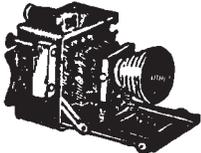




THE PRINT

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

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The Other Francis Galton

(This article is reprinted from the October 2002 issue of Fingerprint Whorld.)

By **MARTIN LEADBETTER**

I have often wondered why the International Association for Identification (IAI) chose one of Sir Francis Galton's (1822-1911) digit impressions to adorn its journal. After all, this particular "pioneer" (?) can hardly be said to be one of the foremost in the field of fingerprint identification. It is of course true, and well documented, that Galton did in fact create a form of fingerprint classification, which was offered to the police prior to the turn of the century (which, I believe, was never used by any agency) and was described in his own book, *Finger Prints* (1892). True, back in the 1920s when this fine organisation was first founded in Oakland, California, fingerprint identification as a forensic science was still very much in its infancy and its history less plenary than now. However, I still find it surprising that Galton's fingerprint was chosen as the organisation's trade mark when it was already known that there were far more important characters within the tapestry of fingerprint chronology, who, it can easily be argued, did make *truly significant* contributions to our discipline. Edward Henry, Herschel, Purkenji, and in particular, Henry Faulds are just a few whose contributions were *really* valuable. It might be argued that the prints of these eminent persons were not available, albeit Faulds was certainly still alive when the IAI was founded. And why not use the print of a notable American fingerprint pioneer?

It has always seemed to me that available historical testament has frequently credited Galton with an inflated impression of his contribution to fingerprinting and many later publications convey erroneous information, and I quote, "...it was Sir Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, who established that each fingerprint was individual and permanent." (*The Scotland Yard Files*, Paul Begg & Keith Skinner, 1992). Are we to believe this and totally discount the earlier work of Sir William Herschel? It strikes me that the sterling work performed by Faulds, Vucetich, Herschel, and other earlier pioneers is frequently wrongly attributed to Galton. So why might this be?

Well, we know that Galton was well placed, being an elitist socialite. He was a cousin of the then notorious Charles Darwin. He obviously had very good connections, was rich, and knew many influential figures of the day and could afford both the time and money to dabble in anthropology as an armchair scientist. Of course, Henry Faulds, on the other hand, did not enjoy such luxuries and had to work to earn his living for the most part of his life. Galton was therefore able to pursue a life of comparative ease and, like many contemporaries within his social circle, was fairly free to follow his fancies, wheresoever they might lead him: and lead him they did to a myriad of areas of research and to many parts of the world. Thus, Galton was free to climb on any current bandwagon

that was flavour of the month, in much the same way that the fingerprint bandwagon is being climbed upon today. Although Faulds attempted to convince Scotland Yard of the value and efficacy of adopting a fingerprint system for some ten years, he was regarded by the police and the Home Office as a crank and ridiculed. Yet, when Galton, who was acceptable to the establishment of the day, proffered the same idea, it was immediately seized upon as a major new scientific breakthrough in personal identification. Some things, it seem, never change.

In his time, Galton “researched” meteorology, heredity, colour blindness, and mental imagery and was founder of the “science” known as eugenics, which is devoted to ensuring that only the finest and purest of the races should be allowed to continue to produce offspring. Such beliefs reek of Nazism and the concept of a “master-race” and of course such obnoxious ideology, whilst being totally abhorrent in today’s politically correct society, would have been considered quite acceptable within Galton’s circle, a circle which was extremely class conscious, so much so, that those poor unfortunates who did not fit conveniently into the accepted class structure of the day, were simply known as, “the lower orders”.

There is much evidence to suggest that Galton’s personality was most unpleasant. He was extremely jealous of any success gained by fellow scientists and always did his utmost to denigrate the achievements of others. In *Fingerprints*, Colin Beavan states... “he [Galton] took his privilege for granted... believed those of upper class birth were by nature superior to the lesser born.” (Page 94).

Colin Beavan goes on to describe how in 1871 Galton’s lack of sympathy for his perceived inferiors received wide public coverage. Outraged at Stanley’s spectacular rescue of the explorer and missionary, Dr. David Livingstone, he denigrated the success of the mission and referred to rumours of Stanley’s illegitimate birth, going so far as to state the public at large and Queen Victoria should be informed of the circumstances of his birth. He even recommended that the Queen should not receive Stanley at her court. To quote from Colin Beavan’s book, “he [Galton] could make *no* allowance for the failings of others and had no tact.” (Pages 97/98).

