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Police Science Book Reviews

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the best evidence rule. The court, however, found that the admissions were not recorded illegally for the microphone was not planted in defendant's office against his will but carried in by the prose-

cutrix who was invited by the defendant to his office. The admission of the re-recording was not found to be contrary to the best evidence rule for the original recording was also before the jury.

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb*

THE EVIDENCE HANDBOOK. By *Robert L. Donigan and Edward C. Fisher*, The Traffic Institute of Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., 1958. Pp. 205, \$5.00.

This is an expansion and revision of *The Evidence Handbook* written by F. M. Kreml and published in 1943. This book went through six printings and established itself as the standard evidence text for police officers. Because of the press of other duties Kreml was unable to make the necessary revision so the present authors have. Their reputations as writers on the law for police is well known and justified. This book is up to their usual high standard.

Most evidence texts suffer from at least two defects from the viewpoint of police officers. They contain considerable detail rarely needed by the police, and they are usually written in that style that may be clear to lawyers, but to no one else. It is quite possible to clearly explain the law without recourse to the style of writing lawyers are apparently schooled in. Kreml originally, and now Donigan and Fisher are able to write very concisely, yet in a manner that is easy and pleasant to read.

This book is somewhat expanded over the original, and it includes all of the latest decisions. As a result, it is the only text on the subject that a police officer will need for it is both sufficiently complete and entirely authoritative.

There is considerable need for training police in this subject. Too often, officers will make a brilliant investigation from the standpoint of thoroughness and the proper use of all scientific aids, then discover that they cannot get much of their evidence into court. This is all the more unfortunate because with only a little additional time

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and knowledge of the law of evidence, they could have. There is no question but that many of our cases fail only because evidence was not gathered in such a way as to make it admissible.

This book will continue to be a standard in the police field. It is one of a small group that should be read, studied, and applied by every officer.

R. L. HOLCOMB

POLICE MANAGEMENT PLANNING. By *John P. Kenney*, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1959. Pp. 149, Illus. 4, \$5.25.

There are several good books on police administration, but here is the first to discuss the management aspect alone. This is in line with a growing, and excellent, tendency to develop some basic approaches to the police problems. The viewpoint gained from a study of this book will aid any police administrator.

While there is some brief discussion of specific ways of doing things, most of the material treats the underlying theory. Chapter headings are: The Police, Nature of Planning, Planning Process, Organization, Personnel, Training, Budgeting, Records, Coordination, Control and Inspection, Police Leadership, and Management.

There are a number of references following each chapter. These, combined with the text material, would give a very complete, and up-to-date understanding of management as it applies to police. The police field is expanding rapidly. Problems are both more numerous and more complex. Budgets have not increased so as to keep pace; ratios of police to population are falling. Therefore, it is essential that law enforcement organizations operate with the greatest efficiency. This book will help them do that.

The major criticism is that it is too brief. John Kenney has a lot of good ideas, and expresses them

well. I would have liked to have seen him go into more detail.

R. L. HOLCOMB

SUSPECT DOCUMENTS, THEIR SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION. By *Wilson R. Harrison*, M.Sc., Ph.D., Frederick A. Praeger, Inc., New York 1958. Pp. 584, Illust. \$15.00.

Suspect Documents deals with the principal problems in the field of questioned document examination, including questions arising during field investigations, in the laboratory, and in the court room. This is the first British publication of any consequence, and it gives a good idea of the status of the work in that country. At the same time the book might serve as an excellent text for a student examiner for not only are the principles thoroughly discussed, but a good description is given of how one might go about applying these principles.

The presentation begins with a brief account of the materials—papers, pens, pencils, crayons, inks, and adhesives—which make up documents. The only phase of typewriting included at this point is a section on typewriting ribbon inks.

The identification of typewriting however is adequately treated in the chapter on Typescript. Here can be found the various methods for identifying typewriting, for preparing reference collections, and the important problem of assembling typewriting standards. New ideas will be found interwoven with standard procedures. Only limited space unfortunately is devoted to problems involving the more modern designs of type—shaded and proportional spacing fonts—which may be due to the fact that, unlike present trends in this country, these special fonts have not achieved much popularity in England.

In "Handwriting" the basic rules of identification and ways of gaining proficiency in these identifications are set forth. Following and closely related is a very fine chapter on disguised handwriting in which the author indicates his wide experience with the various methods of disguise and how one may penetrate these attempts to effect an identification.

Chapter 11 might better have been entitled "Genuine and Forged Signatures" since it opens with a good discussion of the qualities of genuine signatures and the methods of their identification. Building upon this base the author then proceeds to forged signatures and their defects. Sections on

guided-hand signatures and the effects of illness or senility on handwriting round out the presentation of the signature problem.

