

Dr. David A. Crown: The 2010 Albert S. Osborn Award Recipient

Farrell C. Shiver

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.

The criteria for the ASO Award are as follows:

A. The recipient must be a living member in good standing of the ASQDE and may be either a Regular, Specialist, Corresponding, Life or Life Corresponding member at the time of the nomination.

B. The recipient must have been active in the field of questioned document examination for a period of at least 25 years and must have been a member of the ASQDE for a period of at least 20 years.

C. The award shall only be bestowed on persons who have attained exceptional distinction in terms of :

1. Cumulative activities, such as professional research or literary accomplishments which advance the field of questioned document examination, and

2. Outstanding service to the ASQDE over a long period of time, such service resulting in generally recognized and beneficial improvements in the Society.

*To nominate someone for the 2011 award, please email President Linton Mohammed. You must include information citing how the nominee meets the ASO criteria and it must be received by **January 1, 2011.***

Dr. David A. Crown received the Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence at the 68th Annual Conference of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners in Victoria, British Columbia. Dr. Crown could not be present at the award ceremony. The award was accepted on his behalf by Peter Tytell, who discussed Dr. Crown's many professional accomplishments.

Dr. Crown holds a Bachelor of Science from Union College in Schenectady, New York, as well as a Master of Criminology and a Doctor of Criminology from the University of California in Berkeley. Dr. Crown has held Adjunct Professor positions with the Antioch School of Law and the American University in Washington, DC, as well as other teaching positions at George Washington University, Georgetown University, and Chabot College. It was in this capacity that Peter Tytell first came to know Dr. Crown.

Dr. David Crown is a Life Member of the ASQDE and was The Society's 16th President. In addition, he is a Retired Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and from 1974-1975 was the President of that organization, one of the very few forensic document examiners to do so. He has also held the position as the Chairman of the Questioned Document Section of the AAFS. In 1973 and 1975, the AAFS honored Dr. Crown with Awards of Merit.

He was Chairman of the Questioned Document Subcommittee of the American Society of Testing & Materials (ASTM) and the Vice Chairman of the Forensic Science Committee of

the ASTM. He was on the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of the Forensic Science Foundation. He was Assistant Editor of the Journal of Forensic Sciences and also served on the editorial board. Dr. Crown was also a member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists, the Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners.

Dr. Crown is well known for his professional writing. In addition to his book, *The Forensic Examination of Paints and Pigments*, he has written dozens of journal articles and professional papers. Examples of his many journal articles include "The Forensic Science Evidence in the Investigation of the World War II Activities of Dr. Kurt Waldheim" and "The Identification of the Handwriting of Josef Mengele," which discussed his travel to Brazil as part of forensic team that identified a man who had died there in 1979 as Joseph Mengele, an infamous Nazi war criminal. His work in the area of typewriter identification is well known to anyone who has conducted a serious study of the subject.

In the early 1950's, David Crown served as a Special Agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps in Austria and from 1967 to 1982 he was the Chief of the Questioned Documents Laboratory, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC. He also served as the Director of the Questioned Documents Staff, Department of State, Washington, DC, and Assistant Director, U.S. Postal Inspection Service Laboratory, San Francisco, California.