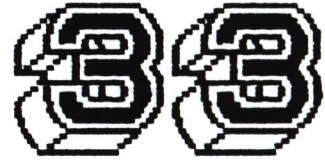


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SEPT. 30, 1991



'8th' ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!!
THE NIKON  JOURNAL



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PG. 8--THREE'S COMPANY..PART II
PG. 12--IS THIS NIKON'S FIRST FLASH??

ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

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EDITORIAL

This "8th Anniversary" issue of the Journal is getting to you just a little later than usual. I was right in the middle of putting #33 together when, on August 31st, I needed to make a slight detour to the local hospital. There on the 2nd of September they decided that my gall bladder and I should part company. After all these years the damn thing decided it wasn't on my side anymore and had become a liability. So this editor spent 8 days in the hospital and 2 weeks recuperating trying to navigate with a 10in gash in my side. Luckily I was able to seat myself in front of the old computer and, in between naps, put this issue together "almost" on time. Actually, I don't know what I would have done for two weeks if I hadn't had the Journal to keep me occupied. In a way it kept me from going crazy.

Another year has passed and, again, I can't believe it has gone by so quickly. We are now 8 years old and rapidly approaching a decade! Hopefully, we are aging gracefully and getting better as we get older. One thing for sure, we are growing at a steady rate with 235 active members as of this writing. Nikon collecting is at a fever pitch worldwide right now and probably the most vibrant part of the collecting scene. Equipment is changing hands at an ever increasing rate and, as to be expected, ever increasing prices as well! Overall this is a healthy situation in that higher prices tend to bring more equipment to the marketplace, which can increase interest and then draw more collectors into the Nikon fold. Some might say that certain prices have approached the realm of the ridiculous (knowing what they used to be I can't help but agree), yet I have noticed an ample number of newer collectors coming onto the scene, and the market for the more common items is still strong. In other words, a certain segment of the market may seem insane at times, yet new collectors are joining the ranks, which is healthy in the long run. Remember, we all had to start somewhere (do you recall when you found your first mint S2?), and a steady influx of new collectors can help us all keep a little better perspective on things. Many newer collectors have contacted me looking for the more common pieces and I have enjoyed helping them find their first S or S2. It is amazing how grateful they are for this small bit of help. Personally I think we all should try it sometime. When a newer collector or member of the Society contacts you looking for the less esoteric items don't let him down. A little help now can produce an avid life-long Nikon collector down the road. Try it, you might like it!

Now to NHS-33...A few months ago Mike Symons showed me a lens he had just acquired. Though nothing more than a chrome 50/f1.4 Nikkor, I told him it would make a perfect item for NHS-33, to say nothing of the fact that it is a unique piece and one of a kind. Mike was able to get photos and an article to me in time for #33. Turn to page 8 and take a look at #333333....something that only happened "once" during the RF era at Nippon Kogaku.

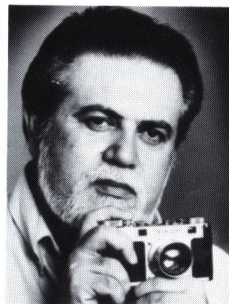
The F-Spot this time around is about the German "Nikkor-F". Previously we have shown this item in reprints of some German ads of the period but now a real live black Nikkor F is covered in detail. They make for an interesting variation and surely qualify as off-beat and unusual, which is exactly what the Journal thrives on.

One type of equipment that I have never covered in either my books, or the Journal, is the lowly flash unit. Because of a lack of space I completely left them out of the books, and as for the Journal, well they never seemed to be exciting enough to warrant time. However, the

very early BCB type units are actually quite interesting to say nothing of their elaborate construction. When you think of it many are as old as the Nikon MS bodies they were first made for. On page 12 Tony Hurst has sent in some fine photos of what just might be the very first Nikon flash unit!....But is it?.... Who knows?

The main feature this issue is a little different. It is not about a piece of equipment or literature and doesn't showcase any new discovery turned up in some remote part of the globe. It is the result of a trip I just made to Tokyo the end of June, a trip I didn't know I was going to make as late as May. With the help of Simon Nathan, worldwide known professional photographer and an early champion of the Nikon, I found myself at Nikon headquarters across the table from the man who had been chief designer for everything from the Nikon I to the F! His name is Masahiko Fuketa, and over two days I was able to tape nearly 6 hours of conversations with him as well as others, including the former president and current Chairman of the Board. On page 2 is the first installment of a series that will tell all of you a little about each man and what he was involved in, as well as the answers to some of the many questions I asked. I learned a great deal in just those few hours. However, all have agreed to answer even more questions in the future, which I will include as time passes. This heralds a new era for me in that this marks the first time I have been able to make contact with the right people within Nikon to learn the truth about their history. Thanks to Simon Nathan the "doors have opened"!

And now some news about NHS-Con3. Three of our members (Bill Adams, John Baird, Mike Symons) have volunteered to do much of the ground work for the our first Convention outside of Chicago. The previous two meetings were held here simply because it is where I live. With all the details that need to be addressed when putting on such an event, I needed to stay close to home so I could handle each item as it came up. I really did not have any help nor did I expect someone else to take on the burden of coordinating such an event. However, now that many of us have been together for 8 years we, as an organization, have reached the point where a Convention in a different part of the country is possible because of the active help of the members. Bill, John and Mike will do much of the work required that will allow us to have NHS-Con3 in Seattle, Washington, the weekend of June 13 & 14, 1992! Current plans call for the Radisson Hotel Seattle Airport for Saturday the 13th with a "NHS" sponsored show on Sunday the 14th. So....start making your plans now!!! Set aside the second weekend in June (usually nice in Seattle) and make plans to come to NHS-Con3!! In the next issue will be more info. Also please get your nomination forms to Calvin Ho so he can put the NHS-Awards together in time. Note his new address on page 19. See you in Seattle!!!



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Photo: Tony Hurst

"FUKETA TAPES"

PART I by Robert J. Rotoloni

On June 27, 1991 I was privileged to make personal contact with a group of gentlemen, and one man in particular, within the halls of Nikon headquarters in Tokyo! Amongst this select group are the men behind the creation of much of what we, as Nikon collectors, pursue today. The men who helped invent, design and engineer everything from the Nikon I (and before!) to the F3! But before I get down to details a little history of how it came about is in order.

Being born in 1948, the rangefinder era at Nippon Kogaku was just about over when I first became interested in photography in 1960, so the Nikon F was the camera that dreams were made of (at least for me). I dove into photography with a passion and began reading all that I could get my hands on. Naturally this included the standard monthlies such as Popular & Modern Photography as well as U.S. Camera and, later, Camera-35. All useful to me at the time and read with steady devotion. However, there was another source back in the 1960s that I and my peers consumed on a regular basis. It was a series of handbook-size (about 7x9) books produced by the Fawcett Publishing Co. Known affectionately as "the Fawcett Books", they are fond memories for myself and anyone else seriously involved with photography back then. The fact that they are frequently used for sale, and quickly sold, at various camera shows nearly 30 years later attests to both their popularity and usefulness. The major author of those Fawcett Books pertaining to photography, as well as being credited with over 60 covers for the overall series, was Simon Nathan. If my memory is correct he photographed and wrote at least 18 different Fawcett titles having to do with photography. In addition Simon Nathan was a champion of the Nikon system going back to 1953, making him one of the first major working pros in this country, if not the world, to embrace the Nikon camera! The extent of his involvement with Nippon Kogaku is such that it would fill many issues of this magazine, and will become more apparent as this story unfolds here and in future issues. Many articles in his Fawcett Books dealt with specific Nikon products or used Nikons to get the story. Since the series began in the 1950s, the rangefinder Nikons were often used and shown, much more so than in the big monthlies who were still enamored with anything made in Germany, a position they would ultimately have to reverse. If you wanted to read about the latest from Nikon, and how to use it to the utmost, or were interested in the factory and Dr. Nagoaka and glass pouring, and on and on, the Fawcett Books, and Simon Nathan, were your best source. Some of my first information about the Nikon system was the result of Simon Nathan's writings, which is why I always wished I could someday meet him. Well, that someday is now!

Thanks to the efforts of NHS member Dr. Mel Wilner, I was able to make contact with Simon Nathan a few years ago and began to correspond with him on a more or less regular basis. I felt that he was genuinely interested in our efforts to learn the facts behind the success of Nikon and to preserve this knowledge. I knew that Simon had been in personal contact with many of those who had much to do with the early days of Nikon in this country, as well as direct contact with the factory including Dr. Nagoaka himself! This led to many questions on my part and Simon would encourage me to ask even more, but not of just him. He began to give me the names and addresses of many key people in Japan, as well as those in the States who were part of the story going back to even before Joe Ehrenreich! One thing led to another until Simon made me an offer I couldn't refuse....let's go to Tokyo and talk to the right people, those who were involved with the design and development of the early Nikons. Not an easy task for a Westerner you would say, and rightly so as I have not been able to make contact within Nikon after nearly 12 years of trying. But for Simon Nathan...an early champion of the Nikon... personal friend of the designer of the Nikon I as well as the current Chairman of the Board...the man for whom Nikon themselves had used the term "Simon 'Nikon' Nathan" in some of their own ads.. it seemed to become reality with the utmost of ease! In no time at all, dates were chosen and tickets purchased and meeting times were set up and we were off to Tokyo..my 3rd trip but for Simon his 43rd!!

Due to some careful planning a meeting was arranged for Thursday June 27 with the key man we needed to see. We arrived at Nikon corporate headquarters in the Fuji Building at 10AM and found ourselves within the midst of their annual stockholders meeting! Despite the fact that this was such a busy day they had set aside a private room for us and also supplied us with a full-time interpreter for the day! We were ushered into the room where, after many years of wanting so much to meet him, I was introduced to Mr. Masahiko Fuketa! But who is Fuketa-san? For all of us worldwide who use and collect Nikon products, Masahiko Fuketa has played a large part in making so much of it possible, for it was Fuketa-san who was chief camera designer for everything from the Nikon I (yes the Nikon I!) through the Nikon F!!! (It has been said, but of course denied by Mr. Fuketa, which is his way, that the Nikon F was named in his honor. As I said Fuketa-san denies this but many sources concur that the "F" was not for "Flex" but "Fuketa", a man who is responsible for much of the success of the Nikon camera!) Most of what we collect today, including lenses and accessories, are the direct result of this man's life-long work at Nippon Kogaku!

All Photos by Simon Nathan

The gentleman on the right is Mr. Masahiko Fuketa the father of the Nikon I and all that followed throughout the rangefinder era, and even into the SLR age, as he was a key force behind the legendary Nikon F!! Below is Mr. Shigetada Fukuoka, former President and currently the Chairman of the Board of Nikon! Both of these gentlemen were friends of Simon Nathan while they were stationed in New York during the early 50s'. Between the two of them they have over 80 years with the company and have been both witnesses to, and part of, all that has happened at Nippon Kogaku since their fateful decision to enter the precision camera market in 1945! These and all other photos in this article were taken by Simon Nathan during the afternoon session on June 27th at Nikon headquarters, which, by the way, is within sight of the Imperial Palace (we could see into the Palace grounds from the window of this room!). Both gentlemen graciously allowed us to ask them many questions which they made every effort to answer. What is amazing is that we were asking them about things they had done 40 years before, yet their memory was flawless! Note that both are wearing our NHS lapel pin! I would see it once again on Fuketa-san at a second meeting, which will be covered in NHS-34.



