

Methods of Investigating Crimes in Ukrainian Lands in Middle Ages

Anatolii Starushkevych*

* PhD in Law, Docent, University of Modern Knowledge,

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7659-6646>, e-mail: stargdoc@gmail.com

DOI: 10.32353/khrife.3.2025.02 UDC [343.98:340.130](477)

Received: 11.07.2025 / Reviewed 14.07.2025 / Accepted for print 24.09.2025 /

Available online 30.09.2025



This article purpose is to analyze methods of investigating crimes used in the Ukrainian lands during the Middle Ages on the basis of the norms of customary law of “Vast Edition of Pravda”, to clarify their role in the formation of the forensic doctrine of the methods of investigating criminal offenses (in particular, forensic methodology as a component of modern forensics). To achieve the set goal, the author used general scientific methods: observation, comparison, abstraction, analysis, synthesis, modeling, etc. A scientific analysis of the methods of investigating crimes regulated by the norms of “Vast Edition of Pravda” of the times of Kyivan Rus was carried out. It is noted that the methods of investigating crimes “call”, “corpus” and “trace persecution” as complex procedural actions were aimed at searching for and prosecuting criminals, finding the stolen item. It is noted that the “call”, “corpus” and “trace persecution”, which were formed in pre-state society, in the judicial practice of community courts, based on the interaction of community members, became so effective that after formation of the state, they were used and developed by the vervny courts of Kievan Rus the Galicia-Volyn state, and later adopted by the successors of these bodies :kopny courts. In the “Vast Edition of Pravda” and the Statutes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, these methods of investigation were already established at the national level. The institution of customary law “sinking”, which was widespread at that time, made it possible to obtain forensically significant information about the criminal with the aim of pursuing him along ideal traces, appropriate in the event

This article is translation of the original Ukrainian content, which source is available at the link: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal> (translated by Andriy Bublikov). The author acknowledges translation as corresponding to the original.

© 2025 The Author(s). Published by National Scientific Center «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius Forensic Science Institute» & Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University.

This is an open access article distributed under Creative Commons Attribution License (CC_BY_4.0.0) allowing unlimited use, distribution and reproduction on any medium, subject to reference to the Author and original sources.

of non-detection, destruction or low informativeness of material traces. It is proven that the legal procedures of customary law (“corpus”, “trace persecution”) became the basis for the development of modern methods of investigating criminal offenses on hot leads and on information about the subjects and objects of a criminal attempt, forensic analysis of the trace picture, forensic profiling, forensic retrospection. It is concluded that the transfer of experience in investigating crimes within the boundaries of one territorial community from older members of the community to younger ones not only contributed to the improvement of skills in applying investigative methods, but also had a certain preventive effect on the participants in these legal actions, deterring them from committing offenses and concealing illegal actions known to them committed by other members of the community.

Keywords: investigation of crimes; trace persecution ; trace; corpus; call; turn; sinking; “Russkaya Pravda”; Supreme Court; kopny court; hot kopa; hot traces; fresh traces; investigation in Kyivan Rus.

Research Problem Formulation

In Kievan Rus, the accusatory-competitive process has become widespread, which is characterized by the active participation of persons interested in resolving conflicts that have arisen. The Verkhovna Rada, and later the Constitutional Court, acted as a mediator in the trial. The spread of the accusatory-competitive process in the Kiev State (XI–XII centuries) is due, on the one hand, to minor contradictions between segments of the population, on the other hand, to insufficient development of the state mechanism and the actual lack of law enforcement agencies on the ground.

In adversarial proceedings of Kyivan Rus, the parties were traditionally called the plaintiff and the defendant. The plaintiff played a particularly active role in this process, at the request of which proceedings were usually initiated. Plaintiff showed considerable activity during the search for the criminal. The rules of customary law, and subsequently the prescriptions of written law, determined the

procedure for such a search, which components of are cognitive procedures called all, *corpus* and *trace persecution* (in some publications : *trail*).

The first document that regulated the activities to detect, uncover and investigate crimes in the territory of Kievan Rus is called *Russkaya Pravda*. This collection of ancient Russian law, compiled on the basis of the customary law of the Kievan state of the XI–XII centuries, contains norms that enshrine the rules of searching for criminals for the traces left by them by conducting successive cognitive procedures: *call*, *corpus*, *trace persecution*.

In essence, these cognitive procedures are similar to modern methods of investigating criminal offenses, since they were aimed at finding stolen item, identifying the perpetrator and the circumstances of the incident. Procedural instructions made it possible to perform tactical tasks (identifying the individual characteristics of the stolen item, finding its location, clarifying the circumstances of the incident by searching for traces and interviewing

witnesses, searching for the perpetrator among the residents of a certain territorial community, tracking the process of transferring the stolen item from one owner to another, etc.). Investigation methods were based on modern scientific cognitive procedures (observation, comparison, recognition, analysis and synthesis, identifying individual characteristics of things and people, mental reconstruction of the event from its traces, distinguishing ideal and material traces, etc.), *group method* and interaction with the community, pursuing the perpetrator on “hot” (fresh) traces, attempts to apply specific expertise, etc.

Ancient methods of investigating the crimes of *call*, *corpus* and *trace persecution* as complex procedural actions aimed at finding and prosecuting criminals and finding the stolen, formed in the judicial practice of the community courts of pre-state society, have not been forgotten over time, which indicates their significant effectiveness. After the formation of the state, they were used and developed by the faithful courts of Kyivan Rus and Galicia-Volyn state, and later they were adopted by the legal successors of these bodies the miners' courts. In the *Vast Edition of Pravda* and the Statutes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the *call*, *corpus* and *trace persecution* were normatively enshrined at the national level, as well as specified with certain specifics at the local level ¹.

The extraordinary effectiveness of the method of investigating the “pursuit of a trace” as the oldest means of identifying a criminal is also evidenced by the fact that it was used not only in the ancient Ukrainian community — the *verva*— in the IX—XII centuries, but also in the public proceedings of Poles and Lithuanians. For example, this method of investigation is mentioned in the Piotrków-Wiślica Statutes of 1347 ². This complex form of pre-trial investigation of Ukrainian customary law received state recognition in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which (with certain procedural adjustments) sanctioned it in Art. 6 sec. XIV Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (1566) ³.

