



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 90.75

American Board of Forensic Odontology Records

Accession Number: 2009.0001

Date of Records: 1970-2009 (bulk 1978-1998)

Size: 43 cubic feet, 43 boxes

Finding Aid: by Ariel Singer (2010); revised by Laura Cutter (2012)

Access and Use: The Otis Historical Archives is committed to providing open access to its collections as far as possible within the limits of privacy and confidentiality. American Board of Forensic Odontology records (OHA 90.75) contain restricted material. Access to this collection is at the discretion of the Otis Historical Archives and material contained within the records maybe be subject to review before access is granted.

Background Information: The objective of the American Board of Forensic Records is to establish, enhance, and revise as necessary, standards of qualifications for those who practice forensic odontology, and to certify as qualified specialists those voluntary applicants who comply with the requirements of the Board. In this way, the Board aims to make available a practical and equitable system for readily identifying those persons professing to be specialists in forensic odontology who possess the requisite qualifications and competence. While the need to identify forensic scientists unequivocally qualified to provide essential professional services for the Nation's judicial and executive branches of government has long been recognized, The American Board of Forensic Odontology was not organized until 1976 under the auspices of the National Institute of Justice. The ABFO is comprised of individuals who are nationally and internationally recognized experts. The ABFO is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) as a forensic specialty offering board certification to qualified forensic dentists. (*This information is adapted from the website "ABFO.org American Board of Forensic Odontology," http://www.abfo.org/about_abfo.htm, January 10, 2011*).

Series/Scope and Content Note: This collection documents the founding, development, and advancement of the American Board of Forensic Odontology, as well as the professionalization and standardization of the field of forensic odontology. When material was transferred to the



National Museum of Health and Medicine, certain sections retained a “rough” order, but the overall collection did not have any original order. The six series were imposed, in collaboration, by the assistant archivist and collections manager of the anatomical collection.

SERIES 001: ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIAL

This series documents the administrative functions of the ABFO, including the development of ABFO standards, the diplomate reference manual, correspondence, meeting minutes, recertification, committee reports, and financial records. This material is arranged thematically and then by date. The bulk of this series consists of application materials submitted by candidates seeking certification as ABFO diplomates. Application material was not retained for every candidate, but a representative cross-section is included. Many of the applications that were retained by ABFO were those of candidates who went on to be active members of ABFO and prominent within the forensics community. The type of material in each collection varies in detail. Most contain records of forensic cases and court testimony; some include extensive case histories, dental casts, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Occasionally, cases submitted for certification were later used as part of the ABFO exams or workshops and additional information about specific files may be found with those series. Applications received after the early-2000s were often submitted on CD.

SERIES 002: EXAMINATION MATERIAL

This series contains a small amount of material relating to the certification exams offered by the ABFO for professionals in the field. The bulk of this series consists of copies of the exams from 1978-1999 and the results of the candidates (both multiple choice and written portions). Exams are coded by number as to remain anonymous for evaluation, but most years include a “key” indentifying the candidate. Also included, for some years, are copies of letters sent to the candidates, notifying them about whether or not they passed the exam. In later years, portions of the examination were taken presentation-style, and are included on CDs instead of paper. The series also includes individual teeth and bitemark casts that were used in the examination. Occasionally, cases used for examinations were originally from candidate applications or were used in the ABFO workshops; additional information about specific files may be found with those series. In the mid-1990s, the exam process changed significantly, merging to a large degree with the ABFO workshops. Material for the later exams and workshops was received together and remains largely commingled in both series. ABFO diplomate’s recertification material (required after initial certification) is included in series 001.

SERIES 003: WORKSHOP MATERIAL

This series contains material that documents various “bitemark workshops” conducted by the ABFO since 1984. Three boxes of paper materials include guidelines, committee notes, syllabi, and handbooks, as well as information relating to specific workshops. The number of



workshops hosted by ABFO is unclear, and the type of materials included for specific workshops varies from year to year. During later years, a portion of the workshop consisted of bitemark presentations by candidates applying for ABFO diplomate status. The majority of material from these later years documents the presentations, rather than the overall workshop. Casts and molds of bitemarks used for the workshops make up the majority of this series. The casts and molds have an internal numbering system devised by the ABFO and altered over time [see also Addendum on ABFO Bitemark workshop casts]. Occasionally, cases used in the ABFO workshops were originally submitted with candidate applications or were used in the ABFO examinations; additional information about specific files may be found with those series. In the mid-1990s, the ABFO workshops merged to a large degree with the examination process. Material for the later exams and workshops was received together and remains largely commingled in both series.

