

Importance of Bokarius family for development of forensic medicine in Ukraine (Review Article)

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On the occasion of the 220th anniversary of founding of the V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University and, accordingly, the Kharkiv National Medical University and with the aim of focusing attention on the role of the Bokarius family in the development of forensic medicine and criminalistics in Ukraine, the scientific path of three representatives of this dynasty is highlighted: father Mykola Mykolayovych and sons Mykola Mykolayovych and Vitalii Mykolaiovych. For achieving the set goal, general scientific methods were applied: description, comparison, analysis, generalization. The Bokarius family devoted more than 100 years of professional life to the service of forensic medicine and criminalistics.

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Mykola Serhiyovych Bokarius, known as an erudite scientist and talented teacher, the founder of the forensic direction in Ukrainian forensic medicine, did a lot to form the domestic system of forensic examination and specialized expert institutions, in particular the Cabinet of Scientific Forensic Examination in Kharkiv. The scientific, expert and teaching activities of Honored Professor M. S. Bokarius were continued by his eldest son, Mykola Mykolaiovych who for 25 years headed the Kharkiv Institute of Forensic Examinations and made a significant contribution to the training of personnel at other Kharkiv institutes: medical and legal (he founded Department of Forensic Science of the latter). The fate of the youngest son of Mykola Serhiyovych, namely: Vitalii was determined by the war: after graduating from the Kharkiv Medical Institute, he went to the front. No information about him has survived in printed sources; the authors used the memoirs of his son, military doctor Serhii Vitaliiiovych.

Keywords: M. S. Bokarius Professor emeritus; Mykola Mykolaiovych Bokarius; Vitalii Mykolaiovych Bokarius; forensic science and criminalistics; history; dynasty; medical education.

Research Problem Formulation

In the scientific literature to date, there is no comprehensive study of the contribution of the Bokarius family as a dynasty of forensic doctors to development of forensic medicine and expert science in Ukraine. And the life path of V. M. Bokarius was generally ignored by scientists, historians and teachers for a long time.

Article Purpose

For investigating and generalizing significance of the Bokarius dynasty for development of forensic medicine and forensic science in Ukraine. To cover the scientific path of three representatives of this dynasty: father of Mykola Serhiiovych and the sons of Mykola Mykolaiovych and Vitalii Mykolaiovych.

Research Methods

In order to achieve this goal, general scientific methods were used: description, comparison, analysis, generalization.

Analysis of Essential Researches and Publications

In their research papers, Ukrainian scientists (mainly employees of National Scientific Center «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius Forensic Science Institute» of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Kharkiv National Medical University of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine) paid tribute to Professor Emeritus Mykola Serhiyovych Bokarius, focusing on individual stages of

his activities ¹, scientific achievements ², or life ³. To some extent, the scientific and life path of the eldest son of M. S. Bokarius (Mykola Mykolayovych) ⁴ has been studied, but even a narrow circle of interested people ⁵ know about the younger one (Vitalii Mykolaiovych Bokarius) only from the memoirs of his son, Sergei Bocarius ⁶. Unfortunately, as noted above, a comprehensive study of the contribution of the Bokarius family as a dynasty of forensic doctors to the development of forensic

- 1 Дольний А. Приклад, вартий наслідування. *За радянського лікаря*. 1940. № 28. С. 2 ; Комаха В. О. Бокаріус Микола Сергійович — один із фундаторів і перший керівник Харківського науково-дослідного інституту судових експертиз (до 90-річчя заснування Харківського НДІСЕ). *Юридические записки*. 2013. № 2. С. 124 ; Циганенко А. Я. Учень та вчитель. Світлій пам'яті професора Миколи Миколайовича Бокаріуса / Історія в історіях: Харківська вища медична школа у спогадах, документах і фотографіях ; за заг. ред.: В. М. Лісового, Ж. М. Перцевої. Харків, 2015. С. 236 ; Ключев О. М., Угровецький О. П., Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б., Спіцина Г. О., Філіпенко Н. Є. До 150-річчя з дня народження Заслуженого професора Миколи Сергійовича Бокаріуса : монографія. Харків, 2019. 176 с. URL: <https://nncise.org.ua/diyalnist/naukova> (date accessed: 15.10.2024) ; *Актуальні питання судової експертизи і криміналістики* : зб. мат-лів міжнар. наук.-практ. конф., присвяч. 150-річ. з дня народж. Засл. проф. М. С. Бокаріуса (Харків, 18—19.04.2019). Харків, 2019. С. 4—28. URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LIJBduUEvfGdV2KsUTwMKLi6Qv-VKRzo3/view> (date accessed: 15.10.2024) ; Бокаріус Л. В., Бокаріус С. В., Філіпенко Н. Є. Медицина — професія їхньої долі. *Архів кримінології та судових наук*. 2020. № 2. С. 33—45. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/acrf2020_2_11 (date accessed: 15.10.2024) ; Перцева Ж. Н. Н. С. Бокариус — выдающийся педагог высшей медицинской школы / Вірні клятві Гіпократу: розповіді про тих, хто є візиром для прийдешніх поколінь лікарів ; за ред.: В. М. Лісового, В. А. Капустника, Ж. М. Перцевої ; укладачі: Ж. М. Перцева, І. В. Киричок, О. В. Семененко. Харків, 2020.
- 2 Наместникова Л. Н. Светлой памяти учителя / Історія в історіях С. 230 ; Фесюнін В. М., Тяпкін А. С. «Архів кримінології та судових наук» і наукова спадщина М. С. Бокаріуса. *Архів кримінології та судових наук*. 2020. № 2. С. 77—86. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/acrf2020_2_16 (date accessed: 15.10.2024) ; Ключев О. М., Бокаріус Л. В., Тяпкін А. С. Дослідження наукової спадщини М. С. Бокаріуса — обов'язок працівників наукової установи, що носить його ім'я. *Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики*. 2021. Вип. 23. С. 83—98. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.1.2021.06 (date accessed: 15.10.2024).
- 3 Бокариус Н. Н. Жизнь и деятельность заслуженного профессора Николая Сергеевича Бокариуса. Неопубл. 1966. Фонд музею історії ХНМУ. ФОП 7/2-26. ОФ 5736.
- 4 Якимович И. К 30-летнему юбилею профессора Н. С. Бокариуса. 1895—1925 гг. *Административный вестник*. 1925. № 5—6. С. 17—18 ; Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Отец и сын Бокариусы: жизнь, отданная судебной медицине. *Universitates. Наука и просвещение*. 2009. № 2. С. 12—23. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024) ; Лесовой В. Н., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А., Кравченко Ю. Н. Династия судебных медиков Бокариусов. *Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики*. 2014. Вип. 14. С. 441—448. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/13/2014-1> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).
- 5 Островський С. Віталій Бокаріус. *За радянського лікаря*. 1939. № 43. С. 2.
- 6 Спогади С. В. Бокаріуса. 2016. Фонд музею історії ХНМУ. ФОП 7/2-25. НДФ 453 ; Бокаріус С. В., Філіпенко Н. Є. Віталій Миколайович Бокаріус — славетний продовжувач великої династії. *Актуальні питання судової експертизи і криміналістики* С. 18. URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LIJBduUEvfGdV2KsUTwMKLi6Qv-VKRzo3/view> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

