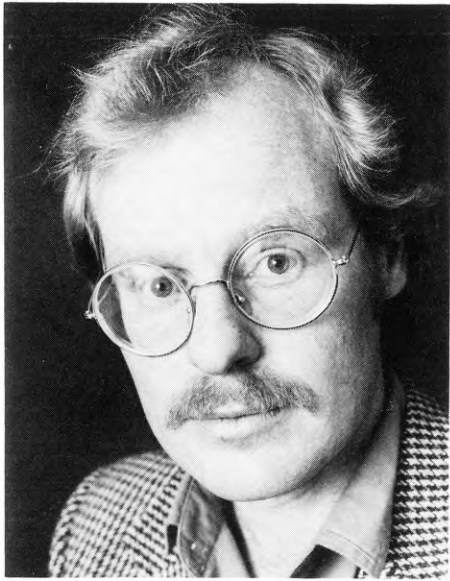


INTERPOL — THE LO

The Editor gratefully thanks the editor of PIX PEOPLE



David Naylor, staff writer of PIX PEOPLE.

An Australian is extradited from Tasmania to Sweden to stand trial for murder. An American double-murderer is arrested in NSW and sent back to the United States. An Englishman wanted for stealing a Roman coin from the British museum is picked up in Sydney by Scotland Yard detectives and taken back to the UK.

These arrests all bear the stamp of the Interpol office in Canberra, a busy 24-hour operation forever spinning a web of information to snare the international crook.

Hundreds of murderers, thieves and smugglers have learned their lesson the hard way — there is no refuge for them in Australia.

Acting on information constantly churned out by Interpol, Australia's State police forces are becoming experts at rounding up foreign criminals.

Known crooks arriving at Australian airports are often sent packing on the same plane before they've even cleared Immigration. Others make it through airport checks only to be picked up soon after and held for extradition.

In most cases, Australian Federal Police officers attached to Interpol Canberra are the first link in the chain of events that lead to such arrests.

Every week, hundreds of leaflets, telex messages, letters and phone calls pour in and out of the Interpol bureau inside the Australian Federal

Police headquarters. This information flow is what Interpol is all about.

The popular image of an international force of supersleuths criss-crossing the globe in search of travelling criminals is completely false. With the exception of some South American countries, national Interpol bureaux have no "operational" officers conducting investigations.

It is purely an information and liaison service and the staff are basically desk-bound. But the information it receives and dispatches enables police forces around the globe to break down international barriers.

With a staff of 14 people, including five senior sergeants, a chief inspector and a chief superintendent, Interpol Canberra plays a vital role in the vast Interpol network.

Sometimes Canberra officers must act quickly on information just received to ensure a criminal is picked up at an airport. But crime isn't Interpol's only concern.

Chief Superintendent Dick Dixon of the Australian Federal Police told PEOPLE magazine: "Interpol covers the whole gamut of police operations."

Supt Dixon, an Englishman who served with the Colonial Police in Africa, helped establish the Canberra Interpol bureau after it was moved from Melbourne. He spent three months at the Paris headquarters clearing the way for a full-time Australian representative.

An Australian Federal Police officer is now appointed every two years to do a stint in Paris.

Australia first joined Interpol in 1946 when it was reconstituted after the war. A bureau was set up in Melbourne and operated by the Victorian police until 1976. Then the Commonwealth Police (now the Australian Federal Police) took it over and moved the office to Canberra.

Interpol Canberra acts on behalf of all Australian police forces needing information from overseas. It obtains for them criminal records of people with convictions outside Australia, information on unidentified corpses, documents needed by officers planning investigations in foreign countries, and details of the

latest developments in police work.

Part of its work is humanitarian — gathering and dispatching information telling people of family deaths and emergencies.

Interpol is also a sort of police force travel agency, arranging itineraries and documents for officers who have to conduct inquiries or attend conferences overseas.



Chief Supt Ray McCabe, head of the Canberra Interpol Bureau. He served as Australia's man at Interpol's secretariat in Paris.

Australian bureau works unceasingly to snare crooks across the world

Arranging extraditions is an important part of Interpol's work. Supt. Dixon said: "We are permitted to request the issue of provisional warrants for the arrest of people wanted overseas. We liaise between the Attorney-General's Department, Foreign Affairs and if necessary the police forces both here and overseas to make sure the extradition goes smoothly. But it's not as easy as it sounds. There are a lot of complications."

