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**ABSTRACTS**

1. Foreword

Janis M. Winchester

It is interesting to review the historical perspective of the first women in the field of Forensic Document Examination, as detailed in the article by Forensic Document Examiner (FDE) Jan Beck. These pioneering women entered the profession at a time when society, particularly the role of women, was undergoing change. Then as now, the training process followed the accepted practice of apprenticing with established and well-regarded document examiners.

2. It's Palm, Not Palmer

Rose Karpel

Character recognition technology for handheld computers often incorporates the use of novel systems of writing. This paper describes the Graffiti® writing system used with the PalmPilot series of handheld computers and its implications for forensic handwriting examinations. As the writer becomes accustomed to using Graffiti®, certain characteristics may carry over into non-Palm writing. Handheld computers are becoming part of daily life, and the writing systems used with them, like Graffiti®, may become part of a Forensic Document Examiner's workload.

3. Class Characteristics of Hand Printing

Ellen Mulcrone Schuetzner

In an examination of hand printing, it may be necessary for the Forensic Document Examiner to check standards of hand printed systems. This paper catalogs 38 identified systems of hand printing. Upper and lower case letterforms are drawn out and labeled according to an identified copy book system of hand printing.

4. Normal Course-of-Business Records versus Manufactured Records

Sandra Ramsey Lines, Jan Seaman Kelly, and Diane K. Tolliver

In the case of handwritten business records, the Forensic Document Examiner (FDE) compares a disputed or questioned record with "normal course-of-business" records. A comprehensive examination of the factors observed in the record is considered. The totality of what is found, and often what is not found, may permit a definite conclusion with respect to whether or not the business record was prepared in the "normal course-of-business," or manufactured in a manner not consistent with "normal course-of-business" practices. The data collected as part of this study supports the literature on examining business records by the recognition of specific factors when examining business records using a comprehensive checklist.

5. Survey of Handwriting Habit Areas Used by Forensic Document Examiners: Degree of Use and Discriminatory Power  
Richard C. Hanlen, Patricia A. Manzolillo, Robert J. Muehlberger, and Grant R. Sperry

In April 1998, a survey was distributed to Forensic Document Examiners (FDEs) requesting an evaluation of the habit areas used and their utility in distinguishing handwriting. The information obtained from this survey was intended to provide the data necessary to select a preliminary set of characteristics for analysis. It is important to use these relative rankings as an indication of general tendency and possible discriminatory dominance as compared to an absolute ranking of discriminatory dominance over the other habit areas. The particular circumstances surrounding the examination of handwriting can dictate a far different ordering of habit areas.

6. Katherine Applegate Keeler Dussaq: The First Woman Document Examiner  
Jan Beck

This historical overview of the life of Katherine Applegate Keeler Dussaq describes the early advances of the field of Forensic Document Examination, and the development of the first Crime Laboratory.