medicine and forensic science in Ukraine has not been carried out to date, although enterprising scientists have made some attempts in this direction, turning to the descendants of the famous dynasty for help⁷.

Main Content Presentation

The foundation of the Imperial Kharkiv University (now *V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University*) in 1804 was of crucial importance, as it contributed to the educational and scientific development of not only the city, but also the entire region. The famous Ukrainian historian D. Bahalii wrote that *“it was a real “holiday of enlightenment” for the city, for the whole of Ukraine”*⁸. The University gave the world a galaxy of outstanding scientists — not only theorists, but also practitioners, in particular, doctors who throughout their lives worked tirelessly for the benefit of the health of the people, giving all their strength and knowledge to this noble cause.

Some dynasties from generation to generation passed on professional skills, responsibility for family business, the best family traditions. The surnames of doctors Danilevsky, Khazhinsky and Bobin are well known to Kharkiv residents, but the most famous among them (at least in the first half of the 20th century) is the surname of forensic doctors Boka-

rius. This family has devoted more than 100 years of professional life to the service of their cause, making an invaluable contribution to the creation and development of a domestic forensic medical school.

The founder of this dynasty was a unique person, tireless worker, a talented teacher, an erudite scientist Mykola Serhiiovych Bokarius. He was born in 1869 in Odessa and received his secondary education at the Richelieu Gymnasium, where his father worked. In addition to his son, the family had five daughters. Life was in need, and Mykola, whose pedagogical abilities woke up quite early, began to work in the fifth grade of the gymnasium: with the permission of the director, he headed a physical office and prepared devices for physics classes, for which he received a salary of 10 karbovanets per month. He was engaged in tutoring and thus helped the family⁹.

The guy dreamed of studying at the university, especially after meeting with the doctor of the Odessa City Hospital D. H. Tiunieiev. Mykola's childhood and youth passed in close communication with him, under the constant influence of his instructions and advice, which the guy, to the best of his ability and understanding, later successfully used on his life's journey.

Subsequently, on the first pages of the manual *“Forensic Medicine in the Presentation for Lawyers”*, he will devote the following words to *the teacher*: *“Considering*

7 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. URL: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024) ; Лесовой В. Н., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А., Кравченко Ю. Н. Указ. соч. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/13/2014-1> (date accessed: 15.10.2024) ; Бокариус Л. В., Бокариус С. В., Філіпенко Н. Є. Зазнач. твір. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/acrf_2020_2_11 (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

8 Багалеї Д. І. Опыт истории Харьковского университета (по неизданным материалам). В 2 т. Харьков. Т. 1. 1893—1898. С. 190. URL: <https://ekhnuir.karazin.ua/items/bf7324af-9b96-4f31-a4c2-b0f138f46413/full> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

9 Перцева Ж. Н. Указ. соч. С. 246.

*myself morally obliged to the influence of my dear Dmytro Herasymovych, who is unforgettable for me, I dedicate this my humble work with deep gratitude and reverence for His Bright Memory”*¹⁰. A special impression on him was made by the attitude of Tiunieiev to patients, who “*not only treated the patient, but also loved him with great love and affection, with a kind, cheerful word he was able to revive hope in the most serious patients*”¹¹.

In 1890, M. S. Bokarius was enrolled in the Medical Faculty of the Imperial Kharkiv University, and he forever linked his fate with this city. Already in his student years, his effective nature was revealed: his relentless pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment, organizational skills. Under the guidance of Professor V. Y. Danilevsky, he wrote articles for the People's Encyclopedia, which was being prepared for publication by members of the Kharkiv Medical Society, and worked on organizing rural reading rooms and libraries. Even after graduating from the university, he continued to organize free readings for the public in different parts of the city for some time. It is worth noting that the 2nd year student was left with a mother and two sisters to support after his father's death, so Mykola worked part-time as a tutor and

a painter, preparing tables and drawings for some university departments¹².

After successfully graduating from the university (1895), M. S. Bokarius worked as a resident of the faculty surgical clinic under the guidance of the famous professor V. F. Grube (until 1897)¹³. He was engaged in pathoanatomical and pathohistological studies and demonstrated these materials at lectures. In 1897, he was elected assistant prosecutor at the Department of Forensic Medicine under the guidance of Professor F. O. Patenko. M. S. Bokarius devoted the next 34 years of his life to this work¹⁴.

In 1901, he became a prosecutor; he defended his doctoral dissertation “*Florence's crystals, their chemical nature and forensic value*”¹⁵ (1902). In the same year, M. S. Bokarius was appointed to the position of private associate professor¹⁶. The direction of his activity eloquently testifies to the diversity of his interests and tireless work capacity. It should be noted that at that time such a specialization as forensic medicine did not exist: the study of dead bodies was the responsibility of city hospitals and hospital inspectors, which is why the university department of forensic medicine did not have material for forensic autopsies. In order to avoid this, Mykola Serhiyovych took over

10 Бокариус Н. С. Судебная медицина в изложении для юристов. Харьков, 1915. С. 2. URL: <https://dspace.nlu.edu.ua/jspui/handle/123456789/5172> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

11 Там же.

12 Перцева Ж. Н. Указ. соч. С. 247.

13 Бокариус Н. С. Автобиография. 1931. Фонд музею історії ХНМУ. ФОР 7/2-25. ОФ 2634. С. 1.

