

CRIMINALISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SOME ARTICLES WITHDRAWN FROM PRISONERS AT RIGA CENTRAL PRISON

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A b s t r a c t

The analysis of stabbing and carving objects removed from convicted persons in Riga Central prison from criminalistic point of view is given in the article.

There are group psychological tendencies and self-classification of convicts in Latvia prisons where convicts serve their sentence. Different groups of strict social roles and internal hierarchy are forming during the process of self-classification [2]. Solving of social tasks inside and between those groups is often going on with the help of violence or by demonstrating real possibility of physical influence. In addition solving of the tasks normally is provided by using articles the design of which provides performing of stabbing, cutting and beating. All of that would be considered as real threat for internal order and personnel security at prisons.

In order to provide internal order and diminish possibilities for violence regarding to prisons personnel and convicts themselves the complex of preventive measures is provided. One of the types of preventive measures is control-search of convicts with the aim to detect and withdraw prohibited articles [4].

In order to apprise from the point of view of criminalistics the research of 67 articles was made at the end of year 2002. These articles were withdrawn during searches at Riga Central prison.

For more efficient criminalistic analysis the articles were subdivided in some groups. The analysis was made taking into account that criminal offence is process consisting of three stages: preparing, realisation and track's hiding. As it is known criminalistic characteristics of criminal offences consists not only of way of realisation but also of the ways of preparing and hiding of criminal offence [1, p. 70].

The articles are united into groups taking into account not only injuring activities but also possible manufacturing peculiarities when there is shortage of raw materials as well as concepts of manufacturer about optimal construction of the article for causing of heavy bodily injuries.

The first group of articles: knife type articles for cutting activity; [3, p. 18, 20, 40]; characteristic that household objects (hacksaw, metal ruler etc.) are taken as the base for manufacturing of working part of the article (photo 1); length of blade 5,2–9,3 cm; thickness of blade 1–1,2 mm; blade – one edged. Sharpening of blade enables to make effective cutting activities on wood and surfaces with analogical parameters. Haft parts are made of

subsidiary materials (plexiglas, wood, thread, rope, wire etc.). The construction of such knives does not have sufficient anthropomorphous indications for safe and convenient handling when stabbing-cutting strokes are made. Persons with low level income often use such knives for housekeeping goals (preparing of food, picking up mushrooms etc.). All of that lets us to conclude that manufacturing of such knives is not connected with preparing for violent criminal offences.

The next group of articles (photo 2); characteristic that steel planches with good mechanic qualities are taken as the base for working part of the article; length of blade 8,5–12 cm; thickness of blade 1,5–2 mm; sharpening of edge enables to cut 2 cm thick willow branch without great effort; marked pointed end of blade. The construction of handle have anthropomorphous features (photo 2, notes 1; 2; 3). Some handles are manufactured by extruding the end of blade into flatted metal (often yellow metal or copper) tube (photo 2, notes 3; 4). Such construction of knives enables efficiently to keep them secretly (easy to keep in clothing, inside cracks of different objects etc.). Some of the articles have dagger-type blade construction (double edged blade pointed end located on longitudinal axis of the blade) (photo 2, note 4). All the mentioned increases dangerousness of these articles and could be base for the following concession: the goal for manufacturing of such articles is causing of heavy or mortal bodily injuries – committing of criminal offence.

The next group of articles: articles for stabbing-cutting activity; characteristic with peculiarities of manufacturing the handle when there is shortage of raw materials. The handle of knives is manufactured using block of gas cigarette-lighter; end of blade attached to handle with the help of solidified chewing gum. The knives manufactured in such a way have features not only of household objects (photo 3, notes 1; 2; 3), but also of weapons (photo 3, notes 4; 5). The scabbards of knives are manufactured with the help of rolled up compact paper and scotch-type insulating tape.

The articles for stabbing activity are characteristic with steel wire, nails, parts of beds etc. as the base for manufacturing; one of the ends is sharpened; the other end is fixed in wooden objects or block of gas cigarette-lighter (photo 4, notes 1; 2), or bent in order to handle it convenient when stabbing strokes are made (photo 4, notes 3; 4).

Among the articles for stabbing activity there are also so called grinned articles. One group of such articles is screwdrivers; the working part – so called “blade” – is transformed: prime functional anticipation is lost and new quality is obtained- possibility for effective stabbing activities (photo 5, notes 1; 2). The second group is sharpened metal bars extruded into polymeric mass. Plastic dishes, combs, soap dishes etc are used as raw materials. Polymeric mass is soften on fire and anthropomorphous shape is formed (photo 5, note 3).

Sometimes spoons are used for manufacturing of articles for stabbing-cutting activity. The handle (end for holding) of spoon is sharpened until one or two edges and pointed end are formed (photo 6).

