

Who do you know from Belgium?

Hint: This gentleman came to the USA in 1956 after studying under Major Georges Defawe, a retired document examiner in the Belgium Army.

Answer: ANDRE A. MOENSSENS

Andre came to visit the United States in 1956 on an immigrant visa. The reason for the immigrant visa was because he says, "To really know the people and the country you have to work with them." After only three of the six months he had planned, he returned to Belgium to wind up his affairs so he could move to the US permanently. After five years he became a citizen of the USA.

But we are jumping ahead. Back in Belgium, Andre had a private detective agency and had also started to study forensics because he wanted to make forensic services available to private detectives. He had done some self-study on forensics and then became the pupil of retired document examiner Major Georges Defawe. Andre had a general exposure to all the forensic fields being used in crime labs at that time, which were latent prints, fire-arms, serology and forensic document examination. Andre worked document cases with Major Defawe but chose to deviate and specialize in latent prints, which is where he did all his research and writing in later years. He worked with Major Defawe for several years prior to coming to the US.

When he came to the US, he wanted to work in a crime lab but was unable to, because in those days you could not be employed by a public agency unless you were a US citizen. It took five years to become a citizen. Through the International Association for Identification (IAI), of which he has been a member since 1953, he had many contacts here in the US. One such contact took Andre under her wing when he first arrived on US soil. This was Anita Tolliver Field, who worked as a fingerprint examiner for the LAPD. She wrote the *Fingerprint Handbook* in 1959, in which Andre did the artwork. His talents come from his father, who was an artist and a musician.

In late 1959, T. Dickerson Cooke, Director of the Institute of Applied Science in Chicago, contacted Andre. Mr. Cook asked Andre if he would be interested in a head instructor position at the

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The Gentleman from Belgium

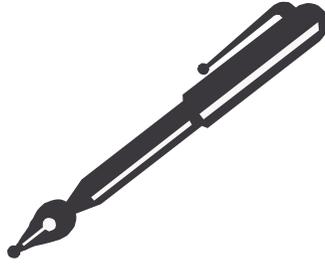
by Bonnie Beal

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From the Editor

Susan Morton
San Francisco, CA



A New Year

A New Year is upon us; we are now in the third year of the third millenium. The only New Year's Resolution I could think up was to resolve not to make any New Years Resolutions. That saved a lot of time. The very act of resolving broke the resolution, so I didn't have to dither about before breaking the resolution. Now I can move on to giving up deprivation for Lent.

By now many of you have read the Ruling made by Judge Yam in Hong Kong on the testimony of Eric Speckin. Those who haven't should hasten to do so. It ought to be required reading for anyone who is even thinking of testifying as an expert witness. In my 30-plus years of appearing in court, I have seen more than one poseur taken apart. But I have never seen an expert so completely deconstructed, nor have I ever read a better discussion of what constitutes good scientific practice. Though a jurist, Judge Yam has a better understanding of the nature of science than most practicing scientists do. In categories such as methodology, sample preparation, validation, data interpretation and professional ethics, the judge first gives a lucid description of good practice and then goes on to contrast them to Mr. Speckin's practices.

After reading this Ruling, one can't help wondering "How would I hold up to that kind of scrutiny?" Would I be able to describe how I validated whatever technique I used? How do I keep bias out of my findings? Did I give fair consideration to all pertinent factors? Did I make a reasonable interpretation of my observations? Would I perform well on a blind proficiency test?

On the whole, I think all of us would do pretty well. We do try to be objective, to interpret carefully and to use techniques we know are reliable. However, a good scare can be beneficial to the character. Reading this Ruling can provide such a scare. I strongly recommend it.

This Ruling also confirms a decision I made some time ago. I have decided that when it comes to dating, forget about ink—I am sticking to guys. If nothing else, they have a reliable 100% extraction rate, and no messy solvents needed. All you have to do is start a conversation "We need to talk...."



