

Vortrag am 15. April 2011 in Riga/Lettland anlässlich einer internationalen Konferenz an der Baltic International Academy (BSB) „Society . Person . Security“.

Distinguish colleagues, dear friends, dear Michail Chernousov, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First thanks for the invitation to participate in this event. I am sure that all participants will leave this conference taking home new knowledge, experiences and new friends. Moreover, the beautiful city, alone, makes it worth the trip.

Michail Chernousov asked me to speak about the historical aspects of criminology. No doubt one could talk about it for hours, but I would not want to do that to anyone.

However, a quick look back:

Berlin University celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1860.

The congratulations from the representatives of German universities on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin University in October 1860 were brought by Carl Joseph Anton Mittermaier (lawyer, journalist and politician, 1787-1867), a co-worker and friend of Feuerbach, who was involved in the development of criminalistics as a science in so far as he gathered a wealth of scientific knowledge in medicine, psychology, chemistry and other sciences as well as facts of experience and tactical rules.

This was further developed by Franz Ludwig Hugo Jagemann and Hans Gross (1847-1915). Both are considered the real founders of criminalistics as a science. It is certainly justified to raise the question whether such teachings are still relevant today.

Without a doubt, yes, because the merits of Hans Gross lie in the fact that he led criminal investigation from experience into a science, which today in the 21st Century is fully developed.

The beginnings of Criminalistics science go back to the turn of the 20th Century.

Franz von Liszt already referred to it in his inaugural lecture at the University of Berlin on 27 October 1899 when he said, among other things:

"... In the training of young detectives, the sum of techniques, experience, skills needed by the forensic practitioner, has to be collected and sorted into a system. "

For this system, Hans Gross later used the name “Kriminalistik” for the first time in literature. In his inaugural lecture von Liszt described Criminalistics as part of the Science of Criminal Law. That is what is currently being discussed with regard to a different linkage to police or judicial activity and the focus of re-establishing an independent study course "Criminalistics":

- criminalistics has its own objective,
- their own means, methods and procedures,
- own theory and methodology, and
- a corresponding practical application, the crime investigation.

The extraordinarily rapid development of and potentially more innovative areas in science (and not only the scientific-technical) challenge the police and judicial institutions to exploit new knowledge and to further develop their own working methods in criminal investigation and in the application of evidence for the purpose of the investigation. No other science will do that for them, because other research and teaching institutions always begin with their own interests and ambitions and are determined by their purpose, and not by the specific requirements of criminalistics.

A decisive factor for the development of criminology is its interdisciplinary approach. More than ever, tactical crime investigation methods and forensic means and procedures in evidence and criminal proceedings are linked to the general development of science. The adoption of new procedures to explore other scientific, technical and academic fields of science and for use and development that appear suitable also for criminal intelligence and reasoning can never be adequately incorporated.

Representatives who express the opinion that one can take so much from other sciences and that criminalistics does not need to conduct extra research argue false and illogical.

Any new methods of evidence procedure need to be specially adapted to the legal, tactics of criminalistics, special forensic lines and other tactical requirements of the criminal proceedings. Just think of the possibilities offered by information technology and the conditions under which they can be applied in the fight against crime and for crime prevention.

Not everything that is technically possible can also be applied under the rule of law. There is a great potential in the creative use of personal resources and empowerment.

Or another example: in order to detect fraud and corrupt behavior in companies, to distinguish counterfeit documents from the originals or detect money laundering ... you need criminalistics knowledge. This cannot be handled by internal auditors alone. They can only examine the

complex order of processing and accounting for consistency and plausibility. Especially when it comes to an initial suspicion and it may be necessary to take action there are people in charge who have no experience and competence in criminal investigation.

On the other hand investigators need basics about micro and macro economy; sometimes the investigator must be a specialist for accounting and readings balances combined with special knowledge about Information Technology. In the field of detection and investigation of economic crime, the combination of criminal and business management expertise is necessary.

When I started my preparations for today's event, my attention was drawn to the fact that criminalistics is taught as an independent forensic science in Latvia with its own Chair of Criminalistics

at the Police Academy of Latvia. Similarly,

at the Baltic International Academy, Department of Law with Dr. Vladimir Terehovics and at the University of Latvia, Faculty of Law with Dr. Elita Nimande.

