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Police Science Book Reviews

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Simultaneous Determination of Biogenic Amines and Narcotic Alkaloids by Gas-Liquid Chromatography—Jesse L. Cashaw, Michael J. Walsh, Yasumitsu Yamanaka, Virginia E. Davis, *Journal of Chromatographic Science*, 9: 98-104 (February 1971). A GC method for the simultaneous de-

termination of catecholamines, simple tetrahydroisoquinolines, a complex benzyltetrahydroisoquinoline alkaloid and opium alkaloids is described. These bases were separated and identified as trimethylsilylether derivatives on a 6 ft. 3% OV-1 column.

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Melvin Gutterman*

THE RIOT MAKERS. By Eugene H. Methvin. New York: Arlington House, 1970. Pp. 553. \$6.95.

Riots, lawlessness, and violence are perhaps the number one domestic problem facing this country to-day. Since 1967 no less than three major Presidential Commissions have concerned themselves with the problems of violence which have included riots and civil disorders—the Kerner Commission (civil disorders); the Eisenhower Commission (causes of violence); and the Scranton Commission (campus violence). Eugene H. Methvin in his book *The Riot Makers* has set forth more tough-minded, closely reasoned, common sense about riots and rioters than the total output of the three learned Presidential Commissions together.

Methvin's hypothesis is deceptively simple—he states that riots are caused by people—in most cases by people who have carefully premeditated the course of events chosen to lead up to the riots. His book documents his hypothesis, historically and empirically, and he slashes like a scalpel through the obfuscations of all three Presidential Commissions which choose to place the blame for riots, violence, and student violence upon anything and everything except those who actually cause the riots or violence.

From the foregoing one might receive the impression that Methvin's approach is basically simplistic. This is not the case. The ten years of research that Methvin put into *The Riot Makers* has documented the appalling living conditions in our ghettos and the desperate need for social reform in many areas. But he takes issue with the standard liberal approach that these conditions, in and of themselves, *cause* riots. Rather, Methvin

says, the conditions are predisposing factors towards riots; the fact remains that *people still cause riots*.

Methvin's documentation is exhaustive and precise. For instance, he divides riot makers up into twelve carefully drawn categories: 1) The climate makers, 2) young rowdies and criminals, 3) the igniters, 4) sandbox revolutionaries, 5) rumor spreaders and rally-callers, 6) street fillers and weaklings, 7) bungling and vacillating authorities, 8) paralyzed law enforcers, 9) old line subversives, 10) terrorists and insurrectionists, 11) the haters, and 12) the decent majority. This listing is illustrative of the thoroughness and depth of his study, and for each category he gives concrete examples of exactly what he has categorized.

One of the most telling points made by the book deals with police inaction at the inception of riots in cases where prompt, forceful police action at the beginning might well have prevented the disastrous consequences which in fact materialized. He states categorically “. . . no police department in any city stricken by the major riots tried a phased, discriminating, and controlled application of force in the crucial early phases of the rioting.” This criticism of initial inaction by law enforcement is valid; it should also be pointed out, however, that few commentators on the social scene have shown more understanding for and empathy with the police and the problems which they face than Eugene Methvin.

Of extreme importance and value is the fact that Methvin proposes some realistic and thought-provoking attempts at solution to the very real problems which the book points out. Chapter XVIII calling for “Non-Governmental Independent Action” to counteract the riot makers provides

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some new ideas about citizen involvement and gives some excellent examples as to what a group of concerned private citizens can accomplish.

The book is, of course, not perfect. Some portions of the blade of the scalpel are sharper than others. In my opinion, there is a basic structural defect in the book in that it is written in text book style with chapters divided into a great many numbered, headed subsections. This is disconcerting to the reader and does an injustice to the writer whose smooth-flowing descriptive style is one of his fortes; chapter XIV, for example, is a beautiful narrative of the Columbia riots. The assininity of the dissenters, the "cool" of the moderate students, and spinelessness of the administration and faculty are described with a concern overlaid with a mordant sense of humor. Yet this chapter is chopped up into no less than 11 headed sub-sections which tends to fragment the narrative whole.

