

FAQ 28

(12/3/06)

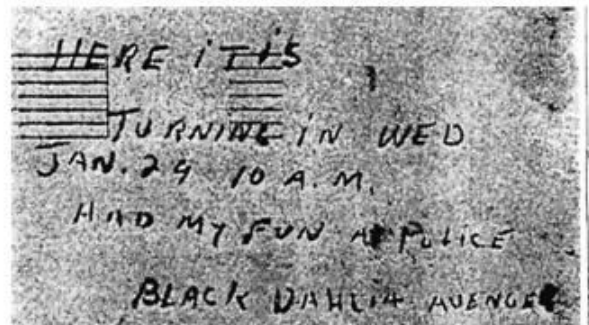
28.1

Q: Did you identify all of the "Avenger" notes that were mailed in to the police as being written by your father?

No. In fact, as relates to the Black Dahlia investigation, I only positively identified ONE NOTE as being written by my father. That was the undisguised "surrender note" printed on the front page of the *Los Angeles Examiner*. While I suspect many of the other disguised notes were written by him, I cannot, and did not, make a positive ID. The handwriting expert went further and identified four separate Avenger notes as being written by George Hodel.

Since the note [below] was undisguised, it weighs in favor of the fact that he was going to turn himself in to the police as promised. But, after reflection, I believe he changed his mind, which is verified by a later "Avenger Note" (cut and pasted) where he tells us, "Have changed my mind. You would not give me a square deal." [NB: LAPD confirmed that a number of the notes were written using a ball-point pen, which was a new and very expensive item in 1947. In today's dollars it would have been the equivalent of \$125.00, and therefore was primarily used by professionals such as: doctors, lawyers, military officers etc.)

Black Dahlia Avenger "Surrender Note" January 28, 1947



FROM "AVENGER"—This note was received by Examiner Sunday. The "avenger" said he was "turning in" tomorrow. A previous note to Examiner said there would be a "letter to follow."



SLAYER'S CARD?—On the back of "Black Dahlia Avenger's" note. Officials are standing by—is this a real offer or a taunt?

I also positively identified the undisguised handwriting on the body of Jeanne French in red lipstick as being my father's handwriting.



RED LIPSTICK MURDER

Victim's nude body found in vacant lot 12 kilometers directly west and just 25 days after "Black Dahlia" murder

Jeanne French crime scene 11 February 1947



"Fuck You B.D."
Written in red lipstick

Samples of George Hodel's handwriting written at age-90.
(Q8 is lipstick on Jeanne French's body)

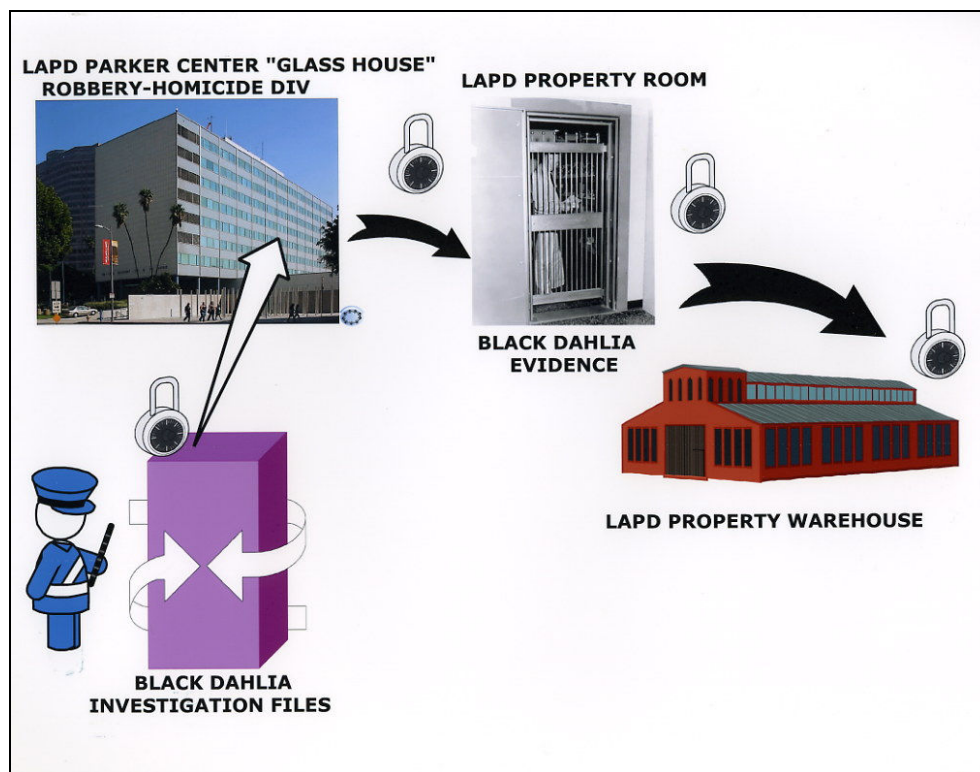
Samples of George Hodel's unique block printing
compared to Jeanne French lipstick printing



