

# Under the Microscope

Vol. 1, No. 1

Newsletter of IADE

Spring 2015

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*William Koppenhaver*



## IADE: New Organization Editorial

In recent years, I have felt that it was necessary to establish a new organization for document examiners, one that is open to all interested parties and that provides training for all document examiners. For over 30 years the National Association of Document Examiners welcomed anyone interested in document examination to join their organization. Then new leadership decided to restrict membership and they stopped accepting members for almost a year. At this

point, I started to work with one of my students to establish an open organization for document examiners. The result was the Scientific Association of Forensic Examiners (SAFE). However, the Board of Directors of SAFE chose to go in a different direction. So, I again set up a new organization known as the International Association of Document Examiners (IADE) with the help and support of many document examiner friends including our numerous international members.

So now, I want to thank all of you who have supported the new organization and the principles on which it is founded. Without your help and support, this new organization would not be possible. We are determined to provide various types of training to our members. We are looking at new ways to provide training. We will also provide certification to all qualified members. Members of other organizations that have provided certification through testing will be accepted into IADE as Certified Forensic Document Examiners as long as the certification has been continuous. Modern methods of communication have made it possible to offer new ways of providing training. We will tap into these new methods as much as possible.

Our website is under construction. As soon as it is ready, all members are invited to have their contact information listed. Their websites may also be linked to the IADE website. Feel free to contact me at any time for suggestions. I want to see each of you succeed in this field as there is a need for qualified document examiners and that need is growing.

*Kathie*



## HIGH TECH

### Original Pen Signature or a Mechanical Reproduction

By *William Koppenhaver*

One of the more common tasks requested of a document examiner is to determine if a signature on a document is an original pen and ink signature or a mechanically reproduced (cut & paste) signature. If the original document is present, this task should require little more than a 6-x magnifier or even under the most difficult conditions, a microscope. But what if you are asked to give an opinion from a picture of the original, or worse yet a photocopy of the original document? Can you still express a valid opinion? To answer these questions, let us start by looking at Figure 1. Figure-1A is an enlarged photograph of a blue ballpoint pen line and a laser printed line. At this magnification, the differences are very apparent. Figure B is a color scan at 300 DPI of Figure A. The difference is mostly in contrast but it is still very easy to see the differences. Figure-C is a Grayscale image of Figure A. Figure-D is a grayscale scan of Figure-C. As can be seen the differences are still obvious. Figure-E is a line art (Black & White) image of Figure-A. Note that while it is still easy to distinguish the differences between the lines, the contrast is now getting darker with each scan.

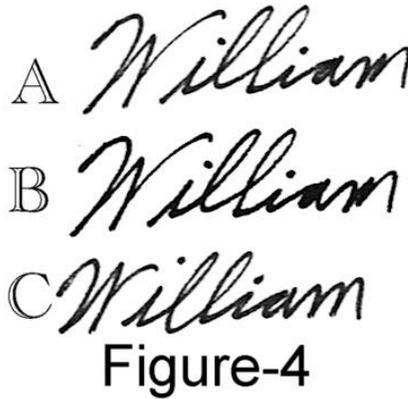
Figure-2 is an intersection of a black gel pen and a photocopied line. While the differences, especially in the line art, are diminished, there are enough differences to tell one line from the other. Notice that the photocopy line is consistent in texture over the entire line while the gel line varies in the amount of white and black along its length.

Figure-3 is a scan of an original gel pen and a photocopy of the same gel pen. Note that the white spots on the stem of the "Y" are more rounded and more distinct (black or white) than in the scan. Since line art is either black or white, once a line is copied, there can be no gray tones. Sharp angles are rounded and small openings filled in.

Figure-4 is the most difficult example. The names were written with a black fiber tipped pen and scanned at normal size. The differences between A & B appear as a filling in of the letter "a" in William and the sharp-

ness in the junction in the "W" and "m." By using this method, is letter "C" a scanned original or scanned photocopy? This technique can also be applied to different generations of the same document because a copy is never exact but lacks some of the detail of a previous generation.

