

Under the Microscope

Vol. 11 No. 3 Newsletter of IADE

Summer 2026

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FOR THE WEBINAR!



IADE
International Association
of Document Examiners

It's Almost Here!

**2026 IADE 12th Annual Interactive Seminar and
Workshop Webinar** is just days away!

AUGUST 3rd 4th & 5th

If you have not registered, sign up on the IADE website NOW so all your information gets to the right people, to make sure you receive your invitation in a timely manner. Val Weil will be handling our technical support, and she will need your emails to get the information sent out.

Once the conference/webinar starts it is challenging to get people in, so please sign in at least 15 minutes early to make sure there aren't any complications. The chat will be open 45 minutes early each day.

We have worked very hard to present you with cutting edge speakers and content. Here's a sneak peek at the lineup:



Dr. Linthini Gannetion

Dr. Linthini Gannetion is currently the Managing Director and Forensic Document Examiner at SD Forensic Document Services, Malaysia's first woman-led private laboratory equipped with a Video Spectral Comparator. She holds a PhD in Forensic Document Examination from Universiti Sains Malaysia.



Foster Freeman

Document Examination on the go: VSC® NOMAX

**Nathan Cole,
Representative**



Katherine M. Koppenhaver

Katherine M. Koppenhaver - is a Certified Questioned Document Examiner and Diplomate with an international clientele having worked for over 40 years as a document examiner. She is currently working on cases from Jamaica and Trinidad. She has published numerous books and articles regarding document examination. She is working on an encyclopedia regarding document examination _____



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August Meyer



Matthew Swan, MD, FAAN,
**Associate
Professor of
Neurology**



Johnson
**Co-founder of
Paradigm, Inc.
and
Integrated
Government
Solutions
(IGS)**



Brian Gormley
**Attorney at
Law
Specialized
Legal
Perspectives
in Forensic
and Estate
Litigation**

August Meyer - earned associate's degrees in Criminal Justice and Intelligence Operations and a bachelor's in Psychology. Meyer has been a qualified examiner since 2014 and is based out of St. Louis, Missouri.

Celeste Makoff - works at the intersection of technology and law, specializing in digital forensics, e-discovery, and document authentication. As a Forensic Deep Metadata specialist, she analyzes complex digital records, recovers hidden information, and presents findings that withstand legal and investigative scrutiny. Her work traces the "life story" of a document—revealing how, when, and by whom it was created, modified, or transmitted. This includes examining metadata, version histories, embedded material, and underlying database structures that remain invisible in standard review. Her forensic practice emphasizes clarity, reproducibility, and methodological rigor, transforming obscure digital traces into reliable, actionable evidence.

s. Makoff has developed specialized tools for forensic analysis of documents across dozens of file pes, with an emphasis in PDFs—the most commonly manipulated digital document format. Her oprietary technology analyzes thousands of pages for subtle digital manipulation, and she currently ovides advanced digital document analysis services to Questioned Document Examiners. She aduated from New York University with highest honors, ranking in the top one percent of her class. She so serves as a private coach for practitioners in deep metadata analysis and Python and machine arning-assisted document forensics.

Matthew Swan, MD, FAAN - is an Associate Professor of Neurology at the Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai, in the division of movement disorders. He specializes in the treatment of neurological conditions causing impaired coordination and motor control, including Parkinson disease, tremor, dystonia, and cerebellar ataxia. He has extensive roles in medical education, serving as the course director of the medical school's neurology clerkship, a required clinical neurology course for all medical students. He is a core faculty member in the Mount Sinai West neurology residency, and associate program director in the movement disorders fellowship. In addition, he is actively involved in clinical trials, serving as site principal investigator for numerous trials in Parkinson disease, essential tremor, and dystonia. He has spoken in numerous regional, national and international venues, including the American Academy of Neurology and the International Association of Parkinsonism and Related Disorders.

Peter A. Johnson - is co-founder of Paradigm, Inc. and Integrated Government Solutions (IGS). He has a 35-year career devoted to pioneering secure credentialing, records management, and modernization of academic and government services. A University of Virginia graduate in Language and Literature, he holds four patents and has built a reputation for combining operational insight, innovation, and careful observation to solve complex real-world problems.

Through Paradigm, he helped modernize the way academic institutions issue and manage credentials - expanding from traditional printed diplomas and certificates into secure digital credentials, automated transcript services, and apostille processing. Through Integrated Government Solutions, he has focused on improving public-sector efficiency through secure, scalable digital platforms for credentialing, records, and government transactions.

Across more than three decades in business, Johnson has participated in, observed, or sat through well over one hundred depositions and related legal proceedings, giving him unusual practical exposure to how evidence, testimony, and decision-making function in contested matters. In his current COO-Emeritus chapter, he has turned that experience toward the study of forensic document examination, which he expects to complete this year. He also has extensive training in interviewing and interrogation, forensic statement analysis, and deception detection, and plans to begin a master's program in forensic linguistics in 2027. His work reflects a strong interest in jury strategy, human behavior, and the practical courtroom use of forensic evidence.

