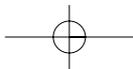
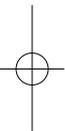
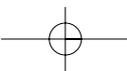
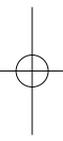
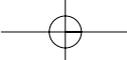


CRIMINAL PROFILING





CRIMINAL PROFILING

AN INTRODUCTION TO BEHAVIORAL EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

Second Edition

Brent E. Turvey, M.S.

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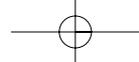


ACADEMIC PRESS

An Elsevier Science Imprint

San Diego San Francisco New York Boston

London Sydney Tokyo



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ACADEMIC PRESS

An imprint of Elsevier Science

84 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8RR, UK

<http://www.academicpress.com>

ACADEMIC PRESS

An imprint of Elsevier Science

525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101-4495, USA

<http://www.academicpress.com>

ISBN 0-12-705041-8

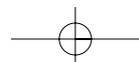
Library of Congress Control Number 2002102529

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Typeset by Kenneth Burnley, Wirral, Cheshire, England

Printed in the United Kingdom by Bath Press, a part of the CPI Group

02 03 04 05 06 07 BP 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



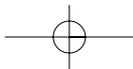
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Brent has been studying violent and predatory criminal behavior since 1990. He holds a Bachelor of Science in History, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. It was during his undergraduate years, while conducting research and interviews with incarcerated serial offenders, that he was inspired to combine criminal profiling theory, psychological theory, and the forensic sciences for the purposes of investigating serial crime.

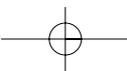
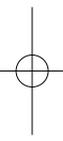
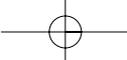
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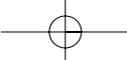


FOREWORD TO THE
FIRST EDITION

Criminal Profiling – An Introduction to Behavioral Evidence Analysis is first and foremost a book organized and designed to instruct on the subject of its title. It was the movie *The Silence of the Lambs*, that widely popularized the role of the criminal profiler in a law enforcement setting, and it is talk TV and radio that has now nourished its reputation and public acceptance as an integral component of the criminal investigation process. For forensic scientists, such as myself, profiling is a curiosity of sorts. Is this just another ploy by wannabe scientists looking for acceptance and recognition, or is the profiler a legitimate adjunct to the criminal investigative process? As with any new endeavor, the answers are not clear-cut. Often the power of personality and individual charisma, along with the old-boy network has determined whether profiling information will be sought in an investigation, and just who will provide the service. Nevertheless, the passage of time has had the effect of imposing discipline and order on the profiling profession.

Criminal Profiling amply demonstrates that this endeavor is emerging as a legitimate adjunct to crime investigation services, but with the caveat often cited by the author that profiling is a discipline that demands adherence to the principles of teamwork between all the elements of the investigation. I find it particularly gratifying that the author places great emphasis on the necessity for the profiler to thoroughly evaluate physical evidence that has been properly analyzed in a scientific setting. Likewise, the author places strong emphasis on the requirement to evaluate information derived from a systematic reconstruction of the crime scene. While such efforts certainly are necessary adjuncts to reduce the subjectivity associated with criminal profiling, the reader is being continually reminded throughout the book that profiling is ultimately an art dependent on the experience and expertise of the profiler.

Through the efforts of Brent Turvey and other professionals, criminal profiling is materializing into a structured discipline amenable to the confines of the classroom. Now this certainly does not mean that the reader can expect to complete this book and wear the garb of an instant expert. Years of practical investigative experience is an essential ingredient of the successful profiler. Nevertheless, the legitimization of criminal profiling as a profession demands that it

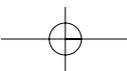
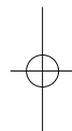
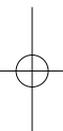


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has strong and acceptable academic underpinnings. *Criminal Profiling* satisfies those objectives.

Criminal Profiling is a serious and long-overdue effort at structuring a body of knowledge into a cohesive subject. Brent Turvey has provided the reader with a roadmap to comprehending the principles underlying criminal profiling. The knowledge gleaned from this book can only strengthen the foundational skills of the prospective and active criminal investigator.

RICHARD SAFERSTEIN, PH.D.