28.2

Q: My question has to do with all the Black Dahlia files and evidence turning up missing. How could LAPD let that happen? Wasn't the evidence secured?

Good question. Yes, both the investigative files and evidence are and have always been locked and secured. This was true from Day One- Jan. 15, 1947. LAPD's policies and procedures for handling evidence have always been very stringent.



LAPD (Detective Brian Carr) in November, 2004, informed the press that almost all of the physical evidence and many of the investigative files are "missing". Carr stated that, "sometime these things happen." When pressed by journalists for an answer as to "How that could happen to evidence in LAPD's most notorious murder investigation?" Carr informed them that "the last record of the evidence showed it was checked out in the early 1950s by LAPD criminalist, Ray Pinker, and they have no idea where it went from there?" Detective Carr concluded the interview with a statement to the effect that, "Since all the evidence is missing no DNA comparison can be made to Dr. George Hodel, or anyone else, and therefore the Black Dahlia case cannot be cleared or solved."

Critical to any successful criminal prosecution is the chain-of-custody as relates to physical evidence. That is basic—IT IS --Police Academy 101.

The above diagram shows how and where both the 1) **LAPD investigative files** and 2) **LAPD physical evidence** were secured in the Black Dahlia investigation. It is important that we keep in mind that these are two very separate and distinct items.

As the diagram shows—ALL **INVESTIGATIVE FILES** REMAIN IN A **LOCKED** CABINET AT PARKER CENTER'S **ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION.**

ALL **PHYSICAL EVIDENCE** REMAINS **LOCKED** IN PARKER CENTER'S **PROPERTY DIVISION** (BASEMENT). EVENTUALLY, AFTER MANY YEARS OR DECADES, OLD EVIDENCE IS TRANSFERRED TO A **LOCKED WAREHOUSE FOR STORAGE**.

It is my understanding that only the assigned investigating detective (or in this case gatekeeper Brian Carr) has the key and authority to access the DAHLIA INVESTIGATIVE FILES.

No detectives or officers can personally access the PROPERTY DIVISION EVIDENCE. (This would include all physical evidence connected to the investigation such as: Avenger notes, hair follicle samples, purse, photos, ID, clothing etc.) Detectives must sign in and sign out all evidence. This makes for a solid "paper trail", and that is why Carr in checking for the evidence discovered that it was last signed out by Criminalist Ray Pinker some fifty-years ago.

What is particularly REVEALING in the Dahlia investigation is the fact that not only is most if not all of the physical evidence missing from the Property Division lock-up, but so too is EVERYTHING CONNECTING DR. GEORGE HODEL TO THE CRIME. While many/most of the Dahlia investigative files remain intact-- Carr after the publication of BDA was then asked, and was compelled to check for a "George Hodel connection"? In 2003, his response to the press was that In searching the LAPD DAHLIA FILES, he "found only one single page memo referencing the Hodel name in connection with the Black Dahlia."