Long-standing traditional methods of investigating crimes on Ukrainian lands (*call*, *corpus* and *trace persecution*) have not yet been investigated from the standpoint of modern achievements of forensic science. Their significance for the formation of the theory of modern methods of investigation of criminal offenses has been superficially elucidated, which indicates the relevance of the issues raised.

Analysis of Essential Researches and Publications

Traditional cognitive procedures of the court and court proceedings of Ukrainian lands were studied by: M. Bedrii ⁴, I. Boi-

- 1 Бедрій М. М. Здійснення гоніння сліду в українському копному судочинстві (XIV—XVIII ст.). *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Серія: Юриспруденція*. 2013. № 6-2. Т. 1. С. 7—10. URL: <https://www.vestnik-pravo.mgu.od.ua/archive/juspradenc6-2-1/02.pdf> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 2 Пятяка О. О. Гродський суд у системі владних структур Київського, Брацлавського та Волинського воєводств (друга половина XVI — перша половина XVII ст.) : дис. ... канд. іст. наук. Київ, 2006. 214 с. URL: <https://surl.li/dzbumo> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 3 Бедрій М. М. Здійснення гоніння сліду С. 8. URL: <https://www.vestnik-pravo.mgu.od.ua/archive/juspradenc6-2-1/02.pdf> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 4 Його ж. Копні суди на українських землях у XIV—XVIII ст.: історико-правове дослідження : монографія. Львів, 2014. 264 с. URL: https://library.nlu.edu.ua/POLN_TEXT/MONO-GRAFII_2018/876.pdf (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

ko ⁵, D. Vashchuk ⁶, A. Hurbyk ⁷, H. Demchenko ⁸, Yu. Krykun ⁹, L. Kushynska ¹⁰, O. Makarenko ¹¹, Ya. Padokh ¹², I. Cherkaskyi ¹³, V. Chysnikov ¹⁴, A. Iakovliv ¹⁵ et al. From the standpoint of criminology, in particular the methods of investigation of criminal offenses, “call”, “compile” and “pursuit of the trail” became the subject of research by O. O. Kotiuk ¹⁶, V. Shevchuk ¹⁷ and V. Yusupov ¹⁸, however, these authors considered the mentioned methods of investigation in the context of the history

of criminology, almost without analyzing their “procedural” and “technological” features, efficiency and advantages, and significance for the formation of the scientific foundations of modern methods of investigation of criminal offenses and its component: investigation methods.

Article Purpose

In order to analyze the methods of investigation of crimes used in the Ukrainian

- 5 Бойко І. Й. Формування та функціонування державно-правових і самоврядних інститутів у Галичині в складі Польського королівства (1387—1569 рр.) : дис. ... д-ра юрид. наук. Львів, 2010. 499 с.
- 6 Вашук Д. П. Обласні привілеї Волині та Київщини: генеза і функціонування в другій половині XV — першій третині XVI ст. : дис. ... канд. іст. наук. Київ, 2005. 238 с.
- 7 Гурбик А. Правовий інститут «гоніння сліду» в копіюму судочинстві українських земель Великого князівства Литовського. *Ukraina Lithuanica*. 2013. Т. 2. С. 96—111. URL: http://resource.history.org.ua/publ/UkrL_2013_2_9 (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 8 Демченко Г. В. Наказаніє по Литовському статуту в его трех редакціяхъ (1529, 1566, 1588 гг.). Ч. 1. Київ, 1894. 273 с. URL: <https://surl.li/kjpskj> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 9 Крикун Ю. С. Звичаєве право українців у наукових дослідженнях 1920-х — на початку 1930-х років : дис. ... канд. іст. наук. Київ, 2009. 213 с. URL: <https://uacademic.info/ua/document/0409U000855> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 10 Кушинська Л. А. Звичаєве право та його еволюція у східнослов'янському суспільстві VI—XI ст. : монографія. Київ, 2008. 142 с. URL: <https://surl.li/uoddcu> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 11 Макаренко О. В. Злочини і покарання в праві Української Гетьманської держави 1648—1657 рр. : автореф. дис. ... канд. юрид. наук. Київ, 2011. 22 с.
- 12 Падох Я. Суди і судовий процес старої України. Нарис історії. Нью-Йорк ; Париж ; Сідней ; Торонто ; Львів, 1990. 128 с. URL: <https://diasporiana.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/books/9247/file.pdf> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 13 Черкаський І. Ю. Громадський (копний) суд на Україні-Русі XVI—XVIII вв. *Праці комісії для вивчення історії західно-руського та українського права*. 1928. IX. Вип. 4—5. 714 с. URL: <https://irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/ulib/item/UKR0005665> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 14 Чисніков В. М. Сисна поліція в Україні за часів Російської імперії (1880—1917 рр.) : історико-правове дослідження : дис. ... д-ра юрид. наук. Київ, 2017. 535 с. URL: <https://elar.navs.edu.ua/jspui/handle/123456789/2821> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 15 Яковлів А. Українське право / Українська культура : лекц. за ред. Дмитра Антоновича // упорядник С. В. Ульяновська; вст. ст. І. М. Дзюби; перед. слово М. Антоновича; додатки С. В. Ульяновської, В. І. Ульяновського. Київ, 1993. С. 222—236. URL: <http://litopys.org.ua/cultur/cult15.htm> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 16 Котюк О. І. Правомірність слідчих дій: умови визначення та засоби забезпечення : дис. ... канд. юрид. наук. Київ, 2013. 235 с.
- 17 Шевчук В. М. Теоретичні основи формування та реалізації тактичних операцій у криміналістиці : автореф. дис. ... д-ра юрид. наук. Харків, 2013. 48 с. URL: <https://dspace.nlu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/17279> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 18 Юсупов В. В. Криміналістика в Україні у XX — на початку XXI ст. (історико-теоретичне дослідження) : дис. ... д-ра юрид. наук. Київ, 2018. 564 с.

lands of the Middle Ages on the basis of the norms of customary law of the *Vast Edition of Pravda*, to find out their role in the formation of the forensic doctrine on the methods of investigation of criminal offenses (in particular, forensic methodology as a component of modern forensic science).

