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**75 YEARS!**

**JULY 25, 1992**

**NHS-36**



**NHS-CON3 COVERAGE INSIDE!**

**THE NIKON**

**JOURNAL**



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- PG.14--GERMAN NIKKOR "J"

**ROBERT ROTOLONI**  
**EDITOR/PUBLISHER**



# THE NIKON JOURNAL

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# EDITORIAL

HAPPY 75TH. BIRTHDAY, NIPPON KOGAKU!!

July 25th marks the 75th birthday of the founding of Nippon Kogaku, K.K.! To commemorate the occasion I have altered the normal June 30th cover date for this issue to read July 25th. And if all goes right most of you will receive this issue (barring any problems with the world postal system) on or about that date! I have not heard what special plans or events Nippon Kogaku might have scheduled, if any, but I felt that we should mark it in some way, thus the special cover date for this issue. Nippon Kogaku, or Nikon as it prefers to be called today, has come a long way these last 75 years. Hardly known outside of Japan before 1948, their name and reputation are now universally accepted as the best there is in the world of 35mm photography. To say that they are a postwar "miracle" would be an understatement indeed! Happy Birthday, Nikon, and many more to come.

There is another reason why this issue has arrived in your mailbox a few weeks later than usual. Normally our semi-annual conventions occur sometime in March and I have used the June issue to provide coverage of the event. This usually meant a 90 day delay between the actual meeting and its appearance in the Journal. In an effort to make coverage a little more timely, I decided to do it differently this time. I knew well back that I wanted to use the July 25 cover date, and since this gave me a little more leeway as far as a deadline was concerned, I thought I would delay this issue in order to get NHS-Con3 in it! The result is that the cover date more closely reflects the delivery date, and the convention coverage is very timely! As a matter of fact, I returned from Seattle on June 17th, laid out the convention article, and had this issue to the printers by June 25th! So even though NHS-36 is a little late this time around, it is offset by the fact that the convention coverage you see here is only a few weeks old!

The NHS-Con3 article begins on page 2 and runs for six pages. I have reproduced as many photos as possible in an effort to convey to those who could not attend what our conventions are like. Because of this not a great deal of space was left for copy. Hopefully I have struck a good balance between words and pictures, but I do sincerely believe that photos can tell a much better story than words. However, I find that I must reiterate my thanks to those who helped make NHS-Con3 a success. For a great job of teaching and entertaining goes thanks to our 3 speakers: Bill Kraus, Fred Krughoff and Al Levin....For producing yet another fantastic poster (which is reproduced on the rear cover), Tony Hurst....For again supplying free gifts for the members such as a commemorative ceramic tile, Peter Lownds....For donating copies of his Fawcett books to help defray convention costs, and agreeing to sign them for all who asked, Simon Nathan....For helping with show publicity and supplying the "NHS" watches as a gift to the society, John Baird....For helping with some of the many chores on Saturday, such as running the raffle and the dinner, Mike Symons....For doing the vast majority of the work required to produce such a meeting, and dealing with the hotel and handling the camera show as well, Bill Adams....And last, but not least, I would like to thank all those members who made the effort to attend, for without you it never would have happened at all!

Also this issue we have some regular features. One of the more esoteric accessories made throughout the rangefinder era was an item called the "Close-Up Device" or "Close-Up Attachment". Not the easiest thing to use, nor the most practical accessory in the line, nevertheless, these interesting little optical devices were produced for all models in the "S" series, and, towards the end, were quite elegantly designed. Starting on page 8 is an article that covers all the known versions seen to date.

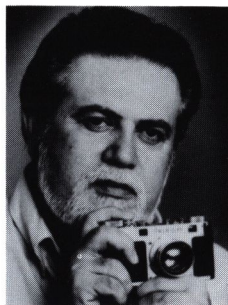
On page 12 is a follow-up article to one that first appeared in NHS-34. In that issue Roger Swan discussed in detail his Dummy Nikon S3, which was the first example I was able to confirm (Roger traveled to NHS-Con3 from his home in South Africa and brought the S3 with him for me to examine!). In this issue Roger shows us photos of a Dummy Nikon SP, which shares at least one major feature with the S3, and also marks the first such example I have recorded.

The F-Spot this issue showcases yet another obscure reflex Nikon. This time it is the nearly unknown German version of the Nikkorex F that was a companion to the Nikkor F which was covered in NHS-33. This one is called the "Nikkor J"! Have you ever heard of it? You have now! German member Ulrich Koch kindly provided me with photos of his Nikkor J, which were the first I have seen of this model. Interesting how the lowly Nikkorex F has now made two appearances in the Journal. The Nikkor J and the rare black Nikkorex F made for the Swedish market.

On page 17 we have yet more information from Mr. Masahiko Fuketa growing out of my interviews with him in Tokyo last June. Fuketa-san continues to correspond with me and graciously answer some of the many questions I continue to send him. He also comments on the Journals and he has some interesting things to say about the prototype 35-85 Zoom featured in NHS-35! As always all of us can learn from his answers!

