



Questioned Documents Section – 2006

J13 Autopen Technology in the 21st Century

*Alicia M. Baumann, MA**, and *Brea N. Foster, MSFS**, *Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, 2501 Investigation Parkway, Quantico, VA 22135*

After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to distinguish autopen writing from other processes.

During a recent tour of a company manufacturing autopens, devices used to simulate signatures and other forms of writing, document examiners from the FBI Laboratory were made aware of current technology used to simulate signatures, hand printing, and handwriting.

From the information obtained, it was observed that few modifications have been made in the design of the autopen since it was patented in 1939. However, the most significant changes were introduced within only the last few years. Current modifications include, but are not limited to, the use of computer software, password protection, improved fluidity of writing, additional simulations including letters, words, and sentences in text files, and the use of autopen specific plotter pens.

Autopen, Mechanical Impression, Signature