

AN ANNIVERSARY OF EDUCATION SERVICE AND TRADITION

70 years of „Problemy Kryminalistyki” and 100 years of women’s service in the Police

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The history of forensic science is the story of individuals who can identify a clue amidst chaos. Over the past hundred years, the voices of the women who contributed to the formation of the Polish Police and advanced the development of forensic science have grown louder. These women were experts, technicians, scientists and officers. The year 2025 presented a unique opportunity to revisit this narrative.

On 16 December 2025, a gala ceremony was held at the Helena Chodkowska University of Technology and Economics to mark two anniversaries i.e. the 70th anniversary of the “Problemy Kryminalistyki” quarterly and the 100th anniversary of women’s service in the Polish Police. The event, organised by the Central Forensic Laboratory of the Police (CLKP) brought together representatives from the scientific community, the police force and collaborating institutions. Honorary patronage of the event was assumed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Police, Two Star General Marek Boroń.

The ceremony was hosted by Col. Iwona Marciniak-Krawczyk, Director of the Central Forensic Laboratory of the Police, and was attended by, among others, Gen. Dr Tomasz Michulka, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Police, Prof. Dr Hab. Dr h.c. mult. Brunon Hołyst, Prof. Dr. Hab. Ewa Gruza, Prof. Dr. Hab. Tadeusz Tomaszewski, Dr Justyna Żylińska, Rector of the Helena Chodkowska University of Technology and Economics, and Dr Remigiusz Lewandowski, representing the Polish Security Printing Works. The conference room was also filled by Deputy Voivodeship Police

Commanders, the Warsaw Metropolitan Police Commander for Criminal Affairs, Directors of Offices of the National Police Headquarters (KGP), and representatives of partnership services and academic communities, as well as heads of police departments, forensic experts, CLKP officers and staff, and representatives of Police forensic laboratories. Also present were retired directors, heads of police departments, and forensic experts who have shaped the history of forensics in Poland over the years.

Seven decades of “Problemy Kryminalistyki”

The year 2025 marked the 70th anniversary of the first issue of the Police forensic journal. The quarterly’s publishing continuity stands as a symbol of the sustainability of the idea of combining science with the practice of the service, and a testimony to the consistently high academic standard of the journal.

The quarterly was conceived and founded by Prof. Dr Hab. Dr h.c. mult. Brunon Hołyst, who at the time was working in the forensic division of the Ministry of the Interior. The first two issues were published under the title “Biuletyn Poświęcony Zagadnieniom Taktyki i Techniki Śledczej”. In July 1956, the journal was renamed “Problemy Kryminalistyki”, under which title it is still published today.

Even in its early years, the journal set an ambitious course for its development. The editorial team declared that, in addition to scientific issues, it they would focus also on the practical aspects

of the work of law enforcement and justice authorities. The journal's circulation at the time was also impressive – as many as 6,500 copies distributed internally.

Over the course of seven decades, the quarterly has become a forum for publishing the most significant achievements in the fields of forensic science, criminology and law. It featured the papers on forensic science, examination methodology, new technologies, research and development projects, and analyses of crime trends. Its pages have also featured groundbreaking opinions and forensic reports that have helped to unequivocally prove criminals' guilt.

Since its first publication, 323 issues of the quarterly have been released, and it has been included on the ministerial list of scored journals since 2010. Despite its changing graphical layout, the journal's mission remains the same: to build bridges between science and police practice.

A century of women in the Police service

The second pillar of the anniversary celebrations was the 100th anniversary of women's service in the Police. It was repeatedly emphasised during the gala that the history of women and the history of Polish forensic science were inseparably linked.

The Director of the Central Forensic Laboratory of the Police, Col. Iwona Marciniak-Krawczyk pointed out in her keynote speech that women had been contributing to the scientific and technical capabilities of the Polish Police for years, breaking barriers and proving that effective forensic examination required a diversity of perspectives, sensitivity and the highest level of expertise. She also emphasised her delight at the agreement of several generations of forensic experts and specialists, whose work and service to national security had left a significant mark on the history of Polish forensic science, to take part in the conference. The history of women's involvement in the Police force began on 26 February 1925 with the establishment of the Women's Police Force. Initially, female officers dealt mainly with social cases, protection of women and children, and prevention of human trafficking. Over time, their range of responsibilities continued to expand.

Today, women serve in all branches of the police force – from prevention and criminal investigation to counter-terrorism units and the police air service. They serve as experts, secure evidence at crime scenes, carry out forensic analyses and develop modern investigative methods.

