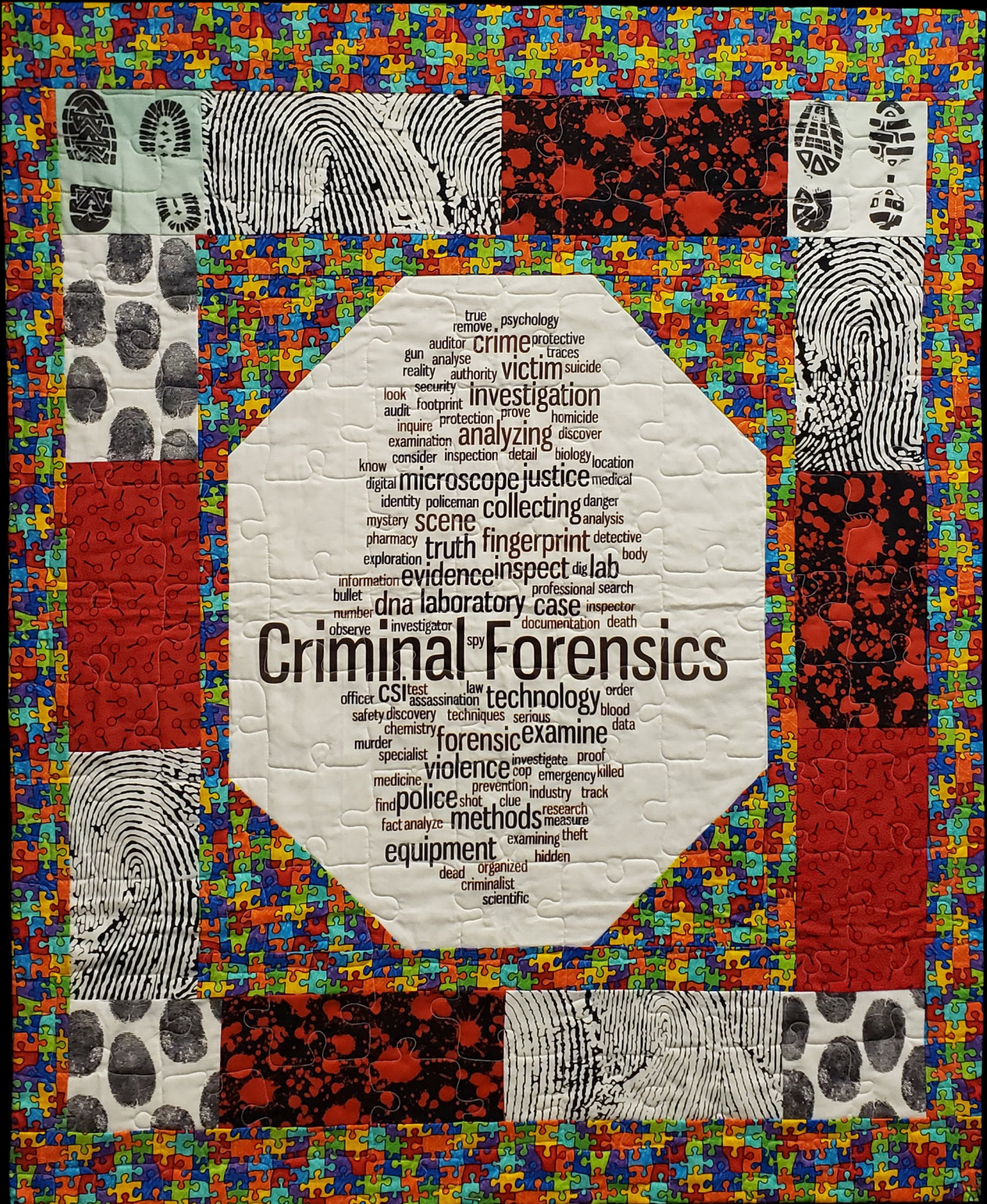


# the PRINT

The Official Publication of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers  
An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937



## Criminal Forensics

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 examination consider inspection detail biology location  
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## Resources

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."  
- President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908

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## On the Cover

### 2022 SCAFO 85th Anniversary Dinner

Raffle Prize donated and handmade by Rachel Leo

Winner of this handmade quilt Josie Mejia September 30, 2022. Rachel is the wife of William Leo, who is a Latent Print Examiner and Past President of SCAFO-1996. Bill has over thirty-five years of experience working in two of the largest Crime Labs in the United States, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles Police Department. Bill's last assignment was the Training Coordinator for the Latent Print / Crime Scene Investigation Section of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. Bill served in that assignment for eight years, prior to retirement in December 2011. Bill is a private consultant on fingerprint identification and training and provides expert witness testimony on fingerprint evidence and crime scene investigation.

