

Spring 1964

Police Science Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 55 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 173 (1964)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb*

CRIMINAL INTERROGATION AND CONFESSIONS. By Fred E. Inbau and John E. Reid. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore. 1962. Pp. 214. \$6.50

In 1942 Fred E. Inbau wrote *Lie Detection and Criminal Investigation*. This book proved to be a landmark in the field. Professor Inbau was not only an expert polygraph examiner and interrogator, but as an attorney he had made a most complete study of the law of interrogation and confessions. The demand for this book increased and the law became more complex, so in 1948 the second edition appeared. The number of pages increased from 142 to 193 in order to cover new developments in the technique and in the law. In 1953 the third edition was published with John E. Reid as co-author. Like Inbau, Reid is an attorney with long and extremely practical experience in the field of lie detection. The new edition again was greatly expanded this time to 242 pages. Like the two previous editions it came to be the recognized standard.

Now we have a fourth publication. This book treats only criminal interrogation and confessions. Lie detection will be covered in a separate volume now about to be published. Again the material has been greatly expanded and is without question the most authoritative, complete and clearly written, available. The reputation of the authors will be further enhanced by this significant contribution to an important area.

Any person who has been in police work very long realizes that case after case is based to a large degree on what the accused tells you. Often he confesses and then pleads guilty. He may confess, then retract and stand trial. Even without a confession the suspect may voluntarily say many things that will result in the discovery of important evidence. It is not easy to get a person to tell you things that may send him to prison, ruin his reputation, disgrace his family, and change his whole way of life, but this is done daily by competent police officers. All possible legal and effective techniques are invariably covered by Inbau and Reid in detail based on their wide personal and very practical experience.

A confession or admission is of no value unless it was properly obtained. You must follow some

* Director, Bureau of Police Science, State University of Iowa, Iowa City.

of the most complex rules in law in order to allow what you have learned to be admitted. These rules are rapidly becoming even more complex and it is increasingly difficult to obtain a confession where all of them have been followed. However, this book does cover the law from a practical standpoint and as completely as possible. No similar publication can compare with it. As a result, this book is a must for anyone involved in any way in the criminal process. A new law enforcement officer will find that it has a wealth of information; an older officer will learn additional methods of interrogation; everyone will be brought up-to-date on the constantly changing law.

This book is an essential in the police field and in the entire area of the administration of criminal justice.

R. L. HOLCOMB

Iowa City

ALCOHOL AND ROAD TRAFFIC. Proceedings of the Third International Conference. The British Medical Association, Tabstock Square, London, W.C.1. 1963. Pp. 362. \$10.00

The three international conferences on alcohol and road traffic have served to bring together the most competent people in this field. The papers presented have been of a uniformly high quality. This book is a collection of sixty-five papers or reports of working parties. All but a very few are in English, and these are followed by a summary in English. There are many illustrations and charts.

The subjects covered are divided into five general groups; alcohol and road accidents; the drinking driver; pharmacological, physiological and psychological aspects of alcohol intoxication; chemical test; and comparative aspects.

While a limited amount of this material is highly technical, most of it does not require a degree in chemistry to understand. This is in no way a primer, but any person with a serious interest in the problem of alcohol and traffic will find an immense amount of information available here. This is especially true because there are two columns to a page allowing more than the ordinary amount of text.

Alcohol and road traffic is a major police problem. This conference and the proceeding ones

are the first international meetings, to my knowledge, that have brought together experts from many countries to study any problem confronting the police in great detail. It is true that there are international meetings of Interpol and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, but here a group of experts in one particular area met for a considerable time, rolled up their sleeves, and went to work. This sort of attack on other problems in law enforcement should yield equally good results. Contributions were made by all countries represented and the resulting discussion will serve as a fine stimulus to further research and planning.

This book should be available to anyone with a serious interest in alcohol and traffic.

R. L. HOLCOMB

Iowa City

POLICE SEARCHING PROCEDURES. By *J. McCauslin Moynahan, Jr.*, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 1963. Pp. 78. Illus. 117. \$4.75.

An interesting presentation of basic police methods for searching criminal suspects is offered by Mr. Moynahan. By utilizing photographs to a great degree, step by step procedures of searching techniques are illustrated in a manner which can be easily understood at all enforcement levels.

Police Searching Procedures offers another building block to the grey area of police training. The book should be in every police department library.

HARVEY MILLER

Iowa City

INTERGROUP RELATIONS FOR POLICE OFFICERS.

By *Charlotte Epstein*, The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1962. Pp. 194. \$3.25.

Once in awhile a publication appears which presents in a few pages all the pertinent material on a subject of value to the reader. Dr. Epstein cuts the fluff and puffery from intergroup relations to reveal police, and our own, preconceived bias and prejudice in a cold, merciless, analytical light. But she does this with such a warmth of appreciation of the police function, of its strengths and limitations, that the reader cannot help but be impressed by her depth of understanding.

The author's approach to this vital subject is neither congratulatory nor condemning. If the reader sees himself or his department in any of the many suggested poses, he has taken the initial step toward improvement.

Dr. Epstein's several chapters on prejudice and discrimination are a "must" for every police officer and we would hope, every civilian.

This candid appraisal of the major problems that we as police face in our fluid society today, especially that of understanding ourselves in relationships with others, is best summed up in the author's challenge:

"Perhaps police officers reading this book will protest that we expect too much of them, that it is not possible for any one professional group to develop the skills, learn the things, and live by the standards set forth here . . . what we must do is keep setting our goals ever higher so that we never do reach them—else we have no reason for continuously trying to better ourselves. We set our sights high, but we do not expect ultimate success because we read a book, or extend the training time of a generation of officers. But if we do not set our sights, if we do not map out the route, how will we know where we are heading?"

Charlotte Epstein has made an important contribution to police science, an important contribution to any person interested in group relations, and who is not? A "well done" is in order for the author and her book.

HARVEY MILLER

Iowa City

INSTITUTE ON CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. By the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 1962. Pp. 132. \$5.50.

In this compilation a dozen top law enforcement officers offer a definitive and concise overview of major police problems and techniques for handling special problems in law enforcement.

Though seemingly not intended as a blueprint for successful police operations, this book examines facets of interest to every police officer and agency. What is your taste in enforcement practices? Checks, scientific detection aids, narcotics, jewel thefts, police records, organized crime, or con games? All are examined in the Institute's publication.

Neither technical nor detailed, this book offers a refreshingly practical guide for understanding and evaluating specialized procedures and techniques in the police profession today. A valuable addition to any police library.

HARVEY MILLER

Iowa City