

## Linguistics Compared to Hollywood, Legislation, Investigations, and Witness Testimony

Maureen O'Hara gladly testified in California's case citing Confidential Magazine and Judge Walker allowed testimony about blackmail.

Other pages: Guides, Golden Era Television Writer, Movie Consultant.

Faults of investigations with letters - Comparing Potential Witnesses only to Financial Objects (Case Given)

The trial took a surprising turn when producer Paul Gregory (host of Robert Mitchum's ketchup party) testified that Marjorie Meade offered to keep a story out of *Confidential* if he paid her \$800. Meade responded to Gregory's charge of blackmail by fainting--and guaranteeing the incident headlines across the country. On cross-examination, Crowley forced Gregory to admit that he was gay, and therefore might have reasons to fear being outed (a term not in use in the 1950s) by the magazine. He raised questions about why Meade, well-off by any measure, would risk jail time for a mere \$800. More importantly, Crowley produced credit card records from Meade that proved she wasn't where Gregory claimed she was on the night of the alleged blackmail. For good measure, he proved that the restaurant where they allegedly met was even in business on that date. (Judge Walker's decision to allow Gregory's testimony about blackmail in a trial about libel and obscenity was, quite probably, reversible error.)

As the trial continued, and with dozens and dozens of celebrities facing possible calls to the witness stand, Judge Walker announced that the only future testimony he would allow from stars would have to concern the six specific stories previously read into the record. Samuel Bernstein, in *Mr. Confidential*, reports that Walker's decision limiting testimony caused "celebrations all over town, with impromptu parties breaking out at the drop of a hat."



Maureen O'Hara at the *Confidential* trial.

When testimony moved to the question of whether actress Maureen O'Hara really lit up temperatures in Row 35, juror LaGuerre Drouet asked Judge Walker whether a [jury tour of Grauman's Chinese Theatre](#), scene of the alleged activity, could be arranged. Judge Walker agreed to the tour idea. The judge, bailiffs, lawyers, and jurors boarded a bus and headed for Hollywood. Reporter Theo Wilson, who was present at the theater, wrote that the highlight of the tour was watching a bailiff try to pry overweight juror Drouet from a seat in Row 35, where he had become lodged while "squirming around in the air, as if cuddling a movie queen." On the witness stand, O'Hara admitted to having a Mexican boyfriend in 1954, but asked whether she had gone with him to Grauman's replied, "Never!" Several defense witnesses contradicted O'Hara, including one who testified that O'Hara all but had sexual intercourse in her lover's lap. A clerk who worked Grauman's candy counter contradicted O'Hara's testimony that she had been to the theater only twice, both times with her brother. The clerk testified that after a visit to the theater by O'Hara one night, she remembered the ushers all abuzz about what had happened in Row 35.

Dorothy Dandridge was the other major star to testify at the *Confidential* trial. Dandridge testified that policies against racial mixing in Lake Tahoe would have made it impossible that she could have been, as the magazine story about her alleged, walking arm-in-arm with a white band leader at a hotel. "Lake Tahoe at that time was very prejudiced," Dandridge



# THE SCIENCE OF LINGUISTIC FORENSICS

## The Science of Linguistic Forensics: How Language Analysis Helps Solve Crimes

[Leave a Comment](#) / By Verbolabs / October 9, 2023

Language has long been a powerful tool for communication, but its significance goes beyond everyday conversations and literary expression. The study of language takes on a new dimension in forensic science, helping solve mysteries and crimes. Linguistic forensics is an interdisciplinary field that combines the principles of linguistics, psychology, and criminology. It takes advantage of the power of language to extract valuable insights about individuals and their actions, ultimately providing investigators with crucial evidence. From analyzing written documents to deciphering spoken words, linguistic forensics offers unique insights into the thoughts and intentions of criminals.

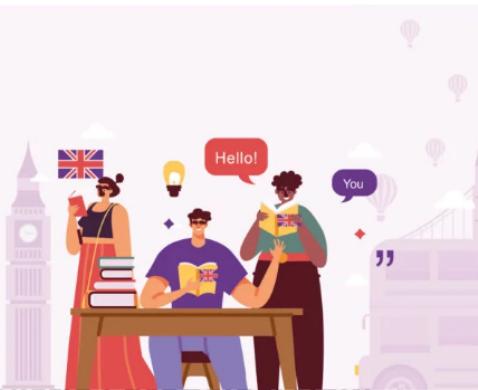
Understanding linguistic forensics helps us better grasp how language can be used as evidence. The applications of linguistic forensics are many and extensive, ranging from developing offender profiles based on language traits to using stylometric analysis to identify anonymous authors. However, there are ethical issues, and linguistic forensics has its limitations. We will also explore the difficulties faced by linguistic diversity, cultural disparities, and developing communication technology as we investigate this topic.