Research Methods

General scientific methods are used: observation, comparison, abstraction, analysis, synthesis, modeling, etc.

Main Content Presentation

In the case of a crime, the victim began the initiative search with the procedure of “summoning”, the essence of which is outlined in Articles 32 and 34 of *Vast Edition of Pravda* ¹⁹. The victim publicly announced the possible crime committed against him (for example, in the event of the disappearance of a man (slave), cattle, weapons, clothing, etc.) in crowded places (usually on a market day): this legal action (statement) was mandatory, since only after it there were certain legal consequences for the offender.

During the *call*, the victim had to announce the signs of stolen or lost things. If items, such as money, goods of mass consumption, did not have individual characteristics, then the *call* was not carried out.

If within three days after the announcement it turned out that the wanted person was in the possession of a certain person, then he was considered a defen-

dant. The latter had to return the item and pay the fine. Thus, *call*” was one of the possible methods of finding a criminal or a person who hid the kidnapped.

The essence of the *call* is proposed to be considered in a broad sense, because the components of this method are not only a statement about the fact of the disappearance (theft) of a thing and informing the community about its signs, but also finding out witnesses (witnesses), the circumstances of the event (crime), the signs of criminals, the location of the disappeared (stolen) property, etc. Thus, the “call” is not only a passive announcement of the fact of disappearance (theft) of property and its signs, but also an active form of search, which is proposed to be compared with the modern method of search by publication in the media ²⁰.

Showing detective activity during the *call* or immediately after it, the victim independently interviewed local and nearby residents about what they knew about the event (crime) and the likely perpetrator. Sometimes such a survey had an effect and even helped to quickly identify the offender and the location of the missing property.

It is similar to the “call” in the criminal proceedings — the “call” (an announcement of a crime, during which all residents of the criminal district were called upon to collect factual data — “evidence” in the case), the legal procedure of which is described in Art. 34 of the *Vast Edition of Pravda* ²¹. Usually, this action was carried out in case of murder. After the “fall” or at

19 Гавриленко О. А., Логвиненко І. А., Новікова Л. В. Історія держави і права України. Хрестоматія-практикум : навч. посіб. Харків, 2015. С. 29. URL: <https://surl.luhvnmv> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

20 Чисніков В. М. Зазнач. твір. URI: <https://elar.navs.edu.ua/jspui/handle/123456789/2821> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

21 Гавриленко О. А., Логвиненко І. А., Новікова Л. В. Зазнач. твір. URL: <https://surl.luhvnmv> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

the same time with him, the relatives of the murdered asked everyone who knew anything about this crime. If the survey did not give the desired results, the police court resorted to *calling*, with the help of which the victim hoped to obtain at least some information that would contribute to the search for the killer.

Peasants used “call” not only to report crimes, but as a public protest against any illegal actions. The victim “cried out,” that is, publicly reported the commission of an offense ²².

The forensically significant information obtained from witnesses and with the help of personal observation about the event and traces at the crime scene (footprints, scattered rye, etc.) made it possible to proceed to the next legal procedure with the participation of community representatives : *trace persecution* ²³.

Trace persecution as a complex procedural action originated in the judicial practice of community courts in pre-state society. After the formation of the state, it was used and developed by the faithful courts of Kyivan Rus and Galicia-Volyn state, and later adopted by the legal successors of these bodies: *kopny courts*.

At the national level, the “pursuit of the trail” was normatively enshrined in the *Vast Edition of Pravda* ²⁴: the researchers note that Article 77 ²⁵, which regulated the procedure for “pursuing the trail”, had no analogues in the *Short Edition of Pravda*,

apparently, it was enshrined in the legislation around the twelfth century ²⁶.

Legal procedure and method of investigation of *trace persecution* was used in cases where it was impossible to detain the criminal at the scene of the crime. In the absence of special state investigative bodies at that time, “pursuit of the trail” was carried out by the victims, their relatives, members of the territorial community and all those who wanted to.

At first, it was believed that where the “face” (the stolen item, other material evidence of guilt) lies, the criminal is located or hiding there. So, if a “head” (the body of a murdered person) was found on a certain plot of land, then the “verv” (territorial community) that lived there was obliged to find the culprit and hand him over to the pursuers or pay a “wild faith” (fine). If the stolen item was found in a private building, then its owner was responsible for the “tatba” (theft) as an alleged thief. Later, the concept of “face” (material evidence of guilt) was extended to the very traces left by the criminal or property (for example, a horse, ox, or other domestic animal). If the victim lost the “trace” during the search, then the place where the “trace” was lost was considered the location of the criminal. If the *trace* was lost on a paved road, in the steppe, at the state border, then the search (and lawsuit) was incomplete from a factual and legal standpoint.

22 Шандра Р. С. Волоське право та особливості його застосування на українських землях (XIII–XVIII ст.) : дис. ... канд. юрид. наук. Львів, 2010. С. 147. URL: <https://surl.ln/wxcbou> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

23 Шапірко П. М. Правове регулювання оперативно-розшукової діяльності в Україні: загальнотеоретичне дослідження : дис. ... канд. юрид. наук. Одеса, 2012. 213 с.

24 Бедрій М. М. Здійснення гоніння сліду URL: <https://www.vestnik-pravo.mgu.od.ua/archive/juspradenc6-2-1/02.pdf> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

25 Гавриленко О. А., Логвиненко І. А., Новікова Л. В. Зазнач. твір. URL: <https://surl.ln/rdhvmv> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

26 Гурбик А. Зазнач. твір. С. 102. URL: http://resource.history.org.ua/publ/UkrL_2013_2_9 (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

Researcher A. Yakovlev described this process as follows: for the committed murder, theft or other crime, the victim had to look for traces left by the offender, to invite witnesses, usually close neighbors and strangers — “other good (probable) people” — and with this, sometimes numerous, “hot cop” to hurry to where he led the “trail”²⁷. The probable traces of the crime were: 1) traces left directly by the offender; 2) traces left by an animal (for example, a horse) on which the offender moved; 3) traces (things) left at the crime scene²⁸. There was a distinction between the “old trace” and the “fresh trace” of the crime (*hot trace*) which significantly increased investigation success.

