

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Serological Methods in Forensic Science

REFERENCE: Rolih, S. D. and Judd, W. J., Eds., *Serological Methods in Forensic Science*, American Association of Blood Banks, Arlington, VA 22209, 1985, 106 pp., \$26.00.

The American Association of Blood Banks has regularly produced an array of manuals and texts that cover a broad spectrum of laboratory blood tests and their interpretation. Some are concerned with these methods and their applications in the forensic science laboratory. The latest publication is the result of a half-day workshop held at the American Association of Blood Bank's 1985 annual meeting. The title of the book, *Serological Methods in Forensic Science*, sounds ambitious.

In reality, this small text is a remarkably concise overview of forensic immunohematology. The first chapter deals with the handling of specimens "From the Crime Scene to Laboratory" and includes sage advice in coping with both routine and difficult specimens. The next chapter, "Blood Group Antigens in Bloodstains and Body Fluids" has a very useful section on controls and an appendix on methodology. A very brief chapter on "HLA Antigens" follows and contains innovative case studies. Finally, red cell enzymes and serum protein polymorphisms covers principles and examples, and has another useful appendix with methods.

This book covers these complex and controversial topics in four chapters and 106 pages. Obviously none of the disciplines are covered in depth, but the editors and authors are to be congratulated on their brevity. Key tables are included, pivotal concepts are presented, and the references include those of a breadth that cannot be covered in such an abbreviated text.

Although this book was compiled for blood banks and immunohematology services that wish to extend their range into the intriguing sphere of medicolegal investigation, it is highly recommended for those forensic science laboratories that wish to expand the scope of their services into the complex maze of blood group genetic markers. It works both ways and would be an invaluable introduction for the beginners in either of these laboratory disciplines.

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