Of course the anecdote of Faulds’ letter to Darwin is well known. Darwin, being too old and without the inclination to pursue Faulds’ theories, passed the letter on to his cousin, Galton, requesting that he contact the writer in order to follow up the suggestions. Galton of course did not contact Faulds.

As an author, Galton was prolific. Apart from *Fingerprints* he also penned *Narrative of an Explorer in Tropical South Africa* and *Art of Travel* (both 1850), *Meteorographica* (1863), *Hereditary Genius, Its Laws and Consequences* (1869), *English Men of Science: Their Nature and Nurture* (1874), *Natural Inheritance* (1889),

and *Inquiries Into Human Faculty* (1883). It is this last book to which I would now like to refer specifically.

I came across a copy of this book by pure chance while perusing the shelves of a local second hand bookshop about a year ago. I believe this book gives an intimate insight into the character and personality of the man who, by many in the fingerprint disciple, is revered. On page one of the Introduction, a general feel for Galton’s ideology may soon be grasped and I quote... “My general object has been to take note of the varied hereditary faculties of different men, and of great differences in different families and races, to learn how far history may have shown the practicability of supplanting inefficient human stock by better strains, and to consider whether it might not be our duty to do so by such efforts as may be reasonable, thus exerting ourselves to further the ends of evolution more rapidly and with less distress than if events were left to their own course.” This extremely long and verbose sentence would not have been out of place at Nuremburg 75 years later on.

Frankly, this book is crammed full of ludicrous statements with which a so-call learned man of science should have felt completely ashamed. The following are a few examples:

“The criminal classes contain a considerable portion of epileptics.” (Page 45).

“It is however, easy to show that criminal nature tends to be inherited.” (Page 43).

“The fact of an individual being naturally gifted with high qualities, may be due to his either being an exceptionally good specimen of a poor race, or an average specimen of a high one.” (Page 199).

“Our human civilised stock is far more weakly through congenital imperfection than that of any other species of animals, whether wild or domestic.” (Page 17).

“The more energetic members of our race, whose breed is the most valuable to our nation, are attracted from the country to our towns. If residence in towns seriously interferes with the maintenance of their stock, we should expect the breed of Englishmen to steadily deteriorate, so far as that particular influence is concerned.” (Page 243).

“The question then arises as to the way in which man can assist in the order of events. He may use his intelligence to discover and expedite the changes that are necessary to adapt circumstances to race and race to circumstance, and his kindly sympathy will urge him to effect them mercifully.” (Page 218).

And his parting shot in the book’s conclusion: “...it is requisite for the speedier evolution of a more perfect humanity that it should be so distributed as to favour the best-adapted races. I have not spoken of repression

of the rest, believing that it would ensue indirectly as a matter of course; but I may add that few would deserve better of their country than those who determine to live celibate lives, through reasonable conviction that their issue would probably be less fitted than the generality to play their part as citizens." (Page 219).

Clearly, Galton was a man quite obsessed by hereditary and improvement of the stock. It is my feeling that he perhaps turned to this area following the scientific researches conducted by his cousin, Charles Darwin, the man whom it is thought first introduced Galton to the study of fingerprints, following the famous letter from Faulds to Darwin. But having stumbled fortuitously across Faulds' ideas, and subsequently claiming them as his own, Galton, for a man of science, displayed incredibly blinkered vision. His first investigations into fingerprints in 1888 were not conducted with a view to personal identification, but purely towards determining intellectual and physical prowess, hoping that he would find indicators that could be used to improve the races. He even believed that criminality was an inherited trait and that the aristocracy and nobility were incapable of committing crime.

It cannot be denied that Galton has a rightful place in the annals of fingerprint history, but as a man of science, he was certainly only mediocre, his main inventions being a type of oil lamp, a lock, a balance, and a kind of steam engine; not exactly world-shattering contributions to humanity. And as an academic, he performed quite moderately, only achieving an average bachelor's degree without honours, yet being both financially and socially more than well placed.

