

## VI. EXPERT DETERMINATION

1. The results of our examinations to date show that the suspect documents deviate from the known practices, seals, handwriting, etc. of their purported sources; the consistent nature of these numerous deviations points to all of the suspect documents coming from a common source.
2. Comparison of seals, signatures, handwriting, stylistic morphology, and other significant factors with known exemplars from the purported sources leads to definite determinations that over half of the suspect documents are non-genuine.
3. The examination to date also revealed a number of significant features inappropriately linking various suspect documents in the collection to each other, and indicating that they come from a common source. The individual documents are interrelated at many levels by elements including the paper, seal and stamp impressions, handwriting, and other significant features.
4. A number of suspect documents are literally linked to each other by physical fit matches demonstrating that the paper used in their production was torn from the same sheet. In some cases the same sheet of paper provided stationery for different individuals and/or for correspondence dated years apart. Diverse suspect documents are also linked by paper taken from books or other sources of aged paper, like old Ottoman documents.
5. Other suspect documents are linked by seal and stamp impressions. Groups of five, ten, twenty, and more suspect documents are linked in this manner. Some of these links are between documents where seal impressions have anomalous attributions to very different individuals from very different eras.
6. Independent sources have confirmed the anachronistic dating of certain seals. For instance, the presence of seal impressions with a design created within the last twenty years on documents purportedly from the Ottoman period clearly means that these suspect documents must have been "sealed" many decades later than the date appearing on the document. Shared seal and stamp impressions, paper, handwriting, etc. provide links to other suspect documents and are evidence that they, too, were prepared much more recently than the Ottoman era.
7. Furthermore, a version of the Royal arms from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II was used in the preparation of suspect documents purportedly from earlier reigns. This fact alone makes it impossible for those documents to have been prepared when dated. Any other seal or stamp impression that was used in the creation of those documents provides evidence of the recent preparation of every other document where that seal impression appears.

8. In the course of our examinations, it became apparent to us that the writing on the suspect documents was most probably from a common source. At first glance the impression given by this group of documents is of multiple writers, writing from different locations and in different times. This impression, however, is merely an artifact of the different styles and methods of disguise used in the preparation of these documents. Notwithstanding the writer's intentions, these attempts at disguise resulted in writing that followed certain consistent patterns that can be found in documents purportedly originating from very different sources.

9. Across the population of suspect documents showing evidence of disguised handwriting, strong similarities were found in the residual natural handwriting traits (i.e., the writer's habitual and customary writing patterns that showed through the attempted disguise); these also match the natural handwriting characteristics found in documents containing fewer features of disguise.

10. By analyzing and comparing the similarities between the characters disguised in the same way in different documents, and by analyzing and comparing the similarities between the remaining individual writing traits that were not disguised, we found a sufficient amount of significant individual characteristics in each of the suspect documents to support the determination that it is probable that the suspect documents were the work of the same person.

11. Moreover, while there might be a theoretical possibility that a writer with this extreme range of variation could exist somewhere, the chances of finding two such individuals involved in the same matter are remote in the extreme. When considering the possibility of finding a single case with a large number of documents all written by individuals who write with this extreme degree of variation, yet who come from various historical periods, from widely separated geographical locations, from very different linguistic, social, and educational backgrounds — the probabilities become vanishingly small.

12. Aside from the coincidence of the materials used to produce this collection of suspect documents, or even the specific similarities of the natural writing and methods of disguising the writing involved in their production, there is also a striking similarity in the overall methodology (or *modus operandi*) employed in their production. The use of paper taken from old documents and books runs through the collection, but the significance of this finding is greatly enhanced by the fact that several suspect documents were anomalistically prepared with material from a single such source. Further, a limited population of seal impressions appears on the documents, with similar impressions given anomalous attributions for more than one individual. This conservation of "resources" can even be seen in the choice of the C. Dalrymple Belgrave signature from a document related to the

underlying dispute in this case as the model for the signatures stamped on the suspect documents. The use of this signature for documents dated years earlier is not the only anachronism found in the Qatar Diwan Amiri Archives collection of documents. The anachronistic use of modern seal designs on purported Ottoman maps and of the current version of the Royal arms on documents from other reigns also links the suspect documents.

13. There are so many features linking the individual suspect documents that they should be considered as a single group coming from a common source.

14. Having examined the originals of 75 of the 81 suspect documents and photocopies of the remaining six, it is our expert determination that the entire Qatar Diwan Amiri Archives collection of 81 documents submitted for examination is not genuine.

Mokhtar M. Amin.

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Mohammed Ezz-El-Din Sobhi

Peter V. Tytell

Dated this 31st day of December 1997.