

SUSPECT DOCUMENTS: Their Scientific Examination, by Wilson R. Harrison, M.Sc., Ph.D. Frederick A. Praeger, Publishers, New York 36, N.Y. Indexed. Illustrated. Pp. 583. \$16.50.

The logical, comprehensive method employed by the author to depict the problems confronting the layman, the pitfalls facing the embryonic student of document examination and the reference material afforded the qualified examiner has rendered this book an essential to any library.

It is recommended reading for those persons with the misguided belief that expert evidence is based on intuition (perception of truth, facts, etc., without reasoning) rather than deduction based on scientific reservations. There can be no doubt that a scientific examination of suspect documents carried out along these lines will ever be on any side but that of truth.

To fully comprehend the many topics so thoroughly covered by the author, it would be necessary for the reader to extend his ability to the plane attained by Dr. Harrison. But in spite of being a recommended standard reference for document examiners, it is also indispensable to the layman and those of the legal profession.

A.W.

BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL: THE MAFIA, by Frederic Sondern, Jr. Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, New York, N.Y., U.S.A., and Ambassador Books, Ltd., Toronto, Canada. Appendix. Illustrated. Pp. 243. \$3.95.

Mafia, according to Oxford: In Sicily, the spirit of hostility to law and its ministers, often manifesting itself in vindictive crimes. Also, the body of those who share in this spirit.

Oxford could stand revision. Mafia is no longer restricted to Sicily. According to the author of this forthright and demanding publication the brotherhood "discovered" our neighbors to the south, the U.S.A., in

the 1880's and first erupted into violence in New Orleans in 1890. But while this fact was apparently only evident to certain U.S. Federal departments, it is interesting to note that it has taken nearly 70 years for law-makers in America to admit its presence.

Opening with the details of the now famous Apalachin, New York meeting of the Mafia in November 1957, and the man who did the most to disrupt that conference, a sergeant in the N.Y. State Police, Mr. Sondern then traces the origin of Mafia and the peculiar mentality of its *mafiosi* or members.

The infamous Chicago gangster, Al Capone, is designated as the man who made the Mafia in the U.S. what it is today: it has virtual control of the underworld, plus the reins of a wide number of legitimate businesses including food and liquor distribution, trucking and garbage hauling.

The author names several of the high ranking *mafiosi* including Luciano, Albert Anastasia, Frank Costello and Joe Adonis, and has the backing of Commr. Harry J. Anslinger of the Bureau of Narcotics, U.S. Treasury Department, who endorses this as an accurate book.

Showing the penetration by the Mafia into union labor and legitimate concerns, there is an Appendix listing men who attended the Apalachin conference and their "business" connections, and also a list of selected *mafiosi* showing how they intermarry to assure solidarity within the ranks.

Mr. Sondern is a roving editor for *Reader's Digest*, and many of the articles he has had published have dealt with crime, consequently he has come to know—and work with—several of the world's principal law-enforcement officers. In his own words, "I've never really thought of doing a book, but this one just *had* to be written. The brotherhood, although very powerful, is not as mysterious as it first appears, and if enough people know about its workings, we can eventually destroy it." T.G.S.

OBITUARY

Deputy Commr. George Leslie Jennings, OBE, (Rtd.), 83, died Dec. 26, 1958 at Vancouver, B.C. He was appointed an Inspector in the RNWMP Aug. 1, 1906, promoted to Superintendent Feb. 1, 1920, Assistant Commissioner Mar. 1, 1932 and acting Deputy Commissioner on Oct. 1, 1936. He was promoted to Deputy Commissioner on Apr. 23, 1937 and retired to

pension Aug. 1, 1938. Deputy Commissioner Jennings commanded the RNWMP Cavalry Draft which served Overseas in World War I and was also a veteran of the South African War. (See also Old-timers' Column.)

Reg. No. 12162 ex-Sgt. William Francis Webster, 70, died Jan. 19, 1959 at Halifax, N.S.