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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

...AN EXCELLENT TREATISE ON CRIMINOLOGY ...I have found this book very valuable. I believe most faculty and students of criminology around the world would find it as valuable... Rating : 10/10...

International Handbook of Criminology, 1st Edition, edited by Shlomo Giora Shoham, Paul Knepper and Martin Kett. Hard Bound, 9.3" x 6.6" x 1.5".
CRC Press LLC, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300, Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742. , . Publication Date Feb 23, 2010. 726 pages, ISBN-10: 1420085514; ISBN-13: 978-1420085518 (alk. paper). Price: $139.95.

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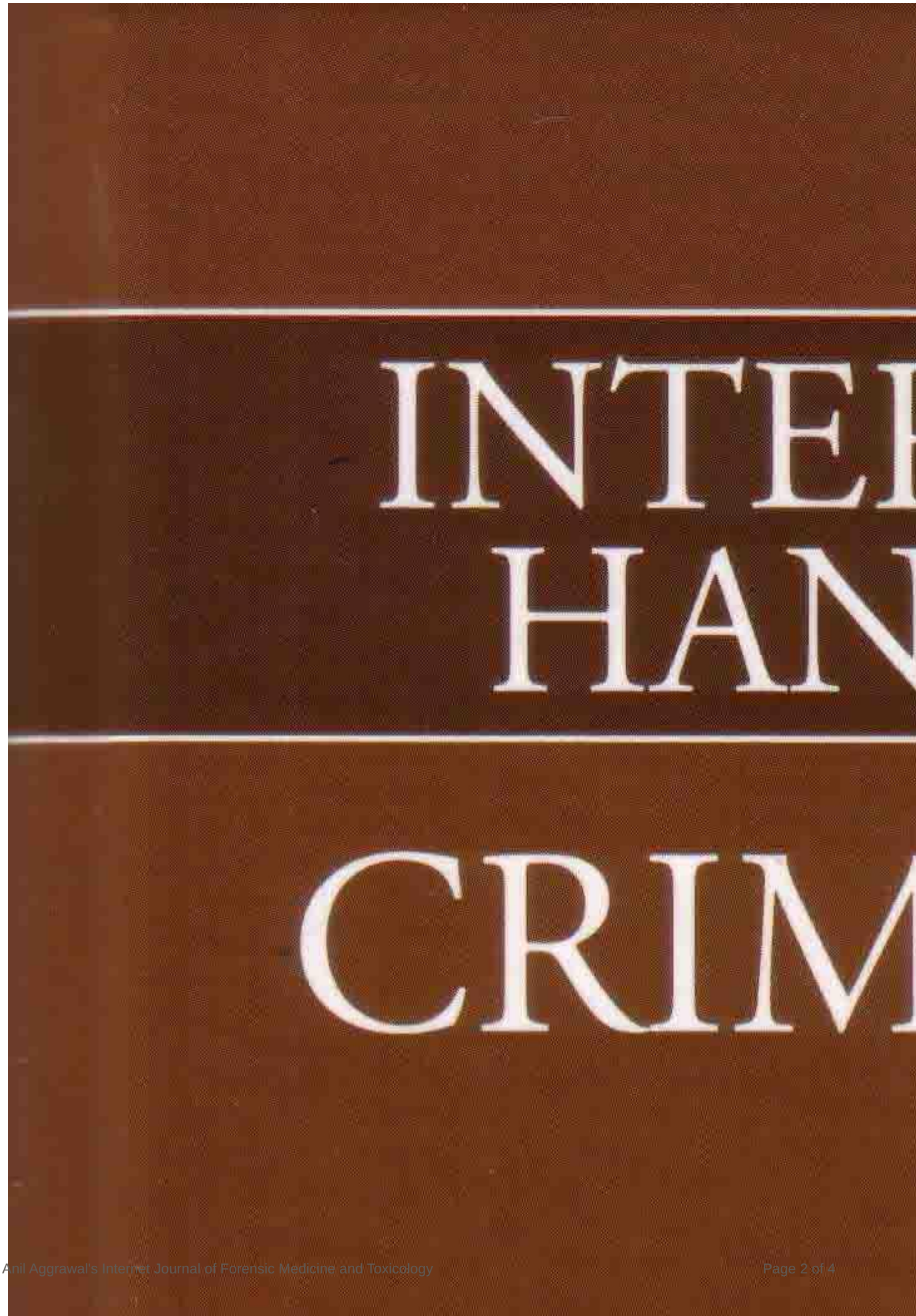
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*T*here are a number of books on criminology in the market, but none as remarkable as this. There are 29 contributors to this book, hailing from countries as far and wide as Philippines, Australia, USA, UK, Norway, France, Switzerland, Malta, Brazil, Germany and Israel. The editors are a well known professor of law (Shoham) and an equally well known lecturer in Sociological studies (Knepper). As I thumbed through the book, I immediately sensed the world view of criminology that this book provides.

Readers would find all chapters interesting. But I would like to make special mention of few chapters. The chapter by Davie on biological theories of crime is quite interesting. The concept that criminality is hidden within ones genes so to say, was first forwarded by Cesare Lombroso (1835-1909), with the publication in 1876 of a book entitled "*L'Uomo Delinquente*". Although we now know he was incorrect, it laid the foundations of criminal anthropology.

The editors divide the book in five sections – (i)Theoretical and historical frameworks (ii) Methods of Enquiry (iii) Crime and Criminality (iv) Response to crime and lastly (v)Crime, victims and social divisions.

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This book is the second in what has come to be known as the Shoham trilogy. The trilogy includes the esteemed "*International Handbook of Penology and Criminal Justice*" and the upcoming "*International Handbook of Victimology*". The current volume is a comprehensive treatment of criminology theory. Some of the topics included in this book are social deviance, research methods, biological and physiological explanations, personality types, and family socialization processes. The book also explores ecological and economic factors, differential association and situational crime prevention, cultural conflicts and immigration, as well as stigmas, group delinquency and juvenile delinquency. Keeping pace with the changing theoretical framework of criminology in the past several years, the new theories Dr. Shoham presents in this handbook urge a re-evaluation of current practices in criminology.

I have found this book very valuable. I believe most faculty and students of criminology around the world would find it as valuable.

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