



ABFDE News

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THE GAVEL

KIRSTEN SINGER, PRESIDENT



Happy New Year, Diplomates! Let's hope for a healthy and productive 2013.

An interesting legal decision involving 2 FDEs was issued in December 2012, and it may behoove us to be aware of it. *Miller vs. State of Florida*, the District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida, reversed a decision by the trial court to allow handwriting experts to "bolster" their testimony by describing the peer review process. While this decision only applies to the immediate case, many FDEs have found it nevertheless unsettling, especially in light of the preliminary findings by Professor Moshe Kam that peer review reduces FDE error rates to 0.0%.

ABFDE is proceeding with elections this year to replace one Director, and replace two Directors whose terms are expiring in July. Please watch your email boxes for election information.

ABFDE is arranging pilot testing on the ACT updated written test questions at the ASQDE meeting in Indianapolis, on Saturday, August 17 prior to the start of the meeting on Sunday, August 18. The Board is requesting that attending Diplomates participate in this very important project. Of course, recertification points will be awarded! Please contact Kirsten Singer if you intend to participate.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is planning to host a 2-day symposium on measurement science and standards in forensic handwriting analysis, June 4-5, 2013, on the NIST campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland. I agreed to represent ABFDE as a co-sponsor of this symposium with NIST and similar professional organizations, such as

Re-Accredited by
FSAB in 2012



(The Gavel continues on page 3)

FSAB Accreditation for ABFDE Effective for Five Years



Diplomates and Their Tools

Approximately every fourth Diplomat in the ABFDE Directory was recently asked to send the Editor a picture of the location where they keep their important every day writing instruments. The array of submissions was very impressive and diverse. They are included throughout this January 2013 issue of the *ABFDE News* for your enjoyment and, perhaps, inspiration.

Watch your e-mail because you may be contacted for a submission for the next subject (no advance clues) for the next issue of the newsletter if your name is drawn in this scientific selection process.



The tools of Lisa Hanson

Continuing Education: Logical Inference & Reasoning, and Typography

By Rosalind Spencer

The Canadian Society of Forensic Science (CSFS) Document Section recently hosted an excellent three-day FDE workshop in Ottawa.

Part I covered the practical applications of logical inference and reasoning for FDEs (led by Brent Ostrum), an intensive exploration of concepts relating to logical inference and likelihood ratios (LRs) for the evaluation of evidence. Logical inference is ultimately the only way forward for any forensic discipline, and a great many problems from the FDE domain have the potential to be addressed by this approach, but it must be properly applied. Diplomates should seize any opportunity to educate themselves about LR's, as other countries (and their courts) are already actively pursuing and using them. An extensive list was provided for further reading. Future workshops in this important area, hosted by CSFS and other bodies, are anticipated.


Part II given by Peter Tytell was an extensive review of typography for FDEs, exploring the fundamentals of typography and their practical applications in FDE. Encompassing the different systems used internationally for type measurement, typestyle classification, as well as nomenclature, this review was of equal value to trainees and experienced FDEs alike. Peter's knowledge in this area is vast and continuously expanding, and as such he is an extremely valuable resource for the discipline. Peter also provided a thorough list of references and resources to update our libraries. Diplomates should note that an added benefit of workshops hosted by the CSFS is that there is often little or no cost to attend, and as such they represent terrific value for money. If you see them advertised, please do consider attending. ABFDE Certification Points are also usually awarded (15 points for this particular event).



THE GAVEL

Continued from page 1

SWGDOC and ASQDE. The co-sponsorship requires no money, only time on the planning committee to help develop an agenda and identify speakers who can discuss current and future measurement science research that could lead to more quantitative measurement techniques being applied in forensic handwriting analysis. I look forward to keeping you informed on the symposium as it progresses.

The co-sponsorship requires no money, only time on the planning committee to help develop an agenda and identify speakers who can discuss current and future measurement science research that could lead to more quantitative measurement techniques being applied in forensic handwriting analysis. I look forward to keeping you informed on the symposium as it progresses. Our stellar Public Relations Committee has updated the ABFDE brochure, "Profile of a Forensic Document Examiner." The brochures are high quality, and available to Diplomates upon request. Many FDEs have found the brochures effective and impressive for presentations to attorneys and judges. Please contact Jim Josey or Marie Durina if you are interested in distributing them or wish to have a few on hand for educating purposes. 