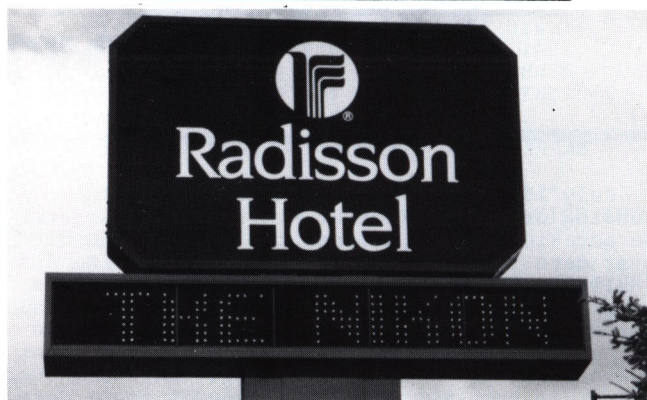
NHS-Con3 is now behind us and can be considered a success. Our first meeting outside of my home base of Chicago, only 10 attendees were repeaters as the remaining 30 were new faces, which is the reason we tried a different location this time. The Society continues to grow with our membership list holding at 270+ as we shoot for the magic figure of 300 (I remember when I was hoping to someday reach 50, then 100...now 300 is within sight!!) A fourth convention would be the spring of 1994. Where it will be held has not been decided as yet, but I felt some definite pressure for a meeting in Europe! What do you think?

By the way, the next issue of the Journal, NHS-37, will mark the 9th Anniversary of the Nikon Historical Society! That's longer than a lot of commercial magazines remain on the market! We must be doing something right!



**ROBERT ROTOLONI**  
**EDITOR/PUBLISHER**

Photo: Tony Hurst

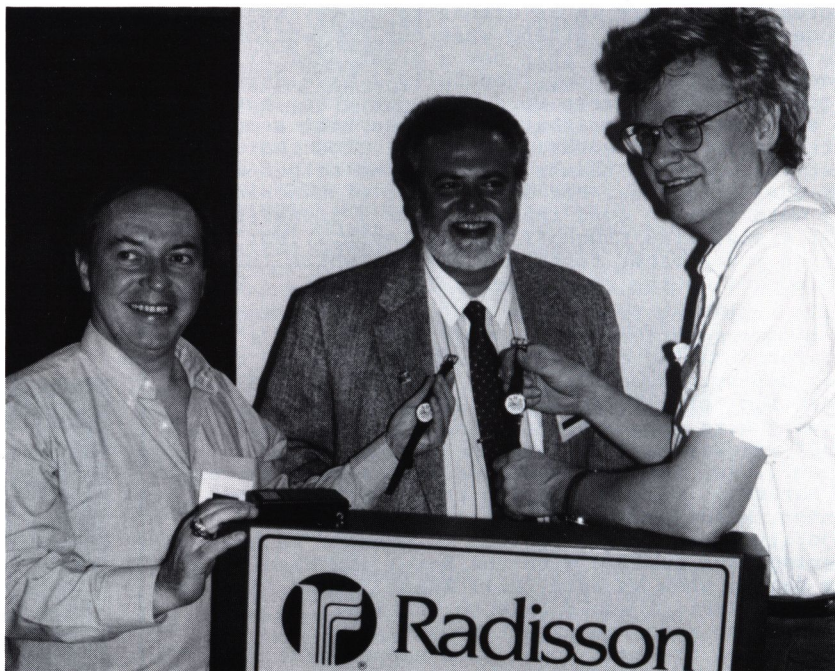


## 'NHS-CON3'

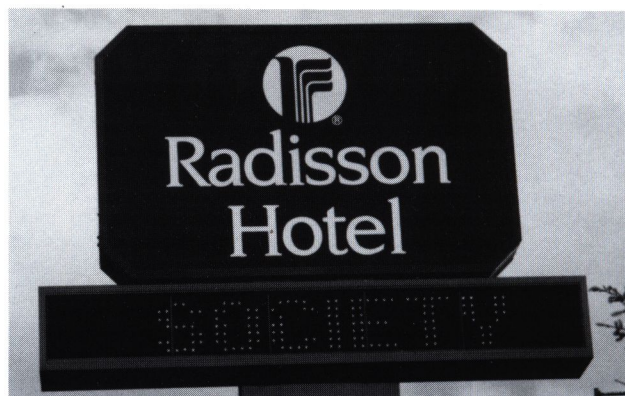
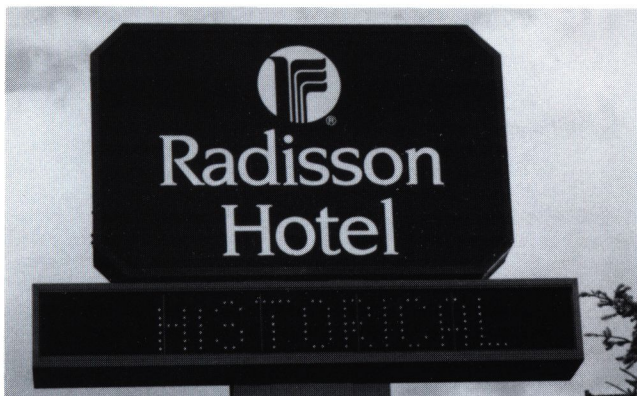
Forty members of the NHS converged on the lovely city of Seattle to attend NHS-Con3, and they came from all parts of the United States, Canada and the world! From as close as Seattle itself to as far as Florida and New York, over 30 American members were there as well as Mike Symons and Doug Napier representing Canada. From Europe came Jaap Kortzen & Peter Lownds (Holland), Tony Hurst (Ireland), John Millham and Yuki Kawai (England), but the new record for the farthest distance traveled to attend an NHS convention is now owned by Roger Swan, who trekked half way around the world from Johannesburg, S. Africa!! We were truly an international group!

After visiting with Mike Symons in Victoria, B.C., Al Brody, Mike and I arrived at the hotel in Seattle by Thursday afternoon, and by that evening members began to arrive. My room, which doubled as the hospitality suite, was in full swing by Friday afternoon as the bulk of the out of town members arrived. By that evening nearly 30 Nikon collectors filled the room and the conversation was non-stop, although some of us did find time to watch a particular basketball game! Of course, buying, selling and trading was going strong most of the night!

