

ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT, CURRENT STATE AND PERSPECTIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CRIMINALISTICS AND FORENSIC EXAMINATION IN ARMENIA

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In order to keep the entirety of the research material we will try to begin with the formation of the history of forensic examination and special knowledge in Armenia from as earlier times as possible.

The history of the development of forensic examination and criminalistics in Armenia are tightly linked to each other. Armenian scientists who deal with forensic science rightly mention that, in general, the history of applying special knowledge in Armenia or the formation and development of forensic science is mostly linked to the history of development of that science in Russian reality².

In our opinion it also has its objective reasons as in the period of formation of the forensic science Armenia was one of the USSR Republics and as in lots of points, here too, our Republic is both directly and indirectly linked to Russia.

Firstly, let us mention that the history of formation of forensic examination in Armenia is considered as less unveiled but the study of old Armenian manuscripts shows that it rose yet in the 4th century. There is lots of information about the development of special knowledge in Armenia also in old Armenian manuscripts: in medical books, in historical works, in codes of law.

Based on the works of Armenian manuscript writers we can

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² Ohanyan Levon, Criminalistics. Yerevan, 2004, P. 128; Vahe Yengibaryan, Contemporary Issues of Judicial Forensic Expertise. Yerevan, 2007, P.7. [Օհանյան Լևոն, Կրիմինալիստիկա, Երևան, 2004թ., էջ 128, Վահե Ենգիբարյան, Դատական փորձաքննությունների արդի հիմնախնդիրները, Երևան, 2007, էջ 7].

come to the conclusion that in medieval Armenia, the external examination of the body was determined not only the cause of the death but also the point of what kind of tool's hit caused the death. This proves the exhumation and examination of Ani's Smbat King's corpse, which took place in 989. It was also proved that Smbat King B died a natural death.

“In weighty sources of law such as the codes of law of Davit Alavka Vordi (David Son of Alavik, 12th century), Mkhitar Gosh (12th century) and Smbat Sparapet (Sempad the Constable) (Cilician code of law, 13th century), which relate to judicial evidence, in particular, to confessions, witness testimonies, oaths, written documents, eligible persons' conclusion (forensic examination).

The latter which from the first sight makes us think just about receiving professional conclusions (evidence) by using different spheres of science, concerns only one sphere of science — the medicine. Even in 989, without breaching the law, an exhumation was carried out in order to examine the body of King Smbat and affirm the fact that he died a natural death. This is described in Asoghik's “history in the second”, in the work “Экзгумация трупа” [Exhumation of Body] of E. Makaryan, etc. The solution of this or similar issues were assigned to the persons³ who had achievements in the science of that time”.

While King Gagik A ordered to do an exhumation, and the results of the corpse examination were widely published.

Later (since 13th century) in order to study the death causes and the anatomy, it was allowed to carry out autopsies.

It is hard to say when the forensic examination during the examination of criminal cases was carried out for the first time. However, the study of different sources show that there is information concerning the application of special knowledge in the works of historians, manuscript writers, in different monuments of law, in codes of law, as well as in the works of different researchers.

³ Ohanyan Levon, Criminalistics. Yerevan, 2004, P. 151. [Օհանյան Լևոն, Կրիմինալիստիկա, Երևան, 2004, էջ 151].

The examination of old Armenian manuscripts, as well as different works prove that the use of special knowledge in Armenia began yet in the 4th century, in particular dating back to year 368; followed by the murder of King Tiran, which was committed by the order of his son Arshak.

From the Armenian history we also know the murder of King Pap (year 374) and the fact that a special examination of King Pap was carried out which gave the possibility to come to the conclusion that Pap died from many stabs of a sharp-stabbing instrument, and the reason of the king's death was the bleeding.

If the written sources of law concerning the judicial law which reached us from the ancient and early medieval times of Armenian law history are quite poor, the same cannot be said about the law of the 10-13th centuries. In the very period next to the mentioned sources the two main sources appeared, the prominent monuments of Armenian political-legal thoughts of the medieval Armenian law — the Law Code of Mkhitar Gosh and the Law Code of Smbat Sparapet in Cilician Armenia.