Bill is currently an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Grayson College in Denison Texas



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, it is that time of year again. The holidays are just around the corner and the year is coming to a close. This year has gone by so fast. We moved from virtual meetings to in person meetings and it seems to have been a smooth transition.

The 31st Annual Training Conference was a success. Amazing speakers on a wide variety of topics, a fun Roaring 20's 85th Anniversary Banquet, and great networking with all of the attendees.

It has been my honor to be your 2022 SCAFO President. Not only have I learned more about this organization, I have learned a lot more about myself. I would like to thank the Executive Board for all of your hard work and dedication. Without it this year would not have been such a success.

The 2023 Executive Board is getting ready to take their positions at the December meeting and I wish them the best and know that they will have a great year.

Please join us December 10th, at the Knotts Hotel for the training meeting. The topic for is "Own your scene", given by Gabrielle Wilmer. Make sure you visit the website to register.

I would also like to ask that you consider joining the Executive Board. SCAFO is successful because of the members that step up. We need your help to keep this organization running smoothly. I have enjoyed my time on the board and know that you will too.

Again, thank you to everyone who has helped this year. Our guest speakers, conference committee, vendors, executive board, and members. I wish you all Happy Holidays, and Best Wishes for a great New Year.

Respectfully,  
Cynthia Williamson  
SCAFO 2022 President





SCAFO 31ST ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE  
ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA





### Historical Reflection on SCAFO Past Presidents

By: Clark W. Fogg, CSCSA  
Senior Forensic Specialist (ret.)  
Beverly Hills Police Department  
SCAFO Historian



William F. Leo SCAFO 59th President, 1996

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Highlights during his term as President:

January 6, 1996 - Temecula - Executive Board Meeting - The Board decided to continue bi-monthly meetings, leaving this issue open for discussion by the Board/Members on a yearly basis. A change of By-Laws concerning meetings, nominations and voting was discussed. Parliamentarian Clark Fogg was assigned to draft the proposed changes. Meeting locations and hosts were set for the year. First Vice-President Lou Herbert was assigned as the organizer for the seminar.

February 3, 1996 - The Vineyard Country Club - Thanks to host George Durgin, and guest speaker Paul Pflugst (San Diego D.A.), President Bill Leo had 96 attendees at his first meeting. C.S.D.I.A.I. President Mark Hawthorne conducted a drawing for the May conference to be held in San Francisco. Janet Lawson won a free registration for the conference.

April 13, 1996 - Knotts Berry Farm-Chicken House Restaurant – Our tradition holding the Past-President's meeting at this restaurant and speaker George Reis, contributed to the 100 attendees at the meeting. The eleven Past Presidents attending were honored and presented with newly made life membership cards and pins. President Leo announced that there would be a meeting in conjunction with the So. Cal. Laser Study Group on April 18, 1996 to discuss proposing California legislation which would establish minimum standards to testify as a Fingerprint Expert in a court of law.

June 1, 1996 - Downtown Deli - L.A. Deputy District Attorney Paul Turley discussed the Thora Rose Murder Case. The oldest case to date to be solved through an AFIS hit, the speaker was introduced by 60 Minutes "Dan Rather" (via a video tape of the 60 Minutes coverage of the case).

President Leo announced that the upcoming SCAFO seminar already looked to be one of our best. Sgt. David Ashbaugh of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police agreed to give a one-day class on the Evaluative Friction Skin Identification (Ridgeology). President Leo conducted a one-day training session at the Koshers Pickle covering the topic of Fingerprint Witness Testimony. Proceeds went into the SCAFO account. A total of sixty-six SCAFO members and non-members attended this session. During the noon-time business meeting, nineteen elected to join SCAFO and had their first readings.

August 3, 1996 - Don Salsa Restaurant - President Leo discussed the Proposed Legislation and Alan McRoberts explained the purpose and objectives of TWGFAST.

President Leo announced that an encore training day at the Koshers Pickle was an educational and financial success, more money going into the SCAFO account. Parliamentarian Clark Fogg drafted proposed By-Laws changes.

In 1997, William "Bill" Leo was honored with The Charles W. Wolford Award for his outstanding efforts with organizing and contributing to the annual SCAFO training seminars and has done much to further the aims embodied in our logo "Standardization, Training, and Professionalism".

Bill Leo was employed with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department while President of SCAFO.



