



Please return

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This project was entitled PLEASE RETURN. The title was taken from a verso. It tells about a discovered photo archive, which depicts more than one century of a life of one family. PLEASE RETURN is about love and family values, which are being saved through the history in photography. This project is an attempt to solve the mystery, reconstruct the lives of the characters, which are portrayed in pictures, through the connection between the past and the present. The ultimate aim is to find some descendants and give them an access to this archive.

This archive was found by a photographer Anastasia Markelova in a shoebox full of old pictures in one of the antique shops during her travel around Sri-Lanka. There were a lot of peculiar and charming snaps, among which it was found a series with dog, cockerels fighting on a table against some black fabric, compositions of insects, a deer yoked into an infant sleigh, whimsical snowmen, curious portraits and other miraculous pictures. The photographs used to belong to the Rusts dynasty. The heads of the family, Julian Godfrey and Thomas Alfred, were professional photographers and achieved recognition in their professional aria. The eldest Rust started his career in 1860 and they both maintained their family business for 80 years. Thomas Alfred Rust was patronized by h.e. the earl of Mayo and by H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh. Julian Godfrey Rust made pictures of young Indira Gandhi in 1933, which is proved by correspondence by Indira Gandhi & Jawaharlal Nehru (Book Two Alone, Two Together: Letters Between Indira Gandhi & Jawaharlal Nehru 1922-1964, Sonia Ghandi).

Now days the photographs, made by Thomas Alfred Rust and Julian Thomas Rust, are in the following collections: The Alkazi Collection of Photography, Harry Ransom Centre (The University of Texas and Austin). One of their photographs was exhibited on Paris Photo 2014. They are also sold at Christie's and Bonham's. The collection contains 500 prints and just 1 negative. The first picture dates back to 1890.

The author Anastasia Markelova tells about the way of project developing, information research and adventures connected to this story. All new information is being published on the blog- <http://pleasereturn.photography/blog/>

These photographs are being published for the first time.

Contact:

Anastasia Markelova, owner & curator

<http://pleasereturn.photography>

anastasia.markelova.com@gmail.com

anastasiamarkelova.com

