CANADIAN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

By Roger E. Salhany; (Canada Law Book: Toronto), 1968; 288 pp.

For the law student, for the lawyer old or young who is engaged in a
general practice or a specialized practice other than in criminal law, and
for the layman, here at last is an excellent introduction to and survey of
criminal law and criminal procedure in particular. In the past on more
than one occasion I have given a series of introductory or general survey
type lectures on the law to laymen; I quickly became aware of the real
and unfortunate scarcity of adequate written materials to which I could
refer any of the more interested individuals. Granted there are some such
books available, but either they are inadequate or they deal particularly
with so-called business law. What is not available is a general survey of
Canadian law suitable for high school students and other interested
persons regardless of their particular interest. Maybe this is the kind
of void that could be filled quickly and easily by a joint venture of three
or four university law teachers and a lawyer actively engaged in a general
practice. At any rate it is a void which should be filled!

Probably the most fascinating area of the law to the layman is criminal
law and procedure. It is in this area of our law that the lawyer or law
teacher is most likely to be questioned by laymen. And yet, of all the
questions that laymen normally ask, it is in connection with those concern-
ing criminal law and particularly criminal procedure that lawyers and law
teachers not specializing in the criminal law and criminal procedure will
be least conversant. Roger Salhany’s book is a “cure-all”. It should be
read by every lawyer and law student and recommended to every interested
layman, if only to gain from it a general surface knowledge and intro-
duction to criminal procedure in particular. Mr. Salhany’s treatment of
the subject is clear and concise. In short, the book is well written and quite
readable.

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1. I am going to beg off specifically assessing the available books for I cannot do justice to them
by way of what would amount to a passing reference in the nature of an obiter dictum.
2. The reason being that in our literature and through the communications media it is the
barrister or court room lawyer who is most often pictured. It is trite to point out the
continuation of the myth that most if not all lawyers spend nearly all of their time in
court prosecuting or defending accused persons.
3. The book has its shortcomings and these would be particularly noticeable to criminal law
specialists: See for example (1968) 10 Criminal L.Q. 358, 360.
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