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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

...AN IMPORTANT BOOK ...An extremely valuable book in my opinion, especially as it gives major developments occurring in last three years in all major disciplines of forensic sciences. If you want to keep up with the latest in forensics and do not have the time (or desire) to go through multiple journal volumes, this book is for you...

Interpol's Forensic Science Review, 1st Edition, edited by Niamh Nic Daeid, and Max Houck. Paperback, 11" x 8.3" x 1.8".
CRC Press LLC, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300, Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742. , . Publication Date February 12, 2010. 798 pages, ISBN-10: 1439826587; ISBN-13: 978-1439826584 (alk. paper). Price: $139.95.

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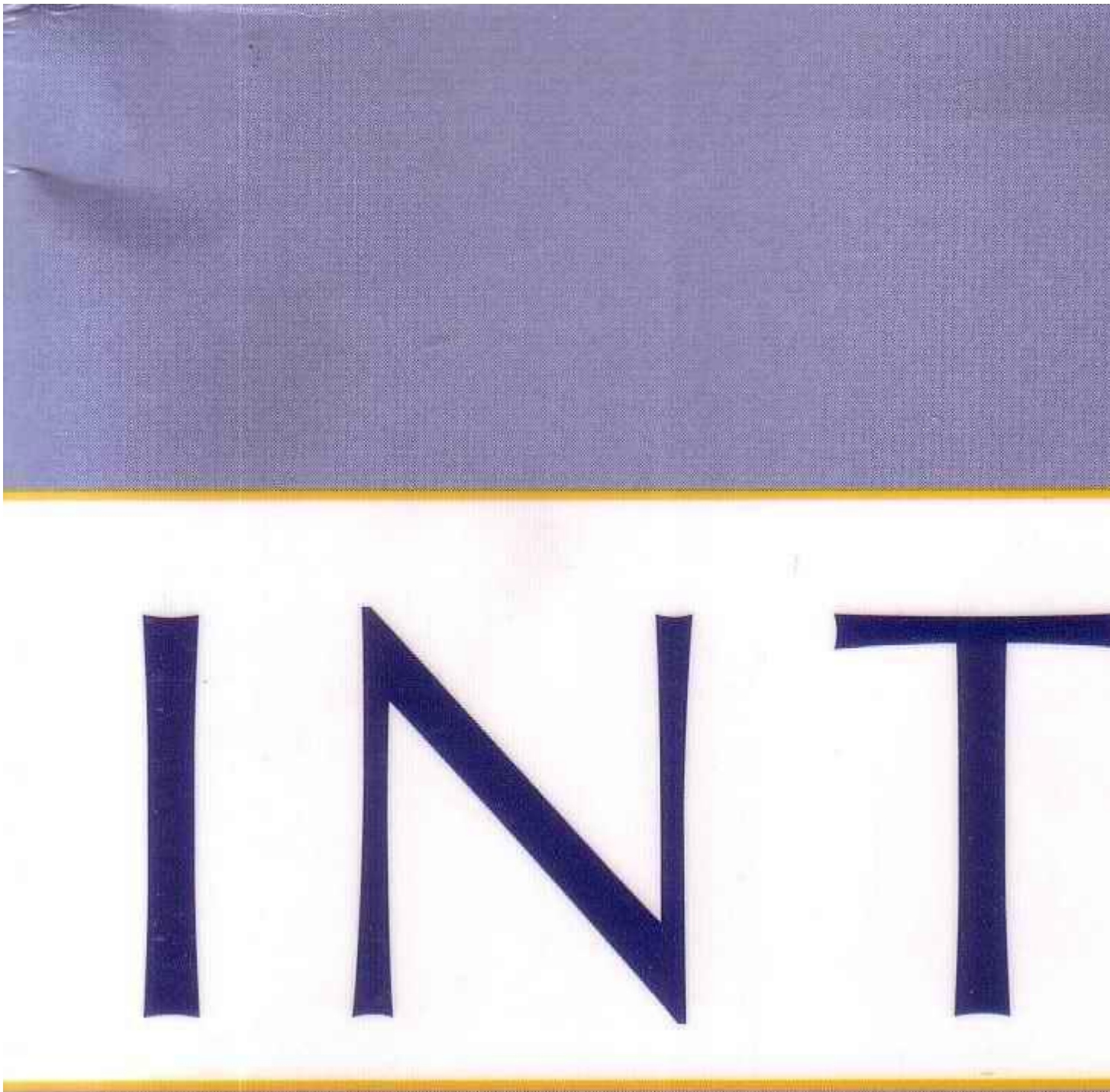
INT

This is a useful book, in as much as it gives in a well-encapsulated form all the latest research in forensic science that has taken place in last three years. The book is based on papers that are read out at the Interpol's Forensic Science Symposium (IFSS). This symposium is held every three years and is a forum for forensic personnel from all Interpol Member States to share their experiences. At this forum a number of issues are discussed including the current forensic issues and their possible solutions and also the current trends in forensic science.

The reports are presented in IFSS orally and are distributed at the Symposium. Those who have not been able to attend the symposium for some reason, would now be able to read all the latest researches that were presented in this symposium.

The book is divided in 16 chapters arranged in 5 sections. There are sections on Chemical Criminalistics, Drugs and Toxicology, Electronic evidence, Fire, explosives and hazardous materials and individual evidence.

I read with interest the latest facts regarding Consecutive Matching Striae (CMS). We all know that CMS criteria were presented in 1997, by Biasotti and John Murdock. According to these criteria, two tool marks are said to match in the following situations:

...Both editors are internationally respected experts in forensic science and between them have more than 100 research papers credited to them. They have integrated the book well...
"In **three dimensional tool marks when at least two different groups of at least three consecutive matching striae** appear in the same relative position, or **one group of six consecutive matching striae** are in agreement in an evidence tool mark compared to a test tool mark. In **two dimensional tool marks when at least two groups of at least five consecutive matching striae appear in the same relative position,** or **one group of eight consecutive matching striae** are in agreement in an evidence tool mark."

However the criteria keep evolving, and one can read in one chapter (chapter 2 on firearms), everything latest that has been published on CMS in last three years. These criteria have become of growing importance mainly due to the expectations of more sophisticated jurors. There is also the need for more objective identification criteria, especially in the light of *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals* . Personally I liked the fact that I could know all that there is to know on CMS at one single stop.

An interesting aspect is that after every chapter there are hundreds of references to explore further.

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The authors hope to continue to offer similar volumes every three years. Watch out for this space!

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