I have read enough of *Inquiries Into Human Faculty* to convince me that Galton was not a man I would have liked to have known personally. It only amazes me that he stopped short of stating that all persons with arches are cretins or those with composites are all geniuses.

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A Synopsis of "The Ventral Surface of the Mammalian Chiridium" by Inez Whipple

(This article is reprinted from September 2002 issue of *Identification Canada*.)

By LUC MALTAIS
Canadian Police College

PREFACE

By Professor Harris Hawthorne WILDER; provided an introduction and critical review of one existing literature including much of Wilder's own research.

The reference material he started with was mostly descriptive and not explanatory. He mentioned the work of PURKINJE (1823) and KOLLMANN (1883), whose conclusions he found to be unreliable and misleading. He believed that the description of the human hand provided by KLAATSCH (1888) seemed to be based upon examination of a very few (apparently a single pair of hands) and he did not investigate the feet at all. Wilder credited REH (1894) with mentioning that the ridges on the hands are of secondary origin. He credited HEPBURN (1895) with expressing an important fact: that the ridges and their intervening furrows are adjuncts to the prehensile function and power of the hands and feet as well as arrangements associated with increased sensibility, etc.

In January 1897 WILDER published the results of his investigations upon the palms and soles of monkeys and men, but he did not like the fact that he had very few monkeys to work with. He naturally reasserted many things that had been stated by others.

When WILDER began his study of the epidermic markings upon human palms and soles, he quickly realised that the work would take longer than anticipated. He realised that he would not be able to do the work and delegated much of it to an associate, Miss Inez L. WHIPPLE. She used all of WILDER's material and also studied the collections of four Museums.

INTRODUCTION

Here WHIPPLE mentioned the typical arrangements of the volar pads observed in three rows: firstly, the APICAL pads (five in total) located at the tips of the digits; secondly, the DISTAL group (four in total) located at the base and between the digits (also known as interdigital); and finally, the PROXIMAL pads (two in total) located on the palm (one on the thenar side and the other on the hypothenar side).

She observed similarities between all pentadactyls. She examined over 100 limbs of primates, including 18 different species and a large number of human prints (palms and soles). She worked on answering two questions:

- Q1. To what extent is the arrangement of pads and folds of skin typical for mammals, especially for those along the probable line of descent of man?
- Q2. What relationship exists between the form of these pads and the patterns formed by the ridges, and by what process do the pads determine or influence the direction of the ridges?

PART I

Mammalian pads

The Morphology of pads: Here she mentioned the typical arrangement of the pads found in every important order of pentadactylous mammals. She described how the forms, shapes and sizes of the pads changed with the use and purpose of the chiroidia (the limbs). She also studied the location of the triradia (the deltas) between the pads.

The Physiology of pads: She showed how the pads adapt to the use put upon them.

PART II

Epidermic ridges

In this part she studied, at length, the fact that the shape of the pad will dictate the direction the ridge will grow. When the pad is high the ridges will be concentric, and if the pad is low or flat the ridges will be straight. The bigger the contact surface between the pad and the ground, the more area of the pad will be covered with ridges. In humans, since the entire surface of the hand or foot is in contact, the entire area is covered with friction ridges. An important fact made here is that the ridges will be at right angles with the force that tends to produce slippage.

PART III

Epidermic ridge patterns in Prosimians and Primates

Whipple spent a lot of time and effort illustrating how the patterns found on the volar surfaces are directly related to the shape of the volar pads. As the pads change, so do the ridge flows and consequently the patterns. Where the creases are located, the ridges are found to run parallel to these creases. It becomes evident that by looking at the ridge flow of a hand or a foot, the pads locations, sizes and shapes can be observed.

CONCLUSION

- I. In ancient mammals, the larger part of the surface of the body was covered with imbricated scales. Each scale possessed a hair and a sweat gland.

- II. Upon the ventral chirodial surface there developed in the early mammals a definite arrangement of walking pads in three rows (apical, interdigital and proximal). Definite folds of skin developed in connection with each pad.
- III. Over the pad surfaces where it made contact with external surfaces, friction ridges developed. These ridges formed at right angles to the force which tends to cause a slipping of the surfaces. On pointed pad, concentric patterns developed.
- IV. As the pads lowered, the area of the pads having ridges increased.
- V. Because of the fact that the hands and feet ended up being entirely covered with ridges, patterns developed. These patterns follow the original shapes of the pads. Where two pads meet, a triradi is visible. Since different mammals developed in different environments, and hence had unique requirements, Whipple describes the differences in Prosimians, Primates, Anthropoids and Man.

