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L.B. CURZON



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L. B. CURZON

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## *Criminal Law*

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## *Preface to the Fourth Edition*

This HANDBOOK is intended as a guide for those who are approaching a study of the criminal law for the first time, and as a review of the subject area for those who are seeking a swift and intensive scheme of revision prior to taking their first examinations in the subject. It is neither intended nor designed in any way as a substitute for any one of the standard texts (*see Appendix I*), a study of which is essential for success in criminal law examinations. It is envisaged and presented as a concise, supplementary working text based on study notes and progress tests.

Criminal law is not static and students must recognise and accept the necessity for keeping up-to-date so that their answers to examination problems are based on the law *as it is*. Repeals of statutes, amendments, decisions of the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords must be studied and summarised (and the text of this HANDBOOK amended at appropriate places). Continuous reference to law periodicals (*see Appendix I*) is essential.

A planned course of study based on the text might take the following form *for beginners*.

(a) *The first reading* of the text should be swift and designed for the acquisition of *a general view of the nature and content of the criminal law*. At this stage the progress tests need not be attempted.

(b) *The second reading* constitutes the main part of this scheme of study and involves *a detailed, methodical study of the text*. Each chapter must be studied very carefully and the appropriate progress test should be completed and checked. Definitions should be analysed and comprehended, principles of law and their application in leading cases should be examined and evaluated.

(c) *The third reading* should be in the nature of *a general revision* based on a re-examination of principles, definitions and leading cases.

(d) *Finally*, the three *test papers in Appendix III* should be attempted under examination conditions.

A *swift course of revision* based on the text might take the following form:

- (a) *First*, read through each chapter and attempt the progress test. Check answers before moving to the next chapter.
- (b) *Secondly*, attempt the test papers in Appendix III, under examination conditions.
- (c) *Finally*, check your answers to the test papers by working through the relevant chapters in the text.

This fourth edition attempts to state the criminal law in general as it was in mid-August 1983. Some minor additions were made at proofreading stages. The table of cases has been revised and brought up to date and a table of statutes has been added. All chapters in the third edition have been amended in the light of recent changes in the criminal law. New material has been added based on the Contempt of Court Act 1981, the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 and the Firearms Act 1982.

I wish to thank the Senate of the University of London for its kind permission to reprint in Appendix III a selection of questions from recent LL B examinations.

1984

L.B.C.

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