Brian Gormley - has a dynamic transactional practice with tremendous experience representing clients at all parts of the continuum. Having worked with large institutions in the structured finance and capital markets world, developers, nonprofits and lenders in the multifamily housing market, and individual distressed homeowners and estates, he is familiar with all levels of clients and their associated needs. He has extensive real estate experience, representing clients in multifamily housing transactions, DC TOPA cases (Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act), foreclosure defense and short sales, and as a title attorney and a real estate broker. He also has an active probate and estate planning practice, and is always looking to push the envelope to develop creative and innovative solutions to client's unique and ever-changing needs. He has worked on and closed transactions totaling literally billions of dollars. He also has developed a unique niche of estate litigation, protecting heirs who have not received their inheritance as a result of improper decisions of fiduciaries and others. Caveating wills and challenging trusts as a result of forgery, incapacity and even outright theft are hallmarks of this practice area, frequently with millions of dollars on the line. That said, no client is too small. He enjoys taking the time to listen to individual concerns, and structure deals or negotiations accordingly. Attention to detail is a hallmark of a competent attorney, but the ability to transition to bigger picture analysis and generate solutions to practical constraints is what sets him apart.



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome new members

WELCOME!

MOHAMED ELKAMMAH FROM
THE U.K.
&
VINOTHINI ALAGAN FROM
MALAYSIA

2026 Membership Information (Mar 1, 2026 through Feb 28, 2027)

Application Fee \$25.00

Dues \$100.00 Individual
(Annual, Pro-rated)

Lab \$100.00 First Individual
\$50.00 Additional Individuals

FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eileen Page
Eileen.Page@comcast.net
for New Memberships

or

Robert Farr
handwriting.robertfarr@gmail.com
for Renewals

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FOR THE WEBINAR!



SCHEDULE - DAY 1

Dates of Seminar: August 3rd, 4th, and 5th

Location of Seminar: Zoom

Seminar Manager: Kathy Carlson 970-275-6846
Co-Manager: Bill Smith/Beverley East
Seminar Tech Support: Val Weil: 412-508-9936

Monday, August 3rd

Breakout Room 1		
PDT: 8:15am – 8:50am MDT: 9:15am – 9:50am CDT: 10:15am – 10:50am EDT: 11:15am – 11:50am EEST: 6:15pm – 6:50pm	Hello & Good Morning General chit chat with fellow examiners. No moderator.	
TIME	TITLE	SPEAKER(S)
PDT: 9am - 10am MDT: 10am - 11am CDT: 11am - 12pm EDT: 12pm - 1pm EEST: 7pm - 8pm	Case work from Malaysia using VSC 1 Hr Short stretch in between speakers	Dr. Linthini Gannetion
PDT: 10am - 11am MDT: 11am - 12pm CDT: 12pm - 1pm EDT: 1pm - 2pm EEST: 8pm - 9pm	Presentation on new Handheld VSC – Nomax Q & A 1 Hr	Foster Freeman – Nathan Cole
30 MINUTE BREAK		
PDT: 11:30am - 12:00PM MDT: 12:30pm – 1:00pm CDT: 1:30am – 2:00pm EDT: 2:30pm – 3:00pm EEST: 9:30pm – 10:00pm	Creating IADE's Encyclopedia 30 Minutes Short stretch in between speakers	Kathie Koppenhaver
PDT: 12:00pm – 1:30pm MDT: 1:00pm – 2:30pm CDT: 2:00pm – 3:30pm EDT: 3:00pm – 4:30pm EEST: 10:00pm – 11:30pm	Exhibit Preparation using Paint Q & A 1.5	August Meyer

Seminar Schedule – Day 2

Tuesday, August 4th

Breakout Room 1		
PDT: 8:15am – 8:50am MDT: 9:15am – 9:50am CDT: 10:15am – 10:50am EDT: 11:15am – 11:50am EEST: 6:15pm – 6:50pm	Hello & Good Morning General chit chat with fellow examiners. No moderator.	
TIME	TITLE	SPEAKER(S)
PDT: 9am - 10am MDT: 10am - 11am CDT: 11am - 12pm EDT: 12pm - 1pm EEST: 7pm - 8pm	IADE in a Digital World – Deep Metadata 1 Hr Short stretch	Celeste Makoff
PDT: 10am - 11am MDT: 11am - 12pm CDT: 12pm - 1pm EDT: 1pm - 2pm EEST: 8pm - 9pm	IADE in a Digital World (continued) - Q & A 1 Hr	Celeste Makoff
30 MINUTE BREAK		
PDT: 11:30am - 1:30pm MDT: 12:30pm - 2:30pm CDT: 1:30am - 3:30pm EDT: 2:30pm - 4:30pm EEST: 9:30pm - 10:30pm	Detecting Fraudulent Signatures with AI 1 Hr Short stretch	Celeste Makoff
PDT: 12:30pm – 1:30pm MDT: 1:30pm – 2:30pm CDT: 2:30pm – 3:30pm EDT: 3:30pm – 4:30pm EEST: 10:30pm – 11:30pm	Detecting Fraudulent Signatures with AI (continued) Q & A - 1Hr	Celeste Makoff

