

私はこのた わごとに
うんざり

しています

spring 2021



These more complex things do require a little getting used to and experimentation. For example, with the Boots Focus camera, it seems that the subject should be ~0.75m away from you, as I learned from a fair few out-of-focus shots.

Analogue photography

Max Clayton Clowes

I recently bought a Boots Focus 35mm camera and have been bringing it with me pretty much wherever I go. The cost isn't negligible, developing the shots is inconvenient, and bringing an extra device is a little cumbersome.

However, lugging the camera around with you ensures it's going to be user - something I frequently neglected when relying on my iPhone. Then there's the qualitative aspect to consider. It's the photographic equivalent of draftsmanship vs art. The pictorial recreation of a moment vs. the capturing of the essence of that moment, emotion and all.



This spread shares a few choice shots from my first roll (Ilford B&W 400, particularly convenient because Snappy Snaps can actually develop it). Hopefully they offer an example of how much character your pictures have without having even used the camera before.

The beauty of the point-and-shoot camera is how easy it is to use (once you understand a few key specifics such as the camera's focal range and ISO).





Links for August

Jason Greenberg

As usual, if something is paywalled, you can get around with the Firefox (and Chrome, I believe) add-on, Pocket. Sometimes it doesn't work, which is annoying but probably in the grand scheme fairly reasonable.

Key:

£ = Paywall

W = Wikipedia

L = Long

V = Video

Best = *****

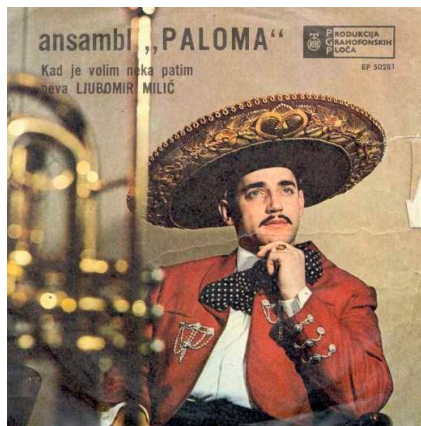
History



[The Kanto Massacre](#) W

There was an earthquake in Japan in 1923. The Korean members of a labour union (organised and headed up by a Japanese man) offered help and support. The police massacred thousands of them - some had kill on sight orders, some had conditional ones. Mostly the reasoning was that the Koreans were actually socialists and

anarchists trying to bring down Japan by garnering support through offering aid. Amazingly, the subsequent whitewashing campaign was broadly successful, the Japanese organiser was blamed for the whole thing and went to prison, and now right wing groups in the country still alternately deny and praise the entire fiasco.



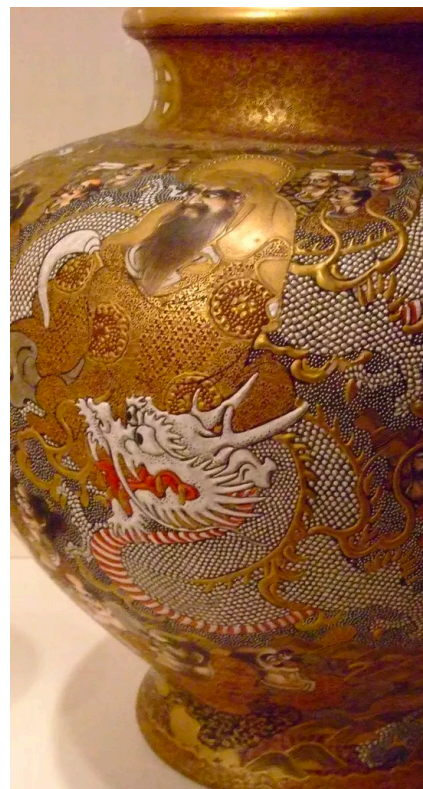
[Yu-Mex Music of the 1950s](#)

The greatest crossover no one was expecting: Mexican x Yugoslavian fusion in the 50s. After Tito and Stalin fell out, the country needed inspiration from a country that wasn't an enemy - but was still cool. Mexico fit that bill pretty well, and fake mariachi bands travelled throughout the country. They all sound pretty similar to me: [here is an example](#).



[Bullet Ant Glove](#)

Among the Sateré-Mawé people is a coming-of-age ceremony involving sticking your hand in a bullet ant enhanced glove: the ants have been sewn into the glove with their stingers facing inwards. The 12 year old boys then have to wear the glove 20 times. Each sting is among the most painful experiences a person might go through; doing the ritual 20 times is supposed to ensure manhood. Can't wait for this to be the next TikTok fad.



During the Imjin War, in the 1590s, Hideyoshi (Japan's unifier and one of the bigger legendary figures) needed an outlet for war obsessed samurai to stop killing the Japanese, so took the fight over to Korea. He never

managed to win the war, but as he was retreating he kidnapped tens of thousands of Korean merchants, scholars, farmers and craftspeople, enslaved them, and brought them back to Japan. This had a number of effects, including a Neo-Confucian explosion in Japan and of course kickstarting the porcelain craftsmanship that Japan has been known for for 400 years. Japan also engaged in a number of different atrocities during this war which seems par for the course for the country.

Art



Deafheads W

Deafheads were fans of the Grateful Dead band who, because of being deaf, couldn't actually "hear" the music at the concerts. They instead brought balloons to the concert so they could feel the vibrations through the material. The soundman of the band, Dan Healy, set up special sections so they could have their own space at these shows. The Grateful Dead no longer tour, but an offshoot of the band does, and this offshoot maintains a special Deaf Zone for Deafheads even now.



Vsevolod Ivanov

This Russian artist was convinced that almost all of Russian history was fabricated and that actually there is a giant sea monster living in the lake, Atlantis was Russian, ancient aliens came down to teach the Russians to be the best, etc. Some pretty cool representations of what that might have looked like.

Misc.



Thai Restaurants in America

A question I admittedly have never wondered about is "why are there so many Thai restaurants in America?" Well, there is an easy answer: in 2001 the Thai government set up Global Thai Restaurant Company, which set up 3000 restaurants worldwide. They were hoping it would be "the

McDonalds of Thai food", which it...isn't, but it did create a lot of Thai restaurants all over the place and boosted demand for a variety of Thai exports and Thai culture. The plan has worked so successfully that the global number of Thai restaurants increased from 5,500 before to 15,000 (in 2018). The Thai government set up a certification system to maintain quality, and Thai restaurants are now a staple of almost every major city in the world.



The Microsoft Acquisition Hoax W

In the early 90s one of the first big internet hoaxes was that Microsoft had "acquired" the Roman Catholic Church. The document claimed there would be: "a lot of growth in the religious market in the next five to ten years... the combined resources of Microsoft and the Catholic Church will allow us to make religion easier and more fun for a broader range of people." This was one of the founding myths of "evil Microsoft", which has been a remarkably persistent conspiracy theory for a long time.