This response confirmed the statements made to me by Carr's predecessor, retired LAPD Detective III, Kirk Mellecker, who, in a 2002 interview, indicated that there was "NOTHING IN THE DAHLIA CASE FILES MENTIONING A DR. GEORGE HODEL." (Kirk Mellecker was Detective John St. John's longtime partner and had been assigned to the investigation in the ten years preceding CARR.)

THROUGH CARR'S NOV. 2004 INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESS, WE LEARN THAT EVERY LAPD FILE AND PHOTOGRAPH CONNECTING GEORGE HODEL TO THE DAHLIA INVESTIGATION WAS REMOVED AND MISSING. (PROBABLY BACK IN THE 1950S.) MODERN DAY LAPD HAD NO KNOWLEDGE THAT GEORGE HODEL WAS EVER THE DA'S PRIME SUSPECT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, CARR ALSO MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS 2004 PRESS INTERVIEW THAT "LAPD TOOK NO PART IN CLEARING HODEL AND THAT HE HAD NO IDEA HOW OR WHY DR. HODEL WAS CLEARED AS A SUSPECT BY THE DA INVESTIGATORS."

GEORGE HODEL'S CONNECTION WAS ONLY LEARNED BY CARR AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF MY BOOK IN 2003 AND HIS EVENTUAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE DA'S OFFICE IN 2004 AND HIS COPYING OF THAT AGENCY'S "DAHLIA/HODEL FILE". (IN FACT, HAD D.A. LT. JEMISON IN 1951, NOT LOCKED AWAY THIS "HODEL FILE", AS A "SECOND SET OF BOOKS" WHICH CONTAINED OVER 400 PAGES OF LINKAGE, WE WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE LAPD FILES HAD BEEN SANITIZED. (WE HAVE DA DOCUMENTATION THAT ALL THE HODEL FILES AND TAPES ALONG WITH THE DA'S ENTIRE INVESTIGATION, WAS PERSONALLY HANDED OVER TO DEP. CHIEF OF DETECTIVES, THAD BROWN IN 1951, WITH THE DA'S WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT " THE DA'S OFFICE WOULD NEVER AGAIN ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DAHLIA INVESTIGATION."

SKH NOTE:

IT IS MY PERSONAL BELIEF (CALL IT A COP'S INTUITION) THAT MUCH OF THE DAHLIA PHYSICAL EVIDENCE HAS NOT DISAPPEARED, BUT IS SIMPLY UNINTENTIONALLY MISPLACED.

I BELIEVE THE CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT SOME OF THE ORIGINAL LETTERS (WHICH WOULD LIKELY CONTAIN THE SUSPECT'S DNA) ARE SIMPLY "LOST" AND, LIKE THE ENDING SCENE IN THE INDIANA JONES MOVIE, A BOX MARKED "BLACK DAHLIA EVIDENCE" IS SITTING, COLLECTING DUST, IN SOME LOCKED WAREHOUSE, OR IN SOME LONG FORGOTTEN CABINET, IN A SID (SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION DIVISION) ROOM IN THE CRIMINALIST'S LAB. I DOUBT THAT GATEKEEPER CARR HAS EVER REALLY MADE ANY SERIOUS SEARCH FOR EITHER THE EVIDENCE, OR GEORGE HODEL'S FINGERPRINTS. A SEARCH AND OR AUDIT WOULD BE TIME CONSUMING. WE MUST ASSUME CARR IS SINCERE WHEN HE SAY'S, "I AM TOO BUSY WITH CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS TO EITHER PROVE OR DISPROVE HODEL'S INVESTIGATION."

I BELIEVE SOME DAY, PERHAPS AFTER CARR HAS RETIRED AND THERE HAS BEEN A "CHANGE OF GUARD" AND THE MEAN STREETS OF L.A. HAVE QUIETED DOWN, SOME NEW DETECTIVE WILL FIND THE TIME TO SEARCH AND -THE MISSING EVIDENCE WILL SURFACE.