14 Ключев О. М., Угровецкий О. П., Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б., Спіцина Г. О., Філіпенко Н. Є. Знач. твір. URL: <https://nncise.org.ua/diyalist/naukova> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

15 Бокариус Н. С. Кристаллы Florence'a, их химическая природа и судебно-медицинское значение : дис. ... д-ра мед. Харьков, 1902. 163 с. : ил. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/12908> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

16 Медицинский факультет Харьковского университета за первые сто лет его существования (1805—1905) ; под ред. проф. И. П. Скворцова и проф. Д. И. Багалея. Харьков, 1905—1906. С. 258. URI: <https://escrptorium.karazin.ua/handle/1237075002/2138> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

the management of the Kharkiv cadaver room on a voluntary basis (1902) and performed these duties for almost 20 years, thus providing students with material for practical work¹⁷. In 1903, M. S. Bokarius began teaching a private course: *Department of Forensic Macro- and Microscopic researches*¹⁸ and a year later (1904) published a research paper on the study of the strangulation furrow¹⁹. The methodology he proposed for determining the lifetime/postmortem nature of this furrow became an integral part of forensic medicine textbooks. At the same time, Mykola Serhiiovych worked thoroughly on the restructuring of the educational process — he added new disciplines to the curriculum: a course on first aid before the arrival of a doctor (2nd year), a practical course on forensic autopsies (4th year), a course on microscopic and microchemical studies and material evidence (5th year).

In 1907, M. S. Bokarius proposed a new reagent for the production of crystals during the study of seminal fluid. These crystals entered the literature as *Bokarius crystals*. In 1910, Mykola Serhiiovych was approved as the head of the Department of Forensic Medicine, in the same year he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine and the title of Professor²⁰, and was the first in Russia to conduct a fingerprint ex-



Fig. 1. Professor M. S. Bokarius

amination. He invented an original fingerprinting magnifier design that allowed the details of papillary patterns to be localized for comparison²¹.

M. S. Bokarius collected content for future textbook, since students studied according to foreign manuals, which did not always meet the needs of the time²².

In 1910, M. S. Bokarius published his first book, a guide for students, “Forensic Microscopic and Microchemical Studies of Physical Evidence”²³, and a year later (1911), at his own expense, he published the first domestic textbook on forensic

17 Перцева Ж. Н. Указ. соч. С. 248.

18 Медицинский факультет С. 125. URI: <https://escriptorium.karazin.ua/handle/1237075002/2138> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

19 Бокариус Н. С. О значении странгуляционной борозды при повешении. Харьков, 1904. 16 с.

20 Кононенко В. И. Николай Сергеевич Бокариус. *Врачебное дело*. 1956. № 12. С. 2.

21 Бокариус Н. С. Лупа для работ над дактилоотпечатками. *Архив криминологии и судебной медицины*. 1927. Т. 1. Кн. 2—3. С. 867.

22 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 13. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

23 Бокариус Н. С. Судебно-медицинские микроскопические и микрохимические исследования вещественных доказательств: опыт руководства для врачей, студентов и фармацевтов. Харьков, 1910. 212 с. URL: <https://dspace.nlu.edu.ua/jspui/handle/123456789/3177> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

medicine with the note “in a concise presentation for students,” the main goal of which the professor saw as the transformation of the student from a passive listener into an active and independent participant in pedagogical process²⁴. In his teaching, Mykola Serhiyovych preferred practical work, so he made it as visual as possible, and brought lectures and classes as close as possible to the conditions of practical expert activity²⁵. “Professor M. S. Bokarius believed that it was possible to teach a student forensic medicine only in practice, so he attached great importance to visuality in the educational process, he published textbooks with color illustrations, many of which he prepared and drew himself. From the very beginning of his teaching career, Mykola Serhiyovych began collecting visual aids and literature, prepared dummies and preparations, and eventually organized the Institute of Forensic Medicine (1913) in a special annex at the University. In this unique institution, he gathered the richest library and equipment, prepared premises and a laboratory, and most importantly, founded a museum of forensic medicine with exhibits of various branches of application of this science. The walls of the institution were decorated with statements that illustrated the content of the classes: *Repetition is the key to learning, Life is short, art is eternal, Doubt is part of correct judgment, Care of a forensic doctor is the smallest details, You cannot redo a poorly performed autopsy*, etc. Unfortunately, the Institute has not been preserved. It was located on Veterinary Square near the then educational building of the Medical Faculty on the street. Sum-

ska, 41. It was demolished in March 1932 during the development of Dzerzhinsky Square (now Freedom Square)”²⁶.



Fig. 2. Commemorative plaque in honor of Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius (46 Chernyshevskya Str., Kharkiv)

Simultaneously with his work at the University, Mykola Serhiyovych taught a lot of the basics of medical knowledge in educational institutions of various levels: since 1896, for almost 15 years, he read plastic anatomy at the Kharkiv Art School (now the *Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts*) and published the first lithographed textbook on plastic anatomy (1908); at the Faculty of Law of the University (1905–1920), he taught forensic medicine; at pedagogical courses: course of school hygiene; at higher women's courses: anatomy; and at pharmaceutical courses — pharmaceutical legislation; he also worked as the director of the gymnasium and the 1st Kharkiv Dental School²⁷.

24 Бокариус Н. С. Краткий курс судебной медицины: в конспективном изложении для студентов. Б. м., 1911. 465 с.

25 Перцева Ж. Н. Указ. соч.

26 Бокариус М. С. / Історія Харкова у пам'ятних дошках. Фактографічні та бібліографічні відомості. URL: <http://mevorydoskikharkov.blogspot.com/2017/02/blog-post.html> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

27 Бокариус Н. С. Автобиография С. 2–3.



Fig. 3. In the museum of the Institute of Forensic Medicine (1930)

M. S. Bokarius made a significant contribution to the formation and development of Ukrainian forensic medicine. Even at the beginning of his work at the Department of Forensic Medicine (1897), he not only put forward the idea of the need for special training of forensic medical experts and their interaction with forensic specialists (both during training and in further work), but also actively implemented such interaction in his own scientific activities.

Well-known professor M. M. Hrodzynskyi wrote: *“It is unnecessary to say that forensic science is a science, and it is unnecessary to prove the connection between forensic medicine and forensic science, but it is not superfluous to remind that this connection was established by Mykola Mykolayovych Bokarius. It is quite reasonable to consider Mykola*

*la Serhiyovych as the founder of the forensic direction in forensic medicine”*²⁸.



Fig. 4. M. S. Bokarius and colleagues (1904)

In 1915, M. S. Bokarius began work on a guide for lawyers, during which he made another discovery: he noticed not 2, but 3 phases in the formation of corpse

28 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 16. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

spots²⁹. For independent work of students in practical classes, he developed and issued 10 methodological instructions and equipped individual workplaces with the necessary tools and preparations in accordance with the topic of classes³⁰.