Important Aspects In Support of Friction Ridge Science.

Today in the science of friction ridge identification, we can see how the work of Whipple brings us some understanding as to why we observe different patterns on the digits, palms and feet. As well, reading her paper provides an understanding of the basic construction (the building block) of the ridge, which is the ridge unit. Her work clarifies the fact that each unit has a sweat pore and a sweat gland associated to it.

It is obvious that Whipple's work provides the foundation for the scientific basis of friction ridge identification. Not only are we able to visualise the flow of the friction ridges on a given area of the body but her work makes us understand the why and the reason for the presence of different patterns. Since it is possible to understand the reason why a certain area has a specific pattern, we can almost see the pads underneath. This elevates our understanding of the human body and its evolution.

Indirectly, by understanding her work, our confidence increases while progressing through the identification process. It also helps to appreciate the value of statistical models since we have an understanding of why overall patterns are repeated.

Identification Canada Editorial note: This work was prepared as part of an Advanced Ridgeology Training program (ART) within RCMP's forensic Identification Services. I thought that many CIS members would not have access to Whipple's original papers and may find a summary of her findings & how it relates to Friction Ridge Identification of interest.

It's About Time

(This article is reprinted from the *The Silent Witness* volume, 37 number 1 (January - March 2003), published by the Rocky Mountain Division of the IAI.)

By **KATHLEEN D. SAVIORS**

Secretary, Crime Scene Certification Board

Many of us own a few wristwatches, have any number of clocks in our homes and vehicles, and observe time as rigid and structured. We depend on knowing the correct time so we arrive at appointments on time, are able to catch the football game on television and to leave work at the proper time. This was not always the case.

In 1826, a new town clock was installed in New Haven, Connecticut. Most people didn't have watches or clocks. The other source of public time was the clock in the tower at Yale College. Soon after installation, the new town clock fell behind Yale's clock by up to fifteen minutes. Then, over the year, it began to speed up, gaining that lost time and fifteen minutes more, but then losing it again.

What was discovered was that the town clock was constructed to observe "mean time," while the Yale clock measured "apparent time" which is based upon the irregular movements of the earth and sun, the same as is noted on a sundial. The difference between these styles of clocks was plus or minus fifteen minutes, four times each year.

Because there was no standard of time, other problems began to happen. In 1843, on Election Day in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, the polls were to officially close at 7:00 PM. But, when was that exactly? The factory clock had been used as the point of reference, but few thought it was accurate. The clock in front of the local jewelry store showed 8:20 PM. The bartender at the local hotel said the time was 9:00 PM. An individual said his personal clock read 7:15 PM. A watchmaker criticized the factory bell as being 15 minutes faster than his sundial. Of course, the losing politicians made the most of this confusion by asking that the election be declared invalid due to votes being accepted after the official close of the polls.

There have been several examples of factories adjusting their clocks to get another thirty minutes of unpaid work from their employees. Since most employees at that time did not own wristwatches, they did not realize this.

By the late 1800s, when railroads were expanding their coverage, there was the additional problem of "local time." Because there was no standard of time set by any regulating body, towns and cities were allowed to select their own local time. The time between two relatively close cities could vary by ten, fifteen, twenty minutes or more.

The railroads published timetables indicating "railroad time" and "local time" for each city on the route.

It was the railroad companies that pushed for a national standard time. They proposed a standard time style based upon Greenwich Time with divisions of one hour for every fifteen degrees of longitude resulting in four time zones across the United States.

While some embraced this concept, others challenged it. Legal battles ensued. The Supreme Courts of various states had to hear arguments regarding standard time at least fifteen times between 1883 and 1915. There were trials in New York and California as late as 1917.

The bottom line of all this is that the United States has agreed upon standard time for less than one hundred years. Many of us cannot even imagine what it was like without standards of time. Looking back, it seems so ludicrous. How could the nation have existed without recognizable standards? The answer was "they couldn't," so they created the standard.