In different periods of the history of the Armenian people a whole range of monuments of legal thought was created, in which the meaning of conclusions concerning the role of “aware” or “experienced” people during the examinations of crimes, trials and other issues directly or indirectly had importance. Since the 12th century, in Books of Rules, as well as in the orders of certain kings we meet such norms of law the use of which would practically be impossible without applying special knowledge.

As a proof of what we have said, it will be appropriate to mention some examples of medieval Armenia's famous legal monuments such as the works of Mkhitar Gosh, Smbat Sparapet, Davit Alavka Vordi (David Son of Alavik) which prove that yet during the Medieval period in order to confirm the facts of breaching the law, the judge turned to experienced people — the experts. The exact date of the creation of Mkhitar Gosh's Law Code is not known to us. “In the Armenology, there was a disagreement about the date of the invention of Mkhitar Gosh's Law Code. There were two points

of view: a) the Law Code was written in 1184, and b) in 1184 Mkhitar Gosh started to write his Law Code and left it incomplete”.⁴

In the preamble of the Law Code, Mkhitar Gosh mentioned that “[d]uring the proceedings the judge must have two or three experienced people with him and only afterwards must make a judgment so that the trial be fair ... keep two or three people not only as witnesses but also always get educated and skillful through them”.²

As we see, Mkhitar Gosh also mentioned that the professional knowledge of the judge is not enough for turning a fair verdict, and besides the professional knowledge, he also needs special knowledge, and he considered that the gap could be filled through people who had special knowledge, or as Gosh mentions: “... through experienced people who always have to be next to the judge”.

Article 235 of Mkhitar Gosh’s Law Code envisages liability for the crimes committed by doctors: “[m]any doctors cause great harm to people by giving them some medicine or by testing a medicine; or they kill people with an ill-will, thus giving them some medicine or because of being ignorant they give them harmful medicine, or being unskillful and illiterate they cannot diagnose the disease, and for these very reasons they kill the sick...”.

The analysis of the content of the article shows that the only special studies would give the possibility to reveal the fact of the crime; that is to say, the judge must appoint a so-called forensic medical examination so that the doctor be liable for the crime he committed, as the medical error can be confirmed only by a person who has special knowledge; in this case, the only person having special knowledge in the field of medicine — the doctor.

⁴ Mkhitar Gosh, Book of Justice. Edited and compiled by Khosrov Torosyan, Yerevan 1975. [YerevanՄխիթար Գոշ «Գիրք դատաստանի», աշխատասիքությունը Խոսրով Թորոսյանի, Երևան, 1975]

² Avagyan R.H. Treasury of the History of Armenian Legal Thought. Part 1. Yerevan, 2001, pp. 370-371. [Ավագյան Ռ. Հ. «Հայ իրավական մտքի գանձարան», գիրք 1-ին, Երևան 2001, էջ 370-371].

According to another article of Mkhitar Gosh's Law Code "If someone opens the pit of grain or seed, puts one of the allies or strangers down into the pit, and if the one who has been put there dies, his blood will be taken from the one who put him there, and in case that person gets sick, the one who put him there will have to pay the price of medicine and the price of becoming disabled because he had to be cautious till the smell of the pit passed and only then put a man down through a rope".

And the cause of the death of the one who was put down to the pit would naturally be determined by a doctor.

During detecting the crimes, for the development of special knowledge, the "Canonical legislation" of Davit Alavka Vordi is also of a unique value. Despite the fact that the "Canonical legislation" was not officially adopted, it was widely used in medieval Armenia.

In one of the rules of Davit Alavka Vordi, in Article 40 the following is mentioned: "If while sleeping, the mother falls on the child, or negligently the baby fell into the fire and got burnt, let the mother repent for 5 years, one year — by observing a fast, two years — by observing week-long fasts, and two years — by observing a fast three times for forty days".

