book, publicly making known "Fifth Column" activities, although they have been published in the United States, do not exclusively belong to that country, but belong, rather, to the whole Continent, which has, must and can exterminate the widespread influence which is making this World insufferable. America will have the task and the glory of preserving peace, freedom, and democracy for all!

I. CASTELLANOS.

Director of the National Bureau of Identification,
Havana, Cuba.

FIRE FROM THE AIR—THE ABC OF INCENDIARIES. By *J. Enrique Zanetti* (Professor of Chemistry, Columbia University). Columbia University Press (New York, N. Y., 1941) 55 Pp., \$0.50.

Professor Zanetti states this booklet is the result of lectures delivered to fire and police specialists on the subject of incendiaries. It is written in simple language and is addressed to those whose duty it would be to organize and execute plans to counteract the fires that might result from possible attacks from the air.

Chapters included are titled "Oils, Sodium, and Potassium," "Phosphorus," "Magnesium and Aluminum," "Incendiary Mixtures," "Incendiary Bomb Types," and "Strategy and Tactics." A short bibliography is also included.

Some of the properties of the chemicals referred to are given by the author. Their use in various types of bombs dropped from the air is described. He points out briefly the effects of these bombs as strategic weapons.

Although this booklet is intended for the layman, it will be valuable reading to many professional fire fighters and law enforcement authorities interested in the subject of incendiarism.

R. C. STEINMETZ.

Mill Mutual Fire Prevention Bureau,
Chicago, Illinois.

AIR RAID DEFENSE. By *Curt Wachtel*. The Chemical Publishing Co., Inc. (Brooklyn, New York, 1941). Pp. 240, \$3.50.

When it is remembered that the epic feat of flying the English Channel was accomplished only 30 years ago—and today planes are ferried over 2,000 miles of water—the next ten years of aviation progress are unpredictable. Irrespective of one's viewpoint on intervention or isolation, the fact remains that the problem of preparedness may tomorrow become one of the major factors in the protection of the American way of life.

The author of *Air Raid Defense* speaks from personal knowledge, having been engaged in the nationwide planning of civil defense in a country of 180,000,000 people. In clear understandable language, the book deals with all phases of air raid defense. In three parts it covers (1) planning and organization of air raid defenses, (2) technical means of air raid defenses, and (3) air raid defenses at mobilization, the whole being extensively indexed for ready reference.

While undoubtedly totalitarian war with its many vicious ramifications will call for further prolonged study of defense technique, this book will serve as a valuable textbook for training purposes. It should serve a useful purpose in the training program of modern efficient police departments.

FRED GUILBERT.

Division of Personnel Safety,
Chicago Park District,
Chicago, Illinois.

INCENDIARISM AND ACCIDENTAL FIRES. By *H. Rethoret*. (General Manager, Fire Underwriters' Investigation Bureau of Canada, Incorporated, Montreal.) Published by the Bureau (Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 1941). Pp. 101, 9 charts and diagrams and 100 photographic illustrations. Distributed without charge to responsible parties.

Here is a book without a table of contents, with a bibliography insufficient for reference purposes, and with a confused numbering system for the presenting of the illustrations; but on the other hand, the author has compiled such a wealth of

valuable information on fires of accidental and incendiary origin, that the technical omissions seem of little moment!

There is probably not a single alert police officer or investigative official in the United States or Canada who would fail to find Mr. Rethoret's book intensely interesting, his photographs well and generously chosen, and a great deal of information of value in the investigation of suspicious fires. Indeed, in the opinion of the reviewer, even many seasoned investigators will find a use for investigative aids here described. The many photographs alone will educate the average police officer to the point where he will be able to recognize, in his limited number of investigations of arson, the essential characteristics of incendiary fires. This is not a reference book, although its glossary of hazardous chemicals, inflammable liquids, and dangerous gases, makes it useful for that purpose; it is, rather, the practical stuff which all fire investigators must consume and digest if they are to make effective inquiries into the causes of fires.