It was assumed that *trace persecution* should be carried out with “strangers” and witnesses, usually eyewitnesses. M. Iasyński, Researcher described the procedure of *trace persecution* as follows: the *kopny* court ‘tracked’ the criminal, searching for him from “village to village.” A village that “led the trail” beyond its territory was considered “cleared” of any suspicion (for example, of hiding a criminal or stolen property), so it bore no responsibility. Collective responsibility of members of the territorial community did not arise even if the village to which the trail led voluntarily handed over the criminal or pointed him out. If the trail did not “lead” beyond the village, the “trail was pursued” from “land to land” or from “yard to yard.” An

individual villager who “led the trail” beyond the boundaries of his immovable property was considered “cleansed” and was not held liable. However, if individual members of the territorial community did not want or could not “follow the trace,” did not want to find and hand over the criminal, destroyed his traces, etc., then the village or individuals who owned the real estate to which the “trace led” were held responsible²⁹.

Such prompt actions of the victim and his assistants contributed to the disclosure of the crime, clarification of the circumstances of the offense and the person who committed it, accelerated compensation to the victim for the damage caused.

We agree that Art. 77 of the *Vast Edition of Pravda*³⁰ reflects the common at that time custom of mutual guarantee of community members and their mutual responsibility: if the villagers refused to participate in the search for the alleged offender, they were automatically subject to collective responsibility for the crime committed (reimbursed the value of the missing (stolen) property and paid a fine to the treasury). Therefore, if the offender was on the territory of the community, then with a high probability he or information about him was transferred to persecutors³¹.

Even when *trace persecution* did not yield positive results, the *trace* was lost or led to a “beaten” way (“fairing”) and

27 Яковлів А. Зазнач. твір. URL: <http://litopys.org.ua/cultur/cult15.htm> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

28 Черкаський І. Зазнач. твір. С. 297—299. URL: <https://irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/ulib/item/UKR0005665> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

29 Ясинский М. «Село» и «верв» Русской Правды / Антологія української юридичної думки. В 6 т. // редкол.: Ю. С. Шемшученко (голова) та ін. Т. 2 : Історія держави і права України: Руська Правда ; упорядники: І. Б. Усенко, Т. І. Бондарук, І. В. Музика, І. К. Омельченко; відп. ред. І. Б. Усенко. Київ, 2002. С. 272.

30 Гавриленко О. А., Логвиненко І. А., Новікова Л. В. Зазнач. твір. URL: <https://surl.lu/rdh-vmv> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

31 Кушинська Л. А. Звичаєве право URL: <https://surl.li/uoddcu> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

disappeared, the victim could resort to other means: “call for justice,” that is, publicly announce the damage done in a crowded place; additionally ask people about the circumstances of the incident known to them; appeal to the “kopa” (community) for help in finding the stolen property; hire a “sok” — a person who could provide useful information and help in the further search. If this did not help — the item was not found, the “sok” did not come forward, the people in the community did not provide any information — then the victim did not find his offender, even though he used all means to restore his rights³².

“Juice” in customary law was called someone who knew the likely offender, could provide the victim with information about the offender, trace him or her, or was kidnapped. For his service, “sok” received a reward: “prosok”. The search for “juice” was assigned to the victim himself. After the completion of the preliminary investigation, “Sok” had the right to act as a witness in the trial. Researchers believe that not every witness during the investigation of the crime acquired the status of “juice”: it was received only by persons who directly collected forensically significant information on a semi-professional basis and provided services such as modern private detectives³³.

The victim carried out search actions with the participation of representatives of the community only in the presence of individual signs (specifics) of property, a separate thing, livestock, which the offender appropriated, or a description

of the signs of a person (in the case of a search for a person). Researchers believe that in order to increase the effectiveness of such a search, they used knowledge of mathematics, natural science, medicine, and anatomy³⁴.

The procedures for conducting *trace persecution* were similar in both ecclesiastical and criminal courts, but later their order underwent some minor changes. Researchers consider the investigation of crimes by criminal courts to be a well-organized process. *Bailiff* often participated in the *trace persecution* procedure and subsequently reported to the city (criminal) court on the results of this investigative action by the *kopny* court³⁵.

Thus, *trace persecution* and *corpus* are investigative methods by which the victim searched for the offender and the “face” (stolen or missing property). However, the powers of the victim did not end with these search actions. Having apprehended the offender, having found the stolen property, having found out the witnesses, the victim had to provide the community court with all this “factual data”, on the basis of which evidence was already being formed in court. The victim, independently or with the participation of witnesses, had to bring his offender to the court session, and for this purpose they could even use physical force against the latter. Researchers do not consider such a significant amount of power of the victim to be an extraordinary phenomenon: it corresponded to the legal standards of Europe at that time, a similar approach is provi-

32 Яковлів А. Зазнач. твір. URL: <http://litopys.org.ua/cultur/cult15.htm> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

33 Бедрій М. М. Здійснення гоніння сліду С. 8—9. URL: <https://www.vestnik-pravo.mgu.od.ua/archive/juspradenc6-2-1/02.pdf> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

34 Юсупов В. В. Зазнач. твір.

35 Бедрій М. М. Здійснення гоніння сліду С. 8. URL: <https://www.vestnik-pravo.mgu.od.ua/archive/juspradenc6-2-1/02.pdf> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

ded for in the ancient Roman legal act: *The Laws of the Twelve Tables* ³⁶.

The norms of customary law of *Russkaya Pravda* prohibited lynching by the victim, the seizure of stolen things by force and determined to resolve this conflict situation a certain legal order called: *corpus*. The legal order of the “summary” is regulated by Art. 35–39 of *Vast Edition of Pravda* ³⁷. This legal procedure was applied if the lost item was found before the *call* or in another locality, and the person who saw this missing item denied the illegality of its acquisition ³⁸. *Corpus* was carried out either before the *call*, or within three days after.

