Unravelling a Babylonian Mystery: Authentication, Certification or Legalisation?



Saturday, September 13, 2008, 15.45-17.15



Herman de Leeuw, Informatie Beheer Groep, Netherlands - organizer, chair, speaker

Dr. Earl Stephen Hunt, US Network of Education

Information, USA - speaker



One Stamp Can Combine Several Functions





Stamps often on Basis of Notarized Copy





Also in Indonesia





No Responsibility for Contents ...



Seal Stamps: The ABC of Authentication, Certification and/or Legalisation



- Apostille simplified legalisation
- Authentication like certification, ambiguous term, meaning either the act of producing a true photocopy, or the act of legalising a document
- Certification ambiguous term, meaning either authentication/attestation and similar, that is, the act of producing a true photocopy and stamping it, or the act of awarding of a certificate
- Legalisation in many jurisdictions, basically not more than making a document fit for legal purposes abroad; testifies to correctness of signatures
- Validation explicitly mentions implied value to document by competent authority
- Verification contacting competent authority to find out whether document has been legally awarded to recipient



Legalisation/Authentication and Apostilles

- Authentications and Apostilles
- Overseas governments sometimes need proof that Australian documents, or the signatures of Australian officials on documents, are genuine before they will accept them. We are able to certify that a signature, stamp or seal on a document is genuine by checking it against a specimen held on file, and then stamping the document with an Authentication or Apostille.
- This is a legal process. We will only issue stamps once we are satisfied the signature, stamp or seal on a document is not fraudulent. Instances of attempted fraud in the past mean that we need to be cautious about issuing an Authentication or Apostille.
- Which stamp do I need? An Authentication or an Apostille? (http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/authen.html)

Let's Start with Legalisations





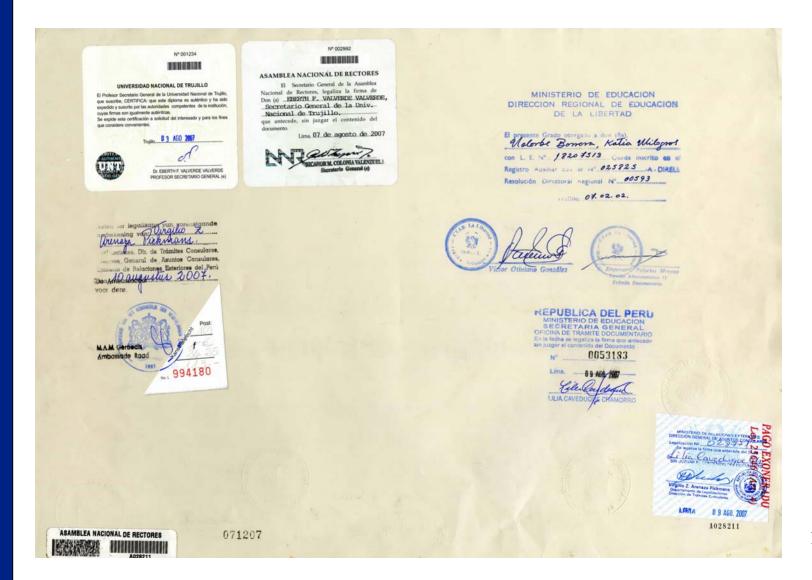


Legalisation Chain

- Can contain various stamps, from 1 to 5 or more different authorities
- Basically, only the correctness of a signatory is confirmed
- Question is: Which signatory?
- Look out for notarial certifications

Legalisation Chain Peru





Apostille Convention



- Article 3
- The only formality that may be required in order to certify the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which it bears, is the addition of the certificate described in Article 4, issued by the competent authority of the State from which the document emanates.
- Article 5
- The certificate shall be issued at the request of the person who has signed the document or of any bearer.
- When properly filled in, it will certify the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the document bears.
- The signature, seal and stamp on the certificate are exempt from all certification.
- http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.text&cid=4
 1



Notarial Certifications

- In many countries, notarial certification or legalisation at the basis of Apostille
- Only correctness of notarial certification assured
- Correctness of underlying <u>original</u> document not assured
- Check whether <u>original</u> diploma has been legalised, or whether photocopy stood at basis

