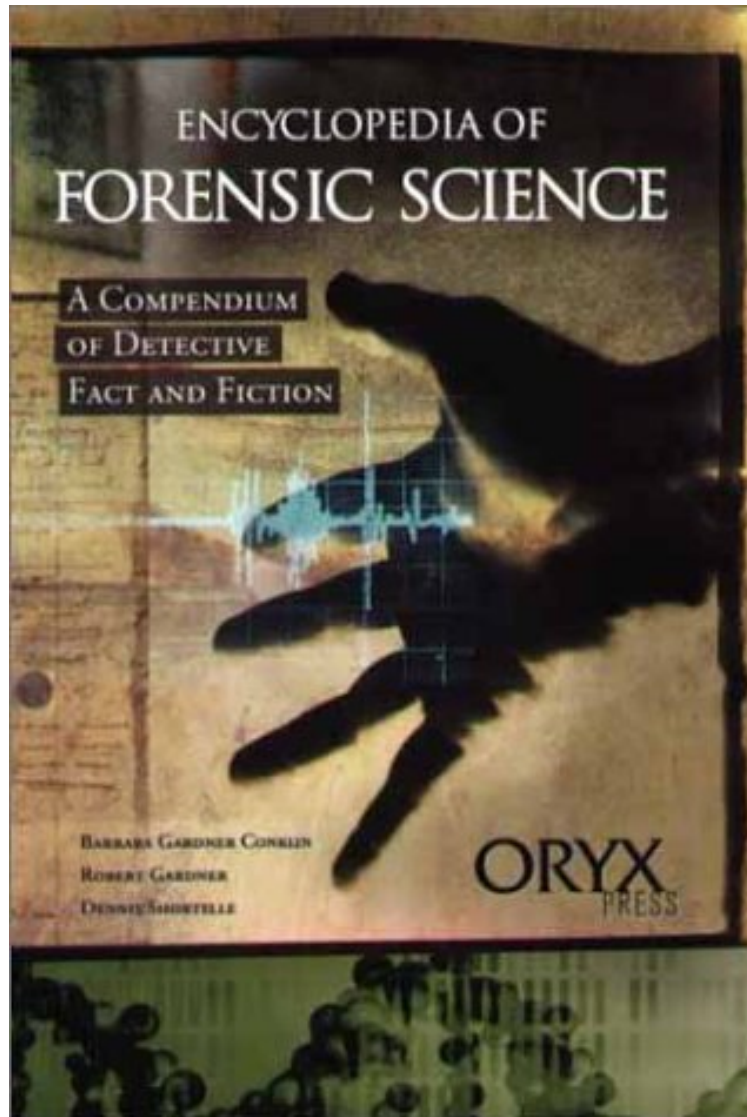


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## Encyclopedia of Forensic Science: A Compendium of Detective Fact and Fiction

*Barbara Gardner Conklin, Robert Gardner, Dennis Shortelle*

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Margaret L. Sparks Grand daughter loved it her dad mom read it too. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent basic reference By Midwest Book

Review Collaboratively compiled by educators and forensic specialists Barbara Gardner Conklin, Robert Gardner, and Dennis Shortelle, the *Encyclopedia Of Forensic Science: A Compendium Of Detective Fact And Fiction* is a comprehensive, 329-page tome of focusing on the modern science of forensics, its tools, its history, and the innovative people who advanced it. Entries are arranged in alphabetical order and disseminate accurate information on everything from arsenic poisoning, to X-Ray diffraction. The *Encyclopedia Of Forensic Science* is an excellent basic reference for both students of forensic science and writers of detective fiction seeking accuracy in their narratives.

If Sherlock Holmes had cracked the O. J. Simpson case, he would have done it with forensic science. Techniques and devices used to analyze crime scene evidence and their real and fictional practitioners have long fascinated the public. This reference covers all aspects of forensic science: Types of evidence Types of crimes or conditions Criminal cases Criminal and civil law The disciplines of criminal justice Poisons and drugs The evolution of forensics Forensic scientists and officials Serial killers Relevant literature, characters, and writers The study focuses on the criminal and societal effects of forensic science in the United States, with attention paid to major British and French advances. The book also examines historical cases in which new techniques were first applied. Entries are arranged both alphabetically and topically, making them easily accessible to student and amateur sleuth alike.

