

# CRIMINOLOGICA

## NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

Volume 2, No. 1

May, 1964

### MORE ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 1963 ANNUAL MEETING

#### SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF A SUB-CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

*Dr. Franco Ferracuti, University of Puerto Rico and Dr. Marvin Wolfgang, University of Pennsylvania.*

A socio-psychological hypothesis recently presented by Ferracuti and Wolfgang attempts to explain the significant high rates of homicide among particular groups with their participation in a subculture of violence. The relationship between the group's degree of violence and the sub-culture to which the group belongs is under investigation. Data from the Wolfgang study in Philadelphia tend to support the hypothesis of a sub-culture of violence as an explanation for the internal need for aggression as manifested in the readiness for the use of violence of individuals who commit aggressive crimes.

#### THE CONTROL OF BEHAVIOR BY PUNISHMENT

*Dr. James P. Appel, Yale University.*

Experiments conducted on pigeons, rats, and monkeys show that brief painful shocks presented immediately after rewarded behavior suppress that behavior for a time (amount of suppression dependant upon intensity of punishing stimulus).

It is Appel's thesis that, "while punishment may suppress behavior, it can, by itself, have no therapeutic or beneficial consequences because it ordinarily neither permanently eliminates nor radically alters the disposition to emit the punished response."

It was found the (1) suppressed behavior usually returns to normal (pre-punishment) level as soon as punishment is withdrawn (except with severe or suddenly introduced shock causing physiologically damaging side effects). Since this occurs, (2) it would be necessary to continue to punish an act in order to maintain a given amount of suppression. Therefore, (3) there remains little experimental support for the notion that punishment can facilitate the elimination of a previously acquired but no longer effective habit.

The evidence from the animal experiments seems to indicate that, although punishment can and does suppress a response, it is by itself, essentially an ineffective way to control or to eliminate behavior.

### DEFENDANT FOUND NOT GUILTY SHOULD BE REPAID LEGAL COSTS

Arthur J. Goldberg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, has proposed that defendants found not guilty in criminal trials should be reimbursed for their defense expenses. He made the suggestion in one of the James Madison lectures delivered in February at the New York University School of Law.

The proposal was one of a series stressing the need for overhauling criminal law to assure legal equality to poverty-stricken and even to middle-class families. "At the very least," Justice Goldberg declared, "we should extend our provision of free legal services in criminal cases to include many hard-working people who, although not indigent, cannot, without extraordinary sacrifice, raise sufficient funds to defend themselves or a member of their family against a criminal charge."

He commented that when the police rounded up "suspects," they generally did so in poor neighborhoods and seldom in middle-class communities. As a result, he contended, more poor than rich persons are arrested for crimes they do not commit.

### CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM AT UNIV. OF MONTREAL

The Department of Criminology has a two year program of study leading to a Master of Arts (Criminology). Any student who has been graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Social Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, or its equivalent may be admitted to its program. Equally eligible are graduate students in law, medicine, psychology, sociology, social work, education, statistics and administration.

Credits are obtained according to an individual program consisting of lectures and seminars as well as research training and supervised externships in applied settings by professors who are specialists in criminology, penology and related disciplines. The number of credits required vary according to individual needs, but must not be less than thirty credits (thirty lecture hours equal two credits). In addition, a student must submit a dissertation for the obtention of a Master's diploma.

A student may choose one of three options: 1. Control of the Socially Dangerous, etiology and treatment; 2. Organization and administration of Institutions dealing with the socially dangerous; 3. Criminal Policy. Each option presupposes a preparation in the social sciences, law and medicine. Hence, courses in social psychology, sociology and research methods, consisting of about two hundred lecture hours are part of the first year program.

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*Plan now to attend the 1964 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology at Montreal, Canada. The dates for this year's meeting: December 28, 29, 30, 1964.*

# CRIMINOLOGICA

## NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

Vol. I, No. 4

February, 1964

### New Officers Elected

Dr. Walter C. Reckless, Professor of Sociology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, was elected president at the annual meeting of the Society in Cleveland. Serving with Dr. Reckless as vice-presidents for 1964 are: Dr. Jacob Chwast, New York University; Dr. Bruno M. Cormier, McGill University, Montreal; Dr. Clyde Vedder, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb; and Dr. Marvin E. Wolfgang, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Professor Charles L. Newman, Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville, was re-elected for a second term as secretary-treasurer.

