

# Under the Microscope

Vol. 7 No. 3 Newsletter of IADE Spring 2022

## CONTENTS

PAGE 2  
**THE BOOK SHELF**  
*Kathie Koppenhaver*

### BOARD MEMBERS

PAGE 3  
**Analyzing Digital Documents**  
*Kathy Carlson*

PAGE 6  
**2022 IADE CONFERENCE**

PAGE 7  
**How to Respond to Questioned Writing/Printing on Unusual Surfaces**  
*Mike Maran*



## Greetings & Happy Spring!



Dear IADE Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying their warmer weather. I know I am since I am not a fan of the cold.

I would like to take the time to welcome our newest members, Dr. Shabnam Preet Kaur from Canada and Kevin Hayes from Washington DC. We are glad you have joined us and look forward to getting to know you better.

As summertime approaches, we are in the stages of putting together our yearly conference, which will be conducted via our Webinar format. It was a great success last year, and I hope it will be just as successful this year. Most everybody enjoyed it and learned from it. I want to thank everyone who participated in the Survey Monkey for taking the survey to see how we as a Board can better serve you. We need feedback.

Also be prepared for this year's proficiency test. The test is mandatory for all members who have been members for over a year. If you are new to the organization within one year, this requirement is not expected, but you can certainly take it to see your own proficiency this year.

It is our goal at IADE to further our education and skills in the document examination field and want to encourage everyone in our organization to also. We as your Board welcome ideas and want to do our best to serve this organization and take it to new heights for better and effective tools in our individual practices. Please feel free to share your experiences and tools that you have learned along your journey as a document examiner.

Our next CE class will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Hope you will make time and join us for more learning.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

*Kathy Carlson*, CFDE, CQDE  
IADE President

# The Book Shelf

By Katherine M. Koppenhaver

Instead of a book review this issue I am going to give you my recommended reading list as 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 for 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.

**Have you discovered a book** that you found to be a helpful tool for the trade, and you would like to share it with us? Send your book review to Monique Rosser via email: [monique@amtpolitics.com](mailto:monique@amtpolitics.com). We would love to add it to our library!



## Membership

2022 Information  
(Jan 1, 2022 through Dec 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:

**Robert Farr**

[handwriting.robertfarr@gmail.com](mailto:handwriting.robertfarr@gmail.com)



The International Association of Document Examiners (IADE) was incorporated on January 7, 2015, in Maryland.

Kathie Koppenhaver is the resident agent of the organization. Kathy Carlson is the President, Beverley East is Vice President, Beth Chrisman is Secretary, and William Smith is Treasurer.

