



Wu's focus on photography puts his hobby on display



Nanxiang resident Wu Kuifang and his cameras

Ran Tao and Shen Li

A Nanxiang resident's collection of 42 cameras and other photographic equipment was on display at Nanxiang Cultural Activity Center recently.

When Wu Kuifang was a student at military school in west China after joining the armed forces in 1963 he spent his weekends in the suburbs with his fellow soldiers.

Wu fell in love with the beautiful scenery and asked one soldier to bring his camera so he could try it out for himself.

He exposed his first roll of the film to the light by mistake, not really knowing how cameras functioned.

But he learned from the camera's owner instructions and, though his first attempts at photography were not great he was very fond of them because they were his first efforts.

People were relatively poor in the 1960s and

1970s and buying his first camera cost Wu a considerable sum. The camera he chose was from the Shanghai-based Seagull Camera company, the oldest camera maker in China.

He continued to learn from professionals and subscribed to two photography magazines.

Wu also collected many abandoned spare parts to make his own darkroom to develop his photos.

He also visited shops from time to time to study photographic equipment. He visited so often that shop assistants got so annoyed that they used to lock the equipment away when they saw him coming. It is a memory that has stayed with him to this day.

Wu opened a photographic studio with several auto focus cameras in 2002 at Zhujiajiao Ancient Town to serve tourists and now his studio cameras also became part of his collection since digital technology has now generally replaced film as a photographic medium.

If you ever need to know what time is, Tang is your man



Anting farmer and watch collector Tang Fuqing

Liu Jingxian and Shen Li

TANG Fuqing, a farmer from Huangdu in Anting Town has been collecting watches since 2003 and now has a collection of more than 3,000.

His interest began when mobile phones were becoming popular and many people disposed of their timepieces.

Tang spotted a Shanghai brand watch at a street vendor's stall which looked new but was priced at just a few dozen yuan. He bought it without hesitation.

He started to visit other street vendors, watchmakers, antique markets and even a recycling depot that bought old watches.

Once he was traveling with his in-laws when he suddenly "disappeared" because he found a 150-year-old Titoni watch made in Switzerland.

Tang's collection includes brands such as Shanghai, Jiefang, Diamond, Rolex, Titoni, Longines and Omega.

The Shanghai brand is the 67-year-old's favorite. He has a 1958 half steel A581, a version of which was worn by the late Premier Zhou Enlai.



Shanghai's finest



Tang's collection of watches