

1946

## Editorial

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### Recommended Citation

Editorial, 37 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 191 (1946-1947)

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## EDITORIAL

### POST SEX CRIME AMNESIA

Psychiatrically, the term "Sex Crimes" includes not only sexual assaults of all criminal types but also crimes which are sex substitutes. There is a tendency toward evolution of degradation in a sex criminal, although each individual has his own pattern in his career in crime. A sex criminal differs from the ordinary career criminal, *e.g.*, forger, racketeer and such ilk, in that a career criminal makes a profit for himself and a living from his crimes whereas a criminal of this type gets a sex satisfaction from crimes which are, for him, sex substitutes.

A simple case will illustrate how crime or hurt evolves as a substitute for sex. A coarse pre-adolescent girl practiced solitary masturbation and preferred to do it sitting on the bathroom floor. Once while so engaged their house cat wandered into the bathroom. While she was masturbating she stroked the cat; when she reached her climax she choked the cat. It was very exciting: it increased the tingle of her climax. A few days later she choked the cat when she was not masturbating and she thereupon had a very intense pelvic orgasm. Thus she found that cruelty served as a super-masturbatory, super-tingling climax. Thereafter she stopped masturbating but followed a career of cruelty to animals. That is a simple case for she did not start a career of cruelty to human beings; she did not become criminal. She remained psychopathic. She remained selfish. Tenderness and protectiveness for the weak and frail and those at a disadvantage never did develop in her.

In natural conjugal intercourse, either the romantic type or the matter-of-course type, the climax is followed by a brief phase of physiological (hyper) vagotonia or relaxation of tension during which it is natural to take a nap or go (back) to sleep, or at least pass into a relaxed dreamy state unalloyed by duty and with untroubled conscience. Couples who have any non-normal emotions at those times can not experience that vagotonia: they may fear an undesired pregnancy; they may be time-dutiful (time to get up to start breakfast); they or one of them may feel selfish or reproachful or angry at the mate or at nature. The dream state has thoughts which do not register in memory.

So a sex substituting criminal may have a dream state of relaxation following a crime which is a substitution for masturbation. Actions may be automatic or may be puerile, even juvenile, as sweeping the dust under the corner of the rug or carpet is puerile. As there is guilt in that it is not tried to be remembered.

On the other hand, there are many things which can be experienced but can not be described such as odors, tastes, sensations, feeling like the degree of hunger or the pain of frost bite or sleepiness. They can not even be described to oneself when recalled. So we are not endowed with the ability to recall them in memory nor re-experience them from memory. This is especially true in hyper-quantivalent feelings.

Sane persons can not recall truly their wilful wrongdoings: the option being either suicide (which nature forbids, saying, "Survive, somehow survive") or poor memory recall perhaps with retrospective falsification of memory and distorted excuses. This is not a true amnesia for there neither was temporary brain disease like psychomotor epilepsy nor hysterical trance. It is lack of the attention that produces impressibility or lack of need for recall. "I don't remember" is a true reply to queries. "I don't care to try to remember" is a truer reply. "I can't remember" would be a false reply showing profound and habitual disrespect for the authorities. "I won't remember" would imply unforgivably great guilt.

The acme of sex substitution crimes is the same as the most thrilling, most tingling of all crimes which are not of sex substitution relationship, greater even than the internal tingling of observing a great fire, greater even than any sex experience. The greatest thrill, so great that there is a compulsion to repeat and re-repeat it with more embellishment, is the thrill which comes to a non-duty (*e.g.*, not to a soldier in battle) killer who gets his victim's blood onto his hands. To bathe one's hands in fresh flowing blood from wounds not inflicted in a fight is a thrill or tingle which public, judge, jurymen subconsciously realizes will make a bloody handed killer a certain recidivist. Often there is an orgasm at that moment, a super-orgasm, an experience to be regained only by a more complex repetition of a bloody handed new killing.

Individuals, also groups, like torturers, and in recent times Nazi and other degenerates, who have experienced such internal thrills have a poor recall of their experiences and feelings. "I won't remember, just to please you and satisfy your curiosity or interest or question, because it would not serve me" is the inevitable attitude.

The pre-mortal and post-mortal actions of the bloody handed killer as his crimes grow in embellishment are semi-automatic and semi-purposeful; their purpose is to make possible a repetition of the thrill. Such a person can not be truly said to be amnesic.

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