According to my knowledge, there are other Faculties

- in Lithuania with Mykolas Romeris at the University of Vilnius;

- in Poland, a Chair of Criminalistics

at the Faculty of Law, Administration and Economics at the University of Wroclaw and

at the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law and Administration Warsaw University;

- in Russia,

Department of Criminology, Criminal Procedure and information technologies in the Law University Kaliningrad;

Department of Criminology at the University Krasnodarsk, Prof. Dr. Sokol.

- in Czech Republic

at the Czech Institute of Criminology of the Police Academy in Prague.

In Germany we are faced with the fact that the Chair of Criminalistics at the Humboldt University of Berlin, was abolished in December 1994. Then the reason was a lack of demand. The decision has many sides, which I do not want to discuss here.

Only this:

In Germany there is concern that the scientific criminalistics loses its outline as an instrument of procedural law crimes investigation by blending its subject with general police measures.

Founded in 2003, "German Society of Criminalistics" pursued the goal of Criminalistics science as an independent and practical tool in fighting crime and further develops them to re-establish in higher education as an interdisciplinary, but a separate subject area in the system of criminal sciences. The Society sees itself as the expert for the development of criminalistics as a science and to promote its activities, the quality criminalistics education and investigative procedures and evidence and to support teaching and research.

The founding members are graduates of former Faculty of Criminalistics, Humboldt-University Berlin, members of German penal institutions, academics and members of private security companies.

But now back to the historical aspects of criminology, which - I think - are very closely connected with Riga.

The first director of the Institute of Criminalistics Science at Humboldt University in Berlin was Arthur Kanger, born on 17th April 1875 in Latvia in the city of Valka.

In 1902 he graduated from the pharmaceutical department of the medical faculty of Dorpat University with a master's degree. In 1911 he received his doctorate in pharmacology and was appointed as Lecturer. From 1916 he held the chairs of forensic chemistry and pharmacology and pharmaceutical and forensic chemistry in Odessa.

In 1923 he returned to Riga and was lecturer in Criminalistics science at the Law Faculty of the Latvian People's University. He founded the Institute for Scientific Court Expertise. In 1933 at Herder Institute Kanger received an associate professorship for forensic science, chemistry and material science. 1930 he was appointed member of the International Academy of Criminal Sciences and served that society as a 2nd Secretary. In 1936 he became board member of the International Research Foundation for graphology and forensic document examination. He also was an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Riga.

Kanger published in Russian, German and of course in Latvian. I know his following publications:

"The investigation and comparison of handwriting," Berlin 1933

"Introduction to fingerprint", Riga 1936

"Dangers of signature forgery and the need to ensure the authenticity of signatures on certificates by fingerprint", Riga 1938

In 1939 he was resettled to Germany and lived here as a pensioner until 1945.

In May 1945 he was appointed President of the newly built City Court by the Allied Forces to Berlin and in October 1945 he was appointed President of the first Berlin Chamber Court. In summer 1946 he became a lecturer in criminalistics at the University of Berlin. Kanger founded the Institute of Criminalistics at the Law Faculty.

On 6th December 1946 he was appointed professor of criminal psychology and criminalistics and on 10th January 1952 to full time professorship in the subject of criminalistics.

On 1st January 1955 he retired at his own request at the age of 80 years.

In discussions with Prof. Forker, a former student of Kanger, I learned that Kanger devoted his life to criminal investigation. He was considered a very funny man, so he was called at that time also "Atze Kanger. The term "Atze" is slang for smart, curious and kindhearted.

More importantly, however, Arthur Kanger is considered one of the pioneers of criminalistics in Germany. In his name the "Arthur Kanger Foundation" was established which still exists at Humboldt University today.

After Professor Kanger and till February 1990 the Institute and later the Faculty of Criminalistics was headed by one of his students, Professor Ehrenfried Stelzer.

Artur Kanger died in August 1960 in Berlin.

As a graduate of the criminalistics faculty I benefited from this native Riga criminalist Arthur Kanger.

Finally, some accounts of Kanger activity in Germany:

- His resume
- The command of the military administration of Berlin on his appointment as president of the first chamber court in Berlin

- An article about Arthur Kanger in a legal publication on the occasion of his 80 'birthday, written by Prof. Armin Forker, first winner of the Arthur Kanger prize.
 - Another article (with photo) in which Arthur Kanger is chronicled, written by Prof. Ehrenfried Stelzer
 - His obituary
 - His grave stone
 - An excerpt from an Internet Information
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