

POLICE

Crime Photos? He Could Write a Book

Jim Hoerricks' book on forensic photography has seen much success.

Every day, hundreds of thousands of images are captured for use in courtrooms and laboratories around the world. The employees of the agencies that must process these images are often placed in these high-pressure positions with inadequate training and a lack of resources. What should they do? In what order should they do it? How do they even begin to process these images?

Because lives often depend on each image that we process, it is essential that every person employed in the process have a guide to help them make use of this complex program, a guide that will give them the results they desire in every aspect of image processing – as well as a thorough grounding in the legal/ethical considerations of the process for which they are involved.

That was the thinking of Jim Hoerricks, an artist/designer/photographer and is the Senior Forensic Video Analyst for the Los Angeles Police Department's Scientific Investigation Division.

"Forensic Photoshop is for users of all levels," he says. "No matter the starting point or the level of proficiency, readers will join in the journey to mastery. Mastery is knowing what needs to be done, how to best accomplish the task, and why the chosen method is the most appropriate."

"Forensic Photoshop is not simply a book of tips and tricks. It offers a comprehensive workflow – a reliably repeatable pattern of activity enabled by a systematic organization of resources that can be documented and learned. It offers the reader the logical progression of steps necessary to the accomplishing of the goal – clarified and balanced images; images that remain true to their original content and context."

Since its first publication, the book has been on the publisher's best-seller list twice and has been picked up by the Dept. of Homeland Security as part of the curriculum for their photography courses. It's in use by the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science services, the



The front cover of Jim Hoerricks' book.

South Australia Police, London's Metropolitan Police, and several smaller constabularies in the United Kingdom, Europe and Canada. The Mexican Federal Police purchased a copy for use in their lab in Mexico City and requested a Spanish translation.

Jim established the LAPD's Forensic Video Lab in 2001, has been the lead analyst on many of the LAPD's high-profile cases, and helped set the standard by which video evidence is handled by the department. He has worked on loan to many local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and has testified as an expert in Forensic Video Analysis.

In addition to his work in law enforcement, Jim is the author of the Forensic Photoshop blog (forensicphotoshop.blogspot.com) and a co-author of *Best Practices for the Retrieval of Video Evidence from Digital CCTV Systems*.

Congratulations, Jim!



Jim Hoerricks.

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