### Papers Requested For 1964 Meeting

Members and friends of the American Society of Criminology desiring to present scholarly papers at the annual meeting of the Society in Montreal, Canada should let their intentions be known no later than May 15, 1964. Please address A.S.C. president, Dr. Walter C. Reckless, Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, indicating the general topic area and a brief statement as to content.

### ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 1963 ANNUAL MEETING

#### PREDICTING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG NEGROES

*Samuel A. Kramer, Ph.D.,*

*U. S. National Institutes of Health*

In a low class Negro district of Washington, D.C., the male youth delinquency rate is seven times as large as in similar white areas. In this study, institutionalized serious and mild delinquents, and officially non-delinquent boys in this low class residential tract, provided data that established:

1. Negro non-delinquents develop poorer socialization than white non-delinquents;
2. Negro delinquents show poorer socialization than white delinquents; and
3. Among non-delinquent, mildly delinquent, and seriously delinquent Negro boys, significant differences are found only in items related to the family. No other form of outer containment is currently available in such disorganized Negro communities. Therefore, variations in family cohesiveness, parental affection, parental discipline, and parental interest may be effective predictors of delinquency among Negro boys.

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### President Johnson Sends Congratulations

The President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, sent the following message to the American Society of Criminology:

*"It is a pleasure to send greetings to the American Society of Criminology on the occasion of its annual meeting.*

*Your society has played a significant role in stimulating fresh thinking and innovation in the fundamental fields of crime and correction. It is a particular pleasure to join in your tribute to three outstanding figures in criminology, Austin MacCormick, Walter Reckless, and Herbert Wechsler. Mr. MacCormick, of course, once served with distinction as assistant director of the U. S. Bureau of Prisons, and all three men have made major contributions to our national progress in the prevention and control of crime.*

*Best wishes for a successful meeting and continued good work in 1964."*

*Lyndon B. Johnson*

### University of Montreal Announces Awards

A grant was awarded to the Department of Criminology by the Quebec Ministry of Health. Professor Marcel Fréchette, who is in charge of the group project, will study the psycho-physiological components as well as stress reactivity and conditioning among normal and criminal groups. The theory of manifest and non-specific anxiety will be investigated. The project will provide data in the diagnosis and treatment of anti-social pathology.

A research grant from the Quebec Ministry of Family and Social Welfare was awarded to Professor J. Beausleil, Ph.D., to carry out a descriptive study of adjudicated juvenile delinquents who appeared before Juvenile and Magistrates' Courts in 1962. The purpose is to evaluate the delinquent population and court dispositions during that year, so that the administrators may develop a more explicit policy in dealing with juvenile delinquents.

Two appointments in the Department of Criminology, 1963. Miss Marie Andrée Bertrand, M.S.S. (Social Worker), M.A. (Criminology) and Miss Francine Goyer, L.P.H. (Psychology) joined the staff bringing the number of full time lecturers to eight in the Department of Criminology.

## 1963 PAPERS . . .

**SPARE THE ROD:** The Case Against Corporal Punishment in America's Schools.

*Donal E. J. MacNamara, Dean, New York Institute of Criminology*

Most students of psychiatry and penology oppose corporal punishment as a regression to the barbarous and brutal disciplinary practices of less enlightened days. It will be useful to consider a short summation of the arguments against the use of corporal punishment in the school disciplinary system.

1. Corporal punishment is no new technique—no panacea for disciplinary or delinquency problems. It has been tried for centuries without success and has been abandoned by every civilized penal system.
2. Corporal punishment can sometimes exact temporary conformity with classroom rules, but only at the expense of psychological trauma with the ultimate consequence.
3. Comparative studies among delinquents and non-delinquents demonstrate that the former are no strangers to the rod but have in fact suffered far more than their fair share of physical abuse from parents, teachers, the police, and other adults in authority over them.
4. Children have as great a moral right to the inviolability of their persons as do adults.

