**BOOK REVIEW**

**Felson’s Principles of Chest Roentgenology, fourth edition**

**Author(s):** Goodman  
**Publisher:** Elsevier Saunders  
**Price:** £50.99  
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I had the good fortune to meet Ben Felson and hear him speak while in Edinburgh during a stop-over on one of his lecture tours in the early 1980s. Even then, as a very junior trainee, I knew I was in the presence of greatness, as I and my fellow trainees bathed in a mixture of radiological pearls and humour.

Felson was not only an exceptionally gifted chest radiologist (describer of the hilum overlay sign and the silhouette sign to name but two), he was an inspirational teacher and despite being then in his seventies, appeared to have boundless energy for his art. I have also had the good fortune to meet Larry Goodman, an equally gifted thoracic radiologist and attend several of his seminars and lectures when he has been on the lecture circuit.

Both of these guys have been blessed with being great teachers and it is no surprise Goodman has inherited Felson’s legacy. The Principles of Chest Roentgenology was first published in 1965 and it is a testament to the concept of the book that it is still going strong.

It is laid out in an interactive format that compels the reader to flip the right-hand cover fold on and off the answers which are down the right-hand margin. It is, in essence, from start to finish a self-test book that dissuades the reader from lazy browsing, as it challenges you to reveal your weaknesses as you go through the exercises.

Gratifyingly, the contents are very much focused on plain film interpretation, although there are enough forays into chest CT to keep a cross sectionalist amused. The book makes no bones about highlighting the higher pattern recognition skills required to be a virtuoso of chest radiograph interpretation and goes about dispensing handy hints and techniques on how to maximise your powers of observation.

In many ways it is rather like a Haynes manual of chest x-ray interpretation, with practical subsections on, for example, patterns of eye movement and diagrammatic explanations of the fundamentals of image deconstruction. Some of the diagrams are ingenious.

Following the pretty basic but necessary introductory chapters, there are separate sections on the normal CXR, mediastinum, pleura, heart and parenchyma.

The last chapter is a potpourri of a dozen good cases, just to see if you have been paying attention and, finally, there is a link to an online reservoir of other nice cases from its e-book extension in ExpertConsult.com.
This volume is not just for those aspiring to be thoracic imagers but is a must for anyone who fancies him/herself as a competent general radiologist.

This book can be purchased through the RAD Magazine Book Service at the discounted rate of £40.79. (Price correct as at December 16, 2015).
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