

# Book Reviews – Revue des Livres

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## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> And yet, of all the questions that laymen normally ask, it is in connection with those concerning 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 introduction to criminal procedure in particular.<sup>3</sup> 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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