



Under the Microscope

Vol. 1, No. 3

Newsletter of IADE

Fall 2015

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Mongtogo Bay, Jamaica

Orlando, FL



Our 2016 Annual Interactive Seminar and Workshop Editorial

We will be holding our next Annual Interactive Seminar and Workshop in Washington, DC. Diana Mears is the Seminar Chairman and her staff consists of Bruce Redding, CFDE and Kathie Koppenhaver, CFDE. The date has not been set yet but you all will be notified as soon as it has been set.

If anyone has any requests for a particular workshop or topic for a speaker, please don't hesitate to contact Diana Mears with your suggestions. Or if you have a topic that you would like to present, send a proposal to Diana. It is easier to set up a seminar when we start planning as soon as possible.

If you would like to chair a seminar, please contact any board member. Chairman get to attend the seminar for free. We would like to hold our seminars in various parts of the country.

Also, there are going to be some additional Professional Image Workshops. So far, we have scheduled a seminar in Orlando, Florida for Monday and Tuesday, February 15th and 16th. These dates were chosen because President's Day is a holiday and occurs on Monday, the 15th.

There are only a few slots available. We have two attendees and can accommodate five additional members. Cost for these seminars has been set at \$150 per person. The workshop consists of handling tough questions in court. The first day begins with a series of questions designed to help you strategize. On the second day, attendees will participate in Mock Trials. These will be recorded and a copy given to each attendee. So far the members who have attended our first Professional Image Workshop have found it to be a valuable training tool. Contact me for details if you are interested in attending.

We will be holding additional Professional Training Seminars for members. If you would like to have a seminar in your area and are willing to assist with setting it up, we will be happy to arrange it.

We will be holding another seminar in April in Maryland as we did last year. We will set up another seminar right before or after our second seminar next fall.

Kathie



HIGH TECH

By Bill Koppenhaver

Relationship between Ball Point Pen and Red Stamp

Recently we were asked to determine the sequence between a red date stamp and a ballpoint pen. In order to complete the assignment, it was necessary to perform experiments with similar materials to see what occurred when one ink was placed over the other.

The process is more complicated than just looking through the microscope because darker colors always appear to be on top.

The process resembles painting over a wet coat of paint with a different color causing the two colors to combine and produce a combined color.

In examples K-1 and K-2, a similar red stamp and a blue ballpoint pen were used to illustrate the two possibilities.

In Example K-1, the blue ballpoint line was applied first and in K-2 the red stamp was applied first. Both samples were given sufficient time to dry. For this test both samples were artificially dried at 300 degree in an oven for one hour.

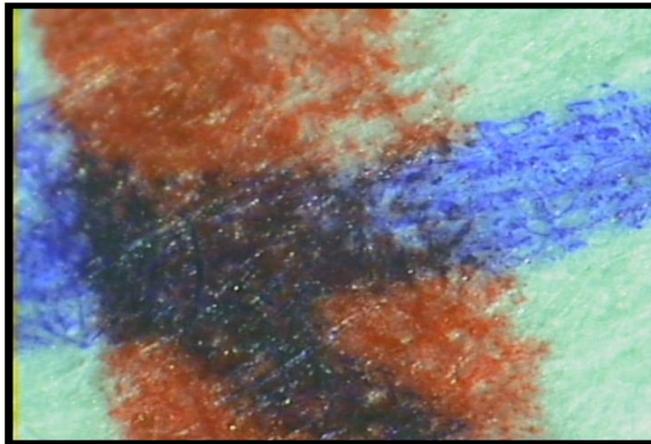
Following the drying period a red stamp was applied over the blue ballpoint pen line in sample K-1.

In sample K-2, the blue ballpoint line was applied over the red stamp.

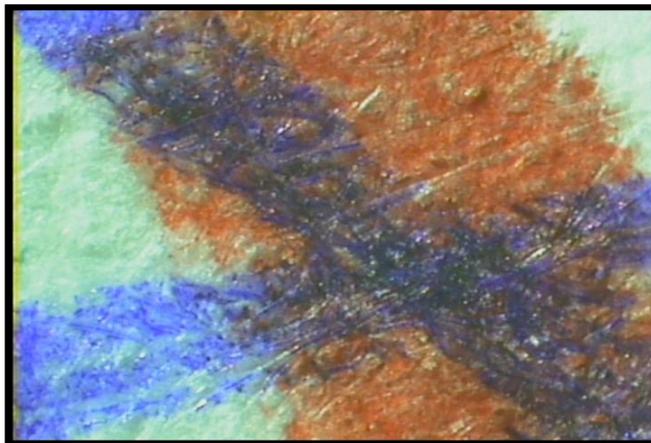
When adding ink over ink, the first layer must be dry or

two layers of ink would mix together so that the one on top cannot be distinguished.