It was highlighted during the conference that every forensic discipline required not only knowledge and familiarity with specialist equipment, but also mental resilience, a sense of responsibility and meticulous attention to detail.

Women who blazed trails

Professor Ewa Gruza speech on "Women in Forensics" was the important section of the celebration, during which the speaker recalled the profiles of female pioneers of forensic science. Professor Gruza cited Frances Glessner Lee, considered the mother of modern forensic science and a pioneer of forensic medi-

cine, who created the famous miniature crime scene models used for investigator training.

The Polish experts mentioned included, among others, Krystyna Baniuk – a pioneer in research into the formation time of fingerprints, Jolanta Jerzewska, the founder of Polish gantiscopy, Lt. Col. (ret.) Dr Leonard Rodowicz, regarded as the mother of shoeprint examination in Poland, Dr Aleksandra Tucholska-Lenart, an author of the first DNA expert report in a murder case, and Dr Hab. Renata Włodarczyk, a specialist in identification based on examination of hair.

Professor Gruza emphasized, that forensic science is a specialised field; it requires both scientific rigour and sensitivity to human suffering. Female officers and experts at forensic laboratories are entrusted with significant responsibilities: they secure evidence and conduct examinations in the areas such as voice analysis, IT, genetics, ballistics, document analysis, trace evidence, chemistry and scent identification.

The topic of Professor Gruza's speech was partly covered by, held later in the anniversary celebration, the debate entitled "Women in Forensics", during which participants from different generations exchanged their experiences, recalling the beginnings of their service, difficulties and moments of breaking stereotypes. The event's motto was *Experto crede*—"trust the expert". Moderated by actor Łukasz Strzałka, the debate gave guests the opportunity to hear from Zofia Sokołowska-Jabłońska, Renata Grabowska, Danuta Wejman, Aleksandra Tucholska-Lenart and Krystyna Baniuk – retired experts at the Central Police Forensic Laboratory.

Science, practice and public trust

The invited guests emphasised the importance of cooperation between the scientific and police communities. In keeping with the anniversary theme, however, they primarily focused on the role of women in this cooperation. The topics covered introduced the history and issues of the Polish Police and forensic science from various perspectives, with each speech culminating in highly insightful conclusions.

The first to speak on the role of women in the Polish Police over the last hundred years was, on behalf of the Commander-Rector of the Police Academy in Szczytno, Gen. Dr Agata Malasińska-Nagórny, Deputy Commander and Vice-Rector, Col. Dr Monika Porwisch, who gave a comprehensive overview of significance, duties, uniforms and the requirements placed on female police officers in various periods, beginning with Stanisława Filipina Paleolog, the first female police commander, under whom the role of female officers was limited mainly to combating prostitution on the streets, and ending with the women who rose to the rank of general almost a century later.

Dr Justyna Żylińska, Rector of the Helena Chodkowska University of Technology and Economics, had already spoken about forensics itself. She pointed out that the field required intellectual courage, precision, and the highest ethical standards. She also said that women brought professionalism, reliability, and a particular sensitivity to the truth to the field.

The anniversary event was concluded by Deputy

Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Dr Tomasz Michułka, who highlighted the enormous contribution women had made to the development of the contemporary police and forensic science, and also referred to the other anniversary, noting that "Problemy Kryminalistyki" had for years played an opinion-leading role, setting the direction for scientific development and inspiring practitioners. Next, together with Col. Iwona Marciniak-Krawczyk, Gen. Michułka presented certificates of appreciation and awards to those who have made the greatest contribution to Polish forensic science, including Prof. Dr Hab. Dr h.c. mult. Brunon Hołyst, who honoured the anniversary with his presence, and Prof. Dr. Hab. Tadeusz Tomaszewski, Head of the Forensics Faculty at the Department of Law and Administration of University of Warsaw. The ceremony also recognised the quarterly's editors-in-chief, editorial secretary and ten most prolific authors in the journal in the last years, as well as female officers and staff from forensic laboratories and retired personnel who have made the greatest contribution to the development of contemporary forensic science.

The album „Kobiety w kryminalistyce”

The anniversary celebrations were accompanied by the premiere of the photo album "Kobiety w kryminalistyce" published by the Central Forensic Laboratory of the Police.

The publication presents female officers and civilian staff working in forensic laboratories; from crime scene officers to experts carrying out specialist forensic anal-

yses. The album showcases the day-to-day work of women who combine scientific expertise with commitment to public service.