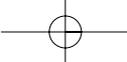


FOREWORD TO THE
SECOND EDITION

From time to time, it is appropriate to ask ourselves why it is that we believe that which we think we know. What is it that we believe or think we know about the psychological engines that drive those who hurt and kill? Epistemology, the study of how and why it is that we know anything at all, tells us that the motivating themes for all behavior can be categorized in terms of biodynamics, sociodynamics, theodynamics, and psychodynamics. (The story of Cain and Abel would seem to lend support for this assertion.) If people commit crimes in part as the result of their own specific psychodynamics, it is incumbent upon us to make the effort to comprehend something of their motives and reasonings, however dysfunctional or abhorrent they may be. If we apply conventional logic, and all the things that we learned at our grandmother's knee (or some other equally respectable joint), a crime may appear totally obscure. Seen through the eyes of the perpetrator, however, it may be entirely sensible. An appreciation of how the perspective of the offender may be factored into the investigation may allow us to proceed more effectively.

There are seven classical motives suggested for acts that we would deem sinister: money, sex, jealousy, fear, anger, hate, and prejudice. Four of these, not without reason, coincide with the seven deadly sins. Most of us have a passing conversancy with money, jealousy and (conventional) sex, and while it might be presumptuous for us to claim that we have an unqualified grasp of those subjects, we at least find those motives more or less understandable. But thankfully few and hopefully none of us would be justified in claiming to appreciate the nuances of out-of-control hate, fear, and anger. This text may assist us in that regard. Brent Turvey and his contributors show us the logical underpinnings of what is rapidly becoming a seasoned and cohesive scientific discipline.

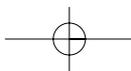
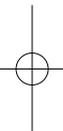
This book will assist in our comprehension of the dark angels of our culture. The text further shapes the first edition, systematically placing criminal profiling on a firm scientific basis. A critical premise upon which the book builds is that before pronouncements can be made concerning the mental complexion of the perpetrator of a crime, the crime must first be subjected to a full and complete analysis. The crime scene must first be understood for what it *is*, before an attempt can be made to state what it *means*. This emphasis on



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evidence dynamics, on wound pattern analysis, on crime scene reconstruction, is commendable, and the contributors to the book write with refreshing candor. The serial killer or the sexual predator, whether truly mad or simply bad, does not plan or accomplish his evil in a empty void, but on a stage where characteristics of the crime, and by extension characteristics of the criminal, may be inferred from things done, from things touched, from things taken, and from things left behind. The text stresses that criminal profiling is not an expression of surmise, but is a carefully woven tapestry of many elements, brought to a common focus. The text will benefit all those with any responsibility or interest in this subject.

JOHN I. THORNTON



PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION: THE PROFESSIONALIZATION OF CRIMINAL PROFILING

Brent E. Turvey, M.S.

... It is a natural failing of man to be pleased with his own inventions.
Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*

Criminal profiling, as set forth in this work, is a multidisciplinary forensic practice. It requires, at the very least, applied knowledge in criminalistics, medicolegal death investigation, and psychology. However, criminal profiling, even as it will be here defined, has not yet achieved the status of a "profession."

It has been said that any profession is defined by its ability to regularize, to criticize, to restrain vagaries, to set a standard of workmanship and to compel others to conform to it. This definition assumes uniform terms, definitions, ethics, standards, practices and methodology. Despite any belief to the contrary, such things do not exist in the community of individuals that are engaged in criminal profiling.

This likely comes as a great surprise to the general public, and even to some in the law enforcement community. What is likely to be more of a revelation is the main reason behind it. The plain truth is that a great number of profilers oppose professionalization in any way, shape, or form.

There are many factors contributing to the lack of interest in professionalization in the criminal profiling community. One would have to be that too few practicing criminal profilers have sat down under a banner of truce, in an attempt to establish nonpartisan professional mechanisms for identifying competency, cultivating it, and conferring authority upon those who possess it in accordance with agreed-upon criteria. Profilers just do not seem to agree on anything.

Furthermore, there are practical issues at work against it. Firstly, profilers tend to keep their cases to themselves and not publish them due to information sensitivity and confidentiality issues (a problem in most of the forensic sciences, but one that can be overcome by *sanitizing* cases; stripping them of identifying information for educational use). Secondly, many state and federal agencies preclude information sharing with outside entities either by policy or by political intimidation. And finally, there are no nonpartisan profiling professional organizations working on the development of uniform ethics, standards, and practices. The result is that profilers have few mechanisms for open profes-

sional discourse and information sharing; they are disenfranchised from each other by the nature of the work and the agencies that they work for.