In example K-1 (with the ballpoint pen on the bottom and the red stamp over the ballpoint writing) even though the blue ball point ink was dried, the volatile solvents in the red stamp pad ink dissolved some of the ballpoint ink so that a blue/black color was produced. In example K-2 the red is already dry. When the ballpoint ink was applied over the stamp there was less volatile solvent in the ballpoint ink so less mixing of the colors occurred.



K-1 Known Red Stamp over Ballpoint



K-2 Known Ballpoint over Red Stamp

By duplicating the scenario and comparing it to our case, we were able to determine the correct sequence of events. This method of solving cases is very useful in many situations.

What is scientific method?

1. Observe.
2. Measure
3. Explain
4. Verify

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The Book Shelf



FAMOUS FORGER BOOKS

By Kathie Koppenhaver

All of the document examiner's professional reading material doesn't have to be books on document examination or technical journals. There are some excellent non-fictional books on the market on subjects relating to famous forgery cases in which document examination played an important part. Since

these are well-known stories, it may be helpful to become acquainted with them and see how the forgers fooled the public for a short period of time.

Charles Hamilton's *Great Forgers and Famous Fakes, The Manuscript Forgers of America and How They Duped the Experts*, has been revised and enlarged in the 2nd Edition. Charles Hamilton was a well-known autograph dealer who wrote numerous books on autographs of the rich and famous. Most of these are now out of print. *Great Forgers and Famous Fakes* is the most valuable of Hamilton's books for document examiners because of his chapter in forgery detection on historical documents. Charles Hamilton was one of the experts who declared that the Hitler Diaries were fakes.

The forgery of the Hitler Diaries is told in *Selling Hitler* by Robert Harris. Stern Publishers thought that they had the find of the century when Gerd Heidemann met Konrad Kujau who told the reporter of the finding of the diaries. Harris' book considered the diaries to be genuine. He allowed Kenneth Rendell the opportunity to publish a chapter in the end of the book describing why the diaries were not genuine. Charles Hamilton wrote *The Hitler Diaries* explaining why they were not genuine. Once the original diaries were examined by the experts, their fraudulent nature became evident.

Clifford Irving fooled leading document examiners with his forgeries of Howard Hughes' autobiography. He claimed to be authorized by Hughes to produce his autobiography and produced letters allegedly from Howard Hughes supporting his claim. He duped McGraw into giving him \$750,000 for publication rights. *Hoax, The Inside Story of the Howard Hughes - Clifford Irving Affair*, by Stephen Fay, Lewis Chester, and Magnus Linklater describes the events culminating with Hughes' renunciation of Clifford Irving's claims and Irving's subsequent arrest and trial. Clifford Irving has written *Hoax, What Really Happened* which is available in paperback. He writes that he had intended to return the money to his publisher but he was found guilty and spent time in jail. His wife also was arrested and found guilty of forging Howard Hughes' endorsement on checks from McGraw.

The modern scandal of Mark Hoffmann's forging of Mormon historical documents and murdering two people to divert attention away from his activities has been told in several recent books. Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith wrote *The Mormon Murders. The Gathering of Saints* is penned by Robert Lindsay, while Linda Sillitoe and Allen Roberts published *Salamander*. Tests of the documents and examination by handwriting examiners proved the spurious nature of Mark Hoffman's creations. *The Poet and The Murderer, A True Story of Literary Crime and the Art of Forgery* by Simon Worrall tells the story of an Emily Dickinson poem forged by Mark Hoffmann. Worrall's extensive research provides the reader with much accurate information. I was one of the document examiners that he consulted. This book is highly recommended because it is so informative and entertaining.

You may be able to find these books on Amazon. Next time I will discuss other books of interest related to document examination.



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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Deadline for next issue

November 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 organization. Sylvia Kessler is Vice President, Marcy Word is Secretary, and William Smith is Treasurer.

Q & A

LAST MONTH'S ANSWER: Interesting article to answer the question. Thanks to Eileen Hurley for sharing this with us.

<http://ilovetypography.com/2010/08/07/where-does-the-alphabet-come-from/>

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION . . .

Is it possible for legitimate differences of opinion to occur among qualified experts in your field?

