

Here for the weekend: The extended family

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PRESS RELEASE

As parents age, its common for their possessions to end up with their children.

It is thus that I recently acquired a camera that my father bought in 1978. My father has been a mechanic for most of his life, and he is a true and dependable man of his word. His camera was a single-lens reflex Fujica ST605N. The camera itself isn't particularly remarkable, but it's nevertheless mechanically solid and very reliable. Even after nearly fifty years of use it's in perfect working order.

My wife also received a camera from her father, an astrophysicist who sometimes has his head in the clouds. His camera was an Olympus XA, which was a veritable technological marvel. Its many innovations are still praised today, even if many specimens are in need of service and repair.

Then there is the camera from my own youth. I remember spending a long time before choosing this particular model, a Contax TVS Digital. As one the last models that was produced by the illustrious camera maker, it is a rare example of a compact digital camera that is still popular and valuable twenty years after its introduction. However, at the time it received lacklustre reviews as an over engineered plaything and I acquired it partly because it was sold at a substantial discount.

Also present is the original packaging, because even as a child I had a sense of preserving things I deemed important.

All these cameras also had a tripod to accompany them. The tripods of our fathers are large, barely used and kept in their original box for easy storage, while mine was highly portable, covered in stickers from skateboard brands and used so much that one of its legs no longer unfolds.

Each of these cameras perfectly encapsulates its original owner and this exhibition is thus but a simple reminder that much can be understood about people simply by considering some objects.