Editor Susan Morton

Assistant Editor Kathleen Storer

Board Reports

The Gavel Jan Seaman Kelly

Continuing Education Derek Hammond

Contributors

Bonnie Beal

James F. Larner

Ellen Mulcrone Schuetzner

Kathleen Storer

Rigo Vargas

Composer

IntelliType

Mail or fax contributions to:

Susan Morton, Editor
ABFDE News

San Francisco Police Department
Crime Laboratory
850 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Tel: (415) 671-3196
Fax (415) 671-3280

semortonsf@aol.com

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March 20th

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New Diplomat: *Rigo Vargas*



I was born in Gary, Indiana August 19, 1970. I lived in Indiana until I graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in biology, with a minor in chemistry. Then I moved around a bit from Indiana to Florida back to Indiana, to Georgia and then to Mississippi.

I started work at the Mississippi Crime Laboratory on December 1, 1998, under the tutelage of Frank Hicks.

I am a regular member of the Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners and a trainee affiliate member of the Questioned Document Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. I am currently applying to be a member of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners.

I am single and share a small home with a Chihuahua named Sausage, the most spoiled dog on earth.

I am very health conscious, and outside of work I try to remain active with martial arts, jogging, weightlifting, rollerblading, rock climbing, ice skating, etc. 

Meet the Candidates...

Jim Larner and Ellen Schuetzner are on the ballot for your consideration to serve on the ABFDE Board of Directors



James Frederick Larner

James F. Larner is a Senior Forensic Document Examiner with the U.S. Treasury, Inspector General for Tax Administration, Forensic Science Laboratory in Silver Spring, MD. He is currently an adjunct professor in the Master of Science in Forensic Administration and Master of Science in Forensic Science degree programs at Oklahoma State University and a guest lecturer of forensic document examination in the Master of Forensic Science program at the George Washington University. Mr. Larner has also been a guest lecturer in questioned document examination, counterfeit document fraud and security documents at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia.

Mr. Larner is focused on supporting the development of a standardized training program in the forensic examination of questioned documents, leading to the acceptance of the field in the academic community.

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Ellen Mulcrone Schuetzner

Ellen Mulcrone Schuetzner is in private practice in Chicago. She started working for the Chicago Police Department in 1980, where she received training under Maureen Casey Owens. After the CPD, she went to work for the IRS laboratory in Chicago. During her time with both government agencies, she also received training at the FBI Academy and the Illinois State Police Academy. Since 1988, she has been in private practice. She is a Fellow in the Academy and a member of MAFS. She has been a Diplomat with the Board since 1989. Recently, she

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The Gavel

A Message from Our President

Jan Seaman Kelly
Las Vegas, NV



“ We have a great deal of work that must be completed before we can apply for FSAB accreditation. ”

General Election

The general election to fill a vacancy on the BOD will be held in February. The term of office for the new director chosen by the Diplomates will begin July 1, 2003. You will receive your ballot by mail. The candidates chosen by the Nominating Committee are on page 3. Please follow the instructions as to how the ballot and the envelope are to be marked and return it to the Board office in Houston by the deadline date.

Last year was the first general election held by ABFDE to replace directors who completed their terms. The percentage of votes cast was in the high 90s. We are striving for 100% voter participation in this election. This is your opportunity to choose who you want to represent you.

AFDE

AFDE held their annual seminar here in Las Vegas this past October. I attended portions of their seminar, as it contained two areas of interest: a debate between Michael Saks and a select group of AFDE members in front of a federal judge, and their progress toward FSAB accreditation.

The Saks debate was conducted in front of Federal Judge Phillip Pro. For you QD history buffs, you will remember Judge Pro as the presiding judge in the Tailhook case. In the Tailhook case, Judge Pro refused to allow questioned document testimony from a graphologist, basing his decision on the expert's lack of credentials and training in forensic document examination.

Mr. Saks' presentation was the same dog-and-pony show he has used in each of his testimonies in court (refer to his Alaska affidavit). The AFDE group's presentation discussed Bryan Found's work and the questioned document research conducted in Europe. Overall, they did not do a bad job at defending the QD profession.

Steve Clark discussed the results of last year's pilot test of the written questions. During this presentation, Mr. Clark stated AFDE has a databank of 600 written questions to be used for the written examination. I found this extremely impressive considering AFDE's membership numbers 47. As focused and dedicated as this group is toward their goal, they most likely will achieve accreditation before ABFDE.