Answer will be in the next issue.

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

See page 3.

THESIS ON THE PREVALANCE OF ILLEGIBLE SIGNATURES

A case study on the widespread trait of the disappearing legible signature

By Mike Maran

As part of my profession as a document and handwriting examiner, I have noticed the trend over the past few years that more signatures on all aspects of legal, other formal documents, and agreements have disintegrated into distorted illegible letter forms, that make any identification of the author anonymous.

These types of signatures can be described as squiggles, a series of loops with intersections, or indecipherable snake type lines.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Gotham City Expert Witness Group Monthly Luncheon

The Gotham City Networking Expert Witness Group offers networking opportunities and monthly speaker/topic or group discussions on topics of interest to fellow experts. This is an extremely valuable group for business contacts, exchanging business practices and tips and even learning from each other's litigation war stories. Attorneys in and outside Gotham may want to join just to interact with potential experts for their own use in litigation.

Future Events: September 21, October 5, November 16, and December 14

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

geraldgoldhaber@yahoo.com

212-379-6661 (O) or 917-279-2303 (M)



NETWORKING BUILDS YOUR BUSINESS!

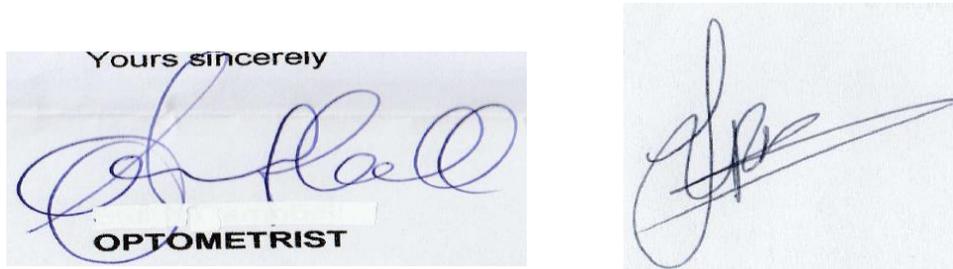
Tips and Tactics

When an opposing examiner was asked if a good examiner would have tried to obtain additional samples of handwriting of the suspect, he replied, "A good examiner did."

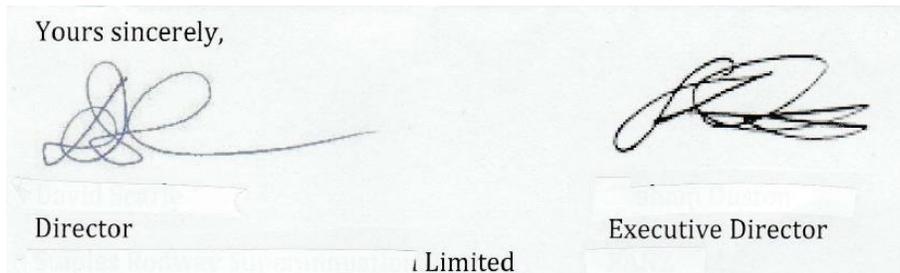
Expert witnesses who testify in Federal Court are required to list all of their court appearances for the last four years and all their publications for the last ten years.

To "read" under white-out, spray the paper with trichloroethane, a cleaning fluid available in hardware stores. It is primarily used as a cleaning fluid. It will not harm paper or leave a stain when dry.

The questions are . . . Why are more authors signing in this way? What are the reasons behind an ever increasing number of illegible signatures? Illegible signatures can be associated with some professions. This is particularly evident with doctors or medical personnel, as noted on the bottom of prescription forms. The illegible signature may be a time saving habit. If he or she was to sign more slowly and clearly, this action would take up more valuable time. This new trend certainly makes identifying and authenticating signatures in the case of forgery, or denial of the signatory, challenging for the document examiner.



In particular, company directors and managers are notorious in signing in an illegible manner. Of the many company documents and records, it is very rare to find a signature in this respect that is legible.



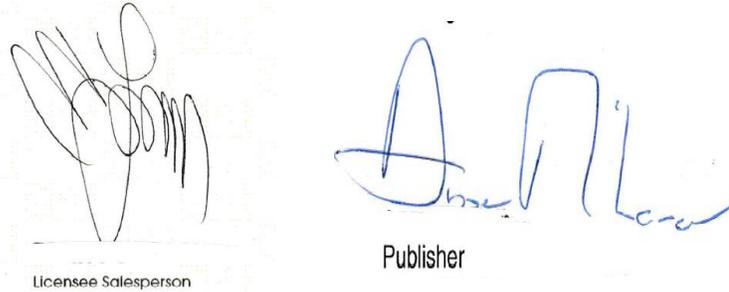
Looking at my files and collections of illegible signatures, this seems to be dominated by male authors. Female authors are more likely to sign in a legible manner.



