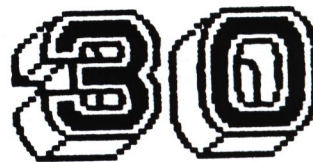


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NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEC. 31, 1990



THE NIKON  JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE..

PG. 2--NIKON "DUMMIES"
PG. 8--TWO HIGH SPEED "F8"
PG. 14-A SPECIAL "CASE"

ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

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EDITORIAL

Since this issue of The Journal always arrives after the New Year, I can only hope that all of you had a great Holiday Season, and may we all have a healthy and prosperous 1991.

With this issue of The Nikon Journal we have reached the magic number "30" and we remain a strong and growing organization with over 210 members worldwide. Nikon collecting remains the strongest sector in the world of photographica, with prices and demand at an all time high, with no signs of it changing in 1991 (despite that silly joke named Saddam Hussein)! The coming year should be an interesting one, as the collecting world gets "smaller" and the interaction and exchange of information and equipment continues on a global scale. Brisk trading progresses in both directions across both world oceans as the American, European and Asian collectors come to know each other more and more, and the lines of communication improve. One sure sign that the exchange of knowledge, and not just pieces of "glass and brass", is on the increase is the publication of a new book by member John Baird, which is reviewed by your editor on page 17. This new book marks a high point in the exchange of information between East and West. As one who has written about Nikons now for almost a decade, I know how difficult it has been to obtain factual information about the history and development of the Japanese optical industry. Due to language and cultural hurdles, many important facts remain unknown even to this day. John's new book, which is the result of a decade long concerted effort to make contact with individuals and companies in Japan and to learn from them, is chock full of numerous facts, dates, names and historical references tracing the birth and maturing of the Japanese optical industry as a whole. This book is a wonderful event, as it signals the increasing flow of a meaningful exchange of heretofore unavailable information. More projects are in the works as we continue to strive to learn more about the birth of the Japanese optical industry and Nippon Kogaku in particular. Hopefully 1991 will bring us even more knowledge and understanding.

You may notice that the mix of articles in this issue deviates a little from the norm. This is because two interesting articles that have been in the works came to me at about the same time. The result is that this issue "leans" a little more towards the reflex era than usual. Richard Keyishian submitted an article on some Dummy Nikon products that are fascinating in themselves. However, most Dummy Nikon items date from the reflex age so, by necessity, the article is mainly about the post-RF era. However, Dummy Nikons did begin at least as early as the Nikon S and all such items are interesting collectibles.

A second article was sent in by French Canadian member Regent Myre. Originally planned as the featured item for the "F-Spot", it became obvious that the amount of material that Regent possessed, and the extreme rarity of the items discussed, warranted a major article as opposed to just a short piece. The result is that the "F-Spot" has grown to a six page feature this issue, and with good reason. Regent has supplied me with many photos and much information about two of the rarest Nikon Fs ever produced..the special "High Speed" models. Never really available to the general public, these special production items may have, in at least one version, been made in as few as "20" pieces!! This is another "first" for our Nikon Journal, as, to my knowledge, no article as detailed, comprehensive and heavily illustrated as this one has ever been published before!

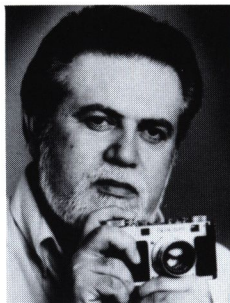
In a strictly rangefinder vein you will find an article on page 14 about a very unusual Nikon S era case that was unknown to your editor until just recently. I still have not been able to find any information in the literature on this item. If after reading about it you can shed some light on this strange piece please do. Until we learn more it remains a mystery.

I have mentioned in previous writings the fact that the American public first learned of the new Nikon camera in Jacob Deschin's photography column in the December 10, 1950 issue of the Sunday New York Times. This has always been a rather famous part of the lore of Nikon, and I have always wanted to run it here in the Journal, but I have never been able to obtain a decent copy of the article. Recently member Mel Wilner was able to obtain an original and sent me a high quality copy which you will find on page 18. It is an interesting part of the early history of Nikon in this country. You will note how amazed the author is of the quality of the Nikon and its lenses!

Page 19 is devoted to NHS Products, including three additional items since NHS-29. Support for these products has been very good and, hopefully, will continue. I had actually sold out of the tie clasp and cuff link sets, but Peter Lownds has just informed me that more are on the way and should be available soon. New this issue is a genuine Nikon calculator, a different version of the Nikon commemorative plaque, and a specialty item obtainable directly from one of our members. Although the items on page 19 have been well received and supported by the membership, the same cannot be said for my little experiment in NHS-29. Peter Lownds and I had a very early, and significant, Nikon M brochure reproduced to a very high degree of accuracy. As you know I inserted one in each copy of #29. Peter and I thought we would simply send it to everyone at no charge with the hope that some would feel that such items would be a worthwhile addition to a collection. Those who felt this way would send a few dollars to cover costs (\$3.50 each) and let us know whether to continue with such a project in the future. Well...as of this writing a total of "6" members have responded (see "Letters" on page 17)! Well Peter, I thought it was a good idea, also!

Please note my new FAX number on page 20. It is much more convenient than the former location and insures a quicker reply.

Last, but certainly not the least, we have yet another great rear cover from our resident professional photographer, Tony Hurst. This time Tony thought he would do something more in tune with the Holiday season. Turn to the back and see the real Santa Claus! Now tell me the truth.... how would you like to find some of these items under your tree? Then again, maybe you did!!!!!!??



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Photo: Tony Hurst

NIKON

'DUMMIES'

by **Richard Keyishian**

For many years, Nippon Kogaku has supplied "Dummy" cameras for dealer display purposes. Usually the controls were locked and the lenses that were supplied with the cameras had the front and rear elements only. They may have been factory seconds or rejects.

Nikon rangefinder "Dummies" were made in proportion to the number of actual cameras produced. It seems very doubtful that, due to low production runs, Dummy Nikon I, M, S4 or S3M cameras were ever made. The earliest known Dummy rangefinder is a Nikon S. To date the most common rangefinder Dummy is the Nikon S2. The number of Nikon rangefinder Dummy cameras produced is open to speculation. Looking for those elusive Dummy Nikon S and S2s can be long, arduous and very expensive.

Hunting for Dummy Nikon Fs, F2s, Nikkormats and reflex lenses is much easier. These Dummy cameras and lenses were either made in Japan or by Ehrenreich in Garden City, Long Island. Speculation has it that those stamped "DUMMY" or "DISPLAY MODEL" were created right here in the United States from parts supplied by Nippon Kogaku, while those Dummies not so stamped were made in Japan.

In my own personal collection I have four Dummies...a chrome Nikon F (serial #6435497); a Nikomat (serial #3100015) (this model began at #3100004!); a 35mm/f1.4 Nikkor (serial #350287); and a 200mm/f4 Nikkor (serial #601810).

The Nikon F Dummy has no special serial number or markings of any kind. It appears almost identical to a standard production model from the outside. Internally, however, there are many differences! The rewind knob and shutter speed dial just spin and are not connected to anything. The shutter release button is frozen in place and the film advance lever just turns and it not attached to any gears. There is no internal prism and the prism housing is permanently attached to the camera body. The self-timer lever, lens release button and depth of field preview lever are all moveable, but again have no internal attachments. The back opens as usual, but there is no film pressure plate. The film guide rails in the camera are not polished and there is no shutter curtain nor a mirror. The film take-up spool is non-existent.

The Nikomat is the Japanese version of the Nikkormat. Nippon Kogaku had a legal battle with Zeiss Ikon as to whether it could use the Nikomat name here in the United States, Europe and other parts of the world. Zeiss claimed that Nippon Kogaku was infringing on the name of their Zeiss Ikomat cameras. Nikon was forced to change the name of the Nikomat to Nikkormat for this market.

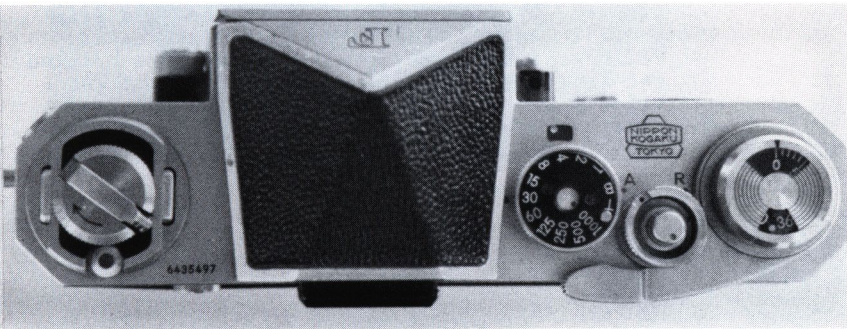
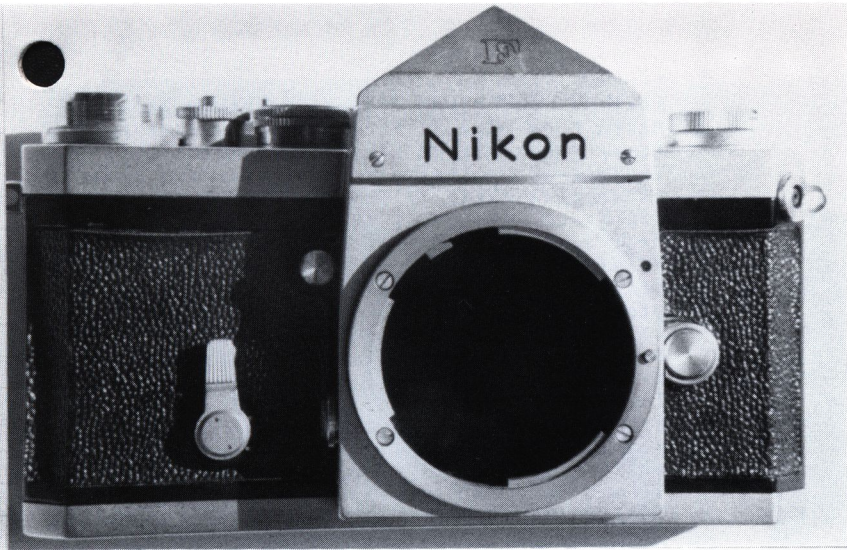
My Nikomat Dummy may be a factory reject. There seems to be some sort of "plug" on the front of the camera and the serial number is an indication that it was one of the first off the production line. The rewind knob, film advance lever and shutter button are all moveable, but are not attached to anything. The meter does not work and the shutter speed collar is frozen at 1/1000 of a second. The mirror is fixed in place as well as the depth of field button and self timer lever. The meter indexing device does move about, but there is no prism in the finder. This Dummy's rewind button is frozen while the battery compartment cannot be opened. The frame counter is set at "Start". Internally, the Nikomat is more highly finished than the Nikon F. It has a film pressure plate on the back and the film guide rails have been polished.