Our Accreditation

AFDE may be small in membership, but they are focused on what needs to be done to achieve accreditation. ABFDE numbers more than three times AFDE. Our databank of questions in October numbered 90. With the assistance of Diplomates and directors who were asked to volunteer, the number of questions is now between 200 and 300. Our databank of questions should be over 1,000, since we have a higher number of FDEs who are knowledgeable in all areas of forensic document examination.

Accreditation has been a priority of the BOD for the past four years. We have a great deal of work that must be completed before we can apply for FSAB accreditation. The Directors

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Daubert Workshop

by Kathleen Storer

The ABFDE sponsored "The Daubert World: Past, Present and Future," a joint seminar designed for both the document and fingerprint disciplines, June 21-23, 2002, in Las Vegas. The objective was to discuss how to meet the Daubert challenge from a judicial perspective, as well as from the perspectives and needs of AUSAs, scientists and forensic experts.

Two distinguished judges, Justice Maltese and Judge Domitrovich, spoke all three days. They provided a legal lesson that covered the Frye Rule, the Daubert trilogy, the stages of a trial where a Frye or Daubert hearing may be conducted, the Federal Rules of Evidence and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (Rule 16) and other important legal issues. They discussed with and educated the workshop attendees on the judge's role as a gatekeeper of evidence; the pretrial discovery of evidence; the general provisions governing discovery; how to educate the judge, jury, and attorneys on your expertise; the standards of expert testimony and methods of improving your credibility and expertise for the courtroom. Strategies were also discussed on how to prepare for critics prior to or during a challenge to a forensic discipline and how to support the foundation of a scientific discipline using hard sciences as well as judicial precedence. The key to driving testimony to the courtroom participants is to articulate and communicate the basis of your opinion and forensic analysis in detail with confidence and clarity. **Bring numerous demonstrative exhibits.** The judges and jury want to see them. Courtroom dynamics and the psychology of the jury were also topics of discussion throughout the seminar.

Justice Maltese advised the audience not to waste time trying to exclude the critics from testifying. Judges are going to let the critics in regardless of how hard experts may try to keep them out. The critics are law school professors and other college professors, all of whom are equipped with PhDs and numerous publications. The document/fingerprint examiners should focus on building their resumes through education, seminars, ongoing training, research and publications. Experts need to peruse the Reference Manual to Scientific Evidence and the admissibility of expert testimony, which is updated on the Federal Judicial Center website (www.fjc.gov), in order to learn the expectations of the court.

AUSA David Leta mentioned that as a result of the 1993 Supreme Court amended rules of discovery, a Rule 16 is required with every forensic report issued from a laboratory, whether there is a Daubert or not. This comment stirred a lot of debate. AUSA Leta advised that if we don't comply we are in violation of the law. A Rule 16 document covers the basis for your opinion and your science and can be quite lengthy. Numerous people argued that this would slow down production in laboratories. Two Daubert cases were lost due to a limited or non-existent Rule 16 – *U.S. v. Brewer* and *U.S. v. Salee*. The testimony in *U.S. v. Santillian* was limited due to Rule 16 violations. According to Leta, "the Brewer case was decided by a district court judge in Chicago, a very populous district. That will carry a lot of weight with a lot of judges."

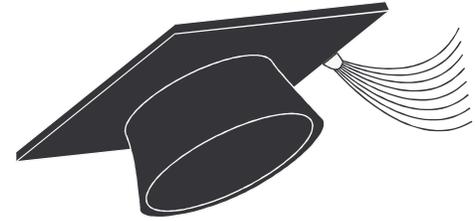
The scientific and statistical presentations included those of Dr. Kam, Dr. Babler, Dr. Shirhari and Dr. Myer. They explained extensive research they have conducted and projected what needs to be done in the future. Advice was given by Dr. Babler in the approach fingerprint professionals should take to statistically support their scientific foundation and stated that the data gathered and methodology used should be well thought out so the data is truly valuable and applicable to the topic at hand. The main problem for these scientists is funding. They have many proposals and solicitations submitted to NIJ and TSWG, but they have not received funding to go forward with their work. It should be noted that three of these scientists have assisted in successful Daubert hearings based on their past research. The scientific method and ACE-V was discussed in nearly every presentation and there was much friendly debate during the seminar on whether we are a science, a forensic science or a technical skill.