## Understanding Linguistic Forensics

Linguistic forensics is a specialized field that applies linguistic principles and analysis to legal and criminal investigations. It involves looking at language and communication patterns to learn interesting things, help solve crimes, and offer evidence in court. The field of linguistic forensics covers a variety of language-related topics, including spoken conversations, written texts, and even non-verbal modes of communication. The history of linguistic forensics dates to the middle of the 20th century, and critical turning points have impacted its current approaches. The Lindbergh baby kidnapping case with the "Ransom Note" in 1932 is one such turning point.

**Language analysis** was employed to compare the ransom note with the writings of potential suspects, identifying Bruno Hauptmann as the author. This case marked an early recognition of the potential of **language analysis** in criminal investigations.

Real-life cases provide concrete examples of how **language analysis in crime-solving** has been useful. For instance, in the case of the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski, language analysis helped establish a linguistic link between his writings and the infamous "Manifesto" he had published, leading to his identification and subsequent capture. In cases of anonymous threatening letters, linguistic analysis has been instrumental in identifying the author by comparing language patterns and writing style with known suspects or databases of writing samples. These instances show how linguistic forensics can be used in real-world situations and how it affects criminal investigations. Linguists, psychologists, and criminologists work together to unravel critical evidence, find the perpetrators, and ensure justice is served.



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Golden Era: "Everett Debaun, now a Successful **Television Writer**... Debaun's discussion: **Legislative tactics which increase *the risks of detection and apprehension***. He indicates that shifts in the form of have occurred in the United States as a response to such developments as... statutes regarding... In these Cases, risks of certain crimes have been **Perceived** by professional heavies as too great in relation to... returns so that they have turned to other "low risk" kinds... is one Case illustration." **Motion Picture: Changing the Lawbreaker.**

Changing the Lawbre...  
By Don C. Gibbons

:

Apparently, many professional criminals eventually reach a certain age at which they decide that the hazards of **crime** have become sufficiently severe as to suggest that other lines of work be taken up. One example of this pattern is represented by **Everett** DeBaun, a former heavy who is now a successful free-lance author and television writer. Parenthetically, DeBaun's discussion of armed robbery suggests that it is possible to repress heavy crimes of certain kinds by law enforcement and legislative tactics which increase the risks of detection and apprehension.<sup>5</sup> He indicates that shifts in the form of armed robbery have occurred in the United States as a response to such developments as federal statutes regarding bank robbery. In these cases, the risks of certain crimes have been perceived by professional heavies as too great in relation to the financial returns so that they have turned to other "low risk" kinds of robbery. The marked trend away from "bank heists" as a form of professional robbery is one case illustration. Bank stick-ups in the United States in the past several decades have been almost exclusively the work of amateurs, rather than professional, robbers.

#### SEMPROFESSIONAL PROPERTY OFFENDER

Unlike the two previous types, semiprofessional property



# Techniques and Methodologies in Linguistic Forensics

Linguistic forensics employs a range of techniques and methodologies to analyze language and extract valuable information for criminal investigations. These techniques include authorship identification, linguistic profiling, and voice analysis, each serving a distinct purpose in uncovering crucial evidence. A stylometric analysis is a powerful tool in linguistic forensics that focuses on identifying anonymous authors. It examines various linguistic features, such as vocabulary, syntax, and writing style, to establish a unique authorial fingerprint. By comparing these features with known writing samples or databases, experts can determine the likelihood of a particular individual being the author of a text. Stylometric analysis has been successfully utilized in cases involving threatening letters, ransom notes, and online harassment, helping law enforcement agencies narrow down their suspect list and focus their investigations.

