Any document which was not produced in the time, place and manner claimed by it or its publisher is a forgery. (Willrich).

Forgery is "the false making...of a written intrument of other document for the purpose of deceit and fraud." (Webster)

General rules for testing for forgery (Blass):

- 1. Assume the document is genuine.
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- 3. You may NOT assume that it is a clever forgery.
- 4. Take the whole document into consideration—the longer the better.
- 5. Concentrate on the concrete, historical rather than subjective parts.
- 6. Look for details "too trifling, too inconspicuous, and too troublesome to reproduce" without actual experience.
- 7. Reject "whatever lies outside the usual and familiar", but ONLY if you can supply a credible explanation in its place.

I. Intermal evidence: some of the tests-

- 1. The mere existence of the document: somebody has gone to a lot of trouble --- why?
- 2. The size of the document: the longer a document, the more easily tested and the harder to fake. A long history is terribly hard to compose, even with notes.
- 3. Is it a history giving times, places, persons, events? Or is it vague and general?
- 4. Does it claim religious immunity? Is it full of double-talk, mystic or abstract terms
- 5. Is it a work of creative writing, full of fantasty and exaggeration?6. If the story is complex, it will be impossible for a forger to avoid contradictions.
- 7. If the author of the book shows intelligence & experience, his vocabulary will be commensurate with his education. The B.M. vocabulary is only about 3000.
- 8. Vanity is the Achilles' heel of the forger. Every forger is a show-off, attempting to be clever. Does the writer try to be smart?
- 9. A forger must have strong motives-especially if he is running a great risk--why would a forger write THIS kind of document? It is dangerous & unpopular.

II. External evidence requires three conditions to be effective:

- The document must make clear and specific statements about concrete things.
- 2. OTHER sources must make like statements about the same things.
- 3. There must be no possibility of collusion between the two sets of sources.

For example, proper names (Paianki), stories (the 2 garments of Joseph), trifling details (the garrison of 50).

III. Circumstantial evidence is inderect but often very telling.

- 1. The testimony of witnesses.
- 2. The youth and in experience of Jos. Smith.
- 3. Absence of notes and sources, e.g., the unpunctuated Ms.
- 4. Short time of production.
- 5. Only one version ever published.
- 6. Smith's unchanging attitude towards the book (Ed. Meyer).
- 7. Complete lack of secrecy and sorhistry.
- 8. 8. Type of people accepting the story.
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