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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb*

A HANDBOOK OF ARREST, SEARCH AND SEIZURE.
By *Howard M. Smith*, Charles C Thomas,
Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1959. Pp. 93. \$3.75

This is a very brief discussion of arrest, search, and seizure, and since it is so brief, it is often misleading, and in some cases of only limited value. For example, in discussing arrest without a warrant, the author says "It may be regarded as settled that a peace officer may arrest without a warrant whenever he has reasonable grounds to suspect that a felony has been committed or whenever a misdemeanor had been committed in his presence. An officer must follow the above rules; for if he makes an illegal arrest, he may place himself in a position where he is liable for damages." This is true in some states, but not in others where a public offense need not be committed in the officer's presence.

Similarly, exemptions from arrest are discussed only briefly. It is true that these are not frequent, but when they do occur, they are confusing unless the officer clearly knows the law. The author undoubtedly could discuss this subject completely since Maryland officers have more than the usual contact with persons with diplomatic immunity or legislative immunity.

I feel that this book has lost much of its value because it is too brief and so does not consider all of the laws or all of the possibilities. At the same time, it is well written and organized, and it is apparent that given more space, the author would have done a much better job.

R. L. HOLCOMB

AN INTRODUCTION TO TOOL MARKS, FIREARMS,
AND THE STRIAGRAPH. By *John E. Davis*, Charles
C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1958. Pp. xvi +
282, Illus. 142. \$7.50.

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Published as a monograph in the Police Science Series, "An Introduction to Tool Marks, Firearms, and the Striagraph" presents a more than elementary treatment of two important segments of criminalistics. Davis limits the scope of his book to a general discussion of impression marks, striated tool marks, firearms identification, and a detailed discussion of micro-contour analysis. With the exception of the latter topic, the Striagraph, these subjects are not exhausting enough to benefit a beginning criminalist. For readers with sufficient background, this book will provide some new ideas.

Since micro-contour analysis is little used in criminalistics, this portion of the book will represent its major contribution. By means of a mechanical-optical system, the profile of a surface can be recorded and studied. Davis' Striagraph will operate upon flat or cylindrical surface. Unlike the comparison microscope, it will not work well with mutilated bullets. Perhaps its great forte is in analyzing the contour of deep marks, or conversely, shallow undulations. By the author's own statement, we are assured that it will never replace the comparison microscope. The Striagraph may never become a major piece of equipment in crime laboratories. It seems a pity that an instrument capable of inspiring a great deal of research and an interestingly written book lacks universality. For all of the excellent illustrations, diagrams for its construction are lacking.

The number and fine quality of the illustrations do credit to the author's skill as a technician. The absence of credit references, even to his own earlier writings on the subject are puzzling; perhaps the author and/or publisher have reasons.

No major shortcomings can be stressed that should not make Davis' book a desirable addition to the criminalist's library.

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