SERIES 004: CASE FILES AND PERSONAL MATERIAL

The ABFO created a large reference library of case files and court transcripts, principally through donations by ABFO diplomates and cases submitted as part of the examination process. The cases and transcripts document methodologies used by different odontologists, as well as the changes and professionalization of the field. Several doctors, including Thomas Krauss and Paul Stimson, donated their substantial personal collections of case files and other materials to the ABFO as well. Case files can include notes, police reports, legal correspondence, newspaper clippings, slides, photographs, medical reports, and court transcripts, though the actual material in each file varies significantly. Case files are arranged alphabetically by donor or the forensic odontologist consulting on the case. Unattributed and undated material is arranged at the beginning of the series.

SERIES 005: SUBJECT FILES

This series contains six boxes of subject files, principally articles and monographs, documenting different types of research with which the ABFO was involved, as well as reference files. Most of the material is in the form of reprinted articles and monographs. The files are arranged alphabetically within the subsections of forensic photography, other photography, case law, bitemark files, forensic odontology, mass disaster and forensic files.

SERIES 006: AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL

This series contains VHS tapes, microcassettes, and audiocassettes of ABFO meetings, external lectures, case notes, and presentations. A large portion of this material is unlabeled or badly labeled. Material in this series relates to all other series in the collection.



- **SERIES 001: ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIAL, 1973-2008** 4
- **SERIES 002: EXAMINATION MATERIAL, 1978-2006** 5
- **SERIES 003: WORKSHOP MATERIAL** 5
- **SERIES 004: CASE FILES AND PERSONAL MATERIAL** 6
- **SERIES 005: SUBJECT FILES** 7
- **SERIES 006: AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL** 7

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

SERIES 001: ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIAL, 1973-2008

Box 001:	Administrative correspondence (1973 – 1989)
Box 002:	Administrative correspondence (1990 – 2008) Meeting minutes, and committee reports (1978 – 1993)
Box 003:	Committee and administrative material (1980 – 2006)
Box 004:	ABFO Diplomate Reference Manual revisions (2004) ABFO Procedure Manual (1989 – 2003) Ethics committee and review material (1985 – 2007) Financial records (1980 – 1997)
Box 005:	Financial records (1994 – 2002) Recertification material (2003 – 2007) Diplomate application material (1970 – 1990)
Box 006:	Diplomate application material (1991 – 2006) [Not all application material is dated]
Box 007:	Diplomate application material (1995 – 2006) [Not all application material is dated]
Box 008:	Diplomate application material (1995 – 2006) [Not all application material is dated]
Box 009:	Diplomate application material, including casts (1990 – 2003)



[Not all application material is dated]

SERIES 002: EXAMINATION MATERIAL, 1978-2006

- Box 010: Examination material (1978 – 1989)
- Box 011: Examination material (1989 – 1999)
Applicant listing (1985)
Examination committee correspondence (1984 – 1991)
- Box 012: Examination material (1986 – 2006)
- Box 013: Certification Examination Disks (2006)
Bitemark Casts, “1”, “5”, “7”, “12”, “16” [One box has cast “6” written on it by ABFO, but the cast was not in the box we received.]
Teeth

SERIES 003: WORKSHOP MATERIAL [See also Addendum on ABFO Bitemark workshop casts]

- Box 014: Bitemark guidelines and standards
Bitemark workshop #1 (1984)
Bitemark workshop #2, Committee notes (1994)
Bitemark workshop #2, Bitemark photos (1994)
Bitemark workshop #2, Evaluations (1994)
Bitemark workshop #2, Syllabi (1994)
- Box 015: Bitemark workshop #2, Diagrammatic bitemark evaluation cases 1 – 10, with and without models (1994)
Bitemark workshop #3, Handbook (1997)
Bitemark workshop #4, Handbook (1999)
Bitemark workshop, Presentation materials (2003)
Bitemark workshop, Presentation materials and evaluations (2008)
- Box 016: Forensic Science bitemarks, VHS tapes (1994)
Bitemark workshop #2, VHS tapes (1994)
- Box 017: Bitemark molds: ABFO 1-3-4; ABFO 5; ABFO 6; ABFO 11; ABFO 12;
ABFO 15 [2 boxes]; ABFO 16; ABFO 17
- Box 018: Original bitemark casts: ABFO 1-3-4; ABFO 2; ABFO 5; ABFO 6 (1993)
Original bitemark molds: ABFO 2 [4 boxes]; ABFO 1-3-4 [2 boxes]; ABFO 5



[2 boxes]; ABFO 6 [2 boxes]; ABFO 8; ABFO 10 (1993); ABFO Cheese Bite 2; ABFO 13 [2 boxes] (1998)

Box 019: Bitemark casts: ABFO Case survey – Part II: Casts “A”, “B”, “C” [10 boxes]

Box 020: Bitemark casts: ABFO Case survey – Part II: Casts “D”, “E”, “F” [10 boxes]

