

Timeline of Significant Events in the Profession of Forensic Document Examination in North America

LEGEND	
	Important Publications and Studies
	Significant QD cases
	Rules, Regulations, Standards, Reports
	Organizations
	Adverse Impacts
	U.S. Court cases regarding expert testimony
	Canadian Court cases regarding expert testimony
	Innovations

1812	William Munroe of Concord, Mass. produced the first American wood pencils.
1844	Vulcanization of rubber patented by Goodyear Corp.
1858	First appearance of rubber erasers attached to wood pencils.
1862	First issuance of paper money in the U.S.
1864	2 different men credited with invention of rubber stamp this year: James Orton Woodruff of Auburn, NY, and Henry C. Leland of Lee, Mass.
1866	1 more man credited with invention of rubber stamp: L.F. Witherell of Illinois.
1867	First commercially successful typewriter invented by Scholes and Glidden.
1873	Remington & Sons begin mass production of Scholes & Glidden Type-Writer.
1894	<i>Textbook Treatise on Disputed Handwriting</i> by William E. Hagan published.
1895	First mass-produced envelopes with adhesive seals.
1900	New York v. R. B. Molineaux trial for murder by poisoning in which 10 FDEs testify.
1901	<i>Textbook Ames on Forgery</i> by Daniel T. Ames published.
	Conklin crescent filler mass-produced as the first self-filling fountain pen design.
	Pioneering article "Typewriting Expert Testimony" by A. S. Osborn published in Albany Law Journal.
1902	
1903	Rice-Patrick case (81 Appellate Div. NY) Forged will defeated and preserves legacy leading to founding of Rice Institute in Texas. A.S. Osborn testifies.
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1910	Textbook <i>Questioned Documents</i> by Albert S. Osborn published.
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1913	U.S. Statute of 1913, Chapter 79 allows for admittance of known HW exemplars into Court for comparison purposes.
	First informal meeting between A.S. Osborn and E. W. Stein in New Jersey to discuss forensic document examination. This would later become the ASQDE.
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1923	<u>Frye v. U.S.</u> , F 1013, ruling mandating scientific principle must have gained general acceptance. Polygraph evidence excluded.
1924	Bobby Franks murder case. <u>Illinois v. Leopold and Loeb</u> Hand printing and typewriter sourced to defendants.
1925	First electric typewriters mass produced by Remington.
1926	
1927	
1928	
1929	Formation of Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, Chicago, IL. The first forensic science laboratory.
1930	"Scotch Brand Cellulose Adhesive Tape" invented by Richard Drew of 3M.
1931	Katherine Applegate Keeler serves as first known female staff document examiner at the Scientific Crim Detection Laboratory.
1932	Lindbergh kidnapping case <u>New Jersey v. Bruno Hauptman</u> 8 FDEs testify; all identify Hauptman as writer of ransom notes.
	John Borden of 3M invents first Scotch tape dispenser with built in cutting blade.
1933	
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1936	Xerox Corp. begins manufacturing facsimilie machines using radio waves for office use.
1937	Chester Carlson invents the process of electrophotography, renamed "xerography" First patent for Dot Matrix printhead using 30 wires.
1938	
1939	First patent for carbonless paper awarded to National Cash Register (NCR).
1940	

1941	IBM markets the first proportional spacing typewriter.
1942	Official formation of American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE).
1943	
1944	Optical brighteners become commercially available.
1945	Milton Reynolds becomes first American manufacturer to market ballpoint pens through Gimbel's Department Store in NY.
1946	
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1948	Founding of American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS).
1949	
1950	
1951	First correction fluid, called "Mistake Out", invented by Betty Nesmith Graham.
	Clark Seller designated first AAFS QD Section's Chairman.
1952	Mass-marketing of "Magic Marker" fiber tipped pen by Sidney Rosenthal.
1953	
1954	
1955	Haloid Corp. (later Xerox Corp.) markets Copyflo, the first photocopier.
1956	Peter Weinberger kidnapping case - Over 2 million handwritten records searched; Angelo LaMarca identified and confesses.
	Textbook <i>Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents</i> by Ordway Hilton published.
1957	
1958	Textbook <i>Suspect Documents</i> by Wilson Harrison published.
	Federal Reserve System and American Bankers Association standardize MICR (Magnetic Character Ink Recognition) as the common machine language for check processing.
1959	Textbook <i>Evidential Documents</i> by James Conway published.
1960	<i>Study on Handwriting of Twins</i> by M. Beacom.
1961	IBM markets the first Selectric typewriter.
1962	
1963	U.S. Postal Service implements first use of Zip codes in the United States.
1964	
1965	First patent for Ink Jet Printer granted to Paillard, a Swedish company.
1966	Xerox and Magnavox develop first desktop fax capable of sending/receiving documents over telephone lines.
1967	
1968	
1969	Unsolved serial murders by Zodiac killer begin in California and letters from "Zodiac" received by various newspapers.
1970	ASTM Committee E30 on Forensic Science established.
	Diablo markets the HyType printwheel printer.
1971	