Those readers who are not experienced experts in the field will find their interest challenged when they read such facts as the following:

(1) Arson losses increase in direct proportion to the number of business failures (p. 6).

(2) The appearance of the flames of a fire of incendiary origin may indicate the nature of the combustible substances used by the arsonist for ignition purposes (p. 17).

(3) The direction in which burned or scorched wood is carbonized will indicate the fire's point of origin (p. 18).

(4) The more carefully the arsonist plans and prepares his fire, the more evidence of his guilt he leaves at the scene (p. 23).

(5) Chemical powders are available which can be sprinkled over the debris at the fire scene to determine if benzene, gasoline, turpentine, oils, or fats, may have been used for igniting the fire (p. 26).

(6) Rats and mice do *not*, as shown experimentally, chew on the heads of matches and accidentally set buildings afire (p. 31).

(7) Poorly informed fire investigators and others may themselves be responsible for releasing the flames of "spontaneous combustion" (p. 34).

(8) Incendiarism is decidedly reduced by punishment of offenders (p. 40).

(9) Newspaper accounts of incendiary fires are responsible for the increase of incendiary fires in many districts (p. 40).

(10) Photography is an essential investigative tool for the arson investigator (p. 43).

(11) The complex motives for arson make it one of the most difficult of all crimes to solve (p. 44).

(12) Setting fire to the body, *after* the murder, will not make the death look like an accident (p. 46).

(13) Diagramming the street locations of fires set by juveniles and pyromaniacs, often establishes the likelihood of the next fire being set in an adjacent neighborhood, and thus leads to tracing the arsonist (p. 57).

PAUL V. TROVILLO.

Chicago Police
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

FIRE DEFENSE. Edited by *Horatio Bond* (Chief Engineer, National Fire Protection Association, Boston). Compiled and published by the staff of the Association (60 Battery March Street, Boston, Mass., second printing, July, 1941). Pp. 222, 154 illustrations. \$1.50.

War incendiarism, and measures suitable for protection against it, is the theme of this timely publication. In this country the rapid integration of police and fire departments for civil defense purposes, and the intensive studies being made by various governmental agencies of means to protect life and property against attack, make necessary the publication of a usable handbook. *Fire Defense* is one of the first informative and authoritative books on the subject published in this country since the outbreak of the present war. It lays an interesting groundwork of data for the guidance of all persons participating in defense activities, and it will be especially valuable to police officers and administrators.

The Table of Contents:

I. *Fire from the air*: the incendiary bomb, magnesium and its alloys, handling bombs.

II. *Sabotage*: sabotage through fire, arson in times of war.

III. *Organization for civilian defense*: the Ontario defense plan, the Maryland defense plan, the Massachusetts fire department inventory, training auxiliary firemen.

IV. *Fire departments and fire fighting*: public water supply in the civil defense program, fire companies, fire apparatus.

V. *Communications*: emergency signaling, fire department radio.

VI. *Defense production*: principles of plant protection, private fire brigades, on the alert.

VII. Appendix (a selected bibliography).

The defense undertakings here described are not based on any assumptions of imminent air attack or invasion, but on the conception that the events in other countries must lead us to consider the adequacies of our own defenses against fire, and the belief that the best potential defense is strong preparation to meet and minimize any attack whether from within or without.

Incendiary and other bombs are described, many rare photographs are presented to show the effects of bombing in England and the recently devised counter-measures. A rather brief and inadequate section written by W. J. Scott, Fire Marshal of the Province of Ontario, hits the high spots on how to handle explosive and incendiary bombs, and some readers will recall that this subject has been considered in much more detail in the recent bulletins of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory of the New York State Police.

E. P. Coffey, Chief of the Technical Laboratory of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, scrimpily pays his respects to the possibilities of "Sabotage Through Fire" (3 pages). Dr. Richard C. Steinmetz, Chief Special Investigator for the Mill Mutual Fire Prevention Bureau, in Chicago, outlines "Arson in Times of War," and considers in detail the motives of the

arsonist in setting fires. He makes definite suggestions as to how watchmen may be instructed to combat arsonists and saboteurs.