Rotoloni..Fuketa-san, when did design work on the Nikon I actually begin, and was it really completed in September 1946? Also are we correct when we say that the "609" prefix stands for that date?

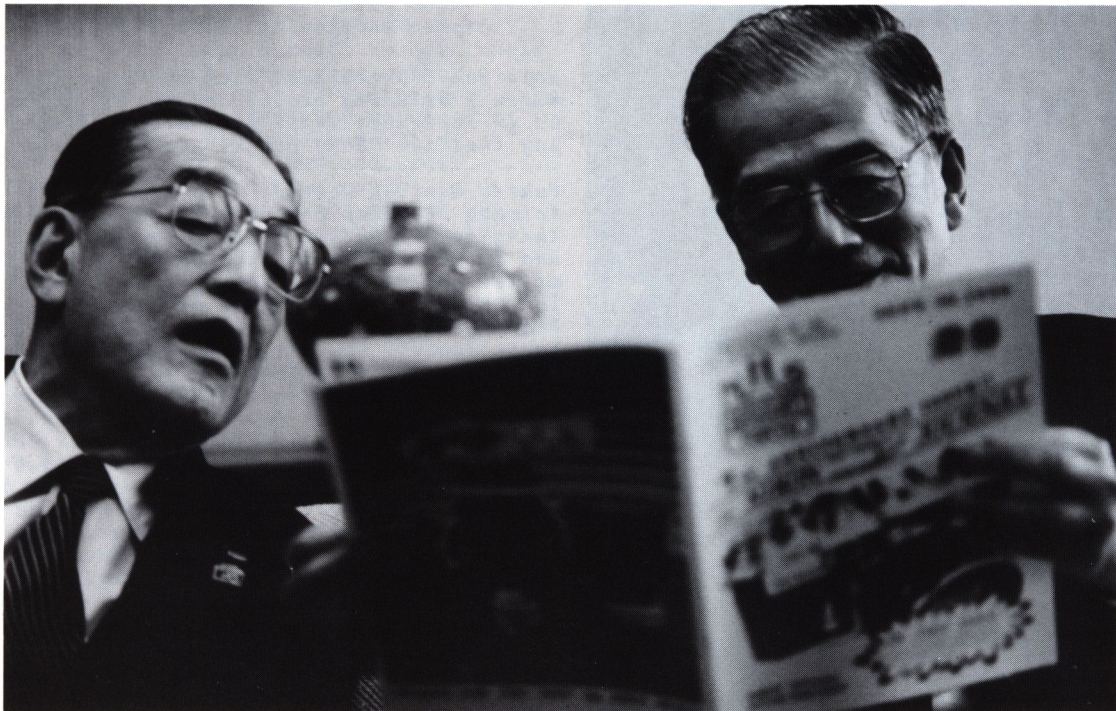
Fuketa-san..In October 1945 the company decided to make civilian products. Cameras were a new thing for us but we decided to make both a 35mm and a 120 TLR. I was the coordinator of the committee given the task of coming up with a design (he was also the youngest member of the group). Drawings were begun in April 1946 and were done by September. However, 1946 was the 2006th year in the Japanese calendar so we chose "609" to stand for the 9th month of that year. By chance it was also 1946 in the modern calendar so it worked out well. We decided to retain this prefix even though production did not begin for quite some time. The drawings that were ready in September were done very quickly and had to be modified many times as we began actually tooling up for the camera, but the basic design was present within these first drawings.



Fukuoka and Fuketa side-by-side. Can you imagine how many questions they possess the answers to? I had sent ahead some copies of the Journal. They had not seen them before and found our magazine to be very interesting.

Rotoloni..If the drawings for the Nikon I were finished by 9/46, why was there such a delay before actual production began (3/48)?

Fuketa-san..The first drawings were not the final ones as they had to be modified many times in order to meet N-K's quality standards. The lens mount was very difficult to make. We thought we were the same as Contax but after production of the Nikon I began we realized we were slightly different. At infinity they are the same but the travel was different. This, and other problems plus a strong desire for high quality caused the long delay.



Because of the many questions I had for him, and others, and the fact that our conversations led to many other revelations and stories, it would be impossible to cover all in just one issue of The Journal. What I envision is a series of articles dealing with the more important facts uncovered, and those that will follow, since many of those I met, especially Fuketa-san, have asked that I send them more questions in the future. I would hope that now a constant dialog has been developed between we here in the West and this group of knowledgeable men that will lead to even more information as time passes. In this issue I hope to give you an idea of what has occurred to this point, to introduce you to the main cast of characters, and give you background information on each. Hopefully, the immense importance of this new source of knowledge will be evident from this series, as a whole new era has opened up for all Nikon collectors. Remember, I had no internal assistance when doing my books, not to mention the Journal up to this point, so now I have an opportunity to verify, or correct, statements I have made in the past. Believe it or not, most of what I learned during this first interview does substantiate many points we have thought were true all along.

The morning session was 90 minutes long and followed by lunch across the street at the fine Mitsubishi Private Club (Nikon is a part of the Mitsubishi group.) Besides Fuketa-san, Nikon provided us with a fine interpreter, Mr. Ohki, who is the manager of the International Department, and who remained with us throughout the day. In addition, Mr. Akihiko Sato, was present when we arrived, and he also stayed with us the entire day. Mr. Sato is General Manager of the Planning department and was Fuketa-san's successor in the camera design department! As a matter of fact, it is Sato-san who was in charge of the design and development of the Nikon F2 and F3! So here in one room are the two key men involved with the design of everything from the Nikon I through the Nikon F3!

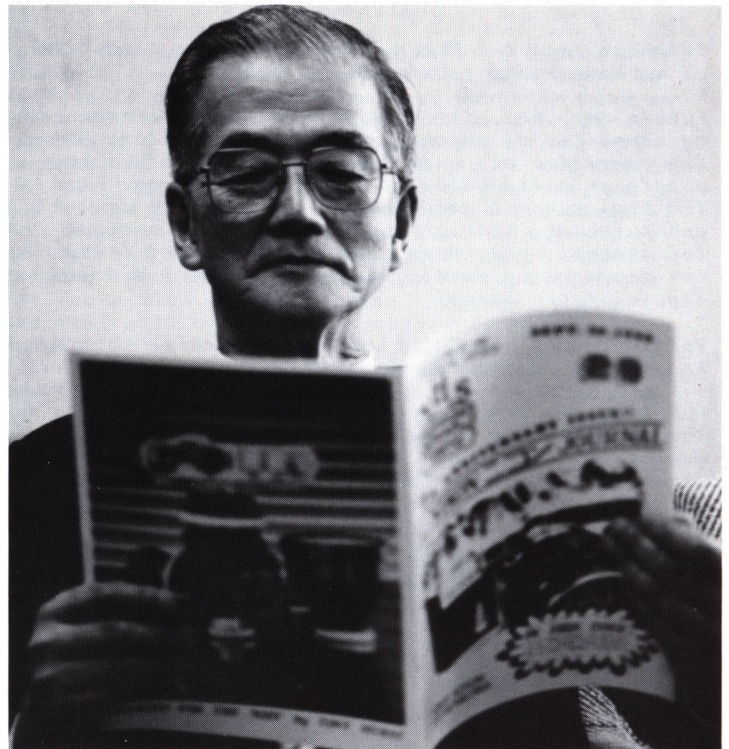
We spent the morning session getting to know each other. Fuketa-san had brought with him some items I had sent on before, including my books and some Journals, for his critique. Fuketa-san brought notes!...he had read the Journals and some of the book and had taken the time to make corrections and additions! I knew right then that I would learn much from this man.

After lunch we were in for a surprise. Not only were we ushered into a larger room, but we were then joined by two others. Another main character in this play is Mr. Shigetada Fukuoka; former President of N-K and now the Chairman of the Board...but also an old Simon Nathan friend from his days in New York in the 1950s' as a technician! Fukuoka-san had expressed regret that he could not meet with us because of the stockholders meeting, which of course he must attend. To our surprise in walked Fukuoka-san at about 2PM along with Mr. Shigeo Ono, currently the Managing Director of the company, but also the man who was in charge of the Nikon-16 project! More on that in a future issue!!

So for the majority of our nearly 3 hour afternoon session, we sat across the table from both Fuketa-san and Fukuoka-san, who sat side-by-side. This was appropriate, for in the past they had been part of a team where, for example, it was Fuketa's team who designed the 500mm/f5.0 Nikkor and Fukuoka's team who tested it. Likewise, it was Fukuoka-san who was given the task of designing the famous S36 Motor Drive, and Fuketa-san's team who brought it to reality! Two extremely important men in the history of Nikon!

To complete this installment I thought I'd reproduce a chronological table depicting the 42 year career of Masahiko Fuketa! That's right, he spent a total of 42 years with the company and is still listed as an Advisor. A real measure of his substantial influence even to this day is the fact that, on the day of the stockholders meeting he was accorded a private meeting room and an interpreter, for talks with this editor! Below is a record of his career at Nippon Kogaku.

- *****
- 1937-40..Shiba Factory..Design Engineer..Worked on design of spotting camera for the Army.
 - 1940-45..Kawasaki Factory..Chief Design Engineer. He was in charge of the program to design the "fire control" mechanisms for the guns & torpedos used by the Japanese Navy.
 - 1945...Moved to remaining Ohi Factory in Shinagawa Tokyo. Still Chief Design Engineer.
 - 1945...Start of 35mm & 6x6 camera designs!
 - 1946-47..Main item was the design of the Nikon I. Work done on many other items such as Xray camera, process lenses, prisms, projector, TV and C mount lenses.
 - 1948 (April)..Moved from design dept. to camera assembly shop. Now Production Manager and supervisor for camera production. (Nikon I begun March 1948!)
 - 1952..Returned to design dept. as the Manager and began work on the S2 as well as Cine lens & 8mm cameras.
 - 1957..Began work on both the Nikon SP and F plus the Nikon Motor Drive.
 - 1958..Began work on the S3 and S4.
 - 1960..Began work on SLR w/lens shutter, Photomic meter prisms, 8mm cameras w/zoom lenses.
 - 1962..Now General Mgr. of Design dept. Began work on SLR w/zoom lens built in.
 - 1963..Moved to Nihonbashi Factory as General Mgr. of Camera Design Group. Design of TTL meter prisms begun.
 - 1970..Moved to Marunouchi headquarters to become Executive Director of the Company.
 - 1974..Appointed Executive Vice President! Held position until retirement in 1979.





Rotoloni..One rumor that has been part of the Nikon story for years is that the first Nikon I cameras were shipped to Hong Kong. Is this true?