The photographs and accompanying stories illustrate forensic science as an interdisciplinary field, drawing on biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer science, yet one that also requires empathy, perceptiveness and the ability to see what is not immediately apparent.

An anniversary with an eye to the future

The double anniversary served as a reminder that the history of forensic science is a history of individuals i.e. editors, scientists, officers and experts who built trust in science and the state over the decades. "Problemy Kryminalistyki" has been chronicling this journey for seventy years, and women in the Polish Police have been contributing to its most important chapters for a hundred of years.

The gala of 16 December 2025 was not merely a celebration of the past. It told a story of the continuity of service: of passing on experience from one generation to the next, and of the conviction that, in the search for truth, the most important thing is always the person who can discern the significance of even the smallest trace.

The ceremony was graced with a concert performed by the Police Representative Orchestra, under the baton of general Janusz Trzepizur, accompanied by singers: Małgorzata Szarek and staff W.O Dagmara Suchta from the Forensic Laboratory of the Provincial Police Headquarters in Olsztyn.



Phot. 1. In the photo: Director of the Central Forensic Laboratory of the Police, Col. Iwona Marciniak-Krawczyk



Phot. 2. In the photo: Gen. Dr Tomasz Michułka, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Police



Phot. 3. In the photo: Prof. Ewa Gruza – University of the National Education Commission, Krakow, Institute of Law, Economics and Administration



Phot. 4. In the photo: Dr Justyna Żylińska – Rector of the Helena Chodkowska University of Technology and Economics in Warsaw



Phot. 5. In the photo: Col. Dr Monika Porwisz – Deputy Commander-Prorektor of the Police Academy in Szczytno



Phot. 6. In the photo: "Women in Forensic Science" debate, from the left: 2LT Ilona Dzido, 2LT Łukasz Kocielnik, Lt. Col. retired Krystyna Baniuk, Lt. Col. retired Renata Grabowska, Maj. retired Zofia Sokołowska-Jabłońska, Maj. retired Danuta Wejman, Dr Aleksandra Tucholska-Lenart i Łukasz Strzałka



Phot. 7. In the photo: Prof. Dr H. C. Multi Brunon Hołyst, Col. Iwona Marciniak-Krawczyk, Gen. Dr Tomasz Michulka



Phot. 8. In the photo: Pvt. Katarzyna Drzewiecka



Phot. 9. In the photo: Prof. Tadeusz Tomaszewski - University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law and Administration



Phot. 10. In the photo: Col. retired Waldemar Krawczyk, Col. retired Dr Adam Frankowski



Phot. 11. In the photo: Prof. Ewa Gruza, Col. Małgorzata Jorka, Maj. retired Alicja Małanowicz, Maj. retired Zofia Sokołowska-Jabłońska, Maj. retired Danuta Wejman



Phot. 12. In the photo: Gen. Dr Tomasz Michułka, Col. Iwona Marciniak-Krawczyk



Phot. 13. In the photo: Lt. Col. Elżbieta Marciniak, Lt. Joanna Długajczyk, Agnieszka Łukomska, Lt. Col. Żanetta Makowska, Sylwia Andrzejak



Phot. 14. In the photo: Lt. Bożena Wysocka, Lt. Col. Dr Edyta Kot, 2LT. Małgorzata Wasilewska, Lt. Col. Agnieszka Tatara, Lt. Col. Bożena Lorek



Phot. 15. In the photo: Lt. Col. retired Krystyna Baniuk, Maj. retired Anita Czerwińska, Barbara Śmiałkowska, Gen. Dr Tomasz Michułka, Col. Iwona Marciniak-Krawczyk



Phot. 16. In the photo: Col. retired Dr Waldemar Krawczyk, Pvt. Ewa Rogoża



Phot. 17. In the photo: Capt. Dr Krzysztof Klemczak, Gen. Dr Tomasz Michułka, Maj. Dorota Osman, Maj. Anna Paternoga, Maj. Dorota Śrutwa-Kwiecień



Phot. 18. In the photo: Col. Iwona Marciniak-Krawczyk, Maj. Grzegorz Bogiel, Lt. Col. retired Grzegorz Piotrowski, Maj. retired Zofia Sokołowska-Jabłońska



Phot. 19. In the photo: Lilianna Mieszczńska, Lt. Danuta Kalinowska, Aleksandra Remiszewska