The 200mm/f4 Nikkor is stamped with the word DUMMY on the rear edge of the lens mount and is filled in with white paint. This lens has a front and rear piece of glass, but no other elements appear to be present. The diaphragm ring is frozen at f5.6 and there are no aperture blades visible in this lens. The focusing ring is frozen at infinity and the built-in shade is present. The lens is of pre-AI vintage.

My final item is the 35mm/f1.4 Nikkor lens Dummy. It also has the diaphragm ring frozen at f5.6 with no apparent aperture blades. The focusing ring is permanently frozen at infinity. Again there are no internal elements present, only the front and rear pieces. However, unlike the 200mm lens, the Dummy engraving on this item is not on the external barrel but on the rear surface of the mount near the bayonet lugs. Why this different location was used is not known. This lens is also pre-AI vintage.

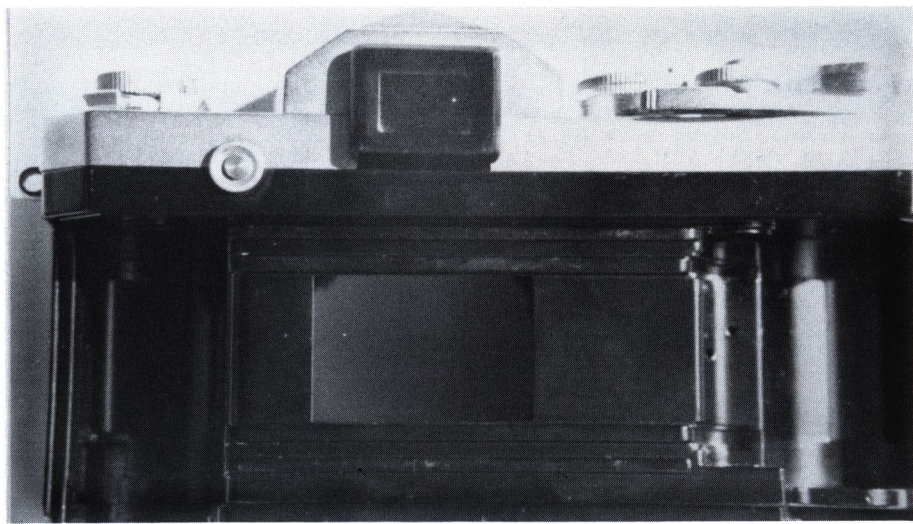
Other Dummy Nikon reflex cameras known to exist are the FTn, F2 and Nikkormat EL. Lenses such as the 45mm GN and the 35mm PC Nikkors also are known to exist in Dummy form. If any readers know of any other Nikon Dummy cameras and lenses please let us know.

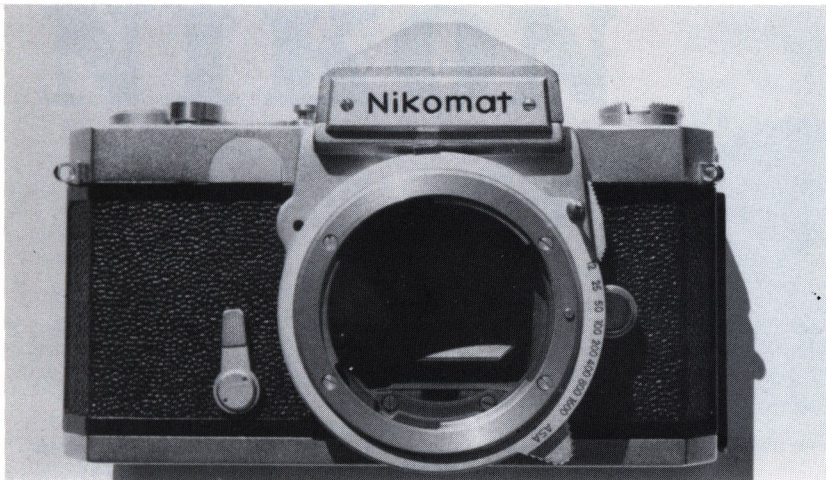
To compliment member Keyishian's fine article I have included photos of additional Dummy items, some of which are mentioned in the text. These items were provided courtesy of member John Angle, and are included here for the sake of completeness. Also shown is the Nikon S2 Dummy for comparison purposes. If any members possess additional Nikon Dummy items not pictured in this article please let Mr. Keyishian or myself know. A follow up article is possible if sufficient additional reflex and RF Dummies surface.



Pictured on this page is Richard's Nikon F "DUMMY" camera. It is obvious that from the outside there is not the slightest hint that this is not a regular functioning camera. It could easily be passed up on some obscure table at some equally obscure show or trade fair and never realized for what it actually is. That is until you picked it up! (Does this mean that we now have to personally inspect the hundreds of Nikon F bodies that populate nearly every camera show in the world?! They say the fun is in the chase!) On this specimen the wind lever and shutter dial move but are not coupled to anything and the release button is frozen. This and the fact that there is no mirror nor internal prism might first suggest a cannibalized parts camera. However, once you open it up the fact that it is a DUMMY is immediately evident. Note that the film guide rails are NOT polished, that there is no take-up spool or sprocket wheel, the shutter curtains are absent as is the pressure plate. All of these points are very similar to the S2 DUMMY seen on page 7. Although this is not an extremely early body number (camera #35,496), it still may be one of the earliest reflex DUMMIES, as it closely follows the pattern seen in the rangefinder types.

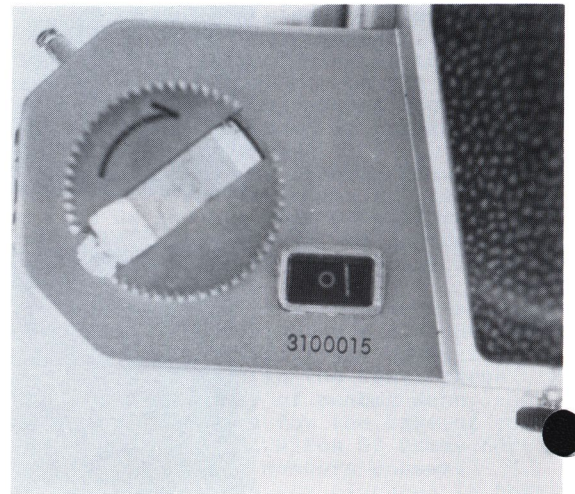
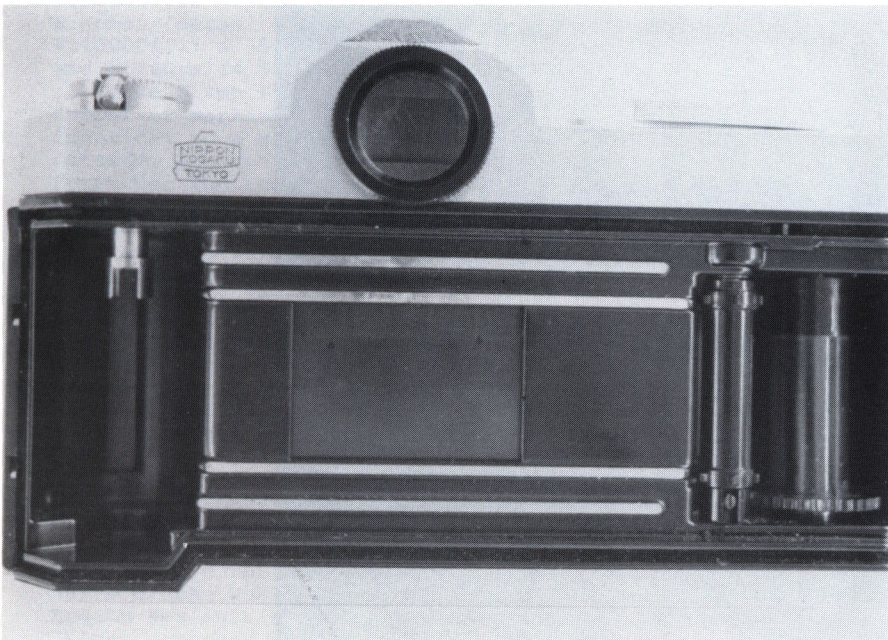
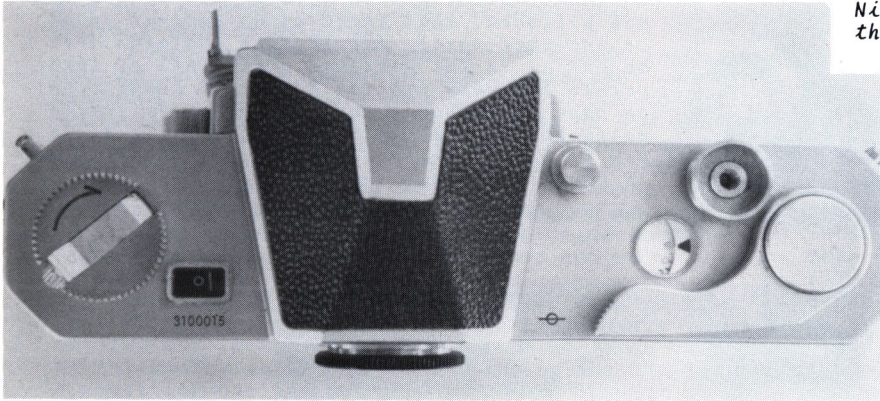
R. Keyishian

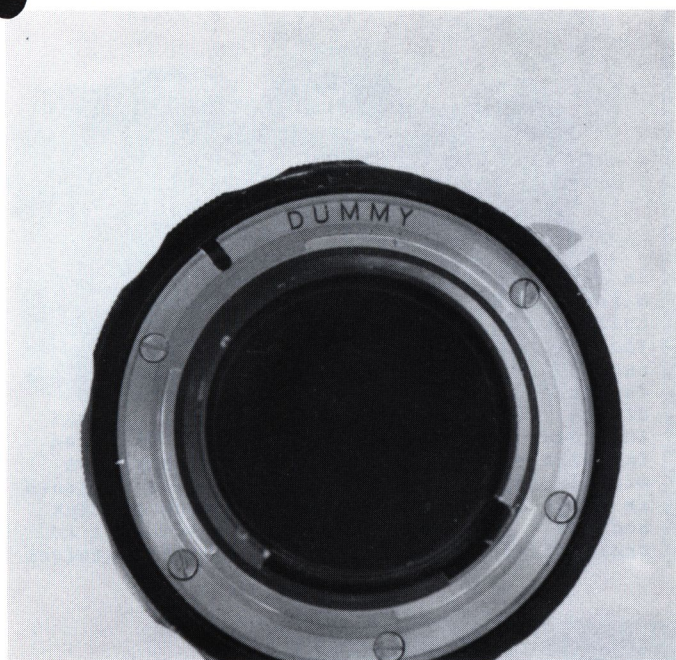




This Nikon Komat DUMMY differs markedly from the Nikon F on page 3. First of all, there is at least one external hint that something is unusual about this piece. Note in the upper photo that there is some sort of "plug" on the front surface of the top plate to the left of the prism housing. The finish of the metal is different yet it fits the cut-out perfectly. But what is the meaning of the plug? (One possible explanation is that it is rumored the very earliest Nikon Komat camera bodies had the Nippon Kogaku triangular logo stamped on their front face in this area!! The Nikon Komat serial numbers began at 3100004, according to Nikon literature, and this body is 3100015, which makes it very early. Could there have been the logo in this position and it was removed for some reason?)

