

From Theory to Practice: 25 years of Research Paper Collection: *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics*

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DOI: 10.32353/khrife.1.2026.01 UDC 343.98

Received: 16.03.2026 / Accepted for printing: 31.03.2026 / Available online: 31.03.2026



This article purpose is to mark the anniversary of research paper collection “Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics” by introducing readers to its 25-year evolution: history of its inception, its authors and topics over the years, changes in frequency and format and its attainment of the status of a leading international open access platform that sets the agenda in the field of law and forensic science. A brief overview of the research paper collection issues from previous years indicates that its primary focus and thematic orientation are on addressing contemporary foreign and domestic, as well as theoretical and applied issues in criminalistics, conducting various types of forensic examinations, applying specific expertise in legal proceedings, legal education and training of forensic experts. Each issue confirms the achievement of the journal founding purpose, namely: publish the results of theoretical and applied research on current issues in forensic science, criminalistics, and criminal procedure. The research paper collection devotes significant attention to refining authors’ methods and provides scientific recommendations for conducting forensic research. In addition, traditional issue by issue overview of the current 42nd issue of the research paper collection has been included, with its materials organized into the following sections: “Research Papers,” “Case Notes” and “Scientific News.”

Keywords: *research paper collection; investigative experiment; firearms; criminal offenses; legal aid; arms smuggling; forensic expert conclusion; voluntary certification; laser 3D scanners.*

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.

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This year, scientific community is marking a significant milestone: the 25th anniversary of the publication of the first volume of research paper collection: *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics* (hereinafter referred to as *research paper collection*). Founded in 2001 by the Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius Kharkiv Research Institute of Forensic Examinations (hereinafter referred to as *KhRIFE*; currently National Scientific Center «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius Forensic Science Institute» (hereinafter referred to as NSC «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius FSI») and the Yaroslav Mudryi National Law Academy of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University), publication has evolved from its first sporadic issues into a regular professional journal serving as a leading international open access platform that sets the agenda in the fields of law and forensic science. The synergy of the scientific and practical experience of forensic science institutions and academic background of the founders has made possible to create a unique platform for discussion, where theory is directly transformed into practical principles of criminalistics and forensic science.

For 25 years, the Editorial Board team of the research paper collection has been committed to the leading goal; the publication of the results of fundamental and applied research. The main attention of the edition is focused on the improvement of expert methods, innovations in forensic science, expert and forensic didactics, training, analysis and discussion of draft laws affecting procedural law, forensic science and expert activity.

The first research paper collection issues are devoted to significant events for the forensic and scientific communities. Thus, starting issue of 2001 is dedicated to the 55th anniversary of the publication by Serhii Mykhailovych Potapov's research paper: *Introduction to Forensic Science*¹, which laid the foundation for the theory of forensic identification². According to this theory, the main task and main goal of all methods of forensic science is to obtain forensic evidence of identity as a result of a study called identification. Later, the foundations of the identification theory itself were criticized and supplemented, but its principles have remained unchanged to up to date.

The very first issue contained research papers by prominent scientists: Mykhailo Sehai, Volodymyr Komakha, Valentyna Korzh, Heorhii Nadhornyi, Mykhailo Salt-evskyi, Mykola Tahaiev, Viktor Tatarenko, Isak Fridman, Valerii Shepitko, Mykhailo Shcherbakovskyi and many others devoted to the ways of formation and development of forensic expertise, the nature and subject of study of forensics in the system of scientific knowledge, the principles of identification of S. M. Potapov in modern identification studies, issues of crime prevention (expert and forensic prevention), problems of distinguishing the functions of an expert and a specialist, theoretical aspects of structural and functional analysis of forensic activity, the concept of the complexity of the application of special knowledge during the study of objects of contact interaction, the role of S. M. Potapov in the formation of forensics and forensic science in Ukraine, etc.³ The edi-

1 See: С. М. Потапов — основоположник теории криминалистической идентификации. Харьков, 2002. 41 с.

2 Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики : зб. наук.-практ. мат-лів (до 55-річ. вид. роб. С. М. Потапова «Введение в криминалистику»). Харків, 2001. 320 с.