Another factor that has affected professionalization is the resistance of numerous established profilers to the idea of developing standards and practices, which they perceive as a limitation on creativity. Some have argued that criminal profiling should remain more art than science, and should not be professionalized. That to do so would deprive individuals of the ability to nurture originality and kindle the fires of genius.

This is an interesting and even seductive argument. But I suspect that it is deeper than that. All of the above issues could be overcome if the desire were there.

Perhaps the largest contributor to the resistance against professionalization in the criminal profiling community is individual *ego*. The varied practitioners of criminal profiling, as individuals or as representatives of the many agencies and confederations involved (this author included), cannot agree on the subject of what criminal profiling involves and who is qualified to do it. We wish firstly to preserve our own role in the criminal profiling community, and often do not wish to be compelled to change our current level of skill, training or ability. Unfortunately, the plain truth is that many of those engaged in criminal profiling (or who refer to themselves as profilers) have little or no applied case experience, inadequate levels of training, and exist almost parasitically on the ignorance of the professional communities that profilers are intended to serve.

Possibly the most disturbing part of the ego problem is the incredible arrogance of some criminal profilers that they alone are qualified to do the work by virtue of their subjectively derived expertise (much of which tends to be unrelated to those areas of study that inform the criminal profiling process). This paradigm disallows for the possibility that there are competent, cogent, and reasonable ideas outside of one's own experience or sphere of influence. This paradigm also encourages the ludicrous myth that profilers are born with an intuitive "gift" that is denied others, by disallowing those associated with a certain person or agency from "looking outside of the valley" for knowledge.

The nature of these ego-based disagreements in the criminal profiling community has been at times civil, at times belligerent, and at times openly vicious. They have caused hurt feelings along individual and agency lines, as well as between the academic, mental health, and law enforcement communities. The unending byproduct has been a pathological failure of practicing criminal profilers to resolve interprofessional, interpersonal and/or inter-agency differences and communicate effectively with each other. The competent minds involved in the work are often unable to appreciate each other due to the egos of their supervisors, or their own personal pride. The incompetent are deeply concerned about the very real fear of being exposed as

a fraud and protect themselves by hiding their methods and being obscure or intellectual.

As a result of everything working together against professionalization, the following unresolved issues remain major points of contention in the criminal profiling community:

- Educational requirements
- The appropriate use of profiling terms and definitions
- Agreement regarding basic information that a profile should account for or contain to be considered a “profile”
- Competent descriptions of applied, duplicable methodology
- Agreement regarding the appropriate uses of profiling in an investigation, and at trial
- Agreement regarding standards of competency
- Agreement regarding ethical and unethical conduct
- Agreement upon whether or not the profiling process should be peer reviewed

The failure to address these basic considerations has caused great confusion not only in the profiling community, but as suggested, in public perception as well. The myths and misinformation regarding criminal profiling techniques and practices are furthermore rampant in the popular media. These include misconceptions laid in the minds of police officers on the street, detectives at the crime scene, criminalists in the lab, lawyers at trial, and judges on the bench. It has also left the door open for the proliferation of many dangerously unqualified, unscrupulous individuals into the practice of creating criminal profiles.

So that brings us to my own motivation for bringing together all of these competent professional minds and writing this book. I for one am a firm believer in the reality that criminal profiling must begin to professionalize, and become more scientific and multidisciplinary in its approach. As criminal profiling becomes more accepted as a forensic discipline, and as it becomes more an accepted part of the investigative and judicial process, those involved have a duty to develop competent standards and practices, and robust methods. We also have a duty to move beyond reliance upon vague references and subjective expertise, and agree to demonstrate accountability for our methods.

This duty exists because in the forensic disciplines our opinions and interpretations are allowed to impact whether people are deprived of their liberties, and potentially whether they live or die. It becomes that simple. The courts have taken a great deal from criminal profilers on trust up until now (inconsistently bothering to question them at all, especially when they are affiliated with law enforcement). But we have been abusing it with our lack of competency and

our lack of professionalism. Though profiling has been around in various forms for a hundred years (and more), we have not developed more reliable methods, we have not performed competent scientific research, and we have not always been fully honest about the limitations of our interpretations.