The final panel was quite informative for the fingerprint profession because the document profession discussed their success and failures of preparing for Daubert in addition to their projected approach to further support the discipline. Judges, scientists, experts and lawyers gave suggestions from their perspectives on how the legal, scientific and technical professions should approach and strategize on these issues in joint forces.

Next year, the ABFDE plans to organize an updated Daubert workshop to include additional forensic disciplines such as hairs and fibers, firearms and tool marks, and DNA.

Continuing Education

Derek Hammond
Forest Park, GA



“Currently, I am working on a modified repeat of the extremely successful Daubert Issues workshop.”

On October 21-22, 2002, ABFDE was pleased to sponsor the Canon Photocopier, Facsimile and Microfilm Workshop hosted by Canon, U.S.A. in Norcross, Georgia. This was the second and last ABFDE workshop for the calendar year 2002.

The workshop was attended by FDEs from state, federal and private laboratories from all over North America. Over the course of two days, the attendees were exposed to the Canon color laser copiers, the Image Runner series of black/white digital copiers, facsimile machines and current image storage devices such as microfilm processors and scanners.

As usual, the instructors from Canon did a wonderful job. Each instructor was well prepared and flexible enough to adjust their presentations based on input/questions from the attendees. Numerous output samples from the various machines were made available, and the attendees were encouraged to spend hands-on time “playing” with all of the machines. In addition to the samples, each attendee was provided with a stack of reference material, some of which had never been distributed outside of Canon.

This was my second ABFDE/Canon workshop, and I still find myself learning something new on each visit.

I hope that ABFDE and Canon can continue to work together to provide FDEs with superb technical training on office machines in years to come. In fact, preliminary discussions have already begun on possible future workshops.

At this time there are no plans to repeat the multifaceted office machine workshop. Any possible future workshops will focus on a single technology (e.g., facsimile machines or color laser copiers, etc). These courses will be highly sought after, and space will be extremely limited, with possibly only 10-15 seats available per class! As with any ABFDE-sponsored workshop, I encourage you to get your registration forms in as soon as you can after receiving the announcement.

Currently, I am working on a modified repeat of the extremely successful Daubert Issues workshop. The Daubert II seminar is scheduled for June 27-29, 2003 at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The program is progressing nicely, and details on the program should be posted on the website at www.ABFDE.org later in January and in the next ABFDE newsletter. This seminar will discuss Daubert issues as they pertain to the comparative sciences (QD, latent prints, shoe/tire, firearm/toolmark, and forensic odontology). New topics for the 2003 seminar include discussion on meeting Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Evidence and discussions on science—what it is and what it is not. Given the success of the previous Daubert seminar, you will need to get your registration forms in early. We will be aggressively promoting this event within the other forensic disciplines and do expect a large turnout from these groups. **DO NOT BE LEFT BEHIND!**

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ConEd Meetings and Workshops

February 2003

**17-22 American Academy of Forensic Sciences
59th Annual Meeting**
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Chicago, IL
Contact: Jack Calvert
Calvert Forensic Enterprises
14716 Route 173 East
Harvard IL 60033-9195
(815) 648-2222 / Fax: (815) 648-2222
cfe@stans.com

March 2003

**24-29 Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences
50th Annual Meeting**
*Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel,
Vancouver, BC*
Contact: Canadian Society of Forensic Science
2660 Southvale Crescent, Suite 215
Ottawa, ON K1B 4W5 CANADA
(613) 738-0001 / Fax: (613) 738-1987
www.csfs.ca

**26 Forensic Examination of
Electrophotographic (Toner-Based)
Documents and Devices Workshop**
*To be held at the CSFS Meeting
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel,
Vancouver, BC*
Contact: Canada Customs & Revenue Agency
Laboratory & Scientific Services
79 Bentley Avenue
Ottawa, ON K2E 6T7 CANADA
(613) 946-1098 / Fax: (815) 952-7825
tobin.lab.tanaka@ccra-adrc.gc.ca