Department organization and personnel allocations are treated in several chapters, and no doubt the ideas of certain pioneering communities, presented here, have great value to those entrusted with setting up their own local defense programs. Robert S. Moulton, Technical Secretary of the National Fire Protection Association, analyzes and illustrates by photographs the principles of plant protection, discussing disastrous fires of recent months.

The final section on fire defense in munitions production effectively demonstrates that big fires are generally not necessary, but they cannot happen unless someone slips up, and that "the things that need to be done are not spectacular, but they involve a day-to-day vigilance."

PAUL V. TROVILLO.

Chicago Police
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

CHEMICAL WARFARE. By *Curt Wachtel*. (Founder, Pharmacological Section of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute and Founder and former Director, Institute for Industrial Hygiene and Professional Diseases.) Chemical Publishing Company (Brooklyn, New York, 1941). Pp. ix, 312. \$4.00.

The purpose of this book is to present information concerning various aspects of chemical warfare "in a form that is comprehensible not only to chemists, physicians, engineers, and military experts, but also to the laymen who are the prospective individual victims of the war gases." The author expresses the "hope that the coordinated presentation of technical, medical, and military problems involved will contribute to the mutual understanding between the experts in so different fields who cooperate in the development of chemical warfare" (P. 1). This is a rather large order to attempt in some 300 pages, and the author only partially succeeds in his endeavor.

At the outset of World War I, Fritz Haber, eminent German physical chemist

and chemical engineer, commissioned Dr. Wachtel to organize and direct the pharmacological section of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute with the purpose of testing the hundreds of toxic gases considered for combat use. This experience in directing toxic gas research together with his service as Instructor at the German Military School of Noxious Gases and his post-war experience in the field of industrial toxicology give him a unique background of specialized information in the field covered by this volume.

Perhaps the most valuable contribution made by this book is the historical record of the development and use of chemical warfare techniques by the German military. This story has never been told in such detail before, and this account alone would justify publication. However, in attempting to present a coordinated survey of "technical, medical, and military problems" of chemical warfare, his efforts are not so successful. Contrary to the author's implication, there is very little new scientific or technical information presented in this book; most of the material has been published years ago in books and journals. The collection of this material into a single volume does present some advantage, particularly to those who do not have easy access to large technical libraries. For those who are interested in more than a superficial survey of the field, or in the tactical use of chemical agents, the book will be disappointing. Very little is said about toxic smokes or even about protection against chemical warfare offense techniques. There is practically no discussion of the use of incendiaries and gases as presented by air attack—a procedure which bids fair to attain great importance in the present struggle, if and when resort is had to chemical offense.

For the general reader who is interested in a brief survey of the field, this book will be of considerable interest. For more specialized or detailed information, the reader will still have to consult previously published books such as those of Fries and West, of Vedder, and of Prentiss.

C. W. MUEHLBERGER.

Michigan State Toxicologist,
Lansing, Mich.

THE CHEMISTRY OF POWDER AND EXPLOSIVES, Volume 1, by *Tenney L. Davis*, Ph.D. (Professor of Organic Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology). John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (New York; Chapman & Hall, Limited, London, 1941). Pp. 216, 50 illustrations. \$2.75.

The Chemistry of Powder and Explosives is a timely book and should be of interest to chemists and technicians associated with scientific criminal investigation, particularly in these days when national defense is commanding such an important part in the activities of many law enforcement agencies. This book contains information which can be valuable to the chemist who is investigating cases of suspected or confirmed sabotage and, consequently, should make a valuable addition to the reference libraries of all police laboratories.

The author states in his Preface that *The Chemistry of Powder and Explosives* is written primarily for chemists, and specifically in response to the need for a textbook for a course in powder and explosives (which the author has conducted for about twenty-two years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Its purpose is to inform chemists about the behavior of explosive substances, and the phenomena which accompany their use and is not intended to be a treatise on the use of explosives in ammunition and blasting compounds nor a description of the chemical engineering aspects of their manufacture. Instead, the volume might well be regarded as a laboratory manual for chemists interested in the study of explosives.

