

## BOOK REVIEW

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### A Review of *Found! Human Remains*

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**REFERENCE:** Skinner, M. and Lazenby, R., *Found! Human Remains: A Field Manual for the Recovery of the Recent Human Skeleton*, Archaeology Press, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, 1983, 192 pp., paperback, no price listed.

This paperback manual appears to have been written primarily for police crime scene investigators who might be faced with the task of recovering human skeletal material for possible criminal investigation. As such it will probably be useful in making crime scene investigators and police in general more aware of the problems that can arise subsequent to inadequate search and recovery efforts and the methods that are optimum for human skeletal recovery. It will also serve to explain the need for meticulous recovery practices and the kinds of information that can be expected from forensic anthropologists if such procedures are followed.

This is not a training guide or laboratory manual for students of forensic anthropology, although it might be of interest to them to help understand some of the problems of skeletal recovery that crime scene investigators face before skeletal remains get to the laboratory of the forensic anthropologist. It will probably not be a standard desk reference for most practicing forensic anthropologists either, as there are few detailed methods described or essential reference tables.

In fact, Table I in Chapter III implies that dental eruption is one of the worst criteria for age estimation from birth through adolescence, although the authors state that "Dental Formation provides a highly accurate estimate up to adolescence." The table equates the accuracy of dental eruption in childhood with that of suture closure of the skull in old age as a method of age estimation.

In all, the book seems oriented toward the police officer rather than the anthropologist and, perhaps as the cartoons in it suggest, primarily toward the Canadian Mounted Police. The authors' "new approach to Human Remains Identification" would certainly be difficult to apply to a diverse and highly mobile population in which the dead are not always reported missing.

A little less than half of the book is devoted to appendices, including a glossary of essentially anatomic terms and a creditable collection of osteological photographs.

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