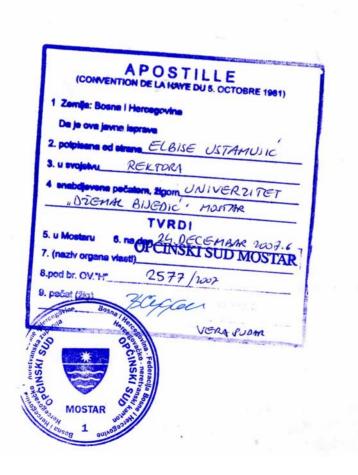


Apostille Belarus



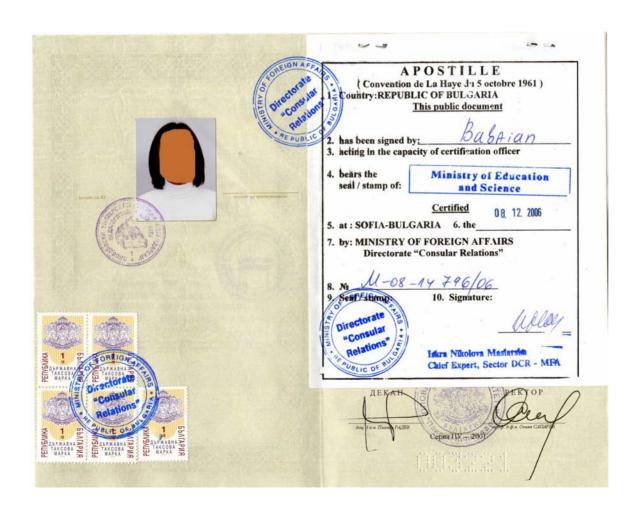


Apostille Bosnia-Herzegovina





Apostille Bulgaria





Apostille Croatia

	(Convention de la Haye du 5 octobre 1961)
2.	zemlja: REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA Da je ova javna isprava potpisana od ŽELJKO KUĆAN u svojstvu DEKAN ovjerena pečatom, žigom PRIRODOSLOVNO-
-	t v r d i U Zagrebu 6. dana 15.07.2008.
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Apostille Georgia

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Apostille Latvia



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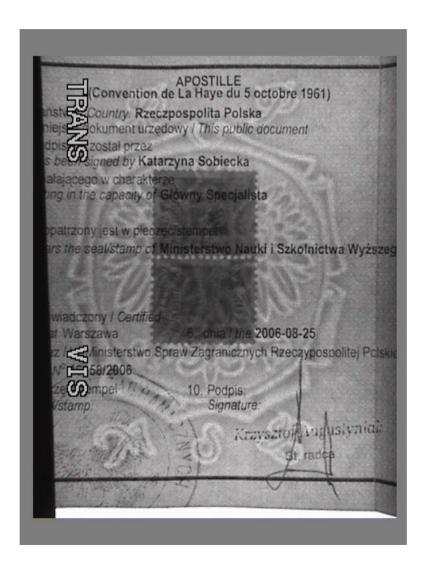


Apostille Lithuania



Apostille Poland







Apostille: Designated Authority Russian Federation

- Служба подтверждения образовательных документов
- Служба подтверждения образовательных документов
- В соответствии с постановлением Правительства Российской Федерации от 21 июля 1998г. № 810, Министерство образования Российской Федерации уполномочено проставлять *апостиль* на официальных документах об образовании, выдаваемых в Российской Федерации. В настоящее время в Министерстве образования Российской Федерации функционирует специальная Служба подтверждения образовательных документов
- http://www.ed.gov.ru/int-coop/tema/adapt/374/



Sample Apostille Certificate, Russian Federation





Feedback on RF Apostille Service

- According to the Deputy Director of InterEducation, an office of the Russian Ministry of Education, every second applicant applying for a verification request of their qualification (60,000 requests per year) presents a false diploma
- Source: George M. Brown, Academic Qualification Acceptability and Authenticity, PhD thesis, University of Adelaide, 2007, p. 19



Apostille Serbia

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	APOSTILLE
	(Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)
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	4. snabdevena pečatom, žigom RS UNIVERZITET
	U BEOGRADU
	TVRDI
	5. u Beogradu 6. Na dan 24.12.2007.GODINE 7. (naziv organa vlasu) Prvi opštinski sud u Beogradu
	8. pod 12845 / 2007 9. Province 2 10. Potpis:
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Apostille Slovakia

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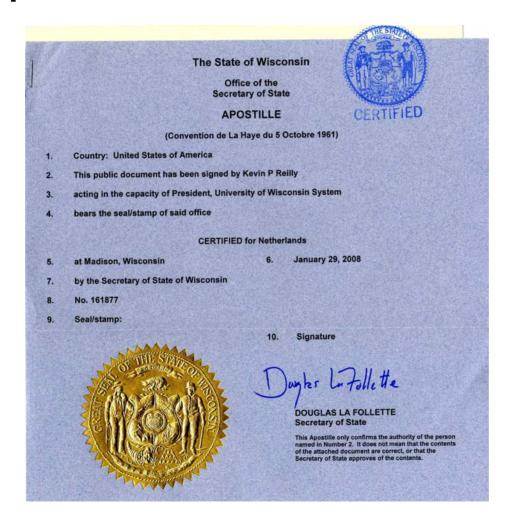
Apostille Ukraine