The sequence of “*corpus*” procedure was as follows: the victim, in the presence of witnesses, appealed to the person who held the stolen item and demanded to prove the legality of its possession, confirming his words by pointing to the person who handed over the item to the accused person. The *corpus* procedure is similar to *trace persecution* method. The main difference was that during the *corpus* they followed not the trail, but the *corpuses* (*breeders*), to which the stolen thing successively passed. The “*corpus*” procedure was terminated on the third “*corpus*”, that is, the third person who had this stolen thing had to give it to the victim without objection, along with compensation. In addition, such a third party itself acquired the right to look for its offender under the following *corpuses* ³⁹.

In several cases, the suspect could not name the person who sold the property to him, since he was its primary owner. Such property could be grown by suspected horses, oxen, other animals or plants, as well as items made by him, such as cloth. In this case, the suspect had to declare this to the police court and name the witnesses of this fact ⁴⁰.

Researchers believe that the procedure of *trace persecution*, like other judicial actions during the *kopa*, was primarily aimed at identifying the guilty party, the one who was obliged to compensate for the damage, although the latter did not always turn out to be the real criminal. Historical sources show that participants in *kopny* courts found individual peasants or entire communities (“village corners”) guilty in the following cases: if they did not follow the trail or did not lead the trail of the crime beyond the boundaries of the courtyard or village; those who did not appear at the *kopa* without valid reasons; those who were found with stolen goods (during a trace persecution or search and seizure); those who refused to “clear themselves with a ritual church oath”; those caught at the scene of the crime or those who were caught by the *kopa* pursuit; those who concealed that they had received strangers during the period of the crime, etc. This definition of guilt prompted residents of the surrounding areas to actively participate in courts, study customary

- 36 Бедрій М. М. Особливості формування С. 71–72. URL: https://library.nlu.edu.ua/POLN_TEXT/MONOGRAFIJ_2018/876.pdf (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 37 Гавриленко О. А., Логвиненко І. А., Новікова Л. В. Зазнач. твір. С. 32–33. URL: <https://surl.lu/rdhvmv> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 38 Кушинська Л. Елементи звичаєвого права в «Руській Правді». *Історія України*. 1999. Т. 38. С. 5–6.
- 39 Яковлів А. Зазнач. твір. URL: <http://litopys.org.ua/cultur/cult15.htm> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).
- 40 Бедрій М. М. Розслідування злочинів в українському копному судочинстві (XVI–XVIII ст.). *Проблеми законності*. 2010. Вип. 111. С. 250–258. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pz_2010_111_36 (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

law, and avoid being accused and required to compensate for damages, which indicates a high level of legal culture among Ukrainian peasants, townspeople, and nobility during the period under research ⁴¹.

The means of searching for persons suspected of committing a crime that were widespread during the time of *Vast Edition of Pravda* (*call, corpus and trace persecution*) are considered by some researchers to be the first sprouts of complex tactical means of investigating crimes, “prototypes” of modern forensic complexes of an organizational and tactical direction. In particular, “pursuit of the trail” is assessed as a complex application of criminal prosecution means, which is somewhat similar to modern tactical operations (for example: hot pursuit of a criminal; identification of the person who committed the crime; search and detention of a suspect, etc.) ⁴². This can be agreed with only a certain reservation, since the basis of a tactical operation is precisely the methods of investigating crimes, and operations are only a complex form of implementing such methods ⁴³.

Neither the *corpus* nor the *trace persecution* was considered judicial evidence: they only gave grounds for bringing the perpetrator to justice, that is, they were more important as a means of collecting factual material, which then formed the basis of the evidence base in court.

We can argue that such common law procedures as *corpus* and *trace persecution* are the basis of modern effective methods of investigating criminal offenses. Thus, on the basis of *trace persecution* procedure, modern criminology has developed recommendations for the prosecution of criminals and methods of investigating criminal offenses on hot (fresh) traces ⁴⁴, as well as certain methods of investigating criminal offenses (in particular, forensic profiling ⁴⁵, forensic retrospection ⁴⁶, and forensic analysis of trace picture ⁴⁷). The provisions of the “tracking” procedure are the foundation of the modern method of searching for crimes using information about the subjects and objects of a criminal attempt ⁴⁸.

Specific expertise was used in criminal proceedings: for example, barbers were

41 Гурбик А. Зазнач. твір. С. 108—109. URL: http://resource.history.org.ua/publ/UkrL_2013_2_9 (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

42 Шевчук В. М. Зазнач. твір. URI: <https://dspace.nlu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/17279> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

43 Богачук В. С. Тактичні операції при розслідуванні підроблення грошей : дис. ... канд. юрид. наук. Київ, 2010. С. 32.

44 Салтевский М. В. Раскрытие преступлений «по горячим следам»: понятия и принципы. *Проблемы государства и права Украины* : темат. сб. науч. тр. Киев, 1992. С. 116—123 ; Тищенко В. В. Теоретичні і практичні основи методики розслідування злочинів : монографія. Одеса, 2007. С. 185—187.

45 Старушкевич А. В. Криміналістичне профілювання: наукове обґрунтування та проблеми використання у розслідуванні злочинів. *Право України*. 2004. № 8. С. 64—68.

46 Його ж. Можливості використання методу криміналістичної ретроспекції при розслідуванні злочинів. *Верховенство права у процесі державотворення* : мат-ли міжнар. наук.-практ. інтернет-конф. (Тернопіль, 06.10.2010). Тернопіль, 2010. С. 72—74. URL: https://www.lex-line.com.ua/?go=full_article&id=882 (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

47 Його ж. Криміналістичний аналіз слідової картини сексуальних вбивств. *Вісник Київського національного університету імені Тараса Шевченка. Юридичні науки*. 2004. Вип. 60—62. С. 92—98.

48 Його ж. Метод пошуку злочинців з використанням відомостей про предмети і об'єкти злочинного замаху. *Українська наука XXI століття* : мат-ли п'ятої всеукр. наук.-практ. інтернет-конф. (Київ, 17—19.06.2009). Київ, 2009. Ч. 5. С. 38—39.

invited to examine wounds and bruises, which can be considered the first steps towards the formation of the future institution of specialist participation in investigative activities ⁴⁹.