**ROBERT BRUCE HOUSE:** An Experimental Program

*Harvey W. Trimmer, Jr., Assistant Resident Director,  
Robert Bruce House, N.J.*

An analysis of 60 men who have passed through the Bruce House program in the past 17 months of its operation shows a success rate of 66.7%, as compared to the success rate of 15% to 20% of the same group of individuals without such a facility. Expressing the results somewhat differently, the "halfway house" facility has been able to reduce the recidivism rate for the group of men which utilized its services by some 300%.

Generally speaking, the tentative findings to date have identified four major categories of individuals as not finding success in a "halfway house" program. Three of these categories exhibit such characteristics as extreme dependency needs, together with withdrawing, immature, non-responsible behavior. It appears that a more rigid, structured environment, together with more intensive treatment procedures, might offer a more adequate program for adjustment for this type of individual.

The resident staff has learned that this program is no place for intensive psychotherapy or vocational guidance of a long-term nature. The emphasis has instead been on identifying such needs and then referring to appropriate community agencies for long range help.

In addition to the above, the staff is constantly involved with research, evaluation, and the development of new programs. The goal is constantly to identify needs and then to provide for those needs. In this way it is hoped that the many ramifications of a "halfway house" program may be explored and evaluated, so that

our final research may be both meaningful and comprehensive.

## SOME INTER-RELATIONSHIPS AMONG SOCIAL CONTROL STRUCTURES

*John P. Clark, University of Illinois*

Data suggest that the manner in which social control structures inter-relate may be the most important factor in the determination of delinquency and crime rates, as well as for other forms of behavior requiring control. The social control systems in three urban communities were examined to determine the quality of interaction and its relation to action in control situations.

All control components consistently rated their own agency better on its general characteristics and operations than they rated others.

The lower the rankings of an agency, the more likely individuals in other agencies were to avoid or ignore situations which could result in interaction with it, or the more likely they resolved the situation without resort to the other agency, or the greater the probability they turned to somebody not in the low-ranked agency.

## TIME LAPSE IN CRIMINAL LITIGATION

*Walter A. Lunden, Iowa State University*

In spite of the constitutional guarantee that the "accused shall enjoy the rights to a speedy and public trial," speedy justice is rare in many parts of the nation.

In Chicago, Illinois, cases are coming to court after a delay of four to five years. In the rural state of Iowa 26 percent of all criminal cases were more than two years old in 1961. With very few exceptions every metropolitan area has a large back-log of cases waiting to be tried.

The time lapse between the commission of a crime and the actual arrest of the offender varies according to the type of crime and the co-operation of the public with the law enforcement officers.

## McNABB-MALLORY: AN UNEASY ACCOMMODATION

*Lawrence Herman, Ohio State University Law School*

The rule barring coerced confessions was created to avoid untrustworthy evidence. However with the use of subtle psychological methods, the rule proved ineffective both in assessing coercion on undisputed facts and in proving coercion. Accordingly, emphasis was changed from untrustworthiness to the police conduct, itself, and a rationale for exclusion was found either in the position that the conduct was intolerable or in the position that the conduct created a risk of untrustworthiness. Consonant with either position, the Supreme Court prescribed, for federal courts only, the *McNabb-Mallory* rule barring confessions obtained during unreasonable delay in arraignment. But the reasonableness of delay varies from case to case and the rule achieves both too much (exclusion of confession obtained during short period of unreasonable delay) and too little (no exclu-

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sion of confession obtained during long period of reasonable delay). Consequently, there is need for a new rule in which there is a more reasonable accommodation between the need for police interrogation and the avoidance of abusive, risk-producing conduct.

### FINDINGS OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO HABITUAL OFFENDERS

*Dr. H. van Rooy, Prof. of Criminology and Dean of the Institute of Criminology at the State University, Groningen-Holland*

The Dutch Penal Code allows the judge "to put at the government's disposal" those offenders who at the time of their offense showed a morbid disturbance of their mental faculties. This "disposal" (an indeterminate sentence) implies that such individuals after having served their imprisonment term can be placed in a state approved institution in order to get adapted care and treatment as long as they are to be considered as a danger to society.