Seminar Schedule – Day 3

Wednesday, August 5th

Breakout Room 1		
PDT: 8:15am – 8:50am MDT: 9:15am – 9:50am CDT: 10:15am – 10:50am EDT: 11:15am – 11:50am EEST: 6:15pm – 6:50pm	Hello & Good Morning General chit chat with fellow examiners. No moderator.	
TIME	TITLE	SPEAKER(S)
PDT: 9am - 10am MDT: 10am - 11am CDT: 11am - 12pm EDT: 12pm - 1pm EEST: 7pm - 8pm	Parkinson's Disease and Tremor 1 Hr Short stretch in between speakers	Dr. Matthew Swan MD, FAAN
PDT: 10am - 11am MDT: 11am - 12pm CDT: 12pm - 1pm EDT: 1pm - 2pm EEST: 8pm - 9pm	Jury Selection for DE Cases 1 Hr	Peter Johnson
30 MINUTE BREAK		
PDT: 11:30am - 12:30pm MDT: 12:30pm - 1:30pm CDT: 1:30am - 2:30pm EDT: 2:30pm - 3:30pm EEST: 9:30pm - 10:30pm	Mock Trials – Nathalie Bureau - Q & A 1 Hr Short stretch in between speakers	Brian Gormley
PDT: 12:30pm – 1:30pm MDT: 1:30pm – 2:30pm CDT: 2:30pm – 3:30pm EDT: 3:30pm – 4:30pm EEST: 10:30pm – 11:30pm	Mock Trials – August Meyer - Q & A 1 Hr Short stretch in between speakers	Brian Gormley
Approximately 30 - 45 minutes		
Annual General Membership Meeting		

It's
coming...

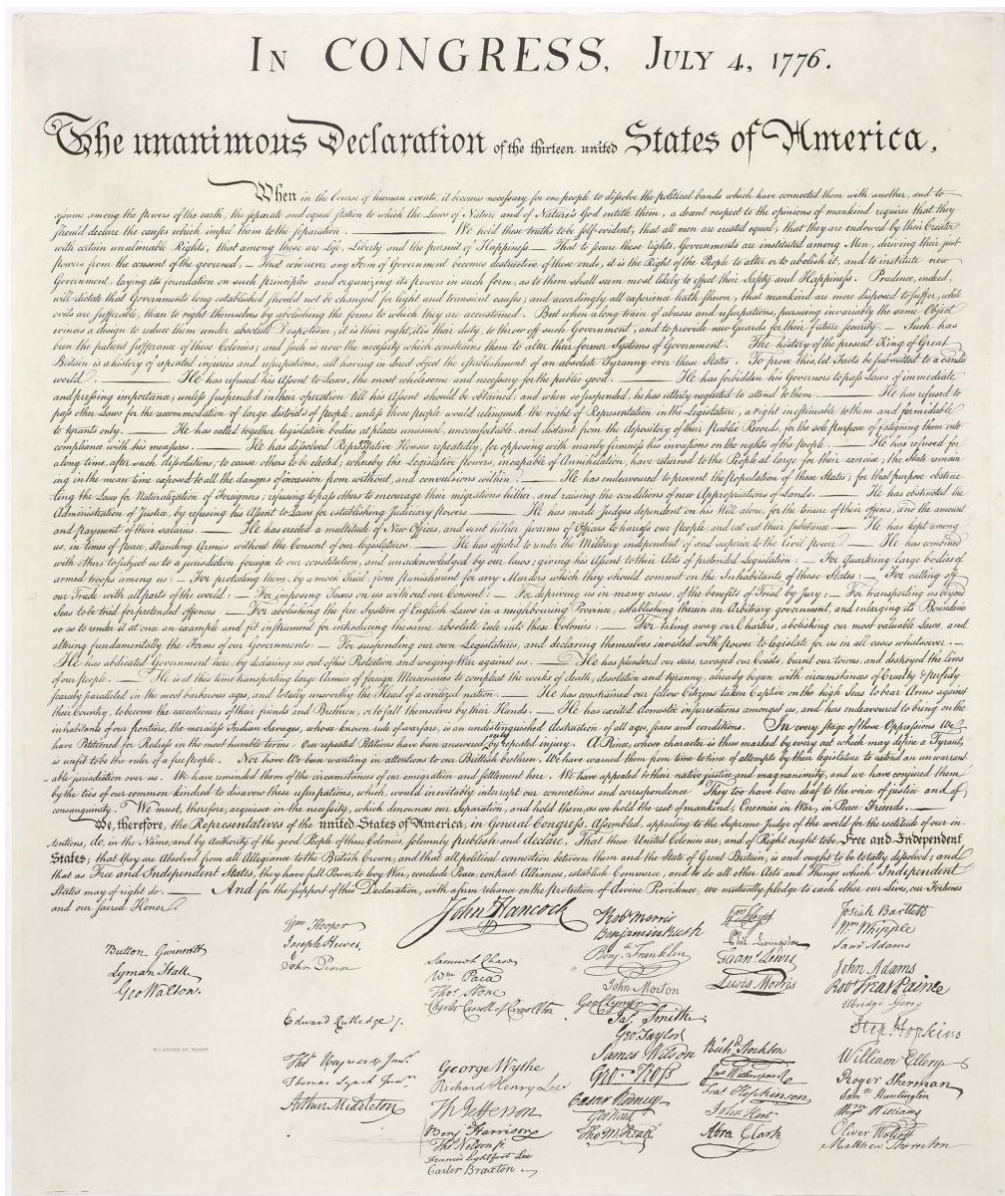
NEXT
WEEK!

zoom

The Declaration of Independence and the Hand of Time

Fall 2016, Vol. 48, No. 3 (Part I of II)

By Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler and Catherine Nicholson



The Stone facsimile engraving of the text and signatures shows how the Declaration appeared in the early 1800s.