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1. Україна
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Apostille USA - Wisconsin





Certification

 Here: producing a true photocopy of a document and stamping it

Informatie Beheer Groep
Certified copy in accordance with the original

KS/Diploma-erkenning & Legalisatie,
Agency for Educational Credential
Recognition and Legalization,
on behalf of the minister of Education, Culture
and Science, The Netherlands

Fee E__

2 1 APR. 2008

DIPLOMA

MIDDELBAAR ALGEMEEN VOORTGEZET ONDERWIJS

Notarial Certification



Translated from Armenian

DIPLOMA

ЖВ №. 018776

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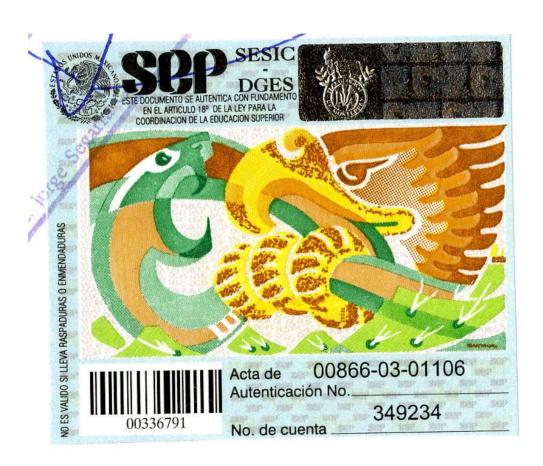
Validation: Brazil







Validation: Mexico







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Forgeries: Iraq. Sample Authentic Seal Stamp





Forged Iraqi Legalisation





Current Iraqi Legalisation 1

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ MUNISTRY OF POREIGN AFFAIRS CONSULAR DEPARTMENT AUTHENTICATION	جمهورية المراق وزارة الطرجية النائرة القنملية ((التمديقات))
DATE:	الملد : التاريخ :
We Approve the validity of seal and the Signature	نمادق على محة ختم ولموقهم والقسم غير محورل عن محتوياتها
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Current Iraqi Legalisation 2





Current Afghan Legalisation Stamp incl. Blind Embossing





Need for Verifications

- "Recently, the Minister for Education [of the RF, addition Herman de Leeuw] relaxed strict rules regarding the issue of blank pre-printed diplomas to Russian universities, due to complaints from a group of rectors. Since then, the universities have ordered 200,000 more blank diplomas than they have graduating students (pers comm. Allison Hawley, EducationUSA). One can only assume that a significant number of those will be sold on the black market."
- Source: George M. Brown, Academic Qualification Acceptability and Authenticity, PhD thesis, University of Adelaide, 2007, p. 19

Verification Request



Dear Madam or Sir,

The Informatie Beheer Groep is an autonomous administrative body specialized in services in the educational sector. The activities of the Informatie Beheer Groep are mainly commissioned by the Netherlands Ministry of Education and mandated by educational legislation (Acts on Education, Act on Study Finance etc.).

The Agency for Educational Credential Recognition and Legalisation is part of the Informatie Beheer Groep. It serves as National Recognition Authority by virtue of the Act on Higher Education and Research. The agency is empowered by the Netherlands Ministry of Education to award national titles and teaching qualifications on the base of foreign educational documents.

In the framework of a request for recognition of a degree, awarded by your institution, I would like you to verify the educational document submitted by Ms. Yvonne K.G.N. Brockhaus (copy is enclosed). Please compare the enclosed document to the information in your records and report to me whether you can confirm the correctness of the data contained in the enclosure, and whether the document submitted to me conforms to the model in use at your institution at the time of awarding.

Yes, the data in the enclosure are correct and the document conforms with the model in use at the time of awarding.

 \square No, the data in the enclosure are not correct and the document does not conform with the models in use at the time of awarding. Please explain why on the next page.





ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ

Государственное образовательное учреждение высшего профессионального образования «Российский государственный едагогический университет им. А. И. Герцена-191186, Санкт-Петербург, наб. р. Мойки, 48 телефон 312-44-92 , факс 312-11-95

KS/D&L/41999/07/

Янковской Юлии Владимировне

04.07.2006 № 16/1486

АРХИВНАЯ СПРАВКА

Выдана Шевляковой Юлии Владимировне, родившейся 14 сентября 1975 года в с. Городище Старооскольского района Белгородской области, о том, что она обучалась на дневном отделении факультета социальных наук Российского государственного педагогического университета имени А.И. Герцена с 01 сентября 1992 года по 24 июня 1998 года по специальности история.

Диплом серии МО № 077742, регистрационный № 93, выдан 10 июля 1996 года с присвоением квалификации - бакалавр образования по направлению социально-экономические знания.

