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50th Annual Seminar
of the American Polygraph Association,
Chicago, Illinois,
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The 50th jubilee Seminar of the American Polygraph Association was organised around the theme Polygraph in the 21st Century in Chicago's Hilton Palmer House Hotel.

The American Polygraph Association (APA) is the oldest, most comprehensive, and most prestigious organisation gathering polygraph examiners and people professionally and scientifically involved in polygraph examinations from the United States and several dozens of other states from all around the globe. Recently, a number of similar regional associations were formed, yet they are either hardly active (e.g. the British and European Polygraph Association) or develop in rivalry to the American Polygraph Association (e.g. the International Society of Polygraph Examiners), while such bodies could cooperate and complement each other. The new Eurasian Polygraph Association gathering polygraph examiners and scientists from a number of countries, mostly members of the former Soviet Union, shows some perspective, yet perhaps at a later time. It is significant and noteworthy as more polygraph examinations were recently performed in the area of its operation than in the United States, not to mention Europe still uninterested in polygraph examinations.

What could perhaps be a rational solution for the future is the creation of a federation of such associations, which, however, may not be practical at the moment for political concerns. Nonetheless, a more numerous than usually representation of polygraphers from the countries of the former Soviet Union (Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan) at the Chicago Seminar is worth mentioning. This time also the number of Polish delegates (5) was relatively large.

It seems that the cooperation between these key organisations could result among others in joint scientific and research programmes, which would help to break the psychologists' bias against polygraph examinations, and – on the American ground – result in collaboration between the American Polygraph Association and the American Psychological Association. This in turn might have helped the APA's *Polygraph* magazine acquire the status of a scientific periodical and listing on the Master Journal List with all the due consequences.

The annual American Polygraph Association seminars play a number of roles: training, scientific, organisational, and community to mention the chief. The last is not insignificant, as it allows direct contact between people dealing with polygraph examinations from various countries and even continents. The speakers in the workshop and training part are the most eminent scientists and practitioners, and the discussions that follow the delivery of the papers allow wide exchange of experience. Noteworthy addresses in this category included primarily the lectures by M. Handler devoted to the ESS, R. Nelson PCSOT – *A practical approach to interviewing and target selection*, M. Handler and P. Shaw's: PLE Principles, and D.J. Krapohl's – Everything you ever wanted to know about screening but were afraid to ask. A range of panel discussions were interesting, notably the one on *Current issues in polygraph*, with participation of G.L. Vaughan, F. L. Bailey, D. Dutton, M. Handler, D. Raskin, and P. Shaw. The highlights included discussions of problems with the interview/interrogation (*The tactical polygraph and interview/interrogation thoughts*) by L. Fragomeli (FBI) and M. Sullivan (Asst. US Attorney), Professor D. Raskin's *The Utah technique, and Countrmeasures* by Walt Goodson, APA President Elect. This part also included demonstrations of polygraph equipment offered by prime manufacturers: Lafayette Instrument, Axciton, Limestone Technology, and Stoelting Company.

The purely scientific section was relatively modest. The lectures were dominated by historical and legal issues, including the papers by Professor F. Horvath and S. Slowik on the *Birthplace of modern polygraphy*, by L. Marcy on *History of the APA: a human perspective*, and the highly interesting *Polygraph and Confession Law* by Gordon

L. Vaughan Esq. There were relatively few scientific papers delivered by scholars, a group that included a remarkable paper on *The Wizard's First Rule: Debunking Common Myths in the Polygraph Profession about Countermeasures* by Ch. Honts.

Professor D. Raskin not only delivered the aforementioned paper on the Utah technique but also presented the Ocularmotor Deception Test, a new instrumental light detection technique based on eyeball observation.

On the organisational layer, APA Presidency was transferred by Raymond Nelson stepping down from the post to the President Elect Walt Goodson.

Awards and distinctions were presented, with a Pole, Marcin Gołaszewski, President of the Polish Society for Polygraph Examinations, among the number of the awardees as recipient of the David L. Motsinger Horison Award “for professionalism, loyalty, devotion, and activity in support of people in the early stages of their career (up to 10 years)”.

The conference was organised perfectly, the monumental interiors of the Hilton Palmer House Hotel awarded the due splendour, emphasising the special, jubilee nature of the conference. The accompanying meetings favoured establishing personal contacts between participants from various, often very distant countries.

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