Some Dutch psychiatrists maintained that *all* habitual offenders are mentally disturbed and therefore ought to be put "at disposal." To assess the correctness of this view the Criminological Institute of Groningen conducted, at the request of the Minister of Justice, an examination of the personality structure of 2 groups of habitual offenders, one group having put at disposal at a certain moment of their criminal career, the other having got only prison sentences.

To obtain as detailed an insight as possible into their mental structure for each habitual offender examined all available criminological, sociological, psychological and psychiatric data were gathered by experts in these fields. These extensive multi-disciplinary case-studies and a statistical evaluation of the data gathered have not confirmed the view that all habitual offenders constitute the same group as regards their mental disturbance.

The result of the psychiatric examination was that neurological-psychiatric alterations and defects were twice as frequent among the disposal-group than among the not-disposal group. The psychological tests brought to light that the disposal-offenders were more deviant from the ordinary behavioural pattern than the not-disposal offenders. The criminological investigation showed that the crime pattern of the disposal-group differed more from the "common" pattern than that of the not-disposal-group. Therefore, even if we assumed that all our habitual criminals examined were mentally disturbed, there was at least this difference that the one group was more severely disturbed.

Studies on the internal composition of both groups led to the conclusion that in certain individual cases the decision "disposal" or "not-disposal" was taken rather haphazardly and that there existed no sharp boundary between the 2 categories as regards their mental structure. Certain members of the one group and certain members of the other group formed a gradual transition

or boundary group. So instead of one group the habitual offenders finally revealed to be three groups: one extreme group of evidently mentally disturbed, an other extreme group of offenders whose mental disturbance was not at all evident and a third group of doubtful cases. These results have accentuated that for a justifiable application of "disposal" there is a need of more clear and specified criteria as regards to the mental make up of these offenders.

The diagnosis "mentally disturbed" does not mean much in itself. A mental disturbance as such is not necessarily relevant for criminal behaviour, let alone for a certain form of crime. There are many mentally disturbed people who live in society and never commit any illegal act. It must be made clear that there is a relationship between the degree and the nature of the existing mental disturbance and the criminal behaviour under review. The results of the psychological and criminological part of our investigation have illustrated that it is possible to make such relationship more clear.

Indications were found that in doubtful cases the juridical authorities are rather inclined *not* to apply "disposal." This attitude of serious caution toward "disposal" appeared to be also related to the vague and inadequate terminology of psychiatric reports with regard to the mental make up of these offenders. But the main reason of this cautious attitude from the judicature is without doubt the circumstance that the Netherlands actually do not yet have sufficiently trained specialists and sufficiently equipped institutions to afford therapeutic treatment and a genuine hospitalization to all habitual offenders in the last years already placed at the government's disposal.

It was found that the percentage of success in re-adaptation was significantly higher in the disposal-group. The data of our investigation showed that the institution and after-care authorities had made more intensive efforts to re-socialize the members of the disposal-group. In this respect the disposal-measure appeared to have had a good result.

### STATUS DIFFERENCES AND THE FRUSTRATION-AGGRESSION HYPOTHESIS

*Gerhard Falk, State University of N.Y., Buffalo*

Homicide rates are a good indicator of aggression, because they are more often listed and known than other forms of aggression. A study of homicide rates also reveals that homicide is a sociological phenomenon, following situational, rather than psychiatric, patterns. Thus, an investigation of homicide according to life insurance, geography, urban zones, race, occupation, sex, age, relationship and religion all indicate that homicide is the consequence of frustrations developed in low-status positions.

Homicide occurs more often among rural Southerners than among urban Northerners; among Negroes than whites; among unskilled persons than skilled persons; among young adults than middle-aged adults; among

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## THE AUDIO-VISUAL CORNER

**AGE OF TURMOIL** 20 minutes — date of release unspecified  
Produced by: Crawley Films, Ltd.  
Distributed by: McGraw-Hill

The age referred to in this film is the period of early adolescence, when teen-agers show all the various symptoms of the turmoil they are experiencing in making the transition to adulthood. The film is a panorama of adolescent adjustment problems, with scenes of a number of typical adolescents interacting with their chums and parents. The problems are presented vividly and with a good sense of realism. The emphasis is on parental understanding and patience.