Linguistic profiling is another valuable technique in linguistic forensics, aiming to create offender profiles based on language characteristics. It involves analyzing the language used by a suspect to gain insights into their demographics, education, cultural background, and psychological traits. By examining patterns in language choices, grammar, vocabulary, and discourse style, linguistic profilers can generate a profile that assists investigators in narrowing down potential suspects or identifying distinctive linguistic traits that may lead to their identification. Voice analysis is crucial to linguistic forensics, focusing on spoken communication. Speaker identification techniques are employed to determine the identity of individuals based on their unique vocal characteristics, such as pitch, tone, accent, and speech patterns.

These techniques have proven helpful in cases involving recorded ransom calls, threatening phone messages, or anonymous voicemails. By comparing the acoustic properties of the unknown voice with known voice samples, experts can establish the speaker's identity, aiding in identifying and apprehending criminals. Real-life case studies provide compelling evidence of the efficacy of these techniques in criminal investigations.

For example, the case of the "D.C. Sniper" involved voice analysis techniques in identifying the perpetrators by analyzing recorded messages left at crime scenes. In another case, the linguistic analysis of recorded phone conversations was critical in establishing conspiracy and intent in a high-profile organized crime investigation.

## Language Analysis in Different Crime Scenarios

Language analysis plays a vital role in various criminal investigations, extending its reach beyond traditional crimes to emerging forms of illegal activities. In fraud cases, linguistic analysis helps discover complex schemes by examining written communications, such as emails, financial documents, and forged signatures. Experts can identify patterns of deception, linguistic manipulation, and inconsistencies in the language used. The digital landscape has given rise to cybercrime, where language analysis is indispensable in investigating online threats, phishing attempts, and identity theft. Linguistic forensics assists in deciphering the language patterns, grammar errors, and stylistic features employed by cybercriminals, aiding in identifying perpetrators and their techniques.

When it comes to terrorism, language analysis plays a significant role in understanding extremist ideologies, recruitment strategies, and communication networks. Linguistic experts analyze online forums, social media posts, and encrypted messaging platforms to detect coded messages, radicalization patterns, and potential threats contributing to counterterrorism efforts. Language analysis also aids in identifying patterns, intentions, and motivations of criminals. For instance, linguistic profiling can reveal underlying traits and characteristics of offenders, assisting investigators in creating offender profiles and narrowing down potential suspects. By analyzing language choices, lexical preferences, and discourse style, experts can provide crucial information about criminals' psychological makeup and behavioral tendencies.

## Limitations and Ethical Considerations

While **language analysis in crime solving** has proven to be a powerful tool, it has its limitations and ethical considerations. Understanding these challenges is essential for

comprehensively assessing the field and its implications. One of the primary limitations of linguistic forensics is language variation. Language is a dynamic and diverse creature, with variations in dialects, regionalisms, and socio-cultural influences. These variations pose challenges in accurately identifying individuals based on linguistic analysis, especially in multicultural and multilingual societies. Cultural differences in language use further complicate the interpretation of linguistic cues, requiring careful consideration of context and cultural nuances. Another challenge arises from evolving communication technologies. With the rapid advancement of digital platforms, criminals increasingly utilize encryption, anonymization techniques, and code languages to hide their identities and activities. Linguistic forensics must continually adapt to these technological changes to maintain its effectiveness and keep pace with emerging forms of communication.

Ethical concerns surrounding privacy and civil liberties are paramount in the field of linguistic forensics. The analysis of personal communications, such as emails, private messages, or phone conversations, raises questions about the boundaries of intrusion and the right to privacy. Striking a balance between law enforcement and protecting individual rights is a complex task requiring careful oversight, transparent procedures, and legal safeguards.

## Conclusion

The applications of linguistic forensics are far-reaching, from identifying anonymous authors through stylometric analysis to creating offender profiles based on language characteristics and conducting voice analysis. Real-life case studies have showcased the successful application of language analysis in solving crimes, ranging from fraud and cybercrime to terrorism. Nonetheless, linguistic forensics holds immense potential for future advancements. As language evolves and communication technologies progress, linguistic analysis techniques must adapt and improve. VerboLabs does just that with strong, continued research, a collaboration between disciplines, and the establishment of ethical guidelines to contribute to the responsible and effective use of linguistic forensics in the criminal justice system.

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governmental activity in the case. A close watch for ransom money was requested.

# WANTED

INFORMATION AS TO THE  
WHEREABOUTS OF



**CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, JR.**

OF HOPEWELL, N. J.

