Historical Events of Human Identification—Past / Present / Future

WM (Bill) Bailey
Fingerprint Specialist
Human Identification / Past

- In the early days of police work, one of the greatest plagues for the Judge was not being able to prove a repeat offender.
- France: Method of Branding
- Rome: Method of Tattooing
- Other countries would dismember the hand of a thief.
Louis Alphonse Bertillon (1853-1913)
BODY MEASUREMENTS

1. Height
2. Stretch: Length from right shoulder to right middle finger.
3. Bust: Length of torso from head to seat.
4. Length of head: Crown to forehead.
5. Width of head: Temple to temple.
6. Length of right ear
7. Length of left foot
8. Length of left middle finger
9. Length of left cubit: Elbow to tip of middle finger.
10. Width of cheeks
11. Length of left little finger
The West Case

When he was received at Leavenworth, Will West denied previous imprisonment there, but the record clerk applied the Bertillon instruments to him anyway. He knew the reluctance of criminals to admit past crimes. Sure enough, when the clerk referred to the formula derived from West's Bertillon measurements, he located the file of one William West whose measurements were practically identical and whose photograph appeared to be that of the new prisoner.

But Will West was not being untruthful about a previous imprisonment at Leavenworth. When the clerk turned over William West's record card, he found it was that of a man already in the Penitentiary, serving a life sentence for murder. Subsequently, the fingerprints of Will West and William West were taken and compared. The patterns bore no resemblance.

It would be hard to conceive a more nearly perfect case for refuting the claims of rival systems of identification. Although the two Wests denied being related, there was a facial resemblance like that of twin brothers. The formulas derived from their Bertillon measurements were nearly identical, allowing for slight discrepancies which might have been due to human variations in the measuring process. And, finally, there was the crowning coincidence of the similarity of names.

The fallibility of three systems of personal identification—names, photographs, and Bertillon measurements—were demonstrated by this one case. On the other hand, the value of fingerprints as a positive means of identifying people was dramatically shown.
1903- The Death of Anthropometry
Will West or William West

Will

William
FINGERPRINTS COME OF AGE

The fallibility of three systems of personal identifications were demonstrated by the “West” case.

- Names
- Photographs
- Bertillon measurements
Foundation of Fingerprint Identification

- The two basic factors are that fingerprints are individually unique and permanent.

- Barring accidental or surgical removal of the finger itself, this ridge arrangement is permanent for the life of the individual and will endure until decomposition of the body after death.
Historical Events of Human Identification / Present
DPS AFIS Database

- DPS went online 1992
- Church burglary 06/04/1992
- 6 million images in database
- 5 terminals at DPS
- 46 remote terminals across Texas
- FBI/IAFIS
- FBI Files
- INS, Terrorist files, Interpol files, etc.
- Over 40,000 hits have been made
- 28 Agencies in Texas that use the IAFIS
Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (A.F.I.S.)

- Used for both inked and latent fingerprints.
- High-resolution scan of fingerprint is entered into system and converted to algorithm.
- Search is then performed against existing database for possible candidates.
- Identification is performed by the examiner.
Automation process has eliminated the need for a print classier to locate fingerprint cards from a file and compare two physical cards.

Fingerprint images collected from individuals either by using fingerprint cards or by electronic capture using a device similar to a scanner.

Identification aspect occurs when the person is fingerprinted, and the resulting images are searched against the database of fingerprint images on a local, state, or national database.

System because it uses computers and software and can interact with subsystems and other identification systems, including other AFIS systems.
BSC West
DHS Fingerprint Center

- 24/7 operation
- 365 days a year
- Databases available include: IAFIS; Immigration database IDENT
- 70% of IDENT not included in IAFIS

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Historical Events of Human Identification

- Fingerprint
- Hand geometry
- Face
- Voice
- Iris
- Retina
- Signature
Historical Events of Human Identification
This concludes my PowerPoint presentation

QUESTIONS??
References

References Continued