Continuing Education

February 2013

- 18-23** American Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting
Washington Marriott Wardman
Washington, DC,
www.aafs.org/aafs-2013-annual-meeting

May 2013

- 6-10** MAAFS Annual Meeting
Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA
www.maafs.org

April 2013

- 4-7** SWAFDE Meeting
Catamaran Hotel, San Diego,
CA
www.swafde.org

August 2013

- 24-29** American Society of Questioned Document Examiners
Embassy Suites
Indianapolis, IN
www.asqde.org

September-October 2013

- 30-4** Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists
Crowne Plaza
Dayton, OH
www.mafs.net

Many Diplomates are members of multiple organizations. You can help spread the word about workshops and meetings relating to forensic document examination by e-mailing these events to the ABFDE News Editor, Diane K. Tolliver.

Let's hope this page will be completely filled with events in the next issue. Continuing our professional education is necessary to maintain ABFDE certification. Please help the editor with this information.

Meeting announcements may be submitted to the editor at TolliverD@aol.com.

Subject line: **CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR ABFDE NEWS**

Jeffrey Payne



FORENSIC SCIENCES: QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS: AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES REFERENCE SERIES - A DECADE OF RESEARCH AND CASE STUDY PROCEEDINGS

Thomas W. Vastrick BS (Author), Carl R. McClary BA (Author), William M. Riordan BA (Author), Sonya R. Bynoe BBA (Editor), Anne Warren BS (Editor), Laura L. Liptai PhD (Series Editor)

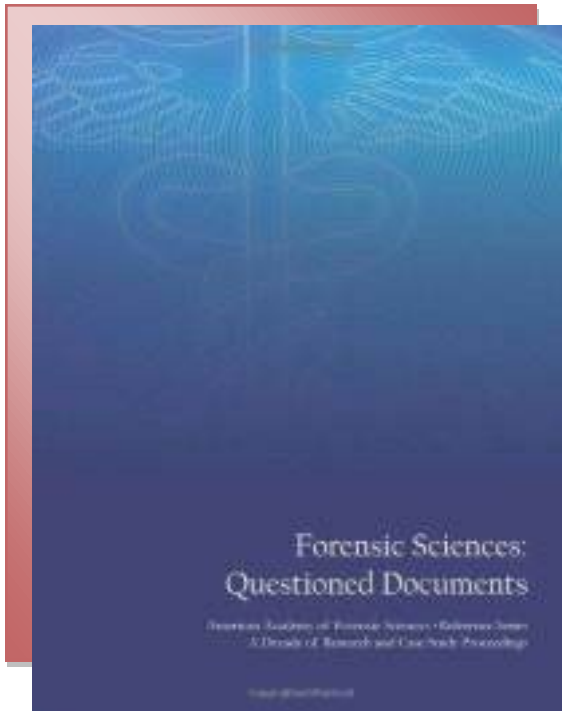
Book Description, taken from Amazon.com

Publication Date: **July 5, 2012**

Authored by: Carl R. McClary, BA; William M. Riordan, BA; Thomas W. Vastrick, BS. Editorial coordination by: Sonya R. Bynoe, BBA. Series edited and compiled by: Laura L. Liptai, PhD. Editor-in-chief: Anne Warren, BS in conjunction with American Academy of Forensic Sciences staff. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Reference Series is the largest collection of forensic case studies and research abstracts worldwide spanning eleven fields of forensic science. Established in 1948, the AAFS represents

over 6,260 members from all fifty US states, all ten Canadian provinces and 62 other countries worldwide. This first of its kind twelve volume collection contains a decade of proceedings from many of the most prominent forensic scientists worldwide. The AAFS Reference Series encompasses: Criminalistics, Digital & Multimedia Sciences, Engineering Sciences, General Forensic Sciences, Jurisprudence, Odontology, Pathology/Biology, Physical Anthropology, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science, Questioned Documents, and Toxicology.

\$29.00 USD.



Diplomates and Their Tools



Marty Blake



Sandra Ramsey Lines

**John Paul
Osborn**



While it only holds a ball point pen and a pencil, this item is the closest thing at hand on my desk. It was made by my Dad who gave it to me when I was still in high school (see the burned inscription on the bottom). It sits upon the desk used by Albert S., Albert D., and Paul; the desk that I now sit behind every day - John Osborn

Typewriter Music

A January 2013 discussion on the Docexam_L List about this song provided the inspiration for this article.

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) was a composer of pops orchestral music, mainly composing short, happy pieces.

In 1950, Anderson wrote a piece called "The Typewriter", which featured a solo on a mechanical typewriter. The Typewriter received its first performance when Leroy Anderson conducted the one minute and forty-five second song for a Decca Records recording session in 1953. Shortly after, a full band arrangement was published by Fred Werle.