The historical sections dealing with riot causation in the past tend to be somewhat dry and this is intensified by the text book format. The scholarly quality of these sections is beyond question and the data contained therein is *must* reading for attorneys, law-enforcement officers, moderate students, or others concerned about riots. Whether the author would have been more effective with an unbroken narrative style and perhaps less pure history is at least open to question.

These are minor points. The book itself is a tour de force—written with compassion, dispassion, courage, and humor. It will take the usual battering from liberal critics, but in the opinion of this reviewer it is one of the most significant contributions to the literature about our troubled nation's problems.

In summary, it is a sad commentary that literally hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars have been spent for the polishing of the bottoms of illustrious Commissioners' chairs, resulting in non-answers; while one man, at his own expense, can come up with such a clear-cut set of answers to critical problems.

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THE GREENING OF AMERICA. By *Charles A. Reich*.
New York: Random House, 1970. Pp. 399. \$7.95.

Finally, a book that can be recommended to those who are tired of trite commentaries relative

to the current American scene! Charles A. Reich is a Yale Law School professor who, even though he will never see forty again, knows what is happening. *The Greening of America* is a message of hope, a vision of life, and an explication of the revolution in consciousness that is observable world-wide, and particularly evident in our country.

It is a book for all citizens, but particularly useful to scholars and practitioners involved with the processes of social control. Every criminal justice practitioner—policeman, public defender, prosecutor, judge, jury member, probation or parole or corrections officer—and every criminal justice client—complainant, informant, informer, first-time offender, recidivist, witness, victim—should read and re-read this pertinent and timely, scholarly and sophisticated, hopeful societal commentary.

Those who think that registering voters and invoking the political process will suffice to solve our serious problems will be as disappointed in this book as those who think that molotov cocktails and dynamite are the answer. Professor Reich demonstrates an awareness of the dignity of man, and a monumental contempt for all that is violent and dehumanizing. His vision is one of love and trust and the ultimate victory of virtue, the final peaceful conquest of might by right. It is his contention that all people—hard-hat and hippie, black and bigot, peacenik and pentagonian—share, deep inside, the vision of a better life—physical, mental, psychological, moral—and that they really can, as brothers and sisters, overcome the fears and hatreds and divisions and living death of a soulless society. His categorizations of Consciousness I, II, and III will enable the reader to evaluate and identify his own consciousness, that of his family—grandparents, parents, siblings, mates, children—, and that of colleagues, friends, acquaintances, as individual social consciousness has grown, atrophied, built, sickened, stretched, awakened, calloused, flowered, over the decades of our recent past.

For the younger generation in criminal justice (20-40), this book will serve as jumping-off point for dialog and discussion; for the older generation (40-60), the book will serve as an invaluable essay on the thinking and feeling of a new society of free Americans that is attracting recruits at a rapid rate. Some criminal justice practitioners, frightened and "uptight," will shake their heads and frown as they read the book; but many criminal justice

heads will nod and smile as they sense the "vibrations" that link them with all those who choose life rather than death, and they will connect its message of hope with their responsibilities for protecting our communities from all varieties of violence. For all engaged in criminal justice, *The Greening of America* is *must* reading.

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BLACK IN BLUE: A STUDY OF THE NEGRO POLICEMEN. By *Nicholas Alex*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1969. Pp. 210. \$2.75

If we are to ever unravel the immensely complex and critical problems of law enforcement and the police profession in urban America, we shall have to know a great deal more about this institutional phenomenon than we do today. For in spite of the fact that police problems have been "discovered" by the academic community as an appropriate if not exciting area for research, this discovery has occurred, on any significant scale, only in the past ten years. And although a torrent of literature is now belatedly pouring forth on law enforcement and the police system, and though periodically we are given some rather brilliant insights into the intricacies of the problem, such of the current police literature lacks the painstaking, systematic, thorough analyses we must have if we are to resolve what is one of the nation's most critical, pressing issues.