*Figures 1 thru 3 Continued on page 6*



### What Constitutes a Court Appearance?

By *Kathie Koppenhaver, CFDE*

Expert witnesses must list their deposition and court appearances for the past four years in order to meet the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. A deposition is also called Evidence Before Trial and is easy to identify. The expert appears before opposing counsel and answers questions about a case before it goes to court.

Court appearances are different because there are several alternatives to testifying in open court. These include arbitrations, various types of hearings, and panels such as the Attorney Grievance Commission Panel. Since we are required to list all of our testimonies for the past four years, sworn oral testimony given in alternative forums also needs to be listed.

Court appearances require that the expert be sworn to tell the truth, is qualified as a witness by the judge and presents oral testimony. Affidavits cannot be counted as court appearances. Most court appearances require the expert to go to the courthouse to testify but occasionally the courts will allow testimony to be given over the telephone.

Keep records of all of your sworn testimonies regardless if it is court of an alternative forum.

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Kathie Koppenhaver**  
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*Vice President*

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**Sharon Hampton**  
*Ethics*

**Kathie Koppenhaver**  
*Journal*

**Diana Mears**  
*Newsletter*

**Roxanne Brand**  
*Membership*

**Paul Craddock**  
*Webmaster*

# The Book Shelf



## Recommended Reading List By Katherine M. Koppenhaver, CDE

Instead of a book review this month, I am going to give you my recommended reading list. Several people have asked me what I consider important books for document examiners.

There are two books that should be in every document examiner's library, the most important being Albert Osborn's *Questioned Documents*. Why? Because Albert Osborn is known as "The Father of Document Examination" and his book is known as "THE BIBLE." He is required reading for government-trained examiners.

A modern supplement is Ordway Hilton's *Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents*. You will likely be cross-examined about his book. He emphasizes self-training (p 405) which you can use to your advantage.

High on the list of recommended reading is Bradford and Bradford's *Introduction to Handwriting Examination and Identification*. This book contains information not found in other document books. Their Check Classification System is an important contribution to our field.

*Drugs and Handwriting* by Patricia Wellingham-Jones is an important reference when dealing with illness and/or drug use and abuse. It is available from PWJ Publishing, P. O. Box 238, Tehama, CA 96090.

Another important reference book is the *Document Examiner's Index* by Marcel Matley previously known as the *Index to Periodical Articles*. Marcel has indexed articles on document examination topics from the last one hundred years. You can identify articles written by other document examiners in the field which may be useful in court. You can locate these articles in legal or university libraries.

Every library should have a legal dictionary such as *Black's Law Dictionary* or *Barron's Legal Guide*.

There are several books addressed to expert witnesses that can be an asset to your library. Dan Poynter's *Expert Witness Handbook* and Harold Feder's *Succeeding As An Expert Witness* are two excellent resources. *Testifying in Court* by Stanley L. Brodsky will give you strategy for handling cross-examination.

Other books you might consider are Edna Robinson's *Fundamentals of Document Examination*, *Suspect Documents* by Wilson Harrison, and James Conway's *Evidential Documents*.

If you need information on starting your document business you might find my book *The Business of Document Examination* helpful.



## Membership

### 2015 Information

(February 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016)

Application Fee \$25.00

Dues \$90.00 Individual  
(Annual – Prorated)

Lab \$90.00 First Individual  
\$45.00 Additional Individuals

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## Newsletter

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Due date for next issue

May 18, 2015



The International Association of Document Examiners (IADE) was incorporated on January 7, 2015 in Maryland. Kathie Koppenhaver is the resident agent and President of the new organization. Sylvia Kessler is Vice President, Marcy Word is Secretary, and William Smith is Treasurer.

# Q & A

What is the most important credential for a document examiner?

Answer will be in the next issue.

If you would like to submit an answer, contact the editor.

See page 3.



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DOCUMENT EXAMINATION

IADE is creating an Encyclopedia of Document Examination to be listed on our website. All document examiners are invited to submit entries for publication in the encyclopedia. Entries accepted to be published will list the author of the entry with a link to their website, if desired. We are in the process of gathering entries that will be listed. New entries can be added at any time. We have about 250 entries at present.

