

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation

REFERENCE: Fisher, B. A. J., Svensson, A., and Wendel, O., *Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation*. Fourth Edition, Elsevier Science Publishing Co., Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017, 1987, 524 pp., no price listed, cloth.

The author states this book is "written for the student engaged in the study of crime scene investigation and physical evidence, for the experienced investigator as a reference work, and for the nonforensic scientist who must be familiar with physical evidence." Within these defined limits the book is both contemporary and comprehensive. Newer methodology such as laser light enhancement of fingerprints and the use of cyanoacrylate ester fuming Superglue® are included as notable updates over prior publications available for students.

The book is essentially a broad brush or primer over the exhaustive possibilities available for identification, collection, preservation, and comparison of physical evidence. Special emphasis is placed upon selected categories such as firearms examination, arson and explosive evidence, illicit drugs and toxicology, sexual assault investigations, and so forth. The book draws upon the experience of the authors plus a wide-ranging collection of case histories and exemplars submitted by reputable forensic scientists.

Discussion of scientific methods and forensic science technique is deliberately not within the scope of this text. As such, isolated phrases that would be considered overstatement of some cases, or incomplete coverage of other topics is perhaps excusable. Caution must be expressed in order that this book be used as intended, to whet the appetite of the student. The book is a treatise upon physical evidence, not a forensic science text.

The volume contains ample illustration, both in diagrams and black-and-white photographs. Regrettably, many of the photographs are so darkly reproduced that detail is lost even to the extent of obliterating features listed as notable in the accompanying photograph caption.

This book is recommended reading for the aspiring crime scene technician or other person responsible for collection of evidence. It will also provide ample coverage of this topic for the undergraduate police science cadet.

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