Past presidents in attendance at SCAFO Conference  
Josie Mejia - 2017, Steve Tillmann - 2002, Amy Rodriguez - 2009, Cynthia Forier -2013, Tony Nguyen - 2015

**Editor's note: The following article was written by Bill Leo and distributed at the 31st Annual Training Conference and is made available here for members who were unable to attend the conference.**

“Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

Sir Winston Churchill

Hi fellow SCAFO members.

Latent print identification has proven to be a very accurate and reliable form of evidence for over a hundred years. The identification of a fingerprint to its sole source has been demonstrated, accepted, and embraced by the courts of the world for over one hundred years and has extensive legal and scientific precedence.

Biologists, medical doctors, and professors of human anatomy who have studied the formation of friction ridge skin all agree that all areas of friction skin are unique.

It will be a sad day for society and the criminal justice system when latent print examiners no longer provide the factual testimony that a latent print was made by a specific person. This step backwards is being promoted partially because of the efforts of social justice warriors who have been attacking fingerprint identification in the courts since Daubert with little or no success. Their tactics now have changed, and they have found their way into organizations such as OSAC.

For example, Simon Cole a paid defense advocate and witness, is now the vice chair of the Academy Standards Board (ASB), Friction Ridge Consensus Body. The courts have repeatedly rejected his arguments to suppress fingerprint evidence during evidence hearings. He is an academic whose background is in sociology, and he teaches at the University of California Irvine. He is not a trained fingerprint examiner.

Cole states in his book, *Suspect Identities*, that “The equation of identity with a unique body that begins at birth and ends at death is not an eternal notion: it is a product of the nineteenth-century Western imperialist culture”, page 311. Cole is also joined by defense attorneys on this “Friction Ridge Consensus Body”. His radical socialist agenda is now being codified in the ASB standards.

Steven Scarborough correctly calls it the “hijacking of a forensic science”. Many of the “consensus” recommendations of this board cannot be backed up with science: they are only their opinion of how things should be.

Today, there is a movement to reset the clock on fingerprint evidence. Some academics and the Defense Bar choose to ignore all the research and empirical data accumulated over one hundred years that provides proof that fingerprint evidence is unique and can be identified to its sole source. They suggest that a fingerprint identification must now be supported with statistical calculations to somehow make it “less subjective and more scientific”. This is a step back to where we started in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s without any scientific justification.

The late eminent Professor of Zoology and Philosopher of Biology Ernst Mayr PhD of Harvard University provides an explanation of the thought process of these individuals:

“In the uniqueness of biological entities and phenomena lies one of the major differences between biology and the physical sciences. Physicists and chemists often have genuine difficulty in under-

standing the biologist’s stress on the unique. The variation from individual to individual within the population is the reality of nature, whereas the mean value (the “type”) is only a statistical abstraction. Biopopulations differ fundamentally from classes of inanimate objects not only in their propensity for variation but also in their internal cohesion and their spatio-temporal restriction. There is nothing in inanimate nature that corresponds to biopopulations, and this perhaps explains why philosophers whose background is in mathematics or physics seem to have such a difficult time understanding this concept”

Mayr, Ernst, *Toward a New Philosophy of Biology*, p.15, (1988), Harvard University Press.

In 1996, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies of Science (NAS) issued a report titled, *The Evaluation of Forensic DNA Evidence*. The report compared the state of DNA profiling with fingerprint identification. The report made the following statements about uniqueness:

DNA analysis promises to be the most important tool for human identification since Francis Galton developed the use of fingerprints for that purpose. We can confidently predict that, in the not-distant future, persons as closely related as brothers will be routinely distinguished, and DNA profiles will be as fully accepted as fingerprints now are. Preface p.v.

The history of fingerprints offers some instructive parallels with DNA typing (Stigler 1995). Francis Galton, the first to put fingerprinting on a sound basis, did an analysis 100 years ago that is remarkably modern in its approach. Although Galton paid careful attention to probabilities, his successors usually have not. It is now simply accepted that fingerprint patterns are unique”. P.56 1996 NRC

With an increasing number of loci available for forensic analysis, we are approaching the time when each person’s profile will be unique. P.161 1996 NRC

Even, the very flawed NAS 2009 report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward* conceded that:

Because of the amount of detail available in friction ridges, it seems plausible that a careful comparison of two impressions can accurately discern whether or not they had a common source”. Page 142.

Also, “ there is tremendous variability among prints made by different fingers. This variability clearly provides a scientific basis for using fingerprints to distinguish individuals. AAAS, Forensic Science Assessments: A Quality and Gap Analysis- Latent Fingerprint Examination, P.18, September 2017.

I have included a reprint of Chapter 8, Individuality of the Finger Print, from the textbook; *Finger Prints, Palms, and Soles*, by Doctors Cummings and Midlo. Published in 1943.

