

# Paul Westwood

## The 2015 Albert S. Osborn Award Recipient

Michelle Novotny and Tobin Tanaka

The 2015 recipient of the Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence was Paul Westwood. Paul is the first Corresponding Member to receive the Society's most prestigious award. While Paul was unable to attend the meeting, the award was presented during a live teleconference at the recent Annual General Meeting Banquet in Toronto. Paul has exemplified the professional standards and "exceptional distinction in terms of cumulative activities..." in both the public and private spheres of forensic document examination (FDE) in a career which spans 47 years.

Paul began his formal training in 1968 with the Commonwealth Police Service after having borrowed texts by Albert S. Osborn and Wilson Harrison from a friend working in the area with the NSW Police. In 1972 he testified for the first time in a Melbourne criminal case and the detective working on the case let it be known to the opposing attorney that this was his first time testifying as an expert. The opposing attorney approached Paul and said that he understood it was his first time in the witness box and asked to go over the evidence with him, which he did. He then said "these are the questions I will put to you ... we all have our first day in court - you stick to your script and I will stick with mine."

During the 1970's Paul attended numerous courses on topics such as scientific and technical photography, microscopy, typewriter repairs and maintenance, paper manufacturing, and had undertaken study tours and liaison visits to major FDE labs throughout the US, Canada, England, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Hong Kong. He served as the officer-in-charge of the Document Examination Bureau of the Australian Federal Police until 1983.



In 1977, Paul attended his first American Society of Questioned Document Examiners meeting in San Francisco. In 1980, he attended the inaugural meeting, was a foundation member and hand wrote the minutes of the very first meeting of the Australian Society of Forensic Document Examiners which later became the Australasian Society of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc. Paul has since attended many, if not all, of the meetings of this society ever since.

During the 1980's, Paul's exemplary work in the field earned him a number of professional commendations, including the Australian Federal Police Commissioner's Certificate of High Commendation for service in the field of FDE, the medal of the Order of Australia for services to the AFP in the field of FDE, and the National Medal for Police Service. In 1984 Paul received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of Technology, Sydney and in 1987 was given the Diploma in Document Examination by the FSS of the United Kingdom.

Paul was recruited for four years by the Australian Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in Canberra to establish a Document Fraud Section with offices in several capital cities in Australia - this included the training of staff in overseas diplomatic missions in the detection of fraudulent passports and other documentation of concern to that department. During that same period and with the permission of the Department, he established Forensic Document Services and worked in private practice on a part-time basis in Canberra, later establishing the Sydney laboratory with colleagues Dr. Steven Strach and Michelle Novotny. Paul resigned from the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs to pursue full-time private practice in the field of Document Examination in 1987.

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## *ASO Honoree*

### *Paul Westwood*

*(continued)*

From 1993 until 1997 Paul served as the president of the ASFDE and in 1995 became a Corresponding Member of the ASQDE and has regularly attended Society meetings ever since. Over the years, Paul has also become a member of the ANZFSS, the AAFS and the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences in the UK. While the scheme was active, he was a registered forensic practitioner with the ANZFSS. He also attended numerous conferences and symposia of other societies and groups relating to QD and document security.

Throughout his career, Paul has been responsible for the training of numerous experts in the field, both directly and indirectly, in government and police labs and in private practice. He has examined and reported on tens of thousands of documents in many thousands of cases in criminal, civil and arbitration matters for all manner of clients from the Australia Federal Police to the Department of Foreign Affairs to financial institutions to law firms to corporate entities to the private individual down the street. Paul has been accepted as an expert in this field in countless matters in tribunals and courts of various jurisdictions throughout Australia and South East Asia. He has lectured and published extensively on QD topics.

Paul is the quintessential expert witness and a crusader for our profession, promoting the value of FDE throughout the judiciary, the legal profession, police forces, government agencies and finance industry (and anyone else who will listen) at every chance. He has been a mentor and provided opportunities for many of us by maintaining an "open door" policy to the laboratory. Without his activities over this time period it is unlikely that the ASQDE would have as many Australian members as it does today.

Our congratulations to Paul on receiving the Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence and we look forward to his continuing contributions to the profession.

## *ASQDE Award Nominations*

### *Due March 31, 2016*

Article X of the Bylaws of the ASQDE details the criteria for the two awards bestowed by the Society. The general descriptions for each award and basic criteria are included below for reference.

The **Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence** was created to recognize those individuals who have contributed above and beyond what is expected of a Society member.

Nominees must be:

- A Regular, Corresponding, Life, or Life Corresponding member in good standing at the time of the nomination;
- Active in the QD field for at least 25 years and a member of the ASQDE for at least 20 years; and
- A person who has attained exceptional distinction in their cumulative activities and outstanding service to ASQDE over their entire career in recognized ways that advance the field and benefit the Society.

The **Linton Godown Award for Research** was created to recognize those individuals who have contributed above and beyond what is expected of a Society member. Nominees must be:

- A Regular, Corresponding, Associate, Life Member, or Life Corresponding Member in good standing at the time of the nomination; and
- A person who has attained exceptional distinction in terms of producing a body of research which has been of benefit to the profession or demonstrating innovation which has created valid techniques or instrumentation.

**To nominate someone, send a detailed submission to President John Osborn at [president@asqde.org](mailto:president@asqde.org) citing how the nominee meets the specific criteria.**

**Nominations must be received by March 31, 2016.**

### **REMEMBER**

**Nominations for the  
Albert S. Osborn Award and the Linton Godown Award  
must be submitted by email to:  
[president@asqde.org](mailto:president@asqde.org)**

**or mailed to our NEW address at:  
ASQDE  
P. O. Box 6140  
Lakewood, CA 90714**

**to be received no later than  
March 31, 2016  
for consideration for the  
2016 AGM  
award presentation**