Box 021: Bitemark casts: ABFO Case survey – Part II: Casts “G”, “H” [10 boxes]

[Casts “A”, “B”, “E”, “F”, “G”, “H” *From the same series as ABFO Case Survey – Part II, but not labeled as such by the ABFO]

Box 022: Bitemark casts: ABFO Bitemark Workshop (2002): Casts “A”, “B”, “C” [6 boxes]; Casts “A” [3 boxes]; Casts “B” [3 boxes]; and Casts “C” [2 boxes]

Box 023: Bitemark Workshop: ABFO Casts 13, 16, 17 [5 boxes]; ABFO Original Casts 13, 16, 17; ABFO 2 [Cheese bite]; ABFO 11; ABFO 12; ABFO 13; ABFO 14; ABFO 15; ABFO 16; ABFO 17

[Some of these there are specific sets of ABFO 13, ABFO 16 and ABFO 17, that have been separated out by the ABFO and are associated with a particular dentist’s name, we have left these grouped together – we believe they are the casts from the Bitemark Workshop in 2006.]

SERIES 004: CASE FILES AND PERSONAL MATERIAL

Box 024: Case material: Undated and unattributed
Case material: Identification
Case material: Bitemark
Case material: Photo Scientific
Cases: Unattributed (1978 – 1993)
Case Material: Alder – Arendt (1983 – 1998)

Box 025: Case Material: Averill – Jones (1963 – 1993)

Box 026: Case Material: Kelly – Krauss (1976 – 1994)

Box 027: Personal and case material: Krauss (1977 – 1991)

Box 028: Personal and case material: (1977 – 1992)

Box 029: Personal and case material: Krauss – McDowell (1974 – 1994)



- Box 030: Case Material: McDowell – Sipes (1970 – 1999)
- Box 031: Personal and case material: Sipes – Stimson (1971 – 2000)
- Box 032: Personal and case material: Stimson (1972 – 1995)
- Box 033: Personal and case material: Stimson (1983 – 1995)
- Box 034: Personal and case material: Stimson (1950 – 1994)
- Box 035: Personal and case material: Stimson – Wright (1950 – 1993)

SERIES 005: SUBJECT FILES

- Box 036: Subject Files: Forensic photography A – S
- Box 037: Subject Files: Forensic photography T – Z
- Box 038: Subject Files: Other photography (Scale and metrology) and Case law
- Box 039: Subject Files: Bitemark files
- Box 040: Subject Files: Forensic odontology
- Box 041: Subject Files: Mass disaster and forensic files

SERIES 006: AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL

- Box 042: VHS tapes, microcassettes, and audiocassettes of ABFO meetings, external lectures, case notes, and presentations

[A large portion of this material is unlabeled or badly labeled. Material in this series relates to all other series in the collection.]

- Box 043: Microfiche reader

ADDENDUM ON ABFO BITEMARK WORKSHOP CASTS:

- There are no casts listed for the first Bitemark workshop, in 1984.



- For Bitemark workshop #2 (1994), there are 7 different casts. These have different labeling systems, which have been summed up below:

Model Number	Model Letter	Original Photo Number	New Photo Number	Submitting Dentist
1-3-4	D	17	1	Souviron
2	F	14	2	Krauss
1-3-4	D	18	3	Souviron
1-3-4	D	19	4	Souviron
5	A	2	5	Warnick
6	B	4	3	Golden
7`	H	13	7	Krauss
8	E	6	8	Golden
9	G	8	9	Golden
10	C	10	10	Marlin

- n.b. Model 1-3-4 is the same as Model D, but there are three different photos and bitemarks related to this model.
- There are original photos for each of the aforementioned bitemarks in Box 14.
- These casts do not seem to be used in any other Workshop for which we have documentation.
- There are no casts associated with Bitemark workshop #3 (1997)
- Bitemark Workshop #4 (1999) seems to use an entirely new set of casts, initially labeled ABFO 11 through ABFO 17, plus Cheese Bite (Case #2). All of these casts are white.
- Some casts of ABFO 11 through ABFO 17 were reused in 2002 and perhaps in 2006 Workshops, although we do not have any paperwork from either of these.
- For 2002: the casts are ABFO "A" (originally ABFO 14), ABFO "B" (originally ABFO 11) and ABFO "C" (originally ABFO 13). All of these casts are green.
- For 2006: the casts are, as originally labeled, ABFO 13, ABFO 16 and ABFO 17, however all of these are green.
- For Bitemark workshops 2003 and 2008: the workshop now includes presentations given by ABFO applicants (upon which their approval or denial is based), we have no information about the other contents of the workshops and no casts.



- For 2008: the letters of certification approval or denial are included, as are three evaluations for each candidate's presentation.