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## Police Science Book Reviews

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

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Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb\*

THE PRACTICAL PATROLMAN. By *David H. Gilston and Lawrence Podell*, Charles C Thomas Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1959. Pp. 255. \$6.75.

This is a controversial book. There is a great deal of excellent and practical information. At the same time, it recommends practices that many departments may use, but certainly do not teach or approve of; for example, stepping gently on a drunk's fingers to bring him to. There is also some inaccurate information. The section entitled "Psychos" gets off to a bad start by so labelling all mentally ill or abnormal people. Then a paranoid personality that is usually classified as psychotic is classed as neurotic, all persons attempting suicide are lumped under the heading "Self-destructive Psychos" even though many of these people should not be so classified.

It is a little surprising that this material on abnormal people is perhaps the poorest in the book for one of the authors, Podell, has a Ph.D. in sociology. The other author has had fourteen years of police experience, and for the most part this book shows that he was learning all of this time for there are a great many excellent sections. The book is filled with practical ways of doing things that are usually learned only by hard experience or from contact with older officers. I feel that this good material far over-balances the questionable material, although some caution must be used in taking everything said as gospel. This is particularly true if a single sentence or paragraph is taken out of context, for the authors have been quite consistent in adding cautions or giving both sides of the case where controversial questions are raised. In other words, if you read the entire book and absorb the author's viewpoint, you will be on safe ground.

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Like many first books, this one is too short. I would like to see future editions considerably expanded for I am sure that Gilston and Podell would do a good job. However, the book does very well in setting out what it starts to cover. Effective use is made of illustrations from case histories. This is a good way to show how the material discussed can be applied. However, it would have been increasingly effective to have given references to other books or articles that go further into the various sections. There are no such references. For example, a reference to the excellent booklet *How to Recognize and Handle Abnormal People* published by the National Association for Mental Health, would have materially strengthened the section labelled "Psychos".

The material is organized into three sections—The Job; The People; and The Life. The section, The Job, includes chapters on the use of force, patrol methods, and arrest. The section, The People, covers special people (juveniles, women, psychos, drug addicts, etc.), the press, and police personnel. The third section, The Life, covers making it a long one (health and safety), making it productive (promotion and retirement), and making it a happy one (attitudes, the professional outlook, etc.).

I have been somewhat critical of this book because I believe that it can be improved. I also believe that it will be improved. Other reviews will vary from highly laudatory to highly critical. In my opinion, this book is a good job, one of the few treating police work from a practical standpoint, one of the few that covers the many little details that an officer needs to do the best possible job or to make his work easier. It should be widely read by all ranks in forces of any size, but it should be read with a small amount of caution.

R. L. HOLCOMB

HOW TO RECOGNIZE TYPE FACES, (Second Edition). By R. Randolph Karch, McKnight & McKnight Publishing Co., Bloomington, Ill., 1959. Pp. 264, \$6.00.

The original 1952 edition of this reference work covered about 1500 of the printing type faces most generally encountered in the United States. These were classified and examples reproduced, arranged according to recognition characteristics of a few letters conforming to a systematic identification key. Thus the volume provided a practical means for rapid identification of any commonly encountered style of printers' type. The current second edition continues this, expanding it by several hundred additional types to include a total approaching 1800. The only other modification is a minor one in the physical make-up of the type recognition tables (which comprise Part Two of the book) and aid comparison of the key letter forms of each type.

In the forty-page Part One preceding the recognition key, the author discusses general qualities of type, such as designs, fonts and series, that distinguish one type from another. This condensed informative discussion includes the anatomy of letter design, the "fit" and color of type, sizes, effects of enlargement and reduction, and identification of the fundamental reproduction processes as well as other related aspects of type. With the prevalence in recent years of new typewriter type designs, an understanding and familiarity with such design qualities has become essential to professional qualification in document examination. The value of this compact reference

work, standing alone in its field, should be obvious to any engaged in document identification and analysis work.

Karch's book, however, has an additional, less tangible potential value to any document examiner seeking to improve his abilities. It focuses attention on and emphasizes the subtle variations in design which enable one to distinguish between closely similar letter forms within a single class or type family. By so doing, it provides an opportunity to readers to concentrate attention actively and closely on the elements of letter design of numerous varied examples. By subtle psychological process, practice in this kind of activity tends to sharpen and intensify the individual's alertness and ability to detect, appraise and make use of these and other similar properties of form. Those whose work deals with detailed handwriting and typewriting comparisons are benefitted by enhanced ability for critical discrimination in matters of outline, form, and design. This reviewer doubts that anyone who seriously studies Karch's exposition of type design and follows its practical application to classified type can fail to appreciably improve his faculties of observation and comparison.

Karch's *How to Recognize Type Faces*, Second Edition, is recommended, both as a reference work and as practice material for applying the psychology of vision to self-improvement to those not already in possession of the 1952 edition.

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