

History of Evidence Photography

- 1839 January —Louis Daguerre announces details of the Daguerreotype process before the French Academy of Sciences.
- November — French newspapers carry an account of a husband photographing his wife during a tryst, using the picture to win a divorce case.
- 1841 Paris Police begin “rogues gallery”, precursor of today’s mug file.
- 1851 Wet collodion process introduced. Positive/negative process enabled multiple prints from one photograph.
- 1859 *Luco v. United States* - First U.S. Case involving photographs as evidence. Enlarged signatures on land claim documents ruled admissible as evidence.
- 1865 Photographs first used on passports in Germany. Other countries to follow.
- 1871 *Ruloff v. People* - Photographs used for identification of bodies removed from river.
- 1872 Eadward Muybridge makes first photographs that demonstrate motion
- 1875 First Traffic accident photograph used in court -*Blair v. Inhabitants of Pelham*.
- 1879 Photographs of injuries allowed as evidence in *Redden v. Gates*.
- 1881 *Rockford v. Russell* - Stereo photographs considered admissible in court.
- 1888 George Eastman introduces the Kodak camera.
- 1892 Hurter & Driffield market the actinograph. The first exposure computation device.
- 1893 Bank robbers photographed in the act and identified.
- 1895 Roentgen discovers X-Rays.
- 1896 X-Ray pictures admitted in court in *Smith v. Grant*
- 1891 Thomas Edison announces Kinetograph or motion picture process.
- 1899 First police patrol car placed in service in Akron, Ohio
- 1901 Assassination of President McKinley filmed by motion picture camera. (Not used in court)
- 1902 Photographs used to illustrate firearms identification in *Commonwealth v. Best*.
- 1906 Wratten & Wainwright introduces Panchromatic film.
- 1910 The results of photographic speed recorders are used to prosecute automobile drivers for speeding in *Commonwealth v. Buxton*

- Photostat process invented
- 1911 Photographs of fingerprints used for identification. *People v. Jennings*.
- 1913 First 35mm still camera marketed - Tourist Multiple
- Folmer & Schwing Division of Eastman Kodak Co. introduces Speed Graphic camera.
- 1923 Victor Cine Camera - First portable motion picture camera
- 1929 Sound motion pictures of confession held admissible in court. *Commonwealth v. Roller*
- Leica Camera introduced (First small 35mm) 1930 - Flashbulbs placed on the market.
- 1932 Photoelectric exposure meters are introduced.
- 1934 Court approves Ultra-violet photographs of footprint in *State v. Thorp*.
- 1935 Kodak introduces Kodachrome, first commercial color film. (ASA 10)
Infrared sensitive film introduced.
- 1937 Minox "spy" camera introduced
- Dr. Harold Edgerton demonstrates first electronic flash apparatus
- 1939 Exacta introduced as first 35mm Single Lens Reflex camera.
- Kodak announces Super Six-20, The first camera with automatic exposure control.
- 1941 Kodacolor process announced. Commercial color print process
- 1943 Color photographs allowed as evidence. *Green v. City and County of Denver*.
- ASA system of film speed measurement introduced in U.S.
- First infrared photograph permitted in court.
Kauffman v. Meyberg
- 1947 Dr. Edwin Land announces the Polaroid camera.
- 1948 Hasselblad camera introduced
- 1959 Nikon announces the Nikon F
- 1963 Polacolor film introduced. Color pictures in a minute.
- Kodak announces the Instamatic 126 cartridge. Drop in loading.

- 1965 Honeywell markets the first automatic electronic flash unit.
- 1967 Videotapes begin to be admitted in courts across America
- 1972 Kodak introduces the Pocket Instamatic and the 110 size film cartridge.
Polaroid markets the SX-70 camera and film
- 1982 Kodak introduces the disc camera and decision free picture making.
- 1985 Minolta introduces first autofocus SLR camera - the Maxxum
- 1987 The Polaroid Spectra becomes available