This document provides an important piece of the historical and scientific foundation of our field. Their research, which spanned decades has been peer reviewed and their conclusions that all areas of volar skin are unique and persistent has been verified by all other biological researchers studying the formation of friction ridge skin since.

Enjoy the conference. I join you in celebrating the 85th year of this premiere forensic organization.

Bill Leo, SCAFO President 1996

**Finger Prints, Palms and Soles, An Introduction to Dermatoglyphics Harold Cummins, PhD and Charles Midlo, M.D. 1943**

Chapter 8, pages 147-155

**INDIVIDUALITY OF THE FINGER PRINT**

Routine finger-print identification is practicable because finger prints lend themselves to classification. The validity of identifications established by finger prints rests on two cardinal facts. (a) The patterns and the characteristics of single ridges - are permanently fixed. Except for enlargement in the course of bodily growth, there is no change in the ridge characteristics of a finger pattern throughout the lifetime of the individual, and they persist after death until the skin is decomposed. Once legible prints of a person are registered, that record is a means of positive identification, regardless of the lapse of time intervening between the original and the later finger-printings. (b) ***The complex of ridge details in a single finger print, or even part of one, is not duplicated in any other finger.***

From the practical standpoint, the crucial test of the individuality of the finger print is an identification determined from a chance print of a single finger. The chance print is developed, if necessary, and photographed for examination. This *evidence print* is compared with the *identifying print*, obtained from the file or made from a suspected person.

*Illustration and discussion of the illustration have been omitted.*

The reasoning leading to the conclusion that two identical prints must originate from the same finger is now to be examined. Complete observational proof that prints from two fingers

are never identical is unattainable. Even if it were possible to compare every finger pattern with every other one now available, the investigator could only arrive at a conclusion based upon experience with a fraction of the fingers that have existed and that are to come into being. It would be unnecessary, as a matter of fact, to consider such a task, since a significant experience is already accumulated. **There are millions of finger-print cards on file, and thousands of experts working with them. Constantly it is necessary to compare the details of patterns, yet never has there been discovered an instance of duplication of different fingers. To make the case stronger, the prints of "identical" twins (Chaps. 12, 13) have been studied exhaustively, without encountering a single case of duplication. (see postnotes)** The possibility of duplication is put to severe test in these twins, for the two members of the pair have the same inheritance. In spite of the control by the same genetic factors, their finger-print characteristics are never identical, and at best there is merely a close resemblance.

It is a familiar observation that the structures of plants and animals are widely variable. Corresponding parts of the same species may seem to present little or no difference if the inspection is merely casual. But many unlikenesses become apparent if the objects are examined closely, and the number of differences increases as attention is directed to more and more minute characters. The philosopher Leibniz contended, as have many others before and after him, that "there are never in nature two beings which are exactly alike, and in which it is not possible to find a difference." Thomas de Quincey relates that Leibniz was once explaining the matter to a royal personage; to give point he turned to a gentleman in attendance with a challenge to produce from any tree or shrub two leaves duplicating each other in venation. The challenge was accepted but the duplicate leaves

could not be found. As with leaves, so it is with finger prints. The London newspaper, *News of the World*, was quite safe when in 1939 it offered a prize of £1000 to the person having a finger print identical with anyone of a series of prints published for the contest.

The unique character of every biological aggregate - a single leaf, a finger print, an ear of corn, the striped pattern of a zebra - has been recognized in the axiom, "Nature never repeats." Without questioning the intended meaning of this axiom, the suggestion might be offered that it read "Nature never repeats exactly." If nature did not repeat at all, there would be no multiples of the same class - trees and men, whorls and loops, and indeed no universe of fingers to bear whorls and loops. Such repetition, however, is confined to the general molds of things, and in the last analysis of detail "Nature does not repeat."

In spite of diligent search, an instance of duplication of two finger prints never has been found. This is not unexpected in view of the operation of the law of simple probability, or chance. The occurrence of minutiae at specific points is governed at least in large part by developmental processes which yield random results. Accordingly, the presence and locations of forks, ends and other ridge details may be considered from the same mathematical approach which applies, for example, to the chance of throwing a particular face of a die, or the head of a coin. To some degree finger-print minutiae are subject to control through inheritance (Chaps. 12-14) but even the maximum possible "loading" by inheritance is insufficient to counteract the random production of these details.

Pearl refers to the tossing of a coin as "a classical event" because this act has been so frequently used in the discussion of probability. Following tradition, the same example may be chosen here. Imagine first the

random tossing of a penny. Because the coin is a thin disc, it is bound not to stand on edge after an ordinary toss. This much is certainty, but no one can be certain of throwing a head, or a tail. The face which lies upward after the throw may be either head or tail, and that each has an equal chance in the result can be determined by trial. If the coin is tossed many times, it will be found that equal numbers of heads and tails have appeared and that no toss can influence the result of any other. The chance of a head, or a tail, may be expressed as the fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$ . "Head" has one in two chances and "tail" has one in two.