This work, then, is a first attempt to create a reference text of applied knowledge regarding the deductive method of criminal profiling. It has the presumptuous goal of laying out that method in a clear fashion, while establishing and exploring specific details surrounding terminology and core profiling concepts. The other goal of this work is to help firmly establish the basis for the relationship between physical evidence (the forensic sciences), behavioral evidence, and criminal profiling. Along the way, it is also hoped that some of the many popular misconceptions about criminal profiling that have been encouraged in the fictional and non-fictional media can be effectively relegated to submission.

This work was undertaken with two concepts in mind. Firstly, that a criminal profiler should do no harm, proceeding with the requisite care and uncertainty. And secondly, that a criminal profiler's first onus is to the competent investigation of fact, and not to any particular agency or group.

The time for isolationism and for sectionalism is over. The time for politics is also over. The criminal profiling community cannot continue to play to the images portrayed in the popular media and expect to achieve professional credibility, or maintain professional integrity. The criminal profiling community must begin to communicate and agree upon standards, practices, terminology and methods. It must move away from reliance upon subjective expertise and move toward a more professional, more scientific approach if it wishes to carry through into the next century.

The human price for not meeting this challenge is simply too high.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION: THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Brent E. Turvey, M.S.

The investigator whose work is half done has accomplished nothing. Either he has solved the problem and quite finished the work: that means success; or he has done nothing, absolutely nothing.
Hans Gross, *Criminal Investigation*, 1924, p. 3

Criminal profiling is the process of investigating and examining criminal behavior in order to help identify the type of person responsible.¹ It can be a supplement to, or a method of, criminal investigation. Subsequently, a good criminal investigator is more than likely a good criminal profiler. Over the years, different people with different ideas and needs have tried to suggest that criminal profiling is more, less, or otherwise. These range from the romantic to the academic, and even to the point of suggesting that criminal profiling has nothing to do with criminal investigation at all. That is the nature of our species – to exaggerate, sterilize, or in some way alter proofs for consumption to service our own ends. This concept is discussed candidly in the openings of Gross (1924), where he states:

We like to discover romantic features where they do not exist and we even prefer the recital of monstrosities and horrors to that of common every day facts. This is implanted in the nature of everyone, and though in some to a greater, in some to a lesser, extent, still there it is. A hundred proofs, exemplified by what we read most, by what we listen to most willingly, by what sort of news spreads the fastest, show that the majority of men have received at birth a tendency to exaggeration. In itself this is no great evil; the penchant for exaggeration is often the penchant for beautifying our surroundings; and if there were no exaggeration we should lack the notions of beauty and poetry. But if the profession of the criminal expert everything bearing the least trace of exaggeration must be removed in the most energetic and conscientious manner; otherwise, the Investigating Officer will become an expert unworthy of his service and even dangerous to humanity. We cannot but insist that he should not let himself slip into exaggerations, that he should constantly with this object criticize his own work and that of others; and that he should examine it with extra care if he fail to find traces of exaggeration.

¹ To *identify* something is not the same as to *individuate* something. These concepts will be discussed in Chapters 15, 16, and 17.

This second edition of *Criminal Profiling* strives to be worthy of service to students, investigators, forensic scientists, mental health professionals, and the courts. As such it will not exaggerate or romanticize facts related to crime while in the pursuit of studying it. This second edition, as did the first, will focus on criminal profiling as an investigative process that helps solve real crime through an honest understanding of the nature and behavior of criminals.

It is here that we encounter our first problem.

THE PROBLEM

Though many books have been written on the subject, and the Internet has made armchair experts of us all, not just everyone truly knows the actual nature and behavior of criminals. Perhaps Vollmer (1949) said it best, his words no less true as this century closes and the new century begins:

Absence of a clear understanding of the vastly complex nature of crime and criminality is not confined to the layman. (p. 19)

And

Every person who writes or lectures about crime, or who occupies a position which requires him to deal with crime or criminals is mislabeled a criminologist. It is assumed, therefore, that he is able to speak with authority on all phases of the subject. Nothing could be further from the truth. (pp. 38-39)

Kenefick (1970), a forensic psychiatrist writing on the subject of Forensic Psychiatry and criminal investigation, is more specific about the nature of the problem, stating:

Laymen and professionals other than police are very seldom in a position to study murder or murderers, and even the police usually meet only the common varieties.

