

ARCHBOLD'S PLEADING, PRACTICE AND EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL CASES,  
35th Ed. By T. R. Fitzwalter Butler and Marston Garsia. [London:  
Sweet and Maxwell. 1962. cc + 1771 pp. £6. 0s. 0d.]

The review section of a law journal is usually supposed to be concerned with the review of 'books', but Archbold is not a book; it is an institution. It is the gospel of practitioners in the criminal courts, and who would dare to review the Gospels. It is not really a book, but then neither is it a mere digest, nor even an annotation. It is *sui generis*: it is Archbold, unique and indispensable.

We may note that for the thirty-fifth time in one hundred and forty years it has been refurbished by shedding its noting-up slips and cumulative supplements, but beyond that there is little to be said. Its arrangement still defies analysis — but everything is there, somewhere.

The most astonishing fact to note about Archbold is that in a mere eight years it will have reached its sesquicentennial anniversary — a remarkable record for any law book still in current use. Yet even more astonishing is the fact that it will not be the first English law book in current use to reach such an anniversary. That honour appears to go to *Russell on Crime* which will reach its sesquicentennial anniversary in a mere five years. Indeed both books are nearly as old as their respective publishing houses.

It is a curious commentary on the state of English criminal law that the two standard works still in current use are among the oldest law books still in current publication on any subject. The implications of this curious fact cannot be pursued here. All that can and all that need be said is that *Archbold*, refurbished but essentially unchanged, is again available.

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