



William B. Blake  
Investigator  
Oliphant Commission  
P.O. Box 2740, Station D  
Ottawa (ON) K1P 5W7

May 5, 2009

Dear Mr. Blake,

Consider this letter as a record of observations based upon cursory visual and spectral examinations of the two (2) single sheet documents submitted to this laboratory on 27 April 2009 and 1 May 2009. The content of this letter does not constitute a formal forensic report, which may be provided upon request.

The purpose of the submission was to determine if the handwritten notations appearing on the document entitled "Mandate" submitted on 27 April, 2009 could be considered genuine or spurious in nature.

The following general observations were noted:

1. With respect to the handwritten notations on the first document submitted, examination has revealed that these notations exhibit all signs of having been produced naturally and free from conscious execution. There is no evidence of the writings having been traced, or otherwise drawn upon the document. This observation stands for all the handwriting appearing on this document.
2. The handwritten notations appear visually and spectrally similar and could not be differentiated using these techniques. It is not possible to confirm or refute whether the ink(s) used to produce all the handwritten notations are of similar formulation without conducting chemical analyses. Should this be required the documents may be resubmitted to this laboratory.
3. The black ink of the handwritten notation crosses over the toner text of the printed document, confirming that portions of the handwritten notation were written after the document was printed.
4. There is no evidence to suggest insertions to the document text.
5. Both documents submitted for examination were produced using electro-photographic technology. The document bearing handwritten notations appears of a better quality than the submitted document marked "Original." This latter document bears evidence of a photocopy process, exhibiting ragged edges along the characters and considerable



background toner scatter. A complete toner morphology assessment was not conducted. Nor was any chemical analysis of the toners.

