

Winter 1951

Police Science Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 42 *J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci.* 562 (1951-1952)

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph Turner*

ALCOHOL AND ROAD TRAFFIC (Proceedings of the First International Conference, Stockholm, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1950). Stockholm, 1951. Pp. 336. (Available in N. America and U. S. Possessions from R. F. Borckenstein, 6441 Broadway, Indianapolis, Indiana. \$3.00 postpaid.)

During the past two decades, the extent and quality of Scandinavian research on the medical, physical, and social aspects of acute alcoholism has surpassed that in all the rest of the civilized world. It was therefore fitting that the First International Conference on Alcohol and Traffic be held in Stockholm, Sweden. This book represents the entire proceedings of the three-day session, held Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1950. A total of nineteen countries were represented, including 12 European nations and 5 representatives of western hemisphere countries. The report is divided into four sections. (A) A survey of the legal restrictions on alcohol use by motorists in various countries (p. 1-82). (B) Medical aspects of acute alcoholism (p. 85-180). (C) Legal aspects (p. 181-272). (D) Educational aspects and social statistics (p. 273-326).

With very few exceptions, all papers and discussion are in English and where other languages are employed, an English resume is usually appended. An author and subject index (p. 327-336) is useful in enabling the reader to find material which is of particular interest.

A number of the papers which were presented deserve special mention. Among these are the careful and exhaustive studies made by the Stockholm group (Dr. Leonard Goldberg and his associates) on the nature of alcohol tolerance (p. 85-106) and on the effect of alcohol on automobile driving ability (p. 132-149). The application of breath analysis as a means for estimating body alcohol concentration is discussed by Prof. R. N. Harger (p. 107-121), who might well be called the pioneer in this field, and also by Prof. H. Ward Smith (p. 122-123) and Lt. Robert Borckenstein (p. 200-203).

Of special interest to readers of this Journal will be the paper by Prof. David G. Monroe (p. 188-189) on the Constitutionality of Chemical Tests for Intoxication in the U. S. A.

While the papers which were presented at this International Conference are all of high caliber, some of the most significant points are to be found in the discussions which occurred following the presentation, and which are printed in their entirety.

The variations in the criteria of alcohol intoxication which one finds are almost unbelievable. In some countries, such as Greece and Iran, it appears that a motorist must be really "drunk" before he is in violation of the law, while in others such as Norway, the drinking of more than two beers would place the driver beyond the pale. A wine drinking nation such as Italy finds that the problem of the drinking driver is negligible and accounts for only 1% of the traffic accidents (p. 320). On the other hand Toronto, Canada, reports (p. 150) that of 919 motorists involved in accidents, about one-third had been drinking alcoholic liquor and one-sixth had more than .05% alcohol in their circulating blood. Companies which provide casualty insurance for

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trucks have found that they could profitably give lower insurance rates to men who were members of the Scandinavian Union of Temperance Drivers.

This volume presents a good cross-section of the efforts which have been made in various parts of the civilized world in attempting to cope with problems arising out of the misuse of alcohol by motorists.

Toxicological Laboratory
Michigan Department of Health

C. W. MUEHLBERGER

The book "Alcohol and Road Traffic" is the published proceedings of the First International Conference on Alcohol and Traffic held in Stockholm, Sweden August 30 to September 1, 1950. There were about 135 delegates present representing 21 countries from every continent. Since the early work on this problem was done at the University of Lund by Prof. Widmark, Sweden was the natural place for such a conference to take place. The Swedes were most thorough in their preparations, although they admitted they had no idea that the Conference would reach such proportions. They considered the wide interest in it an indication of the recognition of the problem and the need for definite action.

The sessions were held in the Swedish Parliament Building. The papers and discussions were divided into three groups, each occupying one day. The first day the Medical Aspects were presented and discussed. Such matters as tolerance, effects on driving ability, techniques of chemical testing, and techniques of clinical testing were presented and discussed.

The second day was devoted to the Legal Aspects. The legal approaches to the problem in various countries were very interesting, illustrating the difference in the legal philosophy from country to country. Readers in this country will be interested in the accounts of European practice, particularly the Scandinavian countries where stringent enforcement policies are in effect.

The third day was spent discussing the problem of Public Education. Several motorists' clubs presented their views on public information.

The *Proceedings* have been published by an editorial committee and include reports and communications submitted to the Conference in advance of its meeting, papers presented at the sessions, and discussions at the Conference. Since the official language was English, all but two of the papers, and all the discussions, are in English. In addition to the entire proceedings of the Conference, there are communications from 23 countries describing their recognition, legislation, and approach to the problem of alcohol and traffic.

The book must be considered as a compilation of very valuable information, most of which can not be found elsewhere. The discussions were not in every case harmonious, and the face to face discussion of top level workers stimulated some profitable arguments. There are many typographical errors, but as Jane Rosell, the secretary of the editorial committee so aptly stated, it is not easy for a Swede to transcribe from a record what a Dane says in English.

R. F. BORKENSTEIN

MAJOR BYRON, THE INCREDIBLE CAREER OF A LITERARY FORGER. By *Theodore G. Ehram*. Charles S. Boesen, New York. 1951. Pp. viii, 217. \$6.00.

Here truly is the incredible life and career of a literary forger. The author has compiled a thoroughly documented biography of Major George Gordon DeLuna Byron who claimed to be the son of the author George Gordon, Lord Byron. Major Byron's career was an unusual one, for much of it was spent preparing and circulating literary forgeries of Lord Byron, Shelley, and Keats.