3 Там само.

torial board of the Collection expressed the hope that this publication will initiate a systematic practice of publishing scientific works and announced the next issue of materials from the international scientific and practical conference, in which both Ukrainian and foreign specialists will participate.

It happened: the second edition was published in the format of a collection of scientific papers of participants of the international scientific and practical conference: *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics*, organized by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on the basis of one of the oldest forensic science institutions in Ukraine, namely: KhRIFE with participation of Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Odessa, Lviv and Donetsk Scientific and Research Institutes of Forensic Examination, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, as well as representatives of forensic, educational and scientific institutions of Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, United States of America and other countries of the world ⁴. The materials of this issue are of interest to readers to this day. It was with it that the periodic publication of issues of the Collection began. A huge number of prominent criminologists and forensic experts from Ukraine and foreign countries took part in the preparation of scientific materials for this issue: the total number of articles was 166. By the way, in this very issue, content of the *Arotsker Readings* was first published, which became a traditional international conference dedicated to the memory of the prominent scientist, Doctor of Law, Professor Lev Arotsker, who for many

years held the position of Deputy Director for Academic Affairs of KhRIFE. The range of scientific materials submitted for publication in the second issue of the Collection is so wide that it is impossible to name a branch of forensic examination and forensic science that would not be covered by this edition.

The third issue, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the KhRIFE, contained materials from almost all areas of forensic expert activity that existed at that time in Ukraine and abroad ⁵. It was in 2003 that the collection was registered as a periodical scientific publication in the State Committee on Information Policy, Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine with a publication once a year (the scope of distribution is national and foreign, categories of readers are scientists, forensic experts, investigative officers, judges, teachers, graduate students and students of legal and medical educational institutions). More than 200 scientists and practitioners have traditionally become the authors of this issue.

The fourth issue of the Collection fell on the year of the 350th anniversary of Kharkiv, the 200th anniversary of the co-founder of Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University and the 135th anniversary of the birth of Honored Professor Mykola Serhiiovych Bokarius, outstanding forensic physician and forensic scientist, after whom the initiator of the founding of KhRIFE is named ⁶. Thereby the topic of this research paper concerned forensic examination as an element of the realization of the constitutional rights of citizens, various organizational issues, international cooperation in the field of forensic

4 Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики. Вип. 2 : зб. мат-лів наук.-практ. конф. (Харків, 19–20.06.2002). Харків, 2002. 656 с.

5 Там само. Вип. 3 : зб. наук.-практ. мат-лів (до 80-річ. заснув. ХНДІСЕ). Харків, 2003. 592 с.

6 Там само. Вип. 4 : зб. наук.-практ. мат-лів. Харків, 2004. 656 с.

examination, problems of obtaining information using technical means, regulation of requirements for an expert opinion and other pressing issues of forensic and forensic activities.

The regular, fifth issue of the Collection contained materials of a scientific and specialized nature intended for a certain circle of readers — law enforcement officers, forensic experts, scientists and students of higher educational institutions⁷. This Collection continues the dividing according to subject headings of the materials submitted by the authors: modern problems of criminalistics, general provisions of forensic examination (theoretical and organizational problems) and sections on certain types of forensic examinations. In this issue, the *Scientific News* section was launched, where since then materials on international and all-Ukrainian scientific and practical events have been published.

In 2005, the research paper collection was included in the List of Scientific Professional Publications of the Higher Attestation Commission of Ukraine on Legal Sciences (Resolution of the Presidium of Higher Attestation Commission of Ukraine № 2-05/5 dated on June 8, 2005).

Since then and up to date, the research paper collection has the right to publish content of dissertations for the degrees of Doctor and Candidate of Sciences⁸.

In subsequent issues, much attention was paid to the then problems of criminalistics, issues of investigative and judicial activities, certain types of forensic examinations, the most important results of expert practice and methodological recommendations for specific and new types of expert research, as well as an overview of the most important events of scientific life for the previous period. In their scientific works, the authors covered the procedural and organizational problems of forensic science and other forms of application of special knowledge, the issues of forensic science and forensic science, the current state of development of forensic science and forensic science, new approaches to science and practice, traditional and non-traditional views on the controversial problems of the theory of forensic science and forensic science, etc.⁹

From its inception until 2019, the research paper collection was published once a year¹⁰. Given the high demand from readers, first (2019) it began to be

7 Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики. Вип. 5. Харків, 2005. 560 с.