Black in Blue is a dramatic illustration of this research problem. It is an important and simultaneously a difficult book, important because it brings a wealth of social theory to bear upon the problems of the black police officer in a white-dominated police system but difficult, if not inadequate, because its research methodology is sufficiently questionable that one cannot avoid being highly suspicious of its conclusions. In this sense it is a frustrating study, for while the reader is apt to feel at the gut-level that Alex is right in many of his observations, there is also the nagging fear that he is right for the wrong reasons, or at the very least that he is right in spite of his data!

Alex bases his study on the premise that black police officers face "special problems . . . in their efforts to reconcile their race with their work in the present framework of American values and beliefs" a premise that few would quarrel with and one

which certainly warrants systematic analysis. He proceeds to examine this hypothesis by conducting oral interviews with forty-one black police officers in the New York Police Department, readily acknowledging that this in no way is "meant to be a representative sample of the estimated 1,500 Negro policemen who work for the department." Small though the sample is, it would not necessarily be fatal to credible research were it not for the way in which the forty-one interviewees were obtained. Using what he terms the "snow-ball" technique, Alex simply found a few black officers and asked them if they knew of friends, associates, or acquaintances whom he could contact. This resulted, says Alex, "in a 'chain letter' of contacts and subsequent interviews." It also, unfortunately, results in a rather critical series of questions the reader has to raise before taking such research seriously.

Laying aside the problem of the number interviewed, what may we reasonably conclude about the interviewees themselves? How long had they been on the police force? What are their ranks and promotional experiences? educational background? departmental assignments? citations? disciplinary actions? Some of this data may well have not been available to Alex, but in its absence, it is difficult to know how *really* representative the study is of "the Negro policeman." Do we have in this book a reasonably normative profile of a black cop in New York, do we have a profile of the more articulate, sophisticated black cop in New York, do we have the random expression of forty-one malcontents, or forty one police establishment oriented men, or interviews with forty-one men who happen to share a common career? And, perhaps most important of all, since there is no control sample of white police officers over against which we can test the particularities of the black interviewees observations, how unique are the study's findings to *Negro* policemen? How many of the attitudes, reflections, judgments or responses on police work as a career, or reasons for entering police work, or police professionalism are unique to *black* policemen?

Unfortunately, *Black in Blue* does not permit us to answer these somewhat basic questions. The forty-one interview responses themselves are reported under thematic chapter-subject headings, but they are not grouped or statistically substantiated in such a way as to tell the reader whether a given response represents a majority

opinion of the sample, a minority viewpoint or simply one man's opinion. One hates to become sticky about methodological details when such important subject matter is under discussion, but in this instance, such details are crucial to the credibility we must finally give this study.

Professor Alex asks at the outset that the reader judge his study "on the merits and authenticity of the data," and it is precisely this aspect of the work that is its major flaw. On the other hand, if *Black in Blue* is read for its cogent assessment of the police role in contemporary society, or its historical account of traditional police department attitudes and policies toward black officers, the sterile effects of civil service or the dilemmas created by the visibility of the police profession, there is much to commend it. In essence, if this book is taken as an assessment of the police role in New York as seen through the eyes of forty-one of its black officers, it is an interesting and, at times, informative narrative. As credible sociological research, it leaves much to be desired.

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THE FBI IN OUR OPEN SOCIETY. By *Harry and Bonaro Overstreet*. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1969. Pp. 400. \$6.95.

The Overstreets, the co-authors of such well-known books as *The Strange Tactics of Extremism* and *What We Must Know About Communism*, have again combined their talents to produce what surely must be the best-to-date sociological and political study of the FBI in modern society.

The book superbly traces the FBI story from its beginnings in 1908 with the transfer of nine secret service men to the Bureau from the Treasury Department to its present (1967) complement of 15,780 employees including 6,138 Special Agents.

In 1908 the matters placed under the FBI's jurisdiction were treason, crimes committed on government properties or on the high seas, violations of the neutrality laws, anti-trust laws and anti-peonage law, opium smuggling, fraudulent use of public lands, impersonation of a federal officer, fraudulent bankruptcy, and violations of the National Bank Act. By 1969 jurisdiction of the FBI had increased tremendously with swiftly multiplying federal laws. The Bureau is charged with the investigation of such diverse matters as

violations of the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, the Voting Rights Act of 1962, the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (fraudulent home mortgage loans), and the Truth in Lending Act as well as the more conventional federal crimes.