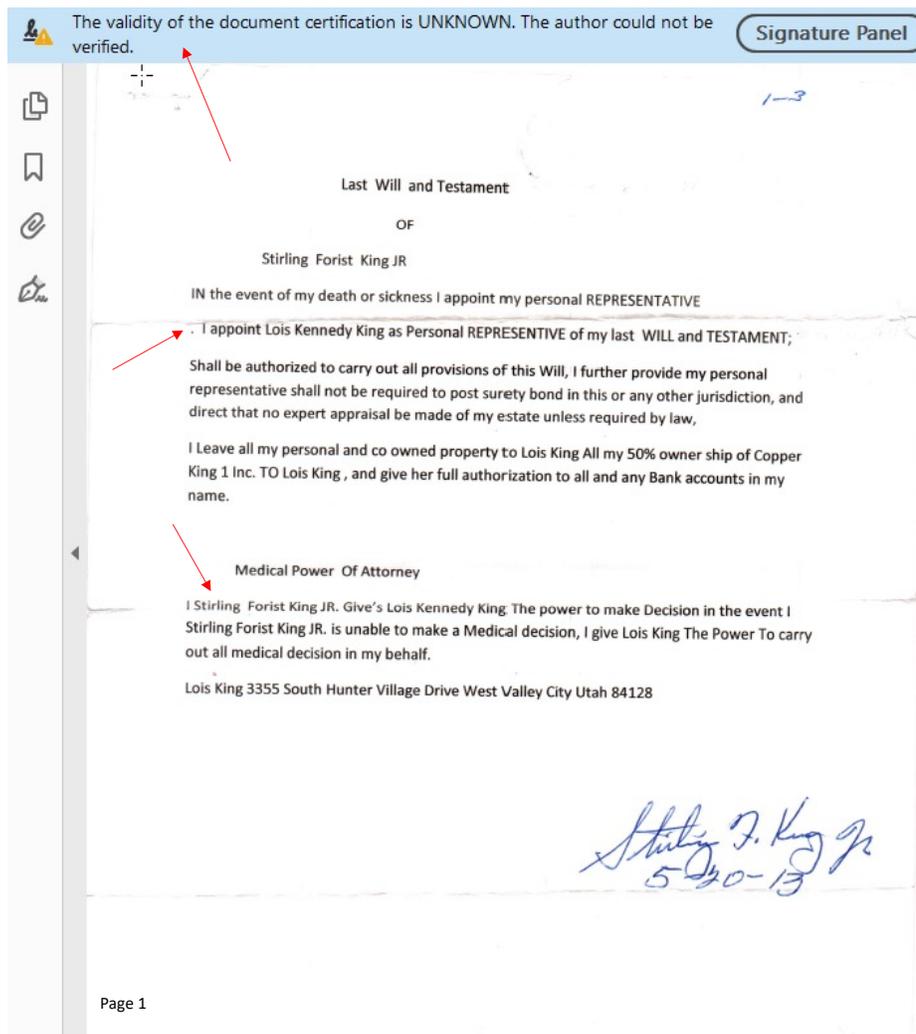
# Analyzing Digital Documents

By Kathy Carlson

I have had numerous cases where I wanted to learn more about the actual footprints of the document. Some areas I knew, as many of us already do, but I knew there was a way to learn more. This is the information I have compiled to show how us as document examiners can analyze a little deeper. These are the steps I took on this particular case which I knew for sure had been altered just by a naked eye. The case has been settled so permission has been granted to use it as a learning tool.

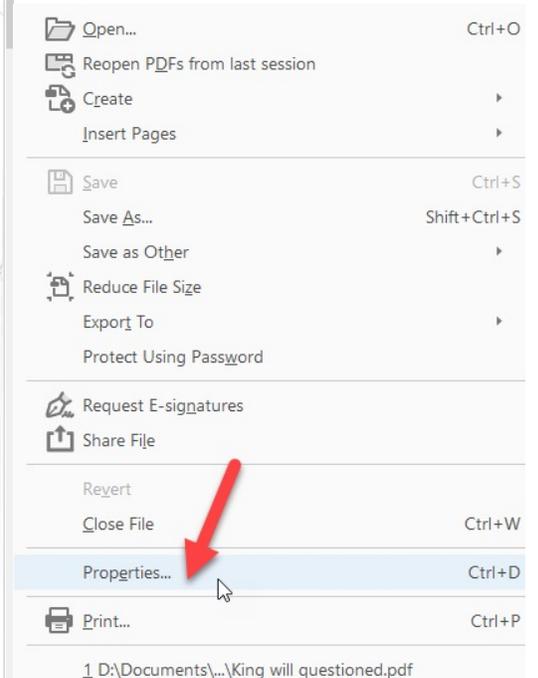
When I first received the case from my client, I knew the document had been altered very quickly. My first clue was at the top of the pdf document it read “The validity of the document is UNKNOWN. The author could not be verified.” I also saw how margins did not line up and fonts had been inserted in the first paragraph and in the fifth paragraph under Medical Power of Attorney. Not all pdf altered documents say this, or are so easily detected as altered, so I wanted to dig a little deeper.

My first step was to open the “**Properties Tab**” from the dropdown box under “File” at the top left corner of the document (shown on page 1 of the exhibits).



Indications were there that the document had been altered.

## Step 1. open Properties



(continued on page 4)

## Analyzing Digital Documents (continued from page 3)

Once Properties was opened under the “**Description Tab**” I saw the created date and modified date. Stirling King Jr. signed his name to a document on 5/20/2013.

The modified and created dates show 10/5/2021. So, we know it was taken into a program and at the very least was saved on 10/5/2021 at 10:13 AM. But the Modified Date shows being modified on 10/5/2021 at 9:32 AM. This tells me something could have been done to alter it at 9:32 AM and saved at 10:13 AM (shown on page 2 of the exhibits).

