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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb*

MANUEL DE POLICE SCIENTIFIQUE. By *Jean Gayet*, Payot, Paris, 1961. Pp. 462. 31.00 NF.

Jean Gayet is Head of the Criminalistics Section of the Lyon Police Laboratory, and while he is well known to many readers as an expert on questioned documents, he is also qualified to handle a wide range of laboratory investigations. His book, *Manuel de Police Scientifique* deals with these various questions. It is divided into six sections, the first of 75 pages dealing with traces, the second of 52 pages dealing with firearms identification, the third of 75 pages dealing with fires and explosions, the fourth of 80 pages dealing with typewriting identification, the fifth of 120 pages dealing with the examination of written texts, and the sixth of 25 pages with counterfeit money. In each section standard laboratory techniques and methods for assisting the investigators are presented.

The section on traces is devoted primarily to fingerprint and tool mark examination. In addition to fingerprint identification, however, the author discusses palm prints and sole prints together with footprints. The material discussed in these sections is handled effectively and concisely. The identification of tool marks follows with a discussion of the marks themselves and of the examination of the tools taken from suspects for traces of material which may have been picked up on the tool at a crime scene.

The various phases of firearms examination include markings on the fired bullets and on the cartridge shells. The methods of identification discussed are typically those of the French laboratory and involve techniques other than the use of the comparison microscope including rolling of the bullet on soft lead to transfer the rifling characteristics and photographic techniques. In addition, there is discussion of the use of the nitrate test and of the examination of the victims clothing for the purpose of determining the distance at which the shot was fired and the location of entrance and exit wounds.

The chapters covering fires discuss fires from natural causes, spontaneous combustion, defects

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in construction, accidental causes, and criminal acts. Basic laboratory techniques are found in the course of these chapters, but the greatest emphasis is placed on the detection of arson which, of course, is the principal interest of the criminalist in this field. In discussing acts of arson, a section is devoted to use of fires to cover up other crimes, such as murder, burglary, and embezzlement.

Several chapters are devoted to explosions. The author describes various causes of explosion, and numerous materials which may produce accidental or deliberate explosions connected with a criminal act. This section concludes with a helpful chapter on the investigation at the scene of explosion.

Approximately half of the book is taken up with document problems, the identification of typewriting, the examination and identification of handwriting and signatures, and alterations in documents. Mr. Gayet is well qualified to discuss these questions and gives a good insight into the techniques and emphases placed on standard methods by French experts. The chapters on typewriting identification summarize his earlier writings in technical journals, while his discussion of handwriting problems updates prior French writings, especially those of Dr. Locard, on this subject.

The final brief section dealing with counterfeiting of currency and coins is unique to this text. This is a phase of scientific laboratory investigation which had not had much publicity in English speaking countries. One short sub-section included in this part of the book deals with the interesting problem of forgery of lottery tickets.

Manuel de Police Scientifique represents a significant contribution to the scientific police literature. Laboratory workers dealing with problems covered by this book will find it worthy of translation.

ORDWAY HILTON

New York City

WHEELS OF FORTUNE. By *John Drzazga*, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1963. Pp. 369. \$11.50.

Publishers place a paper jacket over their new publications both to (1) protect the books and (2)

help boost the books' sales by giving a brief statement of the books' purported significance. (Not necessarily in that order.)

Wheels of Fortune, by John Drzazga, sports such a jacket—compliments of Charles C Thomas, the publisher, and the reader is duly informed that "For the First Time—an extensive study of gambling in all its phases . . . gambling and gambling equipment . . . methods of cheating . . . etc." That little explanatory tidbit is unpardonable. *Wheels of Fortune* is not the first extensive study on gambling. *Complete Guide to Gambling*, by John Scarne (usually considered the world's foremost authority on gambling) was published in 1961, two years before Drzazga's *Wheels of Fortune*, and was the first study of gambling in all its phases and still remains, by far, the most extensive study of its kind. It appears that neither the publisher nor the author has bothered to do their homework.

Drzazga, in the introduction, states that his book "should be of interest to persons assigned to the investigation of gambling violations and the enforcement of gambling statutes" (p. 3). The reviewer agrees that the book should be of some interest to enforcement agents in that (1) federal and state gambling laws are discussed, (2) judicial decisions that pertain to gambling and gamblers are discussed, (3) short biographies of past and present, suspected and convicted gamblers are given and (4) the book is filled with many colorful gambling anecdotes.

Like the jacket, Drzazga's book has some serious shortcomings. Consistency is not the author's forte and the majority of chapters just come to a grinding halt, leaving the reader, at best, perplexed. However, the most serious criticism this reviewer has is that the book is loaded with Drzazga's unsubstantiated value judgments. Drzazga abhors gambling per se, which, of course, is his prerogative, but, unfortunately, he uses his book to indiscriminately crusade against gambling. One such unsubstantiated value judgment should suffice to show this point. Drzazga states, "it is tragic that future historians will be forced to attribute the growth of the church in America to bingo and raffles. Such means of raising revenue makes people feel that honest labor is not desirable. The gambling fever which is induced destroys judgment and becomes a passion which is difficult to control" (p. 256).