Unlike the F the release button does move but the shutter dial is frozen. There is a mirror present but no internal prism. Also, unlike the F DUMMY, this Nikon Komat does have polished film guide rails and the shutter is also present. However, since none of the controls are coupled the curtain is stationary. Both this and the Nikon F lack any special engravings denoting them as DUMMY cameras. R. Keyishian





The upper 2 photos are of the DUMMY 35mm/f1.4 Nikkor #350287. The diaphragm ring is frozen at f5.6 and no leaves are present. Only the front and rear elements are evident. Note that "DUMMY" is engraved on the rear surface near the bayonet lugs.
R. Keyishian



Lower left-Richard's DUMMY 200mm/f4 #601810. Note that the "DUMMY" engraving is obvious and no attempt has been made to disguise this lens.

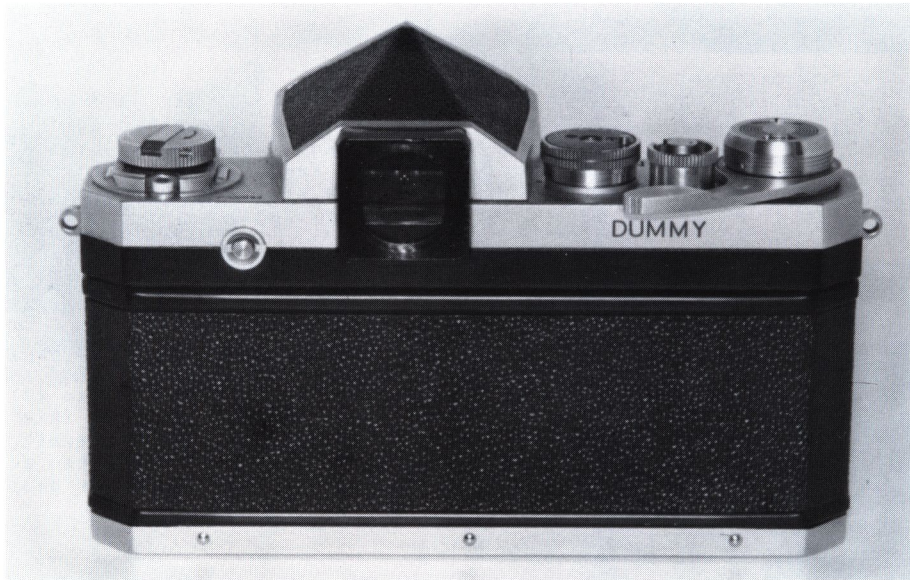
Lower right-Another DUMMY 200mm lens from the John Angle collection. It also is visibly identified as a DUMMY item as is the Nikon F2 beside it. All the items on this page are of later vintage and it is possible that by this time Nikon, or Ehrenreich, had decided that it was better to identify DUMMY display items.
R. Rotoloni





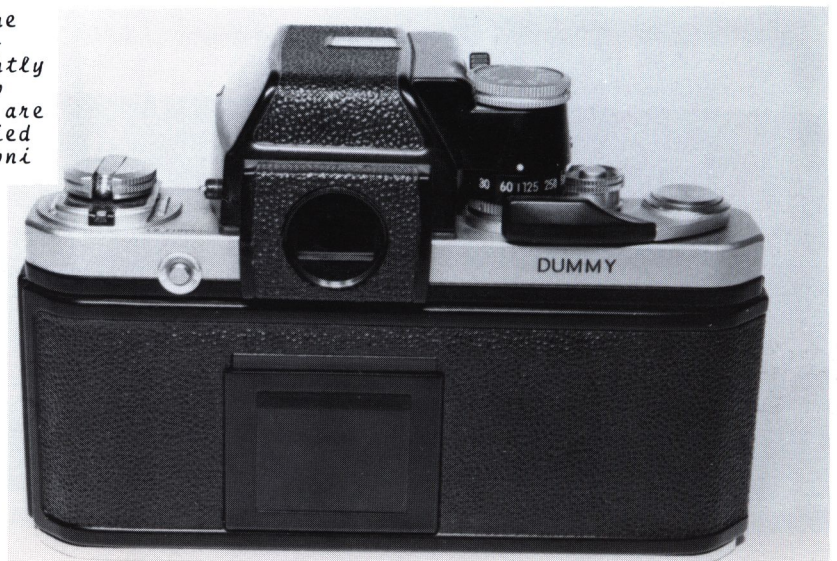
In the upper 2 photos we have another type of Nikon F DUMMY. This one is also from the Angle collection, but it is a much later body than that in the Keyishian collection. Its' serial number dates it from about 1970-71, and it has the later type prism with a redesigned and deeper eyepiece. What is interesting is that this body is prominently engraved "DUMMY" on the rear surface of the top plate under the wind lever. This particular piece was obtained in Tokyo and while there we also saw another body with the same engraving, except that it possessed an FTn prism!

R. Rotoloni



This is a 1971 vintage Nikon F2 Photomic (the F2 was released in 1971) DUMMY camera so engraved, although the lettering is just slightly smaller, but in the same location. These two cameras and the lenses on the previous page are all later vintage and conspicuously identified as DUMMY items.

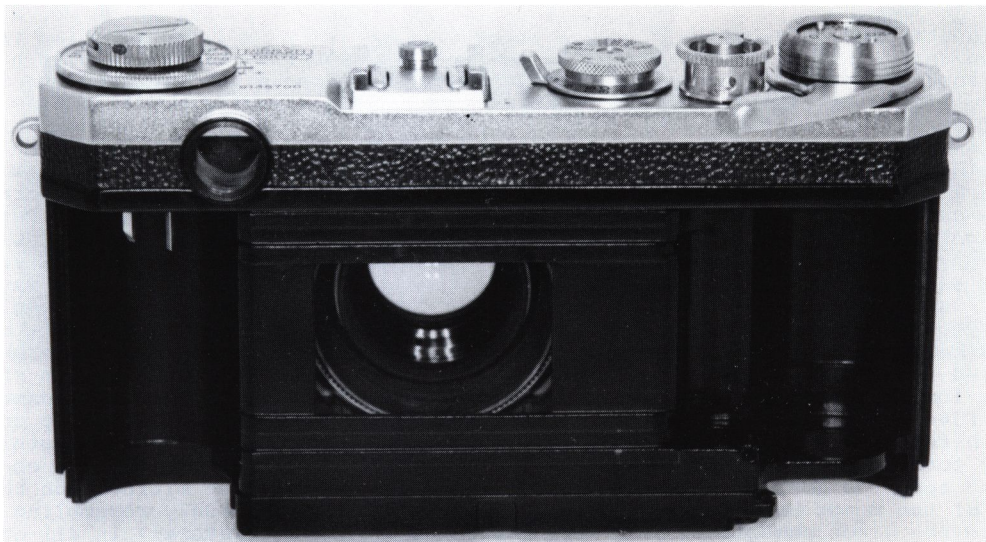
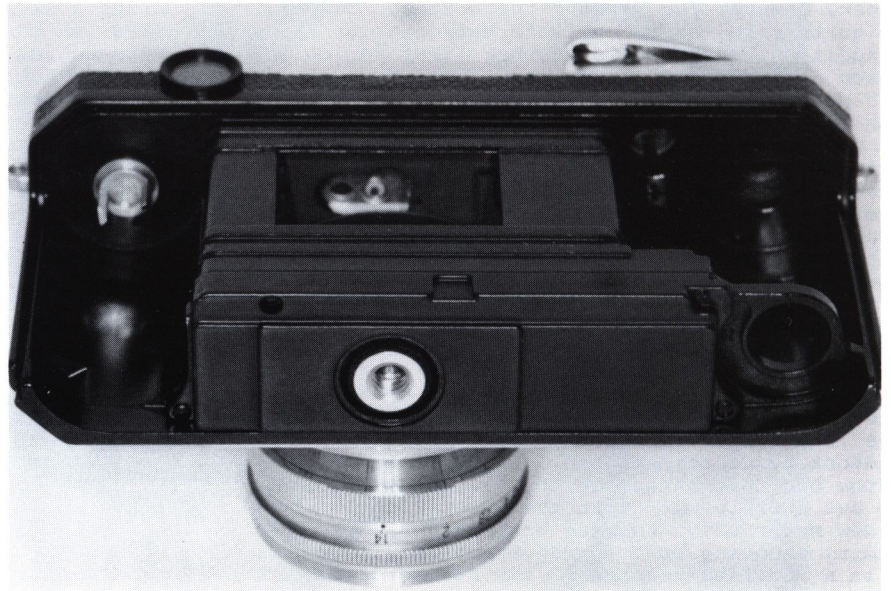
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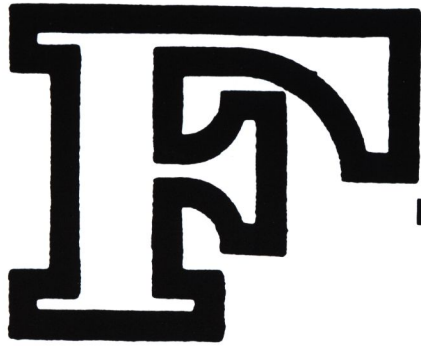




The upper 2 photos are of a Nikkormat EL, which is of much later vintage than our other Nikomat body. This one is black and comes with a matching 50mm/f1.4 lens. This example is also from the Angle collection and both are prominently marked as DUMMY items. The body is again stamped on the rear of the top plate below the wind lever but now slightly displaced to the left because of the serial number. The lens is marked on the underside of the diaphragm ring and is visible in the right photo. The 2 lower photos are a Nikon S2 DUMMY camera. Note that it is not so marked and that the interior is similar to the Nikon F on page 3.

R. Rotoloni





F--SPOT!!

TWO HIGH SPEED "Fs"

The "F-SPOT" for this issue has grown well beyond its customary size. The reasons for this expansion are the subject matter, and the availability of an extensive series of photographs to illustrate it. All of the photos, and much of the information contained in this article, were made available to The Journal by member Regent Myre of Quebec, Canada. The Nikon F "High Speed" cameras are quite rare, as is any information about them. In addition, and this is another first for our "Nikon Journal", they have never been covered in such detail with so many photographs, nor have both versions been illustrated side-by-side in the press before! Before Regent's information arrived, I had only been able to examine four of these cameras in all these years, and I have never been able to acquire one! Many of you will never have heard of these cameras, but after this edition of the F-Spot you will possess as much knowledge about these rare pieces as most anyone in the world of Nikon collecting! I wish to thank Regent for supplying me with these fine photos and information about these rare cameras.