Диплом серии МО № 077743, регистрационный № 93, выдан 10 июля 1996 года с присвоением квалификации - учитель истории и

Диплом серии АВМ № 0024193, регистрационный № 109, выдан 24 июня 1998 года с присуждением степени магистра образования.

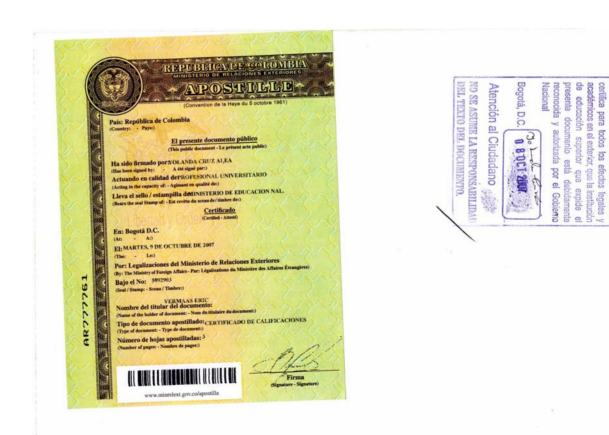
Основание: личное дело студентки дневного отделения Шевляковой Юлии Владимировны;

Примечание: на основании приказа № 4635 от 15.08.2002 года Министерства образования РФ Российский государственный университет педагогический им. А.И.Герцена переименован в государственное образовательное учреждение высшего профессионального образования «Российский государственный педагогический университет им. А.И.Герцена».

Первый проректор В.А.Козырев Заведующая архивом Ушку И.Г.Никифорова



Apostille Certificate Colombia: Check at website





Verification of Apostille Certificate from Colombia

VERIFICACION DE APOSTILLAS APOSTILLE VERIFICATION Por favor ingrese el numero de la APOSTILLA, la fecha de expedición y pulse "Buscar" Please type the Apostille number, the date of issuance and press "Buscar" Número de Apostilla / Apostille Number Fecha de la Apostilla / Date of issuance (mm/dd/aaaa) / / at www.minrelext.gov.co/apostilla

Verification Result



- VERIFICACION DE APOSTILLAS APOSTILLE VERIFICATION Resultados de la búsqueda / Results of the search Número de Apostilla / Number of Apostille2939779
- Número de Etiqueta / Number of EtiquetteAR777761
- Tipo de Documento / Type of DocumentACTO NOTARIAL
 1Documento / Documentcertificado de calificaciones
- A nombre De / Name of the Holder of DocumentVERMAAS ERIC Fecha del Documento / Date of DocumentTuesday, 9 de 10 de 2007
- Lleva Sello o Estampilla De / Bears the Seal Stamp ofMINISTERIO DE EDUCACION NAL.
- Número de Hojas / Number of pages3
- Firmado Por / Has been signed byYOLANDA CRUZ ALEA
- En Calidad de / Acting in the Capacity ofPROFESIONAL UNIVERSITARIO
- Fecha de la Apostilla / Date of ApostilleTuesday, 9 de 10 de 2007

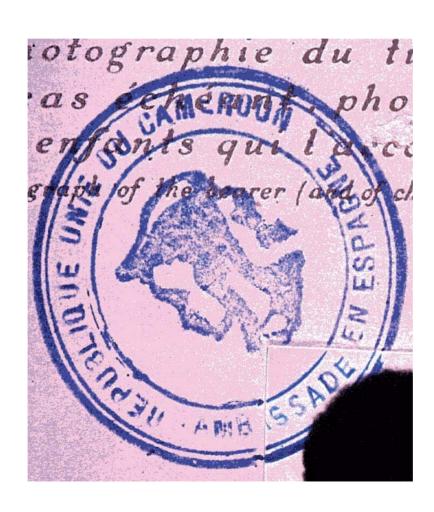
Things can (and will) go wrong, though



"Let's say you sit down in your kitchen and start a fake school, Godzilla University. You sell me a medical degree for a 1000 dollars. You take the diploma (and the phoney transcript you just typed up) to your local Notary Public, who, for \$10, will notarize your signature (that is, compare it with the one on your driver's license and say, yes, it's the same). Then you take (or send) the phoney diploma and notarized certificate to your state capital, where they will confirm that it is indeed a certificate signed by a licensed notary, relating to the diploma. And finally, you submit your packet - the fake diploma and transcript, the notarization, and the state confirmation to the federal government and they will issue the Apostille or authentication." (John Bear, cited in Brown, p. 259)

Don't Overlook Stamps Anymore ...







Authentic Stamp?





Authentic Stamp?





Thank you for your Attention!

- Herman de Leeuw
- Advisor on authenticity issues and falsifications
- Directie Onderwijsservice/Diplomaerkenning & Legalisatie
- Informatie Beheer Groep
- Postbus 30157
- 9702 LJ GRONINGEN
- The Netherlands