6. Paper analysis, which may relatively date and characterize the components, was not conducted.

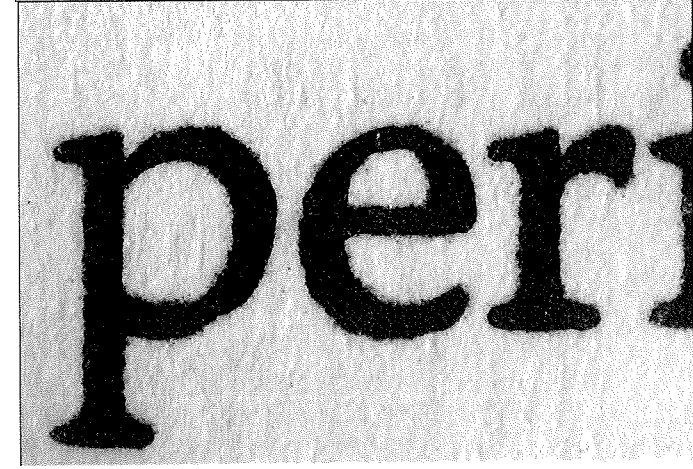
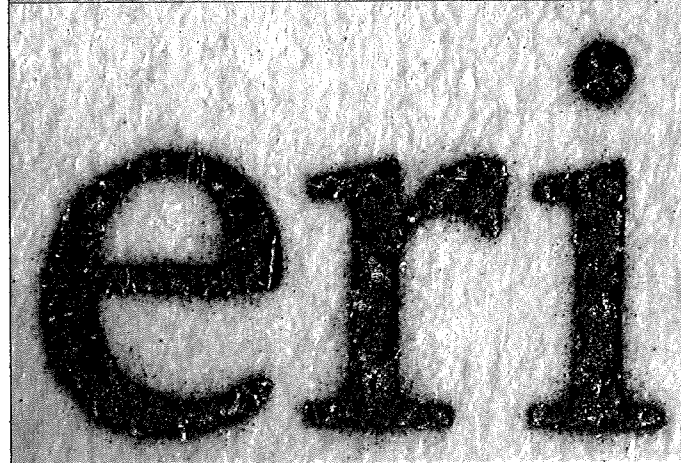
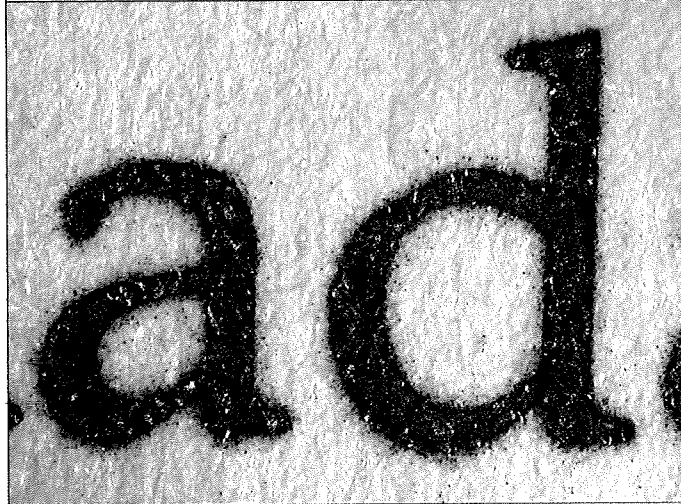
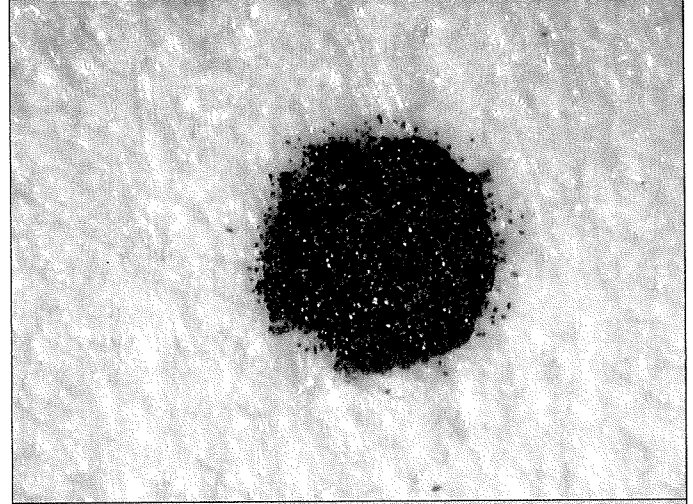
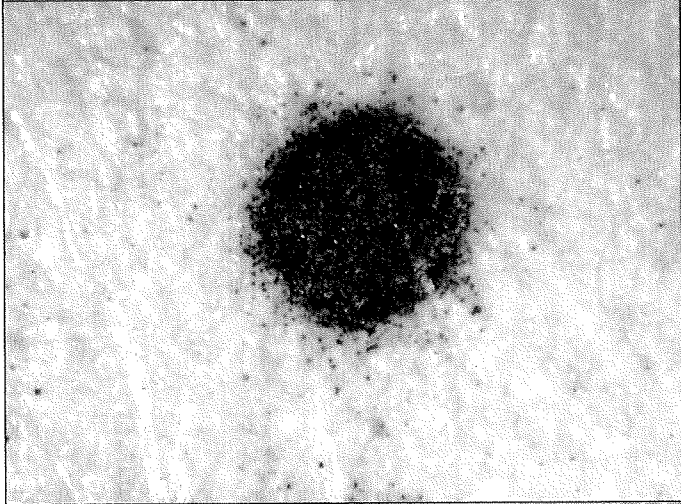
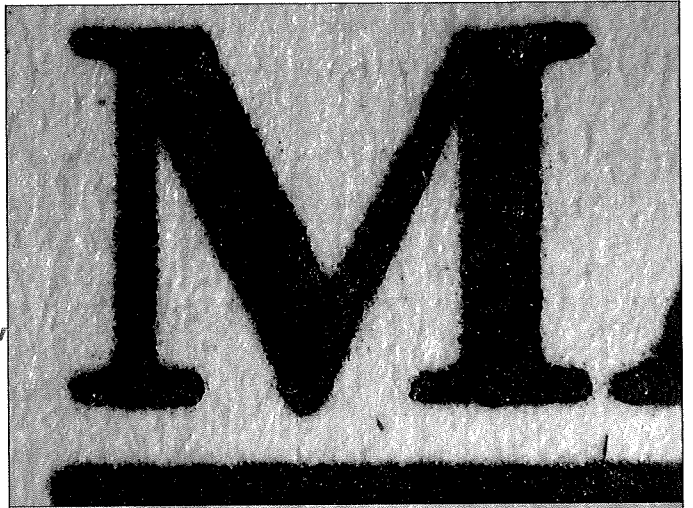
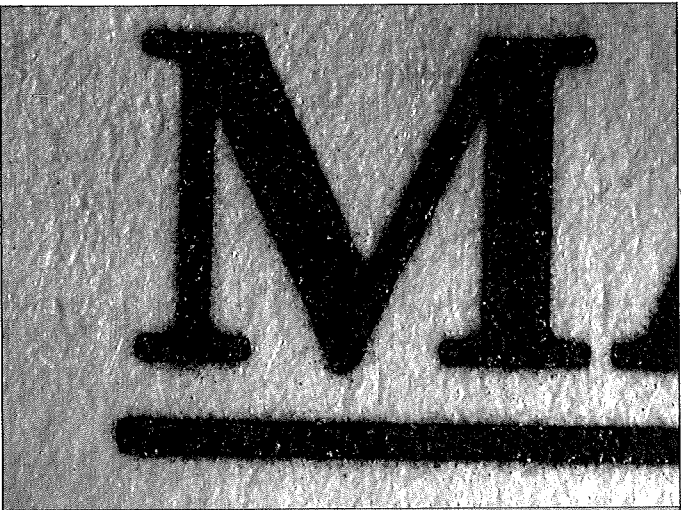
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have with respect to these observations.