Some articles the construction of which is similar to some samples of cold steel are also withdrawn from prisoners during searches. In our case such articles are hunting knives. [5; 6] Sharpened steel planches are used during manufacturing of them; blade length 13–17 cm; blade thickness 2,4–3mm. Hafts are manufactured in different ways: some hafts are manufactured using parts of household objects, for example, pail handle wooden part (photo 7, note 1), hafts of other knives are manufactured using paper and insulating tape (scotch or adhesive plaster) (photo 7, note 2). There are also hunting knives way of manufacturing of which are evidence about special skills and objective notion about this type of cold steel (photo 7, note 3). The haft of knives is made of polymer mass with one end extruded in it.

Quite often household objects, for example, shoemaker knives, intharsy knives, dressmaker awls, decorative nails etc., are withdrawn from prisoners. (photo 8, notes 1; 2; 3; 4).

The fact that prisoners have objects similar to stabbing-cutting activity articles is real threat not only for prisons personnel, but also endangers other prisoners. It is because of the following:

- 1) large density of people in locked space (easier to approach to victim unnoticed; after causing bodily injury possibility to get rid of the tool of offence etc.);
- 2) prisoners have light clothing (clothing have important role in protecting body from mechanical injuries);
- 3) possibility to attack suddenly, for example, when victim is sleeping.

It is to be hoped that criminalistic research of the articles withdrawn from prisoners let prisons personnel to apprise level of dangerousness of the article and give the opportunity to carry out preventive measures to ensure safety.

Illustrations. Articles withdrawn from prisoners at Riga Central prison.

