

“Lineup: The Reliability of Examinations Involving Multiple Suspected Writers”

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOHANNA HINES,
Defendant.

CRIM. NO. 97-CR-1036-NG

GERTNER, D.J.;

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

June 11, 1999

“Indeed Denbeaux draws an interesting analogy to eyewitness identification. Courts have concluded, as a matter of law, that one-on-one show-ups are unduly suggestive. Likewise, Denbeaux suggests, are one-on-one handwriting comparisons. The outcome of this analysis, for example, may be different if Harrison were given a “lineup” of similar handwriting exemplars to review, and asked to determine which of this group is most similar to the robbery note author. Whether one adopts that specific approach or not, one thing is clear: when Harrison says, ‘I conclude that Hines wrote the robbery note,’ she may well be going beyond her expertise.”

- U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner-

Jan Seaman Kelly, “Habits observed in naturally written numbers.”

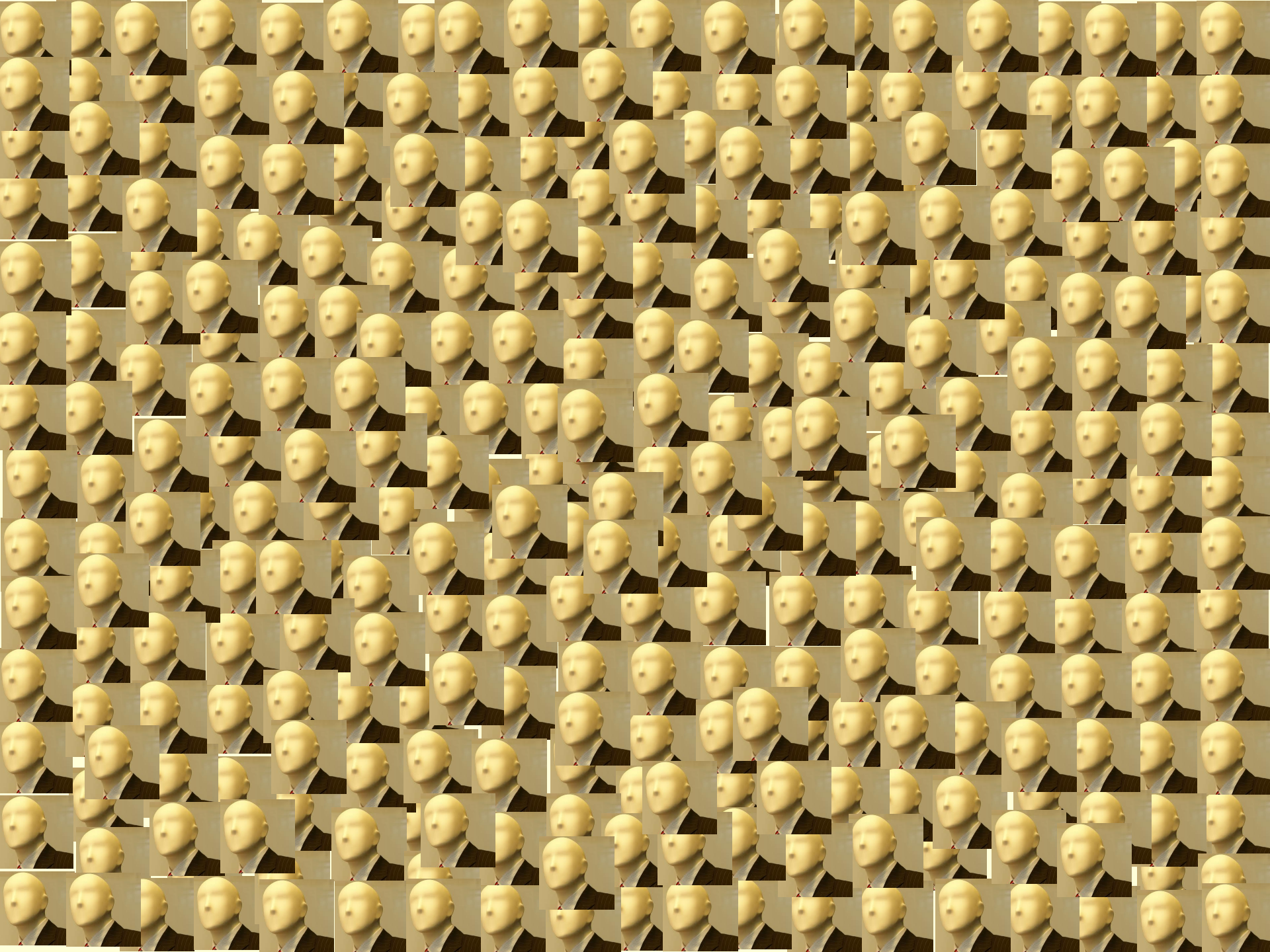
Rick Horton’s paper, “A study of the occurrences of certain handwriting characteristics in a random population.”