Fuketa-san..We made 21 prototypes numbered from 6091 thru 60921 and the first production camera was 60922. The first "50" Nikon I cameras to pass inspection were shipped as a lot to Hong Kong in October 1948! This does not mean that they were cameras 60922 thru 60972, since the numbers did not run in exact sequence and these were the first cameras to pass our inspections. Since some cameras probably did not pass there would be some gaps in this number range, but the first 50 were shipped to Hong Kong, this is true!

Rotoloni..If production began in March of 48' and this first lot was not shipped until October then it must have been difficult to produce cameras of sufficient quality.

Fuketa-san..Yes, quality was our main concern and in the beginning we had many problems, but we did not want to ship anything less than perfect, so the first shipments were delayed.

Rotoloni..Also monthly production figures for the Nikon I vary from as few as 2 to as many as 121. Why such variation in monthly production?

Fuketa-san..Sometimes materials were hard to find at the time they were needed. Also, production was linked to wages. If production was high one month then more wages were due and sometimes sales were slow so less would be made the next month until more sales occurred. It was a matter of cash-flow from one month to the next.

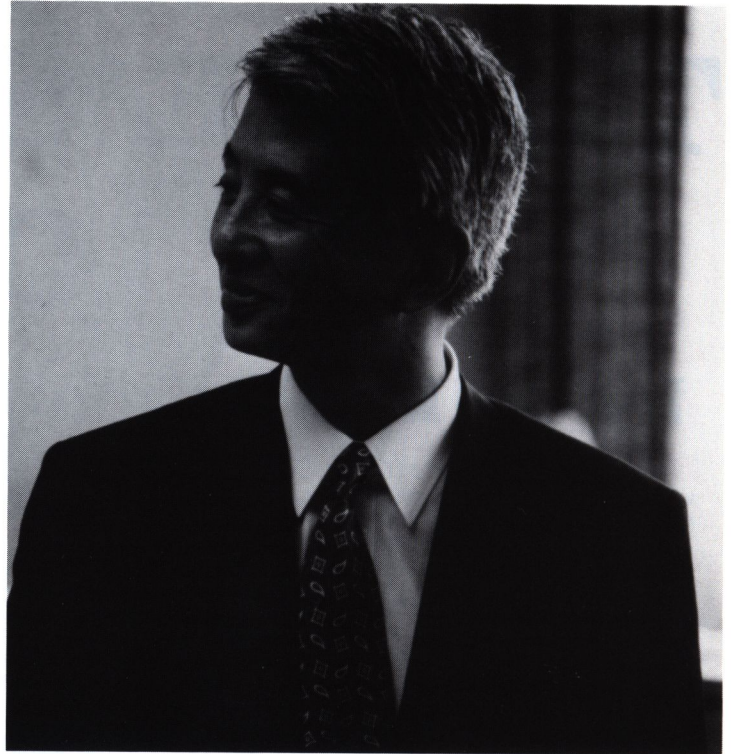
Rotoloni..Was the Nikon I designed by a committee as we have heard is normal in Japan?

Fuketa-san..Yes, the design specs were determined by committee of which I was the coordinator. But the committee was only 3-4 people, so only a few people actually built it from the drawings. From the beginning we used the policy of group design and thinking. Through noisy discussions amongst the members, new ideas came out. At first I made the drawings by myself, but later what I did was supervise the group.

Rotoloni..Why was the 24x32 format really chosen? And why was it really changed to 24x34?

Fuketa-san..Film was very expensive in Japan and the 24x32 format was useful because it gave us as much as 40 frames per roll, and it did make more sense when enlarged to 8x10. However, we had to use 7 perforations per frame while the Kodak standard was 8 perforations. In the beginning our biggest customers were the American troops. The trouble with the format size happened in the U.S. when Kodak went to process their film. So the first trouble was with the U.S. labs and because of this we hurried to change the format. All that had to be changed was the sprocket wheel and the focal plane frame size. Both very simple. This was what we called the Nikon M.





Above is Mr. Akihiko Sato, successor to Fuketa and chief designer for the Nikon F2 and F3. Below left is Mr. Shigeo Ono who headed the Nikon-16 project!

Rotoloni..Since only the sprocket and frame size had to be changed to make a Nikon M, is it true that those Nikon I bodies left in inventory were modified into Ms as we have thought? What was done and how many were modified?

 Fuketa-san..A large number of Nikon I bodies were still left when we must change the film size. We decided to modify these cameras. Maybe as many as 200 were left, I do not remember. We took those cameras and changed the sprocket and film plate on each. At this time we also engraved the letter "M" in front of the serial number. However, we did not do this to the top plates on the cameras! We also changed the camera back at this time, so we took new top plates from stock (which were already numbered), engraved the "M" and replaced the top plates on the cameras. We then mounted the new backs which were numbered to match the new top number. The old tops and backs were discarded. Because of this there are many missing numbers for the Nikon I, but I have no record of what numbers were lost. These cameras were then shipped and sold as Nikon M models.

More Questions In NHS-34

8

50mm\ f1.4 No. 333333!!

THREE'S

COMPANY

by Mike H. Symons

PART II

It just seemed fitting that, in conjunction with NHS-33, I have decided to lift the shroud of secrecy off this very significant, although seemingly pedestrian, chrome 50mm f/1.4 Nikkor lens. As can be seen, this chrome version normal lens is no different than the thousands of others chosen as the standard lens for most mid 1950s' Nikon model S and chrome dial S2 bodies.

Yes....quite normal until you look closely at the serial number....333333!!! (Fig.1) Is this a case of going triple sighted? No, I hardly think so...as this engraving is the real thing. In February of this year a letter appeared at my office, which was a very strange place for such material to arrive. Inside was a request to sell me this lens.. "would I be interested? If so, please contact the writer." Well..naturally I HAD to have this piece! Then began the research...as I had a strange feeling that this lens with it's unusual serial number might be unique in the history of Nikon RF lenses, and perhaps all products manufactured by Nippon Kogaku during the rangefinder era.

My first source was the superb paper prepared and presented by member Joseph Higham at NHS-Conl in Chicago on March 26, 1988. This document, entitled "NIKKOR SERIAL NUMBERS", explains the highly complicated methodology used by Nippon Kogaku to number their products. As you all know, early attempts were made to identify products by date of development and/or production..e.g."609" on their early bodies signifying September 1946, etc. Similar methods were used in numbering their lenses, with examples such as "5005" (May 1950) chosen for the earliest batch of the now famous 50mm f/1.4 Nikkor-S. This practice seemed the "norm" during the MIOJ period, but was discarded in favor of more conventional serial numbering systems, as the old method led to problems of excessively long serial number blocks which, in many cases, didn't fit within the confines of a lens ring or top plate! Examples of reality catching up with a bad idea is the now famous "8-Digit" Nikon S. The "609" prefix was running out of control with more and more digits being added to it as the Nikon "fever" began to catch on. Thus the progression to the 610, 611 & 612 number blocks.

Anyway, back to the lens in question...the Nikkor 50mm/f1.4 #333333 shown in this article. According to Joseph Higham's paper, no other lens produced over the course of the RF era duplicated this "repeat digit" occurrence. For the most part Nippon Kogaku followed numbering conventions but left "unused" blocks such as 22xxxx, 55xxxx, 66xxxx, 77xxxx, 88xxxx, and 99xxxx.

Starting from the front end, the article points out that for the 1lxxxx series the famous 1000mm/f6.3 Reflex Nikkor began its numbering with 1063xx, with only a few being produced. Nippon Kogaku then jumped up to a 1l9xxx series, which was used for their radical 50mm/f1.1 Nikkor internal mount.

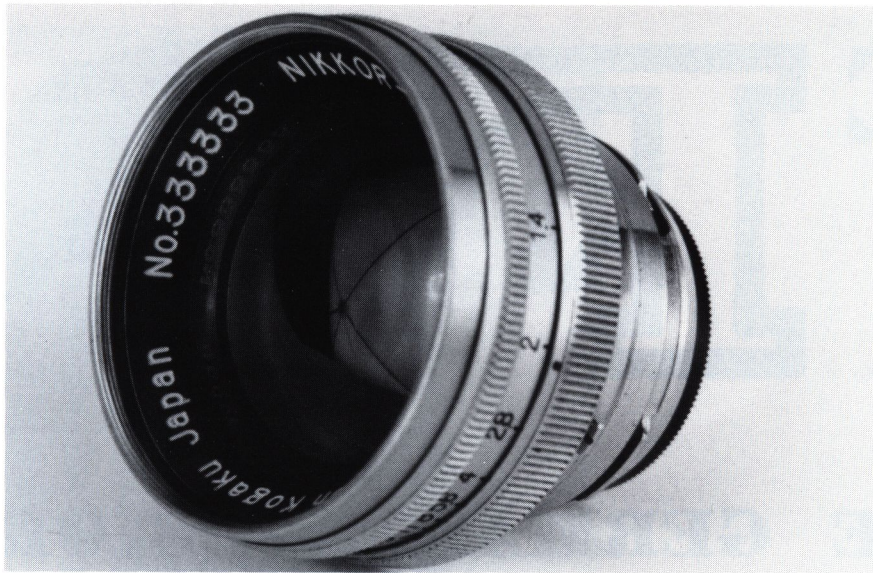
Moving up to the "4" series, the 35mm/f3.5 W-Nikkor began its black new style design in July 1956 at approximately 4403xx, but never quite reaching the magical "444444" serial number, missing it by a mere 1,000 units!

A further phone call to Robert Rotoloni confirmed the above, in addition to the following trivia...Nippon Kogaku in their total production during the rangefinder era (1948-64), never produced another example of repetitious digit numbering, not with bodies, lenses or accessories such as reflex housings, bellows, motors, meters, etc.

What you are looking at here is a one of a kind item for the Nikon collector, in its own way just as unique as the prototype 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor, the 250 exposure motor and the periscope device. This naturally is spoken "tongue in cheek", but for those interested in the "numbers game", here is the ultimate piece! It is also safe to assume that unusually numbered items such as this lens would have been quickly pulled off the assembly line at the Leitz, Wetzlar factory, and at the Carl Zeiss works, never to be put into general production, except perhaps on a camera to be presented to a special dignitary...or placed on a shelf in their optical museums. Nippon Kogaku of the 1950s' didn't seem concerned with this type of trivia, merely producing quality optical products for sale on the world wide market!