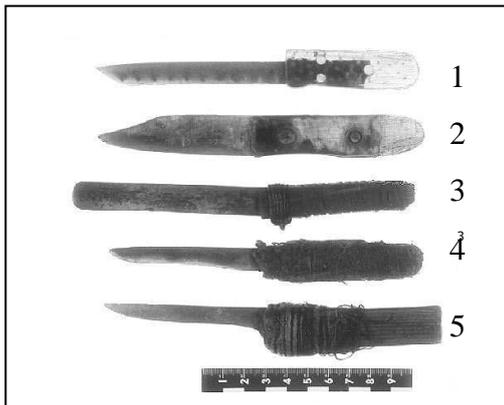


Photo Nr.1



Photo Nr.2

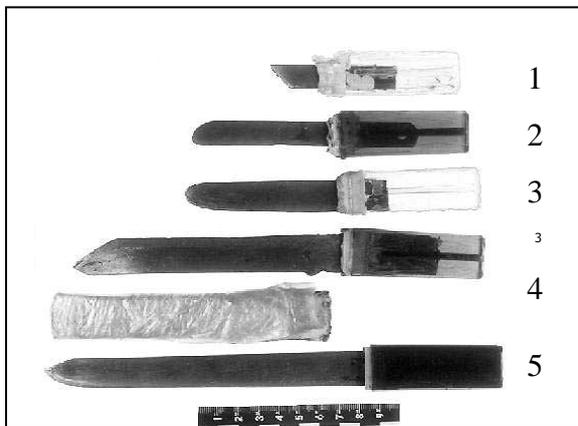


Photo Nr.3

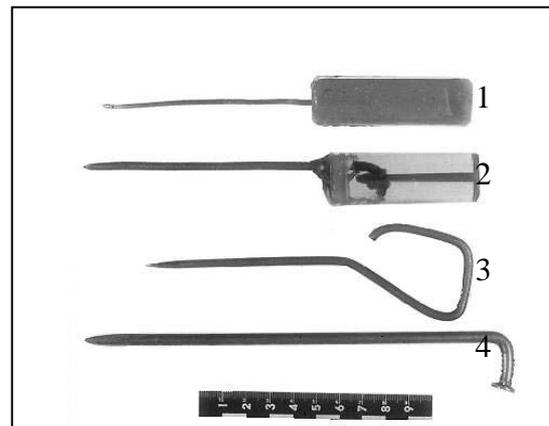


Photo Nr.4

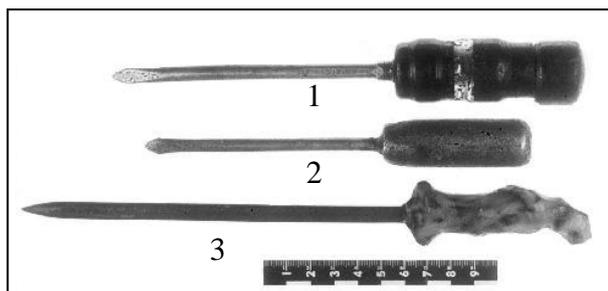


Photo Nr.5

Photo Nr.6

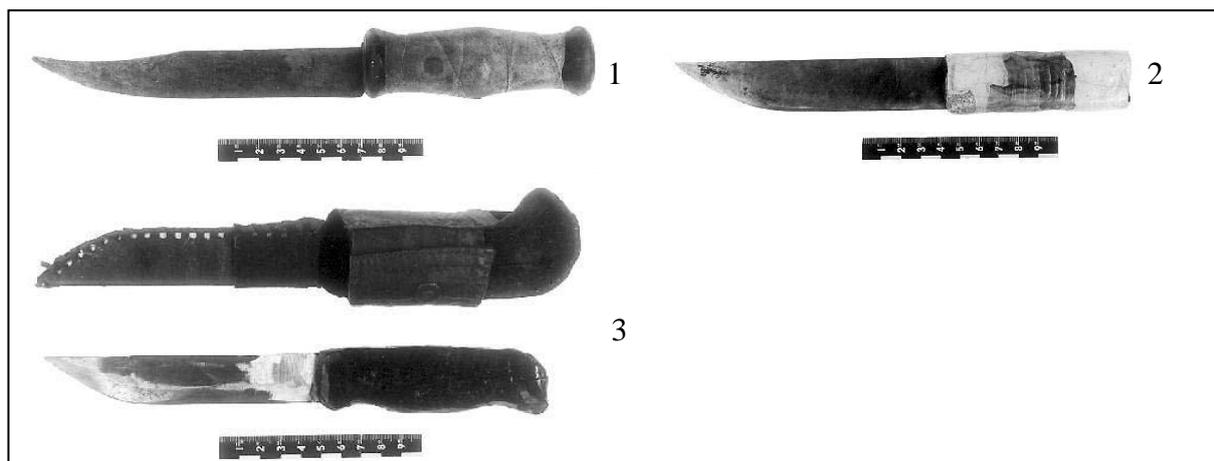


Photo Nr.7

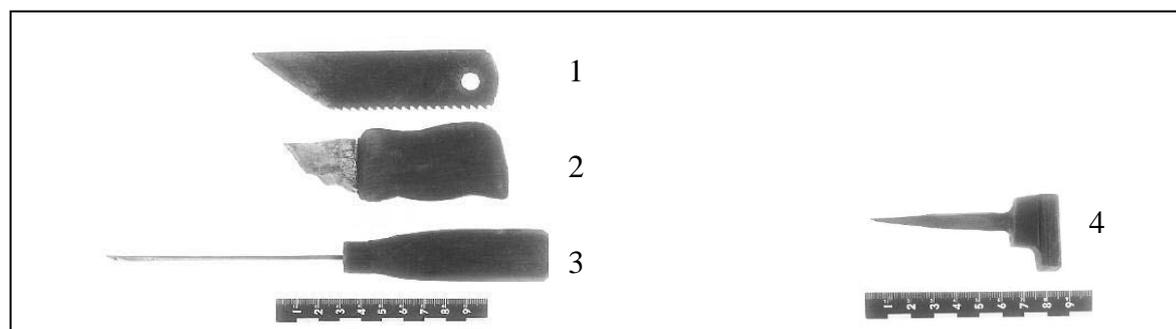


Photo Nr.8



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*Iš Rygos centrinio kalėjimo kalinių konfiskuotų savadarbių gaminių
kriminalistinė charakteristika*

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SANTRAUKA

Straipsnyje pateikiami iš Rygos centrinio kalėjimo kalinių konfiskuotų savadarbių gaminių kriminalistinio tyrimo rezultatai. Kalinimo įstaigose nusistovi griežta kalinių hierarchija, kurios pagrindas dažniausiai yra fizinė prievarta ir smurtas.

Kalinimo metu kaliniai dažnai linkę iš jiems prieinamų objektų pasigaminti priemonių, pritaikytų kūno sužalojimams atlikti.

Straipsnyje nagrinėjami gaminiai buvo suskirstyti į kelias grupes. Pirmajai grupei priskiriami peilio tipo gaminiai, perdirbti namų apyvokos gaminiai. Antrajai grupei – savadarbiai peiliai, trečiajai – duriamojo-pjaunamojo pobūdžio savadarbiai gaminiai.

Faktą, kad kaliniai turi ir dažnai naudoja savadarbius gaminius, skirtus kūno sužalojimams atlikti, galima paaiškinti tuo, kad:

- 1) Uždaroje patalpoje laikoma daug žmonių;*
- 2) Kaliniai dėvi šviesius drabužius (drabužių spalva reikšminga vykdant kūno sužalojimą);*
- 3) Yra galimybė staiga atakuoti, pavyzdžiui, kai auka miega.*

Tikimasi, kad kriminalistinis iš Rygos centrinio kalėjimo kalinių konfiskuotų savadarbių gaminių tyrimas kalėjimo personalui leis nustatyti tokių gaminių pavojingumą ir suteiks galimybę kurti tokių gaminių prevencijos metodus.

