

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Bloodstain Pattern Interpretation

REFERENCE: MacDonell, H. L., **Bloodstain Pattern Interpretation**, Laboratory of Forensic Science, P.O. Box 1111, Corning, NY, 1982, 98 pages, \$6.00.

This book is a revised, updated, and somewhat expanded version of the original report "Flight Characteristics and Stain Patterns of Human Blood" submitted to the LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Office). Those of us who have used the original report will be pleased with this updated and expanded edition. About half of the book is devoted to basic concepts in blood pattern interpretation and characteristics of liquid and dried blood. The other half consists of figures, diagrams, photos, and an appendix. New references were added. Of particular value are those court decisions on bloodstain evidence.

Bloodstain pattern evidence is often valuable in reconstructing crimes and solving cases. The increased awareness of its importance can be attributed partly to recent growth and interest in forensic science and partly to the widely publicized advocacy of its importance by Paul Kirk, Herbert MacDonell, and others. This new edition is an additional tool in advancing the field of blood pattern interpretation. However, as the author stated before, the correct interpretation of bloodstains depends upon careful examination and experience in reconstruction. Overinterpretation of bloodstain patterns could be equally dangerous and misleading as underinterpretation.

This book is highly recommended to forensic scientists, attorneys, investigators, police officers, and those who are involved in crime scene investigations and pattern reconstruction.

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