



*Poligraf: problemy i perspektivy
primeneniâ (in Russian)*
*(Polygraph: problems and perspectives
for applications),*
EKA, Moscow 2014,
224 pp.

The book is a collection of articles by Russian authors and documents on the use of polygraph in Russia. A large share of articles were written by Yaroslava Komissarova. Majority of articles published in the book had previously been printed in various magazines and/or collections. All the texts practically remain in the convention and paradigm binding in Soviet and Eastern Bloc academic literature on methods of investigation, a science that was not too aptly referred to as 'criminalistics'.

The authors of the individual sections of the book are both scientists (Y. Komissarova, B. Alyev, A. Goltsov) and heads and staff of various Russian state services and institutions (Y. Drobyazka, I. Myagkich, A. Pielnitsyn, A. Soshnikov, O. Zhbankova, P. Moltschanov, K. Zubrilov, and A. Egorenkov). The education of the authors also differs, as their number includes e.g. lawyers and physicians. The scientific and informative value of individual sections varies greatly too.

The first text On the concept of polygraph use in the Russian Federation is by Y. Drobyazk, Y. Komissarova, and N. Myagkich is followed by another On the

scientific grounds for polygraph application by A. Pielnitsin and A. Soshnikov reprinted from *Ekspert-kriminalist* magazine (2011, No. 2). In turn What does a polygraph actually detect? by A. Pielnitsyn, A. Soshnikov, and O. Zhbankova had earlier been published in *Vyestnik kriminalistiki* (2011, 2 (38)). Y. Komissarova's article on The tasks, matter, and scope of psychophysiological court expertise with the use of the polygraph was also published in *Biblioteka Kriminalistiki – Nauchnyi Zhurnal* (2011, 3 (4), pp. 251–275), while her text On polygraph acceptability in criminal trials is published in the volume discussed for the first time.

The lie-detector in US criminal procedure by A. Goltsov is a reprint from *Zhurnal Rossiyskogo Prava* (2009, 4, pp. 72–85); also the text by A. Egorenkov on The expert practice of applying psychophysiological examinations in traffic offences in Kaluga province had been published earlier (*Okhrannaya Dyejatyelnost'*, 2014, 6). The same issue is examined in P. Molchanov's Psychophysiological expertise in criminal and administrative cases related to traffic, previously published in *Administrativnoe Pravo i Protse*s magazine (2009, 3, pp. 28–29). In turn, K. Zubrilov's Application of polygraph examinations in TchOP (where TchOP stands for *tchastnaya okhrona pryedpriyatya* i.e. private enterprise protection) had not previously been published.

The following text of Y. Komissarova on Polygraphology in criminalistics: myth or reality had been published earlier in *Biblioteka Kriminalista* (2011, 1, pp. 96–108). Aiming at a comprehensive portrayal of issues related to polygraph examination, the text was unfortunately based on Russian literature only. The same author presented two further texts: one on Problems with using the polygraph in fighting corruption (the text of a paper delivered at a conference in Budapest on 16 May 2011) and another one on Theoretical and legal problems in using the polygraph in contemporary Russia (the text of a paper delivered at a conference in Sochi, on 11-14 October 2011).

An important component of the book are to expansive internal documents concerning the conditions for using polygraph examinations in state institutions of the Russian Federation and the methodology of the examination itself. The first of them was published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Academy of Internal Affairs, the Bureau for Special Non-invasive Measurements of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2008. The other, from 2006, is a recommendation for psychophysiological examinations with the use of polygraph, drafted at the conference of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Saratov. It contains references to the laws binding in Russia and specimen documents (including examination consent forms).

The value of individual parts of the book, whose majority are legal considerations, is varied. The same is true about research, with studies being not as much scientific

as general, and the knowledge presented hardly going beyond popular science. Nevertheless, the book has high informative value and portrays state of the art information on polygraph examinations in Russia, the current level of legal reflections, and current and postulated directions for polygraph application.

J.W.