Sincerely,

Samiah Ibrahim  
Manager, Forensic Document Examination Section  
Laboratory and Scientific Services Directorate  
Canada Border Services Agency  
79 Bentley Avenue  
Ottawa (ON) K2E 6T7  
613-946-3330  
Samiah.ibrahim@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

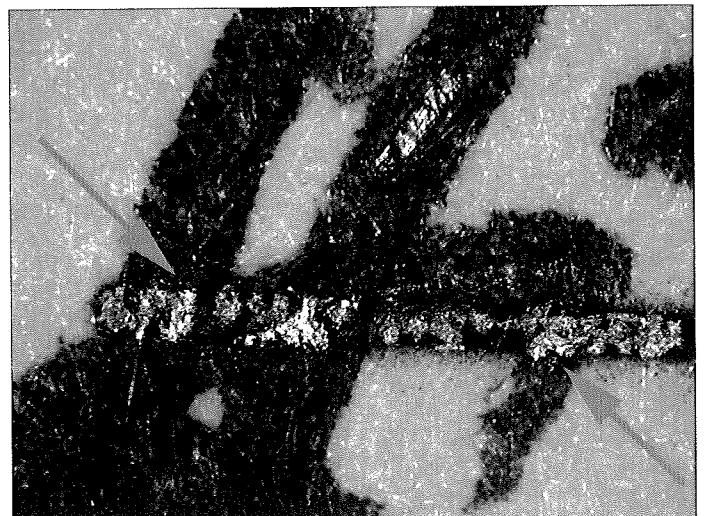
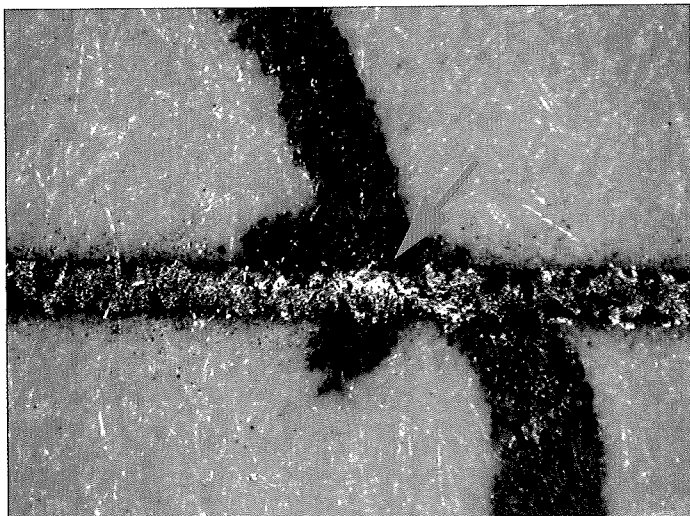
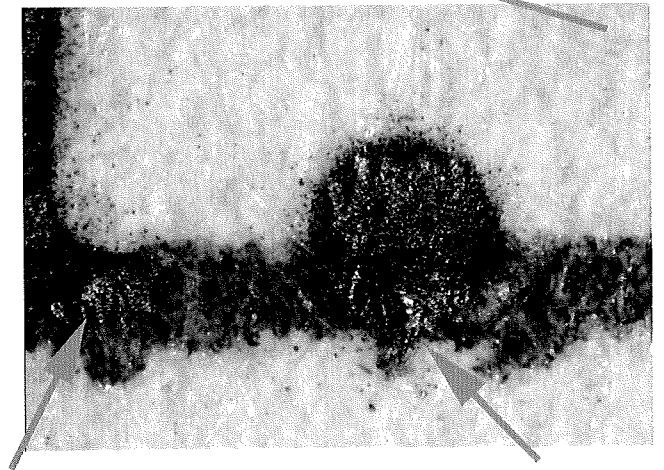
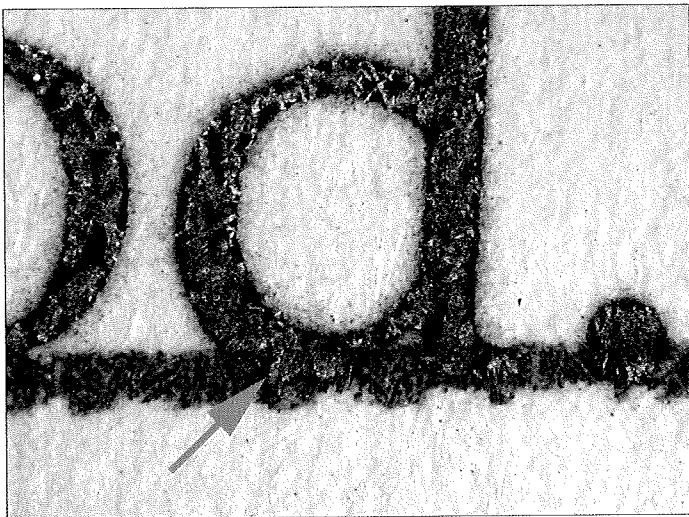
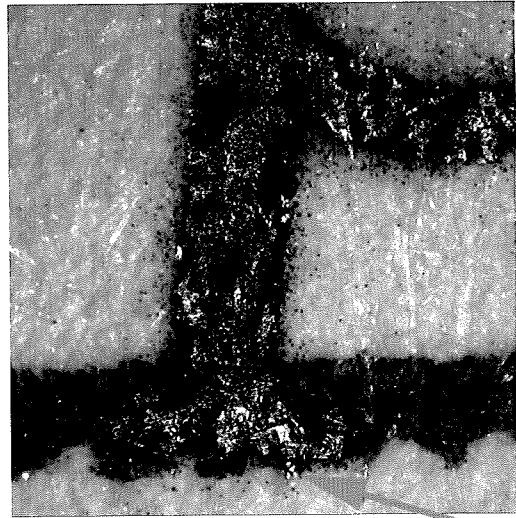
Lab #  
159021

