

# EDITORIAL

## CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA IN CRIMINOLOGY

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### WHITE COLLAR CRIME

Who could have known, way back last summer when this issue was planned, just how topical it would be? Guinness, Blue Arrow, Barlow Clowes: these and other cases have dominated the financial headlines once again over the past month or two. The issues they raise - the complexity of the cases, their length and expense, the viability of the jury system in such circumstances, the strain of taking part, whether as defendant, jury member, witness, counsel or judge, and the patterns of sentencing that are emerging - have provoked a blizzard of comment and controversy. The Serious Fraud Office is under attack, as is the whole process by which, currently, we cope with such cases. "We must find cheaper and quicker ways to deal with serious fraud trials," said Mr Justice Henry to the jury, halting Guinness II. "The likelihood is we shall need a radical solution rather than merely tinkering with the process".

The trials may be expensive, but the amount of money involved in the alleged offences is staggering, and rising. When Barbara Mills joined the SFO eighteen months ago, the aggregate value of the frauds it was investigating was in the region of £1.3 billion. Now it is an estimated £5.8 billion, for two main reasons: BCCI and Maxwell.

It is tempting to suppose that complex fraud cases are technical offences rather than 'real crimes'. But in truth the victims are real enough. There are those, frequently far from wealthy, whose pensions and savings vanish because of deceit. There are also those honest traders who suffer when an entire market gains

a reputation for shabby dealing.

But 'shabby dealing' is to be found beyond the square mile. When this issue was planned, we hoped to include cons, scams and skullduggery of all kinds. Considerations of space and the quality and volume of articles received (most of which have been about corporate fraud in one way or another) have precluded this. But the interested historian of fiddles would find Gerald Mars' seminal book 'Cheats at Work: An Anthropology of Workplace Crime' (London 1982) a goldmine, in more senses than one. Did you know that 'Archimedes owed the discovery of the principle that bears his name to the presence of fiddling among the royal goldsmiths'? ("By realising, as he bathed, that the displacement of a liquid is equal to the volume of the solid causing its displacement, Archimedes was able to calculate the amount of gold abstracted during the manufacture of a king's crown." Mars p.4.)

We are fortunate to have gathered for this issue a range of articles by academics and professionals celebrated for their research and experience in this field. **Michael Clarke** writes about the exposure of white collar crime, regulatory mechanisms and the role of the press, **Michael Beckman** pays tribute to the 'collective nose of the jury', and **Michael Levi** takes a wry look at sentencing in the Guinness affair. **Rowan Bosworth Davies** explores the impact of class and power distinctions on regulation. **Jurg Gerber** and **Susan Weeks** direct our attention to the 'Invisible Woman' as victim of white collar crime, whilst **Helen Parry** explores the wild and woollier



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fringes of the financial services game. Finally, **David Kidd-Hewitt and Helen Parry** outline the 'classic con' - nothing to do with the workplace at all, this one.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of CJM and find it thought provoking. The delay in getting it to you has been the result of the hiatus between editorships. Martin Farrell (my predecessor at the ISTD) left for a senior job in the Red Cross last autumn, and I was not free to take up my post until January. Apologies for the delay, therefore. If you're already an ISTD member you will know what a tiny (1 1/3) core staff it has. If you are not, why not consider supporting us, and ensuring that this small independent non-campaigning educational charity has a future in the 21st Century?

**Julia Braggins**  
ISTD Director



Peter Dalrymple

*Just in case you wanted to put a face to the new Editor, Julia Braggins is seen here listening to Sir David Napley's speech at the Institute's Diamond Jubilee Annual Dinner, 1992 (see p.12)*

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The next issue will consider: Crimes of Violence. Each issue of CJM focuses on a special area of criminological interest. Contributions are welcome and will be considered for inclusion if sent to Julia Braggins by 8th May 1992.

Editorial Board: **Julia Braggins (Editor), Yolande Burgin, Francis Charlton, David Kidd-Hewitt, Paul Kiff, Roger Matthews.**

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