



Under the Microscope

Vol. 2, No. 2 Newsletter of IADE Summer 2016

CONTENTS

PAGE 2

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

William Koppenhaver

BOARD MEMBERS

PAGE 3

THE BOOK SHELF

Kathie Koppenhaver, BCDE

MEMBERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

IADE

PAGE 4

Q&A

WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

REVIEW

William B. Smith, CFDE

TIPS AND TACTICS

PAGES 5

PROFICIENCY TESTING

AT ITS BEST

Roxanne Brand, CFDE

PAGE 6

CONFERENCES AND

SEMINARS

Annapolis, MD



This and That

Editorial

Obviously, as document examiners our first responsibility is to provide service to our clients. At times, we have to let other activities slide because of our heavy workload. March and April were crazy busy for me and I did not have time to work on the Journal or follow up on the encyclopedia entries that we started last year.

I will get the Journal out shortly as I have some excellent research papers from some of my students that I am going to publish in the Journal. Each of my students completes a research paper at the end of their training.

I also want to start putting the encyclopedia entries on line as soon as possible. If you have volunteered to participate with encyclopedia entries, please send your entries to Warren Spencer at warren_spencer@yahoo.com.

There are additional projects that I would like to see us do as an organization. I would like to see us give honorary membership to Dr. Mike Echols for his assistance in understanding proficiency testing. He is continuing to assist our group and that is the least that we can do for him. Sylvia deserves credit for her work on the proficiency testing that she has established for our group. I would like to see us set up a diplomat designation so that people like Sylvia who make contributions to the field of document examination can be awarded this honor.

In the meantime, Diana Mears has done a fantastic job of putting together our Second Annual Seminar and Interactive Workshop. She had a high standard to meet as Beverly put on an excellent seminar last year in Jamaica. So far, Diana Mears has done an excellent job of setting up the seminar for this year. We have an awesome location and she is lining up some excellent presentations as you can see from the flyer that she sent out. While modern methods of communication make it possible to conduct seminars via Zoom, the comradery and interaction with other document examiners makes a seminar an important part of our training. In addition, it gives us an opportunity to meet people whose services complement our own areas of expertise.

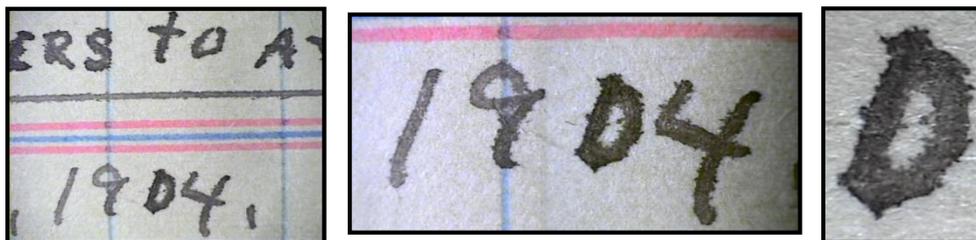
Kathie

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

Bill Koppenhaver

The best single piece of equipment a document examiner can have is a quality stereo microscope. While this advice is still true for the examination of a document, a means of recording and displaying your observations is **equally** important.

In crime scene photography, one starts with an overall picture of the scene and proceeds to move closer to capture with successive pictures ever increasing detailed pictures of smaller areas.



Documents should be recorded the same way. The first picture might be a digital camera photograph of the entire document. I consider this a reference or orientation photograph that may be needed to establish where the closer more detailed photographs came from.

My next picture is an area or a portion of the document. This shot is intended to establish a relationship between the questioned material and the surrounding area. As an example, this picture would show that a certain signature came from a certain page.

The next picture would be a complete signature taken at a distance that will allow a single photograph of the largest signature of a group of similar signatures. This photograph could also include a scale to make it easier to determine size. This would be handy if different groups of signatures had to be photographed at different magnifications. The scale would make it easier to adjust the size when the signatures were printed.

The next level of photographs I take is the first or last name individually. Again I will determine which name is larger and set the size to the larger. If there are three names I would have three pictures for each name. I may take one more level of pictures that would be groups of two letters or so. As you can see the closer you get the more pictures you need to take for each signature. This also increases the amount of time devoted to taking pictures significantly.