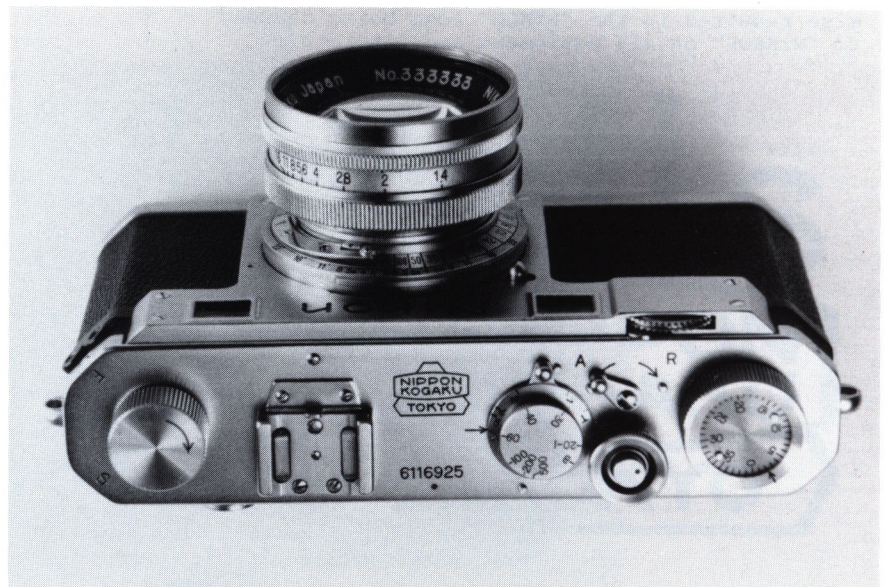
Figures 2 & 3 show the lens mounted on the closest "S" body in my collection matching the mid 1953 date of the lens. This "S" body, number 6116925, is probably about 1,000 units too high. Details on body-lens matching was taken from the research project "The Original Lens Factor", Part 2, by member William Fraker, which appeared in NHS-19 in March 1988. This excellent two part series attempts to match bodies with original normal lenses as they came off the assembly line. Most of Bill's success came from actual matched pairs with guarantee cards or numbers on the box to signify body/lens combinations.

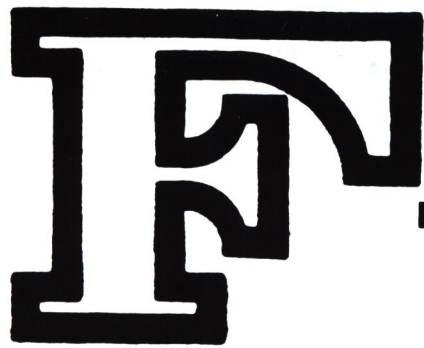
While not really a strong advocate of the numbers game at my stage of collecting, this was one item I could not refuse!



As far as I can tell this is the only time during the rangefinder era that a repetitive number such as this could have occurred. Not only for lenses but also accessories and the bodies. This is also the only time it could happen with the 50mm/f1.4 Nikkor, so it is a truly unique occurrence.

**Photos
by Rick
Nordin**





THE GERMAN NIKKOR-F!

Many of you will remember the short article in NHS-23 (March 1989) by member Ralf Jannke entitled "The German Nikkor F!" whereby we reproduced two Nippon Kogaku ads from German photo magazines from the early 1960s. Those ads clearly show Nikon F and Photomic F cameras labeled as "NIKKOR" and not the familiar "NIKON"! I had been aware of these unusual reflex Nikons for many years, and had even seen (and foolishly passed up) a Photomic F body so engraved years before at a small camera show! I also vaguely remember reading an article in the literature in the '60s concerning the reason for their existence. If my memory serves me correctly these specially marked Nikons came about as the result of a legal battle between Nippon Kogaku and Zeiss Ikon. It appears that Zeiss felt that the word "NIKON" was too similar to their "IKON" and could cause consumer "confusion", if not out-right infringement on their trademark. Nippon Kogaku countered with the fact that the word "NIKON" had been derived from the words "NippON KogaKu" and was a natural progression of their earlier trademark "NIKKO", which dated back to before WWII. However, for a while the German courts agreed with Zeiss that the names were too similar. A temporary compromise resulted in the "NIKON" logo being changed to "NIKKOR" on all equipment and literature

distributed in West Germany. After the case was finally settled (presumably in Nippon Kogaku's favor) the "NIKKOR" marquee was changed back to "NIKON" and faded into history, nearly forgotten if not for the seemingly boundless memory of that strange creature, the camera collector. Yes, even this small, and for the most part trivial, bit of Nikon lore has survived the passage of time to be show-cased here in The Nikon Journal. Although no different mechanically from the standard issue "F"s of the day, the "NIKKOR" variant is at the least, interesting, if not unusual and off-beat, which makes it a perfect candidate for inclusion within our Journal.

Since Ralf Jannke's article I have had the opportunity to photograph a genuine Nikkor F (and a black one at that) for The Journal. It is the straight prism F, but refer to issue #23 for a view of the Photomic F version. Naturally four Nikkor F versions should exist: straight prism chrome and black; Photomic F prism chrome and black. In addition, the F36 motor drive and its cordless battery pack both exist with "NIKKOR" markings, but I have not yet verified if any F250 Nikkor motors are known, though they probably do exist.

The "Nikkor F" is an unusual and interesting variant whose very existence adds to the fun of collecting Nikons. Happy hunting!!





This is Nikkor F #6856821, part of the batch of Nikon F bodies that were sold in Germany under this name for legal reasons. Note that both the front name-plate and the top-plate have been changed, so the word "Nikon" does not appear anywhere on the outside of this camera. Even those that came with Photomic finders sported the Nikkor name. What I found interesting is that they even went as far as removing the Nikon name internally! Note that the inside of the prism housing, which is not visible when mounted, has had the Nikon name changed to Nikkor! In addition there exist some F36 motors marked Nikkor and I would imagine that F250 versions are out there as well! Something to look for!



NHS
NIPPON
KOGAKU
TOKYO

Is This Nikon's FIRST FLASH?

by **TONY HURST**

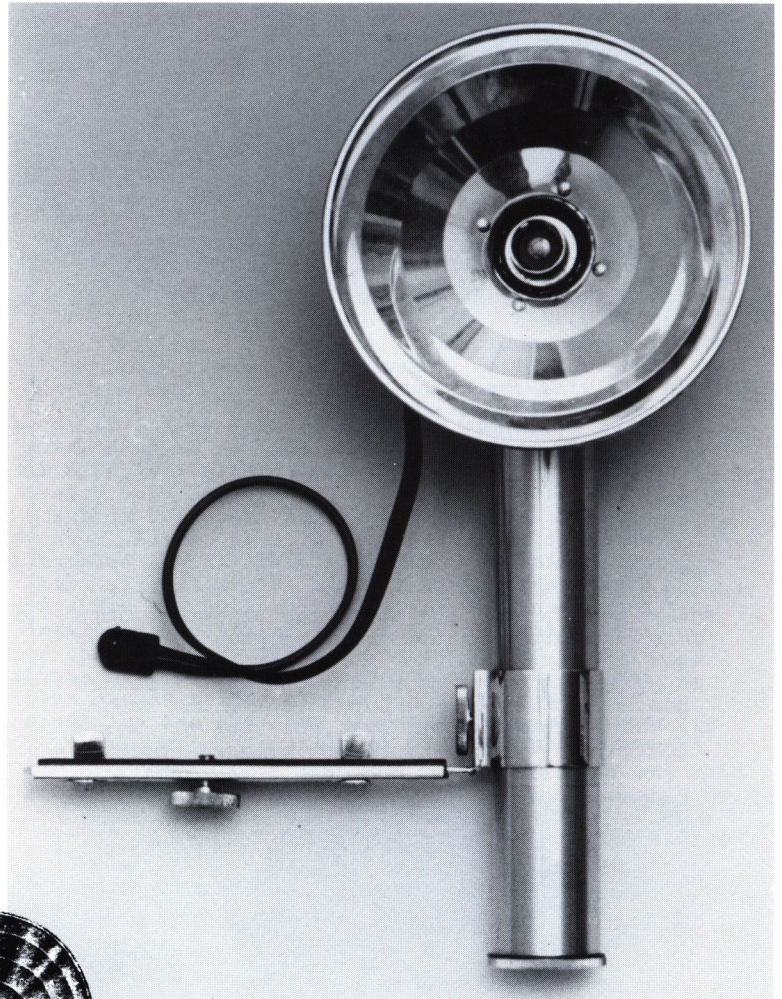
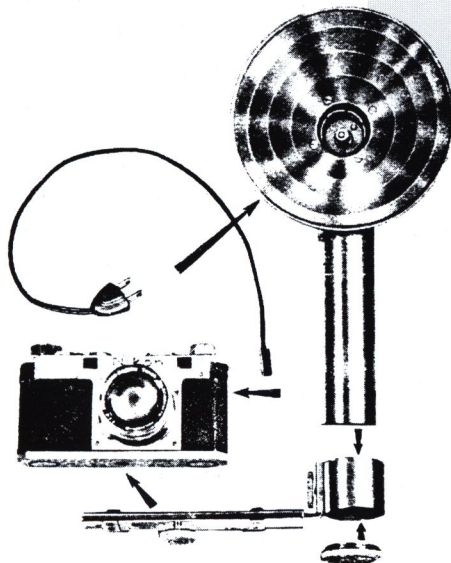
Recently Tony Hurst called to inform me that he was sending some photos of what he felt was a very early example of the BCB flash made for the synchronized Nikon M (or more correctly, "MS"). Since the early BCB units are not that difficult to find, I wondered out loud why he felt that this particular unit would be interesting. He then proceeded to tell me that its shape was a little different, plus there was one other aspect that was unusual (more on that later), and wait till I saw the photos! Well they did arrive and, yes, the bullet shaped flash head was different, but I knew I had seen something like it. Going through my literature I finally found what I was looking for. Along with an early boxed Nikon MS bought over a year ago came all of its original papers including a loose insert page for the manual describing the new Nikon flash gun and how to use it. It didn't really say anything new, except that the unit pictured also had that bullet shaped flash head! I knew I had seen it before! I have reproduced the insert sheet and note that it shows "exactly" the same unit that Tony owns, right down to the 4 rivets inside the flash bowl, the bracket, tube end-cap, bullet shape and even the two buttons labeled "A & B"!! Even the flash cord is identical. Also of note is the fact that the word "Nikon" does not appear on the grip or bracket either in these photos or in the insert.

After careful examination of this material it is obvious that the unit used by Nippon Kogaku to illustrate this insert (which must have been meant for those manuals printed before the MS was released but were shipped with the first MS bodies!), and Tony's piece are of one and the same origin and vintage!! But.....turn the page!!

