

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of "Laboratory Manual on the Geometric Interpretation of Human Bloodstain Evidence"

REFERENCE: MacDonnell, H. L. and Bialousz, L. F., *Laboratory Manual on the Geometric Interpretation of Human Bloodstain Evidence*, Laboratory of Forensic Science, Corning, N.Y., 1973, 61 pages, \$4.00.

The authors have written this manual as a sequel to Mr. MacDonnell's work on the physical interpretation of bloodstain evidence, *Flight Characteristics and Stain Patterns of Human Blood*. The manual allows the nonscientist the opportunity to evaluate bloodstain patterns produced under known conditions and to draw his own conclusions. The results can be preserved as reference standards. There are twelve experiments as follows: (1) volume of a drop of blood, (2) spot size as a function of distance fallen, (3) effect of target surface on spatter, (4) spot shape versus impact angle, (5) effect of horizontal motion, (6) splashed blood versus distance fallen, (7) projected blood versus distance fallen, (8) "cast off" bloodstains, (9) medium velocity blood spatter, (10) high velocity blood spatter, (11) spot size versus horizontal projection, and (12) drying time of blood.

It is the authors' hope that the student may develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the significance of bloodstain evidence. The reviewer, while finding many of the experiments of possible value, found the experiment on the drying time of blood to be the most significant and useful experiment. Experiment 9 uses a rattrap to determine blood spatter characteristics. Experiment 11 employs a motor-driven device to correlate the distance blood is projected. The usefulness of some of the experiments is questioned.

The authors are to be commended for initiating a work on how to create and understand the geometry of spots, spatters, and splashes of human blood. It tends to be exactly that, if that is what the reader is looking for. Such a manual as this is a guide to experiments for the nonscientist, but hardly a work for the forensic scientist.

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