Contrary to general public opinion (and right and left-wing propaganda) the FBI's license to act is tightly delimited by law. The FBI and Director Hoover have no authority—nor do they want that authority—to take over the work of the city policeman on the beat. The FBI, in the words of the authors, "is not an agency set up to do whatever needs to be done."

The Bureau is constantly a center of controversy. Groups with a vested interest in making the public uneasy about FBI practices—including such discordant organizations as the Maoist Progressive Labor Party, the Nation of Islam, the KKK, the National Socialist White Peoples Party (the old American Nazi Party), the Minutemen, and the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM)—are not at all reticent about circulating charges of FBI brutality and "police-state" tactics.

The Overstreets close their book on this note:

"If there is one thing of which we have become aware in the course of this study, it is that the work of the FBI is far less melodramatic than it is often made to appear and far more quietly dramatic than is commonly realized. The drama stems from its relationship to freedom's enterprise."

The FBI In Our Open Society is fair-minded and documented in the Overstreet tradition. It is a vital book for the concerned citizen.

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A TREE OF LAW AND ORDER: AN ANTHOLOGY. By *Beryl Naunton*. Chichester, Sussex, England: Justice of the Peace, Ltd., 1970. Pp. xv, 206.

There are books, then there are books, then there are books. This work by Mrs. Naunton is a classic. The author has taken the time to peruse the vast body of literature in the administration of criminal justice in Great Britain, a system rich in heritage, to pull together the leading essays, articles, and works of such noted authors as Coatman, Melville Lee, Pringle, Reith, Devlin, Radzinowicz, Moylan, Armitage, Moriarty, Morland, Browne, Babington, and Solmes.

The author divides this etude into the following

subjects: Some Early Beginnings, An Introduction to Magistrates, Drink and the Law, Talking in Court, Some Offences, Penalties and Definitions, Wigs, Gowns and Gloves, Officers of the Crown, Treasure Trove, The Police Force, Special Constabulary, Police Administration, Detection, Matters of Police Dress, Crime and Criminals, Punishments, and a concluding section on Some Biographical Notes covering such noted authors as Lombroso, Bertillon, Galton, Henry, and John Fielding and Stead.

Most contemporary impressions of the criminal justice system, and in particular the police, the every day symbol of law and order, are gathered by either personal experiences or by way of one of the forms of news media. Few are fortunate enough to know of the very rich heritage of the British criminal justice system. This collection of notable portions of the various contributors works summarizes, in a scholarly fashion, this rich history. It is important for Americans to understand the origin of our criminal justice system if we are to appreciate the evolutionary nature of our own police, courts and correctional system. *A Tree of Law and Order* is a kaleidoscopic collection assembled to demonstrate the gradual development of, and the interface between, the allied segments related to law and order. The author's aim has been to provide an overall picture of law and order from her vantage point as a magistrate, alderman, member of a police authority, and as a member of the public. Some of the excerpts she has selected run a number of pages, while others consist of a few sentences—but the entire treatise constitutes an admirable *pot pourri* of criminal justice evolution.

This work is must reading for every serious academician and student of criminal justice administration. It should be required reading of every university student majoring in criminal justice. No criminal justice library should be considered complete without this work. It has been a long time since I have enjoyed reading such a scholarly piece of work.

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J. J. Tobias, a Senior Tutor of the Special Course for the Police College at Bramshill House, in *Against the Peace*, has set down an interesting, concise historical narrative of historical developments in England's criminal justice system. At first glance, the reader may tend to underestimate the contribution of this work, for it has the appearance of a high school text—soft cover, odd size and profusely illustrated. Nevertheless, upon examination, one finds it to be a relatively well researched, and straightforward account, from the "Early Days" to the Twentieth Century.

The book is divided into eight chapters, the first four being a general history of the criminal justice system through the 18th Century and the last four focusing upon criminal law, police, punishment, and crime in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. Anecdotes of both famous and "infamous" persons of the past add to the reader's enjoyment.

