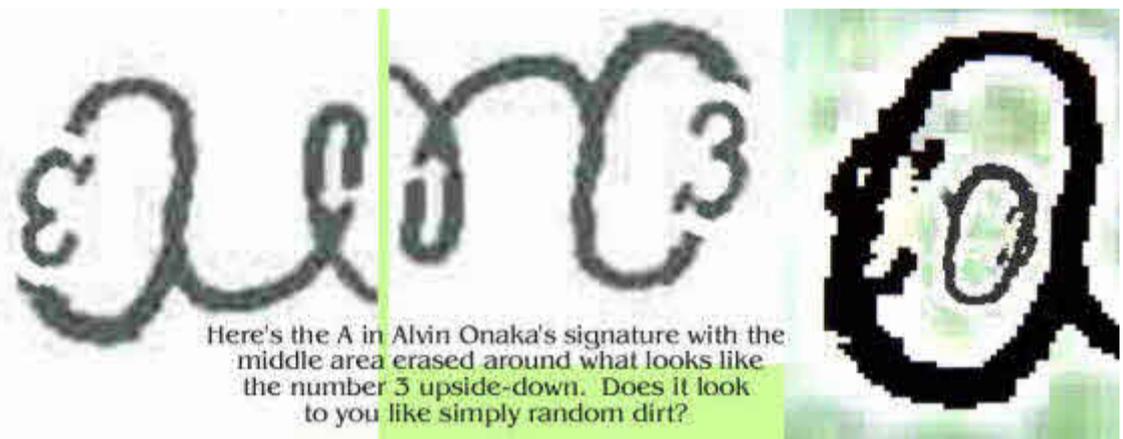


The significance of the smiling face

The appearance of an alteration to the cursive letter "A" in the stamped signature of Alvin Onaka -the Hawaiian State Registrar, seems to be something more than an odd coincidence. The alteration happens to have the appearance of a smiling face. It's isn't some stretch of the imagination to see it. When people see "the Virgin Mary" in a stain on a wall, it's because it is a clearly visible image. But it isn't a miracle, it is pure natural coincidence. But the smiling face appearance is not a natural phenomenon, and since it looks like it is the result of a very carefully placed alteration, (like the number "3" upside-down), one must suspect that it was deliberately caused. Any shift left or right, up or down, of the "squiggle" that forms the face would not create a smiling face. The odds against it being the result of something like dirt are astronomical. Therefore it is justified to speculate on what was behind its formation. Allow me to speculate.

Putting on my Sherlockian forensic profiler's hat, I have a theory that might not be the truth, but makes perfect sense. It begins with the presumption that it was deliberately made. Accepting that proposition, leads to imagining a reason to do that. It can be assumed that it would only have been done by someone who had responsibility over the PDF image, not a child or an interloper. The only reason for putting such a thing on an important document must be that the person who did it a). had unlimited access to it, b). had a reason to do so, and c). thought it would not be noticed.



B. ~A reason to do so~. There is only one logical reason to do it, and that is that it was meant to be a secret fact that could be pointed to someday to prove that the handler had a hand in working on a very significant document, one with historical significance. Like a painter who, after working for hours or days or weeks on a work of art, finally adds his personal signature -written small in an unnoticeable spot down in a corner. That provides the artist with proof that it was their own creation, -no unrewarding anonymity. For someone to be similarly motivated in putting such an effect onto the PDF would require that they had a connection to it similar to that which an artist has to his painting. That would mean that he worked on it. What would that imply? It would imply that he made changes to it, working "digital magic" to change something of great significance. He was responsible for the result for which he could never claim credit, -never exercise bragging rights. No one would ever know that he was the master of the greatest forensic coup/counterfeit successfully perpetrated since some pre-teen sisters created photos of themselves interacting with fairies in their backyard back near the beginning of the last century. Millions of people believed in them, a movie was made about it (John Goodman), and they didn't admit the truth for 60 years.

But who would want to have to wait that long to get credit for their handiwork? No one. He wanted, sometime sooner than that, to be able to share his accomplishment with some present or future significant other, but any claim couldn't be believed unless something that no one else knew could be pointed to as proof.

How did he come up with the smiley face idea? Only one logical answer. His name begins with the letter "A" and he picked up the trick while in a graphics class, or while doodling during endless hours of boredom while sitting in classes all day, -a perfect touch to serve as a unique covert signature.

C. ~it would not be noticed~

If you check the Adobe "Properties" of the opened PDF file, you'll see that it's "Created", and "Modified" date/time says 12:09 PM on the day it was posted to the Internet. "Created" translates to the first time that it was saved on the computer that it was opened and saved on, ("Modified" refers to the last time it was saved after being altered). That time is UC time (Universal Coordinated Time) based in Europe, translating to 7:09 AM Washington time if it was "Saved" in the Eastern time zone, or 4:09 AM Pacific Time. If it was Saved in the West, like in Seattle where Obama's personal lawyer lives, -the one that is said to have flown to Honolulu to get the certified copies and then to Washington so the charade could be completed, it would have been 4:09 AM Pacific time. If the forgery conspiracy included the lawyer, (in addition to the Hawaiian officials), then Obama would have been protected by attorney-client confidentiality, very ideal, not including anyone in the White House. The "alterer" probably worked on it until the wee hours of the morning, and by then was like I get at that hour when editing photos for 8 hours. One's mind isn't too sharp and one forgets things, like turning off lights, and locking doors. The alterer forgot to convert the document image to JPG (by choosing to "Export" it, instead of "Save"ing it). He picked "Save", and the program being used was set as default to Save in the PDF format, so it would have been saved, and then uploaded to the White House web-site, as we see it, in PDF format.

Once it was already posted and downloaded by a significant number of people, it was too late to change it. Then when they clicked on it to open it, and it opened with Adobe Reader as a multi-layer PDF image with numerous peculiarities, the "cat was out of the bag" and the speculation and suspicions began as people were inspired to examine it very closely, greatly enlarged. Eventually someone noticed that which was expected to never be noticed.

But even if everything I've guess about is true, it doesn't amount to a hill of beans since there is no way to prove any of it.

"Fertile imagination" you say? For sure. But here's my challenge; before rejecting it, come up with another reasonable explanation. I doubt that there is any.