

*BOOK REVIEW*

**Biological Illustration Techniques and Exercises** by John C. Downey and James L. Kelly. Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1982. 126 p. + x(6" x 9"). \$11.75 (softbound).

This book consists of 6 chapters covering the use of pen and pencil, perspective, light and shadow, tone value, stippling, scratchboard, pattern overlays and lettering and ending with an annotated list of supplies, glossary and references. It is written for the student or teacher who has no experience with illustration or basic drawing.

Each chapter is divided into exercises and self-critiques of the exercise. Scattered throughout the chapters are helpful tips.

The book is admittedly basic and, probably because the authors are not illustrators, only deals with pen, pencil, and

scratchboard techniques. No color or carbon-dust methods are mentioned. Also omitted are the use of camera-lucida, opaque-projectors or other methods of reproducing objects accurately. Nothing is mentioned about rendering charts and graphs, 80% of most illustrators' work.

Perhaps the weakest part of the book is its illustrations which were executed by students in the authors' classes. As student drawings they are adequate, but serve as poor examples of what a professionally rendered illustration should look like and so could conceivably be misleading to the beginning student. Also there are no step-by-step examples to show how illustrations progress from beginning to end.

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