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Police Science Legal Abstracts

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plate making, duplicate plates, and duplicating processes. Features by which some of the processes can be identified are included. (OH)

Relationship of Mathematical Probability to the Handwriting Identification Problem—Ordway Hilton, *R.C.M.P., Seminar #5*: 121-128 (1958). Besides setting forth generalized probability formulas, the article includes special considerations in the handwriting problem, testing probability determinations, and the effect of limiting the number of characteristics. The author points out that probability determinations are not a necessary element of accurate handwriting identification. (OH)

Questioned Document Studies in Officer Training—Alwyn Cole, *R.C.M.P., Seminar #5*: 136-161 (1958), presents excerpts from the training course for Treasury Law Enforcement Officers. (OH)

Counterfeit Stamps and Stamp Impressions—Jean Gayet, *R.C.M.P., Seminar #5*: 162-170 (1958). Two types of stamp impressions are considered. the damp impression (e.g. stamp pad ink) and dry impressions i.e. embossed impressions. Methods of preparing the recognizing fraudulent and altered impressions are considered and typical examples are illustrated. (OH)

The Academy's Role in the Future of Forensic Sciences—Ordway Hilton, *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 5 (3), July 1960. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences although relatively young has already exerted a marked influence on our work. The well educated forensic scientist cannot be a true champion of justice and truth unless he is governed by the highest ethical instincts. If he is willing to compromise his ethics in any way, his

superior ability is likewise compromised. On the other hand, the most sincere, ethical worker who is not fully trained can through his partial ignorance unwittingly obstruct and interfere with the administration of justice. Education of the forensic scientist, and those who might need his assistance, always looms as a significant problem.

When one looks at the academic programs that are now available for training forensic scientists, one realizes their limitations. Many programs today are in their infancy. Today, much of forensic science training is found in the form of apprenticeships in practicing laboratories under the guidance of senior staff members.

There are two further considerations in the education of the forensic scientist, the elimination or discouragement of the part time practitioner and the advanced training of those who make this work their life time avocation. Because of the relationship of forensic science to medical and physical sciences there is a strong temptation for some well trained individuals in these fields to dabble occasionally with forensic problems. It is essential, in order to develop a trained forensic scientist into a mature worker, to provide for him the opportunity of continual interchange of ideas and methods with fellow workers.

We are today living and working in a very healthy atmosphere of the forensic sciences. The legal profession and our courts have come to recognize the significant contribution which we as specialists and expert witnesses can make toward the administration of justice. However, we are never entirely free from those who would attempt to pervert this work. It is therefore essential for the American Academy of Forensic Sciences to educate and to enlighten the courts and the legal profession regarding the proper and correct methods in the forensic sciences and to point out the errors and fallacies of those techniques which are incorrect. (WEK)

POLICE SCIENCE LEGAL ABSTRACTS

Beginning with this issue of the Journal, all abstracts of recent legal decisions will be combined in a special section entitled, "Abstracts of Recent Cases." This section may be found immediately following the "Criminal Law Comments" section of the Journal. It will continue to be the policy of the Journal to report legal decisions of interest to those active in the field of Police Science. However, it is the opinion of the editors that all legal abstracts should appear in a single section rather than in two separate sections as heretofore.—EDITOR.