“Mandate”  
vs.  
“Original”



**Lab # 159021**

**Microscopic examination reveals ink deposits on top of toner, that is, writing upon the printed text**



# CURRICULUM VITAE

Samiah Ibrahim  
Forensic Document Examiner

## Formal Education:

Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology, conferred November 1989  
Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Political Science, conferred November 1987  
Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

## Work Experience:

Canada Border Services Agency  
Laboratory & Scientific Services Directorate, Ottawa, ON  
March 16, 2009 to present

### **Manager, Forensic Document Examination Section**

Responsible for the program delivery of national forensic document examination services to CBSA, CRA and other federal government departments. This includes case management, resource and priority setting, quality assurance, financial planning and forecasting to meet operational needs.

Canada Border Services Agency  
(Canada Customs & Revenue Agency until March 31, 2004)  
Laboratory & Scientific Services Directorate, Ottawa, ON  
August 23, 1999 to present

### **Forensic Document Examiner**

Responsible for conducting forensic analysis of questioned document cases involving multiple facets of examination including, but not limited to: handwriting, signatures, typewriters, impact & non-impact printing devices, photocopiers, decipherment of latent impressions, detection & decipherment of obliterations, commercial & security printing processes, wet & dry cachets, and examination of official documents (i.e. passports, birth certificates, driver's licenses).

Solicitor General of Canada  
Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), Ottawa, ON  
February 7, 1994 to August 20, 1999

### **Forensic Document Examiner**

Responsible for conducting forensic analysis of questioned document cases in order to establish links to people, places, events or the materials used to produce them.

## **Professional Development and Training:**

Forensic Document Examination Training (February 7, 1994 to December 5, 1997) at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Ottawa, ON. Training also provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Central Forensic Laboratory, Document Section and Revenue Canada, Laboratory and Scientific Services Directorate, Forensic Document Unit.