The image shows two screenshots from a PDF viewer. The left screenshot is the 'Document Properties' dialog box, with the 'Description' tab selected. It shows the following information:

- File: King will questioned
- Title: [Empty]
- Author: [Empty]
- Subject: [Empty]
- Keywords: [Empty]
- Created: 10/5/2021 10:13:31 AM
- Modified: 10/5/2021 9:32:50 AM
- Application: Canon
- Advanced section:
  - PDF Producer: ; modified using iText® 5.1.1 ©2000-2011 1TEXT BVBA
  - PDF Version: 1.3 (Acrobat 4.x)
  - Location: D:\Documents\Western forensic document examiner\Sky Fisher Kevin King Case\
  - File Size: 943.33 KB (965,969 Bytes)
  - Page Size: 8.50 x 11.00 in
  - Number of Pages: 3
  - Tagged PDF: No
  - Fast Web View: No

Red arrows point to the Author field, the Created and Modified dates, and the PDF Producer information.

The right screenshot shows the 'King will questioned.pdf' file properties dialog box, also with the 'Description' tab selected. It shows the following information:

- Document Title: [Empty]
- Author: [Empty]
- Author Title: [Empty]
- Description: [Empty]
- Description Writer: [Empty]
- Keywords: [Empty]
- Copyright Status: Unknown
- Copyright Notice: [Empty]
- Copyright Info URL: [Empty]
- Created: 10/5/2021 10:13:31 AM

A red arrow points to the Copyright Info URL field.

Text annotations on the right side of the image state: 'Document was signed 5/20/13 with Mr. Kings signature. Note Created and Modified Dates.' and 'Also notice the pdf producer.'

Page 2

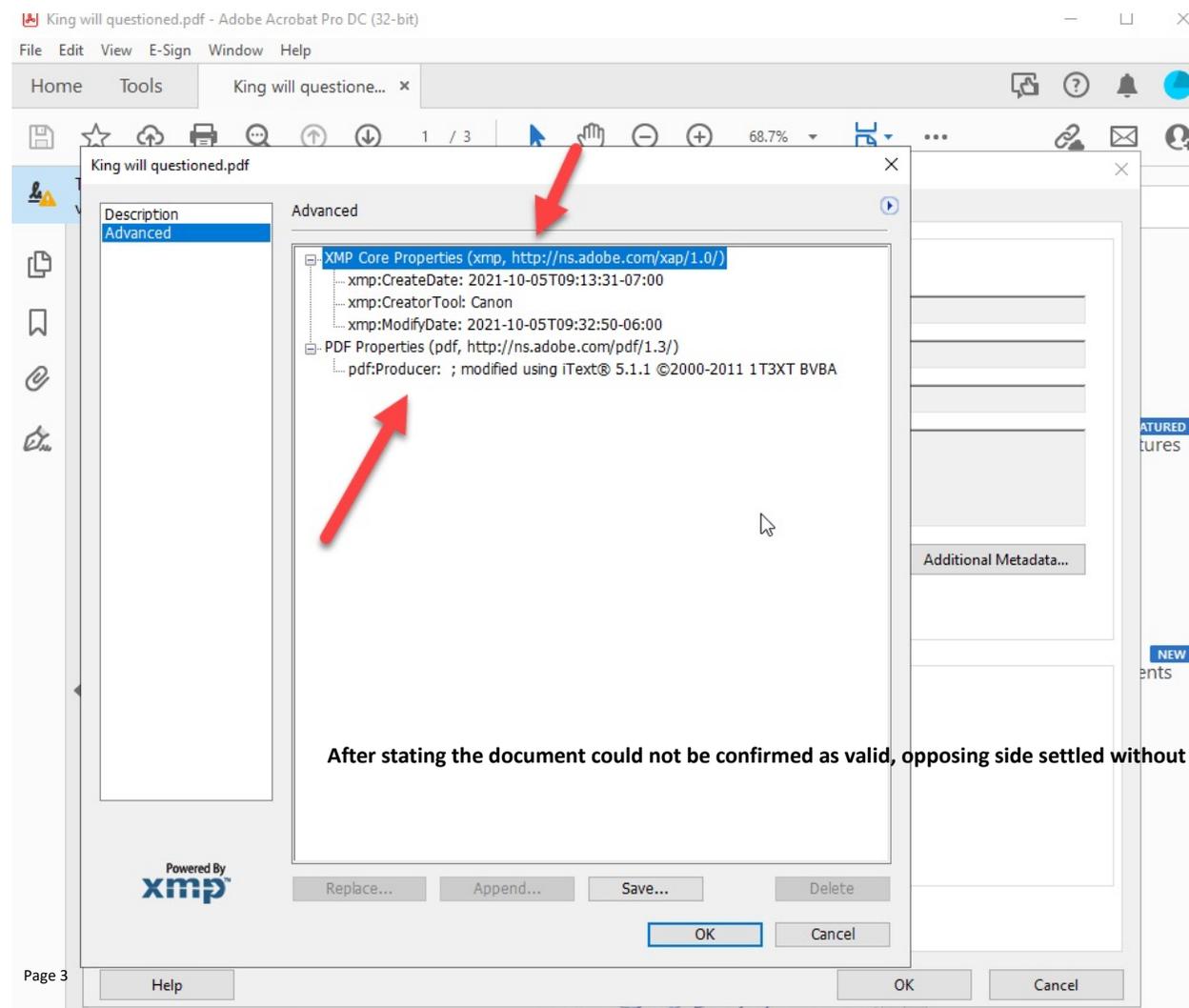
Also of interest is the pdf producer: in the “**Advanced Section**”. It says the document was modified using “iText”. I was not aware of “iText”, so I googled it and Wikipedia said: “iText is a library for creating and manipulating pdf files in Java and .NET.”

