



Under the Microscope

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Newsletter of IADE

2019

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2019 CONFERENCE JAMAICA



MAINTAINING A RESOURCE LIST EDITORIAL

I maintain a resource list for members regarding services that document examiners may need and I keep adding to it over time. If you do not have a copy of this resource list, contact me and I will send you one. This resource list covers services from outside vendors as well as some of our own members. Members receive a copy of it when joining IADE. If you need a copy you can contact me at any time and I will email it to you. Whenever it is

updated, I try to send out the information to all.

Do you have specialized skill or equipment that you are willing to share for fee? This would include equipment such as the ESDA or the VSC. For example, my company prepares exhibits for other document examiners.

You may want to offer your services for peer review. That requires that you review a case from a colleague as a second opinion. You can offer an exchange of services when you review other's cases. Or, you can charge a fee for a second opinion.

Jacqueline Joseph has researched medical literature and compiled a bibliography of articles. Several document examiners have published articles and books on document examination.

Marcel Matley has engaged in research for years and generously shares his findings with us. He compiled a database of articles published that is very detailed. His list includes all articles relating to document examination found in many different Journals. He has updated it several times. This list is very helpful since it lists the authors of the articles and you can search for anything that an examiner has published.

Most of us are opposed in some of our court cases. Do you have the CV of an opposing expert? Or, do you have a particularly good deposition that could be helpful to another examiner opposing the same expert? I have established a database of mostly government-trained examiners and anyone can get copies of any file that I have.

Do you have a previous career that makes you a consultant in a particular area such as a nurse, engineer, or real estate agent? The possibilities are endless. I would be happy to maintain a list of member services with the current resource list.

Let me also add a word about payment. Services have a value and the cost is a pass-through to your clients. You need to negotiate the fees when you ask a member to assist you. By working together and sharing our resources we can enhance our business and provide better service to our clients.

Kathie

My Experiment With Photocopied Material

By Bill Koppenhaver

Recently I was asked if I could tell if all the material on a photocopied page was copied at one time or could some of the questioned material have been added later by running the questioned page through the copier a second time? I am sure you all know that multiple instances of paired trash marks (Fig. 1) is an indication of a second pass through with the same copier and at close to the same time.

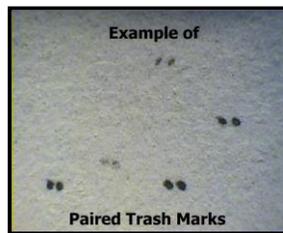


Fig 1

I checked the questioned document for multiple trash marks and they were not present. This fact however does not exclude the possibility that a different copier was used or the copier glass cleaned before the second pass through the copier was done.

The questioned document contained a vertical centerline that intersected with a hand printed letter “o” that was part of the original drawing. If I could demonstrate that one layer of the photocopy sat on top of the other it would indicate a later addition of the questioned material. If the density of the photocopy toner was consistent across the entire intersection that would prove that the intersection was there before the photocopy was created. I made examples of a “test intersection” done in one and two photocopier passes then photographed the results. Figure 2 is of an intersection done in a single photocopy pass. Figure 3 the intersection was created in two photocopier operations. Notice that the center of (Fig. 3) is slightly darker than the center of (Fig. 2). This is because the toner material on (Fig. 3) is a double layer due to the second copier pass.

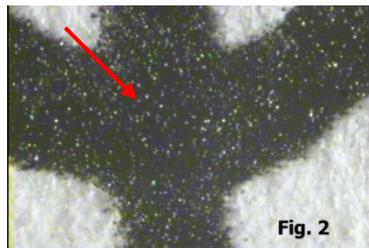


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

While I was convinced that I could definitely see a difference, I wasn't sure everyone else would be able to see this difference. So, I took photographs (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5). In these pictures I directed a strong light through one eyepiece of a stereoscopic microscope and photographed through the other eyepiece so that the path of the lighting was almost in the path of the camera lens creating a reflection by the shiny surface of the toner. Notice in (Fig. 5) the distinct square reflection created by the overlapping of the toner lines. This does not happen in (Fig. 4) where the lines were produced in a single copier pass. I am not sure if this technique could be used to determine the sequence of copied lines, but most likely the darker line would appear on top regardless of the order of the lines.

