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978-0-521-86587-6 - The Scientific Investigation of Mass Graves: Towards Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures

Margaret Cox, Ambika Flavel, Ian Hanson, Joanna Laver and Roland Wessling

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The Scientific Investigation of Mass Graves: Towards Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures

This book describes the detailed processes and techniques essential for the scientific investigation of atrocity crimes. It includes methods for the location, evaluation, excavation, recovery, and recording of mass graves and the analysis of human remains and other evidence in order to establish the identity of victims and the cause and manner of their deaths. This volume establishes protocols and standard operating procedures to guide standards and approaches that can be used in both judicial and humanitarian contexts. The procedures for field and mortuary application are flexible and can be used to meet specific project aims, constraints, and contexts.

The phases of activity and detailed methodological approaches set out in this book describe components of a complex scientific process. Chapters examine the evaluation of possible sites, scene of crime management, health and safety, key roles, excavation of graves, forensic sciences, mortuary management, analysis of human remains, and antemortem data collection. Recommended recording forms are included on the accompanying CD.

Professor Margaret Cox is visiting professor at the University of Southampton and chief executive of the Inforce Foundation. Her forensic work has taken her to France, Belgium, Kosovo, Rwanda, Iraq, and Cyprus, and she regularly undertakes domestic casework in the United Kingdom. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications and several books, including *Forensic Archaeology: Advances in Theory and Practice* (coauthored with Professor John Hunter) and *Health and Disease in Britain: Prehistory to the Present* (coauthored with Professor Charlotte Roberts).

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This book is dedicated to all those who have pioneered the application and development of the forensic sciences and crime scene processes to mass grave investigations since the 1940s.

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