The convention started at 9AM Saturday and ran to past 4PM, with a break for lunch. After some preliminaries we were treated to slide show talks provided by Bill Kraus, who spoke on the literature produced for the Nikon rangefinder system, and Fred Krughoff who showed us much of the vast array of boxes and packaging that was used by Nikon and Ehrenreich, some of which were extremely rare items. Both Bill and Fred were presented with a special "NHS" commemorative watch that was provided by John Baird. Also the morning session saw Al Brody buy the winning raffle ticket for a special enlarged and framed reproduction of the official convention poster, which was produced and donated by Tony Hurst, who hand-carried it from Ireland! Tony also supplied copies for those who attended, and I have used it for the rear cover of this issue. Finally, Mr. Al Levin, who was selling Nikons on the East Coast even before Joe Ehrenreich, gave a talk about the early years of Nikon in the U.S. All in all it was a full morning session. Everyone seemed to have a good time & all learned something as well!



Our two speakers for NHS-CON3 were Bill Kraus (L) and Fred Krughoff (R), each of whom received a special "NHS" commemorative watch, designed and donated by member John Baird.



# UP IN LIGHTS!!

Following lunch we returned for the afternoon swap session and silent auction. As in the past, the afternoon meeting is much more relaxed and informal. Many set up selling tables and it takes on the air of a friendly mini-show just for the members. It is a good time for everyone to talk and exchange information and just have a good time. We held a small auction, which proved to be quite successful, and added to the fun. A good time was had by all and before we knew it it was past 4PM and time to vacate the room. However, it did not mark the end at all, but more of a mid-point. For those who wished to attend, we held a dinner at 7PM that evening in a private dining room in the hotel and 30 members joined in! This proved to be yet another enjoyable aspect of the weekend...another chance for everyone to get to know each other better and have a good time as well. Following the dinner most returned to the hospitality room for drinks and good talk.

Sunday started off early. We had reserved a large exhibition room for our first NHS sponsored trade show, which opened at 7AM for the dealers and the members. The doors opened at 10AM and the show ran till 4PM. Nearly 60 tables were sold and 300 paying customers attended. It was a good show with a heavy emphasis on Nikon gear. Although many members had planes to catch and were gone by Sunday evening, those who remained spent the evening together having dinner and talking about the events of the past three days.

Considering all the things that must come together for such a meeting to be successful, the third NHS convention was the best so far. Many large, and small, details must be addressed for such a meeting to be a success, and since I had done two previous events I know how much work is involved. So how was NHS-Con3 possible thousands of miles from where I live? Simply with the help of society members! Both John Baird & Mike Symons helped, especially on Saturday with the actual meeting. In addition Peter Lownds again brought special gifts for the members, including another commemorative tile. Tony Hurst again produced a fine official convention poster and not only made them available to all who attended but produced two enlarged versions...one for me and one as a raffle item. The speakers, Bill Kraus, Fred Krughoff and Al Levin all enhanced the meeting by their presence as did Simon Nathan who helped defray some costs by donating his Fawcett books, and graciously signing them for all. But most of all I must thank Bill Adams, without whose help it could not have been possible. Bill volunteered to handle those many details. He negotiated with the hotel for both the Saturday & Sunday rooms as well as special rates for those who came. He also set up the Saturday dinner and arranged for the public show on Sunday, including publicity, table assignments, set-up and running the front door. I couldn't have had a convention outside of Chicago without such help!



