

in our possession showing the same kind of extra mark.

(6) Klass also claims that a forensics expert (a former CIA man at that!!) says the type is that of a Smith Corona typewriter not available until the mid-1960s. This is a very difficult call and other examiners disagree. There seems to be no doubt, however, that the typewriter used for the "24, 1947." portion of the date does predate 1947. Surely if a forger had such an old typewriter, why would he use it only for that portion of the date instead of for the whole memo? This makes no sense at all.

(7) Klass appears to be guilty of misrepresentation in his writings about the signatures and other aspects of the MJ-12 documents. He speaks of a "smoking gun" in both a Sept. 20, 1989, "White Paper" and an article "New Evidence of MJ-12 Hoax" in the Skeptical Inquirer (Winter 1990). I am preparing a detailed critique but wish to emphasize certain points here in addition to those noted above. His seemingly impressive scholarly reference is the book "Questioned Documents" by Albert S. Osborn, 1978, from which he extracts this sentence "The fact that two signatures are very nearly alike is not alone necessarily an indication of forgery of one or both but the question is whether they are suspiciously alike." (his emphasis). He goes on about the extra scratch in the H in Harry.

What he doesn't say is that the 1,000 page law book was actually written in 1910 with second edition in 1929! Osborn was born in 1858 and died in 1946. The quote Chapter is titled "Traced Forgeries." The third sentence after the quoted one is "It should be understood that suspicious identity is that which suggests the tracing process and which is not inconsistent with the theory of tracing." Tracing of signatures was, of course, a major legal problem before copy machines became so common. Klass also leaves out the footnoted legal references to the quote he uses. Four are given dated 1903, 1904, 1900, and 1879 (in the 2nd Edition). The first deals with four identical signatures on a will by a man older than 80!! Clearly, none of this has anything to do with xerox machines, or signatures by people who sign loads of documents every working day, or paste ups. Klass also starts his White Paper with this quote: "A person's hand written signature is like a snowflake - no two are identical." This sounds like a profound truth. As it turns out, according to Osborne in the third sentence prior to the one Klass quotes, "In some cases such (identical) signatures can be found" (in italics for emphasis, no less!!).

Let us assume for a moment that there was indeed an MJ-12 established by President Truman in September 1947, as described in the Truman-Forrestal memo. Signatures might well have been signed on the original to Forrestal and possibly (though certainly not necessarily) on Bush's copy and a CIA copy. It is not clear that there would have been a signature on the White House copy. There might not have been a date either, since the exact date might not be set until later, depending on when certain things got done or a meeting would be arranged. If we take the memo at face value, then the date would seem to have been typed on at Bush's office because of the period after the date which was indeed typical of Bush's