Phot. 20. In the photo: Maj. Grzegorz Bogiel



Phot. 21. In the photo: Lt. Col. dr Anna Przewor, Staff Sgt. Kinga Dykty, Retired Capt. Ewa Oleksiewicz, Maj. Piotr Maciejczak



Zdj. 22. The invited guests



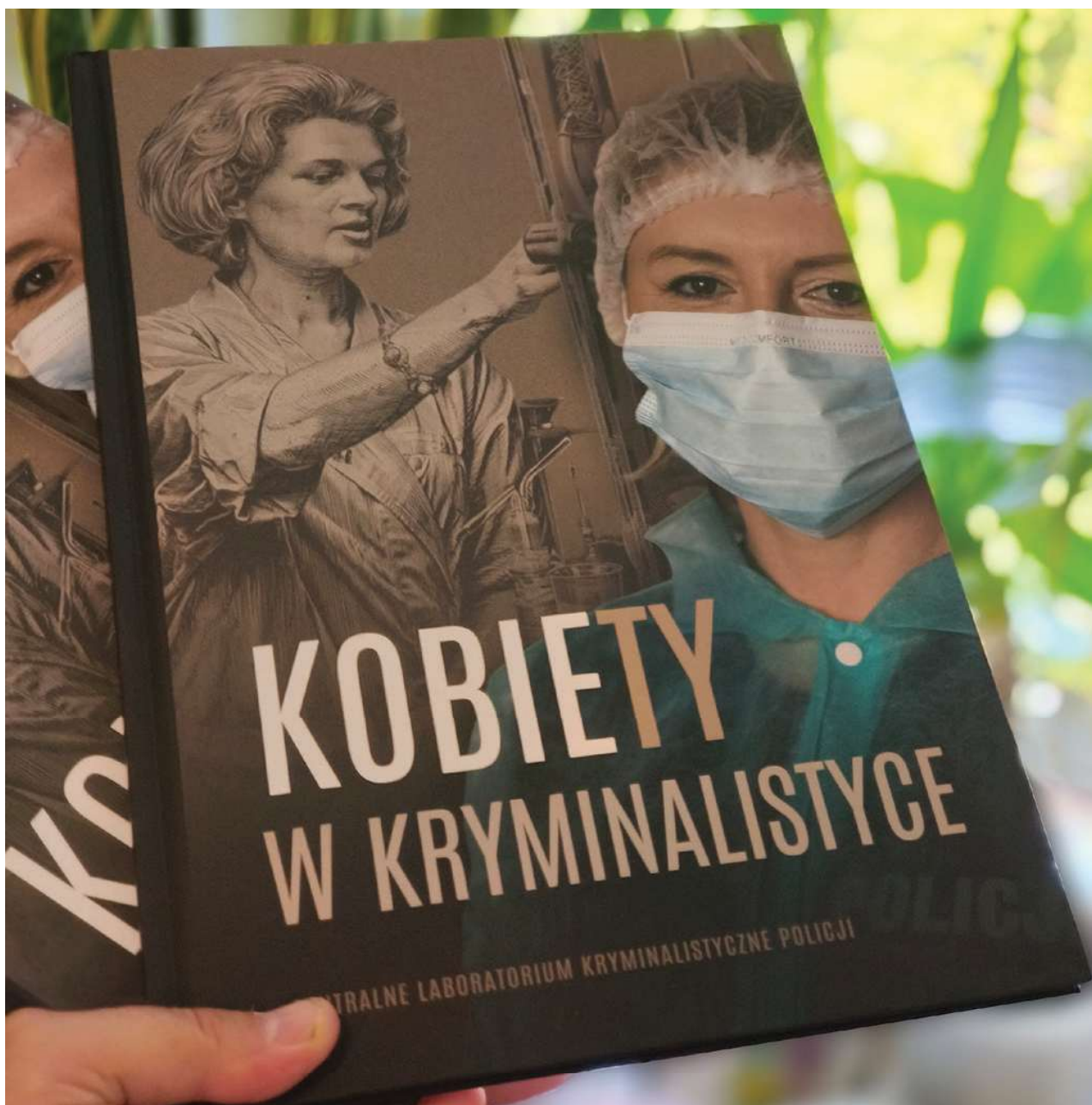
Phot. 23. Representative Police Orchestra under the baton of Col. Janusz Trzepizur, vocalist Małgorzata Szarek



Phot. 24. Presentation of the academic quarterly „Issues of Forensic Science”



Phot. 25. "Forensics Through the Lens" Exhibition



Phot. 26. „Women in Forensic Science” album