## QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

Handwriting Analysis, Counterfeiting

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## Handwriting Analysis Evidence: "Document Examination" 1969 FBI Training Film 12min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGk nAMyxRPE&list=PLOrsZrbA5LZZuXHRxDIH WftHI1TQynjpb



ROOSEVELT-WAY-2115 01/26/2009 12:41:14.50 Member 2 C2043 Surveillance

I have a bomb that can level this bank. All you have to do is act like this is a transaction and keep calm. Please do not push any alarms or act nervous. No blue packs. Keep enough money for one more transaction because that is the time I need to get away. You have three minutes. By the time I go you can tell someone. I have a police monitor and a remote for the bomb, so don't screw up or we will all go.

I don't want to hurt anyone

Think!



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male, 30s, Sun Trust, Ft. Washington MD, 10:30a



# QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

 The bank robber's hold-up note; does it contain invisible impressions that indicate the address of the hideout? The suicide note found next to the deceased; was it actually written by a killer trying to cover up his crime? The will of a wealthy person; was it altered so a relative could receive a payout?



• The discipline of forensic document examination, often referred to as questioned documents, is frequently associated with white-collar crimes such as check fraud; however, in practice, this area of forensic science can be used in a wide array of cases from medical malpractice to art forgeries to homicides.

## **DOCUMENT ANALYSIS**

is in dispute or uncertain.

- a. A questioned document is any

  signature, handwriting, typewriting, or other written mark whose source or authenticity
  - i. This may include <u>checks</u>, birth certificates, licenses, <u>passports</u>, titles, deeds, <u>wills</u>, contracts, <u>money</u>, <u>lottery</u> tickets, suicide or <u>ransom</u> notes, medical records and receipts.







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group of individuals that represent a small foreign fraction. We do respect your brossiness but not the country that it serves. At this time we have your daughter in our gosession. She is safe and un housed and it you want her to see 1997, you must tollow our instructions to the lefter.

Hand Written

b. Document Analysis is the examination and <u>comparison</u> of questioned documents with <u>known</u> material.

- c. Document experts will investigate handwriting, typewriting or computer printouts, commercial printing, and type of <u>paper</u> and <u>ink</u> used.
- d. Like fingerprints, handwriting is <a href="mailto:unique">unique</a> to each individual.



i. Computer databases maintained by the U.S. Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) contain handwriting samples from hundreds of thousands of writers.
 Comparisons of these databases have not identified two individuals who have the exact same combination of handwriting characteristics, adding support to the legitimacy of handwriting as a solid form of evidence.

The Scientific Working Group for Forensic
 Document Examination (SWGDOC) develops and publishes <u>standards</u> and guidelines for the field of forensic document examination.

http://www.swgdoc.org/





## **B.** THE EXPERTS

- a. Forensic document examiners, also often referred to as **questioned** document examiners, are forensic scientists who are responsible for using a number of scientific processes and methods for examining documents—whether written, typed, or printed—related to a crime scene investigation.
- b. They are handwriting experts, as well as experts in other areas of document examination, including machine printing processes; and obliterated, indented, and erased entries.



- c. The Questioned Documents Unit (QDU) provides forensic support to the FBI and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies by conducting forensic examinations on evidence collected during an investigation.
  - i. Among the federal agencies with QD units are the:
    - 1. Federal Bureau of Investigations
    - 2. <u>Immigration</u> and <u>Customs</u> Enforcement
    - 3. US **Secret** Service
    - 4. US **Army** Crime Lab
    - **5.** <u>Internal Revenue</u> Service (Forensic Laboratory)
    - 6. US Postal Inspection Service
    - 7. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
  - ii. A number of questioned document examiners also work through <u>private</u> investigative companies, although their work is generally geared more toward civil cases.

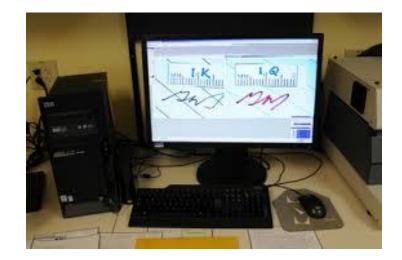




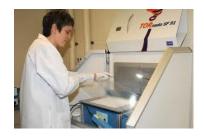
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service



d. The unit actually performs 25 different types of exams—all without tainting or destroying evidence.