Since then, The Typewriter has been recorded and performed many times, and has featured many live 'soloists', including rock group Aerosmith's lead singer Steve Tyler, who played the song in a special 1999 Boston Pops concert. From SYNTHGEAR.COM. Today, you may view several different instances of The Typewriter on You Tube.



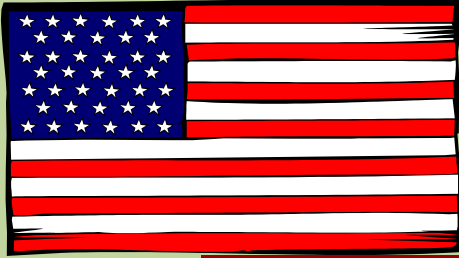
Anderson studied at Harvard, working towards a PhD in German and Scandinavian languages. Anderson's first work was *Jazz Pizzicato* in 1938, but at just over ninety seconds, the piece was too short for a three-minute 78-RPM single of the period. It was suggested that a companion piece be written and thus Anderson wrote *Jazz Legato* later that same year. The combined recording went on to become one of Anderson's signature compositions.

In 1942 Anderson joined the U.S. Army, and was assigned to Iceland as a translator and interpreter. Later in 1945 he was assigned to the Pentagon as Chief of the Scandinavian Desk of Military Intelligence. But his duties did not prevent him from composing, and in 1945 he wrote "The Syncopated Clock" and "Promenade." Anderson was a reserve officer and was recalled to active duty for the Korean War. In 1951 Anderson wrote his first hit, "Blue Tango," earning a Golden Disc and the No. 1 spot on the Billboard charts.

His most famous pieces are probably "Sleigh Ride" and "The Syncopated Clock". In 1950, WCBS-TV in New York City selected "Syncopated Clock" as the theme song for *The Late Show*/the WCBS late-night movie. Mitchell Parish added words to "Syncopated Clock", and later wrote lyrics for other Anderson tunes, including "Sleigh Ride", which was not written as a Christmas piece, but as a work that describes a winter event. The Boston Pops' recording of it was the first pure orchestral piece to reach No. 1 on the Billboard Pop Music chart. From WIKIPEDIA.COM.

And yes, you may download a ringtone of "The Typewriter" for your mobile phone.

The Editor



THE BIG NEWS OF 2012:

Australian and New Zealand FDES Are Eligible For ABFDE Certification



ERRATA

Two items were accidentally excluded from the end of the ABFDE Board Meeting Minutes published in the September 2012 *ABFDE News*.

MAFS Recognition of ABFDE: – Singer reported that MAFS recently voted to recognize ABFDE as a certifying body for forensic document examiners. The BOD voted to include MAFS as a recognizing organization in the ABFDE literature.

Election of Directors: – Frank Hicks and Jim Josey were elected by the BOD to renewed terms.

In typesetting terms, the Editor neglected to completely pull down the window shade of the text box to expose the end of the copy for that article. My apologies to all and my thanks to the efficiency of Kathleen Annunziata Nicolaides, ABFDE Board Secretary, for noticing this omission.

Diplomates and Their Tools



**Kathleen
Storer**

**Kathleen
Annunziata
Nicolaides**



Marie Durina



BREAKING NEWS:

RIT Offers Specialized Forensic Document Examiners Seminar April 23-26

Release Date: Jan. 23, 2013
Contact: Kelly Sorensen
585-475-5094; kaduns@rit.edu

Lectures, hands-on sessions and live demos comprise four-day program

Rochester Institute of Technology will host a highly specialized seminar from April 23 to 26 to help forensic document examiners successfully identify fraudulent documents. Attendees will learn about the latest in traditional graphic arts processes and digital printing technologies that are used to determine the authenticity of currency, stamps, passports and other legal papers.

The seminar is targeted toward questioned document examiners, forensic document examiners, forensic scientists, criminologists, fraud investigators and government employees who work in or with crime labs.

The Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners seminar will be held on the RIT campus. There will be lectures and live demonstrations of the newest image capture and analysis systems. Attendees will learn how to compare documents produced by traditional printing processes with fraudulent replicas produced by non-impact technologies such as inkjet, electrostatic printing, dye diffusion, laser printing, xerography and thermal transfer.

Topics will include conventional printing processes, conventional process image structure, non-impact printing, paper substrates, inks and image analysis.

