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## Police Science Book Reviews

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

*Edited by*

**Ralph F. Turner\***

PHOTOGRAPHY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. Eastman Kodak Company, New York, 1948. Pp. 112. \$2.75.

The purpose of this book, according to the Introduction, is "to assist large departments already having a photographic section, as well as small departments which are venturing into photography on a modest scale and with relatively little experience." I believe the book well fills this stated purpose. It is a clear and complete elementary presentation of photography in law enforcement. While I would personally like to have seen it much more detailed, I think that in its present form, it may be more effective as a basic text.

I have only two adverse criticisms. First, only the products of the Eastman Kodak Company are mentioned. This is easily understandable, of course, since this is a publication of the Eastman Kodak Company. While this company unquestionably manufactures a very complete line of high quality photographic products, I think anyone reading the book should definitely consider the products of other manufacturers. My second objection is that the book has no index except for a device which the publishers call a "thumb index." While the table of contents is fairly detailed, I think that an index in a book presenting such diverse material would be of value.

The subject matter is very clearly presented. I would strongly recommend that anyone entering this field read the book carefully and then read such other supplementary material as would be available. A number of selected references on photography in law enforcement are listed in this publication. In addition, there are many detailed treatments of technical problems in photography easily available. For example, the War Department Technical Manual on Basic Photography (TM 1-219) or the Navy Training Courses Photography Text, Volumes I and II are obtainable at a very low cost from the Superintendent of Documents.

This book covers the equipment needed to set up a basic photography laboratory for a police department, the elements of taking good photographs and printing or enlarging them, and then briefly outlines the photographic problems peculiar to law enforcement. As would be expected, the illustrations are both numerous and excellent. The directions given throughout are very specific, and follow the best recognized practices in the field.

I believe that any recognized investigator will agree that photography is the basic tool in scientific investigation. In my opinion, this publication makes a contribution towards furthering police photography.

State University of Iowa

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

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REVIEW OF PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF TRAFFIC-ACCIDENT REPEATERS.

The Eno Foundation for Highway Traffic Control, Saugatuck, Conn., 1948. Pp. 64.

This 64-page booklet is a report of a "study"—of an "investigation." It is an excellent report. It should be especially valuable to those inter-

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ested in the personal characteristics of traffic-accident repeaters. After reading it one certainly is impressed with the complexities involved, the precautions to be employed in diagnosing a driver's weaknesses or failings, and the "exposure" factors to be considered in the problem of dealing with accident-repeater drivers. Anyone who has studied this report should not fall into the error of "one factor" analysis or stick to the prejudices or misbeliefs all too frequently encountered in this field.

It may cause many readers to reconsider their earlier convictions about the subject. It will point out factors to be considered which some have missed or ignored in considering accident-repeater drivers and their characteristics. It will provide food for thought. Perhaps the study's findings will serve as a uniform point of departure in future discussions among those interested in the matter.

The report requires more than casual reading for the reader to obtain maximum benefit. But the reader will find immediately following each phase of the testing reported, concisely worded "observations" or "interpretations" of the "more difficult to understand" statistical data. So one may obtain the gist of the investigators' findings without necessarily studying the tables of data upon which the observations are based.

The "Study" is remarkably clear and understandable considering the complexity of the investigation and the necessity for emphasis upon statistical methods, findings, and interpretations. The reader will be impressed also with the honesty of reporting and the apparent validity of statistical methods used.

This study should be very helpful to many people—especially motor vehicle license administrators, those responsible for holding hearings for "repeaters," those in charge of driver clinics, fleet safety supervisors or engineers, fleet managers, instructors in driver training and education, and instructors of driver license examiners. Police officers, judges, and many others who have frequent contact with drivers also could profit from studying this report.

A disappointment for me in this study lies in the following personal observation. Since the "means" of the tests scores of the "repeater-accident driver" group and the "accident-free driver" group are each within the standard deviation of the other group's mean, it seems it would not be possible to set a standard or standards which would identify an "unknown" as a "repeater" or "accident-free" driver or a potential "repeater" or "free" driver. If this observation is correct, one may conclude that qualifying scores or standards *in these tests* cannot yet be set for driver selection purposes. Admittedly, however, the personal record, tests, and interview are valuable in a clinical attempt to discover *possible* weaknesses of "accident-repeater" or "accident-free" drivers and to advise them about improvement or correction.

Univ. of Washington

GORDON H. SHEEHE

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FIBER ANALYSIS. PULP AND PAPER MICROSCOPY. By *John H. Graff*. The Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1942. 148 Figures, 37 Tables. Pp. 193. \$5.00.

This volume consists of a highly condensed and quite complete instruction manual for the fiber microscopist. It is chiefly concerned with examination of paper and paper fibers but includes useful instructions for examination of all common vegetable fibers, many animal fibers, and

a considerable number of synthetic fibers, chiefly the various rayons. These are included because of their occurrence in paper, rather than from the standpoint of the textile microscopist. The procedures are designed primarily for quality control in the manufacture of paper. They include many tests which are adaptable to determination of identities in paper samples and to a lesser extent textile samples.