American Society of Questioned Document Examiners signature workshops - 1997, 1998 and 2004 Annual Meetings.

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners seminar: "Examination Techniques in Handwriting & Rubber Stamp Cases." 1998, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Imaging Science and Technology Society workshops: "Fusing Technology and Impact on Substrate Latitude and Environment" and "Digital Printing: Evolution of Digital Print from Traditional Technology to the Fully Variable Digital Page." NIP14: International Conference on Digital Printing Technologies 1998 Toronto, Ontario.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences workshop: "Color Analysis in Forensic Science." 2000 Annual Meeting, Reno, Nevada.

Rochester Institute of Technology "Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners." June 5-8, 2001, Rochester, New York.

Canadian Society of Forensic Science: "Fracture Match Workshop" and "Expert Witness Workshop." 2001 Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario.

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: "Printing Processes for Forensic Document Examiners" June 3-7, 2002, Ottawa, Ontario.

Disguised/Forged Signature Workshop, Dr. Brian Found, Latrobe University. April 26-27, 2006, Ottawa, Ontario.

Forgery Science Workshop, Dr. Brian Found, Latrobe University. September, 2007, Ottawa, Ontario.

Canadian Society of Forensic Science: "Admissibility of Forensic Document Examination Evidence (under R v Mohan)", "Proficiency Testing and Competency assessments for FDEs" April 30, May 1, 2009, Ottawa, Ontario.

## **Professional Activities:**

International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR) biennial meeting (2007)

International Workshop on Frontiers in Handwriting Recognition (IWFHR 10) biennial meeting (2006, 2008)

American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, Site Chair – 2005 annual meeting

American Society of Questioned Document Examiners annual meeting (2008, 2004, 2002, 2000, 1998, 1997, 1995)

American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual meeting (2004, 2000)

Imaging Science and Technology (IS&T), 14<sup>th</sup> Non-Impact Printing Conference (1998)

Canadian Society of Forensic Science annual meeting (2001, 1997)

## **Professional Associations:**

American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (Regular member)

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (Membership pending)

Canadian Society of Forensic Science (Membership pending)

## **Papers & Tutorials:**

"Forensic Document Examiners Approach to Handwriting Comparisons / Identification", S. Ibrahim & M. Gaudreau. Presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition, Curitiba, Brazil, September 23, 2007.

"Application of Hyperspectral Imaging to Forensic Document Examination Problems", R.B.Ostrum & S. Ibrahim Presented at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, Montréal, QC, August 11-16, 2005.

"Spectral vs. Chemical Ink Differentiation" Presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, San Diego, CA, August 14-18, 2002.

"Ink Differentiation using Liquid Crystal Tunable Filters and a Forensic Light Source – Lights, Camera ... Capture! – An Update", Poster Presentation at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science, Toronto, ON, November 6-10, 2001.

"Ink Differentiation using Liquid Crystal Tunable Filters and a Forensic Light Source – Lights, Camera ... Capture!" Presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, Ottawa, ON, August 25-29, 2000.

"The Multicultural Mosaic: Effects of Other Nationality Characteristics on "Canadian" Handwriting" Presented at the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, Indianapolis, IN, August 8-12, 1998.

## **Court Experience:**

Expert testimony in Forensic Document Examination has been presented to the Court of Queen's Bench (February 5-8, 2007 in Calgary, AB)

Expert testimony in Forensic Document Examination has been presented to the Court of Queen's Bench, Winnipeg Centre (January 10, 2007 in Winnipeg, MB)

Expert testimony in Forensic Document Examination has been presented to the Provincial Court of Alberta (September 27-28, 2004 in Calgary, AB)

Expert testimony in Forensic Document Examination has been presented to the Provincial Court of British Columbia (September 9-10, 2003 in Vancouver, BC)

Expert testimony in Forensic Document Examination has been presented to the Court of Queen's Bench (September 9-10, 2002 in Calgary, AB)

Expert testimony in Forensic Document Examination (Signature examinations) has been presented to the Federal Tax Court of Canada (May 30, 2002 in Vancouver, B.C.)

Expert testimony in Forensic Document Examination has been presented to the Provincial Court of Alberta (January 9, 2002 in Calgary, AB)