Farrell Shiver, “Case Report: The Value of Field Assistance to the Investigator in a Counterfeit Check Case.”









Please read the below instructions completely before you begin. Thank you.

1. Write the paragraph printed below in cursive handwriting.
2. Use a ballpoint pen.
3. WRITE, DO NOT PRINT. If you need more space, write on the back.
4. If you make a mistake do not scratch anything out or write over any letters or words, simply re-write the word next to the error.

"Our London business is good, but Vienna and Berlin are quiet. Mr. D. Lloyd has gone to Switzerland, and I hope for good news. He will be there for a week at 1396 Zermatt Street and then goes to Turin and Rome and will join Col. Parry and arrive at Athens, Greece, Nov. 17th or Dec. 2nd. Letters there should be addressed King James Blvd., 3580. We expect Chas. E. Fuller Tuesday. Dr. L. McQuaid and Robt. Unger, Esq., left on the 'Y.X.' Express tonight and paid \$12.34 for tickets."

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Known Writer Requirements

- Needed more than 1,000 completed London Letters.
- Writers of Knowns ranged from 15 to 75+.
- Utilized churches, businesses, colleges.
- Writing samples not following guidelines were culled from the core sample to arrive at the final 1,000.

Questioned Documents

- Two London Letters distributed to a new set of unknown writers.
- Told to write London Letter twice in a natural style.
- One letter assigned a (Q) letter.
- Second letter assigned (K) number, duplicating a number already in the 1,000 Known.
- 56 Knowns with corresponding Questioned documents replaced 56 pages in the 1,000 suspect exemplars.

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180

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Completed London Letter with Known (K) number assigned.

London Letter

"Our London business is good, but Vienna and Berlin are quiet. Mr. N. Lloyd has gone to Switzerland, and I hope for good news. He will be there for a week at 1396 Vermont Street and then goes to Turin and Rome and will join Col. Paary and arrive at Athens, Greece, Nov. 17th or Dec. 2nd. Letters there should be addressed King James Blvd., 3580. We expect Chas. E. Fuller Tuesday. Mr. S. McQuaid and Robt. Linger, Esq., left on the 'Y. X.', Express tonight and paid \$12.34 for tickets."

Answer Key for London Letter Study

A- 42	AA- 60	AAA- 968
B- 25	BB- 61	BBB- 992
C- 56	CC- 462	CCC- 996
D- 79	DD- 463	DDD- 988
E- 259	EE- 464	
F- 290	FF- 465	
G- 310	GG- 466	
H- 322	HH- 467	
I- 468	II- 446	
J- 399	JJ- 469	
K- 444	KK- 470	
L- 445	LL- 471	
M- 446	MM- 472	
N- 447	NN- 473	
O- 448	OO- 474	
P- 449	PP- 475	
Q- 450	QQ- 532	
R- 451	RR- 574	
S- 452	SS- 619	
T- 453	TT- 665	
U- 454	UU- 692	
V- 455	VV- 693	
W- 456	WW- 709	
X- 457	XX- 745	
Y- 458	YY- 790	
Z- 459	ZZ- 873	

***Numbers altered for public presentation purpose**

Examiner Test Packets

- One Questioned Document (Lettered).
- One-thousand Known (K) standards.
- Answer form.
- Examiner could remain anonymous or request results.
- Examination Affidavit.

