

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Crime Scene Investigation*

REFERENCE: Schultz, D. O., *Crime Scene Investigation*. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1977, 244 pages, \$10.95.

At first glance, *Crime Scene Investigation* appears to be the long-awaited, up-to-date text on this somewhat neglected area of criminal investigation. However, this is not the case. The book is little more than a brief introduction to the subject of crime scene processing and the collection, preservation, and utilization of physical evidence.

The text is generally well written and organized, beginning with chapters on crime scene processing and the preservation of physical evidence. Other areas that are covered include trace evidence, photography, casting, fingerprints, firearms, glass, questioned documents, and drugs.

Each of these topics is treated largely from the evidence technician's point of view with respect to locating, collecting, and preserving physical evidence. In addition, the author includes some information regarding the significance of the evidence from both an immediate investigative aid and a long-term prosecutive approach. In the latter sense, he provides a section in each chapter that deals briefly with the laboratory aspects of physical evidence.

The major criticism of the book results from the author's shallow analysis of the subject area. It appears that many of the topics were superficially treated, even to the point of obvious omission. An example of this occurs in the chapter on crime scene processing. Here, the author discusses "rough" and "finished" sketches as the two basic types of crime scene sketches. No consideration is accorded to projection, cross-projection, or schematic sketches. Another example is crime scene searching, where spiral and strip searches are recommended for indoor and outdoor crime scenes, respectively, with no mention of the other types of searches. Additional examples can be found throughout the book in virtually every chapter.

Along with the above omissions, the author has made a number of errors of commission. Latent fingerprint development by the iodine fuming process is described as "not essentially a chemical one, as no chemical reaction takes place" and the Dille-Koppanyi color test is confused with the Zwikker test in the field testing of barbiturates.

In general, Mr. Schultz appears to be very uncomfortable with the analytical aspects of physical evidence and translates this into excessive brevity in his text. This philosophy con-

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tinues to manifest itself in many of the text illustrations, which are not particularly illustrative of anything.

Overall, the book appears to fulfill the purpose for which it was written (that is, a one-semester, community-college-level course for pre-service criminal justice students). Inexperienced police officers, evidence technicians, and neophyte investigators will probably find the book somewhat useful, particularly if they are not familiar with the excellent texts on this subject by Svenson and Wendel or Soderman and O'Connell.