During the First World War, Mykola Serhiyovych managed the unloading of sanitary trains with the wounded, organized training courses for junior medical workers (nurses, disinfectants, etc.), actively worked in the chemical section of the Military Technical Assistance Committee in the fight against suffocating gases³¹.

M. S. Bokarius received a new impetus after the October 1917 revolution, when the young Ukrainian republic began to form new institutions of state power and higher education. There was an urgent need for forensic medical examination and state forensic expert institutions, and Professor Bokarius devoted himself to this cause. The People's Commissariat of Health of the Ukrainian SSR created a forensic medical department (1920), headed by Mykola Bokarius. This was the beginning of the national forensic medical examination at the state level. Later (1922), this department was abolished, and the Chief Forensic Medical Inspectorate was introduced (1923), which was also headed by M. S. Bokarius. Soon, M. Bokarius and S. Savchenko (investigator for particularly important cases of the People's Commissariat of Justice of the Ukrainian SSR) together prepared a reasoned report on the

need to establish a Cabinet of Scientific and Forensic Expertise in Kharkiv. In July 1923. The Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian SSR adopted a resolution on the establishment of such a Cabinet in Kharkiv, with M. S. Bokarius appointed as its head. In 1925, the Cabinet was reformed into the Kharkiv Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Expertise, which was undoubtedly the most outstanding scientific and organizational achievement of M. S. Bokarius³².



Fig. 5. M. S. Bokarius with the staff of forensic science (M. M. Bokarius is first to the left in the 1st row)

At this stage, the issue of personnel training arose. Therefore, under the leadership of M. S. Bokarius, semi-annual courses were organized for the first time in the country (1925), where doctors, forensic medical inspectors from different cities of Ukraine improved their knowledge³³. The same year, on initiative of the professor, the first Congress of Medical Examiners of Ukraine was held³⁴.

29 Ключев О. М., Угровецкий О. П., Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б., Спіцина Г. О., Філіпенко Н. Є. Зазнач. твір. С. 58, 67. URL: <https://nncise.org.ua/diyalnist/naukova> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

30 Перцева Ж. Н. Указ. соч. С. 249.

31 Бокариус Н. С. Автобиография ... С. 3—4.

32 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 12—23. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

33 Бокариус Н. С. Автобиография ... С. 6.

34 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).



Fig. 6. M. S. Bokarius with delegates of the 1st All-Ukrainian Congress of Medical Examiners (1925)

In addition to working with forensic experts, Mykola Serhiyovych took an active part in the training of investigation personnel (justice and police). He taught forensic medicine at the Red Law Courses of the Kharkiv Provincial Department of Justice, at the Law Courses of the People's Commissariat of Justice of the Ukrainian SSR and at the All-Ukrainian Higher School of Command at the Main Directorate of Police of the Ukrainian SSR ³⁵.

Mykola Mykolayovych prepared several reference publications for criminalists ³⁶, in particular: *Reference Manual for Criminal Investigation and Police Officers in the Compilation of a Verbal Portrait* ³⁷ (1924), which title page states that it was 'compiled and drawn by Professor M. Bokari-

us' ³⁸, a consultant to the Criminal Investigation of the Republic; fundamental research paper: *Initial External Examination of a Corpse during Police and Investigation* ³⁹ (1925). Contemporaries argued that this manual "due to its exhaustive completeness and originality has no equal not only in domestic but also in world literature" ⁴⁰. Subsequently, the scientist published contour images of human body ⁴¹ parts prepared by him (1930), which illustrated forensic medical findings and facilitated their evidentiary design.

M. S. Bokarius is the author of 47 scientific works, widely known not only in our country: Western European scientists in their works referred to them and quoted them in their manuals on forensic medicine. Mykola Serhiyovych took an equally active part in the preparation of various regulations, rules and instructions that normalized the conduct of expert research. It can even be argued that during the 1920s–1930s, he participated in the issuance of each order on forensic or forensic examination in Ukraine ⁴².

All this work took place in parallel with teaching at Kharkiv institutes: medical and legal. M. S. Bokarius had a reputation as an excellent educator and teacher. Each of his lectures was a fascinating quintessence of vast experience combined

35 Бокариус Н. С. Автобиография ...

36 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

37 Бокариус Н. С. Справочный подручный альбом для работников уголовного розыска и милиции при составлении словесного портрета. Харьков, 1924. 88 с.

38 Там же. С. 2.

39 Его же. Первоначальный наружный осмотр трупа при милицейском и розыском дознании. Харьков, 1925. 542 с. : ил.

40 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 16. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

41 Бокариус Н. С. Контурные изображения частей тела человека для приложения к протоколам судебно-медицинских вскрытий. Харьков, 1930.

42 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 12–23. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

with encyclopedic education and brilliant teaching⁴³. In the welcoming address of the graduates of the Women's Medical Institute (1915), which was signed by 150 young doctors, we find the following sentence: *"We saw in you such a teacher whose science merges with life into a harmonious whole"*⁴⁴.

It is worth mentioning M. S. Bokarius' character traits. His versatile in-depth knowledge, strict internal organization, dedication, exactingness, honesty, accuracy and dedication to work were perfectly complemented by his openness, responsiveness and friendliness. Mykola Serhiyovych had great authority and trust of the students. He was elected both the Dean of the School of Medicine (1920) and the Head of the Academic Department of the Kharkiv Medical Academy (1921). It was a difficult period: there was a reorganization, a catastrophic lack of time, but M. S. Bokarius, in accordance with his official duties, admitted students strictly (although it could start at 5–6 p.m. and end at 11–12 p.m., but no one left the queue, as everyone was sure that M. S. Bokarius would see everyone and help solve their problem)⁴⁵.

M. S. Bokarius' personal expert practice includes not only the autopsy of more than 3,000 corpses, but also more than 5,000 expert studies of various physical evidence. As a forensic practitioner, he had a reputation as the most experienced expert, who in difficult cases was repeatedly approached by practical workers not only in various cities of the Ukrainian SSR, but also in other Union republics⁴⁶.