The unit also maintains extensive <u>databases</u> of bank robbery notes, anonymous letters, fake checks, and ink compositions.

- i. <u>FISH</u>: Forensic Information System for Handwriting
  - 1. Maintained by the U.S. <u>Secret</u> Service, this database enables document examiners to scan and digitize text writings such as threatening correspondence.
  - 2.A document examiner scans and digitizes an extended body of handwriting, which is then plotted as arithmetic and geometric values. Searches are made on images in the database, producing a list of probable "hits." The questioned writings, along with the closest hits, are then submitted to the Document Examination Section for confirmation.

- ii. International Ink Library
  - Maintained jointly by the
     U.S. Secret Service and the
     Internal Revenue Service—
     includes more than 9,500
     inks, dating from the 1920s.
  - 2. Every year, pen and ink manufacturers are asked to submit their new ink formulations, which are chemically tested and added to the reference collection.

ifferent Types







- i. Examine documents for signs that they have been <u>forged</u> or <u>altered</u>
- ii. Compare signatures and handwriting through handwriting analysis to determine the authorship of documents
- iii. Examine <u>typed</u> documents and link them to specific machines or computers (printing process examinations)
- iv. <u>Decipher</u> the contents of documents that have been partially destroyed or altered
- v. Compare fractured or cut-edge comparisons on a variety of surfaces, including paper and tape
- i. Examine incidents of **indented** writing
- ii. Determine when a document was produced
- iii. Determine and distinguish ink discrimination, alterations, erasures, obliterations, and/or enhancements.

## C. HISTORY

- a. The crime of forgery has been practiced since ancient times in every country where writing existed and paper was used for financial transactions.
- b. Laws against forgery can be traced to <u>80</u>

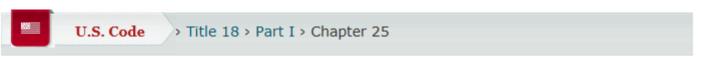
  <u>BC</u> when the <u>Romans</u> prohibited the falsification of documents that transferred land to heirs.
- c. Forgery was prevalent in Europe in the Middle Ages.
- d. Gradually laws were passed to prohibit forgeries in every developed country, but it was difficult to <u>identify</u> some of the highly skilled forgeries.





Counterfeit Handwriting

e. In the US, a <u>federal forgery statute</u> was enacted in <u>1823</u> which prohibited false making, forgery, or altering any writings for the purpose of <u>financial</u> gain.



#### 18 U.S. Code Chapter 25 - COUNTERFEITING AND FORGERY

Current through Pub. L. <u>113-296</u>, except <u>113-287</u>, <u>113-291</u>, <u>113-295</u>. (See <u>Public Laws for the current Congress</u>.)

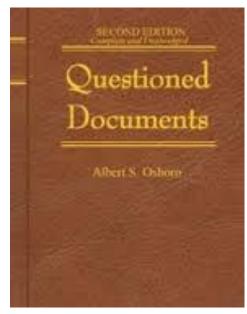
US Code Notes

prev | next

- § 470. Counterfeit acts committed outside the United States
- § 471. Obligations or securities of United States
- § 472. Uttering counterfeit obligations or securities
- § 473. Dealing in counterfeit obligations or securities
- § 474. Plates, stones, or analog, digital, or electronic images for counterfeiting obligations or securities
- § 474A. Deterrents to counterfeiting of obligations and securities
- § 475. Imitating obligations or securities; advertisements
- . § 476. Taking impressions of tools used for obligations or securities
- § 477. Possessing or selling impressions of tools used for obligations or securities
- § 478. Foreign obligations or securities
- § 479. Uttering counterfeit foreign obligations or securities
- § 480. Possessing counterfeit foreign obligations or securities
- § 481. Plates, stones, or analog, digital, or electronic images for counterfeiting foreign obligations or securities
- § 482. Foreign bank notes

- i. In the summer of 1882, he received a letter from the Rochester Business Institute, offering him a position as a **teacher** of **penmanship**. It was from this early beginning as a teacher of handwriting that Mr. Osborn extended his interests to the identification of handwriting, typewriting, paper, ink, and to the many questions that arise concerning contested documents.
- ii. In 1942, the <u>ASQDE</u> (American Society of Questioned Document Examiners) was founded with Mr. Osborn as its first <u>president</u>.
- iii. He wrote several books, including Questioned Documents, The Problem of Proof, The Mind of the Juror and Questioned Document Problems, which master and codify the information necessary for identifying styles of handwriting and typescript, and for dating papers, inks, and writing instruments.







#### THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE

- g. In 1962, The <u>American Law Institute</u> developed the standard definition and elements related to the crime of <u>forgery</u>.
- h. Today there are a variety of training programs, certifications, and professional resources for Forensic Document Examiners.
  - i. ABFDE <a href="http://www.abfde.org/">http://www.abfde.org/</a>
     (The <a href="http://www.abfde.org/">American Board</a> of Forensic Document Examiners)
  - ii. ASQDE <a href="http://www.asqde.org/">http://www.asqde.org/</a>(The <a href="https://www.asqde.org/">American Society</a> ofQuestioned Document Examiners)



## D. FAMOUS CASES

## <u>Lindbergh</u> Baby

March 1, 1932- Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., 20-month-old son of the famous aviator and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the nursery on the second floor of the Lindbergh home in New Jersey. A search of the premises was immediately made and a <u>ransom</u> note demanding \$50,000 was found on the nursery window sill. The painstaking analysis of his handwriting by the emerging FBI Laboratory would add to volumes of other evidence used to help convict

Bruno Hauptmann of the historic murder. Handwriting analysis concluded that Hauptmann left a series of <a href="thirteen">thirteen</a> ransom notes after snatching and later killing the Lindberghs' 20-month-old son.





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LINDY'S KIDNAPE



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IN EAST BRONX

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### JONBENET RAMSEY

December 26, 1996- JonBenet Ramsey was a 6-year-old beauty queen and the daughter of a socialite and a wealthy businessman in Atlanta, Georgia. Her mother, Patsy Ramsey, called the police after finding a ransom note demanding \$118,000 for her daughter's safe return. The girl's body, however, was discovered in their own **basement** later that afternoon. She had a skull fracture and had been sexually molested and strangled with a cord. Due to what some say were unforgivable errors by the Boulder Police Department, the case is still unsolved. This case was one of the most **publicized** police investigations of the 1990s.

Mr. R

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#### SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST ATTACKS

Seventeen forensic document examiners sifted through and analyzed charred documents after the 9/11 attacks to help identify the **hijackers**.



#### KANSAS SERIAL KILLER DENNIS RADER

i. Dennis Rader committed his first murders in 1974, killing four members of the Otero family in their home.

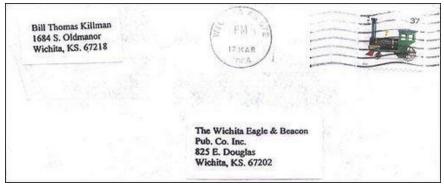
**Strangulation** and taking souvenirs were part of his modus operandi, or **pattern** of behavior. He also left semen at the scene and later said that he derived sexual pleasure from killing. He placed a <u>letter</u> in a public library book in which he took responsibility for killing the Oteros which ended up in the local newspaper. He requested to be called the "BTK Strangler," which stands for **bind**, **torture**, and **kill**.













SERIAL KILLER SENTENCING Dennis Rader has been sentenced to life in prison

ii. His final crime was in 1991, but he resurfaced in 2004 as many news stories marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Otero murders and he again sought media attention. Rader sent local media outlets and authorities more letters, this time filled with items related to his crimes, including pictures of one of the victims, a word puzzle, and an outline for the "BTK Story." During 2004 and 2005, he also left packages with more clues, including a <u>computer disk</u>. That disk helped lead authorities to Rader's church, which eventually led to his arrest. He pled guilty and was ordered to serve 10 life sentences in prison.

## Forensic Files "Water Logged" https://www.youtube.com/watc h?v=uYn5HDCBChk&nohtml5=F alse

(S-15,Ep-15) "Time Will Tell"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNbbV4mVzac

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CP uNtxQUE&nohtml5=False
- Forensic Files Serial Killers Sign of the Zodiac 1