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Every year, more than a million visitors come to the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, to see the Declaration of Independence. Sometimes you can see them in the Rotunda, patiently waiting for a good position in front of the encasement containing the Declaration. They bend low over the glass to try to make out the faint script and identify the names of the signers.

Continued on Page 5



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The Declaration continues to instill a sense of awe. But the physical document itself has suffered greatly over the years. Its legibility is greatly diminished, and the document today is much different in appearance from when it was penned in 1776. Compared to the legibility of the U.S. Constitution (1787) and Bill of Rights (1791), which are only slightly more recent, the differences are startling.

So what happened to this revered document?

There is little written evidence of what may have happened—or when—to alter the document. However, by piecing together the history and travels of the Declaration, and by examining key photographs, we can answer some questions about how the document got to its current state.

Creating the Physical Document After Declaring Independence

On July 19, 1776, the Continental Congress ordered the Declaration of Independence to be engrossed—or written out in a large legible hand. Timothy Matlack, a clerk in the Pennsylvania State House, was the scribe charged with this task. Matlack's work included laying out the text on the parchment, determining the margins and space between lines, and calculating the space that would be needed at the bottom of the document for signatures.

Between July 19 and August 2 (when delegates began to sign the document), Matlack wrote out the text on a large sheet of parchment. He selected the best skin that was available, prepared his quill pens, and made sure he had a sufficient supply of ink.

Matlack penned a new title that is visually distinctive, with large letters and flourishes: "The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America." Under this title, the lines of text take up almost the entire width of the parchment.

Though not a perfect rectangle, the parchment is close at about 29½ by 24 inches. It was slightly larger in Matlack's day, as evidenced by variation in clean and dirty edges, especially along the top edge of the skin. Extremely grimy edges, resulting from years of handling the bare parchment, are original and reflect the full dimension of the document, while cleaner edges are evidence of trimming at some time in the past. Why would edges have been trimmed? The possibilities include the desire to tidy an uneven edge, the need to remove a jagged bit of parchment that could catch on something and tear, or the wish to straighten an edge before mounting the document for exhibit.

Continued on Page 6...

Q & A

Last issue's question: What is metamorphism?

As it relates to document examination, Two objects look like the exact same color under one light source (like a store lamp) but look different under another light source (like outdoor sunlight).

This issue's Question:

Q: What is the rarest signature on the Declaration of Independence?

Submit your answer to monique@amtpolitics.com

Answer will be in the next issue

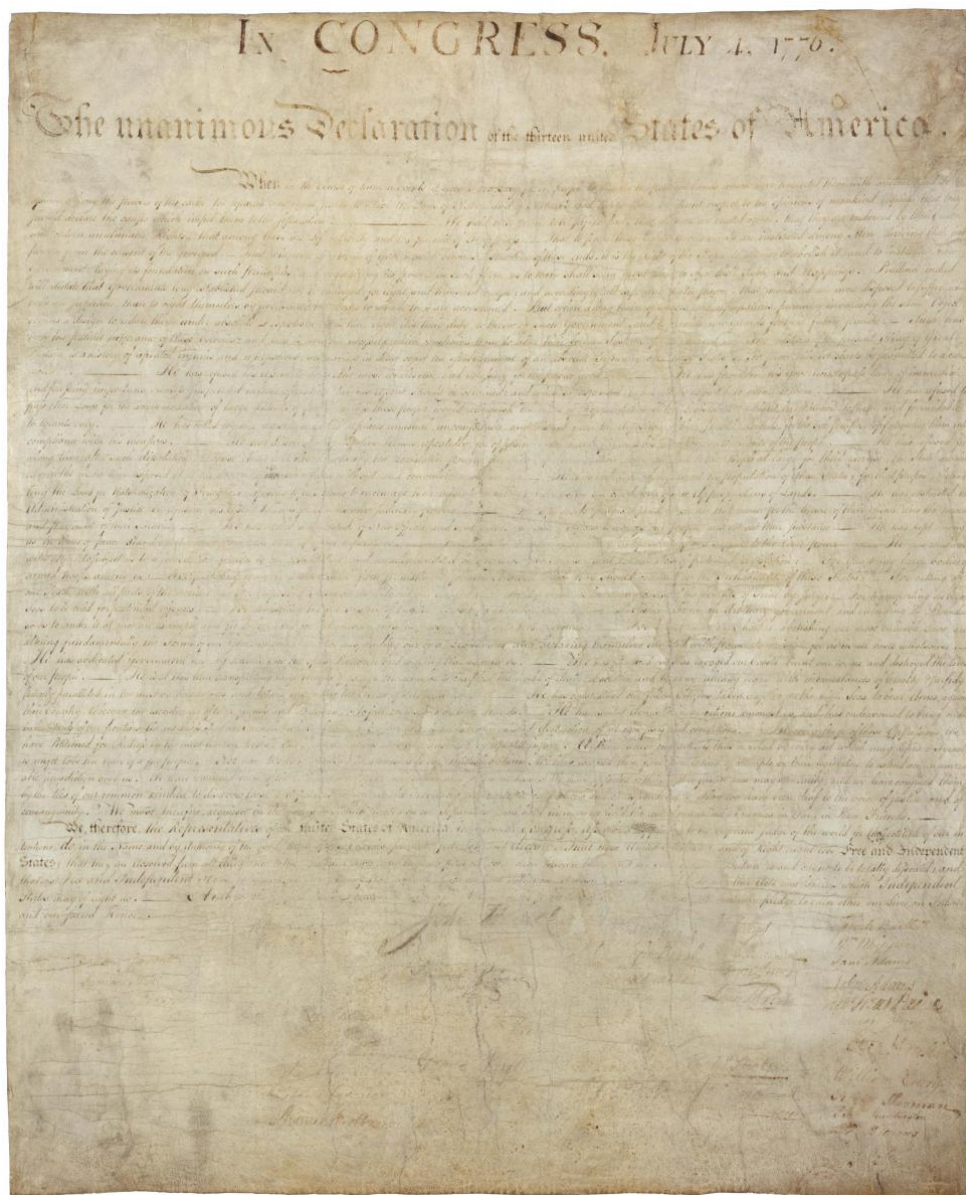
Have you discovered a book or tool that you found to be helpful for the trade and would like to share it with us? Send your book or equipment review to Monique Rosser via email: monique@amtpolitics.com. We would love to add it to the newsletter – and to our library!