May 2003

**1-3 Southeastern Association of Forensic
Document Examiners (SAFDE)
Annual Meeting,**
Peachtree City (Atlanta), Georgia
Contact: Mr. Farrell Shiver, Program Chair
Shiver & Nelson Document Investigation
Laboratory, Inc.
1903 Lilac Ridge Drive
Woodstock, GA 30189
(770) 517-6008 / Fax: (678) 494-9283
shiver@documentlab.com

This list of opportunities available to Diplomates seeking recertification credits may not be all-inclusive. Provide details of upcoming meetings or workshops you want included in this newsletter to

Derek L. Hammond
US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory
4553 North 2nd Street
Forest Park, GA 30297-5122
(404) 469-7044 / Fax: (404) 469-7112
HammondD@usacil-acirs.army.mil

Canon

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As future workshops hosted by Canon are also expected, with classes in 2003 a possibility, plan your budget accordingly and keep these workshops in mind as you plan training opportunities in 2003.

Should you have any workshop ideas in mind, or can recommend instructors in specific topic areas, please let me know. I can be reached at (404) 469-7044 or by e-mail at HammondD@usacil-acirs.army.mil.

On The Move

Andre Moenssens has retired and relocated to Indiana near his son. His new information is:

504 Seward Lane
Fairmont, IN 46928-1361
(765) 948-4809
AndreMoenssens@forensic-evidence.com



Sandra Ramsey Lines has a new email address:

SRLines@cox.net

Larner

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In addition to being a Diplomate of the ABFDE, Mr. Larner is a fellow of the AAFS (QD Section) and a director and regular member of the ASQDE. Jim was the recipient of the Ordway Hilton Award in 1995, given to a single document examiner annually by the AAFS in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of forensic document examination.

After training at the FBI Headquarters and CIA laboratories in Washington, DC, Jim continued his training in the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Section of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. While working for the Department of Justice, INS Forensic Document Laboratory, Mr. Larner completed five years of specialized apprenticeship training in all areas of forensic document examination. He reached the level of Senior Forensic Document Analyst in 1995 and has 20 years in federal service as a forensic document examiner.

Mr. Larner currently holds a Top Secret National Security clearance.

PLATFORM

"If elected, along with other assigned duties, I would focus on supporting the development and implementation of a standardized training program for the 'Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents.' This program would have a direct input into the development of a graduate level certificate in forensic science, with a concentration in questioned document examination. This certificate program is currently in the proposal stage at Oklahoma State University. The proposed certificate would include 12 credit hours (four courses) and would be completed in one academic year."

CURRICULUM VITAE

Experience

1999-Present

U.S. Department of the Treasury
Inspector General for Tax Administration
Forensic Science Laboratory
Silver Spring, MD
Senior Forensic Document Examiner

1987-1999

U.S. Department of Justice
INS Forensic Document Laboratory
McLean, Virginia
Senior Forensic Document Examiner

1986-1987

Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Engraving and Printing
Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Division
Washington, D.C.
Research Scientist and QDE

1984-1986

Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Technical Service
Questioned Document Laboratory
Washington, D.C.
QDE and Authentication Specialist

ABFDE Certification: 1996

Professional Associations

Member, ASQDE
Fellow, AAFS, QD Section

Professional Offices

Chairman, Evaluation and Examinations
Committee, ASQDE (1994)
Chairman and Founder, QD Article Database,
ASQDE (1992-1997)
Director, ASQDE (2002-Present)



Schuetzner

(continued from page 3)

has been working on a project for the Board, keeping a list of testimony by FDEs, to be used in Daubert challenges.

Ellen and her husband, Jeff, spend their free time shuttling their kids, Matt, age 14, and Katie, age 13, to various sports practices and games. Ellen also coaches an elementary school volleyball team.

The Daubert/Kumho challenges have made the Board a necessity if the profession is to survive. There is a strong link between the future of the profession and the Board. The Board has done a good job in addressing many of the issues and helping examiners prepare for the issues that confront them, but the challenges, in many forms, will continue. The Board needs to take a strong stand in maintaining the standards of the profession.



