



Abstracts

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Class Characteristics of Counterfeit Protection System Codes of Color Laser Copiers

(Janis S. Tweedy)

As the quality of the color laser copiers increased at the end of the 1980s, it became apparent that they could be used to produce credible copies of important documents. In an effort to stop their use as a counterfeiting tool, changes were made to the machines to prevent the copying of important documents as well as to identify the color laser copier used to make the copy through the inclusion of a code on each color laser copy. Submitting the copies to the U.S. Secret Service Laboratory can allow for decoding to identify the make, model, and serial number of the copier used. However, by studying the code present on a color laser copy, a forensic document examiner may determine the possible manufacturer of the color laser copier used to produce the copy which may be useful as investigative information. Also, the forensic document examiner can identify a color laser copier as the one used to produce questioned copies if the questioned copies display the same code as produced by the known color laser copier.

Digital Reconstruction of Torn Paper

(Derek L. Hammond)

Utilizing current digital technology, specifically Adobe® Photoshop®, a technique is described to assist Forensic Document Examiners in the reconstruction of torn paper. The methodology described overcomes the shortcomings of previous methodologies while maintaining the integrity of the evidence for future forensic examinations/comparison.

The Israel Police's Experience with Official Documents from the Soviet Union

(Sharon Brown, Avi Abulafia, Rachel Gabbay)

This article reviews three types of official documents issued by the former Soviet Union, namely, driving licenses, birth certificates and nursing diplomas. The change in formatting of these documents over the years is described, including background prints, security features and details of how the personalia are entered. A description is given of the most common forgeries encountered in the authors' laboratory for each class of document.

Historical Review: Some Basic Rules for the Identification of Handwriting

(Ordway Hilton, with introduction by Farrell Shiver)

The rules and corollaries stated in this paper represent some of the basic concepts necessary for accurate identification of handwriting. Rather than attempting to include all conceivable rules, the more important have been selected. Their full comprehension may assist students in becoming proficient in the examination of handwriting but they are far from a cure-all. The accurate identification of writing requires the interpretation of all physical facts found within the writing not only in the light of these rules but also with intelligence and common sense. It is essential to understand how writing is produced and what physical facts result from each and every writing movement. Only then can accuracy and proficiency be attained.