

## BOOK REVIEW

George P. Sensabaugh,<sup>1</sup> *D. Crim.*

### *A Review of Advances in Forensic Haemogenetics*

---

**REFERENCE:** Brinkmann, B. and Henningsen, K., Eds., Springer-Verlag, 175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010, 505 pp., \$51.50.

This volume summarizes the proceedings of the 11th Congress on the Society for Forensic Haemogenetics held in Copenhagen in August 1985. Papers are presented in the form of "extended abstracts," that is, short papers of 4 to 6 pages in length. Most of the papers are in english, the remaining few being in german. The papers have been organized into 6 sections: blood cell allotypes (8 papers), proteins and enzymes (32 papers), DNA and chromosomes (3 papers), population genetics (21 papers), stains (24 papers), and paternity, biostatistics, and quality assurance (20 papers). This organization, which differs somewhat from the order of presentation at the meeting (in fact, at least one paper not presented at the meeting appears in the volume), makes good sense from the standpoint of reading continuity. The papers vary considerably in content and style; some are mini-reviews, some describe new techniques, some focus on experimental detail, some are discursive. Unfortunately, the question and answer periods following each presentation and the discussion session are not recorded here; as a result, the "life" of the meeting is not fully conveyed. Thus, one does not sense the excitement that attended the introduction of DNA analysis in paternity and stain testing nor the vigor of the continuing debate on what paternity statistics really mean and how they should be presented. Overall, however, this volume reflects the various facets of forensic biology and is a useful resource in this regard.

<sup>1</sup>Professor of forensic sciences, University of California, School of Public Health, Berkeley, CA 94720.