The talent of M. S. Bokarius as an innovative scientist is also evidenced by the journals he founded: "Archive of Criminology and Forensic Medicine" (1926–1927; in Russian and in the languages of contributors) and "Issues of Criminalistics and Scientific Forensic Examination" (1931–1932; in Ukrainian), manuscripts sent by scientists and practitioners from many countries of the world. Mykola Serhiyovych communicated with the authors in their native language, because, according to contemporaries, he knew 17 languages. In addition, he knew and loved art well, had bright creative abilities: he played chess skillfully, drew beautifully and composed poems. The children inherited their father's penchant for art: in particular, the youngest daughter became a pianist and organist⁴⁷.

M. S. Bokarius worked until the last days of his life. The scientist died on December 24, 1931, after a serious illness. Obituaries in honor of his memory published not only domestic foreign journals: Turin, Brussels, Warsaw, New York, Buenos Aires, Havana, Ottawa, Tokyo, etc. The fruitful scientific and pedagogical activities of M. S. Bokarius in the field of forensic medicine and criminalistics were highly appreciated by the government of the Ukrainian SSR: he was one of the first scientists to receive the honorary title of Honored Professor (1925). After his death, his name was given to Kharkiv Research Institute of Forensic Examinations, the founder and Head of which he was from the day of its foundation (currently: *National Scientific*

43 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 17. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

44 Вітальна адреса М. С. Бокаріусу від випускниць ЖМІ. 1915. Фонд музею історії ХНМУ. ФОП 7/2-25. ОФ 3913. С. 3.

45 Бокариус Н. Н. Жизнь и деятельность С. 32–34.

46 Якимович И. Указ. соч. С. 17.

47 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 12–23. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

Center «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius Forensic Science Institute»⁴⁸.

M. S. Bokarius' successor both at the department and at the Institute was his son from his first marriage, Mykola Mykola-yovych Bokarius, who was born on July 10, 1899, in Kharkiv. In raising his children (in addition to Mykola, the family had an older son, Yurii, and daughters, Kseniia and Zinaida), Bokarius followed the rule that was once expressed by M. I. Pyrohov: *“The real subject of education is to prepare a person to be a person”*⁴⁹. Children studied at gymnasiums, learned languages, played music and drew, and read a lot.



Fig. 7. Father and son: Mykola Serhiyovych and Mykola Mykolayovych Bokarius

On his birthday (1910), Mykola received a gift from his father, the first book published by him “Forensic microscopic and microchemical studies of physical

evidence” with a verse manuscript dedication, which the father opened to his very young son the only, in his opinion, correct way of life; the way to the world of science, the world of ideas. The father believed that the son would understand him and follow this path. The future fulfilled the hopes of his parents, because it was this son who continued his scientific activity.

Mykola graduated with honors from the gymnasium (1917) and entered the medical faculty of Kharkiv University. At that time, he was already working: from the age of 15, while still studying at the gymnasium, he served as a clerk in the city cadaver rest. As a student, he helped his father in organizing courses during the First World War, and in 1919 — in practical classes at the Department of Forensic Medicine at the Women's Medical Institute⁵⁰.

In the history of our country, that turbulent time was filled with cataclysms that tragically affected the Bokarius family: the eldest son Yurii died in the flames of the civil war, the eldest daughter Ksenia went abroad with her husband, the younger Zinaida unexpectedly died tragically. Mykola stayed with his father (whose university studies were extended for 7 years): he supported and helped, learned to be disciplined, collected, punctual and conscientious⁵¹.

M. M. Bokarius was transferred (1921) from the Don Regional Health Department to the Kharkiv Medical Academy to continue his studies. The cover letter stated that, despite the difficulties, Mykola

48 Ключев О. М., Угровецкий О. П., Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б., Спіцина Г. О., Філіпенко Н. Є. Знач. твір. С. 135—136. URL: <https://nncise.org.ua/diyalnist/naukova> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

49 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 22. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

50 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 12—23. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

51 Лесовой В. Н., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А., Кравченко Ю. Н. Указ. соч. С. 443. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/13/2014-1> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

Mykolaiovych proved to be an excellent organizer, an honest and reliable worker⁵². These were exactly the qualities that his father brought up in him.

Before graduating from the university (1922), M. Bokarius began working as an instructor at the Department of Forensic Medicine at the Kharkiv Medical Institute. After graduation, he continued to work at the department, but as a preparator and later as an assistant. He assisted his father in conducting various courses, preparing books for publication, and doing administrative work. In 1924, he headed the identification section and then the forensic biological research section at the Institute of Scientific and Forensic Expertise. During his father's illness, he performed his duties both at the department and at the Institute. Profound professional knowledge, extensive practical experience and broad educational background helped Mykola Mykolaiovych to successfully replace his father. In 1931, he was promoted to the rank of professor, and in 1932 he became the head of the Department of Forensic Medicine at the Kharkiv Medical Institute⁵³.

He told about his first independent steps in these positions much later to the long-term rector of Kharkiv Medical Institute A. Ia. Tsyhanenko, who considered himself his student. Anatolii Yakovych recalled: *"First he was afraid of the great responsibility that lay in the distant 1931 on his still young shoulders. He was afraid not because he lacked knowledge or experience, but because he felt a great responsibility before the name of his father, his inheritance, to which he now had to*

*be equal, to respond and continue to maintain the level of his creative achievement"*⁵⁴. Life has shown that he has withstood this challenge with honor.

In the 1930s, M. M. Bokarius lived a busy life, just as his father had done before. In addition to heading the Institute of Scientific and Forensic Expertise, he was the head of the departments of forensic medicine at the 1st and 2nd KMI, and the Ukrainian Institute for the Improvement of Doctors. From December 1931 until he left for evacuation (1941), he taught forensic medicine at the Law Institute, and from 1939 he was the head of the Department of Criminalistics and Forensic Medicine. At the same time, he taught law courses, supervised the practice of police cadets, gave courses and individual lectures on forensic medicine for prosecutors, investigators, police, military prosecutors, etc.⁵⁵ Paying, like his father, considerable attention to visualization, he organized exhibitions, museums, laboratories, and in 1937 published "Lectures on Forensic Medicine" in 2 parts (part 1 "Procedural Part", part 2 "Asphyxia")⁵⁶.



Fig. 8. M. M. Bokarius at the Institute of Scientific and Forensic Examination gives an explanation to visitors (1931)

52 Бокаріус Н. Н. Автобіографія. 1941. Фонд музею історії ХНМУ. ФОР 7/2-26. ОФ 4613. С. 1, 2.

53 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

54 Циганенко А. Я. Зазнач. твір. С. 236.

55 Бокаріус Н. Н. Автобіографія ... С. 5–6.

