



*The Anatomy and Biology of the Human Skeleton*  
D. GENTRY STEELE AND CLAUD A. BRAMBLETT

This handsome volume is the first photographically illustrated textbook to present for both the student and the working archeologist the anatomy of the human skeleton and the study of skeletal remains from an anthropological perspective. It presents the skeleton as not just a structure, but a working system in the living body.

In their opening chapter, the authors introduce the basics of osteology, or the study of bones, the specialized and often confusing terminology of the field, and the methods for dealing scientifically with bone specimens. In their second chapter, they cover the biology of living bone: its structure, growth, interaction with the rest of the body, and response to disease and injury.

The remainder of the book is a head-to-foot, structure-by-structure, bone-by-bone tour of the skeleton. More than 400 photographs and drawings, most prepared specifically for this book, and more than 80 tables illustrate and analyze the feature the text describes. In each chapter the structures are discussed in detail, so that not only can landmarks of the bones be recognized, but their function can be understood and their anomalies identified as well. Each bone's articulating partners are listed, and the sequence of ossification of each bone is presented. In each chapter these descriptive sections are followed by a close examination of "applications": how to use specific bones to estimate age, stature, gender, biological affinities, and the state of health at the time of the individual's death. The methodological details are particularly valuable: just what to measure and how to do it are described.

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Texas A&M University Press  
College Station, Texas 77843-4354



ISBN 0-89096-326-6



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