**SON OF COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH**

World-Famous Aviator

**This child was kidnaped from his home  
in Hopewell, N. J., between 8 and 10 p. m.  
on Tuesday, March 1, 1932.**

The New Jersey State Police announced on May 26, 1932, the offer of a reward not to exceed \$25,000 for information resulting in the apprehension and conviction of the kidnapper or kidnappers. In compliance with a request made by Colonel Schwarzkopf, copies of this notice of reward were forwarded by the FBI to all law enforcement officials and agencies throughout the United States.

On June 10, 1932, Violet Sharpe, a waitress in the home of Mrs. Lindbergh's mother, Mrs. Dwight Morrow, who had been under investigation by the authorities, committed suicide by swallowing poison when she was about to be requestioned. However, her movements on the night of March 1, 1932, had been carefully checked and it was soon definitely ascertained that she had no connection with the abduction.

In September, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in a meeting with Director Hoover that all work on the case be centralized in the Department of Justice. He requested the Director to convey his views to Attorney General Cummings with the suggestion that the Attorney General make a request of the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), either through the President or directly, for a detailed report of all work performed by the IRS Intelligence Unit. On October 19, 1933, it was officially announced that the FBI would have exclusive jurisdiction in so far



## History

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### Lindbergh Kidnapping

On a beautiful 390-acre estate on the rural outskirts of Hopewell, New Jersey, Charles Lindbergh and his wife Anne hoped to stay out of the constant glare of the media spotlight in the years following the aviator's historic non-stop flight across the Atlantic.

It was not to be. In 1932, a crime took place that stunned the nation and made the Lindberghs and their ensuing tragedy front-page news for months to come.

#### The Kidnapping

Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., 20-month-old son of the famous aviator and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, was kidnapped about 9:00 p.m., on March 1, 1932, from the nursery on the second floor of the Lindbergh home near Hopewell, New Jersey. The child's absence was discovered and reported to his parents, who were then at home, at approximately 10:00 p.m. by the child's nurse, Betty Gow. A search of the premises was immediately made and a ransom note demanding \$50,000 was found on the nursery window sill. After the Hopewell police were notified, the report was telephoned to the New Jersey State Police, who assumed charge of the investigation.

During the search at the kidnapping scene, traces of mud were found on the floor of the nursery. Footprints, impossible to measure, were found under the nursery window. Two sections of the ladder had been used in reaching the window, one of the two sections was split or broken where it joined the other, indicating that the ladder had broken during the ascent or descent. There were no blood stains in or about the nursery, nor were there any fingerprints.

Household and estate employees were questioned and investigated. Colonel Lindbergh asked friends to communicate with the kidnappers, and they made widespread appeals for the kidnappers to start negotiations. Various underworld characters were dealt with in attempts to contact the kidnappers, and numerous clues were advanced and exhausted.

A second ransom note was received by Colonel Lindbergh on March 6, 1932, (postmarked Brooklyn, New York, March 4), in which the ransom demand was increased to \$70,000. A police conference was then called by the governor at Trenton, New Jersey, which was attended by prosecuting officials, police authorities, and government representatives. Various theories and policies of procedure were discussed. Private investigators also were employed by Colonel Lindbergh's attorney, Colonel Henry Breckenridge.

The third ransom note was received by Colonel Lindbergh's attorney on March 8, informing that an intermediary appointed by the Lindberghs would not be accepted and requesting a note in a newspaper. On the same date, Dr. John F. Condon, Bronx, New York City, a retired school principal, published in the "Bronx Home News" an offer to act as go-between and to pay an additional \$1,000 ransom.

The following day the fourth ransom note was received by Dr. Condon, which indicated he would be acceptable as a go-between. This was approved by Colonel Lindbergh. About March 10, 1932, Dr. Condon received \$70,000 in cash as ransom, and immediately started negotiations for payment through newspaper columns, using the code name "Jafsie."