Volume One of the proposed two-volume text consists of four chapters: "Properties of Explosives"; "Black Powder"; "Pyrotechnics" and "Aromatic Nitro Compounds." The second volume, which is to be published in the near future, is to include a discussion of such subjects as: "Nitric Esters"; "Smokeless Powder"; "Dynamite and Other High Explosives"; "Ammonium Nitrate"; "Nitroamines" and "Primary Explosives, Detonators and Primers."

The first chapter of this first volume deals with properties of explosives and

contains a number of definitions, classification of explosives, a detailed description of high explosive ammunition, a discussion of the Munroe effect, and an outline of several sensitivity tests.

In Chapter Two Professor Davis presents a very satisfactory discussion on the history of black powder, including several of the early formulae used by the ancient alchemists.

A large portion of the book is devoted to the study of pyrotechnics, beginning with a rather comprehensive discussion on the early use of pyrotechnic mixtures. Many formulae are given for such things as "Chinese fire, blue fire for cascades, silver rain, green fire and bengal flame." There follows an interesting discussion concerning the industrial manufacture of comets, mines, meteors, bombshells, toy caps, torpedoes, firecrackers, rockets, and other objects used for pyrotechnic displays. Many formulae are given with laboratory directions for the compounding of these mixtures.

The section which the chemist will find most interesting is the concluding one, "Aromatic Nitro Compounds." The author here discusses such high explosives as mono- and di-nitrobenzene, trinitrobenzene, trinitrotoluene, trinitroxylylene, picric acid, ammonium picrate, tetryl, and others. There is a noticeable lack of irrelevant material, for Professor Davis confines himself to a decidedly technical discussion of the above-mentioned explosives. Laboratory methods of preparation are outlined wherever possible, and the usual structural formulae describing the chemical reaction are included. The photomicrographs, showing the typical appearance of some of these compounds, are helpful in determining the identity of unknown compounds suspected of being explosives.

RALPH TURNER.

Technical Laboratory,
Police Department,
Kansas City, Missouri.

MEDICAL MANUAL OF CHEMICAL WARFARE.
(Author not cited.) Reprinted from the original English editions by the Chemical Publishing Company (Brooklyn, New York, 1940), by permission of

the Comptroller of His Majesty's Stationery Office. Pp. 104; Appendix, pp. 15. \$2.50.

The title of this book effectively suggests its contents. After reading the entire book the reader feels extremely grateful that war gases have not yet been turned loose on the helpless civilian populations by the armed forces, either in the belligerent countries or in our own land, for this book pictures the many horrible results of the use of poison gases.

This is a reprint of an English publication and covers general descriptions of war gases. These gases include the vesicant or "blister" gases, the lung irritant or "choking" gases, paralyzant gases, arseniuretted hydrogen poisoning, gases used primarily as harassing agents, and dangerous gases not used for offensive purposes but which may be encountered under war conditions; other portions of the book describe protection deemed advisable against gas and air raids, present decontamination instructions, describe the important factors in the recognition and first aid treatment of "gas casualties"; still other chapters in the book summarize the properties of all gases, the methods of their recognition, the administration of oxygen, and, finally, there is an atlas of gas poisoning. The appendix puts most of the information needed in recognizing the various gases and their effects in good clear order, although the pictures of the pathological conditions produced by gases may as well have been omitted since they appear to be pictures of almost any skin lesions.

Since this little book was written by authorities who have had first hand experience with the war gases both in the last World War and in the laboratory developments of the later phases of gas warfare, perhaps this should be required reading of the police surgeons of the metropolitan areas and especially those areas along the sea coasts and in the greater manufacturing centers. The book is not too technical for the layman and could be read with profit by most of the police and fire forces of the country. The book deserves a wide distribution.

DWIGHT W. RIFE.

