An Atlas of Foot and Ankle Surgery. 2nd Ed. Edited by Nikolaus Wülker, Michael M. Stephens, MSc, FRCSI, and Andrea Cracchiolo III, MD. 512 pages, illustrated. Taylor & Francis, London and New York, 2005. $328.95.

Three world-renowned and very experienced orthopedic foot and ankle surgeons have produced this magnificent atlas on surgical techniques for common foot and ankle disorders, which is in its second edition. The first edition, written by the same authors and with the same illustrators, was published in 1998. As the title indicates, this is an atlas rather than a textbook, which means that the line drawings and color photographs are perhaps more important than the words. In this respect, no reader will be disappointed. The line drawings depicting anatomy, pathology, and surgical approaches are numerous, very informative, and sometimes beautiful. These illustrations show, in step-by-step fashion, the individual chapter author's surgical technique for performing the currently employed procedures for reconstructive foot and ankle surgery.

The atlas comprises 48 individual chapters dealing with essentially all common disorders and deformities of the toes, midfoot, rearfoot, ankle, and soft tissues. Each chapter is written by a single author or by several authors from around the world, all of whom have previously published material on the topic they have been assigned. All chapters have a reference list, but unfortunately the latest references are not included. Perhaps the time to publication for this edition was very long. Some of the recommended surgical techniques also seem somewhat old-fashioned, but these techniques are also represented in other recently published texts on the foot and ankle. In addition, some of the topics discussed represent technology available only in European countries, such as the chapter about ankle replacement. Topics are sometimes very specialized; the chapters on surgical approaches to tumors and soft-tissue coverage are of great value to the specialized foot and ankle surgeon, but may be of less interest to the general orthopedic or podiatric surgeon.

When considering the atlas as a whole, however, these concerns are minor. The chapters flow in a uniform pattern with easy-to-follow text and gorgeous illustrations that make digestion of the specific pathology or surgical technique discussed very simple, easy, and quick to accomplish. This atlas contains a wealth of knowledge and is a gold mine for any surgeon specializing in reconstructive foot and ankle surgery. I strongly recommend it to all surgical groups treating foot and ankle injuries, especially those performing highly specialized procedures.

THOMAS S. ROUKIS, DPM
Weil Foot and Ankle Institute
1455 E Golf Rd, Ste 110
Des Plaines, IL 60016