Categories are also being established. Examples of categories include Document Books, Authors of Document Books, Equipment, Hand-writing Characteristics, Principles of Handwriting, and Principles of Handwriting Identification. Each entry will have perimeters that must be followed. For example, books will list the title, subtitle, author, number of chapters, publisher, date of publication, and any specific information of use to document examiners.

An encyclopedia is a type of compendium containing information from a particular branch of knowledge. They are divided into articles or entries covering factual information.

Example. . .

*Questioned Documents*, Osborne, Albert S, 2nd Edition. Nelson Hall Publishers, Chicago, IL., Originally published 1929, 36 Chapters, 1041 pp. Second section of the book contains "Legal and Other Journals Containing Articles and Discussing Subjects Cited." Beginning p 699. *Questioned Documents* is considered the Bible of Document Examination since Osborn was the first writer to identify the basic principles of handwriting identification that are still in use today.

## *Tips and Tactics*

- Document examiners are retained, not hired.
- Add the current date to each page of your CV so that you know when each version was printed.
- Mark first-generation photocopies with colored ink so that they can be easily identified.
- Smile when you pick up the phone. People will "hear" the smile in your voice.
- Track your advertising by asking clients how they learned about you.

# AIAS

According to Program Administrator, Chrissy Hunter the American Institute of Applied Science is closing its doors.



**IADE**

International Association  
of Document Examiners

**CONFERENCE/SEMINAR**

**PAGE**

## *Spring Seminar for IADE*

*April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>*

*JOPPATOWNE, MARYLAND*

*Presenting a Professional Image*

*Space is limited in order to give attendees more personal attention.*

*Cost is \$150.00*

Make out check to IADE and send it with your application for the seminar to:

William Smith, CFDE 10019 Sweetleaf Street Orlando, FL. 32827



Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa

P.O. Box 999 Montego Bay, Jamaica

+1 (876) 953-2650 *Conference Fee \$200 Members*

*Room Rates - \$219 Single, \$272 Double*

(Rates include all your meals, snacks, and a multitude of activities)

*Also, rates are good for 3 days on either side of the conference  
dates if you wish to stay longer.*

Make out check to IADE and send it with your application for the seminar to:

