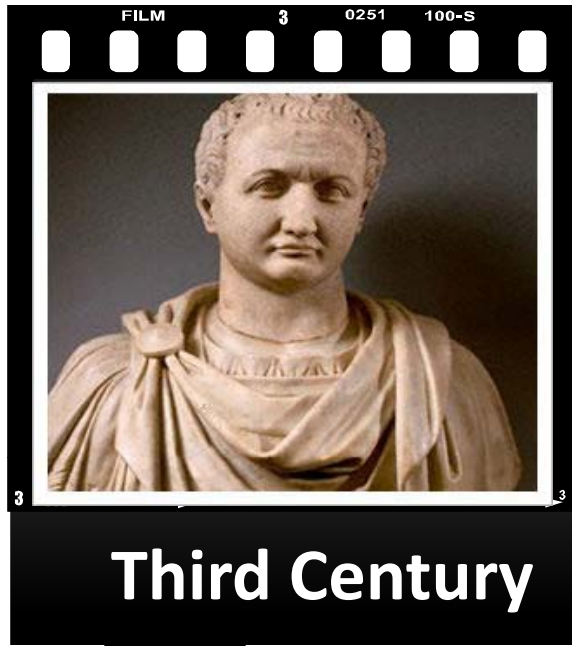


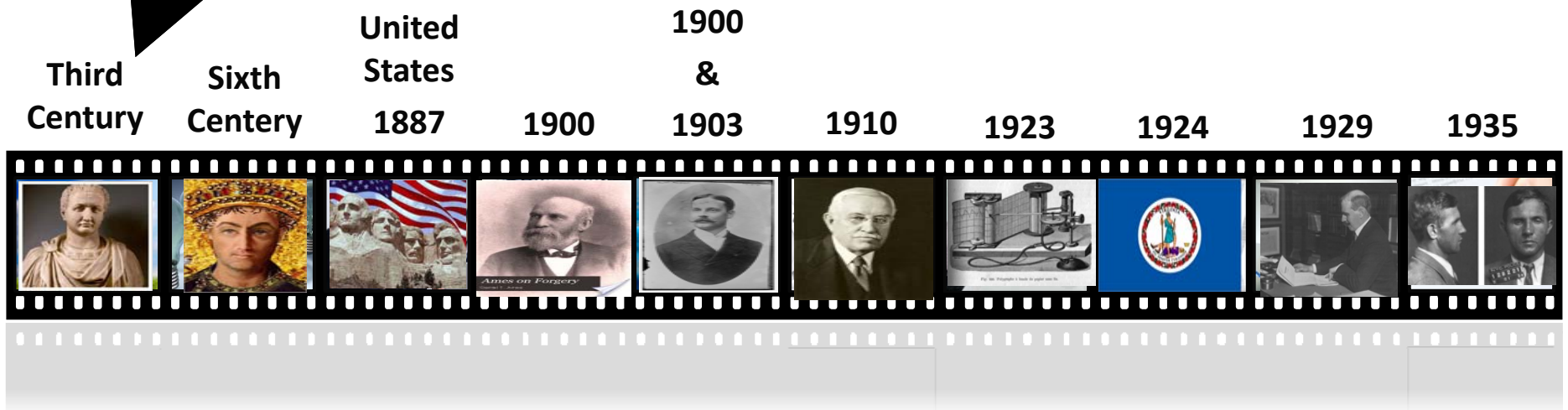
# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History



