

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of "Fundamentals of Law Enforcement"

REFERENCE: Brandstatter, A. F. and Hyman, A. A., *Fundamentals of Law Enforcement*, Glencoe Press, Beverly Hills, Calif., 1971, 519 pages, \$7.95.

Criminal justice as an area of study has only recently entered academic halls and, as yet, is not considered "respectable" by many of the other disciplines. Accordingly, scholarly output is examined critically by academics who take a snide view of criminal justice. It therefore behooves criminal justice faculty to adhere to accepted norms in writing textbooks for college level courses. An unsavory comparison is easily made if one examines *Fundamentals of Law Enforcement* with any introductory text in any of the social sciences. Immediately the absence of source material, references, further readings, and the like are noted as missing from this text. Thus, additional ammunition has unwittingly been provided to those who blast criminal justice on the grounds that it is not a discipline.

Since the authors do not state the level of their intended audience, it may be inferred that as faculty members of two universities they were writing for use at the college level. If intended for the police academy audience, it is time for academics to lead the way rather than attempt merely to satisfy the apparent needs of those who recognize their limitations and cry out for help in uplifting themselves. In this light, a student is likely to be enthused but hardly elevated intellectually by reading (p. 433) ". . . highly complex equipment has now been developed and classification systems have been designed which may make it possible to identify an individual with almost complete certainty from a spot of dried blood, a single hair, or a single fingerprint." To read some seventy-five years after fingerprints were recognized for their individuality that a single fingerprint is apparently only beginning to be useful for this purpose is as surprising as it is erroneous. Fortunately, this is not typical of the book; but for the readership of this journal, it is appropriate to recall the remark of Fiorello La Guardia: "When I make a mistake, I make a beaut!"

On the positive side, the book is divided into seven sections, each containing several chapters. The sections are as follows:

- Section I Introduction to Law Enforcement
- Section II Criminal Law

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- Section III Criminal Procedure
- Section IV Police Patrol
- Section V Service Activities
- Section VI Investigation
- Section VII Traffic and Accidents

Of greatest interest to readers of this journal is the section on investigation. Four chapters (a total of 80 pages) attempt to cover this subject:

- Chapter 15 Basic Criminal Investigation
- Chapter 16 Gathering Information
- Chapter 17 Physical Evidence
- Chapter 18 Physical Evidence Analysis

It is of interest to note the author's statement under the heading **Bloodstain Tests** (p. 419): "The best of these tests is the Lencho-Malachite (sic) Test . . ." Another typographical error identifies Luminol as 3-aminophthalnydrazide.

It is undoubtedly obvious that this text is of little value to readers of this journal. It is a shame that while it may be selected as a text in college courses, it hardly meets even minimal standards required in recognized academic disciplines. The Office of Law Enforcement Assistance might do well in encouraging and supporting textbook writing in the field of criminal justice and forensic science.