The volume is divided into seven chapters as follows: I. Microscopic Equipment Needed in the Pulp and Paper Mill; II. Micrometry; III. Fibers and Fiber Elements; IV. Fiber Analysis; V. Miscellaneous Stains and Reagents; VI. Speck Count and Speck Analysis; VII. Microtome Sectioning. Chapter II is of great value to any microscopist since it covers not only the micrometry of paper fibers, but is extended to other fibers and to particle size measurements with details of preparing and mounting samples. Such items as the roundness determination of rayon fibers, covering power, softness, and other technical factors are dealt with in considerable detail.

The detailed structure of fibers is well treated with profuse illustrations in Chapter III, also included are factors which alter the structures such as cooking and bleaching. Chapters IV and V concerned with sampling, staining, and chemical tests of fibers are particularly valuable. They include many details of reagents and comparative tests that the reviewer has not found elsewhere. Chapter VI will ordinarily only be of interest to the paper chemist, dealing as it does with the inclusions in paper, their enumeration, and identification. Chapter VII, dealing with mounting and microtome sectioning falls closer to other available texts and manuals. It contains, however, a very detailed and complete treatment of the subject as it is involved in fiber studies.

The author has abbreviated his treatment in places, and used the terminology of the paper chemist throughout. This would be no serious handicap in using the book for the purpose for which it was written, but it will at times lessen the ease of reading by the general reader and may even cause errors of interpretation at times. Aside from this defect, the book should be of considerable service to all those who are concerned with fibers, whether associated with the paper industry or not.

Univ. of California

PAUL L. KIRK

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CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION. *Texas Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Identification and Records.* Austin, Texas. Pp. 38, illus. 1942. (Distributed without cost to police officers.)

*Criminal Identification* deals primarily with the facilities of the Bureau of Identification and Records of the Texas Department of Public Safety, but discusses also the assistance which can be obtained in the course of criminal investigation from expert laboratory study of physical evidence. A number of suggestions are given on how to prepare and submit physical evidence to a technical laboratory. It is the last two phases of this pamphlet which would be of particular interest and value to police officers outside of the State of Texas.

The pamphlet discusses the examination of fingerprints, firearms, tool marks, and documents, and the use of photography and moulage casts. Evidence of various types is illustrated. It is unfortunate that the photo-offset type of reproduction was used for the pamphlet as a great deal of detail was lost in some of the reproductions. For the

most part the material selected was good and represented typical evidence found in criminal investigation, but one of the document exhibits which compares forged and known writing is not well chosen as it is far from convincing in its presentation. The photograph of secret writing developed by ultraviolet is certainly not a typical piece of evidence found in criminal investigation.

Some discussions of the work done by the laboratory are incomplete, as the omission of any mention of the identification of the work from a particular typewriter, and the suggestions to the field investigator in his collection of physical evidence could well be expanded. Nevertheless, the pamphlet should be of interest and assistance to police officers who desire to find a brief description of what the laboratory can do to help them in their field work and how to handle evidence when sending it to the laboratory.

New York, N. Y.

ORDWAY HILTON

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AMERICAN FIREARMS—AN HISTOLOGY OF AMERICAN GUNSMITHS, ARMS MANUFACTURERS AND PATENTEES WITH DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR ARMS. By *Stephen Van Rensselaer*. Century House, Watkins Glen, New York, 1948. Pp. 288, including 41 full page plates. \$5.00.

To those who do not know the late Stephen Van Rensselaer the following excerpt from a necrological statement made in "Collectors Round-up" (February 1946) will be of interest: "With the death of Mr. Stephen Van Rensselaer there has passed from the company of American collectors and antiquarians one of its most distinguished, engaging, and enthusiastic members. Mr. Van Rensselaer contributed greatly to the written lore of American antiques and by his long service to the pursuit of collecting tangibles and intangibles left to other collectors a heritage of information that remains his lasting monument."

In his preface the author states that this work is the result of fifty years of active interest in firearms, and that at one time or another he has possessed examples of about every known American firearm, and many foreign arms. He also has accumulated an enormous number of names of manufacturers, collectors, agents, etc., most of whom were little known and are now long forgotten. Many of these names are accompanied by no comment, and in many others the comment is so brief as to be of little if any value, even to an antiquarian for whom the work is obviously intended and to whom much contained therein will be of interest. To one interested in modern guns and in the identification of such there is little of value, as these are not described.

The book contains 41 full page plates, with several guns on each plate. The value of these plates is greatly lessened by being printed on a very poor quality of paper—quite unsuited to the reproduction of photographs. The legends accompanying these plates are often too sketchy to give much of an idea concerning the arm portrayed.

Inasmuch as the word "histology" is properly defined as that branch of science that treats of the minute structure of animal and vegetable tissues, the term "an histology of American Gunsmiths, Arms Manufacturers and Patentees with a Detailed Description of their Arms" seems quite inappropriate. To gun collectors and others who are interested in old guns the book will be of interest.

Univ. of Wisconsin

J. H. MATHEWS