A consultant might use this film with a group of parents to help them understand the problems of their adolescent children and to reassure them that not all adolescent adjustment difficulties are of the delinquency type. But the film is not substantial enough to be used in any other than an adjunctive capacity.

**ANGRY BOY** 32 minutes — 1950  
Produced by: Affiliated Film Producers, Inc.  
Distributed by: International Film Bureau

This is a rather good film that can be used to illustrate some of the more subtle issues involved in juvenile delinquency. It is primarily a film which illustrates diagnosis and psychotherapy with a child and mother and, as such, is rather effective. It attempts to get at what a child is, the complexity within him, and how his behavior may hide as much as it reveals. It highlights the fact that a child's stealing is not a moral crime but a symptom of disturbance, and it demonstrates the severe difficulty a parent has in accepting a referral for professional help. The bulk of the film attempts to explain and demonstrate family dynamics and some of the consequent effects on the child as revealed through the subsequent psychotherapeutic treatment of the child.

Its main use for juvenile delinquency consultation would be as an adjunct in getting at the etiology of anger, kleptomania, family dynamics and how therapy works with a child. However, the broader social aspects usually dealt with in juvenile delinquency are not treated in this film.

### HEAD OF THE HOUSE

37 minutes — date of release unspecified  
Produced by: Mental Health Film Board, Inc.  
Distributed by: United World Films

This is an excellent film and can be used on many levels with many groups. Through the use of one family, it is directed at community resources. It is narrated with sensitivity and empathy and is better technically than content-wise. The film is organized around a conference between a social worker, a policeman and a reverend, who concern themselves with a boy who has been a successful manipulator and suffers from kleptomania. It attempts to shed insight into intra-family dynamics with particular emphasis on father. The father in this family is a driven, perfectionistic person who has a faculty for marring the pleasure of a shared experience with the

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family members than strangers.

Evidence concerning the influence of religion on homicide is inconclusive. Studies of homicide reveal a high participation of females in homicide situations.

The present study supports the frustration-aggression hypothesis.

### EVALUATION OF FILMS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

*I. B. Gould, Post-Graduate Center for Mental Health.*

Twenty-two films dealing with juvenile delinquency were studied with the double purpose of evaluating content and use in the consultation process.

The over-all conclusion was that the consultant, in relying on catalogue descriptions of films, would be seriously misled into believing he had an extensive addition available for his work. By and large the films, with few exceptions, were superficial, frankly erroneous in many conclusions drawn, and certainly with regard to illustrative incidents.

### POTENTIALITIES IN A SUGGESTED CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENDERS

*Albert Morris, Boston University*

"Criminal" is a term so broad and imprecise as to be valueless for scientific purposes. Criminology, as a science, requires a comprehensive and natural classification of offenders based upon contemporary empirical evidence.

Suggested is that offenders be classified on the basis of the degree of their apparent maximum commitment to the violation of the norms represented by the criminal law.

### INDUSTRY SPONSORED CRIME PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

*Michael Fooner, Association for Applied Psychoanalysis*

Re-education of the victim, more than rehabilitation of the criminal, appears to offer the most immediate productive approach to control over the growth of crime. The objective: reduction of crime against property.

Property crimes comprise more than 90% of all crime in America today. Counter-measures against every form of crime is necessary, but it is larceny and burglary that make up the bulk of offenses in this country and pace the expansion of criminality.

This report describes a crime prevention program which is, in effect, a mass application of psychological and educational principles. The vehicles are television, radio, the press and other mass media. The goal is (a) to reduce the financial resources of criminal society, (b) to gain more community support for the efforts of law enforcement agencies, and (c) to help dispel the "climate of criminal incentives" that has been observed enveloping our "affluent society."

The rationale for the program derives from research observations that in the growth of crime the victim is

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as much of a factor as the criminal. It is of basic importance to become aware not only of the quantity but also of the special role that crimes against property play—(i.e. the victims of these crimes play) in criminality.