If I still need more detail, I have to switch to a digital microscopic camera. An example of this would be photographs of patching, or ball point pen striations, or printing methods.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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The Book Shelf



INTRODUCTION TO HANDWRITING EXAMINATION AND IDENTIFICATION By Russell R. Bradford & Ralph B. Bradford

As Reviewed By
Kathierine Koppenhaver, BCDE

This 1992 release is an excellent resource book for all document examiners. The book which is divided into 12 chapters offers a good foundation in handwriting identification, being particularly strong in areas not normally covered by other DE books. The authors' familiarity with the prominent authors and DE books on the market enabled them to provide complimentary information.

The first chapter covers the history of document examination and describes well-known DEs and world famous cases. Their introduction to document examination covers equipment needed, credentials, and a reference library. Their book is rich with illustrations and gives examples of many cases.

Ralph Bradford actually wrote the book but so much of the material came from his father that he included his name as author. His father had intended to write a book but died before he could do so.

Chapter 3 covers the "Bradford System" which is A Simplified Method of Classifying and Filing; Searching and Identifying "Check Writers" of Non-Sufficient Checks, No Account Checks, and Forged Fictitious Checks. While we do not deal in the volume of checks found in police work, their method of organization is excellent. They also includes a method of organizing check protectors and illustrates many of the check protectors on the market.

Many of the alphabets used in the US are illustrated in the chapter on Parts of Letters. Each letter from the major penmanship systems is compared. Terminology is included to help you describe the letter forms.

The Bradford elements of comparison comprise a systematic method of examining handwriting. They list 20 elements to compare: alignment, angles, arrangement, connecting strokes, curves, form, line quality, movement, pen lifts, pick-up strokes, proportion, retrace, skill, slant, spacing, spelling, straight lines, system, terminal strokes, and trademarks. The Bradfords list three facts about handwriting. Fact No. 1 is "No two persons write exactly alike" (and no one person writes exactly the same twice.) Their next fact states that the characteristics of the mature hand will remain basically the same until death. This is based on the theory that a person has only one mind that learned to write, and that mind will retain the characteristics and attempt to write in the style it has learned. This theory indicates that the mind, not the hand does the writing. The

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Membership

2016 Information

(February 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017)

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

August 18, 2016



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: As an expert you are engaged to provide an opinion regarding a questioned document and to support that opinion, if necessary, in court. You are not an advocate for your client.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION . . .

What is a pangram?

Answer will be in the next issue.

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

See page 3.

WORKSHOP ATTENDEE REVIEW

By William B. Smith, CFDE

IADE PROFESSIONAL IMAGE WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 12 & 13, 2016,
WINTER PARK, FLORIDA



L to R: Kathie Koppenhaver, Bill Smith, Jan Raney, Bob Baier, Cookie Maki, Greg Maki and Bill Koppenhaver

The winter workshop on Professional Image was held in Winter Park, Florida on February 12 and 13, 2016. Those attending participated in discussions on how to present in depositions and court testimony. It was led by Kathie Koppenhaver, CFDE, and assisted by Bob Baier, CFDE, and Bill Koppenhaver.

Kathie covered the importance of looking professional and proper court room conduct. She and Bob Baier conducted mock depo/trial scenes with the participants to help hone in on their skills.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The microscope camera that I use is the Clover Magnifying Camera. It produces magnifications from 12x to 60x when displayed on an 18" monitor. I recently discovered that I can further increase the magnification to 120x or 180x by simply removing one of the eyepieces from my stereo microscope, removing the lens from the clover camera, and placing the clover camera in the 31mm eyepiece tube of the microscope. The power of the objective lens determines the overall magnification. A 2x objective lens produces 120x magnification and a 3.5x objective lens produces 180x magnification.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

third fact asserts that identification of handwriting is made by identifying characteristics. These facts are based on Osborn's principles of handwriting identification.

Five types of handwriting are identified. They are:

- 1) Unconsciously Written Handwriting,
- 2) Consciously Written Normal Writing,
- 3) Consciously Disguised Handwriting,
- 4) Copied Handwriting and
- 5) Traced Handwriting of Another Person.

Hand printing, numbers, typewriters, and check protectors are covered in Bradfords' book. The story of Alger Hiss is included in the section on typewriters.

Even the chapter on fingerprints is useful. As Document Examiners we should understand how fingerprints are left on documents, how to protect them and how to protect the documents.