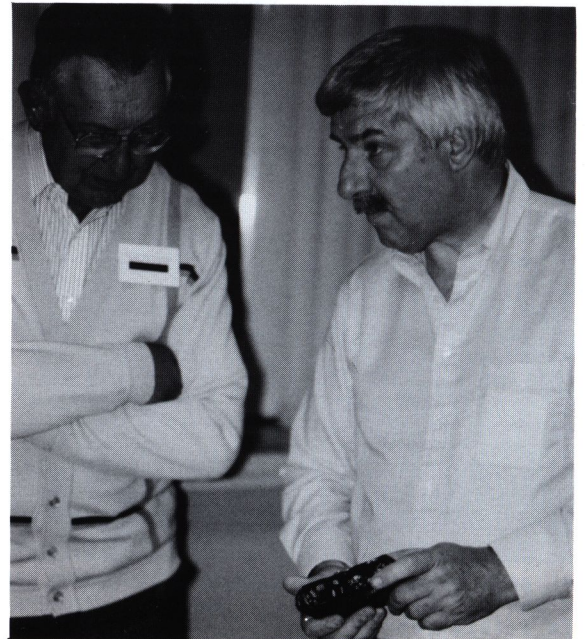
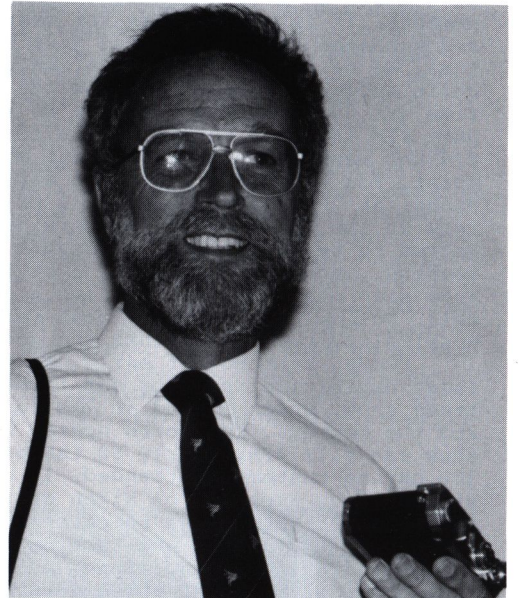
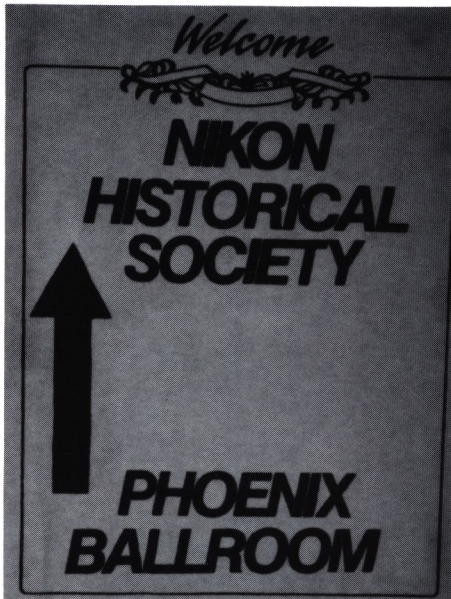
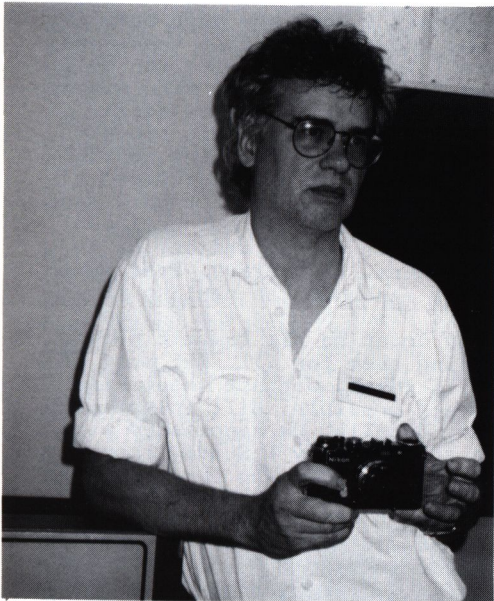
The original Nikon rep for the East coast, Al Levin, gave an impromptu talk on the early years (left photo). Al Brody (L) bought the winning raffle ticket for a special enlarged and framed copy of our official convention poster, created and donated by Tony Hurst (R).