Having dealt with this problem in its simplest terms, with the toss of one penny, the chance involved with the use of two pennies is next to be considered. At the toss each coin has an equal chance of falling head up. What is the chance of heads for both pennies? Of the three possibilities -- two heads, one head and one tail, and two tails -- there is one chance in four that two heads will appear. The mathematical formula for determining this result is simple. Knowing the chance involved in each of the two events, the probability of their occurring together is the product of these two chances:  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$ . On this same principle, the chance of all heads in the toss of any number of pennies may be calculated. If there were 25 pennies the chance of falling all heads is H raised to the 25th power, or  $1/35,554,432$ .

The chance of all heads in a toss of 25 pennies is small, but an enormous reduction of the chance of obtaining a prescribed result would be introduced by imposing specific restrictions. Assume that the coins are marked for identification, each of them with a different letter, and that the floor on which they are tossed is laid off in 25 squares correspondingly lettered. Postulating that mechanical provisions for the toss insure that one coin will lie in each of the squares, what is the chance that each coin will fall head up within the square corresponding to

its identifying mark? The judgment of common sense is that the chance must be exceedingly small; it may be calculated by the formula previously used. The chance of one coin lying head up within its proper square is the product of the chances of these two independent events, namely  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{25} = \frac{1}{50}$ . **The chance that all 25 coins satisfy this requirement is 1/50 raised to the 25th power, or 1 over 2,980,232,238,769,531,250,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.**

The chance of the occurrence is therefore so infinitesimally small that from a practical view it may be completely disregarded.

Probability, or chance, is subject to experimental proof in applications such as coin tossing. Though this experimental proof is feasible only in the higher brackets of chance, the correspondence of computed expectation and actual result is a comforting sign that the same law holds when the chance is lowered through increase in the number of items that must be satisfied.

The accelerated diminution of chance, with progressive increase of the number of coins fulfilling the double requirement of "head" and "lying in proper square," is hardly appreciated unless one actually sets down the numbers. There are good odds that one of the coins will conform to requirement, the chance being 1/50. The chance that two will conform sinks to 1/2,500; for each additional conforming coin the chance is only 750 of the preceding, thus: 3 coins, 1/125,000~ 4 coins, 1/6,250,000; 5 coins, 1/312,500,000; 6 coins, 1/15,625,000,000, etc.

**How does this apply to the individuality of a finger print? In brief, the concatenation of 25 specific ridge details existing in the finger-print example chosen may be likened to a successful result in the tossing of the 25 coins.** In the finger print the result is already in existence, having been brought about during the period of differentiation of the skin ridges, several months before the

person was born. **The cogent question is whether an identical result ever might be realized in some other finger. The practical answer to this question is no.**

The occurrence of a particular ridge detail in a particular place is not a strictly random event, but that the element of randomness plays the chief role in producing it is evidenced by the differences which occur in "identical" twins. Inheritance is the factor which may influence randomness, but even in two individuals having the same inheritance the combinations of details are widely different. For treatment of chance in reference to finger-print details it seems safe to apply the usual computation for the concurrence of random events, only remembering that in closely related individuals the chance is increased. The increase, however, can not be mathematically corrected. The only correction which is available is to set the chance of duplication of the single items at a figure which is undoubtedly much higher than actuality. Only to a limited extent would it be possible to determine the actual frequencies of the finger-print characteristics. The pattern used in this discussion is an ulnar loop. Ulnar loops are common, as instanced by their 64% occurrence in the Scotland Yard series. Disregarding the varying frequencies of ulnar loops on different digits, there is thus a mathematical chance of  $\frac{1}{1.6} \pm$  that two prints from different digits might both be ulnar loops. The pattern in question is an ulnar loop having a count of II ridges, and if this feature be also taken into account the chance of duplication of the two characters (pattern type and ridge count) is much smaller. Roscher's data (75) on ridge counts of 3000 ulnar loops show only 154 having counts of II ridges. Still ignoring unlikenesses among different digits, there is a chance of 1/19.5 that two randomly chosen ulnar loops would have counts of II ridges. Employing the usual mathematical formula, the chance of concurrence of this particular pattern type and ridge count in two fingers is  $\frac{1}{1.6} \times \frac{1}{19.5} = \frac{1}{31}$