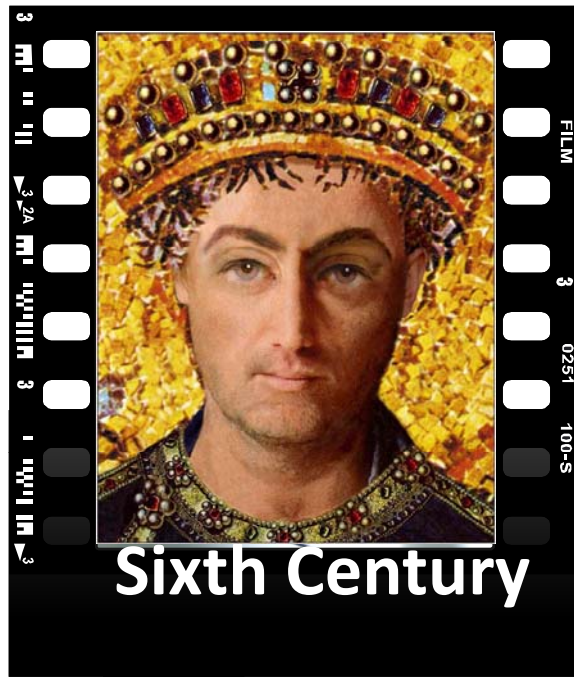
## Third Century

The time of Titus and Anthony

"Jurists established protocols for the determination of forgery and the manner in which forgeries were to be detected."<sup>1</sup>



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History



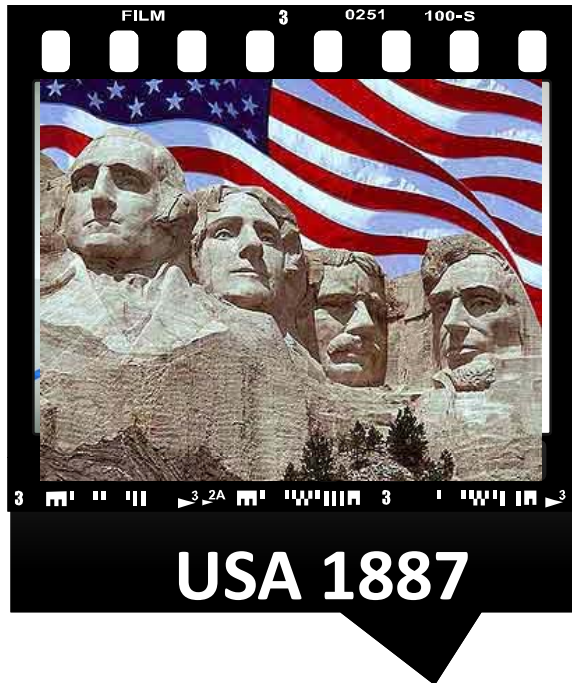
## Sixth Century

### Justinian Code

“Established further guidelines for the using of handwriting comparisons in the courts. A judge could in his discretion request persons with special skill in writing to perform an examination of questioned writing and give testimony as the the authenticity of the questioned text.”<sup>1</sup>



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History



Fast Forward to the

## United States

Bell v Brewster

(10 N.E. 679, 44 Ohio St. 690)

“The Ohio Supreme Court recognized the importance of handwriting as a means of identifying a person.”<sup>2</sup> Utilizing standards of comparison, expert comparative analysis and opinion testimony regarding writing to established questioned writing as prepared by a specific writer.