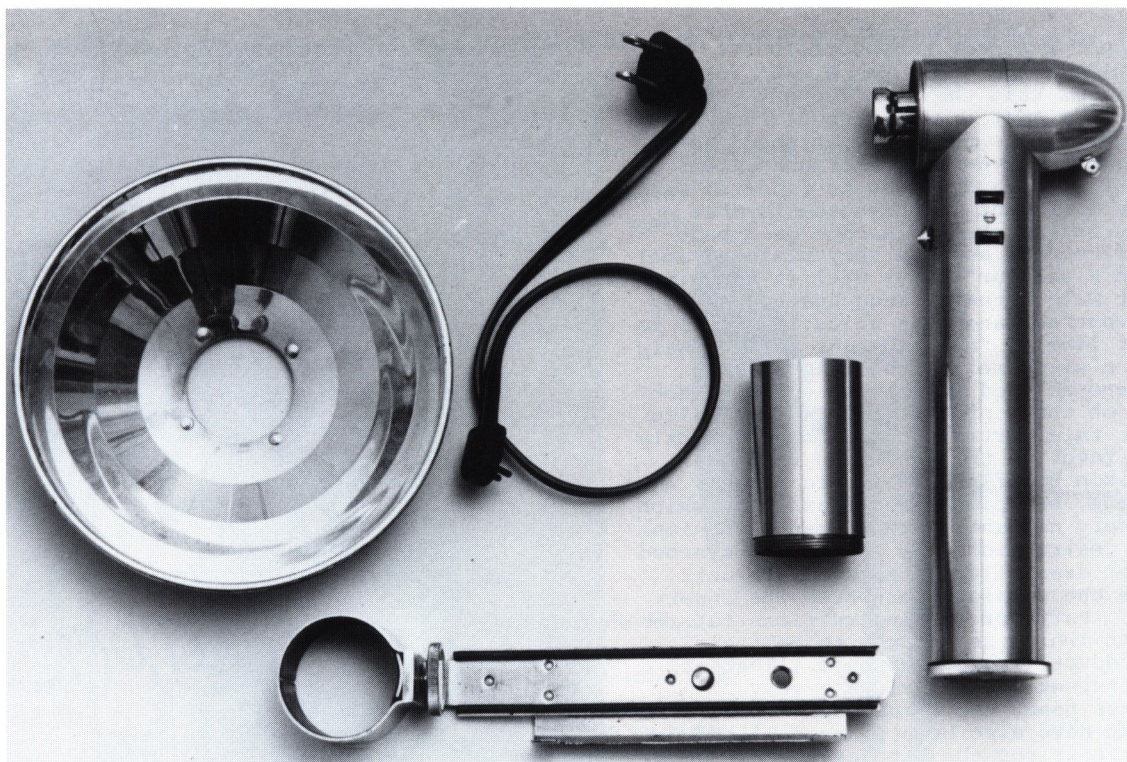
Push the smaller plugs on the connecting cord into sockets marked "S" on the camera, when slow shutter is used.

For both fast and slow shutter speeds, thrust the larger plugs on the connecting cord into yellow sockets found on the rear side of the flash gun. The gun is provided with 2 extra pairs of green socket holes on the sides, which are used with extension cords for additional lamps.

When a peanut-shaped midget bulb with a swan base is used, an attachment piece must be added to the lamp socket of the gun.



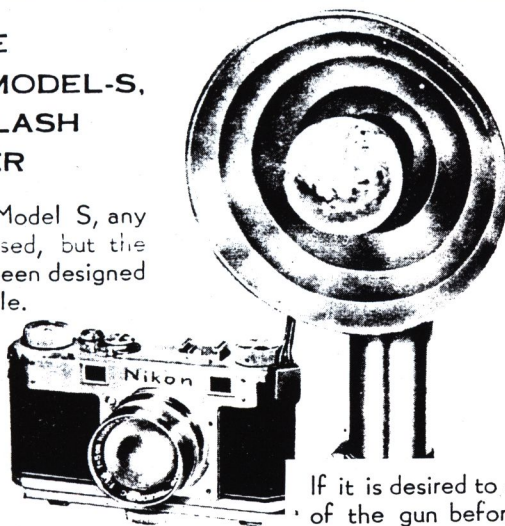
Above is a frontal view of Tony's flash unit that matches the illustration found in the earliest supplement to the camera manual, shown at the left. Note that they are identical right down to the four rivets near the center of the bowl. Sure looks like the same flash, doesn't it?



HOW TO USE THE Nikon CAMERA, MODEL S, WITH BUILT-IN FLASH SYNCHRONIZER

With the Nikon Camera, Model S, any marketed flash gun may be used, but the Nikon Flash Gun has specially been designed and therefore is more preferable.

1. The Nikon flash gun can be fixed to the camera with the ever-ready carrying case attached.
2. Push the smaller plugs on the connecting cord into sockets marked "F" on the camera, when fast shutter is used.



Here are 2 more pages from the same early supplement along with Tony's shot of his unit disassembled. Note the "bullet head" configuration, the A & B buttons, and the identical mating of the flash head to the vertical handle. From this series of photos they are the same unit! But there is one interesting aspect to Tony's flash. Turn the page and take a look!

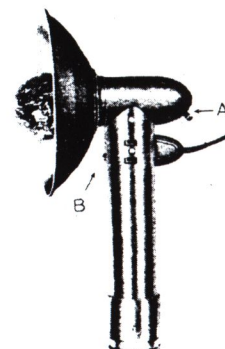
If it is desired to ascertain the satisfactory working of the gun beforehand, a test bulb supplied with the gun may be used.

For fast shutter speed, a flash bulb for focal plane shutter (say GN No. 6 or similar), and for slow shutter speed, an open flash bulb (say: GE No. 11 or similar) must be used.

The flash lamp is automatically lighted with the release of the shutter button, which must not be touched until all is ready.

When the flash gun lever (A in Fig.) is pressed down, the used bulb will automatically be released and drop off.

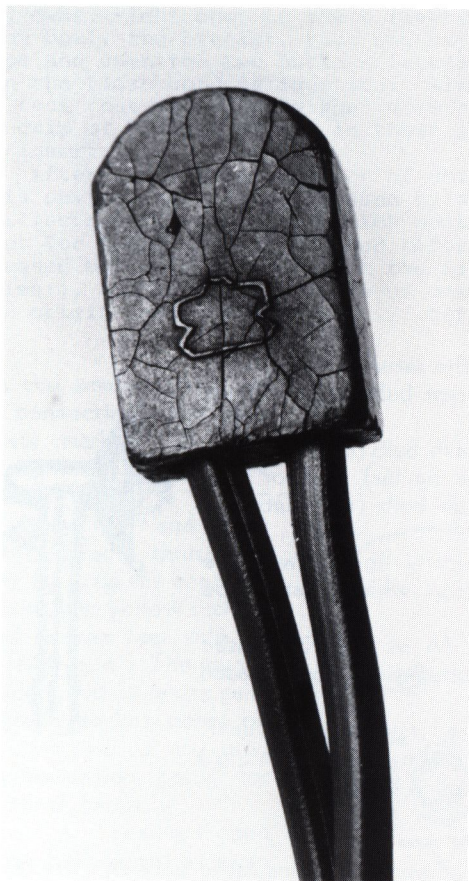
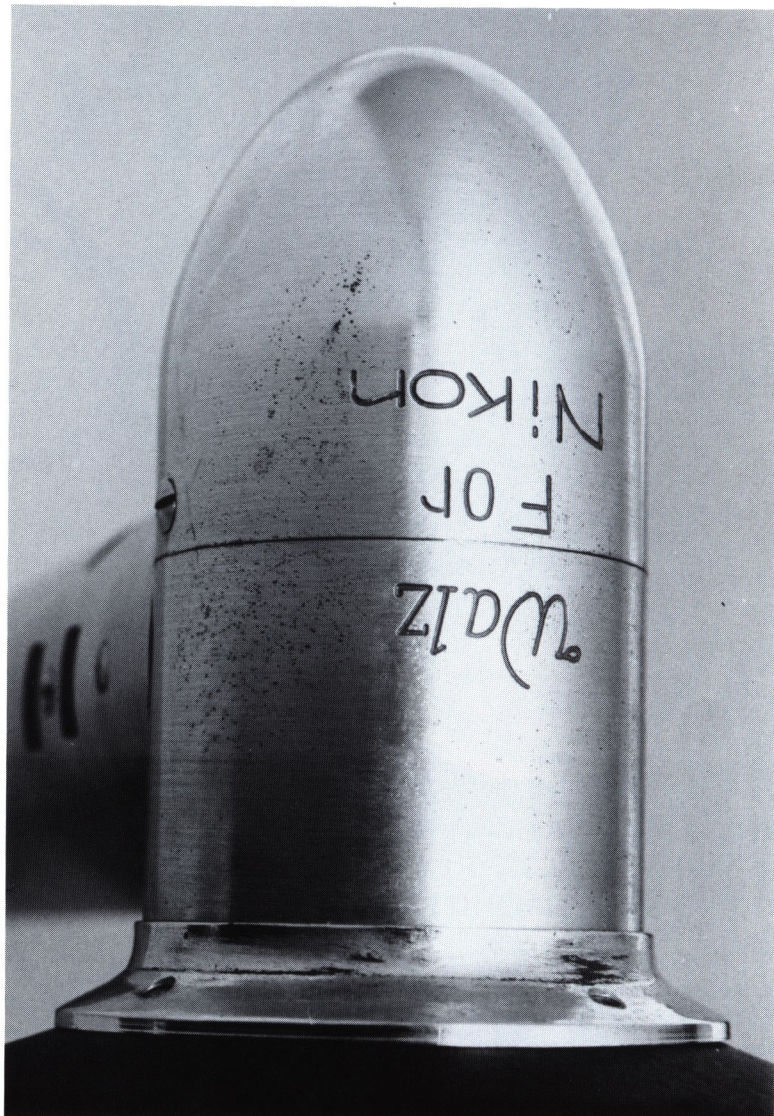
The flash gun may be operated independently, apart from the camera, by pushing the button (B in Fig.) on the front side of the gun.



Important :

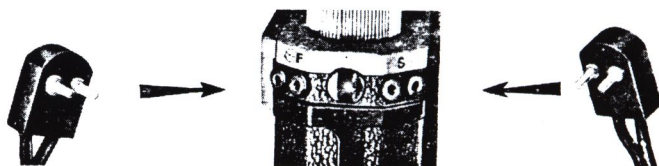
Marketed flash guns are sometimes not insulated between the gun and the holder. It is important that the insulation be inserted, if it is absent. For a shutter speed of 1/500 of a second or when more than two

This is NOT a Nippon Kogaku product!! This unit is plainly marked "Walz for Nikon" and is one of many items that the Walz company produced in the early 50's that are so marked. They made many small accessories that were intended as inexpensive alternatives to the branded items, ranging from filters and shades to finders. What appears to be different in this case is that Nippon Kogaku has apparently used a Walz made product to illustrate an item they plainly label as "the Nikon Flash Gun". Why? Well it is quite possible that Walz actually made these guns for Nikon under contract and that units identical to this one, but labeled "Nikon" might exist. (Walz may have had a close relationship with Nikon since they were allowed to use the words "Nikon" and "Nikkor" on their product line.) It is also possible that this particular design was quickly discarded in favor of the one known to have become the Nikon BCB flash, which is in many ways quite different, especially the flash head which had a completely new shape. The first 3 versions of the Nikon instruction book which show synched cameras do not even illustrate the flash unit (these may be the versions for which the insert was intended). Parts of the instructions for the Nikon BCB unit (which is thought to be their first such product) reproduced here illustrate a decidedly different unit. Besides a very different flash head, the camera bracket and mounting clamp have also been changed. Although this later unit is not the same as the one shown in the insert, could Walz have still been the actual maker? If they did make the earlier type, why not this one?