The first official mention of a Nikon F High Speed camera that I can locate in the literature is a 1971 supplement to the Nikon F/Nikkormat Handbook by Cooper/Abbott. This same supplement is the one that announced the new Nikon F2 camera due out shortly. To quote the literature..... "A New Motor Drive for the Nikon F Series. This permits shooting up to seven frames per second. It is a modified version of the F36 motor drive, which, with its maximum rate of 4FPS, will remain in production.

The 7FPS rate is controlled by a button on the front of the switch unit; the reflex viewing mirror must be in the lock-up position; and only shutter speeds 1/250 to 1/1000sec can be used.

Shooting rates of 2-4FPS and single frame are governed by a second button at the rear of the unit. At 2FPS permissible shutter speeds are 1/8 to 1/1000sec. At 3 and 4FPS speeds are 1/125 to 1/1000sec. A remote control socket is incorporated. Accessories include a battery pack, power cord and eye-level finder with accessory shoe. Limited deliveries are expected in late 1971."

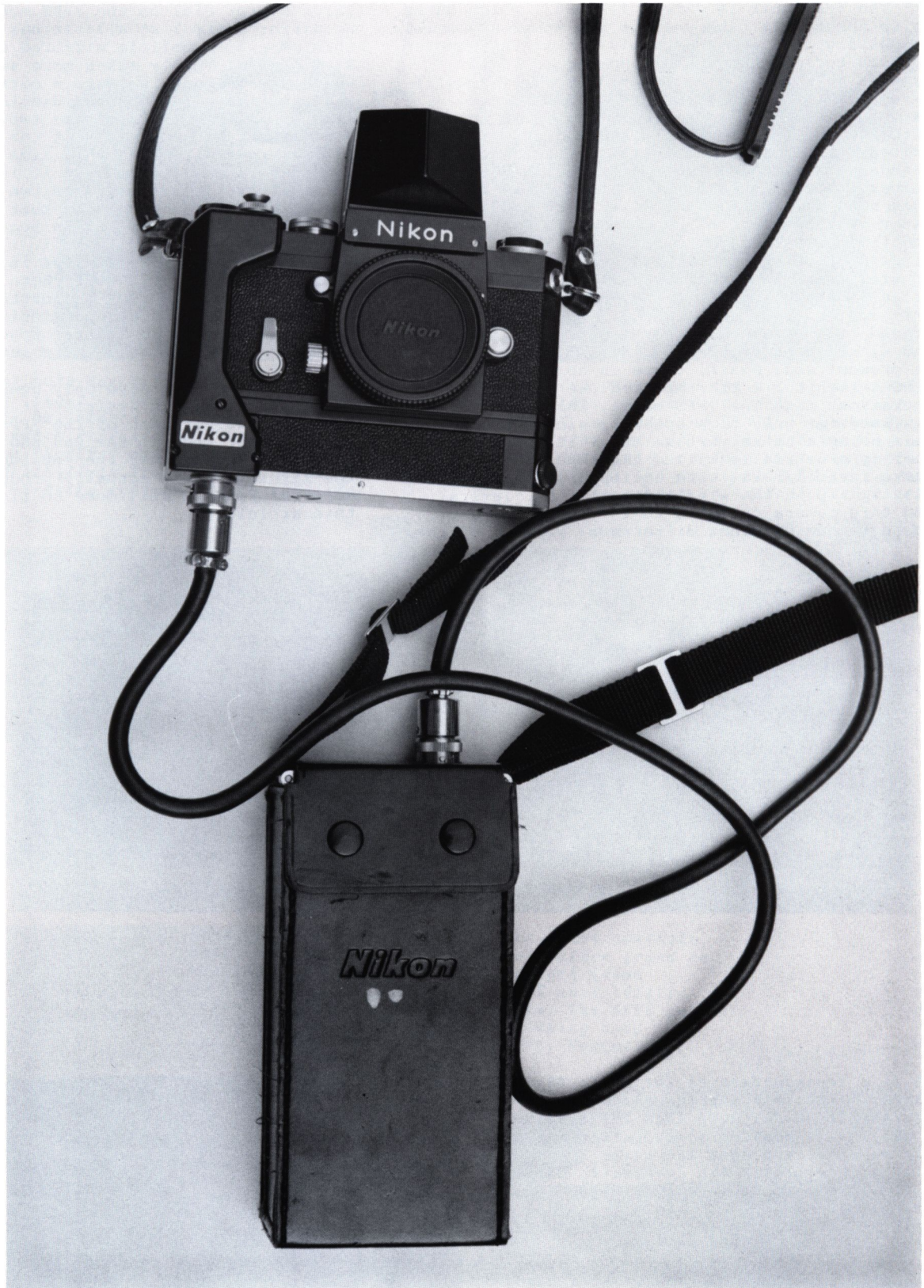
This announcement is interesting for what it contains, the date, and how its description varies from the cameras shown here. In addition, a photo of a 250 shot high speed is used to illustrate it yet no mention of this longer capacity motor is made! No photo of the F36 version is shown! From the photo (reproduced here) the battery pack differs in that the power cord attaches at the lower right side, and not the top. The grip permanently attached to the front of the motor appears to be identical right down to the Nikon nameplate. The prism has an accessory shoe, and such prisms were

made, although they are quite hard to find. Was the 250 shot version ever made? So far only the 36 shot high speeds have been reported to me, but a 250 shot version might well exist.

This announcement concerns the 7FPS version. It talks about locking the mirror up and a button on the front to allow 7FPS operation. It also mentions a second rear button to control rates of 2-4FPS, which sounds very much like the framing rate button on the standard F36 motor! Even the listed shutter speed ranges sound like the regular production motor. Comparing this with an actual camera suggests that this early announcement was a combination of a few facts, some half-truths, and a product that really did not exist in its final production form when the copy writer wrote this little item. But this is often the case with any pre-production item, and this piece of literature must be viewed with some skepticism to say the least. A few "facts" are obvious to a careful reader. A figure of 7FPS has been decided upon; the front mounted mini-grip was used in the production motors; the power cord did mount to the underside (which means this motor could not be sat down on its base); a separate battery pack was used; and late 1971 was the target date. Now let us see how 2 genuine High Speed Nikon Fs compare with this information.

Two different versions are covered in this article. One is a 7FPS model that is probably the type mentioned in the literature. The second is a 9FPS model that is surely one of a special batch made for the 1974 Montreal Olympics. First the 7FPS version.

It is camera #7290281 which would date from late 1971 or early 1972, so the time factor is correct. The motor is #152322 and it has the mini-grip and bottom mounted power socket. The rear of the motor has a slightly modified frame counter reset dial and no release button or S-L-C dial as the standard motors. The frame-rate selector is marked "3.5-S-7", which allows only two speeds of 3.5 & 7FPS, plus single shots. A separate battery pack is used whose shape is similar yet the power cord attaches to the top and not the side of the unit. There is no front mounted 7FPS switch, nor a rear mounted one allowing framing rates between 2-4FPS (such as that found on the regular motor). This is strictly a 2 speed motor. The camera appears unmodified except for the rather large dial where the mirror lock up button should be. However, Regent tells me that this camera has a pelicle mirror!! So a mirror lock up control isn't needed! The large dial does nothing as far as he can tell! (I know of at least one other 7FPS model with the same mirror knob that has a moving mirror, more closely resembling the one mentioned in the literature!) In all other respects it appears to be a standard Nikon F.



The 7 frames-per-second High Speed Nikon F with proper 24 volt battery pack. Note the attachment point for the power cord under the mini-grip that is permanently attached to the front of the motor itself. Also note the enlarged mirror control dial mentioned in the text. The battery pack is designed to hold 16 "AA" penlights delivering 24 volts of power.

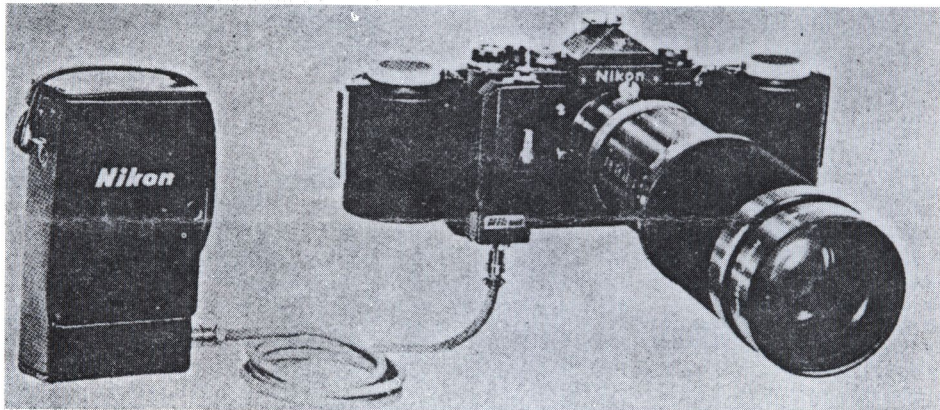
Regent Myre

The 9FPS unit is camera #7449882, which dates it to about 1974 (the year of the Montreal Games) suggesting that it is probably one of the rumored 20 such bodies that Nikon supplied as loaner cameras to working pros covering the Olympics! I have been told that only 15 were returned to Japan and that the remaining 5 stayed in Canada, although one or more might have ended up in the United States. This particular unit was found in Canada. Its matching motor (this set has the body number stenciled inside the motor, while the 7FPS does not) is #159172, which is about 5000 units later. The rear of this motor has an extremely modified frame counter reset dial! It is a very large protruding concave item that is much easier to grasp than the other types. The rear mounted release button and S-L-C dial are also absent in this design. The frame rate selector dial is engraved "4-S-9" allowing for 4 or 9FPS operation and single exposures. An identical battery pack is present and, again, there is no front mounted 9FPS switch nor a rear mounted one for 2-4FPS operation. Like the 7FPS model, this camera is designed for only high speed or single operation. This being a later vintage body, it belongs to that type generally called the "Apollo" version. These later cameras were equipped with a black plastic tip on the wind and self-timer levers, and this camera conforms to this type. However, there is one distinct difference; instead of the

large mirror dial on the 7FPS model, this one has no mirror control at all! It has been removed. This is also a pellicle mirrored camera! The missing control really makes more sense, since it was never intended to have a mirror anyway. In all other ways it appears identical to a standard late Nikon F. Therefore, the two motors are very similar and one must look at the rear surface to differentiate them. At this time I have one other 9FPS camera in my notes and it is #7449942 with motor #159184. Obviously the two sets are very close in number, suggesting that they are from one and the same batch. This second unit was also found in Canada.