Examiner Task

Could examiners associate a questioned document with not just one suspected writer, or a “Lineup” of 6 to 8 “suspects” as suggested in the Federal Court case, but conduct a successful examination with the handwriting of 1,000 “suspects”.

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1

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“Lineup Examination Test Instructions”

- You have been provided with one machine reproduction of a questioned item containing an alphabetic designation. You have also been provided machine reproductions of one-thousand (1,000) naturally prepared known standards of similar class with numeric designations. These standards were prepared by one-thousand different individuals.
- You are to conduct an examination of the questioned item to known standards to determine if the questioned item was prepared by any one of the one-thousand different known writers. Provide your answer below:
- You are also to complete the enclosed Examination Affidavit. **Return the affidavit to me separate from this answer form.** This will ensure anonymity for those not wishing to know the results of their examination. **Please retain copies of these two forms for your records.**
- **Please examine all known standards** and provide your answer below:

Identification

The writer of K _____ prepared Q _____.

Elimination

The writers of the Known standards did not prepare Q _____.

_____ I do not wish to be identified.

_____ I do want to know the result of my examination at the conclusion of the study. The following is my contact information:

Please print

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Return Address: David Parrett
Questioned Document Laboratory
Oklahoma County District Attorney
320 Robert S. Kerr, Suite 505
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73102

For questions: 405/713-1794

Examination Affidavit

Please Print

On _____, I _____ completed the
(date) (name)

“Lineup” examination test without assistance from any other individual. I have been a
Questioned Document Examiner for _____ years. I am currently employed by

(name of agency or private practice)

Affiant

Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

Results of Initial Study

- Four examiners with experience ranging from 2 to 14 years experience participated.
- All Four Examiners reached definitive conclusions.
- All Four Examiners were correct.





1/7/00 page 2 CBA Log in Handout

What If you
Don't give me
Is your The Pen Number
I will kill you
Pen
NUMBER
for your BANK card

Note to course designers. You may modify this handout to fit your course. You can also use these instructions to access your courses as designers. Please submit any errors or recommendations to bmorey@rock.edu

There is a Bomb
in your building
on Level 3. Do not
leave the building
or it will explode.



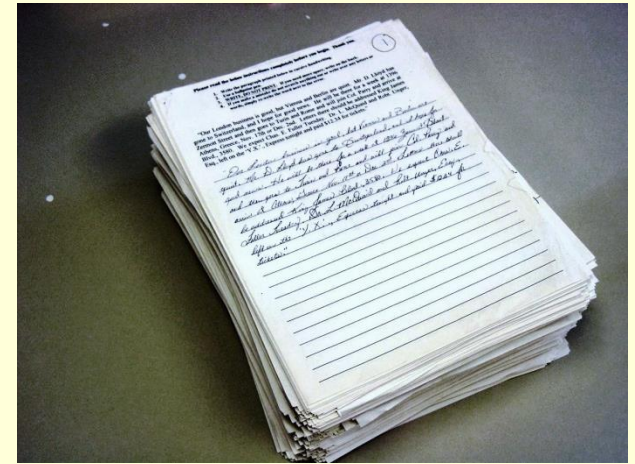
Put all the
money in the bag.
I have a gun

For which your instructor has given you a valid User Name and words, you are creating your own global account which you can use with courses with

Now, fill out the case sensitive characters and password. Do not change your my WebCT will allow you From now on Log on to the Choose my Log in using WebCT page corner.



David Parrett
davparqde@gmail.com



QUESTIONS