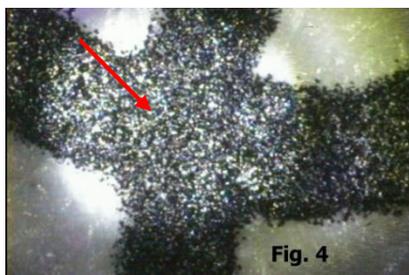


Fig. 4

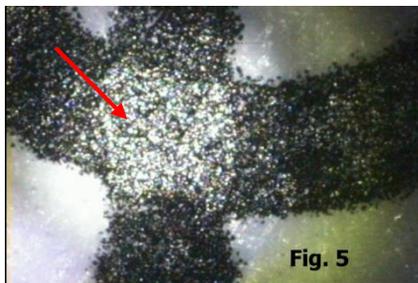


Fig. 5

BOARD MEMBERS

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The Book Shelf



Membership

2019 Information

(March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020)

Application Fee \$25.00

Dues \$100.00 Individual
(Annual – Prorated)

Lab \$100.00 First Individual
\$50.00 Additional Individuals

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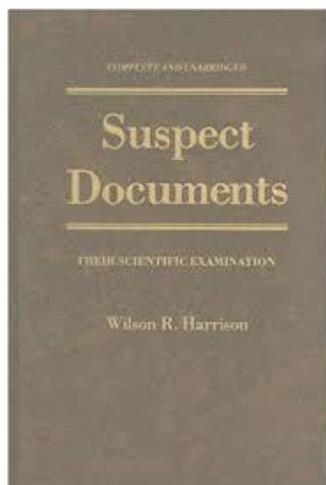
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Deadline for next issue

April 18, 2019



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. Kathy Carlson is Vice President, Beth Chrisman is Secretary, and William Smith is Treasurer.



SUSPECT DOCUMENTS

By Wilson Harrison

Reviewed by Katherine M. Koppenhaver

Suspect Documents, Their Scientific Examination, should be one of the first books purchased after Osborn's Questioned Documents by any document examiner who wants to build up a library of reference books. It is an excellent companion to Osborn's Questioned Documents.

Wilson Harrison was an English pioneer in the field of document examination. His book is based on 24 years of experience in dealing with 7,000 cases for the English government at the Forensic Lab in Cardiff of which he was director.

Suspect Documents was written in 1958 so that it is more up-to-date than Questioned Documents. His chapters include Dating Problems, Disguise, and The Care, Preservation and Cleaning of Documents as well as more traditional titles. The book contains 533 pages plus a glossary. The print is smaller than other books and there are fewer illustrations, making the text extensive.

This book is well-organized and detailed. Each chapter contains a bibliography of articles and books referenced. At the end of the last chapter is a suggested list of books for further reading which includes Albert Osborn's books. Most of the other books listed are English authors with whom I am not acquainted. The index is extensive and detailed.

Wilson Harrison introduces information not covered in Osborn. For example, he talks about adhesives used to bind books. He discusses odors that paper will absorb. He covers photo cryptography. He includes the restoration of faded and erased writing as well as the deciphering of charred documents. He spends much time discussing special techniques of photography.

English terminology differs from our American terms. For example, instead of class characteristics and individual characteristics, Harrison talks about style characteristics and personal characteristics. Spelling is different as well for such words as colour, odour, and cheque-writing machines.

Harrison emphasizes that initial letters should be compared with initial letters, medial with medial and terminal with terminal. He also compares different letter forms, for example similarities between "a" and "p" while most books emphasize that you can only compare like letters, "a" with "a," etc.

His chapter on The Care, Preservation and Cleaning of Documents contains important information on the proper handling and care of documents.

I recommend that you read Suspect Documents from cover to cover and use it as a reference whenever you write reports or prepare for court.

IS **FORGERY** WITHOUT RAMIFICATION?