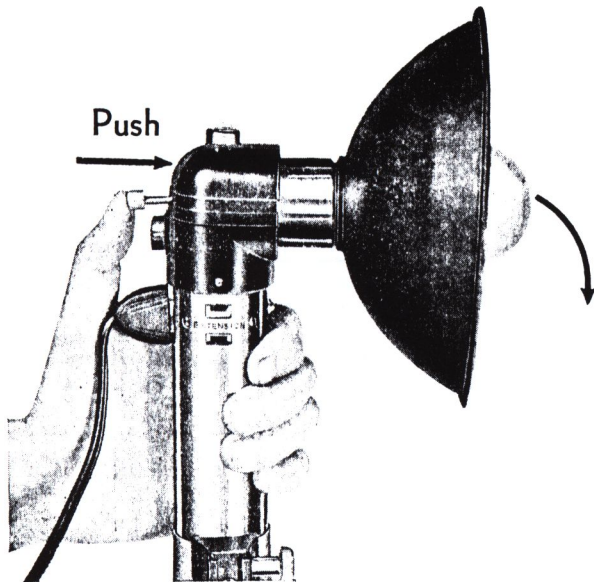
- flash bulbs are consumed on the circuit, increase the battery voltage to not less than 4.5 volts.
- For shutter speeds of 1/20—1 sec, a strobo flash may alternatively be used with the smaller cord plugs in sockets "S" on the camera. It is essential to see that the synchro-time adjuster be correctly set prior to use of the strobo apparatus.

Shutter speed	Fast 1/20-1/500	Slow 1-1/8
Sockets on the camera to be used	"F"	"S"
Flash bulb to be used	Focal plane shutter bulb (GE No. 6 or similar)	Open flash bulb (GE No. 11 or similar)



NIPPON KOGAKU:K. K.
(JAPAN OPTICAL CO., LTD.)
SHINAGAWA, TOKYO

EJECTING used bulbs



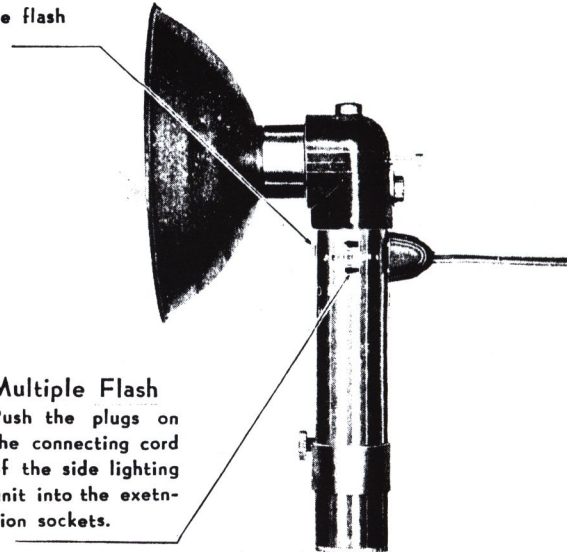
INDEPENDENT UNSYNCHRONIZING FLASH AND MULTIPLE FLASH

Independent unsynchronizing Flash

Press the trigger
down to shoot
the flash

Multiple Flash

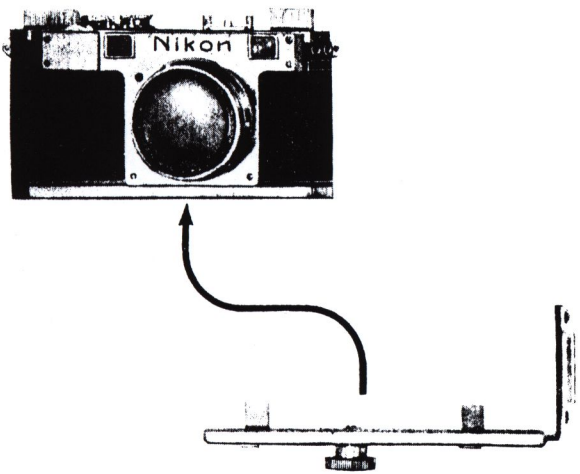
Push the plugs on
the connecting cord
of the side lighting
unit into the exten-
sion sockets.



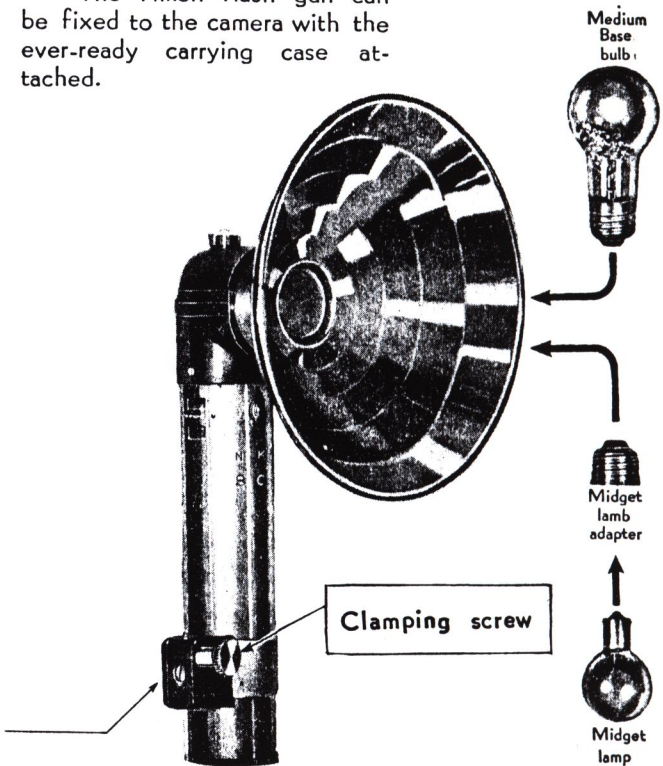
On this page are two pages from the first "bound" instructions for the Nikon BCB flash unit. This is not a supplement page like those on the previous pages, but from either a later camera manual or the manual specific to the flash. Note the obvious differences in the flash-head, the controls and the method of attaching the camera bracket to the vertical handle. The black piece with the bulb ejector is plastic on all the units I have seen, except for Tony's bullet-head flash. (All photos by Tony Hurst.)

MOUNTING

The Nikon flash gun can be fixed to the camera with the ever-ready carrying case attached.



When it is desired to adjust the height or change the direction of the Nikon Flash Unit, loosen the clamp screw.



IN THE SHADOW OF FUJI... Tales of Nippon Kogaku!

by John Baird

In response to increased orders from the Japanese Navy, Nippon Kogaku adopted a strategy to increase its optical glass capacity by breaking ground for a new glass factory in September 1934. Located at the Ohi plant, the new facility was designed from the beginning to meet a high yearly production rate of optical glass. Completed in June 1937, this new plant's melting crucible had a capacity of 800kg, with a monthly dissolving rate of 15. In 1939 an additional furnace was installed, increasing the number of dissolvings to 30 per month. Later in the same year the size of the crucibles was increased to 900kg, or about 2000 pounds. It is interesting to note that the 900kg crucibles remained in place until 1952, and that the building housing this glass plant still stands.

The Pacific War saw an increasing need for optical ordnance. It is said that the warships Yamato and Musashi were fitted with rangefinders made by Nippon Kogaku. Mounted on towers some 40 meters above the water line, these rangefinders were used to aim the ship's main batteries. They featured a 15 meter base length to match the ship's gun range of 40,000 meters!

To provide the required accuracy within these rangefinders, Nippon Kogaku made their prisms to angles measured not in minutes, but in seconds! Anything less than this level of precision would have caused the guns to miss their targets by hundreds of meters. Depending on this experience, after the war Nippon Kogaku was quick to use high-quality prisms, instead of mirrors, in the rangefinder of its Nikon I camera in 1948. Later, with the advent of the SLR, Nippon Kogaku again had the technology to mass produce the complex pentaprism used in the Nikon F (1959).

During the early years of the war it became apparent to the Japanese military that the limited supply of binoculars posed a serious problem in the field. At the time, the cost of producing high-quality binoculars was exorbitant. To equip each unit with binoculars meant that the cost of each pair had to be greatly reduced.

In order to meet this directive, Nippon Kogaku made binoculars by using assembly line methods with unskilled women workers. By standardizing all of the components, the time needed to hand assemble and adjust each pair was greatly

reduced. This gain, combined with Nippon Kogaku's strict quality control, allowed the company to meet the demands of the Japanese military. In fact, Nippon Kogaku's wartime binoculars were so well made that they are presently sought after by military collectors. After the war, when Japan's industries were converted to civilian production, it was the manufacture of binoculars on which Nippon Kogaku focused its attention.

In 1941-42, the war in Europe reduced Germany's industrial output. It would appear that Nippon Kogaku anticipated this and the company purchased a building near Tokyo. Another reason for buying this plant was the damage inflicted on Tokyo by Allied air raids in April 1942.

It was the company's intention to construct a new glass factory with a capacity equal to that of the Ohi plant. To this end, in 1943 Nippon Kogaku was able to secure mining rights in Fukushima Prefecture for natural flint used in fine optical glass. This acquisition, with subsequent improvement in Nippon Kogaku's annealing process, made it possible to supply a few advanced types of optical glass that had heretofore been imported from Schott in Germany.

Unlike other Japanese optical manufacturers, through its connection with the Imperial Navy, Nippon Kogaku apparently continued to import glass materials from Schott during the late war years (1943-44). During these years optical glass for special projects was brought into Japan by submarines. To avoid detection and possible destruction by the Allies if transported by surface, blocks of German-made optical glass were placed into rubber boats and towed to the Orient by submarine. In Japan the glass was retrieved and sent to Nippon Kogaku. It has been reported that this glass was used in lens systems in X-ray equipment at the Navy's base at Yokosuka.

By 1944 optical glass production peaked at Nippon Kogaku, with a total of 277 dissolvings of 38 different types of glass. The company's Omiya plant was finally completed in early 1945. By this time Japan was losing the war. The combination of the lack of materials and air raids reduced glass production at this plant by one-third. Nevertheless, by the end of the war in August 1945, the company recorded a total of 2,016 glass dissolvings amounting to nearly 1,700 tons of optical grade glass!

DON'T FORGET!

NHS-CON3

SEATTLE JUNE 13/14, 1992

PLEASE NOTE

For all those who collect photographica, Fotosaga has published the 2nd edition of its "Camera Collector's Handbook". The original version came out in 1988 and was soon out of print. This new edition is much larger at nearly three times the pages (224) and 1500 addresses compared to 700 in the first book. A total of 36 different countries are represented comprising a listing of second hand shops, fairs, auctions, museums, clubs, booksellers and repair shops. It is a valuable reference for the traveler as well as the collector who wishes to make contact with individuals and groups throughout the world. The handbook is printed in both English and French and is available directly from the publisher... Fotosaga, Flassy, 58420 Neuilly, France for \$23 US postpaid.

THE "NHS" AWARDS

Due to the less than cverwhelming response to date, here is another opportunity for you to recommend your favorite nominees, including yourself, for an NHS award & complimentary years subscription to the Journal. These awards were created with YOU..the dedicated Nikon collector..in mind; for you to swap around & share those "hard to believe its true" tales; & for you to reaffirm that even in this age of five-figure dollar deals one doesn't have to mortgage the farm to acquire a fine piece! Haven't we all heard things like..

- A fellow who purchased a mint SP & 4 lens set for \$50 at a local Goodwill store!
- The strange looking rings bought by a friend because its case was marked "Nippon Kogaku", only to discover that he had the complete filter adapter outfit for the 25mm/f4 Nikkor!
- The 500mm/f5 lens found behind the counter of a Television Repair Shop!!