Moenssens

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Institute of Applied Science. All Andre knew about Chicago was Al Capone and the gangsters and that it would be a lot colder than LA. He flew out in late October when Chicago was having one of their Indian summers. He was offered the job, and he accepted. When Andre finally came to Chicago in January, he drove his car down Route 66. This was before interstates. He started having trouble with his car and found out the heater did not work. He never had to use the heater in LA, so he had had no idea the heater did not work. He finally had to sell his car in Oklahoma and took the train the remainder of the way to Chicago. When he finally arrived in Chicago, there was three feet of snow, and in that year of 1960, the snow stayed until May. For the first five months he was kicking himself, asking why did he leave LA, but he said he eventually got used to it and began to know the city and the people. He began his career in law in Chicago.

Andre started law school in the evening division at Chicago-Kent College of Law. After receiving his doctorate in law, he went to Northwestern to get his master's in law. Law is funny that way—the doctorate is the first degree, and the master is the second degree. The doctorate degree is a professional degree and the Master in Law (LL.M.) is the academic degree.

He became a lawyer in Illinois and began trying cases, mostly criminal but some civil, and was asked by the Dean of the Chicago-Kent College of Law to teach. He had one stipulation, and that was that he be able to maintain a limited practice. Andre said he did not have enough practical experience and was not too tired of the law practice yet. After a few years, even though he still enjoyed the practice, he realized he could not fulfill the needs of the practice and the academic requirements of publish or perish, so he gradually got out of his law practice. He stayed with Chicago-Kent College of Law until 1973. By this time, he felt a change was needed and had put out feelers to other colleges and universities. He had four offers, and strangely enough one of them was from University of Missouri at Kansas City, where he ended up 23 years later, but at that time he chose the offer from Richmond, Virginia.

After Chicago, he moved to Richmond to teach at the University of Richmond. This is also when he met his ex-wife, who was another young lawyer. She wanted to open a practice but did not want to

hang out a shingle with her name. So for protection, Andre and his wife made the practice a law firm of Moenssens and Moenssens. For years afterwards they were always being teased who was the first Moenssens. Before Andre noticed, he had 30 open cases on his desk, and it was beginning to interfere with what he wanted to do at the law school, so he worked his way out, yet again, of the law practice. This practice was mostly civil, for the university asked that he not work cases that would reach the newspaper or, in other words, criminal cases. Three months later, the president of the university called him and said they had something they would like him to become involved with. It involved one of the university's long trusted custodians who had been charged with assault and battery of his wife. The man had supposedly pistol-whipped his wife, but he was about 5'3" and his wife outweighed him by about 350 pounds and was about 6 feet tall. She was used to banging him around quite a bit, so Andre filed a cross-claim against her, and when it came up in court the judge, expectantly, dismissed both of the claims, and that was the end of that.

Other cases that Andre says were not nationally known but were memorable in the sense that they accomplished new things involved Title VI, sex discrimination and employment litigation. One of his cases was against a large department store. This case gave him many anxieties, not only because the lead attorney was a partner for one of the largest law firms in town, but he was a prominent trustee of the university where Andre worked. Andre said the lead lawyer was a true Southern gentleman—very, very applicable, very amenable, never a loud word and extremely competent. During the deposition, the man did not use one single scrap of paper the entire six and a half hours. The lead lawyer referred to a single document, and his questioning showed an understanding of his client's business and of the entire controversy that was just unbelievable.

Another case was for the ACLU against a school for jockeys in Northern Virginia which refused to admit a female. The person who ran that school had been foolish enough to provide in his letter, "We have never taken a woman in this school and we never will as long as I am here." Andre said, "Talk about liability right there." It was one of the easiest cases Andre had.

Andre was also involved with the Howard Hughes fiasco three times: twice with the faked autobiography and once with the Will, all requesting

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Moenssens

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a fingerprint examination. He turned down the Will case after speaking with Jack Harris.

Andre has many fond memories of the "old-timers." His first contact was in 1960 at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in Chicago. Andre did not know anyone, and because of the tutelage of Major Defawe, he looked at the program and saw that the questioned document section had its own meetings. He thought he would feel more comfortable going to their meeting. This was where he met Professor Inbau for the first time, with whom he later co-authored many books. During the meeting, everyone stood and introduced himself. Andre can still remember how Professor Inbau introduced himself. He said, "My name is Fred Inbau. I am not now nor have I ever been a questioned document examiner."