The anonymous letter raises perplexing questions for both the examiner and field investigator. In a separate chapter the various types of anonymous letters and suggestions regarding field investigations are treated. This is one of several chapters of special value to police and private investigators.

"Dating of Documents" deals primarily with the elements within the document itself which could shed light upon its actual age as opposed to its alleged age. After this phase of the dating problem is completed the question of relative time of writing as revealed by the sequence of intersecting strokes is taken up.

Three chapters—The Preliminary Examination, Examination in the Laboratory, and the Preliminary Phase of a Document Examination—are related by title, but are separated by intervening chapters. The first and last titles suggest that the material could be combined, but the first is chapter 3 and the other, chapter 12. The Preliminary Examination apparently was written for the field investigator and suggests how he can make initial examinations of a suspected document. In many ways though this chapter goes further and deals with examinations which certainly are first steps in the laboratory. "The Preliminary Phase of a Document Examination" on the other hand is primarily concerned with problems which the field investigator or attorney will encounter—the collection of standards, selection of a document examiner, and basic field investigation of the case itself.

The various types of expert examinations including microscopic, ultraviolet, infrared, and chemical testing are to be found in "Examination in the Laboratory". So are certain specific problems—the detection and decipherment of erasures, charred documents, and the development of latent fingerprints on documents. All are very competently handled. A high point in this chapter, however, is the detailed discussion of modern methods of ink examination, an up-to-date account of this highly technical subject which considers chromatographic and electrophoretic methods and chemical means of distinguishing between modern writing inks.

The chapters on photography and laboratory equipment have special value since the author discusses equipment in his own laboratory and

evaluates this for the benefit of those who are interested in setting up or augmenting their laboratory facilities. He also describes his unique photographic arrangement for illuminating documents, a new contribution to designing equipment.

This book, like any in the field, reflects the national experiences of the author, and workers of other countries need to approach some sections critically. For example, included in the first illustration in the chapter on typescript is a typically English type style under Remington, which would be found very rarely in the United States. Likewise, court procedures are national dealing basically with English courts. Legal proceedings involving document testimony have their points of difference in the United States and continental Europe.

In some respects there are minor short-comings of the book. Very few references are made to illustrations, which are generally well chosen and helpful, and more extensive text references would be valuable. By the same token a number of cross references could be included, especially in the chapter on typescript. In statements of the nature, "This will be referred to in greater detail elsewhere", "elsewhere" could be pinpointed.

The text is long because the entire field of questioned document examination is very broad. Nevertheless, there seems to be more repetition than is needed. Possibly repeating of important points has its merits, but in the eyes of this reviewer not all repeated thought and statements are essential or desirable. On the whole, however, things move along smoothly and properly.

For those interested in learning more about the work of a document examiner, especially students who are seeking a good account of present day methods, Dr. Harrison's text is strongly recommended. Investigators, police officers, and attorneys will find suggestions on the investigation of questioned document problems of help. *Suspect Documents* is a basic, significant contribution to the literature of this highly specialized field.

ORDWAY HILTON

New York City

PHOTOGRAPHY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. By *Charles E. O'Hara*, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester 4, N. Y. 1959. Pp. 80, Illus. 65, \$1.25
This is a practical, well illustrated, and well

written book on photography in all phases of law enforcement. It is not a basic text on photographic methods, but rather discusses the applications with specific photographic methods for the solution of problems peculiar to law enforcement.

While this publication is only 80 pages long, it is so well written and illustrated that it does a very adequate job of covering the material presented. There are chapters on: Functions of Law-Enforcement Photography, Identification Photography, Crime-Scenes, Specific Crimes, Traffic Accidents, Articles of Evidence, Fingerprints, Document Examination, "On-the-Spot" Photography, Preparing the Court Exhibit, The Photographer in Court, the Application of Photography to Training, Crime Prevention and Public Relations, and Darkroom Layouts.

At the price of \$1.25, this is one of the best bargains in police books. It is punched and can be included in the excellent Kodak Photographic Notebook so that for a very modest price it is possible to have an excellent technical library on all phases of photography.

Eastman brought out a book of the same title in 1948. This was a good book, but the present one is entirely new and even better. The illustrations are taken from police files. A number of them are in color. O'Hara has written on the technical aspects of police work before. In this book he has equaled his high standard of performance.

There is a good combination of discussion of what pictures to make, how to make them, and how to use them as evidence. Few texts treat on all of these aspects of the problem. As a result, this is the only book presently published that can serve as a complete text for a photographer in law enforcement. It is always at a practical level. The problems regularly encountered in law enforcement are discussed and sound solutions are given. All of this with no excess words.

Photography is a basic police technique. Every law enforcement agency has many applications for photographic methods. Therefore, this book should be in all law enforcement agencies. Every individual officer who has any contact with photography should have a copy. The price makes this possible and the quality of this publication makes it worthwhile.

R. L. HOLCOMB