2026 IADE 12th Annual Interactive Seminar and Workshop Webinar August 3,4,5

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Iron Gall Ink,
Nice Straight Lines

The Declaration as it appears today tells a compelling story of its history through physical clues on the parchment and ink.

Iron gall ink, the kind typically used in Matlack's day, included tannic acid (from oak galls), iron (from nails or iron scraps), a binder (often gum arabic), and sometimes a colorant. Light in color when it was applied, the ink darkened as it oxidized to an intense purplish black. Over time, iron gall inks age to a warm brown. Matlack's lines of text are quite straight. Scribes often made pin pricks in the margins and drew rule lines across the sheet to guide the pen. There is no evidence today in the text of either pin pricks or rule lines. Of course, lightly applied rule lines could have disappeared as a result of handling and abrasion.

Continued on Page 7...

**Just Days
Away...**

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... Continued From Page 6

The signature area, however, has vertical rule lines that served to align signatures in columns. These light grey rules lines are faint. But if you look very closely—to the left of columns one through four and to the left of column six, you can see them.

Relatively little original ink remains today on the Declaration. Many factors contributed to this loss. In areas of heavy ink application, for example in the title and in some signatures, ink flaked off as a result of repeated rolling and folding of the document.

A decrease in the intensity—and thus the legibility—of the ink can also be attributed to prolonged exposure to light during exhibition, which resulted in some fading. In addition, moisture applied to the document during wet-transfer copying processes would have removed some amount of ink. The text that we see today is changed in appearance as a result of these collective actions.

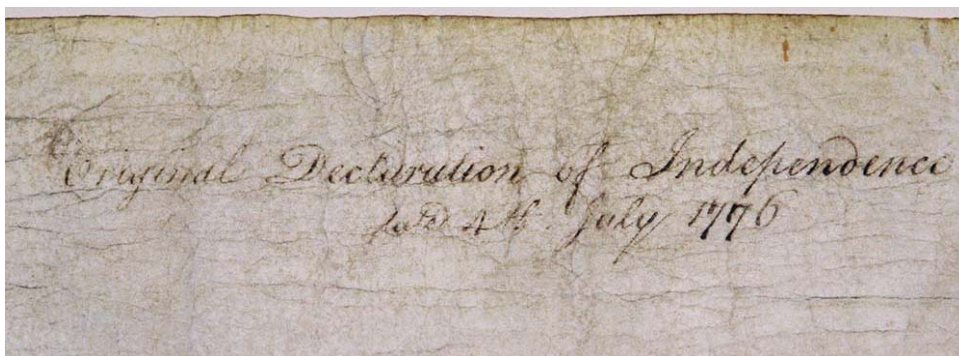
Early Travels with Congress

Rough on the Declaration

The Declaration traveled with the Continental Congress as it moved by land and by water during the Revolutionary War. In 1789, under the custody of the new Department of State, it continued to travel as the capital moved.

The single sheet of parchment could have been rolled for transport or, just as likely, folded to fit into a saddle bag or a wooden chest. The primitive conditions of packing and transport under which it traveled with other documents were perilous and exposed the parchment to radical changes in temperature and relative humidity.

These changes left their mark. Evidence of previous folding and rolling is still visible on the Declaration: two primary vertical fold lines run from top to bottom, and there are numerous horizontal fold lines especially in the lower part of the document. Small creases or crimps overall on the parchment resulted from rolling the document into a tight diameter, and some creases would have resulted from the parchment being crushed or flattened while rolled. The Declaration was rolled starting at the top edge, toward the text. This would protect the text from the elements and handling, leaving the blank skin as the outer layer. An inscription written near the bottom of the back of the parchment that read “Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776” acted as an identifying label.



This 2003 photograph of the reverse of the Declaration shows the identifying inscription written at the bottom edge so it could be read without unrolling the parchment. The many horizontal creases and horizontal and vertical fold lines are clearly visible, as is the engrained dirt, especially along the edge. (National Archives)

Reproducing the Declaration

So All Could See It

At the end of the War of 1812, very few people had actually seen the Declaration. The idea of creating printed images of the Declaration was in the air.

Penman and calligraphy teacher Benjamin Owen Tyler created an embellished calligraphic text of the Declaration and had it engraved by Peter Maverick, with facsimiles of all the signatures below.