Those with access to complete criminal case material (police officers, police investigators, private investigators, etc.) infrequently possess the academic ability to study it in a meaningful way. Those possessing the academic ability to study crime in a meaningful way (professors, students, private researchers, etc.) infrequently have access to complete case material, or the basic knowledge of which research questions would be of use to criminal investigators. To hamper matters further, only infrequently will these two professional groups partner and share their knowledge.

When those who teach on the subject of crime gain knowledge from both

investigative and academic fields, there is no guarantee that they will enthusiastically pass it along. A peculiar feature of the study of crime and criminal behavior is that it is often more a priesthood than a discipline. That is to say, individuals accumulate experience and knowledge and maintain positions of authority by hoarding what they know rather than disseminating it. It is not possible for critical thinking skills to develop and thrive in this environment. Nor is it possible to groom good students, as they are viewed as competitors rather than an investment in the future of the profession. This is to say nothing of the fact that the applied skills necessary for solid crime investigation have become scarce to the point of near extinction in the current investigative community.

All of this being the case, it will become clear that a significant challenge to the criminal profiler in this new millennium will be to overcome and bridge these worlds wherever possible. This is best accomplished by engendering in oneself the qualities essential to both. Study to learn competent academic and research skills. This not only to conduct competent and useful studies of crime and criminality, but to assist in the identification of those that are not. Then learn of criminal investigation. This may be accomplished by professional associations, coursework, reading, and ideally through direct experience. It can also be accomplished through the study of case material in the public record, to learn what investigators in a given case did and how it helped, or failed to help, clear various hurdles. Theory and practice alike must be embraced. The useful must be eagerly adopted, and the useless must be diligently discarded.²

THE ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF A CRIMINAL PROFILER

The investigation and understanding of fact, key to the ends of criminal profiling,³ involves a number of qualities essential to the criminal profiler. First let us consider Gross (1924, adapted from pp. 15–25), who argued that investigating officers must possess the following:

1. An abundant store of energy at all times
2. A high grade of self-denying power
3. A good business head
4. An agreeable manner
5. A good education
6. Absolute accuracy and exactness in the search for facts and their causes in the elucidation of a problem
7. Clever reckoning skills
8. Fine speculating skills
9. A predisposition for the careful weighing of facts

² We will regularly refer to what is of use and what is not. Unless otherwise noted, assume that we are referring to investigative relevance. Everything we discuss and trouble over should be measured against this one standard – whether it helps the investigation of fact or not. It is surprisingly easy to apply this standard. However, it is often difficult to accept the results.

³ In his work on the subject of criminal investigation and criminal psychology, Reik (1959) provides a rich discussion on the notion of going from “the deed to the doer.” Facts about the case provide the deeds (offender actions/choices/etc.), and the accumulation of these facts provides the context. This, he argues, can give us an understanding of the offender.



10. An honest character
11. An unostentatious character with little interest in public success
12. A profound knowledge of men and human nature (including victims, witnesses, criminals, and experts)
13. An encyclopedic knowledge

Ashton-Wolfe (1930), in his work on criminal investigation, embraced the teachings of Gross (1924), among others. He argued (p. 20):

Although scientific knowledge and precision are indispensable for tracking criminals, they are not enough. The craft of a modern detective reposes upon broad basic rules, and his studies must before all be methodical. Every branch of the knowledge he acquires is a fragment of the complete edifice, and built upon a foundation termed the criminal identity.

Kirk (1974, p. 1) is also in agreement, arguing that knowledge of both criminals and physical evidence (crime scenes) is essential to the investigator:

All criminal investigation is concerned with people and with things. Only people commit crimes, but they invariably do so through the medium of things.

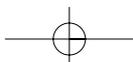
A balanced approach to criminal investigation therefore must be dual: it must concern itself both with people and with things – the physical evidence – involved in the crime.

To these it should be added that a good criminal profiler is a tireless reader with a great love of books.⁴ The natural consequence of tireless reading is an extensive personal library, with which the criminal profiler is extraordinarily familiar. As with all education, reading and building knowledge is a process and not a result. It continues beyond the issues of a particular case. A criminal profiler reads not just to satisfy the questions in the present, but in anticipation of future issues both immense and trivial. In the pursuit of unattainable encyclopedic knowledge, then, a great library of texts and journals should be accumulated. Beware the criminal profiler, forensic scientist, criminal investigator, or other similar forensic expert who does not love books, and has no library.