Linton Godown was a close friend of Andre, and they both handled a number of cases together. Linton conducted the questioned document examinations, and Andre conducted the fingerprint examinations. One case Linton had referred to Andre was from a hospital that had given the wrong baby to the mother to take home. It involved the footprints that had been taken in the delivery room which were, of course, totally useless for identification purposes. Linton also asked Andre to incorporate the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) as an Illinois nonprofit corporation and to also get tax-exempt status from the IRS. Andre has worked with David Purtell, David Doud, Jan Beck, David Crown, Jack Harris and Ordway Hilton.

Andre became involved with the ABFDE after the Denbaux, Risinger and Sax article in 1989. Andre had suggested that the best way to deal with this onslaught was to write a law review article to rebut their claims. Of course, the Board asked him to do it. Andre guesses that made him the QD Daubert expert. He was already an honorary member of the ASQDE, and he often attended and sometimes spoke at the Academy QD sessions.

Andre feels that the certification is a wonderful development for all of the forensic science disciplines, as long as it is a meaningful one. He says it was Daubert, with its insistence on accreditation and credentials, that has also spawned the growth of diploma mills or certification mills such as the one out of Missouri. We need to continue to educate the lawyers and judges on what constitutes a proper

practice, what is the proper methodology and what methodologies are improper or are not worthy of consideration.

As for the "grandfathered" Board Diplomates, the Board has been wrestling with this for the last couple of years. This is a delicate matter because there were some of these oldtimers that perhaps felt they may not be able to pass the test, only because they had forgotten more than the new people will ever know today. We are required by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board to have no more than a certain small percentage of grandfathers among the members. The Board is going to be all right with that, but in any case, the Board has decided that, yes, people whose certification had originated under the grandfather clause will have to take the test, and this decision is for the good of the profession. As for holding on to the results or the test, Andre sees no reason for this. The tester either passes or not. If a person does not pass, then he would have to take the test over again. There is no need to know which test was given or what questions were asked.

His role with the Board, as Andre sees it, is that he has a broad general experience in the forensic science disciplines as well as a legal perspective. He feels he brings this experience to bear on his participation of any discussion that the Board may have. For an example, he will participate in the drafting of some questions that deal with broad concepts like ethics, ethical duties and applications for expert witnesses. He emphasized, not that QD people cannot do this, but that this is one field that is also in his background and will free the QD people to write questions that are particular to the QD field. The Board also has a lot of regulations and rules that from time to time have to be adapted or revised and so on, and Andre will have the legal perspective there as well.

Lastly, Andre feels that QD in the courtroom will continue. In fact, he thinks it is going to gain in respectability and in acceptance by judges as long as we can make a credible case that our Diplomates are not only qualified but are highly qualified and are highly skilled professionals. The court system has probably faced more unqualified QDE's than they have qualified ones, and that has given the judicial branch and the lawyers perhaps the idea that document examination is one of those fields, like psychiatry, where you can always get somebody to take the opposite view. As the judicial system becomes more

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Gavel

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cannot do this by themselves. We need each of you to help us reach our goal. Howie Birnbaum, chair of the Validation Committee, oversees the testing material used for the certification tests. We still need to increase our written question databank. One solution would be for each Diplomat to write 10 questions to test minimum competency in a topic assigned by Howie. It would be a small investment of your time but would greatly assist ABFDE in its goal of achieving accreditation. Please take a few moments for this project and contact Howie for details.

Pilot Testing

Howie has scheduled pilot testing of the written questions at the AAFS meeting in Chicago. Please plan to participate, as we need to complete this phase of test validation. The pilot testing is scheduled for Friday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Ambassadors

You are not only a Diplomat of ABFDE, but you are also an ambassador! Your conduct is a reflection of you and ABFDE. As an ambassador, you have a vested interest in the success and positive progression of ABFDE.