### SUICIDE: COMMENTS BY A PHARMACOLOGIST-TOXICOLOGIST

*Mark M. Luckens, Ph.D., University of Kentucky*

The toxicologist has always been associated with bizzare crimes and exotic modes of death, in the eyes of the layman as well as in the eyes of the legal and medical professions.

The toxicologist (as a forensic scientist) has little to offer in the delineation of suicide from accident or murder. Analytically, a poison behaves no differently after accidental ingestion than after administration by an individual with murderous intent, or when taken by the victim with knowledge and aforethought. Present-day instrumentation coupled with refined technics make the determination of a poison in a tissue or body-fluid a comparatively simple procedure. The problem lies in proper sampling as well as the isolation and purification of the toxicant. The ever-increasing variety of biologically potent materials and their availability create a "nightmare" for the analytic toxicologist. The basic problem in determining whether or not a particular death was a suicide is an exercise in history and logic rather than toxicology.

Though of limited usefulness in assisting the coroner in rendering a verdict whether or not a death was in fact a suicide, the toxicologist-pharmacologist can serve most effectively as a participant in the badly needed research efforts to understand the dynamics of suicide and the recognition of suicide-prone individuals.

Toxicologic and pharmacologic methods and research are providing a new understanding of the biochemical, pharmacodynamic, and neurologic bases of behavior and response to stress. Evidence strongly suggests that many aberrant behavioral responses as well as mental illnesses and deficiencies may be the result of biochemical lesions. It is becoming evident that there probably is no such thing as a "twisted mind." The depressed, the neurotic, the psychotic, and the mentally retarded may be suffering from the presence of a "twisted molecule."

### SELF CONCEPTS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

*Dorothy Miller, Calif. Dept. of Mental Hygiene*

Juvenile delinquents define themselves and their problems in a variety of ways; some deny any guilt or feelings of concern, some feel victimized and project their problems upon society in general, while others feel responsible for their own behavior and define their problems as open to their own efforts to solve them.

This study tends to point out the importance of knowing how the juvenile delinquent sees himself and others before predicting a course of treatment or care

which would lead to a successful adjustment following release from a training school.

### THE CONTROL OF BEHAVIOR BY PUNISHMENT

*James B. Appel, Ph.D., Yale University School of Medicine*

Recent experiments with pigeons, rats, and monkeys show that brief, painful shocks presented immediately after behavior suppress that behavior for a time; the amount of this suppression depends in part on the intensity of the punishing stimulus.

Punishment, by itself, is severely limited as a technique for *therapeutically* modifying behavior even in animals. Suppressed behavior usually returns to normal, i.e., pre-punishment levels, as soon as punishment is withdrawn. It is necessary to continue to punish an act in order to maintain a given amount of suppression. There is some evidence that when mild punishment follows each response, concurrently rewarded behavior may begin to reappear more and more frequently. There remains little, if any, experimental support for the notion that punishment can facilitate the elimination of a previously acquired but no longer effective habit.

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To the Editor:

Since I retired from the Editorship of the *Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science* I have been compiling a General Index, Volume 1-50, inclusive. Citations have been prepared, 50,000 for the index of names and of subjects combined.

There's no fool-proof plan for making an index. Conceptions of the same subject differ widely enough among scholars to make a classified index rather questionable. We are using the straight alphabetic type. But there can be confusion here, too, in the subject index, for not all agree upon the key—the word which determines a subject's alphabetic order. Double entry resolves an occasional doubt, but not all of them.

I believe that users will welcome knowing that tabulations, bibliography, etc. are included in a cited contribution, if that is the fact. They suggest a meticulous author and give a "feel" of his composition. Signs in the citations show what to expect. In no instance does the indexer inject his personal bias toward a contribution.

When two or more contributions on the same subject are cited, we recognize the reader's preference among authors, and probably economize his time, for we include the author's surname, at least, in the citation following the statement of the subject.

Naturally, one who is writing a book may ignore all our signs. He will read all that's cited. An inconspicuous note may express an indispensable idea. But one who is refreshing his memory only, or "cramming" for a particular situation, or just satisfying his appetite, is outside the book writer's category. He is probably in the majority, however.

