

The Joys of Camera Collecting

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Why and How?



People of a certain age - Memories

Why?

- Nostalgia
- Historical Significance
- Aesthetics and Design
- Technical Exploration
- Maintenance and Restoration
- Display and Appreciation
- Thrill of the Hunt
- Preservation and Legacy
- Investment Potential
- Community and Connections

Historical Significance



Camera have a rich history, and collecting them allows you to appreciate the technical advancements and changes in design over the years.



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It can be fascinating to explore the evolution of camera technology and the impact it has had on photography.

The SX-70 featured advanced technology for its time. It incorporated a folding design, a single-lens reflex system, and an autofocus mechanism, making it a versatile and user-friendly camera.

Sharp_j-SH04 was arguably the first mobile phone.

Aesthetics and Design

- Functionality
- Retro and vintage aesthetics
- Minimalism and simplicity
- Premium materials



1. Functionality: Camera design prioritizes functionality and ergonomics. Cameras are designed to be intuitive and easy to use, with controls and buttons placed for convenient access. The layout of buttons, dials, and switches is carefully considered to provide a seamless shooting experience.

2. Form follows function: Camera designs typically follow the principle of "form follows function," where the design is influenced by the purpose and technical requirements of the camera. The shape, size, and placement of components are determined by factors such as lens compatibility, sensor size, and stability.

3. Retro and vintage aesthetics: Many modern cameras draw inspiration from retro and vintage designs, paying homage to classic camera models. This trend often includes leatherette accents, metal dials, and textured finishes, giving the camera a nostalgic and timeless appearance.

4. Minimalism and simplicity: Clean lines, minimal detailing, and simplicity are common elements in camera design. Minimalist designs focus on essential features and remove unnecessary distractions, resulting in a streamlined and uncluttered look.

5. Premium materials: Higher-end cameras often feature premium materials like metal alloys, carbon fiber, or high-quality plastics. These materials enhance the perceived quality and durability of the camera and provide a more tactile and luxurious feel.

6. Customizability: Many cameras offer customizable options, allowing users to personalize the appearance and functionality of their camera. This can include interchangeable grips, customizable buttons, and the ability to add accessories or modify the camera's appearance.

7. Brand identity: Camera manufacturers often incorporate their brand identity into the design aesthetics. This can be achieved through the use of specific color schemes, logo placements, and distinctive design elements that are consistent across their product lineup.

8. Integration with technology: As digital cameras become more advanced, designs may incorporate touchscreen displays, electronic viewfinders, and connectivity features. These elements are seamlessly integrated into the overall design, providing a modern and technologically advanced appearance.

9. Compactness and portability: With the advent of mirrorless cameras and smaller sensor sizes, there is a growing emphasis on compact and portable designs. Cameras are now more lightweight and slim, catering to the needs of photographers who value mobility and ease of use.

10. User experience and aesthetics: Camera manufacturers recognize the importance of the overall user experience, including visual appeal. The design of the camera, including the placement of buttons, the feel of the controls, and the viewfinder experience, contributes to using the camera.

Aesthetics and Design

- Customizability
- Integration with technology
- Compactness and portability
- User experience



Cameras come in various shapes, sizes, and designs. Some collectors are drawn to the aesthetic appeal of vintage cameras or the sleek and modern look of contemporary models. Collecting cameras allows you to appreciate their beauty as both functional tools and works of art.

Design



The primary Olympus camera designer was Yoshihisa Maitani.

He was a renowned Japanese camera designer and engineer who played a significant role in the development of Olympus cameras, particularly the Olympus PEN series and the OM series.

Types of Cameras



Camera collectors may specialize in a particular type of camera, such as film cameras, vintage cameras, rangefinders, SLRs (Single-Lens Reflex), TLRs (Twin-Lens Reflex), medium format cameras, or even specific brands or models.

Technical Exploration

- Kodak cameras with preloaded films
- 35mm
- Sub-miniature (and spy cameras!)
- Technical cameras
- Medium (120) format
- TLR and SLR
- Smart cameras
- Stereoscopy
- Digital cameras
- The future: Drones, 360 cameras

Cameras are complex devices that incorporate various mechanisms and technologies. Collectors often enjoy delving into the technical aspects of different cameras, understanding their functionality, and learning about the intricacies of their design.

Other Themes

- Country e.g. UK, Germany, Japan, Soviet Union
- Period e.g. C19, Pre-war, 1960's
- Manufacturers e.g. Leica, Kodak, Nikon
- Leica and Contax copies

Apart from technical exploration, some collectors may focus on different themes such as countries, period of manufacture and manufacturer. After WW2 the German camera industry was obliged to allow the victorious Allies to manufacture copies of precision Leica and Contax cameras.

As a result, there numerous copies of the Leica II and III were made in the USSR, UK and USA.

In addition, many Japanese brands can trace back to making copies of Leica and Contax cameras.

Maintenance and Restoration:

Maintaining and preserving the acquired cameras is an essential aspect of camera collecting.

Shutters & diaphragms deteriorate with age! Foam door seals too!

FB Camera Repair Group

Maintaining and preserving the acquired cameras is an essential aspect of camera collecting. Collectors often invest time and effort into cleaning, repairing, and restoring cameras to their original or working condition



Many camera collectors enjoy displaying their collection in dedicated showcases or shelves. They take pleasure in arranging the cameras aesthetically, appreciating their design, and sharing their collection with others.