An important factor that contributed to the considerable authority of the kopny court, especially during the investigation of complicated cases and the identification of unknown criminals, was its efficiency: as was customary, people immediately responded to the victim's *call*; neighbors from the surrounding area quickly provided the necessary criminally relevant information about strangers, the movements of people or livestock, and recounted their testimony in the kopny court and, if necessary, the community organized close and distant pursuits, searches of the area and farms of suspects, following the traces of criminals ⁵⁰.

Conclusions

Thus, the methods of investigating crimes called: *call*, *corpus* and *trace persecution* have archaic origins, they determined the customary nature of the kopny justice. Procedures for implementing these methods of investigating crimes arose in the pre-state period, they were most actively used by the communal courts of the Eastern Slavs, and later by the *vervny* and kopny courts of Kyivan Rus. *Call*, *corpus* and *trace persecution* are an integral part of Ukrainian kopny justice, dynamic and effective means of investigation that helped to quickly identify the criminal, the circumstances of the incident and find stolen property or ensure its compensation by the offender. These methods of investigat-

ing crimes, developed on the basis of the experience of the Ukrainian people, have adequately supplemented the legislation of the states in which the Ukrainian lands were for almost five centuries.

Person detention during *trace persecution* did not clearly indicate his guilt, which allowed the suspect to justify himself, explain the presence of a certain thing in his possession, and prove his non-involvement in the crime. Application results of *trace persecution* method did not constitute judicial evidence, but were factual grounds for the formation of such evidence in the process of further judicial actions (examination, interrogation, search, etc.). This excluded both lynching, that is, the use of physical force against the detainee, and arbitrary actions aimed at taking things from him. Only in the process of judicial actions, in public, with the participation of members of the *vervny*, *copa* court was the guilt ("incrimination") of the detainee in committing a crime determined.

Methods of searching for the offender, in particular: *trace persecution* and *call*, provided for the collective search for the offender by the assistants of the victim, usually members of the same territorial community, which led to joint training and the dissemination of the experience of such search in a certain community. In addition, the search for criminals by members of one territorial community led to the transfer of experience in the use of investigative methods from the older generation to the younger generation. Participation of a member of the territorial community in collective measures using investigation methods contributed not only to improving the skills of applying such methods, but also had

49 Черкаський І. Зазнач. твір. С. 58–59. URL: <http://irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/ulib/item/UKR0005665> (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

50 Гурбик А. Зазнач. твір. С. 109. URL: http://resource.history.org.ua/publ/UkrL_2013_2_9 (date accessed: 05.07.2025).

a certain preventive effect on the participants of these legal actions, keeping them from committing offenses and concealing known illegal actions committed by other community members.

The basis of the methods of *call*, *corpus* and *trace* persecution was the principle of interaction of community members (modern *group method* of investigation, interaction of the investigator with the public). This principle is still the basis of domestic and international cooperation aimed at effective investigation of criminal offenses.

It is noted above that the procedures of customary law *corpus* and *trace* persecution formed the basis of modern effective methods of investigating criminal offenses, in particular for hot (fresh) traces, as well as forensic profiling, forensic retrospection, forensic analysis of the trace picture.

The formal rule: “where the trace will lead, there is a criminal” of the investigation of crimes on Ukrainian lands in the Middle Ages indicates a clear understanding by ancient Ukrainians: only by traces (both material and ideal) can one understand what happened in the past, find out in what direction the criminal disappeared, where to look for him. This is possible only if certain elements of modern general scientific methods and techniques of cognition are applied (in particular, observation, comparison, recognition, comparison, analysis and synthesis, analogy, hypothesis making, mental reconstruction, etc.), which our ancestors skillfully used more than ten centuries ago.

**Методи розслідування злочинів
на українських землях
у добу Середньовіччя
Анатолій Старушкевич**

Мета статті — проаналізувати методи розслідування злочинів, застосовувані на українських землях у добу Середньовіччя

на основі норм звичаєвого права Широкої «Руської правди», з'ясувати їхню роль у формуванні криміналістичного вчення про методи розслідування кримінальних правопорушень (зокрема, криміналістичної методики як складової сучасної криміналістики). Для досягнення поставленої мети автор послуговувався загальнонауковими методами: спостереження, порівняння, абстрагування, аналізу, синтезу, моделювання тощо. Здійснено науковий аналіз методів розслідування злочинів, регламентованих нормами Широкої «Руської правди» часів Київської Русі. Зазначено, що методи розслідування злочинів «заклич», «звід» і «гоніння сліду» як комплексні процесуальні дії спрямовували на розшук і переслідування злочинців, знайдення викраденого. Зауважено, що сформовані ще в додержавному суспільстві, у судовій практиці общинних судів «заклич», «звід» і «гоніння сліду», засновані на взаємодії членів громади, набули такої ефективності, що після формування держави їх застосовували й розвивали вервні суди Київської Русі та Галицько-Волинської держави, а згодом перейняли правонаступники цих органів — копні суди. У Широкій «Руській правді» та Статутах Великого князівства Литовського ці методи розслідування закріпили вже на загальнодержавному рівні. Поширений у той час інститут звичаєвого права «сочення» давав змогу отримувати криміналістично значущу інформацію про злочинця з метою його переслідування за ідеальними слідами, доречними в разі невиявлення, знищення або низької інформативності матеріальних слідів. Доведено, що правові процедури звичаєвого права («звід», «гоніння сліду») стали підґрунтям для розроблення сучасних методів розслідування кримінальних правопорушень за гарячими слідами та за інформацією про предмети й об'єкти злочинного замаху, криміналістичного аналізу слідової картини, криміналістичного профілювання,

криміналістичної ретроспекції. Зроблено висновок, що передавання досвіду із розслідування злочинів у межах однієї територіальної громади від старших членів общини молодшим не лише сприяло вдосконаленню навичок застосування методів розслідування, а й мало певний профілактичний вплив на учасників цих правових дій, утримуючи їх від скоєння правопорушень і приховування відомих їм протиправних дій, учинених іншими членами громади.

Ключові слова: розслідування злочинів; гоніння сліду; слідогон; звід; заклич; поволення; сочення; «Руська правда»; вервний суд; копний суд; гаряча копа; гарячі сліди; свіжі сліди; розслідування в Київській Русі.

Financing

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding institutions in the public, commercial or non-commercial sectors.