On a smaller but no less important scale, the Crime Scene Certification Board is trying to do the same thing, by defining standards and recognizing those who meet them. Started in 1989, the IAI Crime Scene Certification Program recognizes three levels of expertise: Crime Scene Technician, Crime Scene Analyst, and Senior Crime Scene Analyst. Each has an increasing series of education and training requirements and has a written examination, increasing in comprehension of more complex topics for each level. It is not an easy process to complete and not everyone who applies is successful. Some law enforcement agencies include a certification requirement in the employment process and some will pay the application fee for their employees. For the complete requirements and an application, please visit the IAI web site: www.theiai.org.

In five or ten years, being certified could become the standard. In twenty years, maybe we will look back and wonder in amazement that the United States could exist without these standards of professionalism. If you are a Crime Scene Investigator and are not certified, isn't it about time you considered it?

Examples and data on time from: O'Malley, Michael. *Keeping Watch: A History of American Time*: Penguin Books, New York, 1990.

For application forms and more information about the IAI Crime Scene Certification Program and the other IAI certification programs, go to www.theiai.org.

More City Police Training to do Fingerprinting to Solve Car Thefts

[This article was downloaded from the Pittsburg Post-Gazette (www.post-gazette.com), June 12, 2003.]

By **JONATHAN D. SILVER**
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Your car is stolen and recovered. Or someone has busted into your SUV and pried out the radio.

What do you expect police to do?

To any casual watcher of television crime dramas, the answer is a no-brainer: dust for fingerprints.

Sound reasonable? Sure. But in Pittsburgh, lifting fingerprints in such cases has been more of a luxury for victims than a necessity for police officers. Unless there were extenuating circumstances, it was a crapshoot whether police would respond to a recovered stolen car with a fingerprint kit.

It's not that detectives were lazy. It was the result of a heavy workload for the police bureau's 13-member Mobile Crime Unit, which places priorities on solving crimes such as homicides and robberies, and for the 24 plainclothes detectives assigned to the police bureau's six zones.

Last year alone, there were 3,087 theft from auto cases and 2,820 stolen vehicles in Pittsburgh -- easily enough to inundate the crime unit.

"They don't get called for these, and that's what the problem was. They just don't have the manpower and resources to do theft from auto and stolen cars," said Lt. Scott Schubert of the Squirrel Hill station. "They went unprinted unless a particular zone had a detective or an officer who was trained."

Not anymore. The odds for victims having their stolen or vandalized vehicles checked for fingerprints has improved.

Thanks to an effort launched in summer 2001 by Schubert, this week will mark the sixth class of officers -- nearly 140 in all -- trained to fingerprint cars in the field. Two years ago, no more than 20 uniformed officers had such skills, Schubert estimated. As well, each of the police bureau's six zones has two new, state of the art fingerprint kits.

There are still wrinkles. Not every station has trained officers on each of its three shifts, for instance. And it's too early to tell whether the training has made a major dent in solving crimes.

Schubert's own zone was the guinea pig. Initially he had 14 officers trained to fingerprint.

For a year-and-a-half, Schubert said, his officers processed 200 cars, retrieved fingerprints that led to 24 hits on a national system that stores the fingerprints of criminals, and cleared 90 cases.

In the April edition of "CSI Journal," a monthly crime scene investigation newsletter Schubert writes for the department, he noted that solving one car theft could lead police to a criminal implicated in numerous cases.

"One thing to keep in mind is the fact that a person just doesn't steal or break into one car and quit. They are usually individuals who plague a neighborhood and become serial thieves," Schubert wrote.

"The majority of people are drug-dependent or transients who don't care about leaving fingerprints," he continued. "Therefore, if we fail to process these cars, then we miss out on a chance of obtaining valuable evidence that can help identify actors (sic) and clear multiple cases."

Not only that, but taking the time to fingerprint vehicles leads to goodwill on the part of the public, Schubert noted.

"They were simply amazed at the fact that someone was fingerprinting their car, and that someone actually cared about their petty crime," Schubert wrote. "Even when you couldn't recover any prints, the people were ecstatic that someone even tried."



