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## Police Science Book Reviews

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by  
Rolland L. Soule\*

**THE TRAIL OF THE POPPY: BEHIND THE MASK OF THE MAFIA.** By *Charles Siragusa*, (as told to Robert Wiedrich). Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1966. Pp. xv, 235. \$4.95

The book traces the incredible career of Charles Siragusa, a retired United States federal narcotics agent whose exploits spanned 25 years and 20 countries. The book has 235 pages including a glossary of terms to facilitate understanding the terminology peculiar to the underworld. This volume is written in a first person narrative style. The reportorial writing is consistent. The reader sees what the writer sees and hears what the writer hears. The writer is a reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

The contents of the book, chapter by chapter, is as follows:

1. Lonely Date in Adana
2. Sicilian Heritage
3. The Dog That Hunted Dope
4. Carpinetti, The Drug Peddler
5. Hoodlum Holiday
6. The Green Trunk Caper
7. The Black Spider of Athens
8. Snow in Beirut
9. Romanian Master Manipulator
10. Mohammed Oz Yurik's Doublecross
11. Fighter with the Doublecross
12. The Evil that Men Can Do
13. Cocaine, Castro and Cuba
14. Trumping the Black Hand

The book is a story of aggressive action against the lords of international narcotics traffic and an inside story of the Mafia and how it operates. It discloses not only official worldwide apathy, but in certain instances, actual participation by governments in the illicit traffic of drugs. It also explodes the myth of "The British System" of control of addicts, and discusses legislative means that have been adopted throughout the world to deal with the menace of illicit narcotics trade.

The veteran narcotics law enforcement officer will learn little new information from reading the book. However, this fast-paced narrative style book

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will provide interesting reading and knowledge to the rookie police officer and will be highly informative to the layman who wants to read a good book.

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**LES ACCIDENT D'AVIATION (Aviation Accidents)—Findings of the Judicial Inquiry.** General Information French Air Police Headquarters. Pp. 38.

Here we find a brief but comprehensive manual introduced by Roger Jeannin, Commissioner General, Chief of the Air Section at the Air Police Headquarters, Paris, France, relating the organization, responsibility, and duties of the French Air Police and examines the technical causes of aviation accidents. (Written in French language).

France is currently the only country which has organized on a national basis, a police force in the field of aeronautics. In addition to aviation accident investigations, some other duties of the Air Police include responsibility for control of aircraft, air passengers, airports, air regulations, aerial photography, and prosecution of offences committed with the aid of aircraft.

Some of the complicated problems facing air accident investigations are illustrated in the case of Rene de Narbonne—"Disappearance of Aircraft". Here Mr. de Narbonne, flying a Beechcraft, departed from Paris, November 7, 1948, headed for London, England. The aircraft and passengers were never located. There are unfortunately many parallels to this case in world aviation records.

In the manual, many factors are studied which must be considered before reaching a conclusion in the cause of an air accident. Some of these factors include:

1. Pointers on Meteorology
2. Loading and Weight Distribution
3. Accidental Decompression
4. Automatic Pilots
5. Optical Illusions
6. Human Weakness
7. Identification Problems

The terms of reference of the Air Police and procedural methods followed while investigating air accidents are described in detail. It is of interest

to note that two independent types of investigations are instigated in an air accident:

- (a) *Technical Inquiry*—To determine the cause, avoid recurrence and to define disciplinary sanctions if applicable.
- (b) *Legal Inquiry*—To determine liabilities, to refer offenders to court, and, to define legally the conditions, seriousness and causes of the accident.

This is a very well prepared manual and should be available to those directly concerned with air accidents from either a technical or legal aspect.

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THE ESSENTIALS OF FORENSIC MEDICINE 2nd edition, By *C. J. Polson*, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois., 1965, Pp. xvi, 600. \$21.00.

The second edition of "The Essentials of Forensic Medicine", dealing with Forensic Pathology and Medical Jurisprudence, has been slightly enlarged and improved, chiefly through the addition of photographs.

The part on the various forms of trauma follows the usual divisions (Signs of death; Identification; Interpretation of wounds; Various manners of violent death). A large section on medical jurisprudence is more pertinent for British readers.

The book is intended primarily for the use of medical students, coroners, and police officers. But there is also a considerable amount of information of interest to the experienced medical examiner. However, one notices in the section on Criminalistics and Interpretation of the pathology of trauma, the emphasis is on *what* can or cannot be done, with a lack of details on *how* a given problem could be solved. A few additional pictures might have helped the reader to resolve some of these questions.

There is but little discussion of the theory of mechanism of injury (for instance the contre-coup brain damage in head injuries is barely touched),

but these problems might extend beyond the scope of this presentation.

The chapter on Firearm Injuries appears to be out of date and should not escape criticism. One cannot agree with statements such as: on page 159, "The powder used in revolver ammunition is usually black powder"; on page 164,—"penetration of shotgun pellets at about 100 yards is limited to the clothing and the skin of the victim," when figure 70 and a case report on page 179 tell of fatal shotgun wounds of the chest from up to 35 yards. Such a comment is confusing and could even invite carelessness on the part of hunters. On page 170, it is stated, that "even with some contact or near injuries—shot pellets may remain in the body and there is no exit wound", when, in fact, it is extraordinarily rare to find exit wounds in shotgun injuries of the trunk.

The suggestion to calculate the distance of a shotgun wound from the pellet spread diameter on the body must be taken with a grain of salt. Too many variables, particularly the choke variations in shotguns, may render such calculation nearly worthless and an over-simplification may create a false sense of accuracy in the investigator. The same objection pertains to the estimation of bullet calibre from measurements of the entrance wound. Two photographs of bullet wounds tend to confuse the viewer. Figure 76 is labelled as contact or very near injury, while the wound appearance suggests several inches. Figure 83 is labelled as a distant gunshot wound, while, for teaching purposes, it looks like a classical contact wound.

The remaining chapters are well written and convey the basic concepts of medico-legal investigation.

All together the book describes the "Essentials of Forensic Medicine" and can be recommended as a fair introduction to this subject.

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### Books Received

NARCOTIC ADDICTION. By *John A. O'Donnell* and *John C. Ball*. Harper and Row, New York. 1966. Pp. viii, 248. \$3.25.

SEARCH & SEIZURE AND THE SUPREME COURT—A Study in Constitutional Interpretation. By

*Jacob W. Landynski*. The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore. Pp. x, 286. \$8.50.

THE ART STEALERS. By *Milton Esterow*. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1966. Pp. viii, 246. \$5.95.

- TAYLOR'S PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE, 2 volumes. By *Keith Simpson*. Little, Brown, and Co., Boston. Vol. I 526 pp. Vol. II 615 pp.
- THE POLICEMAN AND THE ACCUSED. By *Peter B. Gay* and *Richard H. Prunier*. University Press of Cambridge, Inc., Cambridge, Mass. 1966. Pp. 167.
- THE LAW ABIDING POLICEMAN. By *Ronald P. Sokol*. Michie Company, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1966. Pp. 68.
- TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS. Report by the United States Treasury Department, Bureau of Narcotics for the Year ended December 31, 1965. Published by Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., 1966. Pp. 64, \$.30.
- SHOPLIFTING AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS. By *Walter A. Lunden*. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa, 1966. Pp. 49.
- POLICE POWER AND CITIZENS' RIGHTS. By *Zenith Gross* and *Alan Reitman*. Published by American Civil Liberties Union, New York, New York, 1966. Pp. 47. \$.50.