Disclaimer

Founders had no role in the research design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish or manuscript preparation.

Participants

The author has contributed solely to intellectual discussion underlying this document, case law research, writing and editing, and assumes responsibility for its content and interpretation.

Declaration of Competing Interest

Author declares no conflict of interest.

References

- Bedrii, M. M. (2010). Rozsliduvannia zlochyniv v ukrainskomu kopnomu sudochynstvi (XVI–XVIII st.) [Criminal Investigation in the Ukrainian «Kopna» Proceedings (XVI–XVIII Centuries)]. *Problemy zakonnosti*. Vyp. 111. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pz_2010_111_36 [in Ukrainian].
- Bedrii, M. M. (2013). Zdiisnennia honinnia sli-
du v ukrainskomu kopnomu sudochynstvi (XIV–XVIII st.) [Implementation of the per-
secution of the track in the Ukrainian mop
of proceedings (XIV–XVIII century)]. *Nau-
kovyi visnyk Mizhnarodnoho humanitarnoho
universytetu*. Seria: Yurysprudentsiia. № 6-2.
T. 1. URL: [https://www.vestnik-pravo.mgu.
od.ua/archive/juspradenc6-2-1/02.pdf](https://www.vestnik-pravo.mgu.od.ua/archive/juspradenc6-2-1/02.pdf) [in
Ukrainian].
- Bedrii, M. M. (2014). *Kopni sudy na ukrainskykh
zemliakh u XIV–XVIII st.: istoriko-pravove
doslidzhennia* [Kopny courts on Ukrainian
lands in the XIV–XVIII centuries: historical
and legal research] : monohrafiia. Lviv. URL:
[https://library.nlu.edu.ua/POLN_TEXT/
MONOGRAFIJ_2018/876.pdf](https://library.nlu.edu.ua/POLN_TEXT/MONOGRAFIJ_2018/876.pdf) [in Ukrainian].
- Bohachuk, V. S. (2010). *Taktychni operatsii pry
rozsliduvanni pidroblennia hroshei* [Tactical
operations in the investigation of counter-
feiting money] : dys. ... kand. yuryd. nauk.
Kyiv [in Ukrainian].
- Boiko, I. Y. (2010). *Formuvannia ta funktsionu-
vannia derzhavno-pravovykh i samovriad-
nykh instytutiv u Halychyni v skladi Polskoho
korolivstva (1387–1569 rr.)* [Formation and
functioning of state-legal and self-gover-
ning institutions in Galicia as part of the
Polish Kingdom (1387–1569)] : dys. ... d-ra
yuryd. nauk. Lviv [in Ukrainian].
- Cherkaskyi, I. Yu. (1928). *Hromadskyi (kopnyi)
sud na Ukraini-Rusi XVI–XVIII vv.* [Pub-
lic (kopny) court in Ukraine-Rus XVI–
XVIII centuries]. *Pratsi komisii dlia vyuchu-
vannia istorii zakhidno-ruskoho ta vkrainskoho
prava*. IX. Vyp. 4–5. URL: [https://irbis-nbuv.
gov.ua/ulib/item/UKR0005665](https://irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/ulib/item/UKR0005665) [in Ukrainian].
- Chysnikov, V. M. (2017). *Syskna politysiia v Ukraini
za chasiv Rosiiskoi imperii (1880–1917 rr.):
istoriko-pravove doslidzhennia* [Investigative
Police in Ukraine in Times of the Russian
Empire (1880–1917): Historical and Legal
Research] : dys. ... d-ra yuryd. nauk. Kyiv [in
Ukrainian].
- Demchenko, G. V. (1894). *Nakazanie po Litov-
skomu statutu v ego treh redakciyah (1529,
1566 i 1588 gg.)* [Punishment under the Li-
thuanian Statute in its three editions (1529,
1566, 1588)]. Ch. 1. Kiev. URL: [https://surl.li/
kjpskj](https://surl.li/kjpskj) [in Russian].
- Hayvrylenko, O. A., Lohvynenko, I. A., Noviko-
va, L. V. (2015). *Istoriia derzhavy i prava
Ukrainy. Khrestomatiia-praktykum* [History of