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up-This well-composed resource illuminates the multifaceted and complex world of this science, with a marked emphasis on how it has affected the landscape of contemporary criminology and society. The clear, alphabetically arranged entries provide a wealth of information about the types of forensic evidence, crimes, scientists, infamous criminals and serial killers, fiction writers of forensic science, detectives immortalized on television, and historical and current cases in which various techniques have been applied. Sample topics include "Arsenic Poisoning," Patricia Cornwell, "DNA Evidence," "Jack the Ripper," "Mass Spectrometry," "Rogues' Gallery," "Strychnine," and "Unabomber." British and French advances are also discussed. Authoritative references conclude the entries. Average-quality, black-and-white photos from laboratories across the nation, precise tables, and readable graphs amplify the narrative. The book ends with a thorough list of Web sites and a lengthy bibliography. This work will complement circulating titles such as Donna M. Jackson's *The Bone Detectives* (Little, Brown, 1996) and Andrea Campbell's *Forensic Science* (Chelsea, 1999), as it has more depth, perspective, and sophistication. Encyclopedia will be of great interest to students and armchair detectives. Hillary Jan Donitz-Goldstein, New York Public Library Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The popularity of television shows like *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* was bound to produce a general reference work on forensic science. Elementary special education teacher Conklin, science consultant Robert Gardner, and history teacher Dennis Shortelle have collaborated to write such a work. Like the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences*, edited by Jay A. Siegel and others, it illustrates the various ways that evidence can be extracted from a crime scene (e.g., ballistics, toxicology), but the style is more accessible. Though events in Great Britain and France are covered, the book's 85 entries focus on 19th- and 20th-century America. Readers will recognize some of the high-profile cases cited (O.J. Simpson, the St. Valentine's Day Massacre), which each used different aspects of forensic science to help convict or exonerate the accused. Both famous and infamous people are listed, but what makes this book different and interesting is the inclusion of novelists (e.g., Patricia Cornwell, Jeffery Deaver, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) and their characters, who use forensics to solve crimes. Also included are excellent bibliographic references and lists of web sites for finding more information. Despite some repetition of topics, this is a solid resource that should be in academic libraries where forensic science is popular and in large public libraries where the demand for this topic is high. Michael Sawyer, Northwestern Regional Lib., Elkin, NC Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The Trace evidence entry in the *Encyclopedia of Forensic Science* states a principle of forensic science. According to French criminologist Edmond Locard, "Every contact leaves a trace." This resource is a guide to those traces and their use in the courtroom. The editorial team has collaborated on other projects, including *From Talking Drums to the Internet: An Encyclopedia of Communications Technology* (ABC-CLIO, 1997). The book has an alphabetical arrangement, with a subject index at the end. Entries cover forensic techniques; types of crimes; famous criminal cases (Lindbergh kidnapping and trial, Oklahoma City bombing); and infamous criminals (Bundy, Theodore ; Jack the Ripper; Unabomber). Also included are fiction writers (for example, Patricia Cornwell) and fictional characters (for example, Sherlock Holmes). Many of the entries--for example DNA evidence, Hair evidence, and Tool marks--describe a notable case where the evidence was key to a conviction. Each entry has a recommended reading list, including Web sites. There are a bibliography and an appendix of useful Web sites at the end of the book. Cases are primarily American, though some are British and Australian. The *Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice* [RBB Ap 15 02] presents a broader coverage of the justice process than *Encyclopedia of Forensic Science*. For example, the index of the former source includes references to blood alcohol level, blood feuds, and blood money, but there is no entry on the evidentiary use of blood. The *Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences* (Academic, 2000) is highly scientific. Public and academic libraries will appreciate the less scholarly but informative *Encyclopedia of Forensic Science*. RBB Copyright