It is clear that in order to confirm the guilt of the mother it is necessary to find out the real cause of the death of the child, that is to say, whether the child died a natural death or drowned by his mother's negligence. And the determination of the real cause of the death without someone who has special knowledge, that is to say without a doctor's help, would be impossible.

A parent admonishing his children, or a husband admonishing his wife: if beats with pity, but anyhow kills, let him stay out for two-year and 5-year stay incommunicable to holiness, and if pitilessly, brutally beats to death, he is guilty. If deliberately, incited from revenge or jealousy, afterwards kills by poisoning, then let such people repent till death by wearing scourging clothes and sprinkling ash, but do not let him be deprived of his pension". In Article 57, Davit Alavka Vordi established a liability for the parents who killed their children in different ways — by beating or poisoning:

“[p]rostitute women who kill their babies must repent until the day of their death.”

In the discussed times it was possible to find out the cause of the death, whether it was a natural death, a poisoning or a result of beating. As we have already mentioned, the cause of the death could be determined only by a person who had special knowledge. And the fact that such people really existed proves the deep study of the rules of Davit Alavka Vordi, as in some of his articles the concept of “a master person”, “a doctor”, “a midwife” were used.

For example, Article 77 of the Rules of Davit Alavka Vordi established that “[i]f the midwife is not attentive to a newborn baby, and if the baby dies for the reason of midwife’s unskillfulness, thus she is bloodguilty. If the baby is wrapped in the womb, then the midwife or someone else who masters this job, should carefully put her hand in and fix the baby so that the mother remains alive.

“...someone who is the master of the job, either a woman or a man who is reliable...”

It is impossible to imagine the study of the history of forensic examination development in Armenia without the “Law Code” of Smbat Sparapet — a famous social and political figure, a lawyer-legislator, a skilled diplomat, an author of brilliant historical and philosophical works.

In the Articles of Smbat Sparapet’s Law Code where the liability for different crimes was established, it is repeatedly mentioned that it is a must to “conduct a justified examination”, “investigate and know the circumstances of death”, naturally considering also the participation of “scientist people who are skillful in their job” in the case examination.

According to Article 569 of the Law Code: “[i]f someone opens the pit and brings someone in without ventilating it, and the latter suffocates from the stifling gas, the one who has made him enter there is obliged to pay the price of the dead person’s blood. But it is necessary to be very cautious, examine and know the conditions of entering there, as well as all the circumstances concerning the death and the accident”.

From the content of the Article it is obvious that scientist people who were skillful in their job should find out the real cause of the death.

In medieval Armenia, among the types of evidence was also the opinion of a person who had special knowledge which was of great importance while deciding the cause of the death.

“In medieval Armenian law the following types of evidence were known: the confession, witness testimonies, oath, written documents, and proficient persons' conclusions”.⁵

It is known that the first Constitution of the world was created in 1779, but a little bit later the first Constitution of France was also created. And so, 6 years after the adoption of the first Constitution of the world, in 1773, in India, in the city called Madras, Armenian man named Shahamir Shahamiryman created the first draft of the Armenian Constitution — the “Vorogayt Parats” (Snare of Glory).

Besides the form, structure of the independent Armenian state, social-political and other issues, the draft Constitution regulated also some issues of criminal procedure.

The study of the mentioned work shows that yet in 1773 Shahamir Shahamiryman envisaged the institution of proficient persons — the experts, with a separate article obliging the state to particularly care for the specialists and establishing who could act as specialists, speaking about the obligation of the specialist to master a certain craft.

According to chapters 127 and 173 of “Vorogayt Parats”: “[t]he state of Armenia particularly cares for the specialists, especially for the specialists in the field of astronomy, medicine, music, rhetoric, etc.” “The specialist who has not yet received a signed certificate from his master which guarantees that he is a perfect specialist, he has no right to practice his craft.”