By Brenda Petty

She stood in court in her own defense. Her demeanor and appearance seemed to say that she was smart, articulate, and professional. She had legal training which also added to the effect she produced in court. If left unchecked, her actions would financially destroy her ex-husband, both of his brothers, and sister-in-law. She had taken her and her ex-husband's signatures from documents already filed into court record, created a new document, and copied/pasted those signatures to the newly created document. She had finally been made to produce the 'original' for examination before the court date but had appeared that day in court without that 'original'. The forensic document examiner's report was thorough in explaining the examination of the 'original' document. It verified that the signatures, when compared to the filed court documents, were duplicates and therefore were copied/pasted. It also confirmed that there were no pressure marks on the paper and the ink did not change when it was examined with lighting, even though the signatures were in color. Before the court day was over as the evidence was clearly laid out, she actually threw an anger fit and when she saw that she was going to lose, she walked out of the court. The judge's response was an incredulous, "Did she leave the court?"

I have been part of many classes regarding all aspects of forensic document examination. I have been involved in many conversations regarding forensic document examination and forgery. What I have yet to hear, or yet to see, in a court room is a forger go to jail for the crime. After all, forgery is a crime. I know that some people do go to jail for forgery, but it is a rarity. In the court situation described above, I really thought there would, at some point, be a cry from the judge, "Arrest that woman." That cry never came.



Over and over, forensic document examiners appear in court because of forgery, but usually one side or the other wins and the perpetrator of the forgery goes without jail time. Their punishment is that they don't receive the financial benefits their forgery was to produce by attempting to take another's property, money, or inheritance.

I wonder, "Could forgery be close to the perfect crime?" Most of the time forgery presents no 'physical' harm to anyone. The harm it presents is in the intent of the forger who believes that they deserve everything and that those they are attempting to take from doesn't deserve anything. But, is forgery without ramification? The answer is no.

Some synonyms associated with ramification are: consequence, complication, result, difficulty, implication, and effect. When the synonyms are read, forensic document examiners (FDE's) know firsthand about the effects forgery brings. FDE's understand too well the difficulties, the implications, the consequences, the complications, and the results. FDE's understand the frustration, anger, and hurt their clients feel when they discover someone has intentionally made a decision to 'take' what belongs to others by fraudulent actions. FDE's also understand that the majority of those who commit forgery will not find themselves punished through the judicial system by jail time.

The ramifications of forgery are also seen in the many hours of court time that fraudulent ventures occupy even though most perpetrators don't go to jail. The time spent by people involved in fraudulent ventures inside and outside the courtroom continues to be amazing. The ramifications on individual lives as well as that of entire families continue to be ongoing and long lasting.

Perhaps this article is meant to be more of an encouragement to the forensic document examiner. Perhaps it is meant to be more of an illustration on how very valuable our service is to our clients who find themselves in the midst of a situation such as described above where they are watching the effect of greed in action.

The vocation to become a forensic document examiner is one of necessary need as long as signatures remain the primary way of executing and solidifying contracts, deeds, and Wills. Even though it has been said that it is a field on its way out, we have seen that year after year the vocation continues to be a viable need for people in trouble when it involves writing.

Continued on page 5

One of the most interesting vocations of this generation continues to be that of a forensic document examiner. It is never dull. It always involves full attention. The need for this type of work produced by document examiners whose examinations are solidly executed, hold up in court, and whose ethics cannot be swayed by the person who retains their services causes this field to remain valid and necessary. Let this article end with one final ramification: a forensic document examiner through great detective work and execution of skill doesn't allow a forger an avenue to get away with their elected craft of deception.

Q & A

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER:

Indented writing can be detected by using ESDA, short for Electrostatic Detection Apparatus, or by using side lighting.

What are some of the reasons that will cause a writer to stylize their handwriting?

Answer will be in the next issue.

If you would like to submit an answer, contact the editor. See page 3.

Tips and Tactics

“Do not change your professional opinion on the basis of a cross-examination. Your opinions should always arise from your data.”

~Stanley L. Brodsky, *Testifying in Court*, p. 29



Congratulations

Join me in congratulating our newest CQDE . . .