(continued on page 5)

My next step was to open the “Additional Metadata” to the right of the opened window, to see if I might be able to gain more information about this document. Once I opened the Additional Metadata tab and the Advanced tab (shown on page 3 of the exhibits), I found again the Created Date, Creator Tool was a “Canon”, and again I saw that the document was modified using “iText”.

Although I cannot identify everything that was done to this document, or how, I was able to show at the very least the document was altered to a certain extent. With the other evidence I was able to see with my own eye that certain fonts were smaller than others used in the original version of this document, with a high degree of certainty, I could not validate it as an authentic document.

I presented all my evidence in a report form to my client and the opposing side folded and they settled the case.



After stating the document could not be confirmed as valid, opposing side settled without hesitation.

# EIGHTH ANNUAL INTERACTIVE SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP WEBINAR – 2022



The dates are set for October 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be very similar to last year's as far as the schedule. We will have four hours per day, with 15-minute breaks in between speakers - except lunch - which will be 30 minutes. Hopefully in the near future we can go back to having live conferences. More details will be revealed later as the time draws closer.

Beth Chrisman is the Chairperson for this event. If you have any ideas as to speakers, or topics, please feel free to email her at [handwritingexpertcalifornia@yahoo.com](mailto:handwritingexpertcalifornia@yahoo.com). and give her some feedback. Also, if you would like to chair a seminar in the future, please contact *any* board member and let that be known. We welcome people from all over the US and other countries to participate, and chairpersons attend the conference free of charge!

## Q & A

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER:

**How can you detect indented writing?** By side lighting or the use of an ESDA.

THIS ISSUE'S QUESTION:

**What presented the first problem of authenticating electrically-transmitted messages?**

Answer will be in the next issue.

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Kathy Carlson**  
*President*

**Beverley East**  
*Vice President*

**Beth Chrisman**  
*Secretary*

**William Smith**  
*Treasurer*

**Jeff Chadney**  
*By-Laws*

**Beth Chrisman**  
*Certification*

**Kathie Koppenhaver**  
*Ethics*

**Kathie Koppenhaver**  
*Journal*

**Monique Rosser**  
*Newsletter*

**Robert Farr**  
*Membership & Renewals*

**Bill Smith**  
*Webmaster*

## Join Us on Facebook

To join, click the link below or copy & paste it to your browser. Once you join you will be able to invite other IADE members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4960906200608>

# HOW TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONED WRITING / PRINTING ON UNUSUAL SURFACES

By Mike Maran, New-Zealand

Over the period of my time being a Document Examiner I get some unusual requests to examine questioned writing or printing on abnormal surfaces. I have selected 4 different types of writing surfaces that I have I would like to share with you. My article is part case history and partly experience in analyzing malicious words on uncommon surfaces.

The majority of my cases involve examining a questioned signature or handwriting on documents, notes, letters on both original, photocopy or scanned copies on paper that is manufactured in different weights, sizes and colours according to the numerous categories of documents that is intended for.

But how as a Document Examiner are you going to respond to requests of identifying or eliminating authors on writing surfaces other than paper.

The majority of questioned printing or writing is malicious and offensive and often involves matrimonial and employment disputes. Mostly it is someone who wants to get their point of view, dislike or comeuppance to another person or organization. It also can be a way of expressing their resentment against another person or organization by venting their anger in the form of offensive words.

In cases like these, the first thing any perpetrator wants to do is remain anonymous. So, I have to consider that if the malicious writing or printing is on an abnormal surface, that it is a certainty that the writing / printing will be disguised.