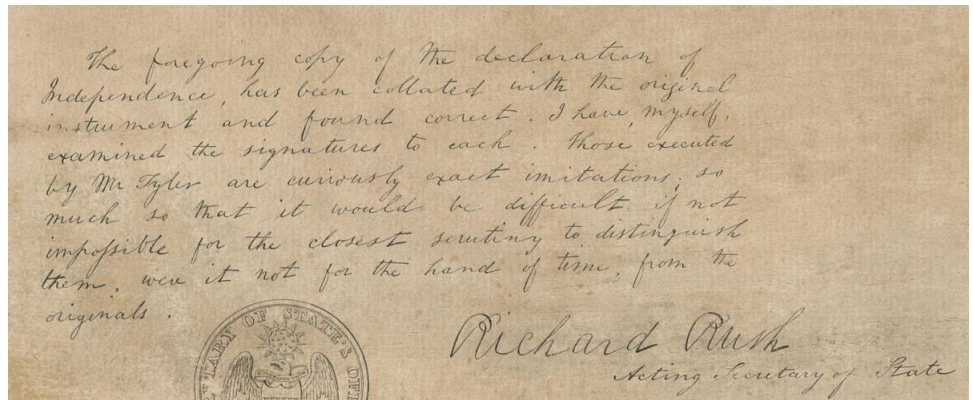
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Tyler pressed the acting secretary of state, Richard Rush, to compare the proof text to the original document and certify that it was correct. Rush's certification was reproduced in facsimile on the Tyler engraving of 1818 and noted the effects of "the hand of time" on the original. This statement that the Declaration was showing wear 35 years after it was penned is the first written report about its condition. In 1819 Philadelphia publisher John Binns published a large ornamented engraving of the text of the Declaration with facsimile signatures below and a statement from Secretary of State John Quincy Adams confirming the accuracy of the text.



Richard Rush's certification on the 1818 Tyler engraving of the Declaration notes the effects of "the hand of time" on the document. (National Archives)

While the engravings conveyed the written words of the Declaration and incorporated exact copies of the signatures, they lacked the ability to represent the full presence of the document. So Adams, beset by competing copyists, decided the State Department should commission a full-size facsimile of the Declaration that could be seen in all the states.

Sometime after mid-1820, Adams turned to a young political supporter, William Stone, and commissioned him to engrave a full-size image on a copperplate. The copperplate, which took several years to create and from which engravings on parchment were later commissioned, was dated July 4, 1823.

During Adams's term as secretary of state, 1817 to 1825, almost anyone could enter the Department of State and ask to see the Declaration. With the creation of this now iconic facsimile, no longer would copyists—or casual visitors—be permitted access to the original at the State Department.

The evidence the copyists left on the Declaration is diminished ink in the areas of text and especially in the signatures. The engravings associated with Tyler, Binns, and Stone all bore facsimile signatures, and Stone's engraving also had facsimile text.

As photography had not yet been invented, the copyists would have worked directly from the original to capture exact images of the signatures and words. While other techniques could have been used in copy making, using wet paper or fabric to press against the water-soluble ink was a fast method that produced the mirror image that was needed for an engraving plate. It seems likely that the signatures were subjected to the wet-copy method more than once, probably by all three copy efforts.

Adams had envisioned that creating a full-size facsimile of the Declaration would protect the original parchment from excess handling and limit the number of visitors who came to his office to see the actual document. While the copies did help to limit handling, other risks were on the horizon.

Continued on Page 9...

Coming up in the Fall Issue:

The Declaration of Independence and the Hand of Time - Part II

Metamerism - What is it and how is it used in Document Examination?

Jeffrey Epstein Handwriting Analysis

and more...

... Continued From Page 8

An Era of Exhibition Takes Its Toll

The 1859 Catalogue of the Extraordinary Curiosities . . . notes where the Declaration was located in the exhibition at the Patent Office. (Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution Archives) Beginning in 1841, the Declaration was exhibited in the new Patent Office Building, which had the first public exhibition hall in Washington. The building, deemed to be “fire proof,” had a large Hall of Models on the top floor, where the Declaration was exhibited in the same frame with George Washington’s commission as commander in chief. The hall had a skylight and large south-facing windows. An exhibition catalog from 1859 notes the Declaration’s location on the wall between two windows shaded by the massive south facing pediment. While the Declaration hung on a wall with some shade from the south, the cumulative exposure to light in the space—especially for the 35 years of exhibition—was extreme.

During the 19th century, the Declaration was on exhibit for more than half a century: 35 years in the Hall of Models, one at Independence Hall, and 17 at the State Department library under uncontrolled environmental conditions. In addition, the damaging effects of excess light on ink were not widely understood. One physical change to the Declaration as a result of long exhibition was a change in the ink color to a warm, pale brown.

In 1876 President Ulysses S. Grant approved sending the Declaration to Philadelphia for display in the United States Centennial Exhibition, which was attended by almost 10 million visitors. The Stone engraving had made the overall design of the Declaration familiar to the public but not its actual condition. Viewers who saw the original parchment in Philadelphia were struck by its damaged appearance. Published accounts commented on the faded appearance of the ink. Some specifically noted that most of the signatures were “effaced” or “illegible.”

A desire to take action led to a Joint Resolution of Congress (19 Stat. 216) passed in August 1876 while the document was still on view in Philadelphia. The resolution called for a joint commission of the heads of the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and the Interior Department to look into restoring the ink text and signatures on the document.