[Jeff Chadney from Texas!](#)

National Handwriting Day

Have you ever wondered why this holiday was established?

Click below to find out.

[National Handwriting Day](#)



Charlemagne

By Dr. Ray Berweger

On Christmas day 800 AD in the Basilica of Saint Peter's, Pope Leo III placed a crown on Charlemagne's head and declared that he was the new emperor of Rome; the Holy Roman Emperor. Of course, this offended many because there already was a Roman Emperor in Constantinople. Just one more stick that would break the camel's back and lead to the Great Schism of 1054 AD.

This article explores Charlemagne's effect on a rebirth of a renaissance (in this case known as the Carolingian Renaissance, there would be others). He was a talented and aggressive soldier who would conquer significant portions of modern day Europe. Charlemagne (Charles the Great) wasn't just a formidable warrior but he was also able to establish the centralization of his empire at his Palace of Aachen (present day Germany). He arranged for ambassadors, legal experts, scholars, and scribes to live in his Palace in an effort to ensure that all of his rulings and decisions would be delivered to his empire and so that those under his authority would get his messages in clear and concise language from the central government. This was predominantly a period of time in which reason and intellectual prowess was applied to the legal profession for the first time, in a realm that was not Roman. Significant attention to detail was applied to laws and precedents and all of these were codified and written down.

The Carolingian Renaissance was a time when all significant intellectual minds of Europe were brought together by Charlemagne so that art, letters, manuscripts etc., could be advanced, copied, and stored. This period of time has been called the Dark Ages. Literacy rates were low. But, during Charlemagne's reign we saw an attempt to ensure that Roman culture would continue.

Charlemagne wanted to cultivate a new form of handwriting and manuscript development that had not been seen in Europe before. In the study of "Paleography", the writings of the early middle ages and antiquity, we see the early writings which were old Roman cursive. These writings are almost impossible to decipher unless you have a lot of training. Because of the Carolingian Renaissance, we see printing, in simple uniform fonts that are straight forward in style. These fonts have uppercase, lowercase and uniform punctuation. In the ancient manuscripts all of the words are connected together, letters are all uppercase and there is no punctuation marking the ends of sentences and no spacing for paragraphs. With the Renaissance we got the Carolingian minuscule or lowercase letter. This had a dramatic effect on learning and education in the West. Handwriting matters, how the font reads matters; this all matters if you are learning to read and write for the first time. Another important thing that the Carolingian manuscript gave us is a new clarity for learning. Again, it has uppercase for titles, it has a combination of upper and lower case for subtitles; it tends to space the words out into distinct units and has punctuation to aid in presenting a clear and concise meaning.



This may be a bit of arcane knowledge but actually it greatly affected our world. As the Carolingian world faded away, a new form of script arose called "Gothic". But Gothic was a step backwards with very similar letter forms making reading very difficult. After the Gothic period ended and we entered the later renaissance, we saw that those scholars will find the Carolingian manuscripts, mistakenly thought to represent ancient Roman handwriting, to be considered classical writing. This is when the Carolingian script became the best way to write and it became the basis for renaissance typography. During that time the Gutenberg Press used this "type or style" for its attention to detail and legibility, font style and enabled printing in the vernacular. Charlemagne had a love for knowledge and education and wished that all people, rich or poor, would benefit, achieve, and learn.

Our love and study of handwriting has a long and tortuous history. Handwriting is our basis for education, communication, and the repository of our history. The Carolingian Renaissance and Charlemagne are star players in some of handwritings rich history.



CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PAGES



IADE ANNUAL CONFERENCE JAMAICA

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2019

Hilton Rose Hall Resort

Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa
P.O. Box 999 Montego Bay, Jamaica
+1 (876) 953-2650

[Registration Form](#)

Conference Fees listed below . . .

Early-early Bird \$250 Deadline May 31, 2019

Early Bird \$275 Deadline July 31, 2019

Regular Cost \$300 Begins August 1, 2019

Room Rates - \$268 Single, \$290 Double, Third Person \$99

(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