8 Там само. Вип. 6. Харків, 2006. 448 с.

9 Там само. Вип. 7. Харків, 2007. 576 с. ; Там само. Вип. 8. Харків, 2008. 656 с. ; Там само. Вип. 9. Харків, 2009. 624 с. ; Там само. Вип. 10. Харків, 2010. 672 с. ; Там само. Вип. 11. Харків, 2011. 744 с. ; Там само. Вип. 12. Харків, 2012. 528 с. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/15/2012-1> (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 13. Харків, 2013. 592 с. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/14/2013-1> (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 14. Харків, 2014. 488 с. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/13/2014-1> (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 15. Харків, 2015. 440 с. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.2015](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.2015) (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 16. Харків, 2016. 476 с. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.2016](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.2016) (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 17. Харків, 2017. 512 с. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.2017](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.2017) (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 18. Харків, 2018. 664 с. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.2018](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.2018) (date accessed: 15.03.2026).

10 See footnotes 1–9.

published twice a year ¹¹, then (2020) – three times ¹², and from 2021 – quarterly. It is worth noting that since 2014, the Collection has been published in parallel issues in Ukrainian and English ¹³. The increase in the number of issues per year made it possible to promptly publish the results of the scientific activities of the authors of the publication, providing the scientific community with the opportunity to receive timely information about achievements and problematic issues in the field of forensic examination and criminalistics. Thanks to these qualitative changes, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, during the periodic certification of the Collection, made a decision to include it in the List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine. In addition, since 2021, design and rubric of the Collection have been radically changed, which has become permanent and brought readers closer to the rules of scientific publication established in Europe. The Collection has a media identifier R30-02416 (decision of the National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting № 1835 dated on December 21, 2023). In its work, the editorial board of the Collection strictly adheres to: current norms and requirements of publishing; procedure for submitting publications; review policy; policy of academic integrity and publication eth-

ics; procedure for considering complaints regarding violations of ethical norms; policy on the use of artificial intelligence and technologies with its support; retraction procedure, etc. Despite martial law and constant shelling of Kharkiv, the Editorial Board of research paper collection continues to produce publications at the same high scientific level as in peacetime.

Currently, *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics* is a peer-reviewed open access publication: the results of research by Ukrainian authors are available to colleagues from all over the world, which contributes to the global exchange of knowledge and participation in international scientific events, conferences and workshops.

The research paper collection: *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics* is indexed in Google Scholar, international abstract databases Academic Scientific Journals Indexing, Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE), ERIH PLUS, Europub, Index Copernicus International (ICV 2021: 100), RefSeek, ResearchBib, WorldCat, as well as in the Register of Scientific Publications of Ukraine and on the site of the registrar of digital identifiers DOI. Full-text electronic versions of the publication are freely available on the Internet on the platforms of the National Library of Ukraine named after V. I. Vernadskyi, in

- 11 Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики. Вип. 19. Харків, 2019. 640 с. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.1.2019 (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 20. Харків, 2019. 648 с. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.2.2019 (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 21. Харків, 2020. 686 с. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.1.2020 (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 22. Харків, 2020. 640 с. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.2.2020 (date accessed: 15.03.2026).
- 12 Там само. Вип. 23. Харків, 2021. 448 с. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.1.2021 (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 2 (24). Харків, 2021. 192 с. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.2.2021 (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Там само. Вип. 3 (25). Харків, 2021. 200 с. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.3.2021 (date accessed: 15.03.2026).
- 13 Там само. Вип. 14. Харків, 2014. 488 с. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/13/2014-1> (date accessed: 15.03.2026) ; Theory and Practice of Forensic Examinations and Criminalistics : journal. 14th ed. Kharkiv, 2014. 488 p. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/13/2014-2> (date accessed: 15.03.2026).

the repository of National Scientific Center «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius Forensic Science Institute», libraries of forensic institutions of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, higher education institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, etc.

The research paper collection contains the headings: *Research papers*, *Case Notes* and *Scientific News*.