Australians who have committed crimes overseas aren't safe from extradition when they return home. Interpol Canberra arranged the arrest and extradition of Australian citizen Walter James Gillan from Tasmania to Sweden, where he stood trial for murder.

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ission to reprint the following article by David Naylor.

Gillan, born in NSW 32 years ago, was wanted by Swedish police for the murder of Asa Birgitta Osterman in Sweden in September, 1977.

Full confession after extradition

He was arrested in Launceston, Tasmania, in October, 1978, and made a full confession to Federal police officers. After a court approved his extradition, Swedish police officers took Gillan back to Sweden. He was found guilty and committed to a psychiatric hospital.

The files of Interpol Canberra contain the details of many extraditions — up to 20 a year — involving both Australians and foreigners.

An American arrested last year in Bathurst, NSW, was sent back to Ohio to stand trial for killing his parents. A woman wanted by New Zealand police for aggravated robbery was extradited from Melbourne.

Another American wanted by the FBI for "unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for murder" was arrested in Auburn, NSW, and extradited to the US.

An Englishman wanted by the Victorian police for fraud was arrested in London and extradited back to Australia. An American was arrested by Hong Kong police and returned to Australia to stand trial for conspiring to import cannabis.



Second in command in the Canberra Interpol Bureau is Chief Inspector Don Waring (left).

The NSW police have asked Fijian authorities, via Interpol, to arrest a man wanted for an attempted bomb murder.

Many international criminal suspects arrested in Australia are first mentioned in the official colour-coded leaflets sent out from the Paris headquarters:

RED means "arrest suspect". BLUE means "information only wanted" or "missing person". GREEN means "keep suspect under surveillance". BLACK notices give details of unidentified corpses.

Well known fugitives who have appeared on Interpol leaflets include Lord Lucan (wanted for murder, now believed to be dead), and Great Train Robber Ronald Biggs (now living safely in Brazil).

Interpol a few years ago issued black notices about unidentified non-Asians who had been found murdered in Asia. They later turned out to be the victims of killer Charles Sobhraj, who preyed on young travellers.

"We get a lot of overseas police visitors coming out here to interview people in conjunction with State or Federal police," said Supt. Dixon. "British police spend a lot of time in Australia, often to investigate fraud cases."

Co-operation between Australian and British police is well-developed. When Interpol Canberra asks British police for a finger print check, the reply often comes back in about 45 minutes.

British police have been tracking down the infamous Australian shop-lifting gang that has been operating in the UK for several years — and Interpol Canberra, supported by State police criminal intelligence units, keeps them informed of the backgrounds and movements of people believed to have been connected with it.

Interpol Canberra also expects British police to eventually supply them with information about the planning and operation of the rescue mission which ended the Iranian embassy siege in London this year.

Political offences not pursued

Occasionally Interpol Canberra refuses an overseas force permission to make inquiries in Australia — usually because the offence is political, not criminal. Interpol is forbidden by its charter to pursue pol-

itical, military, racial or religious matters.

"Another country may also ask us to find people who have committed an offence in their country for which there is no reciprocal offence in Australia — and we refuse on principle," said Supt. Dixon.

Although he is no longer directly attached to Interpol, Supt. Dixon still takes an interest in its operation. The head of the Canberra bureau is Chief Superintendent Ray McCabe, an Englishman who speaks fluent French and served a two-year stint as Australia's representative at Interpol's Paris secretariat.

Second in command is Chief Inspector Don Waring, also English, who had been with the Commonwealth Police for 25 years. He has travelled overseas as an escort to Sir John Kerr, one-time Governor-General.

Five senior sergeants keep the Canberra bureau functioning 24 hours a day, helped by five constables working as telex operators and two clerks.

Messages, leaflets, requests, circulars, booklets, and general information come in via the telex, post and telephone at the rate of about 600 communications a week. Most are in English, but some are in the other three official Interpol languages — French, Spanish and Arabic. Some messages are in other languages.

"We get great help with long translations from the Immigration Department," said Supt. Dixon. "But we also have officers in the Federal Police who are fluent in anything from German to Japanese to Serbo-Croatian to God knows what."

Among the vast amount of material that pours into Interpol Canberra are circulars listing international pickpockets; significant drug cases and ways to recognise clandestine drug laboratories; every typewriter type-face in the world; every firearm in existence; and the 12 most wanted stolen works of art, including paintings by Picasso, Renoir and Rembrandt.

As quickly as the material flows into Interpol Canberra, it streams out to State police forces all over Australia, creating a formidable network of information to trap the international criminal.