William Smith, CFDE 10019 Sweetleaf Street Orlando, FL. 32827

**IADE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**JAMAICA**

**SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2015**

**[www.hiltonrosehall.com](http://www.hiltonrosehall.com)**

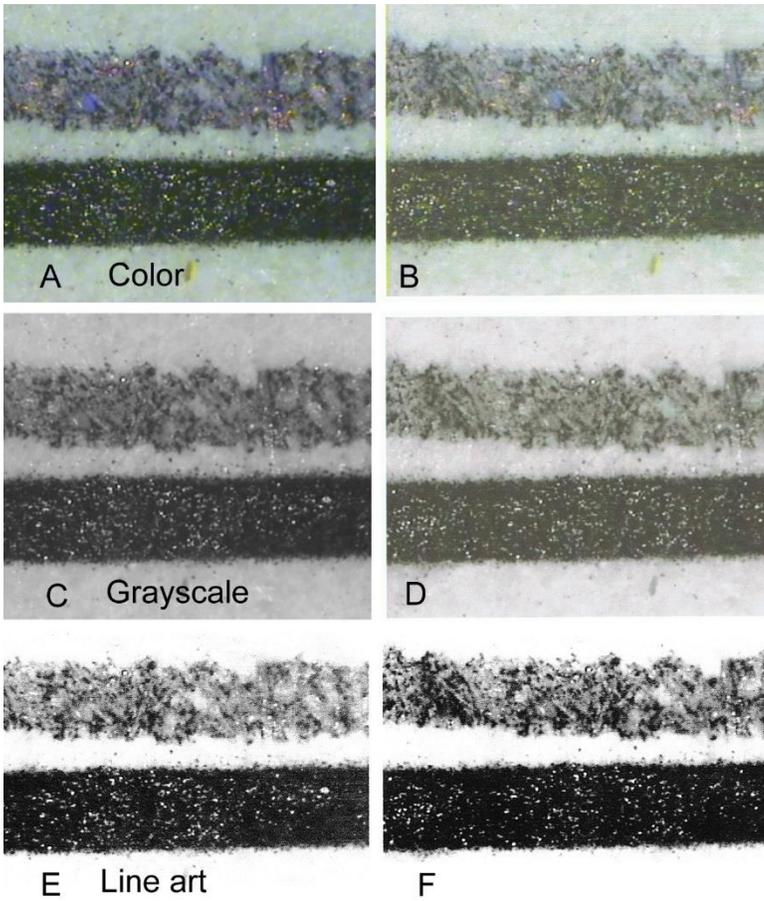


Figure-1

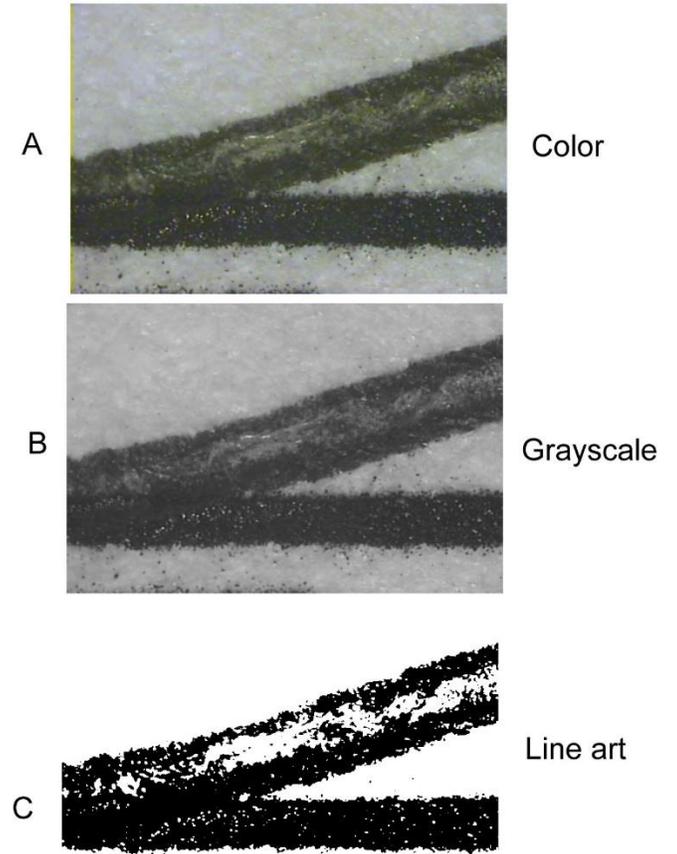
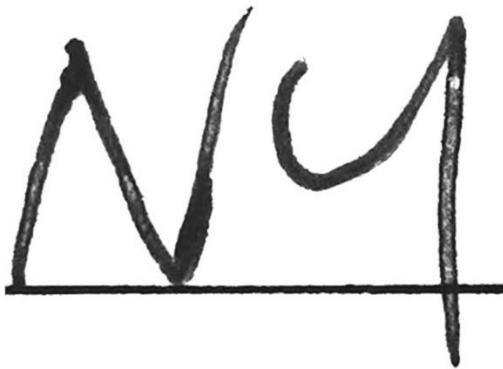
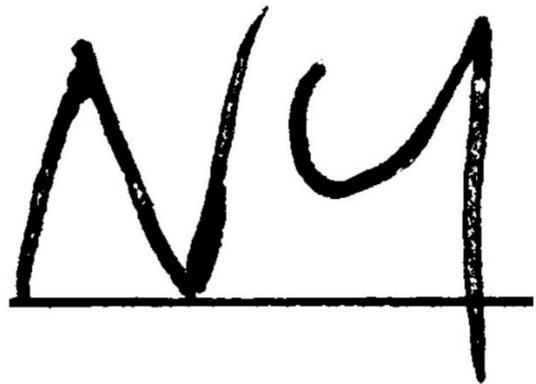


Figure-2



Scan of an original Gel Pen



Scan of a photocopy of the same Gel Pen

Figure-3