The State Department as Custodian: Conservative and Cautious

At end of the centennial exhibition, despite growing concern over the condition of the Declaration, it was returned to the new fireproof State, War, and Navy Building and put on display in the State Department library.

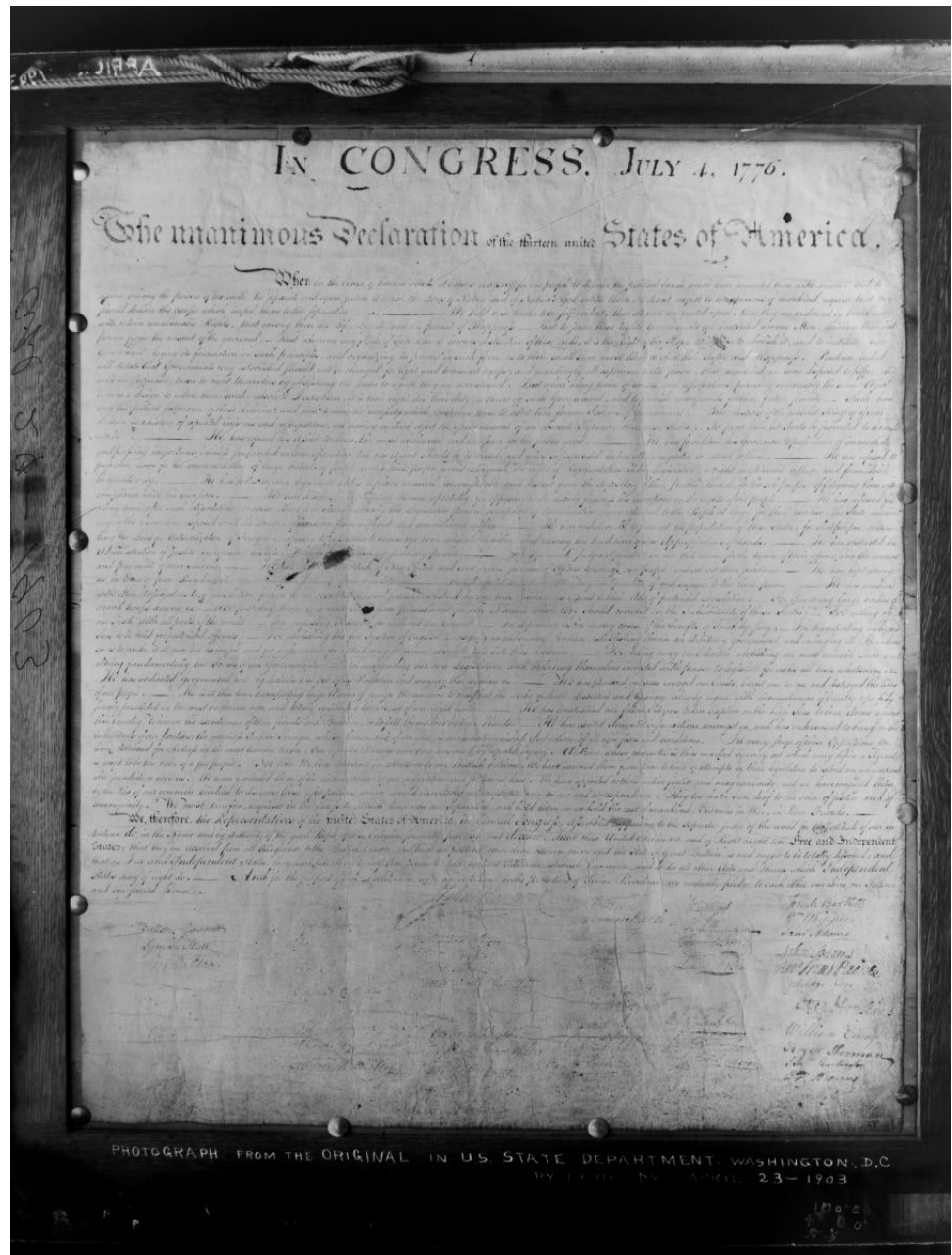
The joint commission asked the National Academy of Sciences in 1880 to form a committee to determine whether restoring the ink was appropriate. The NAS committee’s January 1881 report argued against any attempt to restore the ink by chemical means but instead recommended that the Declaration be stored in the dark and that no future press copies be made. This report did not result in immediate changes.

In 1883 the first known photograph of the Declaration was taken by Washington photographer Levin C. Handy. Despite extensive searching, however, it has not been located. A collotype photograph of the Declaration made by Washington printer Albert G. Gedney that same year survives in rare copies. A copy of the collotype was briefly loaned to the National Archives by one of Gedney’s descendants and photographed in the 1980s.

In 1894 the State Department announced that the Declaration would be replaced in the display case with a facsimile, and the original was to be stored “wrapped and placed flat in a steel case.” The Declaration was still accessed occasionally. It was photographed and printed in a special commemorative 1898 issue of the *Ladies’ Home Journal*. The picture’s caption described the document as still in legible condition though the signatures were “blurred” from excess light exposure.

State Department concerns about the Declaration’s condition persisted. Secretary of State John Hay asked the National Academy of Sciences in 1903 for recommendations on preserving the Declaration. A new, smaller NAS committee was formed with chemistry professor Charles F. Chandler, who had served on the 1880 committee, as chairman.

Continued on Page 10...