How do politicians shape up when it comes to legible signatures? This can be mixed and varies with each of their own circumstances and personalities.



An illegible signature can be linked to the person's occupation. Artists, bankers, and salespeople often sign their signature that reflects their vocation. It is not uncommon for salespeople to have large flourished signatures. Their signatures are often unique in design and distinguished by their originality. Musicians often have musical symbols included. Bankers and those in the finance industry can also have dollar or numerical symbols interchanged within the signature's structure.



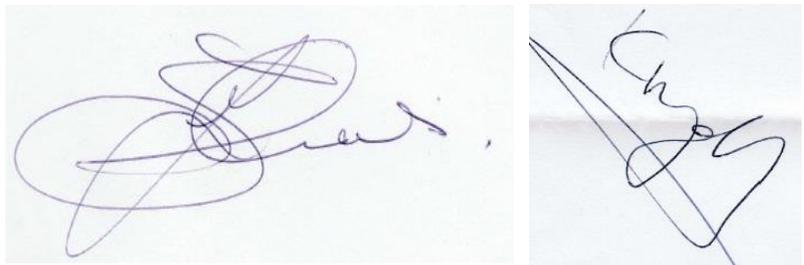
In summary, why are illegible signatures becoming more prominent?

There are many factors that contribute to this trend.

1. In today's world, there are more demands and time pressures within our work and home environments. When it comes to saving a bit of time, an illegible signature which is always signed in haste or the replacement of a usual signature with initials, is now more common.
2. Document examiners are now seeing an increasing trend and work load in questioned signatures and documents. These are mostly associated with intent for financial gain. Almost all the signatures that are associated with fraudulent documents are illegible or comprise of squiggles and intersections. It is very rare to come upon a legible signature, especially in questioned corporate agreements and contracts.
3. Certain professions like to express themselves by distinguishing their signature in an unusual and illegible manner. These signatures are like a mirror on how they like to express themselves in public. The use of individual illegible signatures is a 'statement' which does reflect on their personality and again this is a growing trend.
4. If I ask 10 persons to submit me a specimen signature, for the above reasons I can be almost certain that half of those signatures will be illegible and that growing trend will increase as we move from signing on hard copies to the present digital format.

Two samples of atrocious illegible signatures
with indecipherable letter formations.

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Achilles Heel of the Ghostwriter® Machine

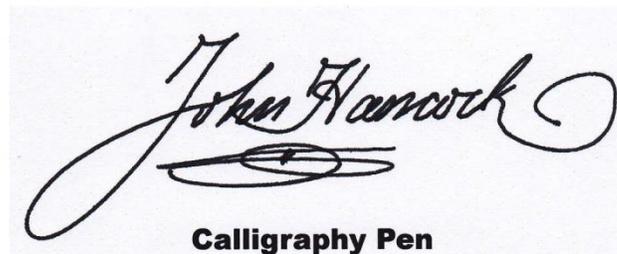
By Bill Smith

Here's a heads up for legal professionals who have worked mortgage cases. Recently, Jan Leach, a forensic document examiner in Winter Park, Florida, discovered the use of the Ghostwriter® machine on a "found" note where a signature was in question. One only has to Google the machine on line to read the advertisements extolling the benefits of the signature that replicates the one scanned even down to the wet ink and pressure.

"Well, the truth is, it does not exactly replicate," says Leach. "The pen holding machine signature is after all made by a machine and not made by a human being with alternating pressure patterns and natural variations." When reviewing court documents, you may be fortunate enough to find the example that was used for replication. A skilled document examiner can show the court the distinctions with exhibits.

It is a good idea to be aware of the sophisticated use of this machine for signing names that look so genuine that it takes a document examiner and court testimony to stop such fraud when the machine is used illegally to represent someone's signature without their knowledge.

The manufacturer includes an example of the famous John Hancock signature. On line were found good replicas of that famous signature. Even with photocopies, one can see the textured fine lines of the old quill pen in the historic example next to the Ghostwriter® version.



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CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PAGE



IADE ANNUAL CONFERENCE JAMAICA

SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2015

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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

Professional Image Workshop for IADE

February 15th and 16th Orlando, Florida

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