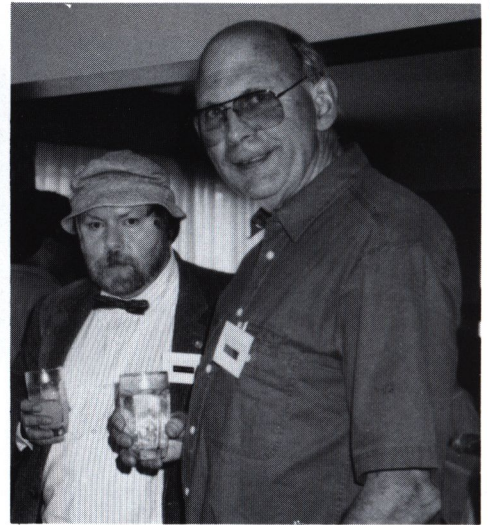


**NIKON'S 75th BIRTHDAY!**

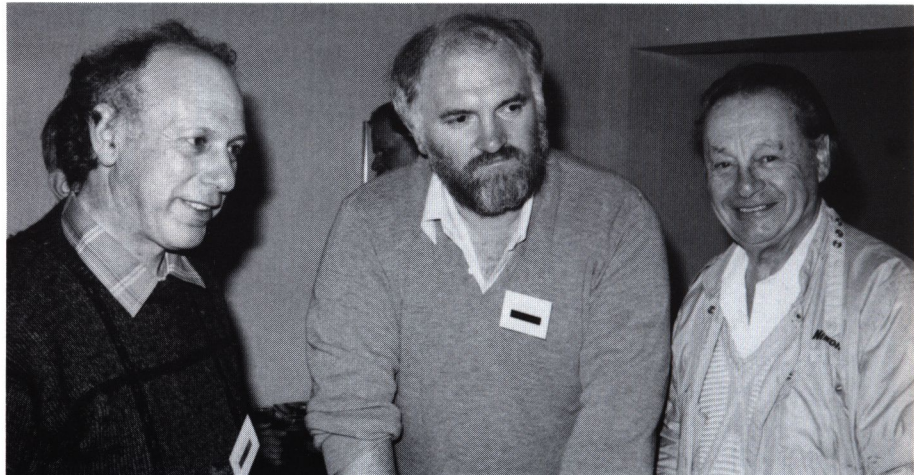


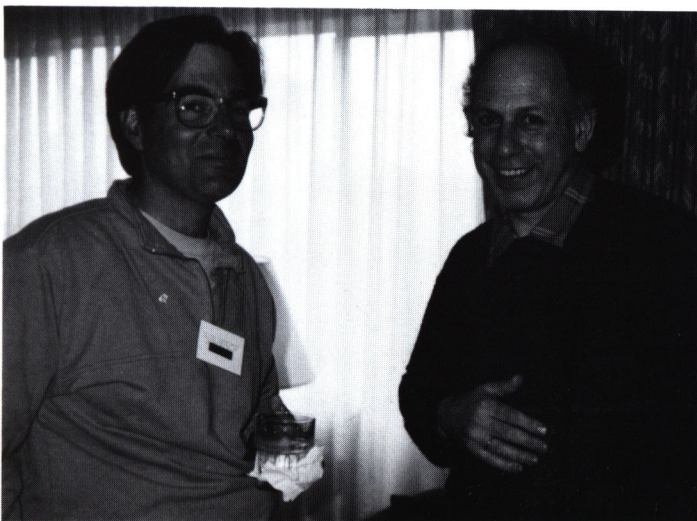
Clockwise from above..Ken Kroll and Les Lampman. Dick Weber with a U.S. Navy Nikon F outfit! Roger Swan from S. Africa brought his Dummy S3 featured in NHS-34! Mark Gehlar (L) & Mike Symons (R) look at a black S3. Though currently living in England, Yuki Kawai is the first Japanese member to attend and he brought a Nikon I with him. Shown here with me behind the "2" Nikon I's in the room that day! Fred Krughoff showed his unique Trifocal SP! And what a hit it was!





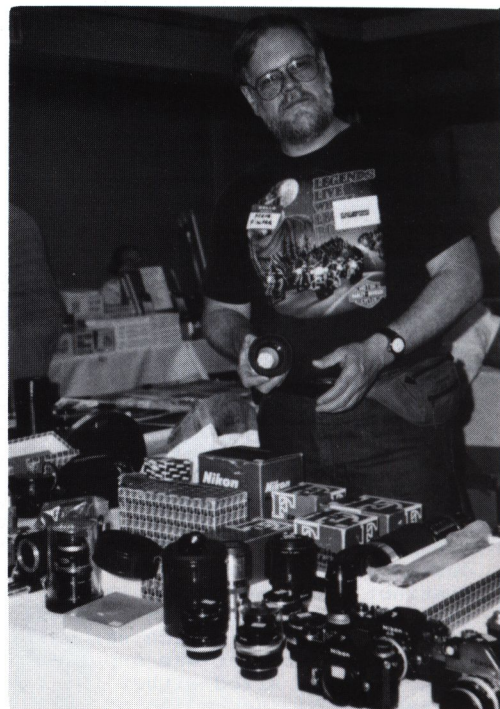
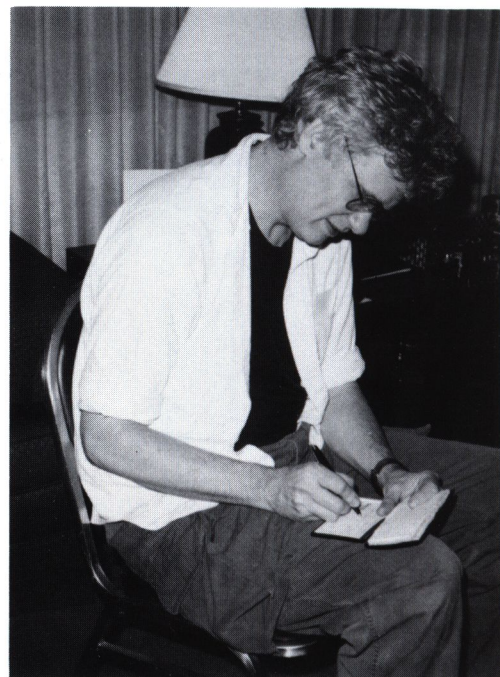
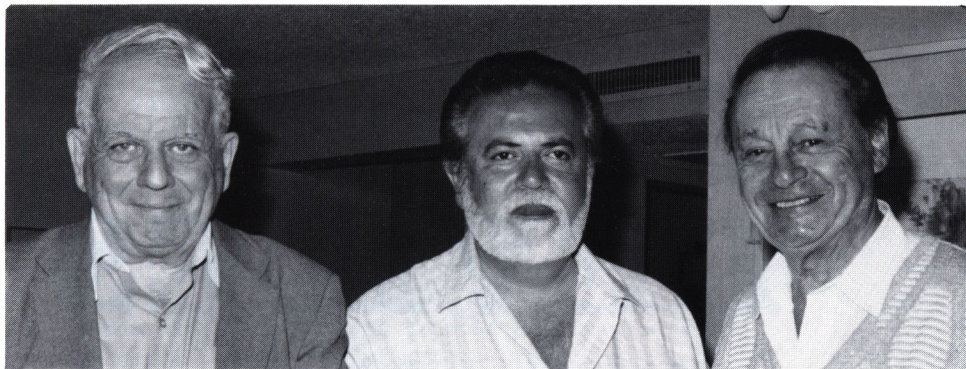
Clockwise from above..RJR, Roger Swan and Bill Kraus. Wes Taft and Bill Adams (Bill did much of the work that made the weekend such a success!). RJR, Al Levin, Bill Kraus & Fred Krughoff. RJR, Mike Symons, John Baird & Bill Adams. Tony Hurst, Peter Lownds and Al Levin. Les Seeligson (L) and Jim Martin (R) look over some very early Nikon binoculars. Hersul Huyghue (L) with Al Levin. Most of these photos are from the Saturday evening dinner and hospitality suite!





Clockwise from upper left..Bill Kraus and Mike Symons closely examining a Nikon Model "H" microscope, which attracted such a crowd that I had a hard time getting this shot! L-R..Jim Martin, Mike Symons, Lesley Bell, Duncan Dow, Al Brody & Peter Lownds. Lesley Bell and Duncan Dow have Al Brody cornered! Bob Rogan (L) and Tony Hurst on Friday afternoon, which is when the hospitality suite started rolling and continued on through Sunday evening. Jaap Kortjen (L) and John Baird on Saturday afternoon. Jaap, along with Peter Lownds, came all the way from Holland.