RIT Specialized Seminar for FDEs

Continued from page 10

The seminar's instructors are Tom Jay, vice president of SICPA Securink USA; Milton Pearson, who has a career spanning 30 years as an imaging scientist at RIT, Majid Rabbani, a Kodak Research Fellow and head of the image compression and video processing technology areas in the Imaging Science division of Eastman Kodak Co.; David Tobin, president of Foster & Freeman USA, and Owen Lang, senior applications engineer at Foster & Freeman USA. The company designs and manufactures systems for the examination of question documents, latent fingerprints, trace evidence and shoe prints. Rounding out the list of presenters are Mike Caffrey, business development manager for security products for Appleton; Amanda Moffett, document analyst with the U.S. Secret Service who specializes in document authentication and instrumental analysis; and Joseph Stephens, a document analyst with the U.S. Secret Service who conducts ink, paper and toner comparisons and document authentication examinations on an array of submitted documents.

The program fee is \$1395. To register go to printlab.rit.edu or call 585-475-2687.

The forensic document examiners seminar at RIT is in its 13th year and is offered semi-yearly.

For more information, visit <http://printlab.rit.edu/>.



IN HISTORY...January – March

JANUARY 12, 1895: PRINTING AND BINDING ACT OF 1895 PROHIBITED THE COPYRIGHTING OF ANY GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION.

JANUARY 23, 1849: A PATENT WAS GRANTED FOR AN ENVELOPE MAKING MACHINE.

JANUARY 30, 1883: JAMES RITTY AND JOHN BIRCH RECEIVED A PATENT FOR THE CASH REGISTER.

FEBRUARY 12, 1983: THE CIRCULAR THING THAT KEEPS THE PIZZA FROM HITTING THE INSIDE OF THE BOX TOP (CALLED A “PACKAGE SAVER”) WAS INVENTED BY A GUY FROM NEW JERSEY.

FEBRUARY 20, 1872: LUTHER CROWELL PATENTED A MACHINE THAT MANUFACTURED PAPER BAGS.

FEBRUARY 24, 1857: THE FIRST PERFORATED UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS WERE DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNMENT.

MARCH 2, 1861: THE “PATENT ACT” OF 1861 INCREASED TERM OF A PATENT GRANT FROM 14 TO 17 YEARS; NOW IT IS 20 YEARS.

MARCH 4, 1955: THE FIRST RADIO FACISIMILE OR FAX TRANSMISSION WAS SENT ACROSS THE (US) CONTINENT.

MARCH 10, 1862: THE FIRST U.S. PAPER MONEY WAS ISSUED. THE DENOMINATIONS WERE \$5, \$10, AND \$20. THE PAPER BILLS BECAME LEGAL TENDER BY AN ACT OF GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 17, 1862.



Diane Tolliver

Staplers, Then and Now: A CONTEST

A conventional stapler works by driving a thin metal staple through the sheets and folding over the ends to secure the paper and avoid injury from the staples' sharp points.

More complete research needs to be done on this topic. The first 5 people who submit accurate, documented answers to the 6 questions on this page will receive a stapleless stapler as a prize. For the first 5 people who submit accurate documented answers to the six questions on this page, by e-mail to the **ABFDE News** Editor, they will each receive a stapleless stapler as a prize.

Entries must be submitted by E-mail to **TolliverD@aol.com** **24 hours after official release of this newsletter by President Kirsten Singer.**



1. Who invented the stapler, when, and to whom was it presented?
2. Provide the name of the inventor(s), country of origin, and date of first sales of the stapleless stapler.
3. Name six parts of a conventional stapler with metal staples.
4. Describe 8 elements that may distinguish staples by class characteristics.
5. Describe 3 features in a stack of 5 sheets of paper that an FDE may look for when determining whether or not the original staple has been removed and a restaple of the same sheets has occurred.
6. What holds a row of staples together? What other functions does this serve?

These questions pertain, in general, to the office supply stapler as opposed to the medical or highly industrial stapler.

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Send contributions to:

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Deadline for the next
issue:

MAY 15, 2013

www.abfde.org

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TESTING.....Lisa M. Hanson
WEBMASTER.....William Leaver
WORKSHOP COORDINATOR.....L. Jim Josey



ABFDE Testing Schedule

The written and oral boards will be offered at the following national and regional forensic document conferences:

February 2013 AAFS, Washington DC

May 2013 MAAFS, Roanoke, VA

Testing may also be available at other regional conferences during the year. If interested, contact Testing Chair Lisa Hanson at Lisa.Hanson@state.mn.us.