My only complaint with the authors work is the fact that they only recognize three national associations for document examiners, AAFS, ASQDE, and IAI. Members of these groups are primarily government examiners. There are other suitable organizations for private document examiners such as AFDE, NADE, SAFE, and IADE.

This book was published by Nelson Hall publishers who are no longer in business.

Tips and Tactics

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.

Proficiency Testing at Its Best

By Roxanne Brand, CFDE

We've all taken them. We all know their importance to our continued training. I have experience with two different companies offering proficiency tests and I can say one far surpasses the other in terms of ways to improve our skills.

Dr. Michael Echols taught us that each and every industry out there has an error rate. Attorneys have an error rate, pharmacies have error rates, technical drawing tools have error rates, etc. Every facet of every industry has some sort of error rate. There is no escaping it. However, every industry takes its necessary precautions to try to reduce their error rate as much as possible.

As document examiners we are no different. We are trained to establish a standard operating procedure from the moment our cases first enter our office. For the most part, we've developed our systematic approach to our examinations, analyses and even how we develop our exhibits.

Where better to test our skills other than taking a Proficiency Test? Where else can you safely evaluate your effectiveness and reliability? Proficiency exams are like an internal audit of our skills. These tests provide value and improve our operations by giving insight where we can improve processes and/or procedures.

Signature ID Test is the proficiency test to take. But it is NOT like some other proficiency tests out there. First off, these tests are challenging. You are given the task of making only three determinations for each questioned signature; genuine, simulation or disguise. There are no degrees of probability and there is no peer review. Your answers are checked by an independent party and you are given your results. Where at that point you are able to determine why and how your errors were made and take steps to rectify them for the future.

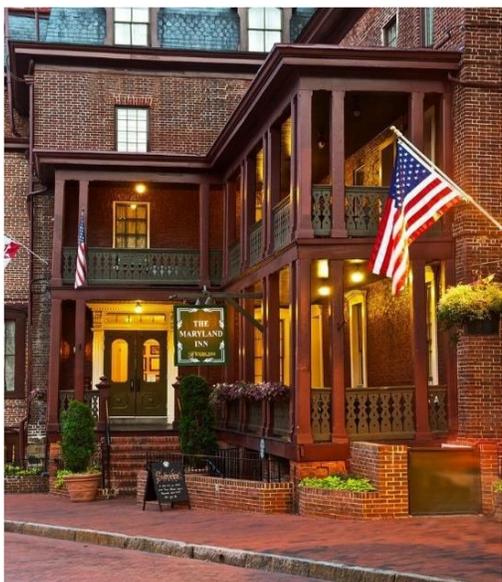
For those of us in IADE that had the pleasure of attending Dr. Echols presentation, we were given two rather simple tests. We were asked to count nails on two different slides, three times each. The first test the nails were carelessly strewn about. Everyone kept arriving at three different answers. The second, the same set of nails were somewhat put into an orderly fashion and our answers were more consistent. The moral of the story, organize the data that you examine and analyze so that you can reduce your error rate significantly. This lesson is further strengthened through Signature ID Test.

I highly recommend taking the Signature ID Test. Skills are further strengthened and honed because, unlike other proficiency tests in our industry, this test is simple in that there are only three answers to each questioned signature and the implications of the feedback is easy to understand. It demands the very best of us while giving us an unambiguous way to learn. It is our duty to shed light on those areas of our examination or analysis where we may be weaker. In a safe environment, you can objectively find out those areas where you may need further training or assistance.



CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

PAGE



2016 Interactive Seminar and Workshop

September 15 – 17, 2016, Annapolis, MD
Two Pre-Seminars on September 14, 2016

Seminar Fees \$250 members \$340 non-members
Pre Seminars \$50.00 each

The Historic Inns of Annapolis
58 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 212401
410-263-2641

Deadline for Booking Rooms is August 25, 2016

Click below to book:

Historic Inns of Annapolis Booking

Rates (includes Breakfast and Lunch)

Tue-Thu: \$168.00 per night

Fri-Sat: \$198.00 per night

Complete Registration Form and mail to:

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

To download registration form

click below

[2016 Interactive Seminar/Workshop Application](#)

Include check with registration form

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For More Information, Contact Diana Mears at Dianaj.Mears@comcast.net