Clockwise starting directly above..Hersul Huyghue manning his table during the Sunday show. Simon Nathan graciously agreed to sign any & all copies of his Fawcett books that members brought with them. Here he is with Mike Millington and Mike Symons. Simon Nathan, RJR and Al Levin. Fred Krughoff with his checkbook. This is photographic proof that Fred did indeed pay his NHS dues, which was nice, since he was to speak before the convention the next day! Thanks, Fred! Steve Fischer with a few of the Nikon items that filled his table at the Sunday show. And last, but not least, Mike Symons and Peter Lownds engaged in a very deep discussion!.....Mike, do you really think Peter is listening??? Sayonara!



# CLOSE-UP DEVICES

by

## Robert J. Rotoloni

Nippon Kogaku made an accessory throughout the rangefinder era that, in hindsight, appears to be of limited use, and was manufactured in insignificant numbers. In addition, time and money was spent to modify and improve its design as the rangefinder camera bodies went through their evolutionary development, dictating necessary changes in this item. Although none have been reported to the "NHS" as having "MIOJ" markings, they are known to have existed as early as 1952, and remained in the catalog until at least 1964! Known officially as the "Nikon Close Focusing Attachment", they are also referred to as the "Close-up Device (or Attachment)", and the three terms are used interchangeably. Originally a moderately priced item, today the Close Focusing Attachments have gained sufficient attention so as to be trading amongst collectors at over five times their initial catalog prices.

This accessory was made in three distinct variations that share the same operating characteristics, yet each is unique in appearance and usable only on the camera(s) for which it was designed. The shared characteristics are as follows..Each consisted of a metal bracket that slipped into the accessory shoe from the front, and not the rear. To this bracket was mounted the necessary optics that were positioned in front of the range and viewfinder windows of the camera. These optics corrected the rangefinder to allow accurate focusing from 1.5ft-2.5ft (18-30 inches) with either the f2 or f1.4 50mm Nikkors. This was significantly closer than the standard 3 foot minimum. However, these brackets varied widely in design, which gave each of the three models its distinct look. Secondly, was the other "half" of this accessory, for this item was a two piece design, neither of which was usable without the other. Each bracket was supplied with a screw-in close-up lens sized either for 43mm (f1.4) or 40.5mm (f2.0), depending on which normal lens you intended to use it with. Therefore, a total of 6 different Close Focusing Attachments were listed in the catalogs, although only three models were actually produced.

To keep them separate I have called them Types 1, 2 and 3. All were supplied with leather cases that were actually unique to each version not only for the size and shape of the bracket, but also for which size close-up lens it came with (try fitting a 43mm lens into a case meant for the 40.5)! No brackets with serial numbers have been reported as yet, but all of the lenses are numbered, each number type unique to both the size of the lens and which vintage bracket it was sold with!

Now let us take a close look at each of the three types and six variations of the "Nikon Close Focusing Attachment".

TYPE ONE--Model "S"--Intended for use on the Nikon S, it may have been available during the latter part of the Nikon MS production and is actually usable on the Nikon I, as all three models are really the same body! However, to date none have been found marked "MIOJ". Seen in price lists dating from 1952 all the way through 1964, yes 1964 (they must have had them sitting around for years!), it was priced at \$40.25 with either size lens. The bracket consists of heavy chromed brass with a locking screw to fix it firmly to the accessory shoe. There are no optics on the viewfinder side (unique to this model) and those on the rangefinder side are mounted to the rear face of the bracket. It is completely chrome except for the rear surface which is matte black. The lenses for this version are also chrome and are numbered based on size. Those for the f2.0 Nikkor begin at about 21000 and those for the f1.4 lens, at 41000. Collected numbers suggest about 700 f2.0 lenses and possibly as many as 1500 of the f1.4 type!

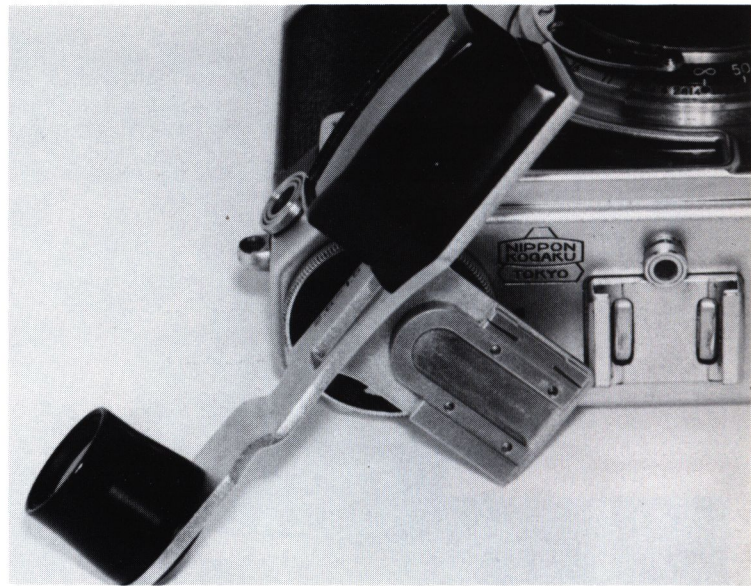
TYPE TWO--Model "S2"--This version, usable only on the Nikon S2, differed markedly from that which preceded it. The bracket is made from a lighter weight chromed brass that completely encases the optics (now present for both the range and viewfinder windows of the camera) and gives it a much more massive look, although it is actually lighter than the "S" model! The mounting bracket has lost its locking screw and is now finished in black crinkle paint. It was also listed up to 1964 (it seems this accessory was left in stock well beyond the life of the cameras it was intended for!) and sold for \$42.50 with leather case and either lens. The lenses for this model retained the chrome finish but the inner surface with the markings was changed to black, probably to reduce flare. Those for the f2.0 lens are numbered beginning with "22" and for the f1.4 with "42" (it appears that the numbers for this version continue on from where those for the "S" type leave off!). Recorded numbers suggest about 500 for the f2.0 and 700 for the f1.4 type.