These are generally excellent qualities, which the criminal profiler should possess or aspire to. None of them are trivial, and each is diminished by the absence of another. A rational argument cannot be made against them. That is, given the right underlying assumptions.

Gross (1924), Ashton-Wolfe (1930), and Kirk (1974) provided their insights on this subject with the underlying assumption that those involved in the investigation of crime should wish to put the resolution of crime before all other

⁴ As I have been continually reminded, books have the quality of permanency. Once written and published they are unalterable, fixed. Future editions correct spelling errors and tighten loose strings of thought, or advance ideas to the next logical plateau. But each book becomes a concrete record of thought at a fixed point in time, providing invaluable reference points along lines of thought and reason within a given field. Brilliance and ignorance alike are recorded. With books and their unforgiving permanency, we can see how far we may have come in our thinking, and also how far we may have strayed.



considerations. This textbook is written with that same underlying assumption. When those involved in the investigation of a crime make the resolution of crime secondary to other considerations (personal, political, religious, financial, etc.), these qualities will become a liability.

It is subsequently important to be mindful that when one cultivates these essential qualities, one should only surround oneself with others sharing a similar investigative philosophy. It does no good to seek facts, knowledge, accuracy of reason, and just investigative resolutions among those who put no value on such things. Study among those who wish to study earnestly, or study alone. Work among those who wish to work earnestly, or work alone. And above all, do not try to change others into what they are not. Accept the limitations of unenthusiastic or conversely motivated men and women. Seek out like minds. Only there can one find the necessary relief and inspiration.

So we conclude with perhaps the most important qualifying characteristic of a good criminal profiler, the one upon which everything else in this work will be built: the enthusiastic desire to investigate and examine facts. Without this desire, no amount of reading, training, or experience will matter. The criminal profiler must be interested in contributing to and resolving cases. If not, the question of what the criminal profiler is accomplishing, if anything, must be raised.

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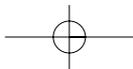
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Editor would like to extend his deep personal and professional appreciation to the following friends and colleagues for their support, encouragement, and guidance:

To all of the Contributors – For their love of the work, their friendship, their professionalism and integrity, and for getting their contributions in on time. Easily one of the finest professional groups ever assembled to address the challenges of criminal investigation.

Det. John J. Baeza, NYPD (ret.) – For his friendship, and for his unwavering dedication to the perfection of the art and skill of crime fighting. In many ways, one of the most significant points on my professional compass.

George Baggen – For being a friend in history, and for putting up with my wandering rants and ruminations as I rebuilt this work.

Melissa Baggen – For her friendship, and for her work reading and editing the first draft of this work to reveal the many, many problems therein. This was an exercise in the very height of patience and restraint.

Jerry Chisum, Criminalist – For his friendship, for his acute mind, and for his dedication to excellence in forensic science and crime reconstruction. His casework provides a standard by which I gauge my own.

Dr. Michael McGrath, Forensic Psychiatrist – For his friendship, for his patience with my mania, for his counsel, and for his tireless editing skill. He has helped define the bar of this emerging profession, and my craft has been refined by the wide breadth of his influences.

Wayne Petherick – For his friendship and for making the field of criminal profiling feel a lot less like work. He didn't help me much, but at the end of the day he didn't get in the way either. Now that's a solid mate for you. Good on ya', Wayne.

xxviii ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Richard Saferstein, Criminalist – A special word of appreciation for Rich. But for his advice and personal encouragement this project would have seen many more years in the procrastination phase. My deep personal gratitude for that generosity, for his advice, and for taking time to provide our readers with his insights.

Dr. John Thornton, Criminalist – For his friendship, for his professional advice, for taking the time to explain things slowly, and for being a valuable sounding board. Though not the reason I became a forensic scientist, he is one of the reasons I remain one. I have learned far and away more from reading his writings and working cases in his wake than I ever imagined possible as a student at university.

I would also like to extend my professional gratitude for the excellent quality and reason found within the published works by:

- Dr. John DeHaan
- Dr. Hans Gross
- Dr. A. Nicholas Groth
- Dr. Robert Hare
- Dr. Paul Kirk
- Dr. John Thornton