

BOOK REVIEW

Review of *Forensic Examination of Rubber Stamps, A Practical Guide*

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Kelly, Jan Seaman (2002). *Forensic Examination of Rubber Stamps, A Practical Guide*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, LTD. Hardcover \$44.97. Softcover \$36.95.

Jan Seaman Kelly is a forensic document examiner with the Las Vegas Police Department and the current President of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners. She is also a member of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners and the Questioned Document Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Ms. Kelly states that the book is intended to document contemporary manufacturing processes for stamps and seals, as well as discuss the standard and defect features found in stamps and, finally, to recommend examination protocols for the case analysis. The book addresses all modern and older style stamp processes including: Ludlow; Linotype; photopolymer; gel; laser; light burst and thermal. A number of these methods are quite new and may be unfamiliar to forensic document examiners.

Several other document examiners also contributed to the book. Ms. Christine Cusack contributed a chapter on dry seal manufacturing and examinations; Mr. Tobin A. Tanaka on Linotype and facsimile signature stamps; Mr. A. Lamar Miller on close-up photography; and Mr. James Green on stamp inks. Ms. Jane Lewis (TLC Analysis of Inks) and Ms. Kimberly Kreuz (Quick Reference Charts) provided additional assistance. The Quick Reference Charts will be of value in distinguishing one method's impression characteristics from another.

Most chapters are supported by high-quality photographs that serve to illustrate the subject considered. Each stamp-making method is described in considerable detail. The sections on

"Characteristics of Stamps, Dies and Their Impressions" and "The Examination Process" are especially well-organized and will be invaluable during the actual examination of questioned impressions. Few, if any, articles and texts on stamps consider inks and photographic methods – *Forensic Examination of Rubber Stamps* fills this gap.

The book is 217 pages in length and is available in hard or softcover. There are some differences in the quality of the photographs printed in the hard versus softcover versions. Interestingly, several in the softcover reflect fine detail not as apparent in the hardcover. As might be expected, other photographs in the hardcover are superior to the softcover prints.

Given that most document examiners infrequently examine stamp cases, this text will serve as a useful resource and reference guide. Trainees in the field are well advised to thoroughly read this text as it sets an excellent foundation for stamp and seal research.