During the examination of certain crimes the participation of

⁵ Ghazinyan G.S. Contemporary and Historical Issues of Criminal Procedure in Armenia. Yerevan, 2001, P. 24. [Դազինյան Գ. Ս., Քրեական դատավարության պատմական և արդի հիմնասնդիրները Հայաստանում, Երևան 2001, էջ 24].

proficient persons was obligatory. In particular, it is necessary to mention that in cases of murder and sudden death, besides the person who was investigating the case, during the case examination the doctor should also participate so that it was possible to find out the cause of death; in modern terms — the corpse should obligatorily be subject to a forensic medical examination.

This proves chapter 273 of “Vorogayt Parats”, according to which: “[i]f someone suddenly dies at home or in the street, and at the time of dying another one is next to him, be a family member or a stranger, he is obliged to stand in place and alert to the judge courthouse, and a judge and a doctor must be sent from the courthouse so that they come and find out the cause of the death and take a testimony from the people who are near the decedent (the testimony may be made publicly), then order to bury the corpse”.

It is clear from the content of the article that if someone died, the corpse should stay there till the judge and the forensic doctor arrived.

The latter should find out the cause of the death through examination, and only afterwards it was allowed to bury the dead person.

Regarding the application of special knowledge “The Armenian Law Code of Astrakhan” is of great importance too.

“The Armenian Law Code of Astrakhan”, which was made by three deeply legally trained habitants of Astrakhan (Yeghiazar Grigoryan, Grigor Kanpanyan and Hovhannes the son of Sargis) after the order of Empress Catherine the Second about granting autonomy to Armenians living in Russian Empire, became one of the unique monuments of Armenian law.

The creation of the Law Code (the Law Code preparation activities began in 1747-1748 but it was entirely completed in 1765) mostly depended on the establishment of the Armenian Court in Astrakhan, in 1746.

While studying this monument of law it becomes obvious that during the preliminary investigation of crimes as well as during civil procedures there arose a necessity to involve in the case of some

competent persons for confirming or denying this or that fact, to do some examination; moreover a separate chapter (part one of Chapter “JF” of the Law Code) concerning the “Law of making a judgment” was envisaged there.

According to Article 1(1) of Chapter “JF” of the Law Code: “[j]udgment maker is called the person who is appointed by the choice of lawyers or judges to be informed and to give solutions to disagreements, and that is why the name indicates his position, because he is called judgment maker, that is to say, the person who supports the judgment making process”.

As it is clear from the content, the judgment makers must be informed and give solution to any disagreement which occurs during the trials, that is to say, not anyone could be appointed as a judgment maker. That is the reason why the Law Code (Article 2(1) of Chapter “JF” of the Law Code) prohibits the following kinds of people to be appointed as judgment maker:

- those who are subjected to public punishment for their guilt;
- the mad men;
- those who are deprived from their judge degree for their guilt;
- those who are accursed and blamed by the church;
- those who have not reached the age of twenty-five;
- those who have not learnt to write and read.

So, in fact, at that time in order to be a judgment maker one should correspond to some criteria, as it is now regarding the position of a case specialist or an expert, that is to say, one should have several qualities: be informed, honest, capable to work, have some experience (should have reached the age of twenty-five) and some knowledge (must be able to write and read).

The Law Code also regulated such important issues as the ways of being elected as a judgment maker, the liability for making incorrect and illegal decisions as well as for corruption, the deadlines of making decisions, the issue of making a definite decision in case of making different decisions during the participation of several Judgment makers in the case (part one, Articles 3, 10, 11, 13 of

Chapter “JF” of the Law Code) which has common features with the current expert conclusion, appointing an expert or forensic examination, with the order of appointing the liability of an expert, sole and commission forensic examination.

By participating in the case, judgment makers made their conclusions in a written form, and the document was called “Decision”. If someone was elected and gave consent to be a judgment maker, he could not renounce the judgment making process without a legal reason (Article 29(1) of Chapter “JF” of the Law Code).

According to Article 13 of the mentioned chapter: “[i]f the judgment maker takes a bribe for the case, and the examination confirms the fact, he should not only return the bribe to the person from which he had taken it, but he should also pay a fine to the royal treasury, be resigned from his position, and another person should be elected instead of him”.