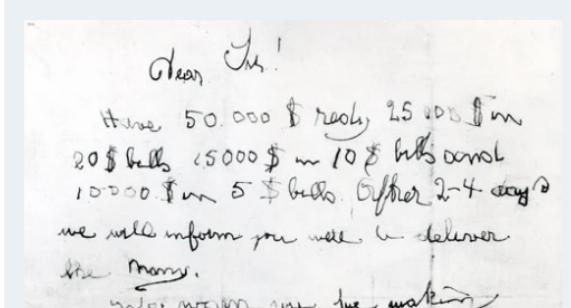
About 8:30 p.m., on March 12, after receiving an anonymous telephone call, Dr. Condon received the fifth ransom note, delivered by Joseph Perrone, a taxicab driver, who received it from an unidentified stranger. The message stated that another note would be found beneath a stone at a vacant stand, 100 feet from an outlying subway station. This note, the sixth, was found by Condon, as indicated. Following instructions therein, the doctor met an



A baby picture of Charles Lindbergh, Jr., before the kidnapping.



Charles Lindbergh on May 31, 1927, with the "Spirit of St. Louis" he had piloted across the Atlantic 10 days earlier. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.



as indicated. Following instructions therein, the doctor met an unidentified man, who called himself "John," at Woodlawn Cemetery, near 233rd Street and Jerome Avenue. They discussed payment of the ransom money. The stranger agreed to furnish a token of the child's identity. Condon was accompanied by a bodyguard, except while talking to "John." During the next few days, Dr. Condon repeated his advertisements, urging further contact and stating his willingness to pay the ransom.

A baby's sleeping suit, as a token of identity, and a seventh ransom note were received by Dr. Condon on March 16. The suit was delivered to Colonel Lindbergh and later identified. Condon continued his advertisements. The eighth ransom note was received by Condon on March 21, insisting on complete compliance and advising that the kidnapping had been planned for a year.

On March 29, Betty Gow, the Lindbergh nurse, found the infant's thumb guard, worn at the time of the kidnapping, near the entrance to the estate. The following day the ninth ransom note was received by Condon, threatening to increase the demand to \$100,000 and refusing a code for use in newspaper columns. The tenth ransom note, received by Dr. Condon, on April 1, 1932 instructed him to have the money ready the following night, to which Condon replied by an ad in the Press. The eleventh ransom note was delivered to Condon on April 2, 1932, by an unidentified taxi driver who said he received it from an unknown man. Dr. Condon found the twelfth ransom note under a stone in front of a greenhouse at 3225 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York, as instructed in the eleventh note.

Shortly thereafter, on the same evening, by following the instructions contained in the twelfth note, Condon again met whom he believed to be "John" to reduce the demand to \$50,000. This amount was handed to the stranger in exchange for a receipt and the thirteenth note, containing instructions to the effect that the kidnapped child could be found on a boat named "Nellie" near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The stranger then walked north into the park woods. The following day an unsuccessful search for the baby was made near Martha's Vineyard. The search was later repeated. Dr. Condon was positive that he would recognize "John" if he ever saw him again.

On May 12, 1932, the body of the kidnapped baby was accidentally found, partly buried, and badly decomposed, about four and a half miles southeast of the Lindbergh home, 45 feet from the highway, near Mount Rose, New Jersey, in Mercer County. The discovery was made by William Allen, an assistant on a truck driven by Orville Wilson. The head was crushed, there was a hole in the skull and some of the body members were missing. The body was positively identified and cremated at Trenton, New Jersey, on May 13, 1932. The Coroner's examination showed that the child had been dead for about two months and that death was caused by a blow on the head.

## The Investigation: 1932-1934

On March 2, 1932, after a conference with the Attorney General, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had contacted the headquarters of the New Jersey State Police at Trenton, New Jersey. He officially informed the organization that the U.S. Department of Justice would afford Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, the assistance and cooperation of the FBI in bringing about the apprehension of the parties responsible for the kidnapping. He advised the New Jersey State Police that they could call upon the Bureau for any facilities or resources which the latter might be capable of extending. The special agent in charge of the New York City Office of the Bureau, which at that time covered the New Jersey district, was instructed accordingly and, upon instructions from the Director, the special agent in charge communicated with the New Jersey State Police and the New York City Police, offering any assistance which the Bureau might be able to lend in this matter.

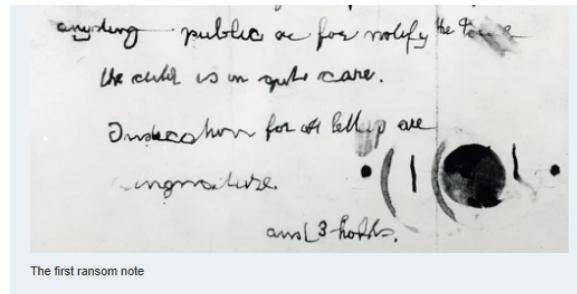
During the next few weeks the Bureau was acting merely in an auxiliary capacity, there being no federal jurisdiction. However, on May 13, 1932, the President directed that all governmental investigative agencies should place themselves at the disposal of the state of New Jersey and that the FBI should serve as a clearinghouse and coordinating agency for all investigations in this case conducted by federal investigative units.

