



PROCEEDINGS

PREFACE

The European Network of Forensic Science (ENFSI) organised its 14th Meeting in Linköping, Sweden, on May 22–25, 2002. The thematic sessions were devoted to History, Development of Methods and Quality and Competence. Most of the papers from these sessions are published in the present issue of this journal. In the business part of the Meeting the most important issue dealt with the future of the organisation and how to combine the need for consolidation with the requests from non-members to enlarge the network.

ENFSI has had a remarkable development during the time since the idea of an organisation came up (1992) and has at present 50 members from 32 countries. During the first years ENFSI could be characterised as a club for managers of broad scientific forensic laboratories, but it has now developed into an organisation with an aim to keep European forensic science at the forefront of the world. A more detailed account of the progress is given in one of the papers.

The real reason for the historical theme of the meeting was, however, to celebrate the 100 years anniversary of the birth of Harry Söderman the renowned creator of non-medical forensic science laboratory activities in Sweden, who also made great contributions to the development of forensic science in Europe. Söderman's adventurous life is the theme of one paper and in another he is viewed from a European forensic perspective. In other contributions the history of forensic science in Ukraine and Cracow, Poland are described.

The majority of papers under the theme Development of Methods dealt with DNA, but the diversity of forensic science is shown by the papers that deal with fibre examinations, forensic photogrammetry combined with radiological scanning and Surface Enhanced Resonance Raman Scattering (SERRS).

One of the goals for ENFSI is that all ENFSI laboratories comply with best practise and international standards for quality and competence assurance. Such aspects are dealt with in the six remaining papers of this issue.

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