**Upcoming
SCAFO Meeting**

August 2, 2003

Program: *Jeff Graham Van Dam Murder Case
with emphasis on Latent Print Examinations*

Lunch meeting 12 pm

El Torito
Mission Valley, CA

Dinner reservations:
Tom Washington (619) 531-2838-4770
washington@scafo.org

*Regular meeting announcement
with directions to be mailed.*

MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING

DATE: June 7, 2003
LOCATION: Catal Restaurant, Downtown Disney
HOST: Sgt. At Arms, Gina Russell-Durgin
SECRETARY: Susan Garcia
SPECIAL GUEST: Steve Staggs
PROGRAM: Photographing Latent Print Evidence
CALL TO ORDER: Late lunch announced at 1430 hours by President George Durgin. Meeting called to order at 1545.

ATTENDANCE:

PAST PRESIDENTS: Dell Freeman, (1973), Clark Fogg (1994), Jim Lawson (1995), Bill Leo (1996), Robert Goss (2001), and Steve Tillmann (2002).

EXECUTIVE BOARD: George Durgin, Ed Palma, Susan Garcia, James Lawson, Gina Russell-Durgin, Steve Tillmann, Elaine Sena-Brown, Lisa DiMeo, Clark Fogg, Tom Washington, Bill Leo, and Craig Johnson. (Absent: Alan McRoberts and Dennis Uyeda).

Members and guests present - 67

GIFTS: Gina Russell-Durgin

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Readings:

Jim Accornero - Anaheim Police Dept.
Motion to accept: Craig Johnson
Second: Christine Moore

Swear Ins:

Carol Lekowski- Santa Monica Police Dept.

NEW BUSINESS:

First Readings for Active Membership:

Steven Staggs, University of California Police
Recommended by: Gina Russell-Durgin

Introduction Reading for Associate/Student Member

Amanda Amabile and Leila Innis
Recommended by : Ed Palma

Crystal Penrod
Recommended by : Bill Leo

Angela Di Bartola
Recommended by: George Durgin

PROGRAM : Steve Staggs gave an informative presentation starting with general tips on photographing evidence at crime scenes, then continued to discuss the photography of latent print evidence. Several different methods of lighting used, along with film and filters were covered.

We had a fantastic meal in a lovely setting -- Downtown Disney. The early dinner was well-received and kept the price down. The next meeting will also be a late lunch. If any members would like to comment, please let me or any other board member know. Our email addresses are on the front of "The Print".

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting: August 2nd , 2003, in San Diego to be hosted by Tom Washington. Information will be forthcoming.

Training Seminar: The dates are set so mark your calendar for October 3 & 4, 2003, at Embassy Suites West Covina (same place as last year). Schedule & speakers will be announced soon.

Proficiency Testing: Bill Leo is working along with other members to organize two Certification tests that will be available to members. The tests offered will be in Latent Print Comparison and Ten Print Operation. Bill hopes to have these ready to be administered at the time of the SCAFO Conference.

ATTENDANCE DRAWING: \$25.00 won by Marvin Spreyne.

DOOR PRIZES: Won by 25 members in attendance.

Special thanks (again) to member Mari Johnson for helping out with the check-in and setup.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Susan Garcia

Second: Jim Lawson

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1605 hours

"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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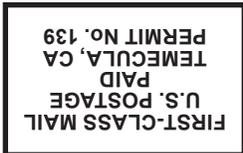
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- 7 June Meeting Minutes

SCAFO Members
get "yourname@scafo.org".
See instructions on the
website's email page.

-- Upcoming Events/Schools/Seminars--

- August 2, 2003 *S.C.A.F.O. Meeting*
Tom Washington
San Diego Police Department
- October 3-4, 2003 *S.C.A.F.O. Annual Training Seminar*
Bill Leo
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
- December 6, 2003 *S.C.A.F.O. Meeting*
Ed Palma
San Diego Police Department
- February 2004 *S.C.A.F.O. Meeting*
Lisa DiMeo
Arcana Forensic Services
- February 16 - 21, 2004 A.A.F.S. Annual Meeting
Dallas, TX
- May 10 - 13, 2004 C.S.D.I.A.I. 88th Annual Conference
Sacramento, CA
- August 7 - 13, 2004 International Association for Identification
St. Louis, MO

Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers
An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937