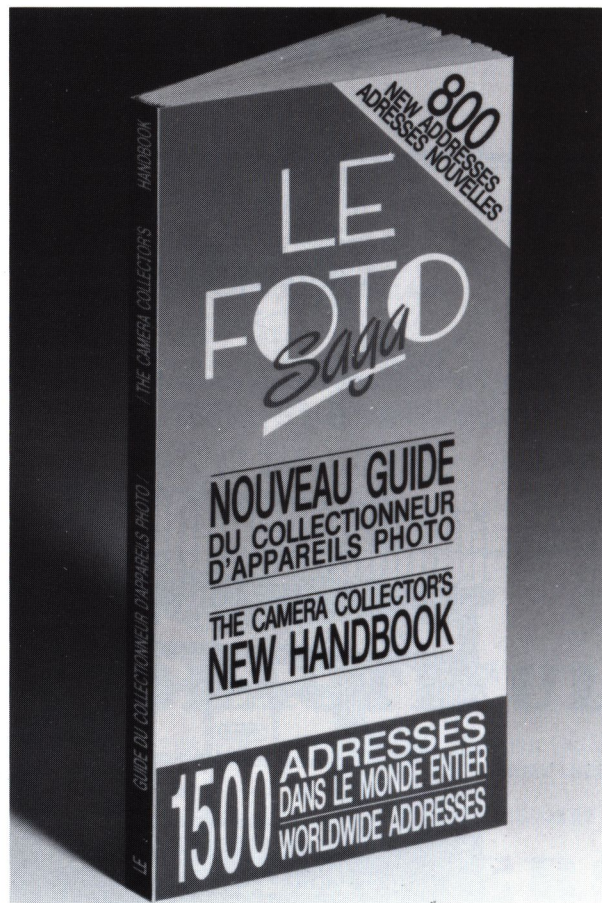
To encourage early submissions, for each nomination received postmarked before Nov.30, 91' you may request any one of the following notes or brochure photocopies..

1. "The Prototype & Dummy Photomic Finders". The inside story of the little-known first design from 1960 of this famous accessory. Includes NEW illustrations of this fascinating pair!
2. "Variations of the '64 Series Nikon F" & F serial number blocks. Find out what cosmetic changes occurred in the early F era & why "66" type Fs are so hard to come by!
3. "Nikon F Motor Drives From the Collectors Point of View". Documents the varieties of F36 & F250 motors, serial # ranges & estimated production quantities.
4. "The New Nikon SP with Built-in Universal Viewfinder System". An early 12p brochure photocopy dated 9/57 by Nippon Kogaku.
5. "NIKKOR-The highest quality 35mm lenses". A photocopy of a large 4p factory poster brochure depicting all RF Nikkor lenses from 25 to 500mm & their optical formulas.Dated 8/58.
6. "Nikon Accessories for Nikon Cameras". Photocopy of an 8p Nikon brochure from 6/59. Shows a near-mythical Periscope & 90 degree prism.

Send in 5 nominations & you may request all 6! For the very prolific, additional photocopies are available for additional nominations. To send in or request nomination forms write...

NHS AWARDS c/o Calvin Ho
110 E. Mountain Ave.
Glendale, CA 91207
818-543-7351

Please refer to NHS-32 for complete awards info. Nominations received by Dec. 31, 1991 will be compiled into the voter booklet to be distributed in NHS-35 in April 1992. The "NHS AWARDS" are co-sponsored by the NHS & Classic Camera Co., Ltd.



TOKYO REPORT

Member Tsuyoshi Konno has over the years kept me informed as to serial numbers and selling prices that he sees at various Japanese shows and shop windows. His latest report concerns the annual Matsuya Department Store show which is usually held in late February or early March. I was able to attend the 1987 show and, believe me, it is very different than what we are used to here in the States. Aisle after aisle of lighted glass cases just full of all types of rare and high quality equipment. No junk here! And the prices? Well, you be the judge. Currently \$1=135 Yen. Thanks, Tsuyoshi!

Matsuya Old Camera Show-Tokyo-March 2, 1991.

M--M6092822 w/50080606 (f2).	250,000Yen	= 1851.75
S--6096745 w/320415 (f1.4)	147,000Yen	1088.
6096912 w/f1.4 lens.....	135,000Yen	1000.
6103644 w/327900 (f1.4)	110,000Yen	814.
S2-6139741 w/f1.4 lens.....	147,000Yen	1088
6181288 w/f1.4 lens.....	105,000Yen	black dial 777.
6194204 w/f1.4 lens.....	600,000Yen	black body 4444.
6196705 w/f2.0 lens.....	135,000Yen	1000.
SP-6201533 w/f1.4 lens.....	498,000Yen	3688.
6206463 w/384203 (f1.4)	370,000Yen	2740
6208197 w/f1.4 lens.....	375,000Yen	2777
S3-6300617 w/f1.4 lens.....	260,000Yen	1925
6309227 w/385657 (f1.4)	170,000Yen	
S4-6504227 w/f2.0 lens.....	280,000Yen	

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GRAYS OF WESTMINSTER is a charming period shop situated in a quiet street in central London just few minutes walk from Victoria Station.

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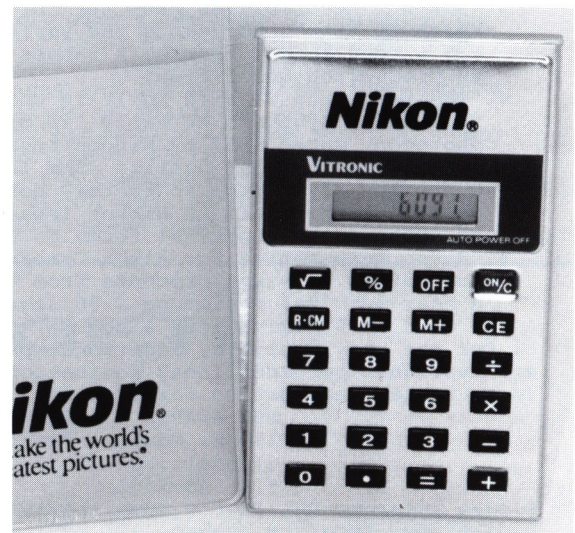
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Our hours of business are **Monday to Friday 9.30-6.30 pm Saturday 9.30-2.00pm** (UK time).

Our "NHS Products" list continues to expand. Through the efforts of member Peter Lownds, we have been able to produce a compendium of repair manual reprints for the series of Nikon motors that most interest this society. Printed and bound as one portfolio are the repair manuals for the S36 and S72 motors for the rangefinder series, and both the early and late manuals for the F36 motor as well as the F250 back made for the Nikon F! All 5 manuals are bound together as one & available for \$17.00 in the U.S. and \$20.00 for overseas, postpaid! You can't go wrong on this one, and it makes for a great companion volume to the SP repair manual!

Also I am happy to announce that John Baird's excellent monograph, "The Japanese Camera", is again available. The initial press run had sold out but more have now arrived. I have also acquired an additional supply of the Nikon calculators. A complete listing follows...

TIE CLASP/CUFF LINK SETS...	\$15.00 US
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"NHS" LAPEL PIN.....	\$5.00 US
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NIKON SP REPAIR MANUAL.....	\$10.00 US
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LETTERS..LETTERS..LETTERS

From Walter Bradley...

Thanks one more time for your efforts in running the NHS, and for producing a fine Journal. Please allow me to make a few comments, in no particular order.

I work for a major contractor to NASA at the Johnson Space Center here in Houston. I know that in the earlier days of NASA manned space flight Nikon F cameras were commonly carried aboard spacecraft, in addition to the more celebrated use of Hasselblads. I have seen a small exhibit of NASA "space-modified" Nikon F hardware(bodies, lenses, motors, filters, etc.) from the Apollo Project era. I don't know, but it seems plausible that the earliest missions of Project Mercury could have used Nikon RF cameras.

The "Nikkor-blad" adapter described in NHS-31 led me to wonder just how many adapters have been made to or from Nikon S or F mounts. An informal survey of NHS members might indicate how widely Nikon equipment has been adapted. As a simple example, in my modest collection I have the following items:

- Nikon S (or Contax) female to Leica SM male.
- Leica SM female to Nikon S (or Contax) male. (these two marked "made in Germany")
- Bronica (not S2A) female to Nikon F male. (marked "Bronica Camera Inc.")
- Nikon F female to Olympus Pen F male.

Does anyone else like to think about the engineering aspects of camera development? Why did the early shutter dials rotate? Why are metal curtains better than cloth? Does the wider base make a rangefinder focusing system more accurate than a split prism on an SLR?

Is anyone working on publishing a complete list of Nikon products (through the F model) and including product number and price in every list it appears in, etc.? This would make a nice reference data base to distribute on floppy disk to computer owners, or to sort different ways for printed tables. I'd be willing to pay a reasonable amount for this kind of list...

From Allan Glenwright...

Since you are canvassing opinion for a possible trip to Japan for NHS-Con3..here's mine. I agree it would be a great idea and appropriate for the 75th birthday of Nippon Kogaku...if you happen to have unlimited funds! Even travelling on group charter and negotiating special room rates, the cost from Europe would be rather high. While I can justify a trip to Chicago (by also visiting friends in Pennsylvania), Tokyo is just a little too far I'm afraid. And, strange though it may seem, Chicago is actually very convenient!

From Danilo Capuani...

I found fantastic the brochure in NHS-28 and I would be willing to pay for it. I hope you will continue to publish brochures and instruction books on the old models. I also think it would be interesting to make available for the NHS members a library of all known Nikon literature. It could be a sort of "paper database" from which the members might take information about what was needed. It could have an index of the available literature so any NHS member could request Xerox copies of what he wanted. I also hope you will continue the "F-Spot", which is very interesting for collectors of early F items.

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of THE NIKON JOURNAL will be November 15, 1991. Because of the Holiday crunch please get all contributions to me no later than the above date. More NHS-Con3 info will be in NHS-34 as well as more information from the "Fuketa Interviews"!

"8TH" ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE...Nikon SP w/fl.4 & cs.\$1350; 35/f3.5 "old style" Nikkor, mint/mint-.\$199; Varifocal, early w/cs, ex/ex+.\$169; Black meter, works, ex/ex+.\$165; Nikon gray flash (?).\$15; Varifocal (late Type 1),w/cs, pristine.\$199. Call or Fax for complete details. Non-Nikon trades will be considered. Roger Reinke, (704)689-5338 or Fax (704)689-5463.

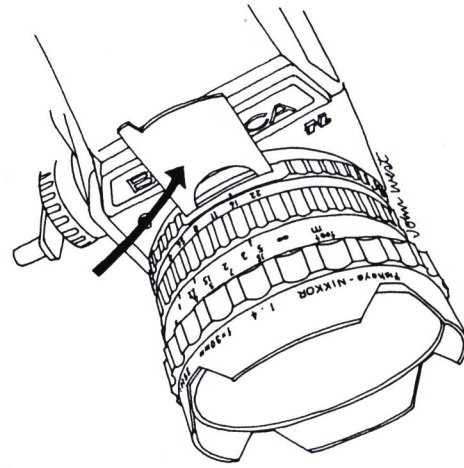
FOR SALE...RARE & UNUSUAL LENSES FOR LEICA SCREW MOUNT OR NIKON RANGEFINDER MOUNT.

