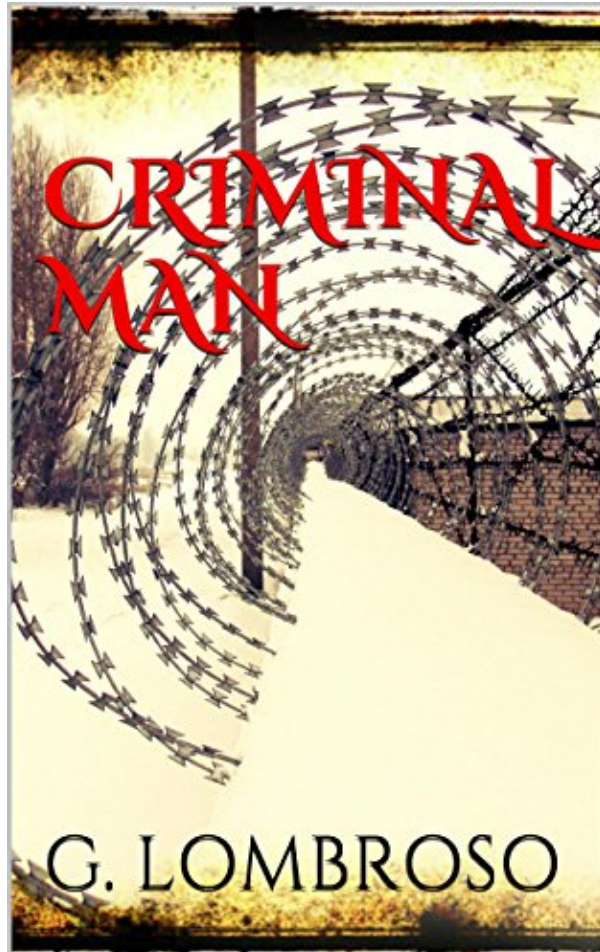
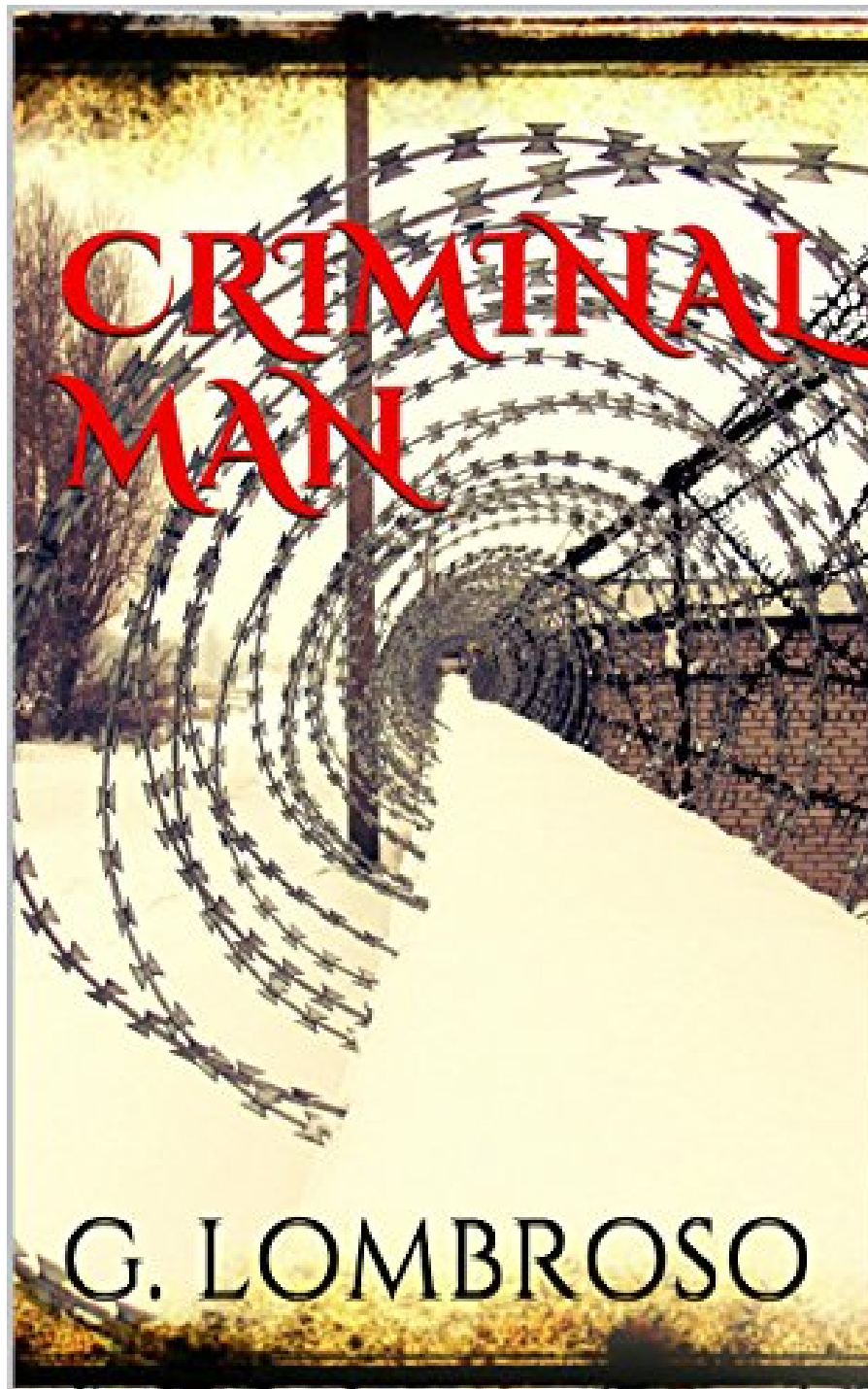


