

PREFACE

There are many books on policing in the United States; they range from the history of police in America to contemporary reforms in recent decades. But only a handful of the books that line library shelves are focused on women in policing. Women have worked in the occupation of policing since the late 1800s and, with increasing numbers, have changed the landscape of policing in the United States. Consequently, there has been a recent burgeoning of studies dedicated to women employed within police agencies. *Women and Policing in America: Classic and Contemporary Readings* is, as the title suggests, a collection of early and contemporary research studies and essays on women and policing. Each reading is placed within a context that emphasizes its significance documenting the changing roles of women in the field.

Women and Policing in America is not merely a compilation of articles; each section begins with a comprehensive, yet concise, overview of the major topical areas that help to explain the significance of the articles and essays in each chapter. We hope that this book serves the important role of instructing and guiding the women—and men—who are currently in policing careers as well as those considering joining this exciting and important profession.

This book is organized into six chapters, discussing several of the major issues faced by women in policing in the United States. We first trace the historical trajectory of women in policing, dating back to the late 19th century. Although women were often seen as ancillary to police organizations early on, they served a vital role in policing in a country that was continually adapting to major social, industrial, and technological developments. Every major social change in the United States produced a reciprocal change in policing; women were at the center of those changes. These major transformations influenced the structure and content of this book. By focusing on the historical and contemporary contexts, supplementing them with classical and contemporary research articles and essays, we trace where women began to where they currently stand in modern day policing. Beginning this book with a discussion of the historical context, therefore, provides a backdrop for understanding not only how the nature of policing has changed in the United States, but also explains the expansion of the role and responsibilities of women in policing from police matron, to police woman, to police officer.

Each article or essay was chosen because of its relevance and its impact on the field of policing. Although we have provided a collection of insightful works, the actual amount of material required that we be selective in our choice of literature.

To overcome the limitations of space, time, and cost we have provided a comprehensive list of references and also a further reading section. We hope our book incites intellectual curiosity beyond the articles we have included in *Women and Policing in America* and that you pursue your interest in policing by seeking out other influential works cited.

We must thank many people for their assistance in the development of this book. First, we thank the scholars who are doing incredible work in important areas of policing—the historians, the researchers, the teachers, and past and present members of a number of police departments. This book would not have been possible without their sacrifices and earnest dedication to this field of study. We also thank Aspen Publishers, specifically David Herzig, our editor, and Susan Boulanger, our developmental specialist. We thank our external reviewers for their insightful comments and suggestions. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to Northwestern University School of Law, The Police Foundation, and Emerald Publishing, Inc. for their generosity and cooperation when permissions were sought for some of the articles and essays we have included in this book.

We were able to obtain the photos featured on the cover and throughout the text from various agencies; we want to thank Steve Willard and Tom Giaquinto from the San Diego Police Historical Association for allowing us to feature the three badges displayed on the cover; Glynn Martin of the Los Angeles Police Historical Society and Jim Huff of the Portland Police Museum for the photos featured in Chapter 1; the Fargo Police Department (specifically Chief Keith Ternes, Officers Jess Homan, Susan Dealing, Jeremiah Ferris, Ryan Dorrheim, and Michelle Voeltz) for the photos in Chapters 2 and 4; Chief Jeanette Persons of the Lisbon Police Department for the photo used in Chapter 3; the New York City Police Museum for the photo used in Chapter 5, and John Hallberg of the Institute for Regional Studies at North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, and retired Portland Police Chief Penny Harrington for the photos used in Chapter 6. Finally, we thank the police officers—women and men—who put their lives on the line every day for the safety of others.

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