

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Crime Laboratory Management Forum 1976

REFERENCE: Fox, Richard H. and Wynbrandt, Fred H., Eds., *Crime Laboratory Management Forum 1976*, Forensic Sciences Foundation Press, Rockville, Md., 1976, 269 pages, \$9.00.

The book is a compilation of twelve essay-type chapters and a chapter on the results of a criminalistics survey. The authors are outstanding personalities in the crime laboratory field today.

Each chapter has some managerial relationship to the various participants in the criminal justice system. All the subject areas are of pertinent value to the laboratory director. It would be well worthwhile for such criminal justice executives at the level of police chief; sheriff; budget director; state, county, city, civil service personnel manager; prosecutor; defense counsel; and university program chairman to read the various chapters relating to their sphere of influence.

The first twelve chapters discuss many of the problem areas currently facing crime laboratories and their directors. Some were of particular interest to this reviewer. The late Charles McInerney's explosive paper on education and training is right on target. Robert Gaensslen's offering is most informative regarding grants and contracts. It is an excellent "how to" paper to be read by all in the profession. Proficiency testing is very capably addressed in Kenneth Field's presentation. Nine other topics are presented.

The last chapter contains portions of the results of surveys completed by the Forensic Sciences Foundation in 1975, which are most interesting and relatively current. They are of value to both the laboratory director and criminal justice executives. One presents the evaluation of one class of user, that of the judge and attorney. The other presents the results concerning the criminalist as an individual and criminalistics in terms of laboratories. These results are current and can be used by the laboratory director in many of his managerial decisions. It is the most comprehensive survey to date.

The idea of this "Forum" is excellent and should be continued. I don't know how many would pick up the gauntlet which was thrown in the preface, but an earnest effort on the part of the criminalistic profession should be made to do so.

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