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Review of: *Criminal Poisoning: Investigational Guide for Law Enforcement, Toxicologists, Forensic Scientists, and Attorneys*, 2nd ed

REFERENCE: Trestrail JH III. **Criminal poisoning: investigational guide for law enforcement, toxicologists, forensic scientists, and attorneys, 2nd ed.** Totowa, NJ: Humana Press Inc., 2007; 181 pp.

This spirited publication on criminal poisoning, now in its second edition, is particularly well suited to law enforcement, attorneys, and forensic investigators. The author begins with a colorful depiction of poisoners throughout history, beginning with the Sumerians in Mesopotamia and ending with those of the modern era (1800s to the 2000s) such as “The Minister Who Went Mad” and “The Eccentric Genius.” The author’s passion for the topic is unquestionable as the text contains poetic works including “The

Toxic Avenger,” written by Trestrail himself! After beginning with an anecdotal and easy-to-read review of infamous poisoners, the author embarks on more technical issues such as the classification and type of poisons, autopsy issues, and an appendix of common homicidal poisons. The latter includes a review of the appearance, properties, administration, mechanism of action, detection, and case reports involving the substance. The majority of the book deals with the investigative aspects: types of poisoners and their respective “profiles,” victims, legal aspect of poisoning casework, and crime scene investigation. The book will no doubt be of interest to potential criminal poisoners, but it will also serve as a good handbook for law enforcement and attorneys who are looking for both technical and investigative information in one volume.

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