

Foreword to the Second Edition

From time to time, it is appropriate to ask ourselves why it is that we believe that which we think we know. What is it that we believe or think we know about the psychological engines that drive those who hurt and kill? Epistemology, the study of how and why it is that we know anything at all, tells us that the motivating themes for all behavior can be categorized in terms of biodynamics, sociodynamics, theodynamics, and psychodynamics. (The story of Cain and Abel would seem to lend support for this assertion.) If people commit crimes in part as a result of their own specific psychodynamics, it is incumbent upon us to make the effort to comprehend something of their motives and reasonings, however dysfunctional or abhorrent they may be. If we apply conventional logic, and all the things that we learned at our grandmother's knee (or some other equally respectable joint), a crime may appear totally obscure. Seen through the eyes of the perpetrator, however, it may be entirely sensible. An appreciation of how the perspective of the offender may be factored into the investigation may allow us to proceed more effectively.

There are seven classical motives suggested for acts that we would deem sinister: money, sex, jealousy, fear, anger, hate, and prejudice. Four of these, not without reason, coincide with the seven deadly sins. Most of us have a passing conversancy with money, jealousy and (conventional) sex, and while it might be presumptuous for us to claim that we have an unqualified grasp of those subjects, we at least find those motives more or less understandable. But thankfully few and hopefully none of us would be justified in claiming to appreciate the nuances of out-of-control hate, fear, and anger. This text may assist us in that regard. Brent Turvey and his contributors show us the logical underpinnings of what is rapidly becoming a seasoned and cohesive scientific discipline.

This book will assist in our comprehension of the dark angels of our culture. The text further shapes the first edition, systematically placing criminal profiling on a firm scientific basis. A critical premise upon which the book builds is that before pronouncements can be made concerning the mental complexion of the perpetrator of a crime, the crime must first be subjected to a full and complete analysis. The crime scene must first be understood for what it *is*, before an attempt can be made to state what it *means*. This emphasis on evidence dynamics, on wound pattern analysis, on crime scene reconstruction, is commendable, and the contributors to the book write with refreshing candor. The serial killer or the sexual predator, whether truly mad or simply bad, does not plan or accomplish his evil in an empty void, but on a stage where characteristics of the crime, and by extension characteristics of the criminal, may be inferred from things done, from things touched, from things taken, and from things left behind. The text stresses that criminal profiling is not an expression of surmise, but is a carefully woven tapestry of many elements, brought to a common focus. The text will benefit all those with any responsibility or interest in this subject.

John I. Thornton