

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of Bone Voyage: A Journey in Forensic Anthropology

REFERENCE: Rhine Stanley. *Bone Voyage: A Journey in Forensic Anthropology*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 268 pages, 47 illustrations, \$49.95 cloth (ISBN 0-8263-1997-x) and \$16.95 paper (ISBN 0-8263-1998).

Bone Voyage: A Journey in Forensic Anthropology, is published on the heels of biographical and semi- autobiographical accounts of forensic anthropologists Clyde Collins Snow (1), Douglas Ubelaker (2) and, William Maples (3). It is singularly different from these volumes. With the exception of the 1980 New Mexico Prison Riot, *Bone Voyage* is not a tale of high profile cases, but the nuts and bolts cases seen by the majority of forensic anthropologists. In Rhine's words, cases that "... bristle with instructive examples to be plucked like so many feathers from a chicken." The volume consists of 10 chapters and numerous photos and is also accompanied by drawings from Rhine's own forensic reports.

In addition to a sound cross-sectional perspective of medical death investigation and forensic anthropology, a notable contribution is the chapter "Forensic Anthropology, A Short History." The chapter includes in summary of major developments over the past two decades: the evolution of Armed Forces Central Identification Laboratory (CHIHL), involvement of forensic anthropologists in international investigations of human rights abuses and war crimes, and the inception of multiple regional groups dedicated to forensic anthropology. The final chapter surveys participation of forensic anthropologists in investigations of mass fatalities.

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Rhine is a story teller whose tales drift on a wry sense of humor and are salted with pithy, understated asides: the mother and daughter who were "... assigned cozy little barred rooms at one of New Mexico's limited-egress residences;" the police officer who "leaned" on a perpetrator, "...not an easy task over the phone;" and "... the Navajo Reservation where green is an abstract concept." As the tales unfold, the anthropologist's craft is revealed, resplendent with how to advice, references, and the dispensation of some of the myths of forensic anthropology, His oft times tragicomic struggle to facilitate creation of a forensic human skeleton collection, a truly valuable contribution to current skeletal biology, is an eye opener. Rhine's infatuation with the Southwest, its history and, its landscape, as well as, his pride in the office of the New Mexico Medical Investigator System is apparent.

To the practitioner of forensic anthropology, part of the enjoyment in reading *Bone Voyage* will be comparing ones own case experiences with those of Rhine's. To the lay public and students wanting to understand the role of the forensic anthropologist, the volume provides an entertaining and highly readable introduction.

References

1. Joyce C, Stover E. Witnesses from the grave. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1991.
2. Ubelaker D, Schmall H. Dead men do tell tales. Maples and Browning 1994. Bones: a forensic detective's casebook. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.
3. Maples W, Browning M. Dead men do tell tales. New York: Doubleday, 1994.