

Foreword

This inaugural edition of the *Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners* represents a new step in the field of Forensic Science. We are pleased to provide a peer reviewed compilation of papers presented at forensic science meetings, original research and technical notes concerning the field of Forensic Document Examination. Many individuals have contributed to the accomplishments of this first edition. Pulling together a new Journal requires a considerable amount of coordination. We appreciate the authors whose works are represented in this issue, and look forward to presenting the other scientific papers that are still in progress in future editions.

By way of presenting an account of the early discussions concerning publishing a Journal, James V.P. Conway wrote of "the desirability of the ASQDE as the leading organization of the profession of questioned document examination, to have its own Journal to advance the purposes of the Society as spelled out in its By-Laws." The other early voice for establishing a Journal was Ordway Hilton. In his early writing in 1989, Ordway wrote "if you are to consider seriously a Journal printed once or twice or more a year, I have a few comments about problems that will be encountered. We should strive to have a Journal that will rank at the top or near the top in the forensic science field. This requires a dedicated editor and editorial board. But it also requires work on papers by members of the Society. It will take time to reach full stride."

In anticipation of the first issue of the Journal, I had asked Ordway to include some comments on the scope and intent of the Journal knowing of his over 55 years of examining documents and over 90 articles published in technical and legal Journals in the United States, Canada, England, and Europe, in addition to a published book. The field of Questioned Documents lost one of its most productive members with his passing earlier this year. It is with great respect however, that his thoughts on the Journal are presented.

"With each challenge the Society has been successful and has grown. With the help of all members this one will succeed too. However, a successful Journal does not depend alone on an effective editor and editorial board, but on the membership who must do the research and write up the process and findings. Our profession has been attacked by a claim that basic procedures have not been researched. Thus document examination is not a profession. Our real problem is that we have not published many of our research methods and observations. Together we can now overcome this misconception."

"Our annual meetings have always contained discussion of technical problems. New observations and procedures

have been reported, but the examiner often has not been willing to prepare a text for publication. Apparently, not every examiner believes he can find the time to revise his manuscript. This observation is based on over 45 years of editorial work in ours and related fields. If you are one who hesitates to undertake a revision, Don't! You and your fellow examiners will all benefit from your extra effort. Our Journal can be an important resource that is available to the legal profession and other examiners who want to learn. The ASQDE has a challenge to keep our profession up to date and able to handle new document problems accurately. We must endeavor to develop this Journal into a premier publication in the document examination field. Certainly it can be accomplished by the combined efforts of all members."

The combined efforts of members whose work has led to the publication of this first edition are recognized and appreciated, especially the Editorial Review Board members. They have spent many hours reviewing manuscripts and providing comments. The Editorial Review Board members are Jan Beck, James Daniels, Dr. Audrey Giles, Robert Muehlberger, Farrell Shiver, Verle Truman, Dan Purdy, Maureen C. Owens, Jim Lee, Roy Huber, Tom Vastrick, Grant Sperry, and Sandra Ramsey. Other individuals who have contributed to the development of the Journal are Linda Hart, Brian Lindblom, Danielle Seiger as well as many of the ASQDE membership.

In summary, the contributions by members and the scientific community are encouraged for the publication of original research, technical discussions, descriptions of scientific instruments and case studies. The views expressed by the researchers and authors are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Editorial Review Board or the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, Inc. The authors' provide the forensic science community the wealth of original research presented in a technical format. We are hopeful that the authors' description of the scientific procedures used in the field of Forensic Document Examination may also assist the legal community and criminal justice investigations.

Technology may provide other formats for the presentation of articles, such as electronic publishing and computerized key word search. It will be important for individuals to keep up with new technology and apply the scientific process to the presentation of new research. We need to keep diligent as new technology opens avenues of opportunity. Working together we may develop a Journal that in time, will "reach full stride."

Janis M. Winchester
Editor