



A.Y. Molchanov,
N.A. Molchanova:
Atlas Poligramm
(in Russian; literally: “Atlas of
Polygraph Records”),
IPK, Jaroslav, Russia 2007,
pp. 384

Atlas... contains over 300 illustrations of recordings of polygraph reactions gathered from authentic cases conducted in the last several years by Russian polygraphers, especially members of POLARG group.

The authors intended the polygraph records included in *Atlas...* to provide training material for participants of academic courses in instrumental detection of deception. They are also believed to be useful for practising polygraphers.

Presented and partially described on pp. 9–28 are symptomatic reactions on pneumographic curves, while pages 41–68 are devoted to the GSR (Galvanic Skin Response) curves, and pp. 71–106 – to reactions recorded on cardiovascular curves and their explanations. Full recordings of reactions recorded on a four-channel

computer polygraph are portrayed on pages from 109 to 299. The last part of *Atlas...* contains recordings of reactions that were purposefully corrupted by the examinees.

Even a cursory look at the book's content allows to draw a handful of basic conclusions. First, all the recordings were made by computer polygraphs. Secondly, all the assessments of the recordings were made solely with qualitative and not quantitative (numerical) methods. *Atlas...* lacks numerical criteria for the assessment of the extent or intensity of reaction (and therefore indirectly the degree of its symptomaticity). Authors don't differentiate the symptomatic nature of reactions on individual curves depending on the examination technique used. It can therefore be inferred that Russian polygraphers (at least those from POLARG group) do not use numerical methods of polygraph record interpretation, which has already become a standard in the world.

Where full recordings of larger chunks of text are presented, it is evident that the authors use control questions techniques.

The 300 polygraph records (or their fragments) presented provide an interesting and precious material, especially for the earliest stage of training for students learning qualitative interpretation of the recordings.

The material provided is as valuable as what J. Reid and F. Inbau once included in their *Truth and Deception*; one should bear in mind, however, that the last edition of their book was published in 1977.

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