And Article 15 defines: “[i]f there is one judgment maker, his act is always acceptable. If there are two persons, and their opinions are not similar and they write different opinions, then the judges must choose two other judgment making persons and learn about their disagreements and whatever those persons determine, so should it be, and no one of them should oppose. If there are three persons, and two of them decide in the same way, but the third one in another way, the latter’s opinion must be rejected, and the opinion of the two persons must be confirmed. In other similar cases the same method must be applied”.

In the 18th century, the fact of wide application of special knowledge and the implementation of various criminalistics studies during the examination of crimes are proved also by the content of articles of Astrakhan’s Armenian Law Code. The studies and analyses of the articles show that there was the possibility of doing different studies of documents and manuscripts, in particular it was possible to find out the falsification of documents, since identification of signatures and manuscripts were done. This is proved by analysis of chapter D of Article 19 and chapter JD of

Article 166 of Astrakhan's Armenian Law Code.

According to part 1, chapter D of Article 19 of the Law Code: “[i]f one disowns the bill of credit written by his handwriting or signed by him, which is confirmed by his another handwriting written elsewhere and confirmed by an examination, such apostate must pay his lender twice for the crime and be publicly beaten without mercy.”

And Article 166 of chapter JD envisaged that: “[i]f someone makes a false account book on behalf of someone else so that he causes damage for him, and if it becomes known and confirmed by an examination, then he or she must be punished without any forgiveness and must suffer the damage as a false bill of credit writer.”

It is also necessary to mention that during the examination of crimes the knowledge in medical sphere was also widely applied, and lots of issues were solved only by the “testimony” of doctors, as it is mentioned in the Law Code.

Vivid examples of this are respectively Article 105 of Chapter KC and Article 106 of Chapter JB, according to which: “[i]f someone keeps a dog and does not tie him, but lets him free, and the dog, while going outdoors, bites somebody... and if the person dies, and the testimony of doctors proves that the cause of the death was the dog's biting, and there was no other reason, in this case...” and “If a woman dares to kill his husband by poisoning him or by another way: if it becomes known, and the examination proves it, she must...”

Thus, Armenia's legal heritage studies have shown that even in Middle Ages special knowledge was of great importance, and other science achievements were widely used in the investigation of crimes.

No one can doubt about the correspondence of the writing, the ink, the shape to the original that it is written by the same person and no one else of those centuries”.⁶

⁶ Pivazyan E.A. Philological Examination of Mkhitar Gosh's Judicial Book. Yerevan 1987, P. 29. [Պիվազյան Է.Ա., Մխիթար Գոշի դատաստանագրքի քանասիրական քննություն, Երևան, 1987, էջ 29].

Our studies showed that in the 18th century, too, during the examination of crimes special knowledge was applied. The special knowledge was widely used also in social life during the mentioned period of time. For example, not expert, but philological studies of manuscripts were carried out by relevant experts for purely scientific reasons. For instance, V. Hovhannisyan writes the following about number 1738 Manuscript of Mkhitaryan Matenadaran of Venice: “[s]ome sources indicate that the handwriting forensic examination was performed before the revolution by female and male teachers of gymnasiums D. M. Popov, P. A. Kushmanyanyan, A. Sahakov and others.”⁷

According to B. Hovhannisyan, even after 1920, D. M. Popov continued carrying out handwriting forensic examination based on judicial-investigative assignments. In addition to not showing the source, the author of the report does not either mention any information concerning the educational level of those persons, and whether Popov and Sahakov mastered Armenian and its writing and, in general, what education they had.

Application of special knowledge during the examination of crime had a broad peak since the half of 20th century.

After the October Revolution, emergency committees, investigative groups, worker-peasant militia, criminal search of the Republic of Armenia were leading a tense battle against crimes. However, at the beginning of the 20th century during the examination of crimes the special knowledge was not widely used, science crime examination — criminalistics did not exist, there were no forensic examination institutions.

