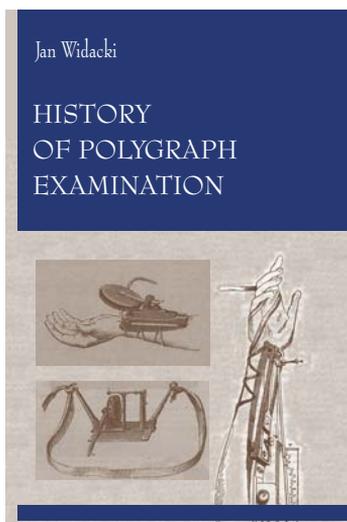


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***History of Polygraph Examination* by Jan Widacki,
Polskie Towarzystwo Kryminalistyczne, Warszawa 2021**

This 6 ½ by 9 ½ inch hard cover book contains a table of contents, seven chapters, a conclusion, bibliography, summary, and names index within 178 pages. Its first publication was in Polish in 2017, and subsequently translated in English by Piotr Krasnowolski with cover design by Oleg Aleksejczuk and reviewer by Marek Leśniak in 2021. Publisher: Polskie Towarzystwo Kryminalistyczne, ul. Zgoda 11,

loc. 300, 00-08 Warszawa. ISBN: 978-83-960666-0-2. This book was part of the project WPAiSM/DS/2/2019-CON, and financed by the Ministry of Science and High Education.

This is a well-written and organized book. It is also well annotated with footnotes on almost every page identifying sources of information. The book is filled with photographs of pioneers in the field of polygraph science, and early instruments used in recording certain physiological parameters. It discusses the contributions made by the earliest pioneers such as Hermann Von Helmholtz (1821–1894) who constructed and used the ophthalmoscope for studying the retina of the eye to Grover Cleveland (Cleve) Backster (1924–2013) who developed the Backster Zone Comparison Technique in 1960 with the first quantification system of the physiological data in chart analysis as the sole determinant of truth and deception with inconclusive results when the data fails to meet the minimum score threshold. The evolution of the polygraph instrument is thoroughly discussed with several photographs displaying the Larson Cardio-pneumo-psychogram, the Berkeley psychograph, the Darrow photopolygraph, the Keeler polygraph, the Stoelting polygraph, and the Lafayette polygraph instruments. A minor discrepancy was found on page 115 where it is stated that the Backster Zone Comparison Technique was developed by Backster in 1916; the correct date is 1960. However, I believe that the major contribution of this book is in its comprehensive presentation of the innovative developments made by European and Asian pioneers in the field of polygraph examinations, now known as *Forensic psychophysiology*. In 1996, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) established the controlling standards for *Forensic Psychophysiology*, a title which it enacted for the discipline of psychophysiological detection of deception (PDD) examinations. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of truth-verification and lie detection.

James Allan Matte