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Even as late as 1941, the examination of questioned documents was unknown to many people in the legal arena. Despite the highly publicized case of *State v. Hauptmann* (the Lindbergh kidnapping), many attorneys and jurists were unfamiliar with what a questioned document examiner was and the kind of work practitioners performed. Both Albert S. Osborn and Albert D. Osborn felt that it was important not only to perform their duties as document examiners, but also to educate the judiciary and bar about the work that they performed.

Informative and sometimes lengthy precursors to the modern day newsletter were created within their office to distribute to clients and other interested parties. While this was to a certain degree a marketing effort, it served a higher purpose. Detailed writing with regard to the field helped to increase awareness of the questioned document examiner's function and how handwriting examination was performed.

In more recent years, many examiners of questioned documents have retitled themselves as forensic document examiners. This title is far more descriptive than the common lay expres-

sion "handwriting expert" and is employed by many today as a subtle reminder that handwriting examination is only one function of the document examiner. One of the goals of the Osborns in creating these informative diatribes was also to educate the judiciary and bar that appropriately trained document examiners performed, were capable of performing and were qualified to perform many different types of examinations unrelated to the examination of handwriting.

In January of 1941, Albert S. Osborn and Albert D. Osborn created their first newsletter style circular. Lengthy as it may seem, its content was a valuable source of basic information. There is a continuing need to inform the public, judiciary and bar regarding the capabilities of the qualified forensic document examiner and of new techniques and methods employed by practitioners. Today the Internet is used for much the same purpose. One search among the many websites maintained by private practitioners reveals a host of informative writings. The circular that is reprinted here is an example of early efforts by two examiners to keep people informed and aware.

Questioned Documents

Albert S. Osborn and Albert D. Osborn

Many phases of Questioned Document examination and proof are comparatively new as a result of scientific progress and especially of changes in laws and legal procedure permitting methods and processes not formerly admissible. The interests

of justice require that lawyers, judges and document specialists should know of these new laws and methods. This occasional publication will furnish some of this information.

Editor's note: This is an abridged version of an article published by Albert S. Osborn and Albert D. Osborn dated January 1941. The article was published just the year before the formal founding of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners in 1942. Albert S. Osborn was the first president and primary organizer of the ASQDE. Albert D. Osborn served as the third president. This article is being reprinted in tribute to the 60th anniversary of our organization.

An incidental but highly gratifying result of the reformed procedure in the proof of documents permitting, and in certain courts requiring, expert witnesses to give definite reasons for their opinions, has been the clipping of the wings, or the elimination of the corrupt expert brought in by the attorney against the fact merely to bring about a "conflict" in the testimony. When a mere opinion was required it was very easy to bring about a conflict by calling an unqualified or corrupt witness who gave no reasons. There is but little con-