Research paper: *Criminal Law Analysis of the Draft Law on the Right to Civilian Weapons in the Context of European Legal Standards* by Doctor of Legal Sciences, Professor **Natalia Filipenko** (Ukraine) and Doctor of Law, Professor **Aleksandar Ivanović**, (Montenegro) begins the chapter of research papers. Scientists focused on the role of forensic examination and criminal proceedings in ensuring effective control over the circulation of firearms and argue in favor of targeted changes to increase the level of consistency of relevant regulations.

The following article by Professors **Mykhailo Shcherbakovskyy** and **Yurii Myroshnychenko**, Doctors of Law from Ukraine, “Integration of Virtual Reconstruction into the Criminal Process of Ukraine (on the Example of an Investigative Experiment)” reveals the problem of the limitations of conducting a traditional investigative experiment under martial law and proves that the digital transformation of evidence is a leading stage in the modernization of justice combining technical accuracy with procedural fairness.

The chapter continues research paper by **Volodymyr Tverdokhlib** (Ukraine), Doctor of Philosophy in Law, doctoral student of NSC «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius FSI» *Trends in the use of special knowledge in the investigation of crimes of aggression* that identifies current trends in the use of special knowledge in the investigation of criminal offenses related to armed aggression, and outlines their importance for en-

sureing the process of proof in national and international criminal proceedings.

Doctor of Philosophy in Law **Anastasiya Vuima** (Ukraine) in the article “Tactical principles of interaction between the investigator and the victim during the investigation of war crimes” considers the relevance of research on the tactical and forensic principles of interaction between the investigator and the victim during investigative (search) and other procedural actions in criminal proceedings for war crimes. Effectiveness of such interaction largely depends on the completeness of establishing the circumstances of the event, the quality of the evidence base and the effectiveness of criminal proceedings in general.

Research paper: *Peculiarities of Detection and Neutralization of Counteraction at the Initial Stage of Investigation* **Oleksandr Tarkan** (Ukraine), Candidate of Law, Doctoral Student at NSC «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius FSI» considers the initial stage of the investigation as the zone of the greatest information conflict, where the effectiveness of criminal proceedings depends on the ability of the investigator to simultaneously identify signs of a criminal offense and neutralize counteraction through the integrated use of organizational, tactical and procedural means.

The next work by **Tetiana Bobko** (Ukraine), Candidate of Legal Sciences support of judicial consideration of criminal offenses against justice, is devoted to the study of theoretical and applied aspects of tactical support of judicial consideration of criminal offenses against justice and analysis of the current state of scientific research in the field of forensic tactics and organization of judicial proceedings.

The article: *Review of documents reflecting the mechanism of illegal activities of professional participants in legal proceedings* by Candidate of Legal Sciences, doctoral

student of NSC «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius FSI» **Yevhen Sup** and **Yevhen Zozulia** (both from Ukraine) determines specifics of review and analysis of electronic and paper documents as a source of information about the mechanism of illegal activities of professional participants in legal proceedings during the investigation of criminal offenses against justice.

The section concludes with research paper by **Kristina Romanauskas**, Doctor of Philosophy in Law (Ukraine) that reveals the forensic essence of the methods, tools, and means of committing criminal offenses in the field of providing professional legal assistance, and also identifies their structure, functional features, and significance for the formation of a forensic characteristic and improvement of the methodology for investigating this category of offenses.

The *Case Notes* section begins the publication: *Electronic Evidence or Proof in Electronic Form: Problems of Appropriateness of Terminological Distinction* by **Konstantin Karaman** (Ukraine), Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, doctoral student of NSC «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius FSI» where the author determines the ratio of terminological constructions: *electronic evidence* and *evidence in electronic form*, their delimitation and practical significance, taking into account the dynamics of information technology development, since this directly affects the procedural qualification of evidence, the choice of methods for their collection and evaluation in criminal proceedings.

Research: *Certification and Periodic Verification of 3D Laser Scanners Used in Criminal Proceedings* by Candidates of Legal Sciences, Docent **Artem Kovalenko** and Professor **Volodymyr Kovalenko** (both from Ukraine) states that under current legislation, laser 3D scanners used in

criminal justice do not belong to regulated measuring instruments and do not require specific certification and periodic verification. Such devices may be subject to voluntary certification and verification at the initiative of their manufacturers, suppliers or users. National (ДІСТУ) and international (ISO) standards are provided, according to which initiative certification of laser 3D scanners used in criminal justice can be carried out.