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Review

“Cesare Lombroso’s *Criminal Man* has long been a classic of criminology. Mary Gibson and Nicole Hahn Rafter, in offering this finely annotated translation and showing the progression of Lombroso’s thought through five editions of the book, have made a great contribution to a broader understanding of this towering, yet often misrepresented, figure and his classic text. With its lucid introduction by Gibson and Rafter, and many original illustrations, this book will be a precious resource for the history of criminology and for European intellectual and social history more generally.”—David I. Kertzer, author of *Prisoner of the Vatican: The Popes’ Secret Plot to Capture Rome from the New Italian State*

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On consulting my memory and the documents relating to my studies on this subject, I find that its two fundamental ideas—that, for instance, which claims as an essential point the study not of crime in the abstract, but of the criminal himself, in order adequately to deal with the evil effects of his wrong-doing, and that which classifies the congenital criminal as an anomaly, partly pathological and partly atavistic, a revival of the primitive savage—did not suggest themselves to me instantaneously under the spell of a single deep impression, but were the offspring of a series of impressions. The slow and almost unconscious association of these first vague ideas resulted in a new system which, influenced by its origin, has preserved in all its subsequent developments the traces of doubt and indecision, the marks of the travail which attended its birth. The first idea came to me in 1864, when, as an army doctor, I beguiled my ample leisure with a series of studies on the Italian soldier. From the very beginning I was struck by a characteristic that distinguished the honest soldier from his vicious comrade: the extent to which the latter was tattooed and the indecency of the designs that covered his body. This idea, however, bore no fruit.

The second inspiration came to me when on one occasion, amid the laughter of my colleagues, I sought to base the study of psychiatry on experimental methods. When in '66, fresh from the atmosphere of clinical experiment, I had begun to study psychiatry, I realised how inadequate were the methods hitherto held in esteem, and how necessary it was, in studying the insane, to make the patient, not the disease, the object of attention. In homage to these ideas, I applied to the clinical examination of cases of mental alienation the study of the skull, with measurements and weights, by means of the esthesiometer and craniometer.

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Criminal Man: Classic Book of Criminology

By T.NAKAJIMA

Though his theory of 'the born criminal' is not likely to win many supporters today, Cesare Lombroso (1835-1909), an Italian physician and criminologist, is now widely considered one of the most important founders of criminology. His once widely popular ideas about how and why some people commit crimes were very influential in the 19th century Europe and America, and this book is the first critically annotated translation of the book which still gives a chance for an intriguing read and deeper understanding of the Western culture.

Lombroso's theory is based on the idea of 'the born criminal,' certain group of possibly dangerous people marked by what he called 'anomalies.' According to him, certain people who have particular physical traits are more likely to commit crimes than other 'normal' people, and by carefully checking the bodies and faces of the criminals, including their cranial capacities or tattoos, Lombroso established his unique theory that sounds unusual today. He insists, for instance, "Nearly all the criminals have ... thick hair and thin beard." (p. 53) Today this crude statement would never be convincing.

In short 'Criminal Man' is an analysis of the nature of crime, a pseudo-science based on empirical data. Over the five editions of 'Criminal Man' Lombroso developed his theory by accumulating data, articles, photos, and even the poems and drawings by the criminals, and he developed his theory with more categories and sub-categories added to his original idea, later covering the territories of prostitution, insanity, and even botany.

[ABOUT THE EDITIONS] The original book was first published in 1876, and this one-volume edition later expanded to the fifth edition (3 volumes and 1 atlas) in 1896-97. Instead of choosing one particular edition as the basis of the English translation, editors/translators Nicole Hahn Rafter and Mary Gibson made a sensitive decision. They divided their translation into five sections - EDITION 1, EDITION 2 ... and EDITION 5. The translated book's EDITION 1 includes every chapter of the first edition of the original book except for several chapters, which are postponed until their EDITION 2 section where they appear in fuller detail. The same pattern goes on until EDITION 5. According to the translators' notes, Lombroso never eliminated the older contents, and rarely revised them, so in this way the translation could keep the substance virtually intact, but within each chapter abridgement was done because of the numbers of the examples quoted by Lombroso, which they found too many.

The translation has all prefaces by Lombroso, notes by the editors, and the list of references. The book also

has very useful glossary that explains the meaning and background of such words as atavism, physiognomy, positivism, recidivism, and others.

There is a "companion piece" titled "Criminal Woman, the Prostitute, and the Normal Woman" written by Lombroso and translated by Nicole Hahn Rafter and Mary Gibson.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By Monica

Good item

1 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Obra de consulta obligatoria

By Juan Bircann

Con esta obra de Lombroso nace formalmente la Criminología (llamada entonces Antropología Criminal; el término "Criminología" surge en 1885 con la obra de Garófalo).

Como referencia histórica, y dentro de un contexto general, la obra de Lombroso no ha sido superada, más bien sus postulados han venido a ser confirmados a la luz de los más recientes conocimientos. Su clasificación de los delincuentes se mantiene vigente. De igual manera sus observaciones respecto a los rasgos distintivos de la subcultura criminal: uso del tatuaje, jerga, vanidad, sobrenombres, religiosidad y superstición, insensibilidad moral, etc.

Esta obra clásica, la primera en su género, es referencia obligatoria para el criminalista y todos aquellos interesados en la criminogénesis o etiología del delito.

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