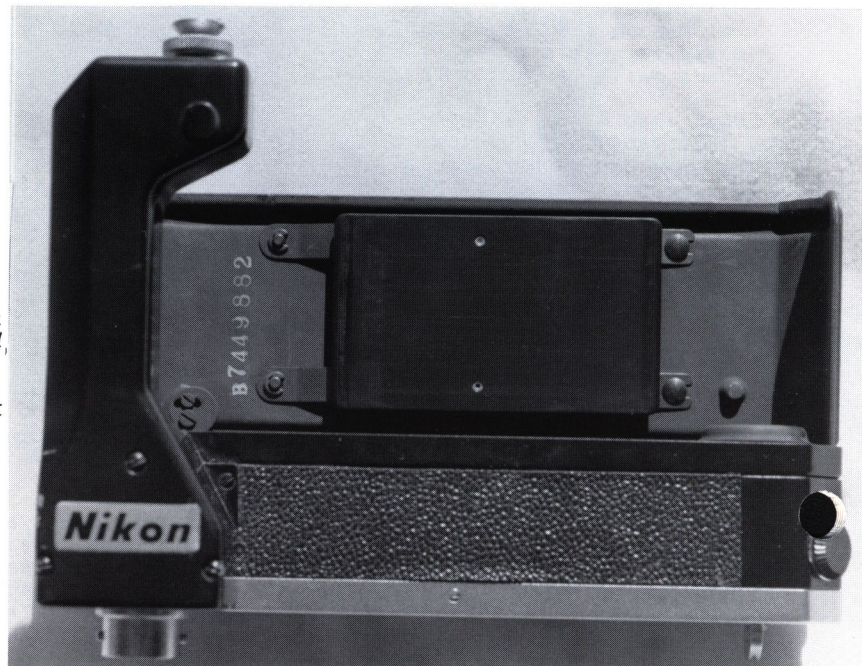
Both outfits are similar in many ways yet each is unique unto itself. Both share the same mini-grip, power outlet and battery pack and have similar controls. Both are missing the rear release button and the shutter speed scale normally found on the F36 motor. Their method of operation is nearly identical.

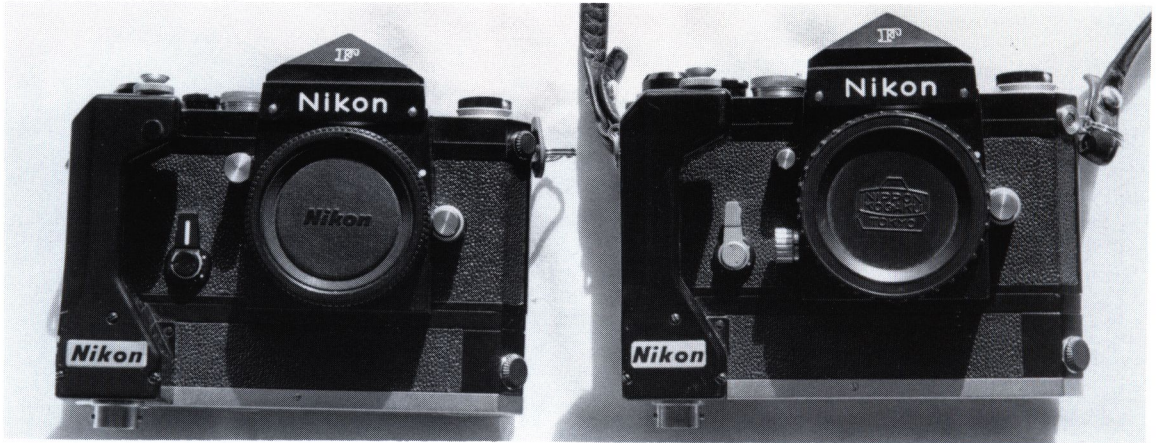
Obviously we have only been able to scratch the surface in this article. It is apparent that at least two versions of the 7FPS model exist. We still do not know if the 250 shot version was ever made nor whether the version described in the literature was actually produced. Hopefully more information will come to light following this article.



Nikon F250 Motor Drive adapted for up to seven frames per second

Above is a reproduction of the photo that appeared in the 1971 supplement to the Cooper/Abbott guide. Note that the battery pack has a side mounted power outlet instead of top mounted, and that the prism sports an accessory shoe (which was eventually used for a special finder with fields for 180, 200 and 300mm when using the motor with the mirror locked up). The mini-grip is present and is identical to the production motor pictured at the right. But what is shown is the 250 shot motor which is not mentioned in the release! Did they make it? The motor on the right is the 9FPS version. The small "plug" near the top of the grip is probably where the spring loaded support shaft found on regular F36 cordless packs would have been. Regent Myre.



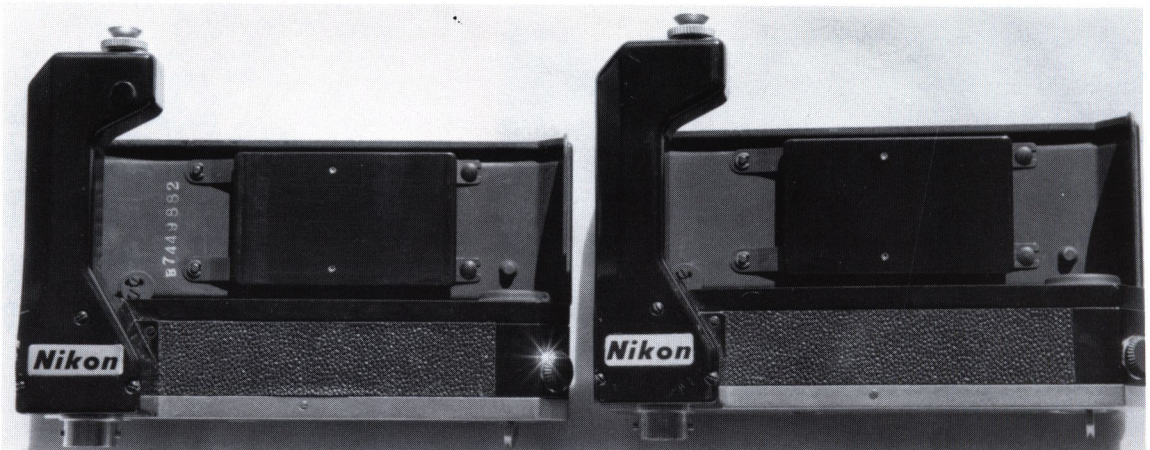


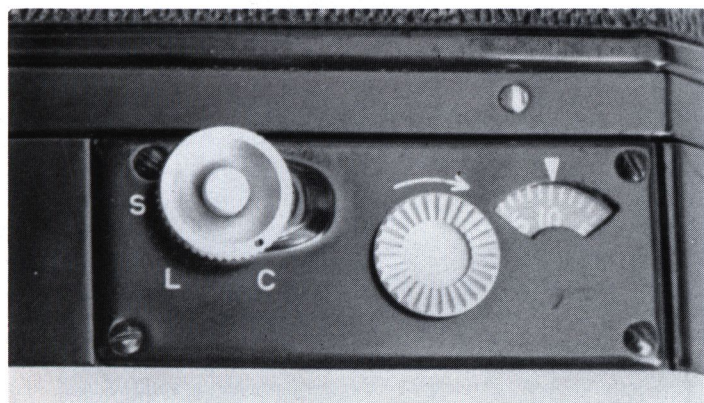
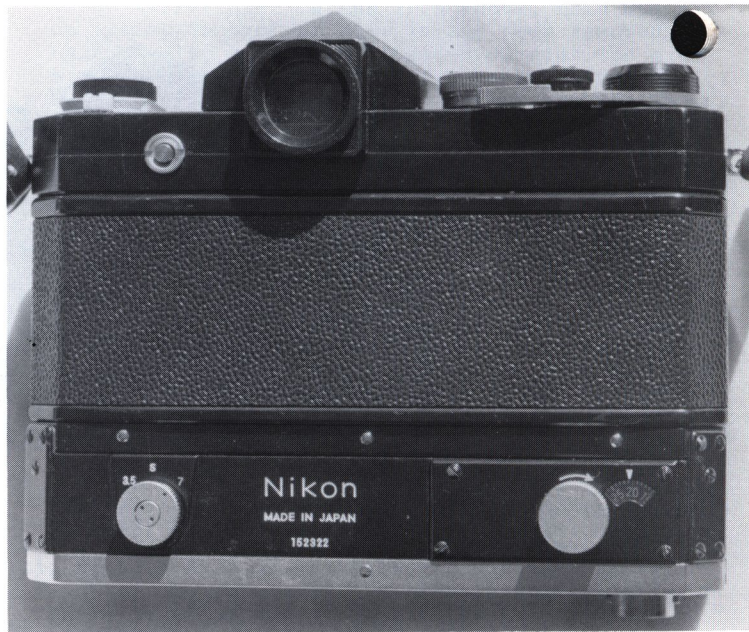
Front view of both the 9FPS motor (left) and the 7FPS version (right). Their overall appearance is quite similar but closer examination does point out some cosmetic differences. The 9FPS unit is a later vintage "Apollo" camera with a black plastic finished selftimer lever. Unique to this camera is a slightly enlarged depth of field

button, the plug near the top of the mini-grip and the lack of a mirror lock-up control. The 7FPS unit is older and has a chrome selftimer. What is very obvious is the enlarged mirror control dial that, on this unit, is useless for this is one of the modified 7FPS units that have had a pellicle mirror installed! Regent Myre.



Rear view showing details of the motor controls. Both units lack the rear release button found on regular motors. Note the much larger frame counter reset control on the 9FPS unit (left). Below a front view of both motors. The 9FPS unit has the serial number of the matching body stenciled near the pressure plate. Regent Myre.





This page show cases the 7FPS version of the High Speed Nikon F. The serial number of this motor is 152322, which is not a special number in any way. It appears that regular numbers were used for both the motors and bodies. Actually only the differences in the controls set these special cameras off from the regular item. In the center photo can be seen the motor controls. Note the frame rate selector on the left. The control itself is identical to regular motors but the engraved settings are only 3.5-S-7. The frame counter reset dial is different. Compare it to the regular type pictured to the left. It is more prominent and easier to grip. Also note the missing release button/S-L-C control! This motor could only be released from the mini-grip and the "single" setting was controlled by the frame rate selector.

Regent Myre.



And now the 9FPS model. From the front there is not a great deal of difference, but turn it around and take a look. This motor is later (#159172) but it is not a special number either. It also lacks the rear release button/S-L-C control as the 7FPS unit. It's frame rate selector is identical but the engraved markings are 4-S-9! Compare this with the photo on the right of a standard F36 motor. The frame counter reset dial is very different and is the most prominent feature of this motor. It is really huge compared to the 7FPS version. It is larger and much more pronounced and one can imagine that it was very usable even when wearing gloves!

Regent Myre.