Medical Examiner,
New Mexico State Police,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A CYCLOPEDIA OF UNITED STATES POSTMARKS AND POSTAL HISTORY, Volume II, Edited by *Delf Norona*. Society of Philatelic Americans, Inc. (1941). Pp. 194. \$1.50 (Copies obtainable from James W. Shaver, Logansport, Indiana)

A *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History* was prepared as a reference source for the many philatelically minded Americans, but the information contained in this volume might well prove of value to Examiners of Questioned Documents in cases involving material sent through the mails. How frequently this reference source would be needed is problematical, but it is certain that the material is so compiled that when needed it would be readily available.

Volume II of the *Cyclopedia* is made up of seventeen short articles dealing with the following subjects: (1) Held-for Postage Domestic Letters and Letters with Improper Stamps (1855-1934); (2) Revenue Stamps Used for Postage; (3) Baltimore Townmarks (1773-1866); (4) Dispatch and Naval Agents (1843-1915); (5) Early Year-Dated Townmarks (to 1855); (6) Domestic Air Mail Postage Rates (1918-1934); (7) Waterbury, Conn., Cancellations on the 1869 Issue; (8) Quaker Postmarks; (9) Types of Postage Meters (to 1933); (10) A.E.F. Postoffices in Europe (1917-1921); (11) Bureau Precancels (1916-1934); (12) Postage Rates to South and Central America (1845-1934); (13) Chicago Postal Markings (1836-1892); (14) Boston Machine Cancellations (1876-1933); (15) Distribution of Mail by Railroads in New England (to 1882); (16) The Occupation of Vera Cruz in 1914; and (17) County and Postmaster Townmarks (Alabama to California). As can be readily seen, the material treated is mostly of historical significance and, consequently, would be of particular value to the handwriting expert in disputed will cases and problems involving documents prepared a number of years ago.

Several presentation features employed in this book add greatly to its usefulness as a reference source. Each article is carefully summarized in the opening paragraphs—a feature which eliminates un-

necessary reading while searching for information—and contains a list of references to sources of information and other articles on the subject. Extensive illustrations are included throughout the volume, and the material is presented in a well organized and concise manner. The personal acknowledgements at the end of each article makes available a list of persons who contributed to the paper and who are specialists in the particular branches of philately.

For the document examiner the book's greatest value is its presentation in easily available form of information which may aid in the detection of fraud or in the proof of genuineness of a questioned document and which otherwise might be obtainable only after an exhaustive search. It is unfortunate for experts working with police units, who are frequently confronted with problems of anonymous letters, that several of the sections—especially those on postage meters and postal cancellations—are not brought up to date. Nevertheless, regardless of these shortcomings this volume should be included in every expert's reference library.

ORDWAY HILTON.

Chicago Police
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

[Editor's Note. The first volume of the *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History* (edited and published by Delf Norona, Moundville, W. Va., and published under the supervision of the Handbook Committee of the American Philatelic Society, Inc., 1933) is out of print. It may be possible to obtain a few used copies from Mr. Norona, and any readers interested should communicate directly with him. Volume I contains the following articles: (1) Introduction; (2) Domestic Letter Postage Rates (1792-1933); (3) Railroad Postmarks (1833-1861); (4) U. S. Military Postal Stations in the Philippines (1894-1904); (5) Supplementary Mail Cancellation of Chicago Post Office (1861-1865); (6) Naval Censor Marks of the World War (1917-1918); (7) County and Postmaster Townmarks (1816-1916); (8) Cincinnati Machine Cancellations (1893-1931); (9) New York Foreign Mail Cancellation (1871-1876); (10) Demonetization of Stamps in 1861; (11) New York City Town Postmarks (1756-1845); (12) Standardized Killer Cancellation on Bank Note Issue; (13) Patent Cancellations (1847-1887); (14) Straight Line Town Postmarks (1756-1855); (15) Western Express Franks; (16) Harrisburg, Pa., Legislative Precancels (1865-1867); and Addenda (to articles 3, 8, and 14).]