

Dear Readers,

as always, we are giving away another issue of the journal "Current Problems of Forensic Science" with the hope that the articles and other materials published will be of interest and well received. Following the already established line of publishing, we include both theoretical works, prepared by academics, as well as practical studies, based on research and analysis of investigative and judicial practice, which are devoted to forensic and borderline issues of other penal sciences. All articles are published in Polish and English versions.

However, before we briefly review the contents of this issue, we would like to refer to the publications of Lithuanian authors H. Malevski, S. Matulienė, and V.E. Kurapka, who write about the tightening cooperation of Lithuanian, Polish, and Ukrainian forensic scientists in recent years, and plans to create a broad platform providing an opportunity for such cooperation in the scientific, didactic and practical spheres of academic institutions and non-governmental forensic organizations from many of our region's countries, even allowing us to talk about the emergence of a new school of forensic science in the future. In doing so, the authors allude to the idea of creating a joint forensic organization, with European forensic societies as members. The nucleus of such an initiative is the already signed cooperation agreement between the Polish Forensic Association and its counterparts in Lithuania and Ukraine. From this point of view, it is no coincidence that this issue includes an article by K. Mykytyshyna, representing the Center for Forensic Sciences of the UW, presenting information on the admissibility of polygraph evidence in the criminal trial of Ukraine, facilitating Polish readers to gain a deeper insight into the problems faced by Ukrainian forensic scientists.

Of course, we also encourage you to read other publications included in the new issue, in which – as in many previous issues of „Problems” – could not miss studies related to handwriting and document research. This time A. Łuszczuk and J. Łuszczuk write about the analysis of the biometric parameters of signatures made with the guided and supported hand, which is in general one of the more difficult issues in scribal research. The use of biometrics in such research is also alluded to by M. Tomaszewska-Michalak, whose work is the second part of a publication devoted to this topic.

In addition, two other articles are devoted to the practice of opinion: a study by A. Tomańska, M. Janeczek and R. Ciaputa, who presents an overview of the literature and systematizes knowledge in the field of forensic veterinary medicine devoted to the differentiation of human and animal bones, and a paper by K. Kowalik, I. Savochka, P. Narożnicki, and A. Modrzejewski describing

a case of suicidal air gunshot. Both of these studies, touching on issues at the intersection of medicine, veterinary medicine, or archaeology, demonstrate, on the one hand, the breadth of knowledge needed by law enforcement and the judiciary to solve their cases, and, on the other hand, the close relationship between disciplines described as “forensic” and forensic science itself. This is also evidenced by the article “Possibilities of using microbiome analysis in forensic science” by K. Zakrzewska, touching on the issue of using the achievements of forensic microbiology, which is still in its infancy, but probably has broad prospects for practical application, among other things, for identifying a person based on a “bacterial fingerprint”, typing the place where a corpse is hidden and estimating the time of death thanks to the analysis of microbiomes of corpses and soil. Also of great interest should be the article presenting the role of the private detective in the search for missing persons, not only addressing the socially important problem of the disappearance of thousands of people in Poland every year but also revealing the little-known secrets of the work of private detective service providers, assisting law enforcement agencies in this way.

Finally, we would like to encourage you to read the report of the scientific conference with the graceful title “Forensic science – a beautiful 130 years”, held in 2023 at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. This conference was associated with three as many anniversaries: the jubilee of our colleague, the outstanding Polish forensic scientist Prof. Dr. Józef Wójcikiewicz, the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Forensic Science of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University, and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Polish Forensic Society. The three-day conference included two major events – the 11th Congress of Departments, Departments, Laboratories, and Teams of Forensic Science (incidentally, the names show the changes in recent years in the organization of didactics and scientific research in forensic science, which do not necessarily serve the development of the discipline well) and the 8th International Scientific Symposium of the Polish Society of Forensic Science. The combination of the two events from the point of view of the presentation of papers and speeches proved to be very fruitful, as it allowed a wider range of participants, and, moreover, provided a good overview of the issues that are nowadays dealt with by leading forensic science and experts in Poland and abroad. We wish you an interesting reading.

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