About half of the book deals with his life and career, telling how he obtained genuine manuscripts of Byron, Keats and Shelley, from which his forgeries sprung, and how ultimately he circulated and sold these forgeries.

The balance of the book is devoted to a discussion of certain of these forgeries and of documents which have been attributed by some to be the work of Major Byron but which the author shows are actually genuine documents. It is this portion of the book that is of greatest interest to the document examiner.

Those who are familiar with *The Shelley Legend* by Robert Metcalf Smith will find special interest in the discussion of two Shelley manuscripts which in *The Shelley Legend* were pointed out to be forgeries but which this author defends as authentic documents.

It is unfortunate that these critical documents, as well as others which are reproduced in this book, were not reproduced in clear half-tones but appear only as line-cuts. This poor quality of cut detracts somewhat from the book, especially to those who would find interest in making a further study of the handwriting of Major Byron's forgeries and of these two controversial Shelley manuscripts. Actually, the handwriting is a vital question in determining whether or not these two documents are authentic.

The author is to be commended for an excellent and interesting text. Here is a carefully written description of the operation of both a skillful forger and one who, through developing confidence in those with whom he was dealing, was able to circulate his fraudulent works.

Examiner of Questioned Documents
New York City

ORDWAY HILTON

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY. By *Henry T. F. Rhodes*, Department of Technical Police, Prefecture of the Rhone, France. Chapman and Hall, Ltd., London. 1946. Pp. 164. \$3.75.

This smallish book of 164 pages has a collection of the several important phases of forensic chemistry which the author divided into seven chapters. I. Direct identification of the person, II. Indirect identification of the person, III. Stains, IV. Firearms and Explosives, V. Chemical examination of questioned documents, VI. Chemical examination of counterfeit money, VII. Examination of toxic agents. Several of these chapters were excellent in describing the chemical processes involved with latent fingerprints and in the classification of occupational dust. The details on dust was especially good and indicated personal experiences. The sections on firearms and explosives and questioned documents were also very good. The section on counterfeit money contributed little especially to forensic chemists in this country.

It was a disappointment to notice the absence of discussions even if short on hit and run problems, etching techniques, and other similar important subjects to the forensic chemist. The section on examination of toxic agents was fairly good in a general sense, but no mention was made of marijuana, heroin, or opium, which may be considered a very important problem for the police chemist.

The author's references are numerous including many to the French and German literature, but on inspection it was noticed that many of these were more than 20 years old. The author would have done well to refer to the more recent researches. Much has been done in the last 20 years, especially in forensic chemistry.

State Toxicologist
Commonwealth of Virginia

SIDNEY KAYE

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION. By *LeMoyne Snyder*. Revised and Enlarged Sixth Printing. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1951. Pp. 451. \$7.50

This well known and successfully introduced book of LeMoyne Snyder has now appeared in a 6th revised and enlarged printing—indeed an enviable record. This fact alone proves that it is an outstanding and unique monograph in a highly important field of criminal investigations. The book contains 20 chapters, and the first five are dedicated to examination of the scene of a homicide, identification of the dead body, examination of blood stains, and estimation of time of death. Very valuable chapters deal with various types and kinds of violent death, such as homicide due to cutting and stabbing instruments. Instances of death resulting from direct external violence, inflicted by blunt objects, such as an iron bar, a brick, a hammer, etc., are described and analyzed in detail. The most significant chapters dealing with identification of firearms (bullets, cartridges, powder marks), the analysis of gunshot and shotgun wounds with all the pertinent details are minutely discussed and profusely illustrated.

The author of "Technique of Criminal Interrogation" is Mr. Harold Mulbar, Captain of Michigan State Police. Many police investigators will read with profit his remarks and instructions relevant to obtaining truthful information through questioning of the suspect and witness. The section on "Preservation and Transportation of Firearms Evidence" is a classic elaboration by Charles M. Wilson, Superintendent of Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory, and should be conscientiously and repeatedly studied by every police officer and investigator, and all the good advice kept well in mind. It is pitiful to see during a murder trial the confused testimony and utter helplessness of an unprepared police officer who conducted the entire crime investigation and is unable to show the vital facts in the case before the Judge and Jury.

One of the most interesting chapters, "The Investigation of Deaths due to Highway Accidents," is worked out with great care by C. W. Muehlberger, Director of Michigan Crime Detection Laboratory. His experience in conducting investigations in this field qualifies him eminently for writing this useful section. It is well and richly illustrated. Muehlberger offers expert advice as to search for traces, marks of external violence, and other essential facts which should not be overlooked. It covers thoroughly all the vital and pertinent data important to reconstruction of the accident.

This book can be greatly recommended to every student and expert in criminology alike.

St. Louis, Mo.

E. L. MILOSLAVICH

TARGET SHOOTING TODAY. By *Captain Paul B. Weston*, Greensburg, Publisher, 201 East 57th Street, New York 22. 1950. Pp. 81. Plates 27. \$2.

The book by Captain Weston is written in a style that is easily read, but contains little that has not already been written in many other books on pistol and revolver shooting.

Chapter 10, "Planned Dry Shooting" is the most interesting and instructive part of the book and should give the seasoned shooter, as well as the novice, a procedure that he will be most likely to follow and thus improve his score.

The author's psychology on aiming, which may be found in the second paragraph on page 41, is good. "When a shooter is fully aware that any shot fired when the sights are lined up anywhere within his aiming area will be a good shot, then he has removed the cause of most of his troubles. He will focus his eyes on the sights—the temptation to focus on the target