TYPE THREE--Model "SP"--This last version was designed for all models from the SP on and fit also the S3, S4 and S3M bodies. Again the bracket design was changed and Nikon actually reverted back to the "S" configuration! Again we have a flat one piece completely chromed brass bracket with the only difference being the optics are mounted to the front surface, and not the rear! The optics protrude quite a bit and are housed in black metal casings. The overall effect is again a very different looking design. The lenses were changed to a completely black finish, which by then was the style. Serial numbers used for the f2.0 type begin at about 30000 and for the f1.4 at 50000. It does not appear that these numbers are a continuation of the previous two types. Collected numbers suggest about 500 for the f2.0 version and about 1700(!) for the f1.4 type. It was also listed as late as 1964 and its price was the same as the S2 version, \$42.50 with case.

Of course each model debuted at about the same time as its corresponding camera model, but all were still listed as late as 1964, so they remained in inventory for quite some time, but were deleted before 1970. Using the known serial numbers found on the lenses, production appears to be as follows:

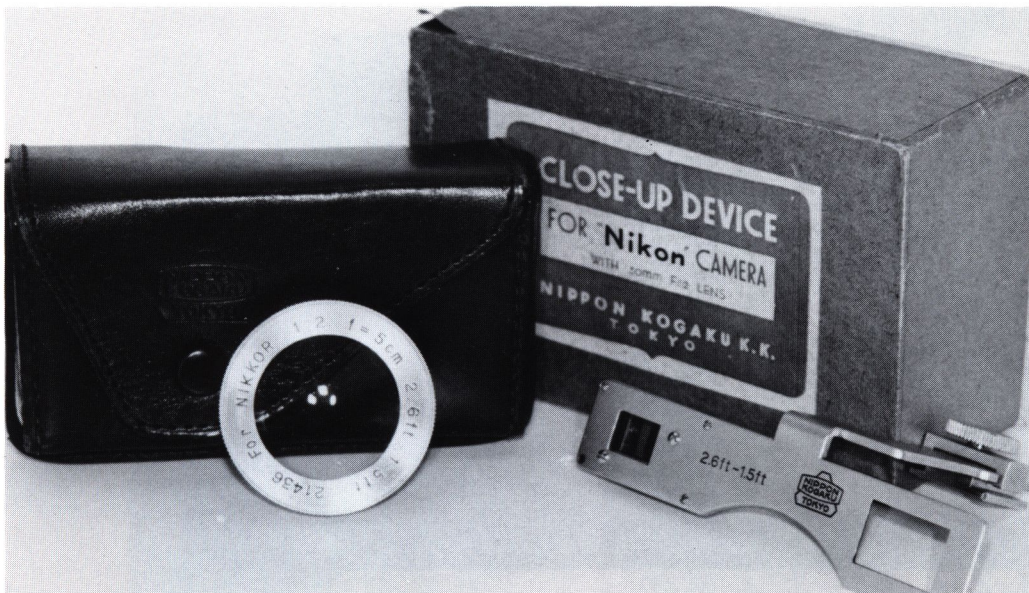
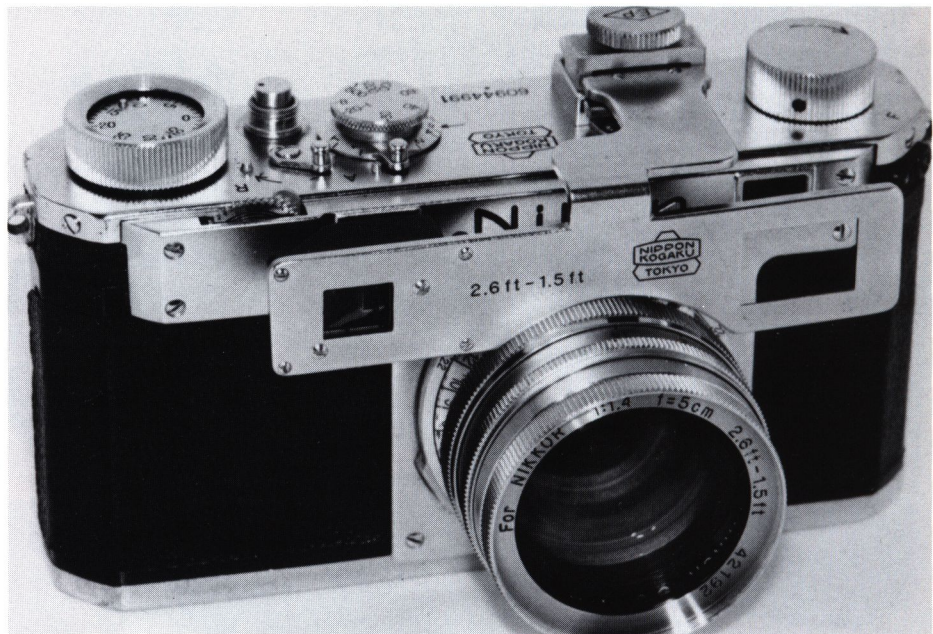
Nikon S w/f2.0....(21351-22023)....approx. 700  
 Nikon S w/f1.4....(41236-42683)....approx. 1500  
 Nikon S2 w/f2.0... (22803-23230)....approx. 500  
 Nikon S2 w/f1.4... (42702-43370)....approx. 700  
 Nikon SP w/f2.0... (30037-30541)....approx. 500  
 Nikon SP w/f1.4... (50011-51627)....approx. 1600  
 (Above numbers are as of date of publication!)