There are no data on the frequencies of specific minutiae occupying specific positions in patterns. Balthazard and others discuss the chance of duplication of two prints on the basis of a ~~-probability of repetition of a single detail. This figure exaggerates the chance of coincidence. Wentworth and Wilder (79) point out that the real probability would be closer to 1/50, or even 1/100. Avoiding both undue exaggeration of chance and the possibility of minimizing it through the use of too low a value, we may choose 1/50 as a working figure. If each of the 25 details indicated in figure 98 might be duplicated by chance in a pattern of another finger, the mathematical setup for the chance of duplicating the entire series of details is exactly that which applies to the problem of tossing the 25 coins onto 25 squares, the requirement being that each coin fall head up within the square having its own letter. That chance as shown above is expressed in a fraction in which the numerator is one and the denominator is a number having 43 places!

It must be realized that numerous details are available in a finger-print comparison. Twenty-five are selected in the example discussed, but the number present in one print often reaches a much higher figure, 60, 80 or 100. Another circumstance deserving emphasis is that negative characteristics are not included in the enumeration; the lack of an interruption or fork in an extent of a ridge (e.g., the whole length of ridge *D* in figure 98) is a feature which is just as important in the mathematics of chance as the presence and positions of particular minutiae. The mathematical chance of duplication is therefore even smaller than the figure cited above. Even if only pattern type and ridge count are considered in addition to the 25 minutiae, the chance is reduced 31 times; each ridge detail added to the series would reduce the chance by 50 times. The chance of duplication of this finger print is therefore so extremely small that common sense rejects as fantastic the idea of an actual

realization. The mathematical treatment is perforce used in evaluating the chance. It is unfortunate that this approach carries the implication that a complete correspondence of two patterns might occur, when as a matter of fact the mathematical reasoning merely supplements observations indicating that such duplication is beyond the range of possibility. **Under the circumstances it is impossible to offer decisive proof that no two fingers bear identical patterns, but the facts in hand demonstrate the soundness of the working principle that prints from two different fingers never are identical.)**

We are reminded in this connection of the distinguished scientist Carl Ernst von Baer, 1792-1876, who in his eightieth year declared his conviction that he might not die. The reasoning upon which he based that opinion was: "Thus far, all human beings eventually have died. The saying 'All men must die' goes too far; actually it should only claim 'All men so far have died.' Even so, the statement is based only upon an experience to which there might be exceptions." The claimant for actuality of duplication of patterns on two different fingers would take a position about as defensible as that of von Baer on exceptions to the law of mortality. To be sure, a defendant before a court of law might argue the possibility of duplication of finger prints. It might be claimed that an incriminating chance print, shown in expert testimony to be identical with one from a finger of the defendant, is in truth that of another man. The advocate for the defense hails the coincidence as the realization of an occurrence predicted by mathematics! Such a claim, instead of demonstrating that prints from two different fingers are duplicates, proves the weakness of a defense which must resort to patent misrepresentation of the attitude of science.

**Workers familiar with finger-print minutiae all affirm that there are no two duplicate prints of different fingers. They recognize many qualities other than the mere occurrences of details. The minutiae, like total patterns, have individuality. The interruption between two ridge ends they terminate; bifurcations exhibit varying spreads, and many similar individual distinctions of minutiae occur. When all these finer qualities are appreciated, it is not surprising that identifications of individuals are possible when only partial prints are available. (Referencing 3<sup>rd</sup> level detail, added W. Leo)**

Some chance prints contain a limited number of ridge details, the impressions being fragmentary. Authorities agree that demonstration of 12 correspondences of minutiae (and of course no discordances) proves that two prints originate from the same finger. Others are willing to go further, holding that in some circumstances correspondence of six or eight points establishes a positive identification (79). In the routine of identification, there is naturally no question of the possibility of duplication, since prints of all ten fingers are available for comparison with a new finger-print set. The individual distinctiveness of the complete finger-print set is expressed in the combination of the various pattern types, ridge counts, pattern form and other conspicuous features as well as in the complex of details in each print.

79. Wentworth, B., and H. H. Wilder, *Personal Identification*, Second Edition, Chicago, T.G. Cooke, 1932.

Harold Cummins, PhD was a Professor of Anatomy and Assistant Dean of the School of Medicine at Tulane University.

