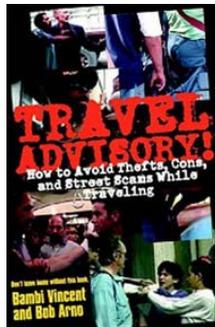


What are Hot Products? Why are they CRAVED?

The term ‘hot products’ is used to describe the items most likely to be targeted by thieves. The home office uses the acronym C.R.A.V.E.D. to describe these objects – Concealable; Removable; Available; Valuable; Enjoyable and; Disposable. This phrase could easily describe the range of personal products identified earlier, and we have to acknowledge that for the added attraction of miniaturized objects we pay the price of increased vulnerability, as the designer Fiona Raby commented in 2001: “mobility – well, it’s messy¹.” She has a point...



Bob and Bambi Arno’s book (*Travel Advisory: How to Avoid Thefts, Cons, and Street Scams While Travelling* 2004) says a lot about all stages of travel, from the point of view of crime prevention. The book is worth a look because despite the ‘Mom and Pop’ style warnings, it contains much needed visual material. For example, on Scippartori thieves – Italian slang for crooks who rob people of their belongings whilst riding a scooter or pedal bike – as well as, on how decoy ‘begging’ signs are manipulated by thieves as camouflage for deception theft...

IMAGES

¹Extract from a talk given by Fiona Raby, Research Fellow in Computer Related Design, Royal College of Art and Partner in Dunne and Raby, entitled ‘*Reflecting Change: New Awareness of the Potential of Business and Education Collaborations*’ at the Design in Education Week 2000: Experiencing Design event. Design Council, London, 04.04.2000.

Most wanted personal products

In 2003, the most frequently stolen of 'hot personal products' was by far cash, with mobile phones coming second. Third on the list of most desirable products are credit cards. Purses and wallets are fourth on the list, and fifth on the list are personal accessories. Handbags and briefcases are a close runner-up in sixth position².

DAC Team

²Smith, J (2003) *The nature of personal robbery* [online]. Home Office Research Study 254. London: Home Office. Available from: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors254.pdf> [Accessed 20th November 2007].