I also have to consider that writing malicious words on unusual surfaces will involve a different writing position, using an irregular writing instrument and the way in which the instrument is gripped will affect the writers normal writing traits and habits, as opposed to normal pen and paper, chair and desk. I also have to consider the emotional state of the writer at time could also affect the writing characteristics.

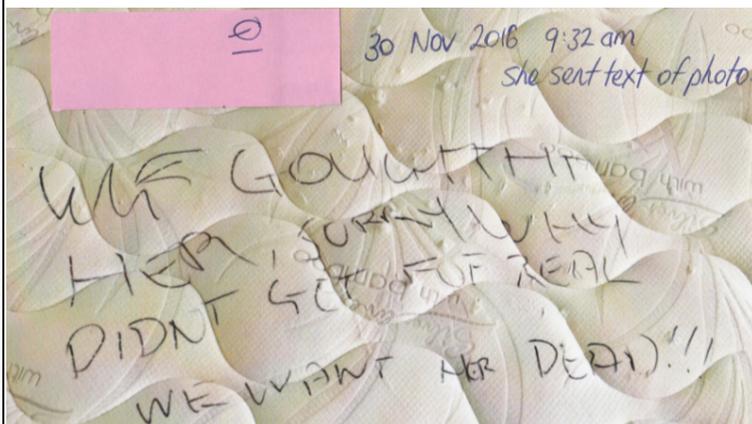
If you decide to take on a case, there will a number of challenges. The very nature of the writing surface means that in most cases there will not be similar exemplars that can be used for comparison purposes. The exemplars supplied would most likely be improper allographs for comparison standards. Your client may provide you with specimen exemplars on paper from whom they speculate could be the suspect.

*(continued on page 8)*



(continued from page 8)

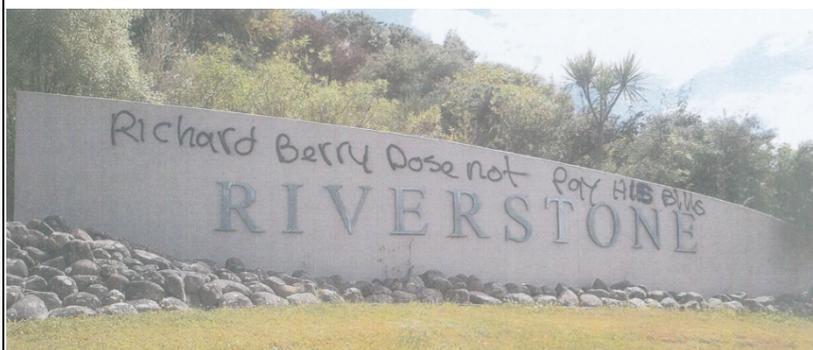
### Case 3



Another matrimonial case. Printed with a marker pen onto a mattress. Exemplars supplied were various other documents with the suspect partners writing. As the surface was uneven that may have distorted some of the printing traits. The traits I compared were constructional features, word and letter spacing. Punctuation marks and other inconspicuous traits. As it was impossible to personally examine the

mattress and there were too many other limitations. My opinion; some indications, but mainly inconclusive authorship.

### Case 4



Wording printed with a spray paint can on a concrete wall. Exemplars supplied were similar 'graffiti' on other surfaces by the likely author. Paper exemplars included a Real Estate form and Trust letter. These were not entirely compatible allographs with the questioned sentence. Some of the traits analyzed

included misplaced capitals, t bars, hooks, sudden cross outs. I included some limitations and noted some similarities, so I came to the opinion that it was probable it was the same author.

### Summary

When taking on unusual cases with writing / printing on abnormal writing surfaces, take a cautious approach. The very nature of malicious writing is usually disguised and authored on to alternative surfaces for immediate visible impact. The very nature of these surfaces means there will not be suitable exemplars. These limitations should be included in your opinion. My suggestion is to opine inconclusive or probable.



Thank you to Kathy Carlson and Mike Maran for contributing these super interesting articles!

Thank you, Kathie and Kathy for your guidance and for allowing me to be of service. It's an honor and a privilege.

## Newsletter

**MONIQUE ROSSER, Editor**  
Cell: 702-860-5031

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, please send it to:

[monique@amtpolitics.com](mailto:monique@amtpolitics.com)

Deadline for next issue:

July 15, 2022

## The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual IADE Conference - 2022 Webinar



# October 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>

*More information coming soon!*

