
faithful viewer of Channel 9 who creates her own understandings of the world and who recreates those views in all her activities.

Simon Bouda's *Crimes That Shocked Australia* could be easily and simplistically shunted aside as nothing more than a printed version of Hinch. It offers, in its eighty "chapters", a one-page summary of famous or infamous Australian crimes and on the facing page, reproduces the newspaper stories covering these crimes. Most of the newspaper clippings, but not all, come from the tabloid press, the so-called "lower" end of the newspaper hierarchy. Many are sensationalistic. In other words, they do greatly resemble Derryn Hinch's populist oversimplifying posturing on issues of criminal justice. But this reading of Bouda's book seeks to impose on the text the prejudices of the profession, of those of us who are deeply and personally implicated in the maintenance of a particular view of law and the criminal justice system. In other words, it simply re-enforces the traditional hierarchal relationship between "them" and "us". We are the insiders who know law because we practise or teach. They are the *hoi polloi*, the common masses who must, alas, submit themselves to the crass vulgarities of Derryn Hinch and the *Telegraph-Mirror*. Fortunately, there are a lot more of them than there are of us and we should start trying to understand this simple reality. Bouda's book is a good place to start. Here we will learn the "real" story of *Sodeman* and *Ryan*, of Australia's first drug dealer, of Jean Lee, the last woman to be hanged in Australia and many, many more. The book offers a good, accessible and readable popular history of representations of crime in white Australia.

We must avoid romanticising popular culture, just as we must avoid falling into the ideology of entrenched hierarchies. If we read Bouda's book with our minds open to the complexities of "our" social knowledge, we might begin to think about a project which could indeed deconstruct and decenter the traditional ideology of crime and criminality. This book is a good place to start a much more complex and contextualised reading of Australian criminal justice and democracy.

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Lundy: The Destruction of Scotland Yard's Finest Detective by Martin Short,
Grafton Books, London, 1991.

Addressing a seminar of the Australian Institute of Criminology in 1984, Paul Byrne¹ introduced his argument for reform of aspects of the law relating to the use of informants in the administration of criminal justice by reference to a 17th century of Sir Matthew Hale:²

More mischief hath come to good men ... by false accusations of desperate villains than benefit to the public by the discovery and conviction of real offenders.

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1 Then a Commissioner, NSW Law Reform Commission, now of the NSW Bar.

2 Byrne, P "Granting Immunity from Prosecution", in *Prosecutorial Discretion*, Seminar Proceedings No 6, Australian Institute of Criminology, 1984, citing M Hale, *Pleas of the Crown*, p 226.

In 1991 the subject of Martin Short's biographical treatment of the rise and fall of perhaps this century's most outstanding exponent of "turning" villains into supergrasses, former Detective Superintendent Tony Lundy of New Scotland yard, may have cause to reflect with some sympathy upon that observation.

Detective Superintendent Lundy, a man with "an ascetic air which must have rubbed many of his one-time colleagues up the wrong way: part mean Northerner among flash Cockneys ridiculing his contorted vowels, part Catholic outsider in a largely masonic culture, part workaholic achiever out of step with many men accustomed to a less-than-demanding workload", retired prematurely from the Metropolitan Police in 1989 at the age of 47. In his 27 years of service, Mr Lundy became a reputed leader in the practice of exploiting the treacherous character of desperate criminals by employing their special knowledge against their brethren for the benefit of the Crown.

By all accounts, Detective Superintendent Lundy's methods achieved amazing results. He solved not just some of London's biggest crimes, but more serious crimes and arrested more major criminals than any other police officer in the 160 year history of Scotland Yard. His personal contribution was reportedly significant in bringing about an unprecedented decline in the incidence of armed robberies in London, he pioneered the Yard's endeavours to address organised crime on an international scale, uncovered conduits of global money laundering and was principally responsible for the destruction of major drug syndicates.

As his career developed however, Mr Lundy's success came to be equalled only by his notoriety and the controversy which enveloped him. His retirement due to ill-health followed some ten years of virtually continuous microscopic examination, both by senior police officers and others, of almost unrelenting allegations of impropriety and corruption. He became the subject of, or unfavourably mentioned in, at least two special television programs and a book serialised in a London newspaper.

His credibility and hence his professional usefulness undermined, Mr Lundy left the Police Service without a single allegation proved against him, but condemned by suspicion and innuendo both within the Police Service and outside it. Ironically, in the end the demise of this leading exponent in the art of "turning" informants came partly from the ready acceptance by some police officers and journalist of the truth of information supplied by individuals of the very type Lundy had himself sought to cultivate throughout his career and partly from his long standing association with one high-grade criminal informant in particular.

In one camp are those who attribute Mr Lundy's undisputed 'thief-catching' ability primarily to his own corruption, engendered by an initiation afforded him by an older generation of like minded Detectives and manifested in the crooked manner of his dealing with criminal informants. In the other are those who see him as a hard-working police officer who exhibited extraordinary dedication, zeal and an uncanny ability to "turn" criminals into informants or, more particularly, serious criminals into supergrasses. For his own part, Mr Lundy considers himself to have been used by a police hierarchy anxious to bask in the kudos of his successes but less than supportive when he himself came under fire.

Martin Short's account of Superintendent Lundy's career, with its attention to the detail of the principal allegations levelled against him and analysis of the evidence for and against (with a decided preference for the latter), provides a fascinating story of both the political machinations of London's Metropolitan Police Service of the time and a welcome insight into some of the very practical problems often confronting operational police officers which are seemingly not always appreciated by others.

Beyond that, perhaps its longer-lasting value lies in the contribution it makes to the topical subject of the use of criminal informants in the administration of criminal justice generally. The use of such witnesses poses significant problems for all interested in the administration of criminal justice and for the law itself. While most prosecuting authorities now acknowledged the desirability of the criminal justice system operating without the need to grant an indemnity or immunity against criminal informants,³ it is inevitable that circumstances will continue to arise where just that is deemed necessary.

Recent cases in Australia have called into question the need for the development of more comprehensive prosecution policies regarding, in particular, the use of so-called "Supergrasses" and issues relating to the means by which to "reward" them and/or how to determine appropriate sentences to be imposed on them.

The perennial problems for police administrators in the "management" of such individuals remain and under Commissioner Ian Temby QC, the Independent Commission Against Corruption is currently conducting its inquiry into particular cases which will undoubtedly prove enlightening.

In comprehensively addressing Detective Superintendent Lundy's case, Martin Short has written a seminal story of Cops and Robbers and, in doing so, equipped those interested in the subject with ready access to factual material exemplifying many of the problems, both in and out of the courtroom, relating to the continuing use of criminal informants.

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3 For example, R O Blanch QC, *Prosecution Policy Guidelines of the Director of Public Prosecutions* (NSW), 1988, p 9; *Prosecution Policy of the Commonwealth*, AGPS, 1986, P 13. See also Ian Temby QC, "Immunity from Prosecution and the Provision of Witness Indemnities", (1985) 59 *Australian Law Journal* 501.

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