On May 23, 1932, the FBI in New York City informed banks in greater New York that the Bureau was the coordinating agency for all governmental activity in the case. A close watch for ransom money was requested.

**WANTED**  
**INFORMATION AS TO THE**  
**WHEREABOUTS OF**



**CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, JR.**  
OF HOPEWELL, N. J.  
**SON OF COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH**  
World-Famous Aviator  
This child was kidnaped from his home  
in Hopewell, N. J., between 8 and 10 p. m.



The first ransom note

The New Jersey State Police announced on May 26, 1932, the offer of a reward not to exceed \$25,000 for information resulting in the apprehension and conviction of the kidnapper or kidnappers. In compliance with a request made by Colonel Schwarzkopf, copies of this notice of reward were forwarded by the FBI to all law enforcement officials and agencies throughout the United States.

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**on Tuesday, March 1, 1932.**

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Age, 20 months**      **Hair, blond, curly**  
**Weight, 27 to 30 lbs.**      **Eyes, dark blue**  
**Height, 29 inches**      **Complexion, light**  
**Deep dimple in center of chin**  
**Dressed in one-piece coverall night suit**

**ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO**

**COL. H. N. SCHWARZKOPF, TRENTON, N. J., OR  
COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, HOPEWELL, N. J.**

**ALL COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE TREATED IN CONFIDENCE**

March 11, 1932

**COL. H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF  
Supt. New Jersey State Police, Trenton, N. J.**

announced that the FBI would have exclusive jurisdiction in so far as the Federal Government was concerned in the handling of any investigative features of the case.

The President's Proclamation requiring the return to the Treasury of all gold and gold certificates was a valuable aid in the case, inasmuch as \$40,000 of the ransom money had been paid in gold certificates and, at the time of the Proclamation, a large portion of this money was known to be outstanding. Therefore, this phase of the investigation was emphasized.

On January 17, 1934, a circular letter was issued by the New York City Bureau Office to all banks and their branches in New York City, requesting an extremely close watch for the ransom certificates and, in February 1934, all Bureau Offices were supplied with copies of the Bureau's revised pamphlet containing the serial numbers of ransom bills.

The New York City Bureau Office distributed copies of this pamphlet to each employee handling currency in banks, clearinghouses, grocery stores in certain selected communities, insurance companies, gasoline filling stations, airports, department stores, post offices, and telegraph companies.

Following the distribution of these booklets containing the serial number of the ransom currency, there were also prepared and similarly distributed by the Bureau currency key cards which, in convenient form, set forth the inclusive serial numbers of all of the ransom notes which had been paid. This was followed by frequent personal contacts with bank officials and with individual employees in an effort to keep alive their interest.

Prior to this time, the passing of ransom bills had been reported to either the FBI, the New Jersey State Police, or the New York City Police Department, none of which had complete information on this point. Therefore, arrangements were effected whereby investigation of all such ransom bills detected in the future could be immediately conducted jointly by representatives of the three interested agencies.

One of the by-products of the case was a mass of misinformation received from well-meaning but uninformed, highly imaginative individuals, and a deluge of letters written by demented persons, publicity seekers, and frauds. It was essential, however, that all possible clues, regardless of the prospect of success, be carefully followed, and it was impossible in the vast majority of instances to determine at the inception whether they would be material or false.