⁷ Contemporary opportunities and routes of development of Judicial Expertise in Soviet Armenia. Materials of Conference devoted to the 25th anniversary of the Forensic Expertise Center of the Ministry of Justice of Armenia, Yerevan, 1984, pp. 81-82. [Դատական փորձաքննությունների ժամանակակից հնարավորություններն ու կատարելագործման ուղիները Սովետական Հայաստանում. (ՀՀ արդարադատության նախարարության ԴՓԳՀԼ-ի կազմավորման 25-ամյակին նվիրված գիտապրակտիկ կոնֆերանսի նյութերը), Երևան 1984, էջ 81-82].

In December, 1920, the Peoples Commissariat of Health was established. The Commissioner demanded to immediately create an institution performing judicial-medical forensic examination in Armenia with the aim of keeping and reinforcing the legitimacy.

On August 3, 1921, the second section of the Justice national commissariat applied to the Peoples Commissariat of Health in the form of letter asking to tell if there was a special department in the Peoples Commissariat of Health which could perform medical-legal forensic examination. The second letter followed the first one, in which it was asked to accelerate the organization of that work.

Based on the decisions made by the collegium of the ASSR Peoples Commissariat of August 19 and 27, 1921, the position of City's General Judicial-Medical Expert was created in Yerevan. A specialist of high quality, a skilled forensic medicine organizer V. I. Krzhivinski was appointed for this position, who also engaged in providing services in all Armenian regions.

By the order N22 of the ASSR Peoples Commissioner of Health of March 1, 1924, positions of experts were created for working in the regions of Armenia. From 1924 to 1929 five provincial judicial doctors were engaged in the activities, covering the following provinces: Yerevan, Gyumri, Etchmiadzin, New-Bayazed, Lori.

It is necessary to mention that during this period the examination of both the alive and the dead were obligatory in Armenia in the cases when they had some link with a crime. In the initial period, the conclusions were given mostly based on the external study of the corpse, and afterwards the obligatory examination was legalized by a doctor. Such autopsies had a judicial and medical significance and were carried out both by civil and military doctors, with the participation of an investigator and attesting witnesses, by preparing the relevant forensic document — a "Certificate".

Thus, based on the studies carried out by E. A. Makaryan, we can state that yet in the 19th century Armenian specialists were engaged in forensic medicine both in Armenia and abroad. In 1846 Kalta-Sera medical highest college was established in Turkey, where

the chair of “legitimate medicine” (forensic medicine) was functioning, the head of which was Armenian scientist Serovbe Vichenyan until 1876.

And from 1876 to 1894 the head of the mentioned chair was Hakob Khandanyan.⁸

In 1927 near the Faculty of Medicine of the Yerevan State Medical Institute a chair of forensic medicine was established. E. T. Shek-Hovsepyan was appointed head of the chair.

In 1929 the position of Republic’s general forensic expert was designated, which was held by E. T. Shek-Hovsepyan until 1939. Besides the forensic sphere, Professor E. T. Shek-Hovsepyan was also engaged in the examination of some criminalistics issues.

This is proved by several articles of a criminalistics nature published by E. T. Shek-Hovsepyan, for example “About the issue of determining the distance of shot made from rifle 03-7 of small-caliber”, “About the issue of detecting the invisible seals of fingers”, “About the issue of identifying the torn sheets”.

Certain studies concerning various issues of forensic medicine and criminology played an important role in the activities of the Professor E. T. Shek-Hovsepyan.

It should be mentioned that the material evidence of biological and chemical nature was examined in laboratory conditions by A. A. Hovsepyan, and the episodic examinations of a criminalistics nature were carried out by E. T. Shek-Hovsepyan.

In 1953, after the death of E. T. Shek-Hovsepyan, professor N. M. Avagyan was appointed the general judicial and medical expert of the Republic, whose name is related to the further development of forensic medicine in the Republic of Armenia. His efforts resulted in the creation of the union of forensic doctors and criminalists in the Republic.