56 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 21–20. URI: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

During the Second World War, during the occupation of Kharkiv by the Nazis, M. M. Bokarius, together with the 1st Kharkiv Medical Institute, was evacuated. While working at the Medical Institute, he taught forensic medicine at the Chkalov branch of the All-Union Correspondence Law Institute. By order of the Government of the Ukrainian SSR, he was appointed to the State Commission for the Investigation of the Atrocities of the German-Fascist Invaders in the Occupied Territory of the Kharkiv and Donetsk Regions. Conclusions from the documents prepared by M. M. Bokarius were heard at the first public trial of fascist criminals, organized in Kharkiv in November 1943, and at the Nuremberg trial (from the mouth of the state prosecutor from the USSR R. A. Rudenko). Mykola Mykolaiovych was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor for his activities during the war ⁵⁷.

After returning to Kharkiv, M. M. Bokarius made a lot of efforts to restore the work of the Department of Forensic Medicine in Kharkiv Medical Institute and the Institute of Forensic Examination, which, according to the memoirs of contemporaries, *“actually did not exist, but there were only people. They worked a lot, and always together with everyone and even more than everyone, M. M. Bokarius himself worked, not disgusting with any work: whether it was taking out the garbage or cleaning the floor”* ⁵⁸.

At the same time, Mykola Mykolaiovych did not abandon his scientific activities: it was at this time that he wrote works on limb injuries in a military setting and the role of accidental material evidence in the practice of investigation and inquiry, and developed practical guidelines on the technique of scientific investigation of crimes. He devoted a number of studies to the issues of forensic traumatology – injuries caused by firearms and blunt objects, in particular, a device for measuring incoming gunshot wounds and determining the caliber of bullets with an accuracy of 0.01 mm ⁵⁹. M. M. Bokarius published almost 200 scientific works, the main topics of which are forensic medicine and criminalistics. Many collections and individual scientific papers on forensic medicine and criminalistics were also published under the guidance and editorship of Mykola Mykolaiovych ⁶⁰.

M. M. Bokarius devoted his whole life to the development of domestic forensic medicine and criminalistics, the introduction of the results of scientific research into practice, education and upbringing of scientists and practitioners of expert activity. For almost 30 years, he headed the Department of Forensic Medicine at Kharkiv Medical Institute (1932–1961). According to contemporaries, he is *“encyclopedically educated person, an excellent teacher who widely used a rich practical material in the classroom. His erudition won listeners from the first words of the story. Lecturers*

57 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. С. 12–23. URL: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

58 Наместникова Л. Н. Указ. соч. С. 231.

59 Бокариус Н. Н., Соколов Б. И. К установлению калибра пуль по огнестрельным повреждениям костей черепа. Сборник научных работ по судебной медицине и криминалистике, посвященный памяти засл. проф. Н. С. Бокариуса. 1956. Вып. 5. С. 35. URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yCiCsVh9l45ekr_YMiI8qaZZpOXTyQPd/view (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

60 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. URL: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

from other departments came to listen to Mykola Mykolaiovych's lectures"⁶¹.

At Kharkiv Medical Institute, he was repeatedly appointed Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs (1952–1956, 1957–1960, 1962–1964). M. Bokarius authority at the Institute was unconditional: he earned universal recognition and respect for his analytical mind, diligence, accuracy, deep understanding of the essence of the educational process, and ability to organize it. His character traits — intelligence and punctuality, obligation and friendliness, sensitivity and kindness — attracted students and young researchers to him, and he willingly worked with them. Under his supervision, 4 doctoral and 26 PhD theses were completed and successfully defended. Many of his graduates headed the departments of medical and law institutes not only in our country, but also in Germany, Romania, and others. The students of this authoritative scientist and talented teacher remembered him as a sensitive person who was ready to help not only in their studies but also in life issues⁶².

As one of the most famous forensic physicians in our country, M. M. Bokarius was repeatedly invited as an expert to solve the most complex cases of forensic practice. His experience in commission examinations was especially appreciated. In the postwar period, M. M. Bokarius was awarded the Order of Lenin for his special merits. He was a member of the editorial board of the All-Union Journal of Forensic Medicine, a republican forensic expert

(1933–1937), and for several years held the position of senior regional and city forensic expert. He was equally responsible for his work as a member of the scientific councils of the People's Commissariat of Health of the Ukrainian SSR, the State Central Research Institute of Forensic Medicine of the People's Commissariat of Health of the RSFSR, and the All-Union Institute of Legal Sciences. Having left the post of Director (1946) of the Kharkiv Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Expertise (until 02.06.1944 — Kharkiv Institute of forensic examinations) for health reasons, he remained its scientific consultant for many years and participated in the work of its Academic Council until the last day⁶³.

M. M. Bokarius was elected a deputy of the Kharkiv City Council of several convocations, a member of the governing bodies of the societies of forensic doctors and criminologists from Kharkiv to the All-Union. In 1948, on his initiative, the Kharkiv Society of Forensic Physicians and Criminalists was founded and under his leadership. On May 28, 2008, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary, this Society received the honorary name of its founder: Professor M. M. Bokarius. The scientist died after a serious illness on November 2, 1966 at the age of 67, buried next to his father at the second Kharkiv city cemetery⁶⁴.

In addition to Mykola Mykolaiovych, representatives of the following generations of the Bokarius dynasty devoted their lives to forensic medicine: the daughter of M. M. Bokarius, Kira, and his brother, the

61 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. URL: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

62 Там же. С. 21. URL: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

63 Лесовой В. Н., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А., Кравченко Ю. Н. Указ. соч. С. 445. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/13/2014-1> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

64 Лесовой В. Н., Цымбал М. Л., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А. Указ. соч. URL: <https://repo.knmu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/494> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

son of Mykola Serhiiovych from his second marriage: Vitalii.

Vitalii was born in 1921, when his older brother was already 22 years old. Vitalii's mother, Nina Markivna Asvadurova, a pupil of the Sorbonne, prosecutor of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, worked together with Mykola Serhiiovych. His latest book *Forensic Medicine for Physicians and Lawyers* is no⁶⁵ longer young, seriously ill professor dedicated to "closest long-term employees in our constant, friendly, joint, tireless work in our equally beloved field of medical education; students passing through our Institute; prosecutor Nina Markivna Asvadurova and assistant Mykola Mykolayovych Bokarius, who now carefully protect my aging forces, dedicate my humble work with warm sincere gratitude"⁶⁶.