1972	ASTM Standard E444 <u>Guide for Scope of Work</u> by FDEs approved; the first ASTM standard for FDEs.
1973	Vydec becomes first word processor that uses floppy disks.
	Xerox introduces model 1200 Laser Printer.
	IBM introduced "lift-off" correcting tapes.
1974	Final letter confirmed to be from Zodiac killer received in California. Murders still unsolved.
	The first proposed use of anti-Stokes luminophores for use in security documents.
1975	Federal Rules of Evidence enacted: FRE 702-706.
1976	
1977	American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE) formed.
1978	First Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA) marketed by Foster + Freeman.
1979	
1980	<i>Study on Handwriting of Twins</i> by D. Gamble.
	"Post-it" Note Pad marketed by 3M.
1981	Formation of Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SWAFDE).
	First Video Spectral Comparator (VSC1) built by Foster + Freeman.
1982	
1983	
1984	"Gelly Roll" pens become first gel pens mass-produced by Sakura Color Productions.
1985	Mark Hoffman murders 2 in car bombings in Utah to attempt to cover up his forgeries of Mormon documents in a case now known as the "Salamander Letters".
1986	
1987	Thomas and John Knoll begin work on a new photo enhancement program they initially name "Display". This is renamed "ImagePro" in 1989, and later renamed "Photoshop."
	First use of Optically Variable Ink (OVI) as security feature on 60 Baht Note in Thailand.
1988	Formation of Southern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SAFDE).
1989	Publication of article in the University of PA Law Review "Exorcism of Ignorance as a Proxy for Rational Knowledge: The Lessons of Handwriting Identification Expertise" by Risinger, Denbeaux, & Saks.
1990	Photoshop 1.0 released to public.
1991	
1992	First VSC 4 marketed by Foster + Freeman.
1993	<u>Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.</u> U.S. 579. Creates 5 factors to determine if scientific methods are reliable.

1994	Study on FDE Proficiency by Dr. M. Kam, aka "Kam I."
1995	U.S. v. Starzecpyzel F. Suppl. 1027. Case finds Daubert factors do not apply to FDEs, like "harbor pilots," their knowledge is "technical," and not scientific.
	Canada: R. Mohan [2 SCR 9] - Criteria of 4 factors for admission of expert testimony.
1996	Unsolved murder of 6 year old Jon Benet Ramsey in Colorado, lengthy handwritten note found at scene.
	UNABOMBER Ted Kaczynski arrested in Montana by FBI, 18 years after his first bombing. Manual Smith-Corona typewriter used to prepare "Manifesto" seized as evidence.
	First VSC 2000 marketed by Foster + Freeman.
1997	General Electric v. Joiner F. 3d 524. Strengthened court decisions on expert admissibility.
	TWGDOC formed - later becomes SWGDOC (Scientific Working Group of Forensic Document Examiners).
	U.S. v. Timothy McVeigh excludes FDE testimony.
	Large Scale Study Handwriting Identification. by Dr. M. Kam, aka "Kam II."
1998	Study on Monetary Incentives by Dr. M. Kam, aka "Kam III."
1999	Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael F. 3d 1433 states expert testimony includes scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge.
	Textbook <i>Handwriting Identification: Facts and Fundamentals</i> by Roy Huber and AM Headrick published.
2000	U.S. v. Saelee (9th Cir) Excludes FDE testimony under Rule 702
	Formation of Forensic Sciences Accrediation Board (FSAB).
	Canada: R v DD [Supreme Court] The evidence must be <i>necessary</i> , not merely helpful. Canada: R v. JLD [Supreme Court] references the U.S. Daubert case as a relevant authority.
2001	Signature Authentication Study by Dr. M. Kam, aka "Kam IV."
	9/11 Terrorist Attacks result in increased need for security and intensify need for security features in documents.
2002	Study of FDE Expertise on Signatures, by Drs. Sita, Found, and Rogers.
	Individuality of Handwriting Study, by Dr. S. Srihari. CEDAR-FOX software used in study.
	U.S. v. Michael Prime 220 F. Supp. 2d 1203. Motion to exclude FDE testimony denied. Testimony deemed admissable under Federal Rule 702.
2003	Writer Identification of Hand Printing by Dr. M. Kam, aka "Kam V."
	First ESDA2 marketed by Foster + Freeman.
	First VSC 5000 marketed by Foster + Freeman.
2004	Authenticity of typewritten Texas Air National Guard memos about service of George W. Bush questioned and found to be fraudulent due to typewriter features not available in 1972, when documents were alleged to have been typed.

2005	
2006	Textbook <i>Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents</i> , 2nd Ed. Edited by Jan Kelly and Brian Lindblom published.
2007	ABFDE becomes FSAB accredited.
	First VSC 6000 marketed by Foster + Freeman.
2008	First VSC 400 marketed by Foster + Freeman.
2009	<i>NAS Report</i> published; finds numerous deficiencies in the forensic sciences.
2010	First VSC 40 marketed by Foster + Freeman.
2011	