On March 4, 1932, a con man named Gaston B. Means was approached by Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean, of Washington, D.C., who felt that she might be of material assistance to Colonel Lindbergh in procuring the return of his child. Mrs. McLean had become acquainted with Means as a result of some investigative work which means had performed for her husband some years before. Means informed her that he felt certain he could secure a contact with the kidnappers inasmuch as he had been invited to participate in a "big kidnapping" some weeks before but had declined. Means claimed that his friend was responsible for the Lindbergh kidnapping. The following day, Means reported to Mrs. McLean that he had made a contact with the persons who had the child. He successfully induced Mrs. McLean to hand over to him \$100,000, to be used in paying the ransom which he said had been doubled. Until April 17, 1932, he kept Mrs. McLean waiting, daily expecting the return of the child. During this period, he purported to be effecting negotiations with the alleged leader of the kidnappers, whom he called "The Fox." Mrs. McLean finally requested the return of the \$100,000 and additional money which she had advanced him for "expenses." When he failed to do so, the case was turned over to the FBI. Means and "The Fox," who was found to be Norman T. Whitaker, a disbarred Washington attorney, were apprehended, and Means was later convicted of embezzlement and larceny after trust, and sentenced to serve 15 years in a federal penitentiary. Whitaker and Means were later convicted of conspiracy to defraud, and were sentenced to serve two years each in a federal penitentiary.

There were other attempted frauds which required extensive investigations before they could be completely eliminated from consideration in connection with the Lindbergh case.



Attorney General Homer Cummings and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover discuss the Lindbergh kidnapping investigation.

In all, there were literally thousands of leads in all sections of the United States which were followed to their definite conclusions by the Bureau. The results of all these investigations, no matter how trivial, were reported. The activities of the known and suspected members of the so-called "Purple Gang" of Detroit, and various rumors and allegations concerning this gang were carefully and thoroughly investigated. Numerous registries of boats were examined in a fruitless endeavor to locate the boat "Nellie," on which the baby was to have been found according to the 13th and last ransom note handed to Dr. Condon at the time he paid the ransom money to "John." Records of cemetery employees who were employed in various cemeteries in certain sections of New York City and near Hopewell, New Jersey, were examined. Information accumulated in various other kidnapping and extortion cases handled by the FBI was examined in closest detail and studied with particular reference to any bearing they might have upon the solution of the Lindbergh case. Hundreds of photographs and descriptive data of known criminals of all types and other possible suspects were exhibited to the few eye-witnesses in this case in an endeavor to identify the mysterious "John."

On May 2, 1933, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York discovered 296 ten-dollar gold certificates, and one \$20 gold certificate, all Lindbergh ransom notes. These bills were included among the currency received at the Federal Reserve Bank on May 1, 1933, and apparently had been made in one deposit. Immediately upon the discovery of these bills, deposit tickets at the Federal Reserve Bank for May 1, 1933, were examined. One was found bearing the name and address of "11 Faulkner 527 West 110th Street" and had marked thereon



# American Language Supplement 2

By H.L. Mencken · 2012

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The DEFINITIVE EDITION OF The American Language was published in 1936. Since then it has been recognized as a classic. It is that rarest of literary accomplishments—a book that is authoritative and scientific and is at the same time very diverting reading. But after 1936 HLM continued to gather new materials diligently. In 1945 those which related to the first six chapters of The American Language were published as Supplement I; the present volume contains those new materials which relate to the other chapters.

The ground thus covered in Supplement II is as follows:

1. American Pronunciation. Its history. Its divergence from English usage. The regional and racial dialects.
2. American Spelling. The influence of Noah Webster upon it. Its characters today. The simplified spelling movement. The treatment of loan words. Punctuation, capitalization, and abbreviation.
3. The Common Speech. Outlines of its grammar. Its verbs, pronouns, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. The double negative. Other peculiarities.
4. Proper Names in America. Surnames. Given-names. Place-names. Other names.
5. American Slang. Its origin and history. The argot of various racial and occupational groups.

Although the text of Supplement II is related to that of The American Language, it is an independent work that may be read profitably by persons who do not know either The American Language or Supplement I.

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### H.L. Mencken

American journalist and essayist



Henry Louis Mencken was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 12, 1880, and died there during the night of January 28-9, 1956. A son of August and Anne (Abbau) Mencken, he was educated privately and at the Baltimore Polytechnic. He married (August 27, 1930) Sara Powell Haardt, who died on May 31, 1935. Mencken became a reporter for the Baltimore Morning Herald in 1899; its city editor in 1903; and editor of the Evening Herald in 1905. He served on the staff of the Baltimore Sun from 1906 to 1910 and on that of the Evening Sun from 1910 to 1917 and again from 1920 to 1935. But he never ceased to be associated with the Sun papers, and was for many, many years a director for their publishers, The A.S. Abell Company. He became a literary critic of the Smart Set in 1908, and was its co-edit... more ▾

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