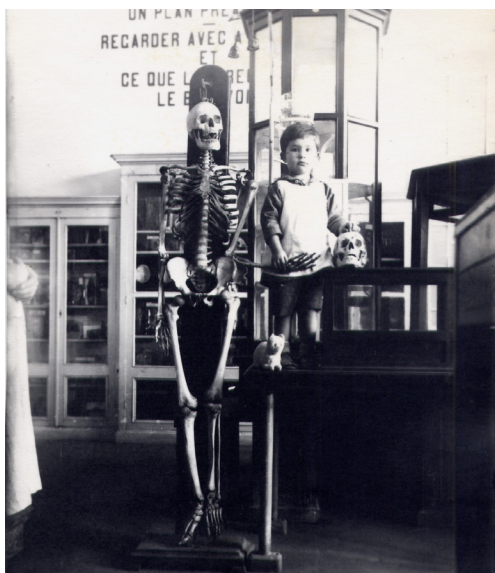


Fig. 9. Vitalii Bokarius at the Institute of Forensic Medicine (1923)

From early childhood, Vitalii was surrounded by things related to his future profession. The family archive contains a photo of little Vitalii standing next to a human skeleton. Since the family lived on the territory of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, the guy was able to read books from the institute library and get acquainted with individual exhibits of the institute museum much earlier than children of his age. Encyclopedically educated person and talented teacher Mykola Mykolayovych Bokarius taught younger children at home according to a program much wider than the school one. In order to make it more interesting, his father designed and made visual aids, prepared drawings. After the death of his father, 10-year-old Vitalii was enrolled in the fifth grade at school, although he was prepared for the eighth grade: he lacked age⁶⁷.

As a father and brother, Vitalii graduated from school "perfectly" and after a short hesitation made a choice in favor of medicine: he lost to the medical faculty of the 1st Kharkiv Medical Institute (1938). The institute newspaper "For the Soviet Doctor" repeatedly told about his training and attitude to classes and science: in one of the issues, it was about his physics classes in a scientific circle (over the use of ultrashort waves in medicine and the ultrasound generator and microprojector built by him in the laboratory were mentioned)⁶⁸, in another issue the excellent student Vitaly Bokarius, who knows three foreign languages, was described

65 Бокариус Н. С. Судебная медицина для медиков и юристов. Харьков, 1930. 690 с. URL: <https://dspace.nlu.edu.ua/jspui/handle/123456789/5173> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

66 Ключев О. М., Угровецкий О. П., Сімакова-Сфремян Е. Б., Спіцина Г. О., Філіпенко Н. Є. Зазнач. твір. С. 147—148. URL: <https://nncise.org.ua/diyalnist/naukova> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

67 Лесовой В. Н., Перцева Ж. Н., Ольховский В. А., Кравченко Ю. Н. Указ. соч. С. 446. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/13/2014-1> (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

68 Островський С. Зазнач. твір.

as a modest young man, accurate in work and study ⁶⁹.

V. M. Bokarius graduated from the institute with honors (1942) and went to the front in September. He served in one of the evacuation hospitals of the 2nd Ukrainian Front. This highly educated, purposeful, organized and at the same time modest, friendly and sensitive officer became interested in forensic medicine during the war years. For his selfless work as a forensic expert of the 57th Army from November 1944 to April 1945, he was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, 2nd degree. The award letter states that Captain V. M. Bokarius *"through promptness of his work provided timely assistance to the investigative bodies in a number of complex cases. In divisions and hospitals, he trained up to 30 medical experts. He personally conducted 49 forensic medical examinations of corpses. During offensive operations, Bokarius repeatedly traveled to the military district, where he personally conducted examinations in medical battalions and regimental medical posts under enemy artillery fire and enemy air raids on urgent orders from the command"* ⁷⁰.

In March 1945, Vitalii Mykolaiovych was recalled from the front and sent to Moscow to the Military Law Academy for advanced training. He met Victory Day in the hospital, where he was treated for the consequences of severe concussion. After graduating from the Academy, he served in Chernivtsi (Lviv Military District) until the end of 1946, and then in Leningrad in the Military Medical Museum of the Armed Forces of the USSR. As the son of V. M. Bokarius, Serhii, also a doctor, recalls, *"his father was an ambitious person*

and a scientist by nature, like Mykola Serhiyovych and Mykola Mykolayovych. He always wanted to do only science and never thought about a military career, but the war ordered for him" ⁷¹.

Unfortunately, the archival certificate of service of V. M. Bokarius in the Military Medical Museum does not give a clear idea of the content of his work there. Thus, the certificate states that he headed the 15th research department of the Museum (1946–1949), was a senior researcher of the 4th (1949–1954) and 2nd research departments (1954–1956) ⁷². It is only known that Vitalii Mykolaiovych took an active part in the creation and design of the museum exposition: the Halls of Fascist Crimes Committed During the Great Patriotic War ⁷³.



Fig. 10. V. M. Bokarius (1945)

High-quality professional training, tireless hard work, a broad worldview, the ability to defend one's own opinion and unshakable principles earned V. M. Bokarius

69 Дольний А. Зазнач. твір.

70 Спогади С. В. Бокаріуса С. 2.

71 Там само. С. 4–5.

72 Архівна довідка. Фонд музею історії ХНМУ. ФОП 7/2-26. НДФ 454. С. 1.

73 Спогади С. В. Бокаріуса С. 5.

a well-deserved authority among his colleagues. As part of a group of experts, he traveled to the site of the duel of M. Yu. Lermontov (1947), conducted forensic and ballistic examinations, and participated in the examination of the embalmed body of M. I. Pyrohov (1948). It is worth noting that the Kharkiv Medical School left its mark on the latter event, combining the scientific activities of the Bokarius family members. The fact is that the city of Vinnytsia has an exceptional role in the history of Ukrainian medicine and surgery, on the outskirts of which, in a small estate with the poetic name: *Cherry*, outstanding surgeon M. I. Pyrohov lived and worked for his last 17 years. After his death, his body was embalmed and placed in a tomb at the request of his wife. The events of the Civil War, and then the Second World War, caused what seemed like irreparable damage to the body of M. I. Pyrohov. The USSR government transferred this estate to the Main Military Sanitary Directorate and instructed anatomists of the Kharkiv Medical Institute to restore M. I. Pyrohov's body (1944). Professor R. D. Synelnykov, a student of M. S. Bokarius, led and successfully coped with this work: access to the body of M. I. Pyrohov was restored (1946). And the son of Mykola Serhiyovych Bokarius, Vitalii, took part in the examination of the condition of the body of the outstanding surgeon in 1948⁷⁴.