- State and Law of Ukraine. Reader-practice] : navch. posib. Kharkiv. URL: <https://surl.lu/rdhvmv> [in Ukrainian].
- Hurbyk, A. (2013). Pravovyj instytut «honinnia slidu» v kopnomu sudochynstvi ukrainskykh zemel Velykoho kniazivstva Lytovskoho [The legal institute of the «trace persecution» in the «kop» legal proceedings on the Ukrainian lands of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania]. *Ukraina Lithuanica*. T. 2. URL: http://resource.history.org.ua/publ/UkrL_2013_2_9 [in Ukrainian].
- Kotiuk, O. I. (2013). *Pravomirnist slidchykh dii: umovy vyznachennia ta zasoby zabezpechennia* [Legality of investigative actions: conditions for determination and means of ensuring] : dys. ... kand. yuryd. nauk. Kyiv [in Ukrainian].
- Krykun, Yu. S. (2009). *Zvychaie pravo ukrainstiv u naukovykh doslidzhenniakh 1920-kh — na pochatku 1930-kh rokiv* [Customary law of Ukrainians scientific researches during the period from 1920 till the beginning of 1930 years] : dys. ... kand. ist. nauk. Kyiv. URL: <https://uacademic.info/ua/document/0409U000855> [in Ukrainian].
- Kushynska, L. (1999). Elementy zvychaievoho prava v «Ruskii Pravdi» [Elements of customary law in the *Russkaya Pravda*]. *Istoriia Ukrainy*. T. 38 [in Ukrainian].
- Kushynska, L. A. (2008). *Zvychaie pravo ta yoho evoliutsiia u skhidnoslov'ianskomu suspilstvi VI—XI st.* [Customary law and its evolution in EastSlavic society of the VI—XI century] : monohrafiia. Kyiv. URL: <https://surl.li/uod-dcu> [in Ukrainian].
- Makarenko, O. V. (2011). *Zlochyny i pokarannia v pravi Ukrainskoi Hetmanskoj derzhavy 1648—1657 rr.* [Crime and Punishment in the Law of Ukrainian Hetman State 1648—1657] : avtoref. dys. ... kand. yuryd. nauk. Kyiv [in Ukrainian].
- Padokh, Ya. (1990). *Sudy i sudovy protses staroi Ukrainy. Narys istorii* [Courts and Legal Procedure of Old Ukraine. An Outline of the History]. Niu-Iork ; Paryzh ; Sidnei ; Toronto ; Lviv. URL: <https://diasporiana.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/books/9247/file.pdf> [in Ukrainian].
- Patiaka, O. O. (2006). *Hrodskiy sud u systemi vladnykh struktur Kyivskoho, Bratslavskoho ta Volynskoho voievodstv (druha polovyna XVI — persha polovyna XVII st.)* [The Grodno Court in the System of Power Structures of the Kyiv, Bratslav and Volyn Voivodeships (second half of the 16th – first half of the 17th century)] : dys. ... kand. ist. nauk. Kyiv. URL: <https://surl.li/dzbumo> [in Ukrainian].
- Saltevs'kij, M. V. (1989). Raskrytie prestuplenij «po goryachim sledam»: ponyatiya i principy [Disclosure of crimes «in hot pursuit»: concepts and principles]. *Problemy gosudarstva i prava Ukrainy* : temat. sb. nauch. tr. Kiev [in Russian].
- Shandra, R. S. (2010). *Voloske pravo ta osoblyvosti yoho zastosuvannia na ukrainskykh zemliakh (XIII—XVIII st.)* [Volosian law and the peculiarities of its application in Ukrainian lands (13th–18th centuries)] : dys. ... kand. yuryd. nauk. Lviv. URL: <https://surl.lu/wxcbou> [in Ukrainian].
- Shapirko, P. M. (2012). *Pravove rehuliuвання operatyvno-rozshukovoi diialnosti v Ukraini: zahalnoteoretychne doslidzhennia* [Legal regulation of operational and investigative activities in Ukraine: general theoretical research] : dys. ... kand. yuryd. nauk. Odesa [in Ukrainian].
- Shevchuk, V. M. (2013). *Teoretychni osnovy formuvannia ta realizatsii taktychnykh operatsii u kryminalistytsi* [Theoretical bases of formation and realization of tactic operations in criminalistics] : avtoref. dys. ... d-ra yuryd. nauk. Kharkiv. URI: <https://dspace.nlu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/17279> [in Ukrainian].
- Starushkevych, A. (2004). Kryminalistychnе profiluvannia: naukovе obgruntuvannia ta problemy vykorystannia u rozsliduvanni zlochyniv [Forensic profiling: scientific substantiation and problems of use in the investigation of crimes]. *Pravo Ukrainy*. № 8 [in Ukrainian].
- Starushkevych, A. V. (2004). Kryminalistychniy analiz slidovoi kartyny seksualnykh bybystv [Forensic analysis of the trail of sexual murders]. *Visnyk Kyivskoho natsionalnoho universytetu imeni Tarasa Shevchenka. Yurydychni nauky*. Vyp. 60—62 [in Ukrainian].
- Starushkevych, A. V. (2009). Metod poshuku zlochynstiv z vykorystanniam vidomosti pro predmety i obiekty zlochynnoho zamakhu

- [A method of searching for criminals using information about objects and targets of a criminal attempt]. *Ukrainska nauka XXI stolittia* : mat-ly piatoi vseukr. nauk.-prakt. internet-konf. Kyiv. Ch. 5 [in Ukrainian].
- Starushkevych, A. V. (2010). *Mozhlyvosti vykorystannia metodu kryminalistychnoi retrospekttsii pry rozsliduvanni zlochyniv* [Possibilities of using the method of forensic retrospection in the investigation of crimes]. *Verkhovenstvo prava u protsesi derzhavotvorennia* : mat-ly mizhnar. nauk.-prakt. internet-konf. Ternopil. URL: https://www.lex-line.com.ua/?go=full_article&id=882 [in Ukrainian].
- Tishchenko, V. V. (2007). *Teoretychni i praktychni osnovy metodyky rozsliduvannia zlochyniv* [Theoretical and practical foundations of crime investigation methods] : monohrafiia. Odesa [in Ukrainian].
- Vashchuk, D. P. (2005). *Oblasni pryvilei Volyni ta Kyivshchyny: heneza i funktsionuvannia v druhii polovyni XV — pershii tretyni XVI st.* [Regional Privileges of Volyn and Kyiv Region: Genesis and Functioning in the Second Half of the 15th – the First Third of the 16th Centuries] : dys. ... kand. ist. nauk. Kyiv [in Ukrainian].
- Yakovliv, A. (1993). *Ukrainske pravo* [Ukrainian Law] / *Ukrainska kultura* [Ukrainian Culture] : lekts. za red. Dmytra Antonovycha // uporiadnyk S. V. Ulianovska; vst. st. I. M. Dziuby; pered. slovo M. Antonovycha; dodatky S. V. Ulianovskoi, V. I. Ulianovskoho. Kyiv. URL: <http://litopys.org.ua/cultur/cult.htm> [in Ukrainian].
- Yasinskij, M. (2002). «Selo» i «verv» Russkoj Pravdy [«Village» and «verves» of Russian Truth] / *Antolohiia ukrainskoi yurydychnoi dumky*. V 6 t. // redkol.: Yu. S. Shemshuchenko (holova) ta in. T. 2 : *Istoriia derzhavy i prava Ukrainy: Ruska Pravda* ; uporiadnyky: I. B. Usenko, T. I. Bondaruk, I. V. Muzyka, I. K. Omelchenko; vidp. red. I. B. Usenko. Kyiv [in Russian].
- Yusupov, V. V. (2018). *Kryminalistyka v Ukraini u XX — na pochatku XXI st. (istoryko-teoretychne doslidzhennia)* [Criminalistics in Ukraine in the twentieth – early twenty-first centuries (historical and theoretical research)] : dys. ... d-ra yuryd. nauk. Kyiv [in Ukrainian].

Starushkevych, A. (2025). Methods of investigating crimes on Ukrainian lands in the Middle Ages. *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics*. Issue 3 (40). Pp. 12–26. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.3.2025.02](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.3.2025.02).