Robert H. Gault  
504 Lee St.  
Evanston, Ill.

**1963 PAPERS . . .****CONFRONTING THE ANONYMOUS LETTER WRITER**

*Martin Tytell and Pearl Tytell, Examiners of Questioned Documents, N.Y.C.*

The writers of anonymous "poison pen" letters present interesting subjects for study. Valuable insights into an important aspect of anti-social behavior are gained when the authors of unsigned denunciatory missives are identified and confronted.

The questioned document examiner, who participates frequently in cases involving anonymous denunciations, is often in an enviable position to observe the "poison pen" correspondents as he attends their confrontation.

Some background on anonymous letter writers may be helpful in comprehending their bizarre and socially harmful behavior. Although prominent public figures are a frequent target of anonymous letters, their victim may be anyone in a position to arouse envy or ill will. In today's society, the nameless letter writer is more active than ever.

Psychologically, the authorship of anonymous correspondence is usually associated with what are known as "paranoid traits." The writer suffers from extreme suspiciousness, persecutory ideas, and deep feelings of inadequacy. His self-dissatisfaction is projected outward, however, upon others.

Anonymous letter writers are frequently middle-aged men or women—often "quiet types"—who have failed to achieve their own expectations. They ascribe their failures to a widespread plot against themselves, and hate those who have become esteemed members of the community. Only by destroying those whom they inwardly envy can they secure some small satisfaction.

The document examiner does not act as judge or executioner. In cases of anonymous document identification, he merely presents the evidence indicating authorship. But his experience at the confrontation allows him opportunities to glimpse facets of the aberrant personality seldom available to other students of human behavior.

The 41st Annual Meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association will meet at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago, March 18-21, 1964.

**Planning Ahead?**

Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology are tentatively scheduled for the last week of December as follows:

- 1965 Berkeley, Calif.
- 1966 Washington, D.C.
- 1967 Dallas, Texas
- 1968 New York, N. Y.

The 1964 meetings of the Society will be held in Montreal December 28, 29, and 30, with Dr. Bruno Cormier serving as local arrangements chairman.

**THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING IN CORRECTIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Paul Emil Resta and Charles Philip Smith, System Development Corp.*

The demands upon law enforcement and correctional agencies increase daily. Current techniques seem to barely stem the tide of criminal acts and recidivism rates remain too high despite expanded rehabilitative programs. Improvements in detection, apprehension, adjudication and treatment of offenders is imperative. The mass of information available and necessary for meaningful handling of cases is not being effectively used and a new approach appears necessary.

The trend towards automation of information processing also grows more pronounced each day. Preliminary investigation has shown that electronic data processing can be effectively applied to corrections and law enforcement. These fields should not delay an exploration into what modern computer technology has to offer.

Please let us know what *you* want in *Criminologica*. Its effectiveness is your responsibility too!

**THE PROFESSIONAL CORNER**

. . . the meeting ground for criminologists seeking positions and employers seeking criminologists. There is no fee for this service. Persons seeking professional staff are encouraged to list their personnel needs with the American Society of Criminology. Listings will run "blind," with correspondence forwarded to the prospective employer or employee upon inquiry, unless the person listing the vacancy indicates otherwise. Similarly, persons seeking new professional criminological affiliation are asked to list their availability with the Society.

VACANCIES (Address inquires to American Society of Criminology, University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky., indicating "V" number.)

V64-1 *Teaching Position* — Department of Sociology and Anthropology—mid-western, state-supported university of 12,000 plus students. Available September, 1964. Specialization in criminology and juvenile delinquency with opportunities for research. Located in community of about 100,000 population. Candidates with Ph.D., and with strong qualifications and recommendations for both teaching and research desired.

AVAILABLE (Address inquiries to American Society of Criminology, University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky., indicating "AV" number.)

AV64-1 Will undertake research and/or writing projects and assignments in our technical laboratory and extensive library. Fourteen years as lecturer in Legal Medicine and Forensic Science, major university, twenty-five years heavy professional experience medical and scientific evidence. Major law and medical school libraries available. Other facilities.