Candidate of Legal Sciences, doctoral student of the National Research Center for Forensic Examinations **Vitalii Usatii** (Ukraine) in his work proves that the improvement of the legislative framework, the introduction of a single methodological body, the creation of an open register of methods of conducting forensic examinations, the regulation of the procedure for attracting foreign experts, the development of standards for the preparation of certificates and conclusions of specialists will ensure their legal certainty and procedural admissibility, and the improvement of the technical and material support of expert institutions will contribute to improving the quality of evidence, respect for human rights and the rule of law, as well as strengthening public confidence in the criminal justice of Ukraine in the context of integration into the European legal space.

Candidate of Legal Sciences, doctoral student NSC «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius FSI» **Yurii Kovalov** (Ukraine) in the article: *Proof of arms smuggling: the possibility of applying special knowledge in the field of weapons science* justifies the need to increase the effectiveness of proof in cases of arms smuggling with the definition of the need for proper interaction between law enforcement agencies and expert institutions, with the obligatory consideration of the results of previous forensic studies, as well as providing the expert with a full

range of materials, including the protocol of examination of the scene.

The *Case Notes* Section is completed by the article “Forensic handwriting examination: typical mistakes at the stage of appointment and ways of prevention” of Candidates of Law, Associate Professors **Viktoriia Alieksiichuk** and **Yevgeniia Demydova**, Doctor of Philosophy in Law **Leonid Barash** (all three from Ukraine) and **Rasa Tamosiunaite** (Lithuania), which analyzed the effectiveness of using opinion of the forensic handwriting analyst in legal proceedings and determined its dependence on the quality of the study, the level of preparation of content for research by the initiator of the examination and the accuracy of the formulation of the issues to be resolved. The need for systematic training of investigators and prosecutors, lawyers and other stakeholders in this area is substantiated.

We traditionally introduce readers to the news of scientific life in forensic expert activity over the past three months on the last pages of the research paper collection.

The Editorial Board of research paper collection: *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics* expresses its sincere gratitude to all the authors who entrusted us with the results of their scientific research. We highly appreciate the professionalism, depth of analysis and relevance of the topics covered in your manuscripts. Thanks to your active scientific position, our publication remains an authoritative platform for discussions and exchange of experience.

We invite regular authors to continue fruitful cooperation and are glad to see the work of new researchers on the pages of the next issues!

Together to the victory!
Glory to Ukraine!

**Від теорії до практики:
25 років науковому виданню
«Теорія та практика
судової експертизи
і криміналістики»**

Елла Сімакова-Єфремян

Мета цієї статті — на честь ювілею збірника наукових праць «Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики» розпочати ознайомлення читачів з його 25-річним поступом: історією започаткування, авторами й тематикою в різні роки, змінами періодичності й формату, здобуттям статусу провідної міжнародної платформи відкритого доступу, що формує порядок денний у сфері права та судової експертизи. Стислий огляд випусків збірника за попередні роки свідчить, що його основною проблематикою та тематичною спрямованістю є висвітлення сучасних іноземних і національних, а також теоретико-прикладних проблем криміналістики, проведення різних видів судових експертиз, застосування спеціальних знань у судочинстві, юридичної освіти й підготовки кадрів судових експертів. Кожен випуск підтверджує досягнення мети створення збірника — оприлюднення результатів теоретико-прикладних досліджень актуальних проблем судової експертизи, криміналістики та кримінального процесу. На сторінках видання значну увагу приділено вдосконаленню авторських методик і надано наукові рекомендації щодо проведення експертних досліджень. До того ж зроблено вже традиційний постатейний огляд поточного 42-го випуску видання, матеріали якого об'єднано в рубрики «Дослідницька робота» (Research Papers), «Наукові нотатки» (Case Notes) і «Новини наукового життя» (Scientific News).

Ключові слова: збірник наукових праць; слідчий експеримент; вогнепальна зброя; кримінальні правопорушення; прав-

нича допомога; контрабанда зброї; висновок експерта; добровільна сертифікація; лазерні 3D-сканери.

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

Author contributed solely to the 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.

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