United  
States

1900

&

Third  
Century

Sixth  
Century

1887

1900

1903

1910

1923

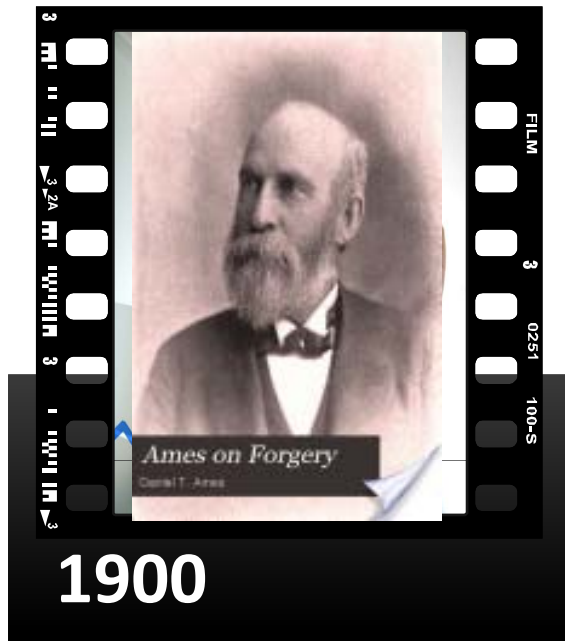
1924

1929

1935



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

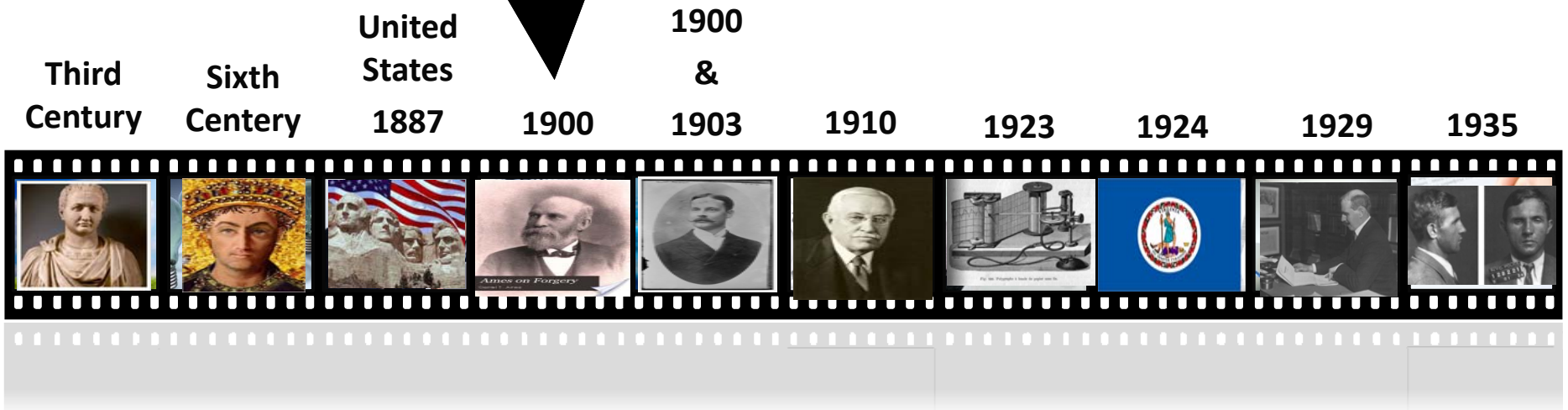


**1900**

**Daniel T. Ames**

**“Ames on Forgery”**

One of the earliest treatises by the founder of the Penman’s Art Journal, penmanship author and “Examiner of Contested Handwriting in Courts of Justice”



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

**1900**

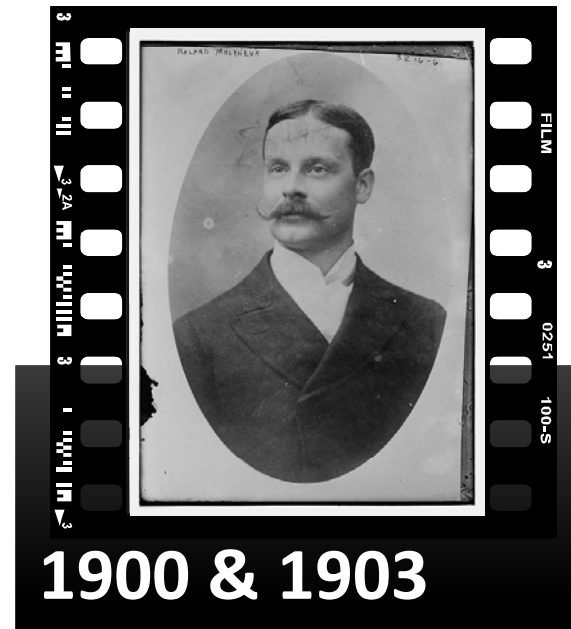
**New York v R. B. Molineaux**

Notable early criminal case involving the testimony of several handwriting experts. Roland Molineaux, a chemist, was tried for the poisoning murder of a woman, Katherine Adams.

**1903**

**Matter of Rice (the Rice-Patrick case)**

Notable early forged Will case in New York. The result of this case indirectly led to the Rice Institute foundation.



