



Questioned Documents Section – 2008

J15 The LongPen™ - The World's First Original Remote Signing Device

Diane M. Kruger, LLB, JD, Forensic Examiners, 33 Bloor Street, East, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3H1, CANADA*

The goal of this presentation is to discuss the history and technical aspects of the Longpen™, a pen and video device invented by Margaret Atwood in 2004 to facilitate long distance signing.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by describing the appearance and forensic characteristics of original ink signatures and text produced by the LongPen™ and to discuss implications for forensic document examiners.

The Longpen™ is an internet age signing device. This presentation will impact the forensic community by educating forensic document examiners as to the history and technical aspects of this device and to describe the appearance and forensic characteristics of original ink signatures and text produced with this technology.

The LongPen™ is a remote controlled pen and video device invented by Canadian author Margaret Atwood, and initially conceived to bring "live" author signings to far away locations. An early version of the LongPen™ was privately demonstrated in November of 2004. The first public demonstration and transatlantic signing (London to Toronto) took place on September 24, 2006. More and more authors are using the device and new applications are being developed.

The first part of the paper will discuss the history and the technical aspects of the LongPen™. The second part of the paper will discuss the appearance and forensic characteristics of remotely produced original ink signatures and/or text and implications for forensic document examiners.

LongPen™, Remote Signing, Margaret Atwood