Charles Midlo, M.D. was a Professor of Microscopic Anatomy at Tulane University

#### POSTNOTES:

*The research done by Cummins and Midlo into the formation of friction ridge skin and the biological basis for the uniqueness of friction skin verified the research done by those before them and has been verified by all medical and scientific researchers who have studied the subject since.*

*Their book, **Finger Prints, Palms and Soles**, was written and published in 1943. Since that time (79 year later) it is estimated that approximately twenty percent of the world's population (estimated to be 7 to 8 billion) has been fingerprinted and entered into the automated fingerprint identification systems (AFIS) of the world. This would be over 1.5 billion people and over fifteen billion individual fingerprints.*

*Each day, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for at least the last thirty years, thousands of partial latent prints are searched against these data bases. This amounts to billions of comparisons each day. **Never have two prints from two different sources been found to be the same**. This empirical study continues as you read this. Each and every day, the empirical foundation of the uniqueness of friction skin is reinforced and becomes stronger.*

*This empirical proof of the uniqueness of fingerprints dwarfs any study, statistical or otherwise, ever done on any subject and reenforces the medical and biological research that has been done.*

*Postnotes by William Leo, [www.fingerprintidentification.net](http://www.fingerprintidentification.net)*

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# Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers

An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937

DECEMBER MEETING  
Saturday December 10, 2022

**Hosted By:** Cynthia Williamson  
**Speaker:** Gabrielle Wimer  
**Topic:** "Own Your Scene"

**11:00 AM:** Registration / Social Hour  
**12:00 PM:** Lunch  
**1:00 PM:** Presentation & Business Meeting

**Location:** Knott's Berry Farm Hotel (Irvine Room – 3rd Floor)  
7675 Crescent Ave  
Buena Park, CA 90620  
(Parking fee waived – mention SCAFO to attendant)

#### Meal Choice:

Mrs. Knott's Famous Fried Chicken served with mashed potatoes and country gravy, seasonal vegetables, and rolls.

**OR**

Beef Forestier smothered in peppercorn mushroom sauce served with roasted new potatoes, seasonal vegetables, and rolls.

All meals include salad, Boysenberry pie or Raspberry cheesecake, Freshly Brewed Coffee, Iced Tea or Boysenberry punch.

There will be a NO HOST Bar at this event.

**Join us for the Installation of our 2023 Executive Board!**

**Cost:** \$37.00 per person (In Person)  
\$10.00 per person (Zoom Option)

**Please RSVP by 11/27/22. You can RSVP and pay online OR email our Secretary Denell Payne & pay at the door.**

**Remember: If you make a reservation, you make a commitment NO REFUNDS!**

Celebrating 85 years  
1937 - 2022

## Mary E. Holland America's First Fingerprint Instructor

(This article by a long--time SCAFO member, was originally published in the May 1993 issue of THE PRINT.)

by RUSSELL R. BRADFORD



*Detective Mary Holand, n.d. [Photo Source](#)*

Who was the most important person in the advancement of fingerprint classification in the United States? Was it Richard Edward Henry, who developed the "Henry System" in 1900? What about Alexander J. Reno, who developed the "Reno Extension" to the Henry System? Or was it John Kenneth Ferrier, who brought the Henry System to America in 1904?

No, it is none of the above. The author believes it was Mary E. Holland, who was born February 25, 1868, in Iowa. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elias Troxel and in about 1888 married Phillip C. Holland. Mr. Holland published "The Detective," a criminology magazine that contained photographs of criminals wanted, law enforcement supplies, and for many years was the official journal for police and sheriff associations. Mary soon became co-editor and took a major hand in the firm. She headed a manufacturing extension of police supplies (she patented a boot for prisoners to wear instead of a ball and chain). She also became manager of a detective agency.

Richard Henry developed the "Henry System" in England in 1900. James H. Parke, New York State Prison Department, developed in 1903, the "American System of Fingerprint Classification." Parke took his system, in 1904, to the World's Fair in St. Louis. Sgt. John Ferrier, fingerprint expert with New Scotland Yard, came to America as part of the security accompanying the "Queen Victoria diamond jubilee collection" to the World's Fair.

Both Parke and Ferrier set up fingerprint exhibits at the Fair. Sgt. Ferrier, who had personally trained under Richard Henry, began teaching the Henry System. Various persons would sit in on the classes, but a core of nine students studied for seven and one half months. They were: Edward Brennan and John Shea of St. Louis, Mr. Ryan of St. Joseph, Capt. Edward Foster from Canada, George Koesle of Cleveland, H.A. Thompson of Oklahoma City, and Edward Evans, Emmet A. Evans, and Mary Holland, of Chicago.

Mary Holland became an advocate of the Henry System and began teaching it around the United States. In 1906 she introduced the Henry System and then taught it to the Navy Department. Her teaching advanced the Henry System throughout the country, while Parke's system spread only to the New England states (today it is used only in New York, and some believe it is superior to the Henry System).