**1900 & 1903**



Third Century

Sixth Century

United States 1887

1900

1900 & 1903

1910

1923

1924

1929

1935

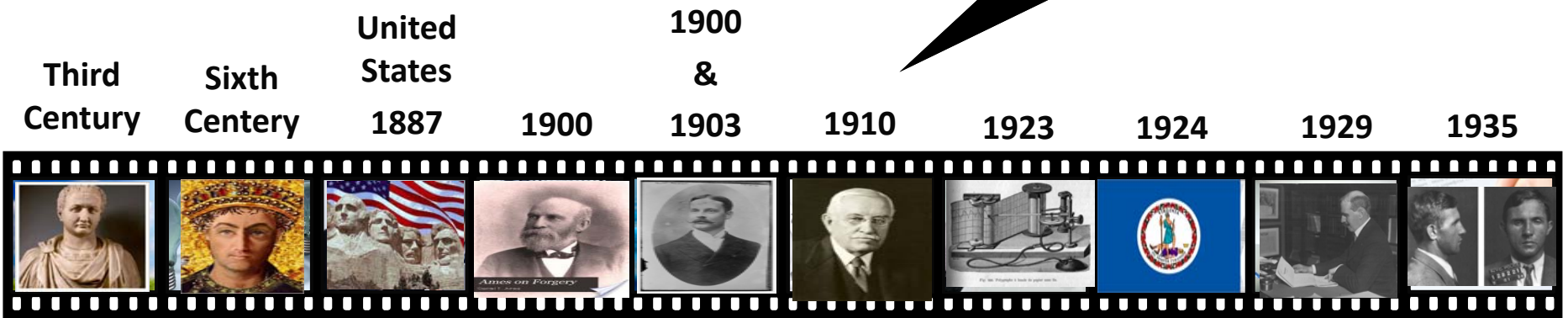
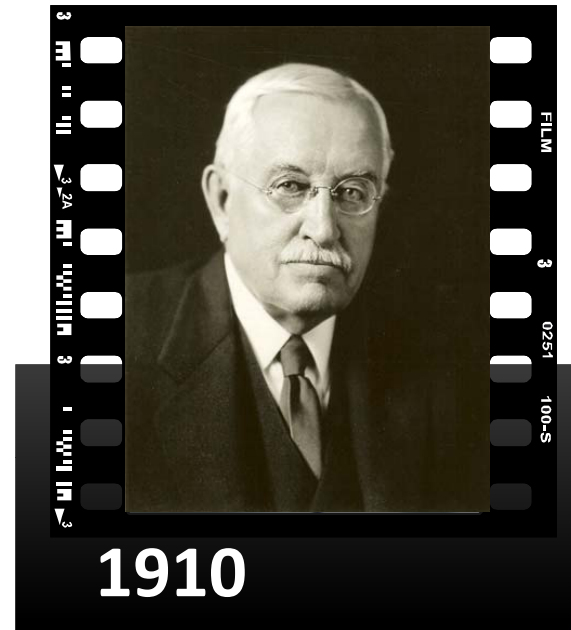
# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

## 1910

### Albert Sherman Osborn "Questioned Documents"

A comprehensive text which established a greater focus on not only the examination of handwriting and signatures, but of other types of evidence appearing on documents including paper, ink, typewriting and alterations.

Albert S. Osborn also, during the early part of the century, began to invite other document examiners to his home in Upper Montclair, NJ. These meetings were the beginnings of what would become the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners.

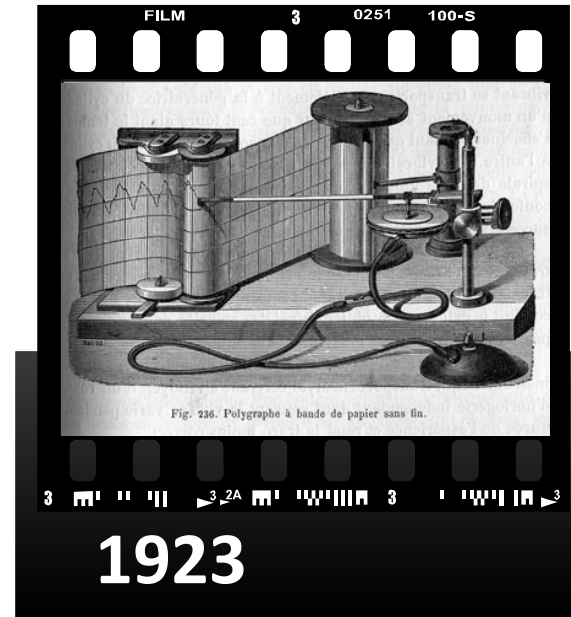


# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

## The Frye Standard

**Frye v United States**  
**293 F, 1013 (DC Cir. 1923)**

Although this decision came about as a result of the use of polygraph testing, it was the standard by which expert testimony was allowed for decades. Among other things, it demanded general acceptance of expertise and methodology.