The Case Of The _____

SPECIAL CASE!by **Robert J. Rotoloni**

Camera collecting can be a very serious hobby, especially when competition, and prices, escalate to the point where each addition can become a major decision. However, it still can be "fun", such as the search for the smaller and more esoteric aspects of the system. Finding some small or obscure item to fill out your collection can be as exciting and fulfilling as landing one of those biggies that everyone seems to be looking for. An even greater "high" is discovering some strange and offbeat item that you have never seen or heard of prior to your obtaining it. Such is the case with the item discussed in this article. After years of searching out, digesting and deciphering mounds of literature and information on the Nikon rangefinders, I felt that I at least had heard of, if not actually seen, everything they had produced for the rangefinder system. Obviously there are still small variations yet to be cataloged, or minor and insignificant versions of items yet to be noticed, for no one, including this author, could ever claim to know everything there is to know about this great system. However, I really thought that there was a good chance that no "major" or really noticeable item had eluded me (at least any item that had actually gone beyond the prototype stage). Well, I was wrong again! This Nikon collecting thing can still really be fun! After 22 years there are still things out there to be discovered and enjoyed! This article concerns itself with the latest "new discovery" (at least for me) to come along in quite awhile. See what you think!

On these pages can be seen various photos of a most unusual accessory that dates back to at least the Nikon S era (for it came with an S body although it could very well have been first made during the I or M era, since it will fit these cameras as well!). What it is is a clear plastic weather resistant oversized everready case for the early Nikons fitted with either the earlier collapsible lenses or the later rigid F2, F1.5 or F1.4 normals! It is designed to fit "over" the standard leather everready case, as it has the exact same contours, yet on a slightly larger scale. Since the camera by itself fits much too loosely, this case was meant to supplement, and not replace, the standard leather case.

Its shape and lines exactly follow those we are familiar with in the common brown leather case designed to hold a Nikon S with a rigid normal lens. What is different is that this case is one piece with no front flap that unsnaps and hangs below the camera body. It cannot be used conveniently as an everready case, since the camera must be removed through the bottom before it can be focused and fired! That's right, the bottom, for this case has a completely sealed top deck and the only way to insert or remove a body

is through a bottom mounted zippered opening that runs for a little over 50% of the circumference of this case. This opening runs from one strap eyelet to the other. It is zippered (and the same color as those found on the leather cases), but an opening has been left at each end to allow an outlet for the neckstrap of the leather case! Therefore, this clear case could be suspended from the users neck just like any other case. On the inside surface of the nose can be found, in the exact same type font as that on the leather case, the work "NIKON". It appears to have been painted or stenciled on, and in this example it has begun to flake off. This flaking has been accelerated by the rubbing action of the leather case in encloses.

The clear plastic (or is it vinyl?) has held up quite well as it is still very supple, with only the slightest yellowing. It has held its shape well and there are no signs of cracking and the zipper is still intact. The thoughtful design and quality work have helped this early example of plastic stand the test of time.

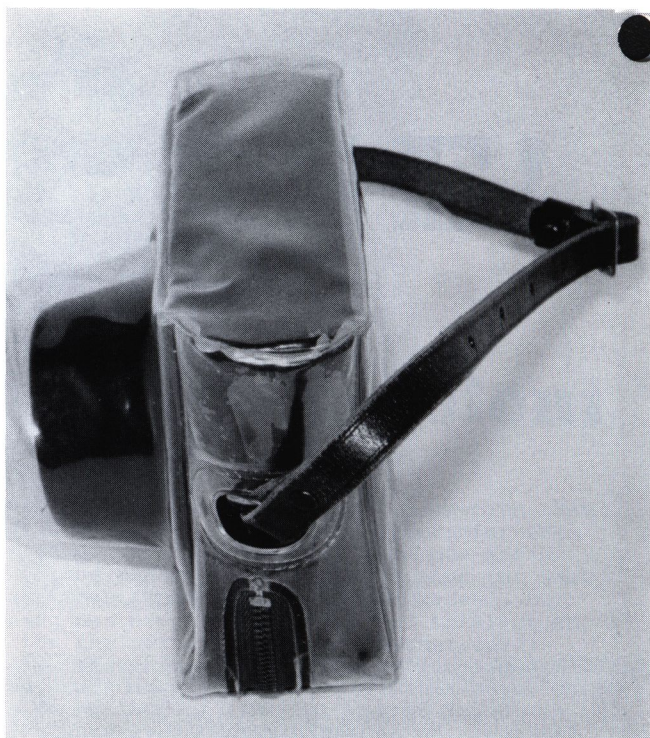
So just what was the purpose of this item, where was it sold, and why hasn't any mention of it been found in the literature? It is obviously designed to fit a Nikon S case and the same type of zipper and retaining material is present as is found on the genuine leather cases. In addition the Nikon logo is exact and correct! Did Nikon make it? Would an independent maker be allowed to stencil the name "Nikon" on it without permission from Nippon Kogaku? Was it ever listed in the literature, and when? Where was it sold and for what real purpose? For one thing it is not a waterproof case, but only a water resistant one. Suspended from the users neck it would effectively protect the camera and leather case from a drizzle, light rain or sea spray or from snow. But it would not help much in heavy moisture, because of the holes for the strap. Could it have been meant for protection in humid tropical locales? At this point in time I really cannot answer these questions. Maybe if we can find a listing in the literature we can determine its purpose, or at least what the designers meant it to be. If anyone has any knowledge of this item, either possessing one or some mention of it in the literature, please let me know. I would be curious to see if others were made, if it was meant for a particular market or the military, or if this is a prototype of an item that never made it into actual production. Any information would be welcome. In the meantime, finding such items can go a long way towards ensuring that Nikon collecting remain an enjoyable and "fun" thing to do, and helps offset some of those harsher realities of collecting in today's marketplace. Just keep looking!



When I was first told of this item the seller had a difficult time explaining to me over the phone just what he had. Having never seen one before nor knowing of any mention of it in the literature, I could not picture it in my mind. Not until I actually saw it did its full impact become apparent. If ever a picture was worth a thousand words, this is it. I hope these photos adequately convey that this is a high quality professionally made item. The workmanship is first class and all aspects of the design and execution appear to be on a commercial level as opposed to a one-off homemade piece. Note that the top area is seamless to prevent moisture penetration. No openings occur until you get to the level of the strap lugs, and then the remaining circumference is secured with a leather bound zipper. Note that the standard leather everready Nikon S case fits within this clear case. The camera by itself fits very loosely, leading one to believe that it was meant to fit over the leather case.

R. Rotoloni.



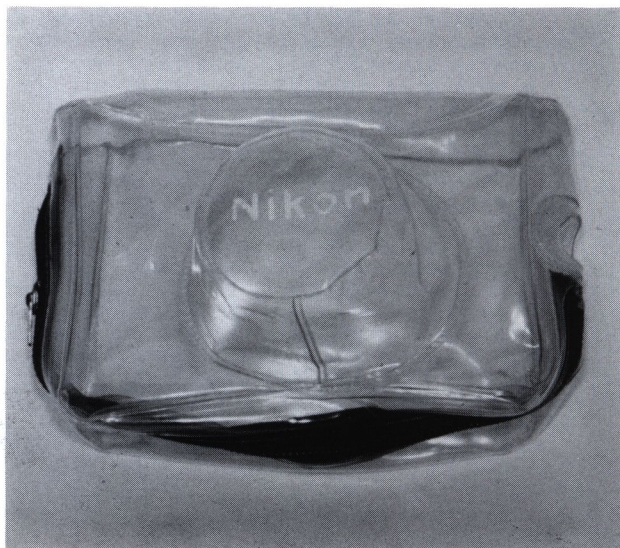


The arrangement for the case strap is illustrated in the above two photos. The wind-side strap exits through an opening formed by curtailing the travel of the zipper about one inch short of the actual length of its leather guide. The resultant opening is visible in the upper left photo. On the rewind side the opening is an actual hole in the vinyl independent of the zipper. The edge of this hole is rounded and reinforced to prevent tearing, and it is in perfect condition to this day. This opening is illustrated in the upper right photo.

R. Rotoloni

The lower photos show this clear vinyl case with and without an enclosed camera. Note that the empty case retains its shape. This item must date from at least 1954, or earlier, yet the condition is such that it is firm yet supple with no signs of cracking or peeling, and only the slightest yellow cast. Considering its age it is in very fine condition.

R. Rotoloni



Tales of Nippon Kogaku!

This space is usually reserved in each Journal for another installment of John Baird's "Tales of Nippon Kogaku". John is a historian and his series has dealt with all types of little known facts about the Japanese photographic industry. A decade of research has benefited John with a wealth of information that has never been available to the West, either in whole or in part. Naturally his Journal columns have been slanted towards our interest in Nippon Kogaku, but his research has been concerned with the entire picture as it relates to optics and the photographic industry. John and I have been to Japan twice where we made contact with many collectors who have proven to be excellent sources of information. In addition he has made contact with various companies and organizations in Japan who have provided him with more facts and information. Talking to John over the years one realizes that he has a tremendous amount of knowledge inside his head that is really astounding on this side of the Pacific. It was only a matter of time before he would put some of this knowledge to paper. That time is now.

Those of you who have seen my monograph on the early years of Nippon Kogaku published by John's "Historical Camera Publications" are aware that it is part of a series. Others have been on the Olympus Pen and Contax cameras, both by Peter Dechert of Canon fame. This series has been well received and distributed worldwide. The latest, and largest, entry in this series has arrived and it is the first by John himself. It is called simply "THE JAPANESE CAMERA", but what it is is the most comprehensive and detailed assemblage of facts, photos and information about the optical and photographic industry in Japan over the last 150 years to ever be published in the West!

Beginning with the introduction of photography to Japan by Dutch traders in the 1840s', it traces the development of the optical and camera industries up through the Allied Occupation over a century later. Within its covers we learn of the first importers of photographic supplies (Asanuma 1871 & Konica 1873), and the fact that they can be considered the "George Eastmans" of Japan, eventually becoming manufacturers as well as distributors. John traces the emergence of the camera industry and relates its development to world politics and economics, both of which had a great deal of influence on how the optical industry in Japan progressed. Hundreds of interrelated facts are presented in a way that helps those of us in the West to better understand why and how some of the greatest names in photography today came to be. He has filled his book (at 100 pages and perfect bound it is really more a book than simply a monograph) with stories and photos of many of the founding fathers of the Japanese industry. Not only is this the first time that we in the West have seen, or even heard, of some of these influential people, John has also acquired photos of pre-war factories and production scenes in addition to illustrations of many rare optics and cameras from the 1930s'. The war years and the Occupation are covered in great detail and are heavily illustrated. Many large illustrations of cameras and their makers never before seen in the West are included.

For those members who wish to obtain the most up to date and accurate history of the Japanese camera industry to ever be available in English, now is your chance. John has made them available to me for our Society members. Prices are \$23 postpaid by first class in the US and \$28 for overseas airmail.

LETTERS..

From Craig Swearingen...

I just received issue #29, and again it looks like some great articles. Also, I really got a kick out of the Nikon brochure reproduction. It turned out fantastic! I personally would love to see more of this type of offering and I'd be willing to pay for it. I don't think those more serious Nikon RF collectors would mind the reproductions as long as they could be readily distinguished from the originals, similar to what you did with your stamp marking on the back page.