V. M. Bokarius had a large library, where he carefully preserved books from his father's collection. He worked extensively with literature on forensic medicine, in particular foreign literature, and became the compiler of a series of bibliographic collections on forensic medicine, forensic psychiatry, criminalistics,

and forensic chemistry for 1951–1956, as well as the author of the bibliography *Foreign Literature on Forensic Medicine for 1944–1955*. In 1955, V. M. Bokarius defended his dissertation for the PhD in Medicine “*M. I. Pyrohov and Forensic Medicine*”. In choosing the topic of the dissertation, according to the author, the main role was played by the absence in the literature of that time of works dedicated to the activities of Mykola Ivanovych in the field of forensic medicine, to the issues he developed, which were of great importance for forensic examination. In this way, Vitalii Mykolaiovych acted as a historian of medicine⁷⁵.



Fig. 11. Mykola Mykolayovych and Vitalii Mykolaiovych Bokarius at the conference (1956)

In December 1956, V. M. Bokarius moved to the position of teacher of the Department of Forensic Medicine of the Military Medical Academy named after S. M. Kirov. In 1958 he received the title of associate professor. Due to his illness, V. M. Bokarius retired as a lieutenant colonel of the medical service (1960), but continued to work, but at the Leningrad Institute for the Improvement of Doctors. Just

74 Бокаріус Л. В., Бокаріус С. В., Філіпенко Н. Є. Зазнач. твір. С. 39. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/acrf.2020_2_11 (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

75 Спогади С. В. Бокаріуса ...

like his predecessors, father and brother, he was an excellent teacher, bringing visibility to the teaching process. According to contemporaries, not only students, but also teachers from other faculties sought to attend his lectures, the audience was always crowded. “We wanted to listen to him”, they said about V. M. Bokarius: this was facilitated by high-quality professional training, a large amount of knowledge and the ability to express their thoughts correctly and interestingly ⁷⁶.

His knowledge of foreign languages is worth mentioning separately. As a worthy descendant of M. S. Bokarius, who knew 17 foreign languages, Vitalii Mykolaiovych was fluent in French, German, and English, knew Italian and Spanish, and, of course, Latin. When Italian professor D. Petrucci, who studied the issue of homunculus, came to the Leningrad State Institute for Advanced Training of Physicians, V. Bokarius simultaneously translated his lecture from French, because there was no more experienced translator in the city (1960). Doctors from different foreign countries came to this institute for training, and Vitalii Mykolaiovych communicated with them in their languages, as later recalled with interest and admiration by B. S. Lakiza, PhD, Associate Professor of the Department of Forensic Medicine of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, who was on a business trip there ⁷⁷.

Like the elder Bokarius, Vitalii attracted people to him with his friendliness, kindness, intelligence, and even fair se-

verity, if circumstances demanded it. He was amazingly self-controlled and never allowed himself to raise his voice, let alone swear, even in extreme situations: he once admitted that “*not a single petty officer made him swear during the entire war!*” ⁷⁸.

V. M. Bokarius, as a father and brother, knew and loved art, had artistic talent, wrote poetry. His home was often visited by frontline and Kharkiv friends, interesting people and teachers from the institutes where he served, forensic experts and criminalists who came on business trips ⁷⁹.

All this has created a high reputation for V. M. Bokarius among the medical community of the country. He was nearing completion of his doctoral dissertation, which he did not have time to defend. In January 1969, after a serious illness, Vitalii Mykolaiovych died at the age of 48 ⁸⁰. The German magazine *Forum der Kriminalistik* in No. 3 for 1969 published the obituary of V. M. Bokarius, in which he noted his successful work as an employee of the military forensic medical service of the USSR ⁸¹.

Conclusions

Ancient philosopher argued that the memory of outstanding people has the same meaning for those who live as their living presence. We believe that the memory of Kharkiv citizens — members of the Bokarius family of forensic doctors, who made an invaluable contribution to the development of domestic forensic medicine,

76 Бокаріус Л. В., Бокаріус С. В., Філіпенко Н. Є. Зазнач. твір. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/acrfs_2020_2_11 (date accessed: 15.10.2024).

77 Там само. С. 39–40.

78 Там само. С. 36.

79 Спогади С. В. Бокаріуса С. 3.

80 Ehre ihrem andenken. Doz. Dr. Med. V. N. Bokarius. *Forum der Kriminalistik*. 1969. № 3. S. 39.

81 Ibid. S. 102.

will live for a long time in order to bring up pride for our country and its talented people in the younger generation by their example.

**Значення родини Бокаріусів
для розвитку судової медицини
України (оглядова стаття)**

**Жаннета Перцева,
Ольга Виноградова**

Із нагоди 220-ї річниці заснування Харківського національного університету імені В. Н. Каразіна і, відповідно, Харківського національного медичного університету та з метою акцентувати увагу на ролі родини Бокаріусів у розвитку судової медицини і криміналістики в Україні висвітлено науковий шлях трьох представників цієї династії: батька Миколи Сергійовича й синів Миколи Миколайовича та Віталія Миколайовича. Для досягнення поставленої мети застосовано загальнонаукові методи: опис, порівняння, аналіз, узагальнення. Родина Бокаріусів віддала служінню судовій медицині та криміналістиці понад 100 років професійного життя. Микола Сергійович Бокаріус, знаний як ерудований науковець і талановитий педагог, фундатор криміналістичного напрямку в українській судовій медицині, багато зробив для формування вітчизняної системи судово-медичної експертизи і спеціалізованих експертних закладів, зокрема Кабінету науково-судової експертизи в м. Харків. Наукову, експертну й викладацьку діяльність Заслуженого професора М. С. Бокаріуса продовжив старший син — Микола Миколайович, який упродовж 25 років очолював Харківський інститут судових експертиз і зробив вагомий внесок у підготовку кадрів інших харківських інститутів — медичного та юридичного (заснував кафедру криміналістики останнього). Долю молодшого сина Миколи Сер-

гійовича — Віталія — визначила війна: по закінченні Харківського медичного інституту він пішов на фронт. Відомостей про нього у друкованих джерелах не збереглося, авторки послуговувалися спогадами його сина — військового лікаря Сергія Віталійовича.

Ключові слова: Заслужений професор М. С. Бокаріус; Микола Миколайович Бокаріус; Віталій Миколайович Бокаріус; судова експертиза і криміналістика; історія; династія; медична освіта.

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Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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