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

## Virginia

### Adams v Ristine

122 S. E. 126, 138 Va 273,  
31 A.L.R. 1413

“Chock-full of document law points, covering many questions including qualifications of experts, scope of cross-examination and use of photographic evidence.”<sup>2</sup>

This was a landmark case due to the number of issues which were addressed dealing with expert testimony in the field.





# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

## John H. Wigmore

### Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory

“The organization of the first forensic science laboratory, the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory in Chicago, IL, began in 1929. It started under private endowment, but within one or two years, because of the influence of Professor John H. Wigmore, it was affiliated with Northwestern University School of Law. “ This laboratory was modeled after multidisciplinary European laboratories and included a questioned document section.”<sup>2</sup>

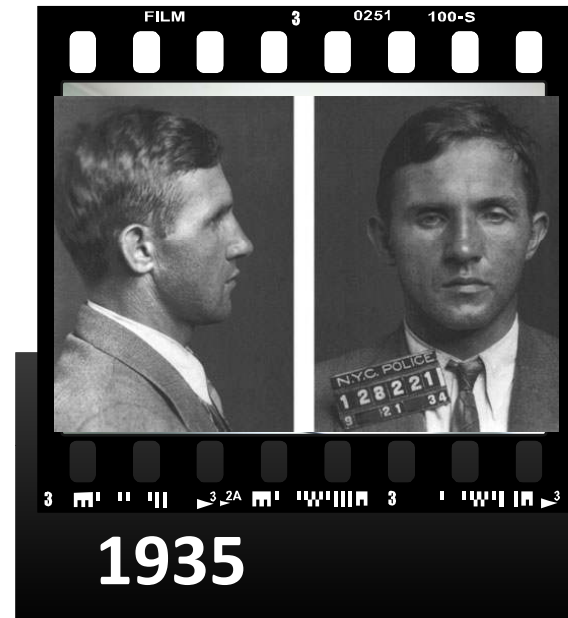


# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

## State of NJ v Bruno Richard Hauptmann

### The Lindbergh kidnapping

Albert S. Osborn, Albert D. Osborn, Elbridge W. Stein, Clark Sellers, John H. Tyrrell, H. J. Walter, Harry Cassidy and Dr. Wilmer Souder (the only public examiner), were consulted independently and opined Hauptmann had prepared multiple ransom demand notes.



1935



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History



## American Society of Questioned Document Examiners

### Formally Founded

With Albert S. Osborn presiding, the ASQDE was formally established. Membership in organization was entirely by invitation. Its meetings were completely educational in scope, and annual attendance as well as full participation in the program were an absolute requirement for a continuing invitation. The ASQDE is considered, by many, to be the primary national organization disseminating research in the United States.