From Dr. Mel Wilner...

I love the idea of the instruction copies and would be willing to pay for them. A fair price since the duplications are excellent. I think some notation that they are reproductions should be included. There is no doubt that some very entrepreneurial person would try to pass them off as originals.

From David Miller...

The reprint of the brochure is fantastic, especially as it is obvious that great pains were taken to make it a real facsimile. Congratulations and thank you. I would be quite happy to see more of these reprints appear, and quite happy to pay for them as well. The only problem for me, and all other foreign members, is that paying for a low cost item can cost as much as the item itself (it would take a trip to the bank and \$3 charges to send a \$3.50 money order). Therefore, a modest suggestion. See what the response to your trial is, and if positive, offer a subscription. I expect that most members would be willing to pay in advance for a set number of reproductions which could appear serially. I hope it works out.

BOOK REVIEW

Your Editor recently received a review copy of a new collector book published by Fotosaga in France. It is called "300 Leica Copies" and the authors are Patrice-Herve Pont and Jean-Loup Princelle. Although the products of Nippon Kogaku are only marginally showcased, many of the early Nikkors that came on the first Canons and the Niccas (and previously covered by Hayato Ueyama in the pages of this Journal) are illustrated. Since we are a "historical society" I feel that any new book dealing with photographic history should be of interest to most of you, therefore, this review. In addition, it is a very handsome and well done book, and worth your consideration.

Measuring 10x7, this 352 page hardcover book illustrates and discusses, in English, 300 cameras from 12 countries that were manufactured between 1932-84. The copies are divided into 5 categories including...Fakes; Exact copies; Loose copies; Some resemblance & Outer Limits. The photography is all first class, with well over 90% of the featured cameras actually illustrated, some with multiple photos.

Although the text has been translated from the original French, it is very readable with only slight syntax and spelling errors. Nowhere did I find a passage that was not understandable because of a poor translation. All in all this is a fine book that most any collector will benefit from by having on his shelf. It is currently available in the U.S. for \$80 postpaid from Centennial Photo Service, Route 3 Box 1125, Grantsburg, WI 54840, or directly from the publisher, Fotosaga, Flassy, 58420 Neuilly, France for \$90 postpaid, for those of you in other countries.

Robert J. Rotoloni

The 'New Nikon' Hits The Big Time!

Nippon Kogaku and its Nikon camera are such prominent names in the world of photography today that at least one, if not two, generations of avid users of the equipment assume that Nikon has been on top for decades. Few realize that before 1951 that world famous five letter word on the face of their favorite camera was barely known beyond the home islands of Japan. Western photographers did not become aware of the Nikon until the coming of the Korean War in mid-1950. However, word of this "new" Japanese camera (of course we all know it was really not that new!) did not reach the American public until the publication of the article reproduced on this page. Below is

a xerox copy of the actual column written by Mr. Jacob Deschin that appeared in the Sunday edition of the New York Times dated December 10, 1950! It was this article that started the ball rolling for Nikon in this country. It makes for some very interesting reading.

(I find it rather intriguing that I am writing this article on December 12th, almost exactly 40 years to the day after this article first appeared! Look what can happen in just four short decades.)

I would like to thank Dr. Mel Wilner for supplying me with this high quality reproduction of the original article.

JAPANESE CAMERA

35mm Nikon and Lenses Tested by Experts

By JACOB DESCHIN

THE first post-war Japanese camera to attract serious attention in America has created a sensation among magazine and press photographers following the report by Life photographers in Korea that a Japanese 35mm camera and its lenses had proved superior to the German cameras they had been using. The camera is the Nikon, in general appearance a facsimile of the Contax but combining important features of both the Contax and the Leica, plus some innovations. The lenses, which include a full range of focal lengths, are the Nikkor, to which American experts give a higher accuracy rating than the lenses available for the German miniatures.

On the strength of the enthusiasm expressed by its photographers in Korea, Life arranged for a thorough examination of the cameras and lenses by experts here, and after the equipment had been approved by them, proceeded to canvass the magazine's staff with the result that a considerable quantity will be ordered. Look Magazine photographers also are

buying some of the Japanese equipment.

The lenses include four 50mm units, f/1.4, f/1.5, f/2 and f/3.5; a 35mm f/3.5 wide-angle; 135mm f/3.5 and f/4 and 85mm f/2. Nikkors are furnished in Contax and Leica mounts and are internally coated on all surfaces. The front surface, which is hard glass, is not coated.

Lens Tests

Mitch Bogdanovitch, of Eastern Optical Company, the lens expert, put the Nikkors through a series of rigid tests and found that the average quality was much higher than that of the German lenses. "The lenses are highly accurate and efficient," he reports, "and by comparison with German lenses more uniform in quality." He praised especially the 50mm f/1.4 and the 135mm f/3.5 for their resolving power and minimum aberrational faults. Frank Scherschel, chief of Life's photographic laboratories, said the f/1.4 was sharper than the Sonnar f/1.5.

Martin Forscher, the expert who examined the camera carefully as to mechanism, quality of workmanship and appearance, described the Nikon as "a combination of what I feel are the better components of the Leica and the Contax." Among other details, the Nikon has the Contax's general appearance, combination range-

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1950.

finder and viewfinder and removable back, and the Leica's rubberized cloth focal-plane shutter.

Speeds are 1/500th to one second, with the slow-shutter dial on top of the camera. An innovation is a built-in synchronizer for flash and for strobe. Others include an extremely quiet shutter release and ability to focus the camera closer than with the Contax or Leica. Mr. Forscher praised the sample model he saw.

"In the past," he said, "Japanese cameras have looked nice on the outside but on examining the interior it was found they were crudely made and inefficient, reflecting a low standard of craftsmanship. The Nikons, however, are made to close tolerances of accuracy and are well finished. Of course, since the camera hasn't been around for very long and hasn't been used too much, it may be that faults will develop which are not now visible. However, this does not seem likely, as the Japanese apparently have approached the design problem intelligently and as a result have simplified the mechanism."

"There is no reason why the Japanese should not be able to keep on producing these lenses," Mr. Bogdanovitch said. "They have the tradition of skill which they can turn in any direction and are basically perfectionists. Their lenses have excellent color correction,

especially the 135mm f/3.5, and perform better at wide apertures than do Zeiss lenses. I saw these lenses about a year ago and said at that time that I thought they were as good or better than Zeiss lenses, but people thought I was crazy. The importer who showed them to me sent them back because there was too much sales resistance."

Photographers Interested

Arthur Rothstein, director of photography at Look Magazine, said that he had not yet used the camera himself but that judging from its appearance it seemed very efficient. Every one of his twelve photographers, he said, was interested in the camera and lenses.

Lenses and cameras will be available in limited quantities throughout the country about January, according to H. W. Liholm of the import firm, Overseas Finance and Trading Company, Inc., of San Francisco. Mr. Liholm said the camera and lenses would sell for about two-thirds the price of the German counterparts.

Spokesmen for Carl Zeiss, American distributor of Co cameras, and E. Leitz, Inc., importer of the Leica, said last week that they had not as yet had an opportunity to study and evaluate the Japanese cameras and lenses.

PLEASE NOTE

Member Earl Mann has an offer that many of you will find interesting. Quoting his letter... I am enclosing a Nikon SP tie tack. I cast this from sterling silver using the lost wax process. Each one is cast individually and finished by hand, which is very time consuming. I have casts for the Nikon S, S2, M, SP, F, F2, F3 and F4. I would like to make these available to members. Currently this is a spare time hobby of mine. I can offer these to our members for \$20.00 each plus \$2 shipping and handling. If people are interested please have them contact me. Delivery would be based on availability, but I would normally need a couple of weeks to produce them as the orders come in.

Mr. Mann's castings are very well done and make a unique addition to anyone's Nikon collection. It is high quality hand finished work and well worth the price. Each is approximately one inch in diameter. To order this item contact Mr. Mann directly. I hope that many of you will support this effort by one of our members.

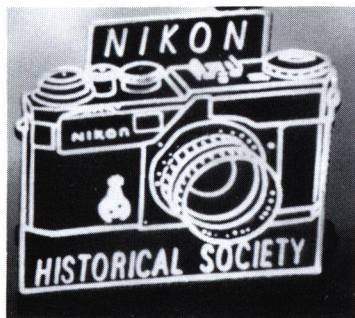
EARL MANN
698 N. ACACIA ST.
WOODLAKE, CA 93286

"NHS" PRODUCTS

This little corner of the Journal reserved for "NHS" Products has proven a success and continues to grow. Besides the previously available items listed below, 3 additional products are detailed in this issue. Two of them can be obtained directly from the Society, while the third is being offered by a member and is available from him. Profits from the sale of "NHS" Products are used to supplement the costs of producing the Journal and our Conventions. Thank you for your continued support.

TIECLASP/CUFF LINK SETS...\$15 US....\$18 OVERSEAS
NHS LAPEL PIN.....\$5 US.....\$6 OVERSEAS
NIKON SP REPAIR MANUAL....\$10 US....\$12 OVERSEAS
NIKON MONOGRAPH (SIGNED)..\$10 US....\$12 OVERSEAS
NHS T-SHIRTS (MED ONLY)...\$11 US....\$13 OVERSEAS

NIKON COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE (Oriental version with metal frame) Boxed.....\$155 US....\$175 OVERSEAS (This is a variant of the plaque shown in NHS-28. Although the castings for the various Nikons are the same, this version is called the "Legendary Nikons". The frame is entirely different and the item comes double boxed).

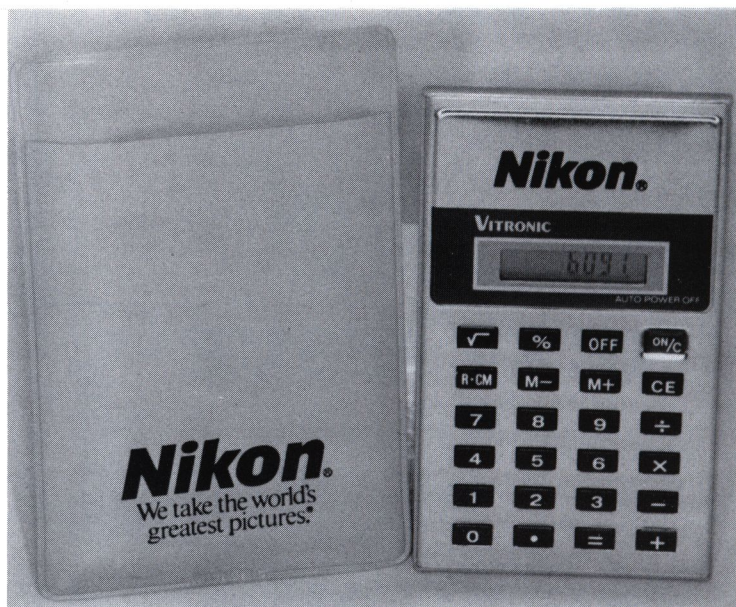


Due to the kindness of an NHS member (who wishes to remain anonymous), the Society has come into possession of a relatively large number of these genuine "NIKON" calculators. These were made for Nikon USA and our member was able to obtain a production overrun. He has donated them to the Society in an effort to help the general fund that supports the Journal. Each comes with a vinyl slip-case and battery (all that I have tested so far have working batteries), and they have an auto shut-off feature. For those of you who wish a genuine Nikon calculator they are available for \$5 in the US and \$6 overseas. These prices include postage!

HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE CAMERA MONOGRAPH COLLECTION

NIPPON KOGAKU
AND
THE NIKON CAMERA

- ROBERT -
ROTONI



CLASSIFIED

WANTED...Desperately seeking...viewfinder for the 2.1cm f4.0 Nikkor for the Nikon F reflex camera. Cosmetic condition immaterial, if complete. Allan Glenwright, 5 Rectory Rd., Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1XR, England. Tel..(4491)284-6717. Fax...(4491)284-6822.

WANTED...Clean Nikon rangefinder. I'll pay 25% more than McKeown's Price Guide. Write or phone. Peter Lownds, W. de Zwijgerstraat 24, Rotterdam 3043 VD, Holland. Tel...(010)415-9136.

LITERATURE-LITERATURE-LITERATURE-LITERATURE.... Serious collector seeking original literature from the Nikon RF and early "F" era. In particular, instruction book for the S4, S36 motordrive, reflex housing, copystands, microflex, flashes, general dealer brochures, new product announcements, and general advertising. Can either buy outright or trade. I currently have some IB duplicates (M, S, S2, SP, flashes). Mike H. Symons, 3844 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C. V8P-2S9, Canada Tel...(604) 477-1867.

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL!

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR LIST OF BLACK NIKON RANGEFINDER BODIES

6212200

NEW FAX LINE!

NEW FAX NUMBER...NEW FAX NUMBER.

For those of you who wish to contact me via a FAX machine, I have a new 24 hour Fax number. Please use this number for all future FAX transmissions. This line goes directly into my work place giving you a better chance of contacting me!

(708)-868-2352

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of The Nikon Journal will be March 1, 1991. For those of you with articles, ads, letters or photos for NHS-31 please get all contributions to me by that date. Thank you.

NEW MEMBERS

TONY BLAND
3 HURST CLOSE
VALLEY PARK, CHANDLERS FORD,
HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND SO5 3PA

OLE JACOB HVINDEN-HAUG
PHOS FOTO SKIPPERGT. A/S
SKIPPERGT 33
0154 OSLO 1, NORWAY

JIM JINNARD
10 HOLLAND
IRVINE, CA 92718

BRENT KELLY
3627 BROOKSTON DR.
HOLIDAY, FL 34691

DAVID LAWRENCE
JESSOPS CLASSIC CAMERAS
67 GREAT RUSSELL ST.
LONDON WC1, ENGLAND

DALE MAGGIO

STANLEY NOWAK
9393 N. 90TH. ST.
SUITE #102-254
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85258

ROGER SWAN
15 RUSTENBURG ROAD
MELVILLE 2092
JOHANNESBURG, SO. AFRICA

ROYCE SWANSON
635 SUNSET CIRCLE
GREEN BAY, WI 54301

ROD STINES
4601 N. GLENWOOD
MUNCIE, IN 47304

NEW ADDRESSES

MIKE MILLINGTON
15266A S.W. TEAL BLVD.
BEAVERTON, OR 97007

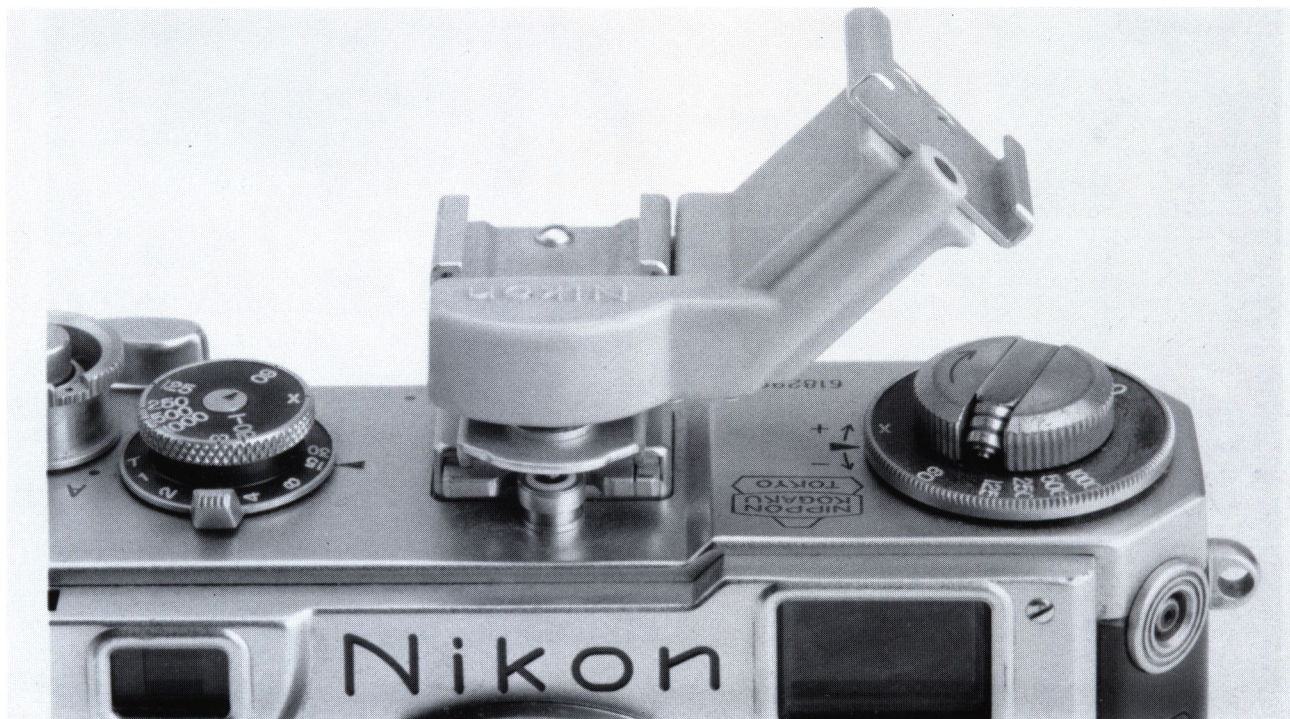
AL SATTERWHITE
P.O. BOX 398
CONCORD, VA 24538



odds 'n ends

THIS "ODDS N' ENDS" PAGE WILL BE RESERVED IN ALL FUTURE ISSUES OF "THE NIKON JOURNAL" AS A SHOWCASE FOR THE RARE, THE UNUSUAL & OFFBEAT, OR JUST THE OUT OF THE ORDINARY! IF YOU FEEL

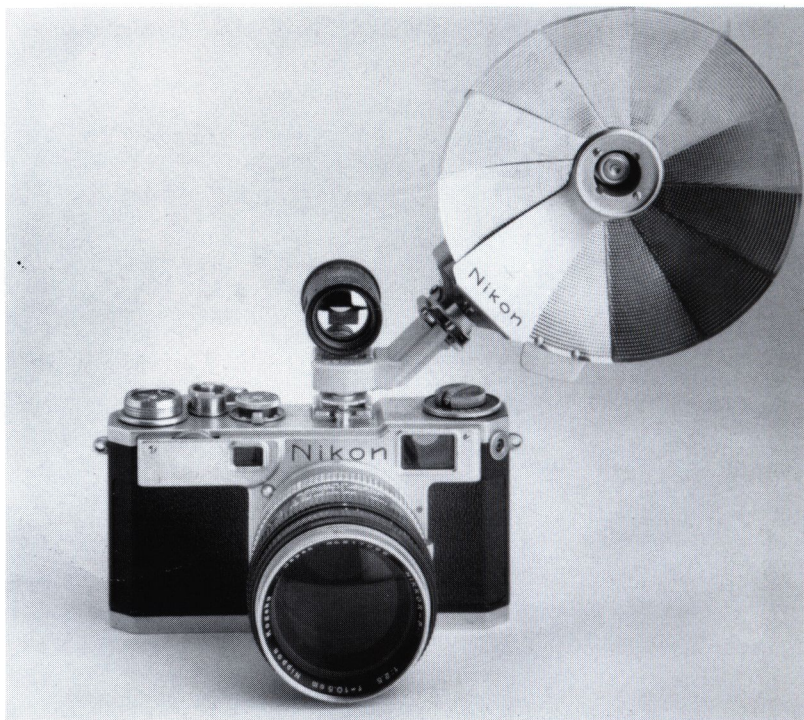
THAT YOU POSSESS AN ITEM THAT FULFILLS THESE CRITERIA, PLEASE SEND ME AT LEAST TWO OR MORE VARIED VIEWS OF YOUR ODDITY ALONG WITH ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST. THANKS!



OFFSET BRACKET

Almost from the beginning the Nikon system has had its share of unusual and offbeat accessories, a tradition that continues to this day. From about 1954 on into the early reflex years, they made a small plastic accessory for their folding fan type flash units called the "offset bracket", catalog #FLP360. Constructed from a grayish plastic and metal, it was really rather an ingenious item. By mounting the offset bracket in the camera accessory shoe, a flash unit, such as the BC4 & 5, could be mounted at 45 degrees on the upper extremity, yet another shoe was still available for an auxiliary finder. In addition, the "cordless" flash feature present from the S2 on was still operable, as the bracket made contact with the stud and had its own extension stud that mated with the flash! All very neat and well done and a real bargain at \$3.95! Of course in today's world bargains are few and far between, and these little pieces of plastic can fetch as much as a dozen times their original price. But finding one can be such fun!

(All photos by Thierry Ravassod)





NIKKOR-H 1:2.5 f=18 cm

NIKKOR-T 1:4.5 f=35 cm

Nikon

NIPPON KOGAKU CO. LTD. TOKYO, JAPAN

NH S
NIPPON
KOGAKU
TOKYO
Seasons
Greetings

SHUTTER SPEED RANGE (1/2000 to 1/30)

Shutter Speed (Approx.)	1	1/2	1/4	1/8	1/15	1/30	1/60	1/125	1/250	1/500	1/1000	1/2000
Aperture / sec.	1	2.8	4	5.6	8	11	16	22	32	45	64	90
Exposure / sec.	1/1000	1/2000	1/4000	1/8000	1/16000	1/32000	1/64000	1/128000	1/256000	1/512000	1/1024000	1/2048000
Shutter Release	1/1000	1/2000	1/4000	1/8000	1/16000	1/32000	1/64000	1/128000	1/256000	1/512000	1/1024000	1/2048000

(*) To be used at 9 volts

Nikon
JAPAN

Photo: Tony Hurst