

2020 ASQDE Award Honorees

ALBERT S. OSBORN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Mr. Robert W. Radley, MSc, C Chem, FRSC, FCSFS, FSSoc, Dip, FAE, RFP

Mr. Robert W. Radley is the Practice Senior Consultant with Radley Forensic Document Laboratory, the longest established independent laboratory in the UK. He was trained by his father Jack and has ensured the continuity of the practice by training his daughter Ellen.



Mr. Radley has been active in numerous professional organizations to include The Chartered Society of Forensic Science, ASQDE, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the Royal Society of Chemistry. He has given evidence in courts throughout the UK, Republic of Ireland, Jersey, Cyprus, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Hong Kong, Singapore, Gibraltar, Malta, South Africa, Kenya, Canada, Trinidad and the British Virgin Islands.

Through his practice, his expertise in courts around the world, his extensive involvement in research and in training, Mr. Radley has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that has enhanced the reputation of forensic document examination. This dedication and commitment make him an exceptional selection and the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners is proud to announce that the 2020 recipient of the Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence.

*Albert S. Osborn (1858-1946) was a pioneer and author in the field of forensic document examination. His book *Questioned Documents*, first published in 1910, is still considered required reading for aspiring trainees in the field. Mr. Osborn was also the founder of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners. Prior to incorporation in 1942, examiners from across the country would meet at Mr. Osborn's house in order to share experiences and research. He is commonly recognized as "the father of modern forensic document examination." In whatever endeavor was undertaken, be it casework, writing, research and professional organization structure, one feature was always recognized as a cornerstone to the endeavor – and that was excellence.*

LINTON GODOWN AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Dr. Steven Strach, BSc (Hons), PhD, MRACI, C.Chem., MCSFS (UK)

Dr. Strach is the founder of Strach Forensics Pty Ltd with offices in Belconnen ACT and Frenchs Forest, NSW, Australia. He has spent over twenty-five years examining disputed documents.



In 1977, Dr. Strach was responsible for the initiation of study into the application of a new forensic instrument that ultimately became the Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA).

At that time ESDA was being researched for use in developing latent fingerprints on paper. He was instrumental in getting the Metropolitan Police Laboratory to fund the research. Electrostatic detection devices are now universally recognized as an indispensable part of a properly equipped forensic document examination laboratory.

Dr. Strach's other research interests include handwriting statistics, statistical applications in general, electronic (biometric) handwriting and signature recognition, general sequencing line direction issue, ESDA research including the basis of the technique, sequence determination and secondary impressions, and the fundamentals of scientific evidence.

Based on Dr. Strach's yeoman efforts, the entire discipline of forensic document examination has improved and the ASQDE is proud to recognize him with the 2020 Linton Godown Award for Research.

Linton Godown (1906-1992) was the 12th president of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners. He was in private practice in Chicago, IL from 1958-1972 and in Memphis, TN from 1972-1989. Mr. Godown was also instrumental in the development of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners. He had an unparalleled reputation for research with special interest in instrumentation, based on his past work as a photographer.