1942

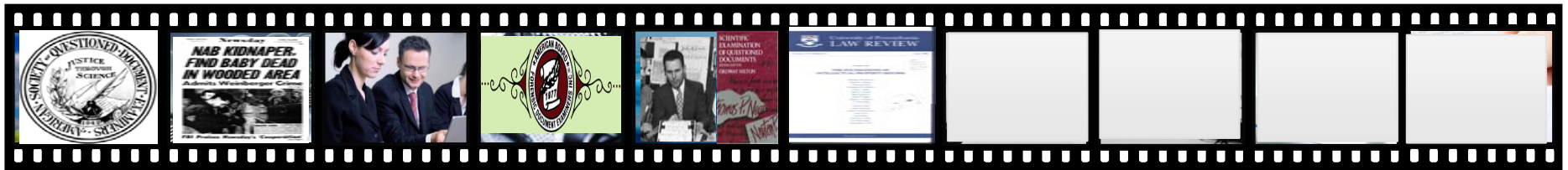
1956

1959

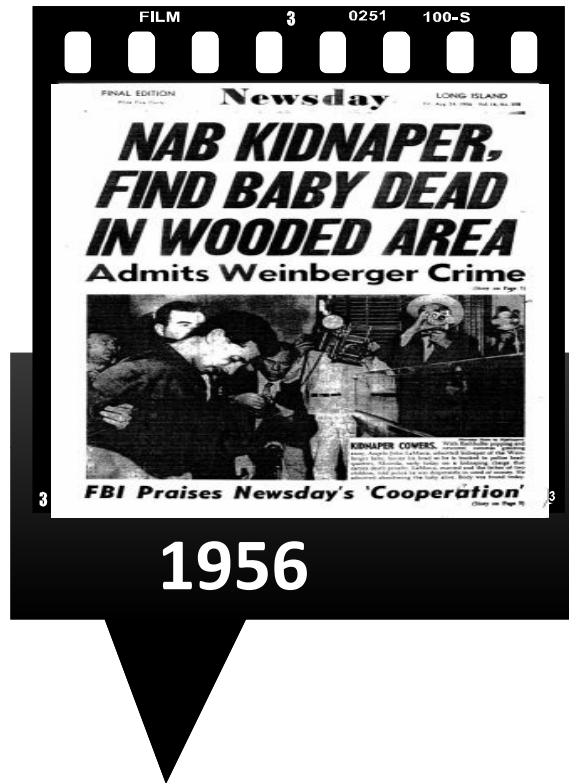
1977

1982

1989



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History



## Kidnap/Murder Of Peter Weinberger

People v John LaMarca  
(New York)

FBI experts sift through  
75,000 police record  
signatures, expanding the  
search to probation records.  
John LaMarca was identified  
through federal district court  
records.

1942

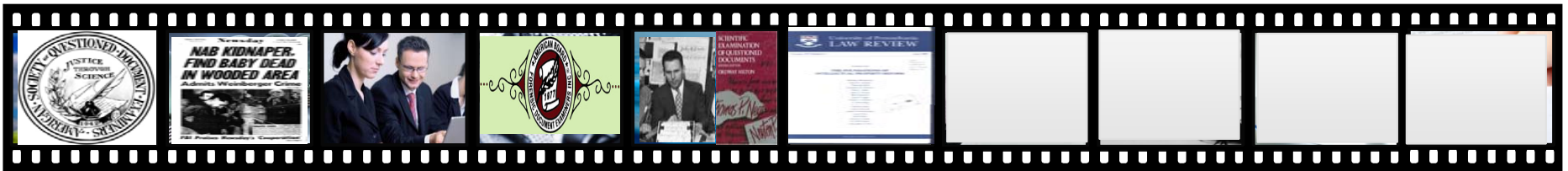
1956

1959

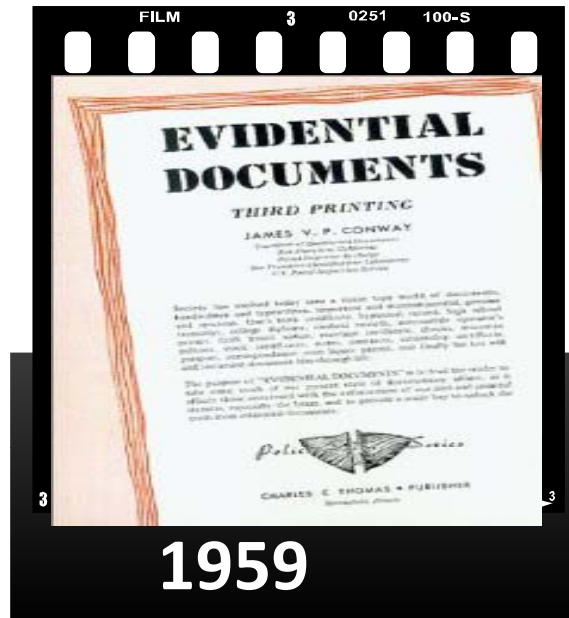
1977

1982

1989



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History



## James V. P. Conway

### “Evidential Documents”

A well regarded text by Conway of the Postal Inspector in charge of the San Francisco Identification Laboratory (USPS). The book was a complete guide, but among the first to cover the subject matter with brevity and considered an excellent introduction to the field for the trial lawyer.