Where to look?

- Ebay, general and specialist auctions
- Camera fairs
- Flea markets/Charity shops/Car boot sales
- Camera shops

Thrill of the hunt is a significant aspect of collecting cameras. Scouring flea markets, thrift stores, online marketplaces, and camera shops in search of rare or unique cameras can be an exciting adventure.

The satisfaction of finding a coveted piece to add to your collection can be incredibly rewarding

Collecting cameras

Allows you to preserve pieces of photographic history.

By acquiring and maintaining cameras,

you contribute to preserving the heritage and legacy of photography for future generations.

Investment Potential?

Perhaps....But deep pockets, patience



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While the primary motivation for camera collectors is the joy of the hobby, some cameras, particularly rare or historically significant models, can appreciate in value over time. However, it's important to note that not all cameras will increase in value, and investing solely for financial gain can be unpredictable. Collecting cameras can become an expensive hobby, especially when pursuing rare or sought-after models. It's essential to set a budget and collect within your means. Additionally, take care of your collection by storing and maintaining the cameras properly to ensure their longevity.

Community and Connections

- Photographic Collectors' Club of Great Britain

<https://pccgb.net/>



- Formed in 1977
- For anyone who collects or uses film and digital cameras, for anyone who is interested in the history of photography, images and ephemera

1 The chance to meet like-minded collectors and classic camera users all over the UK and across the world.

2 Regular club meetings with knowledgeable speakers, sales tables, organised in four regions across the UK.

3 Photographica World magazine, the flagship publication of the club, with 64 pages of classic and collectable cameras, processes, images and pioneers, delivered three times a year.

4 Tailboard,

Tailboard, much more than a newsletter, Tailboard brings you the latest news from club members, articles about collectable equipment, details of club meetings plus wants and sales listings. Delivered six times a year.

5 Free entry to Photographica, the UK's biggest classic camera fair.

6 Access to the 'Member's Only' section of the club website - masses of exclusive online only research material and information on all things photographic.

Under the name of The Photographic Collectors' Club International Ltd.

After many years the PCCGB remains a friendly organisation offering both formal and social events for a membership sharing a common interest.

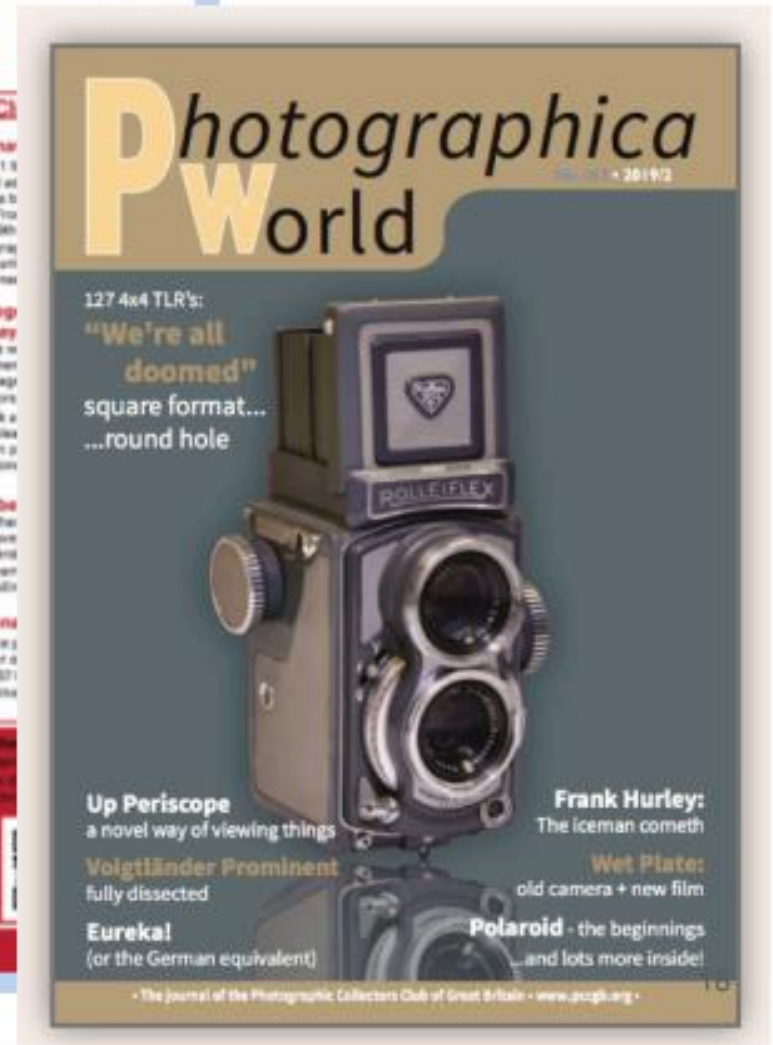
Nikor - Photographica World is the club's flagship publication

It is produced three times each year, and contains 64 pages of research on all aspects of photographic history from cameras to daguerreotypes.

Through to using vintage equipment and processes, articles on restoration, plus spotlights on key figures in photographic history - both ancient and modern

Magazines

- 6 issues of Tailboard magazine per year
- 3 issues of Photographica World



Community and Connections

- Club meetings 6 times per year in Wheathampstead
- Regular on-line Zoom meetings
- Free entry to most UK commercial camera fairs
- Free entry to Photographica in Central London



Questions and Thank you