(All prices are in English Pounds Sterling!)

*****-----*****
 5cm/fl.5 Nikkor in Leica mount #905361 (Tokyo). Small dent on filter ring otherwise mint....800
 5cm/fl.2 Fujinon in Nikon RF mount. Ex to near mint but front cap damaged.....1600
 5cm/fl.3 Zunow in Nikon RF mount...mint....1700
 5cm/fl.1 Zunow in Leica mount #5176..mint...1350
 5cm/fl.1 Zunow in Leica mount #5484..mint...1400
 5cm/fl.1 Zunow in Nikon RF mount #5029..mint but for slight mark on rear glass, w/case.....1750
 5cm/fl.1 Zunow in Leica mount #5561 w/front cap and Zunow leather case..mint.....1600
 8.5cm/fl.5 (engraved f15!!) Nikkor #266008, Leica mount, w/hood/front & rear caps..mint.....1650
 10.5cm/f2.5 #815546 for Contax w/hood/caps...550
 13.5cm/f4 #611185 in Exakta mount!! This is a prototype & probably only one made!..mint...2200
 13.5cm/f4 #90492 in Leica mount complete with reversible hood. Very early lens.....850
 13.5cm/f4 #904207 in Leica mount, MIOJ, w/hood and chrome caps. Near mint w/original case...800
 13.5cm/f4 #904591 in Contax mount! Very rare lens in mint condition w/hood/caps/case.....750
 13.5cm/f3.5 #256046 in Contax mount. Mint w/caps/slip-on hood/case/original box!.....425
 13.5cm/f3.5 #256823 in Contax mount. Near mint w/chrome hood & black front cap.....385
 25cm/f4 #272311 w/hood/caps. Early manual version in near mint condition. About 600 made!....2250
 35cm/f4.5 #354639 w/hood/caps. Near mint....2650
 50cm/f5 #647207 w/wooden box. Used condition. Estimated production 300 pieces.....4500
 Nikon Repro Kit "PA" in wooden box..ex.....1450
 Nikon Repro Kit "S" in wooden box..ex.....1200
 Nikon Reflex Housing in near mint condition in original box with cables.
 Paul Henry vanHasbroeck, 34 Bury Walk, London SW3 6QB. Tel-071-352-8494..FAX-071-823-9058.
 Prices are exclusive of VAT of 17.5%. All items subject to availability.

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

FOR SALE...Nikon S4 #6502379 (in meters)w/50f2.0 black Nikkor #731247. Body has use marks and is EX-, lens Mint-. Comes with MR case, front cap...\$750 or trade. WANTED...Type 7 black Variframe in EX+/Mint cond; early flat "Benzer" type NIKON RF compartment case w/NK on top in EX+ condition; eyepiece & chain for Variframe fdr;original Nikon RF/F literature. I have some duplicate Nikon RF/F trading stock. Mike H. Symons, 3844 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C. Canada, V8P 2S9..Tel 604-477-1867 after 6pm PST. or leave message.



BRONICA FISHEYE REVISITED. There was supposed to be a Nikon-made fisheye lens for the 2 1/2 Bronica. It was shown five years ago at Photokina and it never got to the market place.

The lens was to be a 30mm f/4., compact, interchangeable lens for the Bronica. It was physically smaller than the 30mm f/3.5 Zeiss fisheye lens for the Hasselblad. Zeiss designers had the penalty of the central shutter in their design. The Zeiss lens had to be divided in half to change filters. Pentax's 35mm f/4.5 fisheye Takumar for their 6x7 camera carried a convenient built-in filter wheel. Nikon's design for Bronica had a pop-up gel filter holder. The lens never got beyond the construction of a few pre-production pieces. SS:PN asked a Nikon official in Japan whatever became of this lens. The answer amounted to "Well, we never got any orders from Bronica." EPOI's Bronica product manager is said to have turned it down on behalf of the U.S. Bronica owner. Could the lens ever reach production? Sure, if there were enough orders. Design costs are early 1970's, so it could be sold at a reasonable price, making the Bronica even more attractive to own.

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WANTED..Collector seeks rangefinder items; Nikon bodies, lenses & accessories. Nikkors in screw mount. Canon bodies & lenses in particular the 19mm, 25mm, 50mm/f0.95, 200mm and Mirror Box. All types of Leica copies. Nikkors for F like Fisheye OP, 55mm UV, 55mm PS Micro 1:1,400-600-800-1200mm lens heads & mount. Per Kullenberg, Ollingvej 11, 6933 Kibaek, Denmark. Tel-45-971-91393.

FOR SALE..Send long SASE for my current list of items including Nikon One, MS, SP, S3M, lenses and accessories. Robert Rotoloni, P.O. Box 3213, Munster, IN 46321. FAX-708-868-2352.

WANTED...By serious collector: all kinds of Nikon rangefinder cameras, lenses, accessories, Nikon or Leica copies (Melcon, Neoca, Leotax, Tanack). Please contact NHS-member Dr. Clemens Cording, MD Universitaetsstr. 84, D-8400 Regensburg, Germany. Tel..011-49-941-941102.

FOR SALE...Copies-Nikon dealer pricelist (4/1/64) showing product #s, description, retail price and dealer Cost for Nikon F, Nikkorex F, Nikon RF, telescopes, binoculars, & cine-Nikkors. \$2.00 PPD in US. All other countries \$2.50. Steven Fischer, 15711 126th Ave. N.E., Woodinville, WA 98072-7987

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!

THE 55mm/f1.2 NIKKOR-0?



Quite a few years ago I was visiting member Bill Kraus at his home. Amongst the many Nikon items that we discussed and examined that day was an unusual lens in an equally unusual screw mount which was much too deep to be a standard Leica type. Obviously from the very early 1960s', it was not a rangefinder lens, nor was it a reflex lens. At that time I had not seen one before but now I have heard of maybe a half dozen or so. At NHS-Con2 Peter Dechert presented me with one as a gift. Since they do appear on the market once in awhile, it is best that you have some idea of what you are looking at, so here goes.

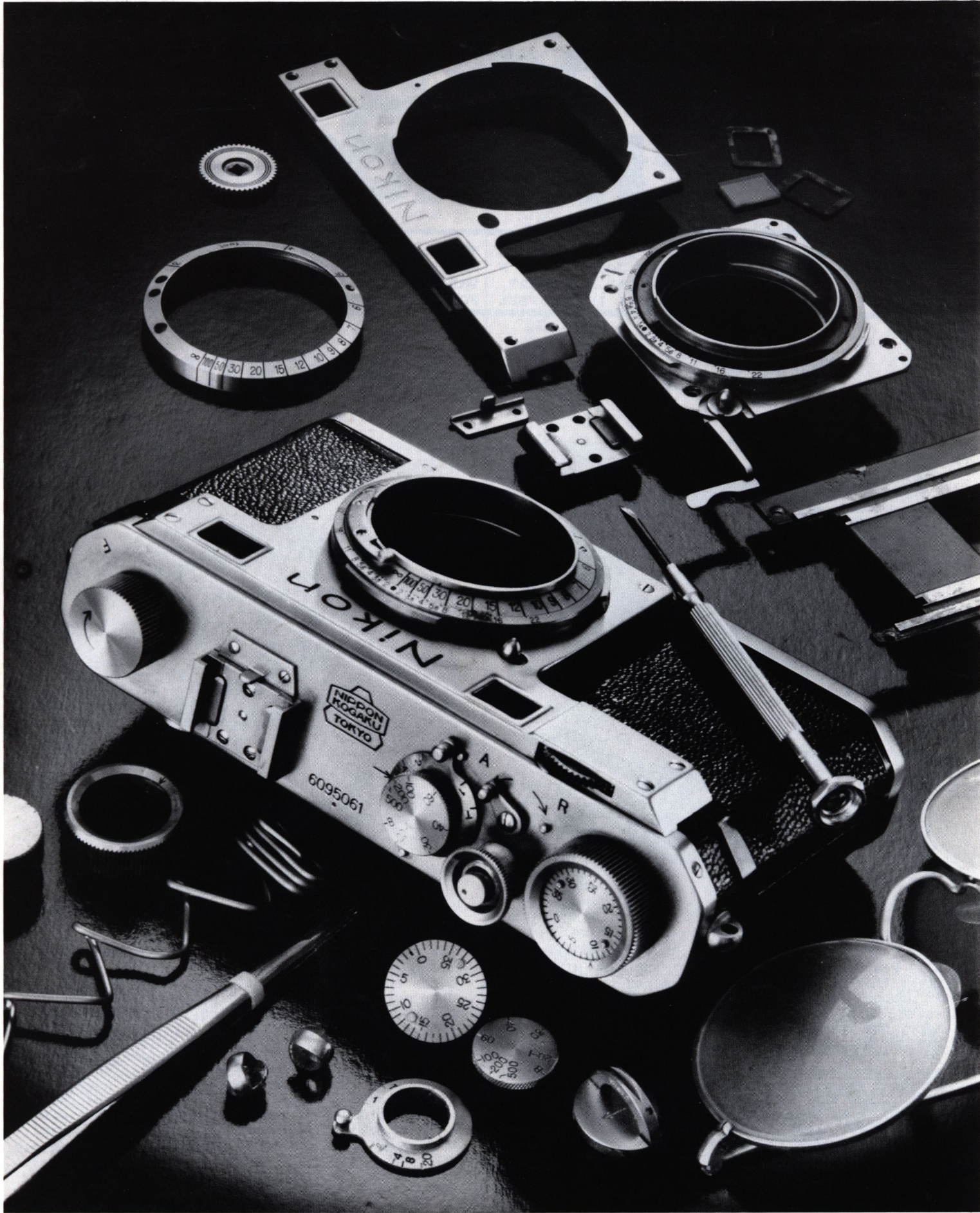
It is a 55mm/f1.2 Nikkor-0 in a very massive black and chrome barrel. Marked as Nippon Kogaku Japan, the serial number begins with "720". The rear edge of the barrel is engraved "Lens Made In Japan" and the engraving style, as well as the barrel finish date this item to as early as 1960. This lens does not have a focusing mount of any kind. The massive chrome ring that resembles a focusing ring is actually used to simply change

the F-stops, which go down to f11. This lens is relatively long for a 55mm and note the rather large rear element. What is unusual is the very deep screw mount. In addition there are no signs of any weight saving measures. This lens is built like a tank!

Although I do not have any catalogs from the instrument division of Nikon, it appears that this lens was made for some type of scientific or industrial application. Possibly to be used on an oscilloscope or some type of recording instrument which could use a fixed-focus lens, but one with a high speed aperture. From its construction and high quality it was meant to last and may have sold for considerable money for its time.

If anyone knows exactly what instrument or application this lens was meant for, please let us know. Until then if you see one on a table at a show, take a look at it. I have heard of them going for as little as \$75, so it might prove to be a nice inexpensive "oddy" to add to your collection.

Robert J. Rotoloni



Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST