

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of "Methoden der Geschlechts-, Körperlängen- und Lebensalterbestimmung von Skelettfunden"

REFERENCE: Breul, Dietrich, *Methoden der Geschlechts-, Körperlängen-, und Lebensalterbestimmung von Skelettfunden*, Max Schmidt-Römhild, Lübeck, 1974, 131 pages, price not listed.

This paperback volume will be of interest to those engaged in forensic anthropology or osteological research who can read at least some German. As the title states, it deals with the determination of sex, stature, and age from skeletal findings, and it is limited to these topics in skeletal identification. Basically, it is quite a useful compilation of references to the various methods that have been described for making such estimates and determinations, with brief descriptions of most of the methods cited. It is much more than a simple annotated bibliography, but could not be used as a handbook. The selection and arrangement of the references cited make them quite accessible in this new reference work.

The book is divided into sections by topic. There is a section of sex determination, one on stature reconstruction and one on age estimation. Each section is further divided by anatomic region or bone, depending on which is more appropriate for the particular topic. The author describes the salient features of each paper cited and usually comments on the applicability of the method. In this respect, the volume resembles a book of carefully selected abstracts on various subjects, but with more cohesiveness than most collections of abstracts exhibit. There is an alphabetic bibliography at the end of the volume. Classic papers dealing with traditional methods of identification and recent ones presenting new methods are both cited in the aspects of skeletal identification that are covered. Histological and radiological studies are included, as well as some of the discriminant function approaches.

The greatest utility of this book is as a guide to the world literature dealing with the topics covered, much of which may not be familiar to a great many of the forensic anthropologists in this country. In this respect, it is particularly useful in its coverage of European publications in these aspects of identification.

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