Along with several sections of the laboratory of judicial and

⁸ Makaryan Y.A. Materials from Medical History of Armenia. Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, #10, Yerevan, 1955. [Մակարյան Ե. Ա., Նյութեր Հայաստանի դատական բժշկության պատմությունից, ՀՍՍՌ, ԳԱ «Տեղեկագիր», N 10, Երևան, 1955].

medical examination there was also a physical-technical section which was organized in 1954 and was led by R. Aydinyan (later S. Sargsyan and G. Ter-Movsesyan).

The use of science and technology achievements became a priority in the fight against criminality and in detecting criminals. This issue was solved in 1959 when a scientific research laboratory of criminalistics was organized in the Yerevan State University, by the Decision of the Government of the Soviet Republic of Armenia No 149 of April 25.

M. B. Hovhannisyan, senior laboratory worker of the study cabinet of the Faculty of Law, former experienced MIA operational worker, was appointed head of the laboratory.

The laboratory carried out three main functions: performing scientific research, teaching the students of the YSU Faculty of Law, doing forensic examination upon request of judicial bodies. Various materials were sent from some neighboring countries to the RA Forensic Scientific Research Laboratory for forensic examination: “[...]ots of materials are received for forensic examination not only from our Republic but also from Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Currently, handwriting, technical, traceological, ballistic, and physical forensic examination is carried out in the laboratory, soon chemical and other forensic examination will also be carried out in the near future. In comparison, the handwriting and auto-technical forensic examination are more”.⁹

At the initial period, mainly handwriting, technical, traceological, ballistic, auto-technical and other types of forensic examination were carried out in the laboratory. Through L. P. Ohanyan’s and R. G. Babajanyan’s efforts, forensic examination of technical-forensic documents was also successfully carried out.

⁹ Hovhannisyan B.M. The Three Years of Scientific Criminalistics Laboratory and Upcoming Problems. Issues of Judicial Expertise, Collection 1, Yerevan, 1962, P. 6. [Հովհաննիսյան Բ. Մ., Գիտահետազոտական կրիմինալիստիկական լաբորատորիայի գոյության երեք տարին և մեր հետագա խնդիրները, «Ղատական փորձաքննության հարցեր», ժողովածու 1, Երևան, 1962, ԵՊՀ-ի հրատարակչություն, էջ 6]։

Years later, other laboratory tests were also performed. In addition to the auto-technical examination, the number of other types of forensic examination also increased: judicial accounting, physico-chemical research of material evidence, etc. The latter was organized in 1962 and helped also to clarify the questions posed for solving some forensic examination (for example the clarification of how old the shot is, etc.).

The role and significance of applying special knowledge during the examination of crimes considerably increased in Armenia in the 20th century, and without their application it was impossible to detect certain group of crimes.

And in the second half of the mentioned century there were several forensic examination institutions the work of which contributed to the detection of such crimes that were impossible to reveal in any other way.

In the modern era it became apparent that the achievements of science need to serve to the requirements of practical life.

A considerable importance has been attached to the solution of the problem of increasing the efficiency of improving and applying mostly the theoretical foundations of special knowledge, methodology from the perspective of solving justice issues.

Along with the achievements of modern science and technology, it is possible to essentially improve crime investigation, detection and prevention process efficiency through the full application of special knowledge.

In practice, justice and law enforcement agencies often feel a lack of information while assigning forensic examination.

In the current phase of the transition to the information society, there are big threats especially deriving from science regarding confronting many internal and external challenges and crisis phenomena, eliminating or at least lessening spontaneous, often destructive flow of information, preventing the growth of cyber-criminality.

In modern conditions the security of an individual, society and

state essentially depends on the maintenance of information security, and this dependence increases in parallel with science-technological progress.

The solution of a computer security problem is impossible without taking criminological, criminal-legal, criminal procedural, forensic and operational investigative adequate measures against illegal possessing of computer information.

The range of motion is getting the information and technical forensic examination into other types of development.

In cases of crimes against the circulation of computer information, as a rule, the following main types of forensic examination are assigned: technical forensic examination of a computer, technical forensic examination of information security devices, data and software provision forensic examination. Nowadays, other types of information and technical forensic examination have also considerably developed.

