

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of: A Field Guide for Human Skeletal Identification

REFERENCE: Bennett, K. A., *A Field Guide for Human Skeletal Identification*, Second Edition; Charles C Thomas, Publisher. Springfield, Illinois 62794-9265, 1993, 113 pp.

The first edition of this Field Guide was published in 1987. It is designed for the professional forensic anthropologist and assumes that the user has a good background in human skeletal and dental anatomy. Bennett found in his 25 plus years as a forensic anthropologist that it was "advantageous for forensic anthropologist to have quick access to information pertinent to procedures involved in human identification." (v) The tables, illustrations and procedural guides found here have either been abstracted or reprinted from previous publications.

The guide is divided into four fundamental areas of human identification, (1) metric data for the attribution of ethnic affiliation,

(2) non-metric and metric data for the attribution of sex, (3) non-metric and metric data for the estimation of age, and (4) equations and tables for the estimation of stature. All data included are in the form of tables and illustrations (stages of tooth crown and root formation).

The major changes from the first edition are in three areas, (A) cranial and post-cranial discriminant function coefficients for determining ethnic affiliation and sex, generated from measurements taken on individuals represented in the Forensic Data Bank at the University of Tennessee, (B) substitution of the Suchey-Brooks method for the Gilbert-McKern method for age determination by pubic symphysis maturation, and (C) inclusion of age estimates for males and females by sternal rib metamorphosis. All of these additions take into account the growing evidence that they are more applicable to modern individuals than some of the previous data based on older anatomical populations.

The data reproduced here in 61 tables draws together information scattered in many publications, some that are out of print. Bennett has performed a valuable service for the forensic anthropology community in bringing this data up to date and making it accessible in an easy to use spiral back format.

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