

# Soderman and O'Connell: Modern Criminal Investigation

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orate and concomitant rites were invented—all the exclusive province of a privileged few. It was the subject matter of these rites or performances that evolved into a thing of value—not in the sense of royalties or residuals, as we have come to understand it, but in the form of control and status in society. These property rights were afforded protection in the form of penalties that attached for violation either in the unauthorized dissemination or performance of said works.

Continuing in the historical vein, the author considers some of the motives for restricting the use of the literary property, ranging from the control of printing rights to a useful method to censor suspected heretical and seditious writings.

It was not, however, until the turn of the 18th century that the greatest legal and philosophical minds in England took cognizance of a pressing problem: Assuming that there is a property right in the arrangement of words, i.e. literary property, does the author have a right to exact a tribute for its use forever? Or is the cultural value of such works encumbered in the public interest, so that society may be able to read and see intellectual productions in the interest of truth, thereby permitting the free flow of ideas for a better world? This dilemma was resolved by way of compromise which granted property rights to the author for a limited number of years, thereafter classifying his work as a public domain. The result of this reasoning was the first copyright statute in 1709, termed the Statute of Anne.<sup>1</sup> Yet, in England it was not until 1911 that the Common Law copyright was completely eliminated and supplemented with an enlargement of statutory rights, resulting in a term of protection today in England for the author's life plus 50 years. In contrast, Mr. Wincor opines that the American approach vis-à-vis copyrights has been "parsimonious, bureaucratic and insular. . . ."

To complete the potpourri, the author offers a provocative one-act play which illustrates some of the problems relative to ownership of literary characters; and finally, a number of interesting contracts used in various phases of literary work.

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*Modern Criminal Investigation.* By HARRY SODERMAN AND JOHN J. O'CONNELL. 5th ed. Revised by CHARLES E. O'HARA. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, Inc., 1962. Pp. 559. \$7.50.

Since this work originally appeared over a quarter of a century ago it has been one of the most widely used textbooks for law enforcement officials. Originally written by the late eminent European criminologist Harry Soderman and the late chief inspector of the New York City Police Department John J. O'Connell, it has been completely revised by Charles E. O'Hara, a physicist, mathematician, author, and member of the Detective Division of the New York City Police Department.

Early in the book there is a discussion of police organizations throughout the world including those in the United States, France, England, Germany, Russia and satellite states, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries and the International Criminal Police Commission to which thirty-five countries belong.

Modern police science embraces (1) the identification of living and dead persons, (2) field work by specially trained investigators at the scene of the crime, and (3) the use of the laboratory to examine and analyze clues discovered during the course of the investigation. All three phases are authoritatively covered in the text.

The identification of individuals has always presented a major problem in police work. It was a young clerk in the Paris Police Department, Alphonse Bertillon, who originated a new method of classifying criminals according to bodily measurements. His system met with strong opposition from Paris police officials but in 1882 the Bureau of Identification was established with Bertillon as its director.

Paris was also the first city in the world to establish a special photographic studio for the police. When establishing the identity of a person from a photograph the ears play a deciding role. In fact, next to the patterns of the friction ridges, the ears constitute the most characteristic part of the body. Friction ridges are divided into three groups: (1) fingerprints, (2) palmar prints, and (3) prints on the sole of the foot.

The use of fingerprints originated in the East before the time of Christ. Dactyloscopy, the identification by means of fingerprints, was devised simultaneously, but independently, by two Englishmen living in Asia, Sir William J. Herschel, administrator of the Hooghly district in Bengal, India, and Dr. Henry Faulds, a member of the staff of the Tsukiji Hospital in Tokyo. The final touches were added by Sir Edward Richard Henry and Sir Francis Galton, a famous English anthropologist, and the Galton-Henry system was first introduced in India. Later, in 1901, it was adopted by Scotland Yard in London. Bertillon looked upon fingerprinting as a rival of the system he devised and it was not until after his death in 1914 that fingerprinting was introduced in Paris. Yet, Bertillon is frequently erroneously credited with having been the father of the fingerprint system. Few, if any, investigators can become expert in every phase of modern scientific crime detection. But the outstanding investigator is one who understands the possibilities presented by the various pieces of physical evidence and information uncovered during the course of an official inquiry. And he knows how these data may be developed into solid evidence that will result in the solution of the case. The value of *Modern Criminal Investigation* lies in its authoritative presentation of every phase of law enforcement investigative activity. In addition to its thirty chapters ranging from psychology in detective service to the examination of forged paintings, the text provides a glossary of terms used in connection with firearms and a valuable bibliography. The book is properly considered a classic in its field.

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