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Application of Thermo-Fax Copying Process to Obliterated Writing Problems

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APPLICATION OF "THERMO-FAX" COPYING PROCESS TO OBLITERATED WRITING PROBLEMS*

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The success of the "Thermo-Fax" process depends upon the presence of carbon black or graphite in writing or printing inks. For this reason, material printed with inks of this type will be recorded whereas inks composed of organic dyes will fail

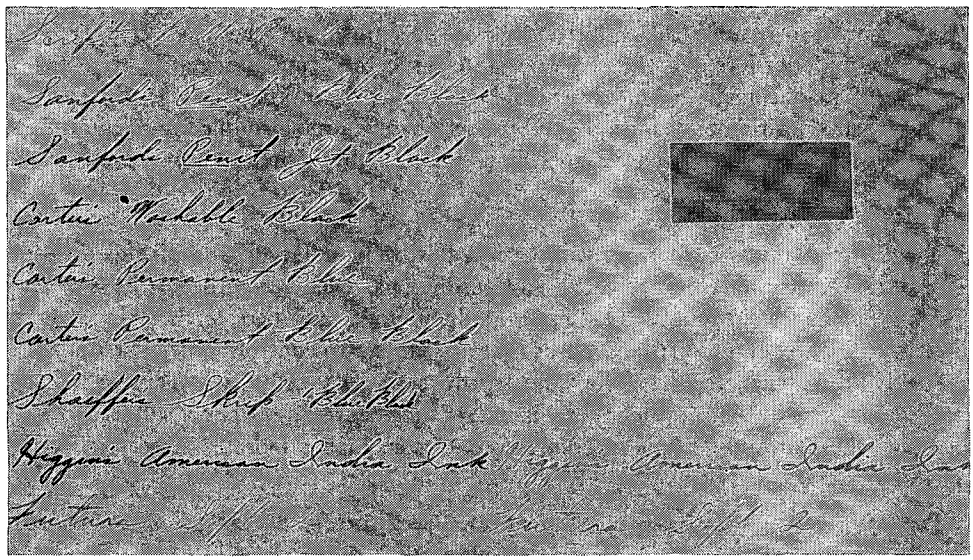

Figure 1

Several specimens of writing with indicated media. Left section photographed with panchromatic emulsion; right section reproduced by "Thermo-Fax" which only reproduces carbon ink and graphite pencil.

to be reproduced. Figure 1 illustrates the lack of reproduction of several common inks.

Although the failure to record all writing media might be a commercial disadvan-

* The Thermo-Fax duplicating process is manufactured by the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, St. Paul 6, Minnesota.

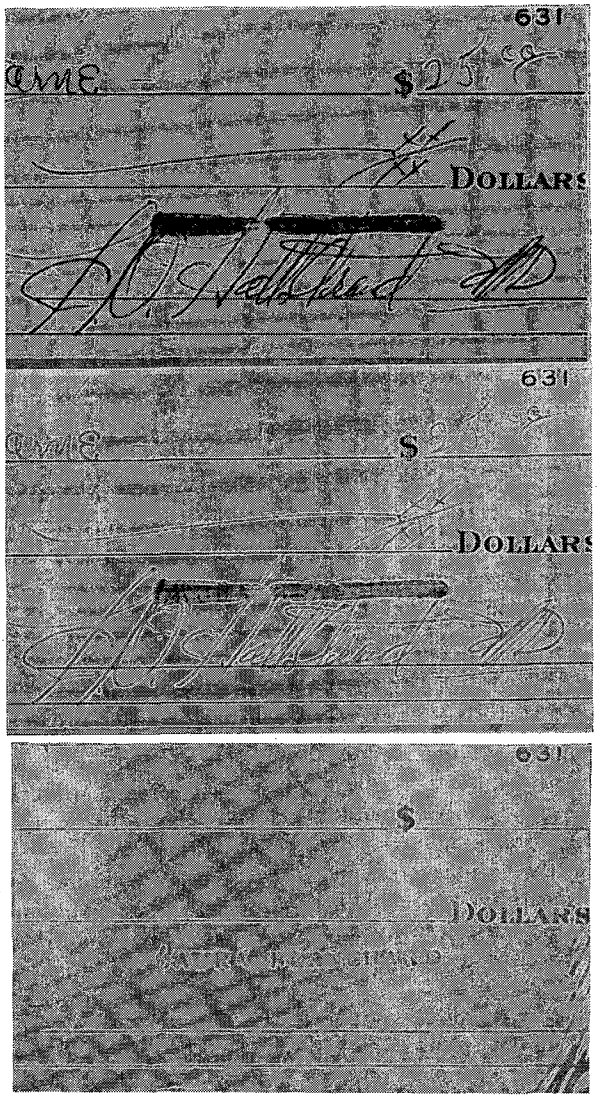

Figure 2

Questioned check reproduced by the following means: A, Panchromatic emulsion, B, Infra-red emulsion, C, "Thermo-Fax".

tage, it can be utilized in document problems. Figure 2A is a check recorded by panchromatic film showing an obliterated name. In Figure 2B the printing is faintly revealed by the employment of infrared photography. The complete restoration by "Thermo-Fax" is shown in Figure 2C.

No attempt was made to determine the nature of the ink used to obliterate the printing; however, it had the general characteristic of ball point writing.