This key photo by L. C. Handy contains critical evidence of the Declaration's legibility and condition in 1903 while in the custody of the State Department. At that date, there was no handprint evident nor the tide lines that are such a dominant feature of the document today. (Library of Congress)

The Chandler panel quickly prepared the first thorough report of the condition of the document: evidence of rolling and of folding, diminished ink from press copying, fading from excess light exposure, but no evidence of mold or active deterioration. The committee strongly opposed applying any chemicals or restoring the ink or applying a coating on the parchment. Committee members noted that the 1883 photograph had helped them evaluate the document when they examined it with the Chief of the Bureau of Rolls and Library at the State Department.

Continued on Page 11...

Show & Tell.

NEXT ISSUE.

**What are YOU
bringing??**

... Continued From Page 10

They made a significant recommendation that the Declaration be photographed and again at intervals in the future. They advised continuing the practice of storing the Declaration in the dark under as dry conditions as possible and never exhibiting it. Significantly, the committee did not mention evidence of tide lines or water damage.

Secretary Hay acted immediately on the recommendations. He had the Declaration photographed again by L. C. Handy in April 1903. The large Imperial format glass plate negatives captured a remarkably detailed image of the document that allows careful comparison between the condition of the Declaration as it was in 1903 with how it appears today. Handy's photograph makes clear that a number of changes and alterations have occurred since 1903. In April 1920, the secretary of state appointed a new committee to advise on care and preservation of the "original Declaration of Independence, Constitution . . . Treaties, Proclamations and Laws . . . deposited with the Department of State." The committee reported in early May that the Declaration and Constitution were in thin, steel-walled safes that were not fireproof or secure and that smoking was allowed in the library. Examining the Declaration unframed, they concluded that the damage was the result of careless handling in the past. They stated, "We see no reason why the original document should not be exhibited if . . . exposed only to diffused light." Further, they recommended that the Department of State transfer the original papers of the Continental Congress—including the Declaration of Independence—to the Library of Congress. This was done the following year.

Part II of this article will be in the next issue.

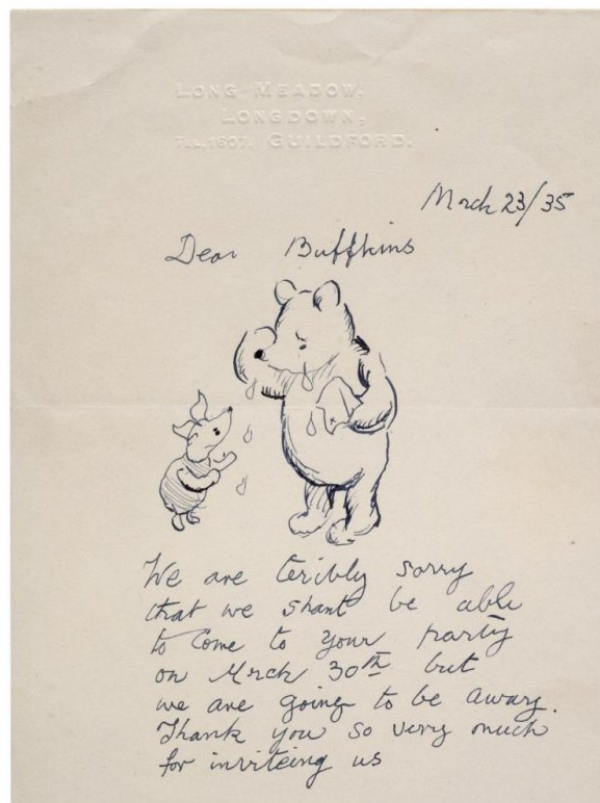


Letter from 'Winnie the Pooh' to young fan fetches more than \$15,000

By [Ben Hooper](#),

June 25, 2020 (UPI) -- A 1935 letter signed by "Winnie the Pooh" -- actually written by illustrator Ernest Howard Shepard -- fetched triple its expected amount when it sold for more than \$15,000.

Continued on Page 12...



AUGUST
3rd
4th
&
5th !

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the Webinar and get 2
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The note, which included a drawing of the titular bear from A.A. Milne's book series as well as best friend Piglet, apologizes to a young fan named "Buffkins" for missing his birthday party. Dominic Winters Auctioneers said "Buffkins" was a childhood nickname for Harry Stopes-Roe, whose mother, Marie Stopes, was a close friend of Shepard. The Stopes-Roe family said Harry would often invite "Winnie the Pooh" to his birthday parties, and the illustrator would respond with a letter apologizing for the bear's absence.

The letter is riddled with intentional Pooh-esque misspellings.

"We are terribly sorry that we shant be able to come to your party on March 30th but we are going to be away. Thank you so much for inviteing us," the note reads.

The letter had been expected to fetch a top bid of up to \$5,000 when it went under the hammer Thursday, but it ended up selling for a total \$15,521.

Shepard, who died in 1976, was famed as the illustrator for Milne's books, as well as his 50-year tenure at Punch magazine.

Thank you!

Kathy Carlson! Beverley East!

Bill Smith! Eileen Page! August Meyer!

Valerie Weil! Kathie Koppenhaver!

and

*To everyone who is so generously contributing
to our organization by presenting at the
conference - you are so very much
appreciated!*

Any contributions to the newsletter are welcome.

**ALL contributions to the newsletter
are APPRECIATED!**