The author is at his best in discussing developments of the British police systems, including the implications of a wary populace at the outset. He notes:

The fears that a police force would be a threat to liberty helped shape the new organization. It was for this reason that the police went unarmed, and wore so unmilitary a uniform.

A major drawback is the lack of footnotes and citations, as well as a complete biography. The author does refer the reader to a number of additional readings in the area, albeit too few.

While this reviewer does not recommend the book as a primary text, it should fit well into a number of courses where a brief history of criminal justice is indicated. The book is certainly not too esoteric for the undergraduate student in police science or criminal justice, but will probably prove somewhat juvenile for advanced students in the field.

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IDENTIFICATION OF HANDWRITING AND CROSS EXAMINATION OF EXPERTS (4th edition). By M. K. Mehta. Bombay: N. M. Tripathi Pvt. Ltd., 1970, Pp. 399, xxii. Price Rs32.50.

AGAINST THE PEACE. By J. J. Tobias. London: Ginn and Co., Ltd., 1970. Pp. 112. \$2.60.

The 4th edition of the *Identification of Handwriting and Cross Examination of Experts* represents some slight increase in material contained in the text and the addition of some new illustrations compared with the previous edition. Indian cases which are cited have been brought up-to-date. The author maintains his high standards of the earlier editions. Those who are interested in the practice of questioned documents in India will find this a good reference book and students will find the principles discussed clearly.

ORDWAY HILTON

Examiner of Questioned Documents
New York, N. Y.

GUIDE TO THE COMMUNITY CONTROL OF ALCOHOLISM. By Jay N. Cross. New York: American Public Health Association, Inc., 1968. Pp. 128, \$3.00.

After stating that "Alcoholism is an illness affecting an estimated five million persons in the United States," this fine little book establishes sick drinking as a deviant pattern within the broad context of socially appropriate alcohol use. In so doing, the author samples historic fact and anecdote to erect a backdrop against which alcohol use and alcoholism may be most clearly comprehended. Because most contemporary discussions of alcoholism employ similar material, it is perhaps worth mentioning that this work's first forty pages, or one-third of the text, present the most enriched compilation of information, on this limited scale, yet encountered by the reviewer. Many of the apparent enigmas of alcohol consumption are sorted out in this concentrated presentation, which neglects few major perspectives. After sketching the history of alcohol use and production, social functions of drinking, and alcohol physiology-psychology, the author slips almost imperceptibly into a consideration of alcohol problems, providing a conceptual bridge to the second major part of the book, called simply *Alcoholism*.

Alcoholism is appropriately conceptualized as a community health problem, contributing as it does to a wide array and enormous number of social

problems. Again missing little of the available literature, the author describes the stages and extent of alcoholism, giving special attention to the classic works of Jellinek and Bacon. His discussion of the etiology of alcoholism neatly summarizes approaches as disparate as physiological, genetic, social-psychiatric, epidemiological, psychiatric, psychoanalytic, psychometric, and socio-cultural. Similarly, his treatment of community alcoholism programs neglects little of historical and current significance, giving a deserved first mention to Alcoholics Anonymous, and outlining the important centers, councils, and associations which have assumed some responsibility for dealing with this unpopular affliction. Once again the author provides a smooth transition to his final third of the book, *Alcoholism Program Development*, by citing the utility of public health principles in community programming.

With considerable sophistication, Mr. Cross deals with organizational concepts which should undergird any community alcoholism program. Rather than presenting blueprints which could not accommodate the wide variance in communities, problems, and resources, he lays on principles which are broadly applicable. Attention is called to specific goals, to establishing a fit of service to target, and to role development for a variety of social agencies.

Mr. Cross has compiled an altogether engaging and useful booklet, which needs to be on the reading shelf of every criminal justice official, if only because it is reliably estimated that one-third of all arrests are for public drunkenness, and one-half of all arrests are alcohol-related. The perspectives contained in this material complement other guidelines on alcoholism programming developed especially for law enforcement officials, and buttress those more limited criminal justice concerns with useful liaison leads. The author's bibliography alone is worth the price of the book.

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