Drzazga's two stands on civil liberties are a masterpiece in non sequitur. On the one hand,

Drzazga chides the U. S. Supreme Court for upholding the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments by outlawing the use of evidence gained by wire tapping, thus making it harder to convict criminals. (Pp. 94-115.) Then, he turns right around and informs the reader that the government, through its oppressive and tyrannical powers of taxation, is rapidly progressing to the point of being master of the people. The provisions of the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination no longer apply because the Internal Revenue Service requires the race tracks to report the name and address of all winners of \$600 or more on a two-dollar ticket in the Daily Double and all winners of \$3,000 or more on a ten-dollar Daily Double ticket, thus, making it easier to catch potential criminals. (Pp. 122-123.)

In conclusion, all gambling enforcement agents would do well to read and be familiar with the contents of both Scarne's *Complete Guide to Gambling* and Drzazga's *Wheels of Fortune*. However, if one has not the money, time, or inclination to read both—omit the latter.

CARL KALVELGE

Iowa City

READINGS IN ARREST, SEARCH, AND SEIZURE.

Edited by *Harry Diamond*, Department of Police Science and Administration, Los Angeles State College, Los Angeles, 1963. Pp. 236. \$3.25.

There is a tendency for books on arrest, search, and seizure to be quite limited in application because the authors often stick to the law of their own jurisdiction so closely that there is little application outside of the writer's own home state. Here we have an exception. There are several reasons for this. One is the constant intrusion of the Supreme Court of the United States into areas they previously considered the province of the various states. As a result, we are beginning to operate under federal rules. Second, much of the law on search and seizure, and a good part of the law on arrest originated with California cases. Third, the various authors have taken a more inclusive viewpoint than most and have not limited themselves to California law and cases.

One of the most interesting features of the book is a simple listing and a brief abstract of the U. S. Supreme Court decisions that have had an impact on law enforcement. This starts with *Adams v. New York* in 1904 and continues on to *Robinson v.*

California in 1962. This device very clearly and simply indicates what has been happening.

Whether or not we like these new interpretations of the law is beside the point. They are, for the present, the law of the land. We must learn to operate within them. This publication is for police officers and is one of the most inclusive treatments available to them. It is also priced for police officers, a point often overlooked. The material is offset printed from typed manuscript and is in a spiral binder with a substantial cover. It may not be as pretty as a printed and bound volume, but it will do a good job of informing police. This was what the people involved set out to do and they have accomplished their mission most satisfactorily.

The twenty-three areas considered are grouped into: perspective and trend; the relevant statutes (this is California law); reasonable or probable cause to arrest, search and seize, the enforcement officer, his authority and limitations; the citizen, his rights and limitations; procedures; and the exclusionary rule. This is a little different organization of the material than is usually seen, but it is very effective.

This is the sort of publication that is most welcome in the field of law enforcement.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

Iowa City

READINGS IN POLICE SUPERVISION. By Allen Bristow, Ed., Los Angeles State College, Publisher, 1963. Pp. 140. \$3.00.

All too often publications in police science leave much to be desired. One reads them, and comes away with the feeling of wonderment; just what was the author trying to say, and how does his presentation have any bearing at all on police science? Regardless of the definition one might place on the term police science, the goal must be to increase police services within the existing police organizational structures.

Readings in Police Supervision, is one of a series of low-priced, high-quality compilations of basic skills and knowledge for the police officer or police educator, published by Los Angeles State College. Police supervisors have long needed a handbook describing primary supervisory techniques, coupled with a simple explanation of the underlying theory of administration and where and how the police supervisor can adapt this theory to practice within his department. Allen Bristow, by combining the best thought of police supervisors and educators,

both the specialist and the functionalist, has come up with a first in the field of police supervision. This publication should be presented to every officer when they receive their supervisory rating. If read and applied by police supervisors, either line or staff, police management would be greatly enhanced.

HARVEY MILLER

Iowa City

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF STRANGE KILLERS. By James M. Reinhardt, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 1962. Pp. 196. \$7.00.

The study of murder, especially the bizarre killing, excites the imagination of criminologist and the public alike. Every person confronted by the inexplicable fact of death, finds himself involved one way or another. James Reinhardt is one of these persons. With the precision of a medical surgeon, Professor Reinhardt has dissected nine case studies of strange murders; murders committed on such a savage scale that the reporting of the facts created a national interest. From his studies two major questions arise.

1. What triggers the cold remorseless urge to kill? If symptomatic patterns can be established, do these patterns bear any relevancy to the cases studies? The author points out that the individual cases offer no correlation of facts or background that indicate clues to the violent act.
2. At what precise moment does the hammer of violence strike the firing pin of murder to upset what has appeared to be rational, socially acceptable past behavior on the part of the perpetrator?

The answer: no definite point of time can be established. However, certain relevant similarities can be noted. Chief among these is the marked autistic tendencies of the potential murderer in his or her social relations coupled later with the utterly cold sense of justifying the need of individual desires by a seemingly wanton killing. Basically, the killer feels some inner justification for his or her act, but cannot verbalize it so it can be understood in commonly accepted social values.

Professor Reinhardt has added greatly to classifying and understanding the problems of murder, both from the academic and practical point of view. *The Psychology of Strange Killers* is another milestone in attempting to further this understanding.

HARVEY MILLER

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