



Under the Microscope

Vol. 6, No. 1 Newsletter of IADE 2020

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Reviewed by Kathie Koppenhaver

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Webinar



HANDS-ON SEMINARS EDITORIAL

Document examiners trained in a laboratory have the advantage of working with laboratory equipment and certain procedures that require hands-on work such as identifying the pen used to make an entry on a document. Since none of us have had much experience in these areas, attendance at seminars provides that necessary training. If you want a successful career as a document examiner, you need to invest the time and the money attending seminars.

I realize that everyone cannot attend a seminar every year, but you should make an effort to participate in hands-on seminars. One of our members attending the 2017 Seminar in Denver came all the way from New Zealand to participate.

We already have weekly classes every Monday night and quarterly Zoom classes. But distance learning is no substitute for hands-on training that can only be accomplished by attending a seminar. In addition, the time spent with fellow examiners outside of the seminar classes is extremely valuable. We often learn as much from visiting with our colleagues and sharing information outside of the conference sessions as we do during the sessions.

For these reasons, I recommend that we offer an interactive seminar once a year. I know that we are not going to have an interactive seminar this year. It will be interesting to see how well we manage with a distance-only seminar.

Kathie

Katherine has recently completed her latest book *The Principles of Handwriting Identification*.



HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

Digital Microscopes By Bill Koppenhaver

Inexpensive digital video systems, some for as little as \$100, are now readily available. The purpose of these systems is to take a high-quality picture of an area one-inch square or smaller. These photographs are then used in your reports to demonstrate how you arrived at your opinion. I also want to give credit to Emily Will for initially developing this method and sharing it with Kathie and me.

I hope most of you are familiar with the Clover OC185 Digital Magnifier and the MiScope Digital Microscope as they both have been discussed previously. Below is a listing of other digital microscopes that are currently available. As I list them, I will try to explain some of the terms used in their listings.

Introducing Carson's new E-Pix MM-640, a powerful digital zoom microscope that displays the magnified image right on your computer screen with VGA resolution 640x480. The wide range of zoom magnification (26x - 130x) allows for a wide array of details of ordinary objects one would never have known existed.

After installing the Digital Microscope Driver software (included), simply attach the digital microscope to the USB port of your computer, the built-in internal illuminator ensures that the magnified images are clear and bright.



Capture an image by simply clicking the top shutter button. Use the base attachment to view prepared slides or remove the base and place the microscope on any surface to reveal its finest details. For Document work, the base would always be removed.

Included is a specimen base, 3 blank slides, one prepared specimen slide, eyedropper, forceps, USB cable and software.

E-Pix Model MM-640

VGA resolution 640 x 480 refers to the number of pixels (picture elements) in the camera chip. This is sometimes referred to as 300 K (thousand) chip. This is enough pixels to produce an 8" x 6" screen display at the normal 78 pixels per inch.

A USB (Universal Serial Bus) is designed to attach directly to all current computers directly without the need of special adapters. The included computer program allows you to view and store what is seen on the computer display.

A little more expensive microscope costing between \$200 and \$350 depending on Model also



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THE QDE INDEX

A Guide to Periodical Articles in English on Document Examination, Handwriting Expertise and Expert Testimony

Compiled and edited by Marcel B. Matley

Reviewed by Kathie Koppenhaver

Marcel Matley, a document examiner in San Francisco who has a Master's Degree in Library Science, has produced *The QDE Index*, covering articles published in scholarly journals over the past hundred years. He has catalogued over 3,600 articles with a Court Case Index, Author Index, and Subject and Key Word Index. The Table of Contents takes up 28 pages in the 2008 edition linked below.

The QDE Index represents many hours of labor on Marcel Matley's part. It is a tremendous undertaking. He has included valuable annotations to some of the entries. He will never be adequately compensated financially for all of the time that he has devoted to this publication. It is priceless.

With *the QDE Index* you can become familiar with the best research in the field of questioned documents. *The QDE Index* gives readers access to articles on every subject relating to handwriting. *The QDE Index* is a ready reference to over 4,000 entries from 450 Journals. Marcel has continued to add to his *QDE Index* so that there may be additional entries.

Want to know something about left-handed writers, adhesives, chromatography, lycopodium, sex and handwriting, or water-damaged documents? Look up the sources in *The QDE Index*. Entries range from Abnormal Handwriting to the Zodiac Killer.

Need court citations relating to any aspect of document examination? Look them up on the court citation section

Want to know what an opposing examiner has written? Look him or her up in *The QDE Index*, then locate the articles that he or she has written in the journals indicated. Your local library should be able to tell you where various journals can be found and they may even be able to get copies for you. Go to a law library for many of the journals.

The QDE Index enables you to look up other document examiners and the articles that they have written. This can be very useful when you are opposed by another document examiner. You

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Membership

2021 Information

(February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022)

Application Fee \$25.00

Dues \$100.00 Individual
(Annual – Prorated)

Lab \$100.00 First Individual
\$50.00 Additional Individuals

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT

DIANA J. MEARS, CFDE

Cell 410-241-2779

DianaJ.Mears@comcast.net

Newsletter

Send submissions to:

DIANA J. MEARS, Editor

Cell 410-241-2779

DianaJ.Mears@comcast.net

Deadline for next issue

October 18, 2021



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.

Q & A

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER:

A tittle means the smallest part and refers to the i-dot over the letter i.

THIS ISSUE'S QUESTION . . .

What is the only letter of the alphabet that does not appear on the periodic table?

Submitted by Dr. Raymond Berweger
Answer will be in the next issue.

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

See page 3.

Congratulations

TO OUR NEWEST QDE's

And

Diplomate

Brenda Anderson, QDE

Nathalie Bureau, QDE

Wendy Carlson, QDE

and

Brenda Petty-Rushing, QDE-D



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has a USB-2 plug so that it connects directly to a computer. The \$350 version comes bundled with measurement software.

Big Catch Eye-Piece 3.0MP USB 2.0
Item Code: BIGC-EM300M | Manufacturer Code

Compatible Windows 2000/XP Another version of a microscope camera works by using the objective lens of your stereo microscope as in the above example. Not quite as portable as the others but will give outstanding pictures.

Don't forget to register for our Sixth Annual Interactive IADE Seminar / Workshop 2020
See Page 7

Tips and Tactics

“In order to show that a hypothesis is evident, it does not suffice that all the phenomena follow from it, instead, if it leads to something contrary to a single one of the phenomena, that suffices to establish its falsity.” ~Blaise Pascal 1648

Submitted by Dr. Raymond Berweger who states, “Substitute hypothesis with signature and single one of the phenomena with fundamental difference and you get Kathie's mantra.”

Thanks for sharing with us Ray!

My First Questioned Document Examiner's Conference and Seminar

By: Jeff Chadney, CQDE



As I was new to the field of document examination having only been certified since January of 2019 I was excited to find out that the conference would be in Montego Bay, Jamaica. I thought hmm...All-Inclusive, in the Caribbean, Rum, great food and a little education. A chance to get a little sun, swim and vacation with my wife, from a long year at fighting crime in South East Texas. All expenses written off, as a business expense. (shhh....don't tell the IRS).

When the chance came to sign up I was on it, and got the approval from my boss (the wife) although she wasn't as excited as I was. Thoughts came into my mind, of what the other document examiners would be like, what knowledge about the business they have, and how they would react having a "government document examiner" in their midst.

I made my hotel reservations and my airline reservations, paying a little extra for Club Mobay so that my wife and I would be expedited through Jamaican Customs and Immigration. We enjoyed a Rum cocktail while waiting for our transportation (taxi cab) to the hotel.

It seemed the dates until the conference arrived took forever, and the weather in South East Texas was terribly hot and very, very wet. Record rainfall accumulation, hurricanes, humidity and several flooding events took our area by storm.

Finally, the day of departure arrived and we had to be at the airport by 4:30 AM. We were traveling one day early in order to arrive around noon so we could change into our swim suits and hit the beach and a nearby bar.

Since the airport is about 100 miles from our home, we opted to stay the night in a hotel near the airport, and get a good night's sleep, with just a quick shuttle to the airport. Things were going fine, got to the airport, through TSA (Body Probe Section) and at the gate waiting for the takeoff. We boarded the aircraft, took our seats, then it happened. . .

Several passengers received alerts on their cellular phones about a flight delay. I overheard several approach the flight attendants who advised that "luggage loading was causing a short delay." I leaned over to "my boss" and said, this might affect our connecting flight in Miami. I hope we don't have to run to the next terminal. That would have been bad for me because I was scheduled to have knee replacement surgery the following month, and haven't been able to run for years.

Our wonderful vacation dreams were quickly fading...into a "Chevy Chase Vacation", which is very common for my family vacations. Sure enough the "short delay for luggage" turned out to be a pilot that had not made the flight. Our flight was cancelled and we were off loaded very slowly in airline fashion.

We went immediately to the gate assistance and got booked on another flight to Miami, which would get us in with just enough time to board. Fortunately, my wife and I had packed light, with just carry-on bags.



We moved towards the new gate assignment and boarded the plane, having lost our first class seats that we had paid for. You see I was going “all-out” to show my wife a great vacation, including first class passage to Jamaica. She being the good sport, being married to a cop for thirty five years, she just smiled and took it in stride.

We flew to Miami, with just a little elbow room, and no alcohol. We got off the plane and hurriedly made it to our connecting flight to Jamaica, and once again gained our “first class seats and alcohol”. We arrived in Jamaica much happier and Club Mobay was a good experience. Talking with Beverly East (IADE Conference Coordinator) later, I could have saved the \$180.00 because she had made similar arrangements for the conference guests with her contacts in the Jamaican Government.

We arrived and checked into our room at the Hilton, accommodations were fine. We changed into our suits and it was about 2:30 PM, we headed to get a drink and walk the beach touring the hotel grounds. Then it happened, I spotted Kathie, her husband and Diana Mears (my mentor). Finally, I could put a name and voices with real faces.

I positioned my wife and me, to quickly intercept them as they were walking down by the pool bar. Not sure what they thought, but I was excited to meet them. As I think back, they probably figured that I had already indulged in too much Rum. I made a quick introduction and told them how glad I was to meet them and to be a Certified Document Examiner. They were gracious and kind, and told us about the “Meet and Greet” at 6:00 PM., for arriving IADE guests.

We got our bearings around the hotel, and did a quick reconnaissance of the evenings activities, and the next day’s seminar location. We went back to the room to unpack and ”freshen up” before the event.

At the “meet and greet” we met other document examiners that have been in the business for varied amounts of time. I asked as many questions as I could, trying to remember names and place them with faces. Overall, we had a wonderful time, no “stuffy people” and everyone seemed very genuine. We listened to some Karaoke, which I dare not participate in, and ended the evening saying goodnight to our new friends. We retired to the sound of the waves as my wife and I walked the beach. We were reminded how lucky we were to be together in such a beautiful place.

The next morning, I awoke and decided that I would not do my morning regime of physical training. My wife and I would eat a leisurely breakfast, Mimosa’s and some coffee. I went off to class and my wife went off to the beach for a day of sun and sampling all the island drinks.

I met several document examiners from the Jamaican Constabulary (fellow Cops) and made sure that I had something from my department to give to them for a souvenir. It so happened, that one of the speakers that afternoon knew the importance of the challenge coin and what it means to both give and receive one. So for me, that was the highlight of my first IADE Seminar in Jamaica.

The information passed at the classes was informative. I even managed to “sneak” out of class once or twice to visit my wife on the beach to make it “almost” a vacation. What I really gained though, was meeting fellow professionals who were forthright in advice and answered all my “new examiner questions” to enable me to succeed in this field of endeavor. I look forward to the next conference, with a promise to my wife that we would take a few more days of vacation on either side of the event.



should be able to search citations to articles available on-line or from libraries.

The original title of *The QDE Index* was *Witnessing to the Truth of Documents, Index to Periodical Articles in English on Document Examination, Handwriting Expertise and Expert Testimony*.

The QDE Index should be in every document examiner's reference library. It is the most important reference book on document examination written to date.

You can click here <https://archive.org/details/QdeIndex2008Edition/mode/2up> to access the *QDE Index* and download it.

Marcel Matley has given us another generous gift relating to “*Selected Handwriting Case Law Since Daubert*.” He has searched case law concerning decisions about challenges to handwriting. You can search “Selected Handwriting Case Law Since Daubert” on Google to view 28 excerpted pages of the book.



Sixth Annual Interactive IADE Seminar / Workshop 2020 September 21 through 23, 2020 Via Webinar

An intimate training experience for novice, student, or seasoned professionals.

Download the Registration Form (printable PDF). Complete the form and mail or scan and email (instructions for submitting the Registration Form are included on the form).



Register Now for 2020



This year's seminar training will include:

- Cases That Do Not Follow the Rules
- Rebuttal to Rhetoric
- Denial of Authorship of Signature or Handwriting
- Deciphering Between Elderly Handwriting and Motor Disorders
- Looking Past the Obvious: Case Study
- IR/UV Lighting and MiScope
- The Importance of Research
- Having a Professional and Successful Organization
- Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: How It Affects Our Reports