

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Pocket Guide for Crime Scene Investigators

REFERENCE: Lurvey, J. B. and Galan, J. I., *Pocket Guide for Crime Scene Investigators*, American Police Academy, Washington, D.C., 1978, 96 pages, \$3.50

This handy little booklet is just what the title states. It is a pocket guide for those charged with on-the-scene investigation of crimes. It is not intended as a complete monograph on the subject. It is not a textbook of criminal investigation. Nevertheless, it could serve as a workable text for a short course in crime scene investigation.

The authors address themselves effectively to searching the scene, photography at the scene, casting materials and methods, sketching the scene, fingerprinting, and collection of firearms evidence as well as body fluids. A good discussion of gathering and preserving miscellaneous evidence is included. Useful hints on how to package and ship evidence to testing laboratories is part of the booklet.

The illustrations are pertinent and well reproduced in black and white, with the lone exception of the very first picture, which is washed out. One suggests that examples of reference scales for bullets and the like photographed at the scene should be perfect. The washed-out reference rulers in several photographs are examples of what not to do.

A remarkably small number of typos are evident. The term "media," which is plural, is used as a singular noun. Any further edition can correct that.

In my opinion this booklet sets out to do an important job for persons who must work up a crime scene. The authors accomplish their purpose in an effective manner. Training officers will find this a handy text for roll-call training or for short courses given in a period of a week or less. Crime scene investigators will find it a valuable and noncumbersome addition to their crime scene kit. The price is in keeping with the cost of published materials at this time.

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