Taking into account the particularities of cyber-criminality, development of forensic examination possibilities, their correspondence to modern requirements should be the important direction of the fight against the criminality.

Different types of forensic examination are on different levels of development in the Republic of Armenia. Some of them have been in place for decades, some of them have recently been created, and others are considered to be in the further development of forensic examination. It is also necessary to consider the development of the process of carrying out new forensic examination and its transformation: the creation of new types of forensic examination, transformation of forensic examination forms into individual types.

Currently, there are several forensic examination centers in the Republic of Armenia: “Expertise Center of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia“ SNCO, “National Bureau of Forensic Examination of the National Academy of Sciences” SNCO, “Scientific Center of Forensic Medicine of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia“ SNCO, “Forensic examination-

Criminological Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia” which operates within the Police system of the Republic of Armenia, “Military Police Forensic Examination Department of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia” SNCO and the YSU “Scientific-practical center of studying criminalistics and forensic examination problems“ SNCO.

“Forensic examination center of the Republic of Armenia” State Non-Commercial Organization, as a criminalistics scientific research laboratory, was organized within YSU by the Decision of the Government N 149, on April 24, 1959. In 1966, it was transferred to the Judiciary Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR, and in 1971 — to the Ministry of Justice. In 1998 it was renamed as “Expertise Center of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia” SNCO.

On July 22, 2004, by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1127 the “National Bureau of Expertise of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia” State Non-Commercial Organization was established, within the framework of international agreement between the Government of Republic of Armenia and the Government of the United States of America “On Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement” signed on June 11, 2001.

From 2009, there are different forensic examination departments in the “National Bureau of Expertise” SNCO, which carry out forensic examination in already 26 forensic examination directions and in the following types of forensic examination: forensic examination of documents, copyright, photo-technical, portrait, video and audio recording, traceological, ballistic, explosion-technical, materiological, food, biological / soil /, fire technical, construction technical, traffic accident circumstances, vehicle technical state, vehicle traceological, economics, commodity, computer-technical, cultural values, psychological, forensic, forensic-chemical (toxicological).

In 2010, new types of forensic examination were implemented

in the “National Bureau of Expertise” SNCO, which were not applied in our Republic beforehand, but were applied in the European countries and in the USA: forensic examination of the place where the accident occurred, forensic examination related to the identification of human’s smell traces, etc.

It is planned to implement and afterwards develop a range of newest types of forensic examination (for example, by using the method of computer simulation of road accidents, the method of computer identification of different types of traces and samples, etc.) in the framework of computer technical, photo technical, portrait, video and audio recording types of forensic examination, as well as forming DNA identification testing department firstly in the structure of medical-biological forensic examination department and afterwards in a judicial-genetic individual, separate department by using the whole powerful potential of genetic science in order to completely provide the exercise of the most important function in the framework of the fight against crimes.

In 2000, on the basis of the Chair of Criminalistics of the YSU Faculty of Law, the Scientific-practical center for studying criminalistics and forensic examination problems was created, which is located in Yerevan on 1a Kievyan street.

Nowadays, there is a Criminal-forensic examination department within the Police system of Republic of Armenia, where different types of forensic examination are carried out.

Within the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, forensic examinations are carried out by the experts of the Forensic-criminal department. The Forensic-criminal department was founded yet on the basis of Science and technology department operating within the System of Internal Affairs which was later renamed as Operational and technical department and is currently called Forensic examination-criminological department.

By summarizing the foregoing, we can say that nowadays the institute of forensic examination is enough, but is in the developing stage in Armenia. This is proved by the formation of new divisions,

departments and other subdivisions in forensic examination centers of the Republic of Armenia, for example the Department of construction-technical and architecture-technical forensic examination, which will also ensure the forensic examination of the electronic, mechanical and mixed devices and equipment, the Department of psychological influence and psycho-linguistic forensic examination, the formation of DNA identification testing department, which will record new progress in the fight against crimes in the Republic of Armenia by using the whole powerful potential of the genetic science.