1942

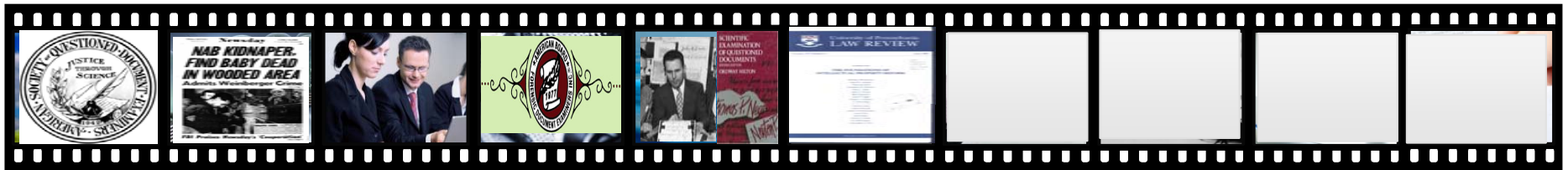
1956

1959

1977

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1989



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History



1977

## American Board of Forensic Document Examiners

### Official Formation

The ABFDE's stated objectives are two-fold: to establish, maintain and enhance standards of qualification for those who practice forensic document examination, and to certify applicants who comply with ABFDE requirements for this expertise. In doing so, the Board aims to safeguard the public interest by ensuring that anyone who claims to be a specialist in forensic document examination does, in fact, possess the necessary skills and qualifications

1942

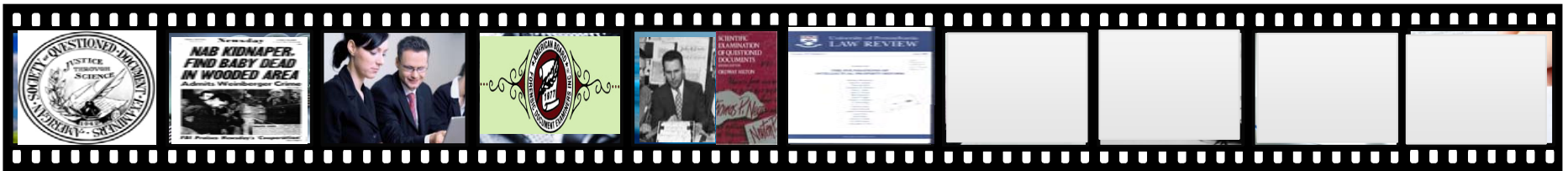
1956

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1989

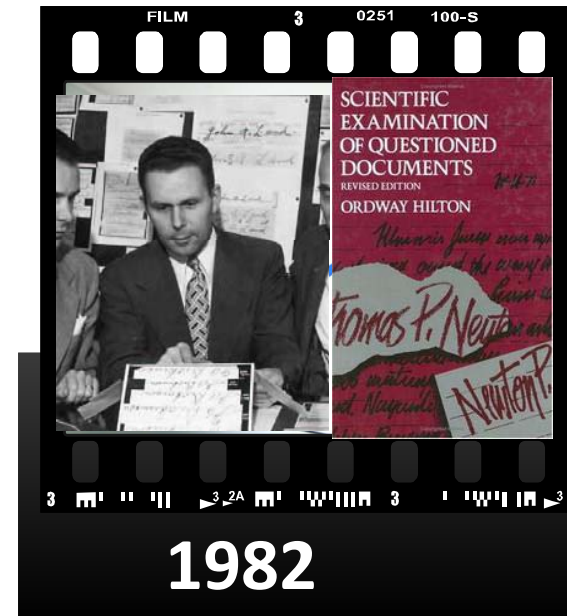


# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

## Ordway Hilton

### “Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents – Revised Edition”

Hilton’s book, with the publication of the Revised Edition, became the pre-eminent training text of the modern document examiner. Hilton’s book, along with the writings of Dr. Wilson Harrison, Osborn, Conway; and then later Huber, Ellen, Huber/Headrick; and most recently Kelly/Lindblom would form the texts utilized in training and the guide for published protocol development.



1942

1956

1959

1977

1982

1989



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION A Brief History

## Denbeaux, Saks & Risinger

**“Exorcism of Ignorance as a Proxy for Rational Knowledge: The Lessons of Handwriting Identification ‘Expertise’”**

The University of Pennsylvania Law Review article which focused attention on forensic document examination and particularly handwriting examination. Largely criticized by the field, the article certainly can be credited with ending the complacency of the field with respect to empirical research, protocol development and other issues.



1942

1956

1959

1977

1982

1989