Each of us is equipped with a unique talent or gift. Please don't let your gift lie dormant. Every article I have written has a plea for volunteers. The BOD needs volunteers to complete the tasks that have been deemed necessary for the promotion of certification. As an ABFDE ambassador, you know the importance of certification and have joined

ABFDE in its objective to encourage all legitimate FDEs to become certified. As a Diplomat and current president of ABFDE, it is my desire to see all legitimate FDEs obtain certification and to see all Diplomates take an active role in ABFDE's objective. But it takes more than desire for these two to become reality. Join me by taking an active role in ABFDE. As a group, we can make a difference.

One man has enthusiasm for 30 minutes, another for 30 days, but it is the man who has it for 30 years who makes a success of his life.

Moenssens

(continued from page 10)

aware of how specialized the field really is and how few highly qualified people there are, they will gain a greater respect for the field of questioned documents, when practiced by a certified examiner.

Andre retired from the University of Missouri at Kansas City this last November and is residing in the James Dean Country of Indiana. He is looking forward to resuming his lecturing and consulting and will be able to devote more time to his website. He is also looking forward to resuming his interests in playing the keyboards and painting.

I would like to thank Andre for letting this novice conduct the interview for this newsletter. I thoroughly enjoyed the talk and only wish I could have written more about the stories he imparted to me. What a wonderful gentleman.

Thank you, Andre.



ABFDE SHIRT ORDER FORM

The ABFDE is offering quality polo/golf shirts with the ABFDE logo embroidered on the left side of the chest. The shirts are offered in multiple colors and sizes.

NO POCKET

Circle Color: Black / Burgundy / Dark Green
Navy / Purple / Yellow / White / Ivory / Red
Size: S-XL

Size _____ @ \$29.50 ea. Total \$ _____
2XL _____ @ \$31.50 ea. Total \$ _____
3XL _____ @ \$35.50 ea. Total \$ _____
4XL _____ @ \$37.00 ea. Total \$ _____

Shipping: \$5.00 for the first two shirts; \$1.00 per shirt for each additional shirt

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

NO POCKET

Circle Color: Black/Dark Green/Navy/Lt Blue
Size: S-XL

Size _____ @ \$31.50 ea. Total \$ _____
2XL _____ @ \$33.50 ea. Total \$ _____
3XL _____ @ \$37.00 ea. Total \$ _____
4XL _____ @ \$38.50 ea. Total \$ _____

Mail Order Form and Check to:

Jan Seaman Kelly
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police
6767 West Charleston Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89146
(702) 229-3963
Fax: (702) 259-0082

New Gizmos/Wizardry

by Susan Morton

Foster & Freeman's Toner Dabber

I was intrigued by this new toner applicator when I saw it at the ASQDE meeting in San Diego. The toner is carried in a reservoir attached to a soft pad, which is patted over the surface of the imaging film. It looks like a tidy way to get rid of those pestiferous glass beads that get everywhere. The only time I have actually done the *macarena* was by accident when I was sliding around on beads spilled on the floor. So forthwith upon my arrival home I tried to order one. Foster and Freeman graciously comped me a couple to try out. Either they are very generous, or they did not want to fill out the 70-page form to prove they politically correct enough to do business with the City of San Francisco for a \$98 order.

I have tried the dabber out and like it a great deal. I find it works best if you use the pad to pat toner all over the surface and then use a soft brush to sweep away the excess toner. I am getting the best images I have ever seen. I use a make-up brush of the sort used to apply blusher. (Ladies, do not mix your

brushes up or you will have black cheeks and a very Goth look.) This is thematically consistent, as the pad on the dabber is a small face powder puff.

So I am going to throw away those nasty beads, as soon as I can find a landfill company prepared to fill out a 70-page form....

Io Personal Digital Pen

Logitech has made what has to be a document examiner's wildest dream! It is the only computer gadget I have ever really, really wanted just to play with. The Io is a ballpoint pen. You write and draw on special paper with it and then upload your work into your computer. **From the *pen*, not from the *paper*.** The pen goes into a cradle attached to a USB port. The pen can hold up to 40 pages in memory. Now clearly this is not possible. The company claims that the special paper has faint dots that the pen's optical sensor detects and uses to form a map of where the tip has traveled. No way. This is just plain magic.

So I can now march into the 21st century confidently clutching my ballpoint pen.

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc.

Administrative Office
7887 San Felipe
Suite 122
Houston, TX 77063