*Photo from St Louis Post Dispatch Sun Mar 28 1909 jpg-229x300.jpg*

In about 1910, Mary Holland testified in the People vs. Jennings trial in the State of Illinois. This is said to be the first judicial ruling on fingerprinting in the United States. The conviction was supported by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Sgt. John Ferrier wrote, "Later on, in England, it gave me special pleasure to renew my friendship, with John W. Shea, Edward Brennan, William McCoughry and my dear old friend, the inimitable, Mary E. Holland." Mary died on March 27, 1915 at the age of 47 America's First Fingerprint Instructor and Fingerprint Pioneer.

***This article was printed in "THE PRINT" Volume 14(5) September/October 1998, pp 1-2 and has been obtained from the online library provided by the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers.***

[www.scafo.org](http://www.scafo.org)

# MINUTES

## OCTOBER 2022 Meeting

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FINGERPRINT OFFICERS

### Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** October 1, 2022  
**LOCATION:** Ontario Airport Hotel & Conference Center  
**HOST(S):** Cynthia Williamson - President  
**SECRETARY:** Denell Payne  
**PROGRAM:** 31st Annual Training Conference

**CALL TO ORDER:** General meeting 1248 hours by President Cynthia Williamson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Dr. Janis Cavanaugh

President Cynthia Williamson held a moment of silence to honor fallen law enforcement and military members.

### ATTENDANCE:

**PAST PRESIDENTS:** Present: Steve Tillmann (2002), Amy Rodriguez (2009), Cynthia Fortier (2013), Tony Nguyen (2015), Josie Mejia (2017)

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Present: Cynthia Williamson- President, William Jugle 1st VP, Suzette Young 2nd VP/Treasurer, Denell Payne Secretary, Mariana Flores Director, Cynthia Fortier Parliamentarian/Director

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Absent: Clark Fogg Historian, Angela Schouten Chairperson of the Board

**MEMBERS, GUESTS, SPEAKERS & VENDORS PRESENT AT CONFERENCE:** 82

### OLD BUSINESS:

August 2022 meeting minutes

Motion to Accept: Steven Tillmann  
Second: Tony Nguyen  
All in favor

### SECOND READING:

IRIS DAWSON with LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motion to Accept: Cynthia Fortier  
Second: William Jugle  
All in favor

### SWEAR IN:

Sworn in by Past President Amy Rodriguez

DIANA BARRIENTOS CERDA with BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

RAISSA ORTEGA with BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

KATIE HAUB with BAE SYSTEMS, INC

President Cynthia Williamson presented member Jennifer Kier with her Life Member Gold card and Life Member name badge. Jennifer earned her Life Membership in 2021.

### NEW BUSINESS:

### FIRST READINGS:

JULIE OSBURN with PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Recommended by CYNTHIA FORTIER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2023 Executive Board Elections were held. We received no candidates for the following positions, 2nd Vice President, Sgt At Arms, Editor and Historian.

After ballots received, it was noted Jenny Mak Kung was a write in Candidate for the position for Director. After speaking with her, she accepted the position.

The 2023 Executive Board is as follows:

President: William Jugle  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Suzette Young  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: vacant  
Secretary: Denell Payne  
Treasurer: Suzette Young  
Sgt At Arms: vacant  
Director: Lindsey Olson  
Director: Patricia Frye-Garcia  
Director: Natalie Popovich  
Director: Jenny Mak Kung  
Editor: Steven Tillmann (interim)  
Historian: vacant

A motion was made by Josie Mejia to destroy the ballots. Seconded by Mariana Flores.

President Cynthia Williamson announced that dues for 2023 are now being accepted. Members can pay via website or checks can be mailed to Secretary Denell Payne.

# MINUTES

## OCTOBER 2022 Meeting

An announcement was made regarding the Membership Drive. The member who sponsors the most members to be sworn in in 2022, will win an Amazon Fire Tablet at the December meeting.

Ontario PD will be hosting a Tri-Tech ACE-V class to be held in February 2023.

Costa Mesa PD will be hosting a Gapsience FTO training course to be held in May 2023.

Two hirings were announced; Costa Mesa PD will be hiring for an entry level CSI and Palm Springs PD will be looking to hire an experienced CSI.

Attendance Drawing for \$25: Mariana Flores

### DOOR PRIZES:

Provided by: SCAFO, ID Coffee, AAA Crime Scene Clean Up, TriTech Forensics, Forensics Life, Bill Leo, FoxFury Lighting Solutions, Delta, Forensics, Arrowhead Forensics, Foray Technologies

### NEXT MEETING:

Date: December 3, 2022  
Ammeded to December 10, 2022  
Location: TBD

### MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion by: Cynthia Fortier  
Second: Mariana Flores

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1323 hours