It is obvious that the f1.4 version out-sold the f2.0 type by as much as 3 times! This is consistent with the fact that the 1.4 lenses always out-sold the 2.0 type throughout the rangefinder era. The figures suggest that less than 5% of Nikon owners bought this accessory, yet it was made available throughout the rangefinder years. At probably under 10,000 (maybe only as little as 6000) units produced over 10 years, the Nikon Close Focusing Attachment was not a huge success, but then that makes them collectible, doesn't it?



The Type 1, or Nikon S version, is unique in that it has no optics for the viewfinder side of the camera, only the rangefinder side. The cut-out on the viewfinder side is just for framing purposes. Also this is the only version for which Nippon Kogaku felt a locking screw was required. The bracket is a single piece of chrome plated brass, and the proper lenses for this type are completely finished in chrome. The upper photo illustrates the mounting shoe. Note the cut-out needed to clear the flash stud. Although this is an SP type, all versions mounted from the front and used similar configurations for their mounting shoes.

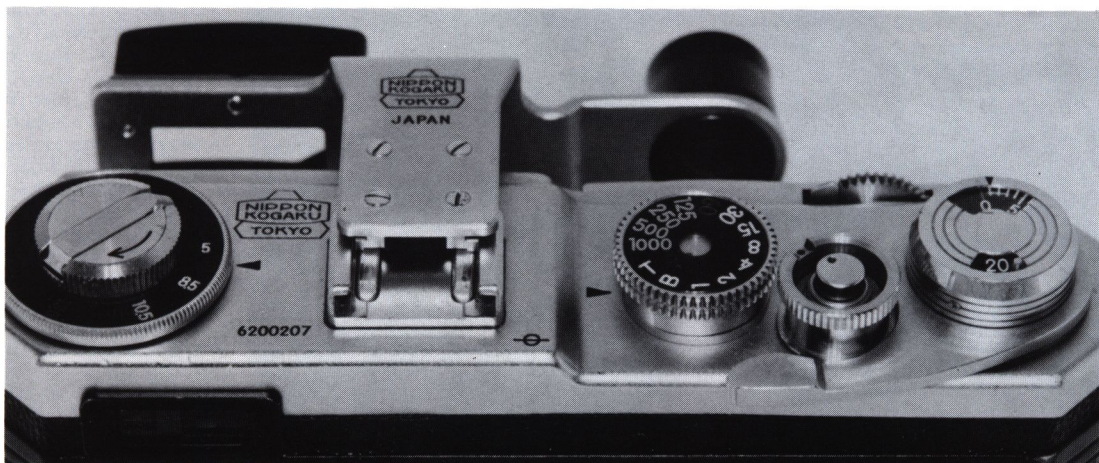
R. Rotoloni.

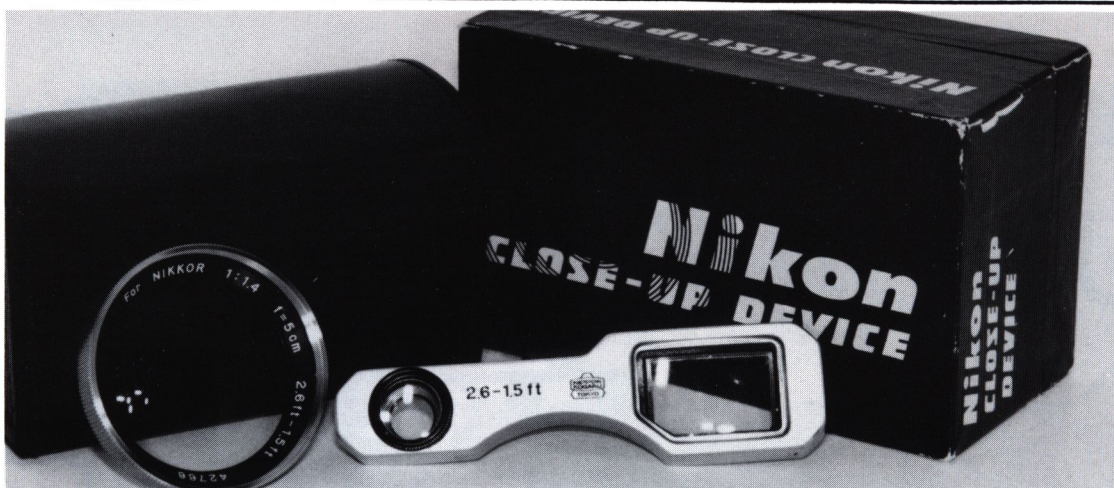




The upper photo shows the Type 2 version for the Nikon S2 only. Compare it with the photo to the left of the Type 3 used on the SP/S3/S4/S3M models. The S2 style now has the optics completely encased in a chrome housing. Although this gives the unit a much more massive look, it is actually quite light weight. Also unique to this type is the black wrinkle finished mounting arm. Note also that optics are now present for both windows of the camera. The proper lenses are now chrome with a black insert, which carries the identification and serial number. The Type 3, or SP version, reverted back to the S configuration in that the optics are again exposed, but this time are attached to the front of the bracket. Note the small cut-out between the optics...it is there to allow light to reach the projected frame-lines of the SP.

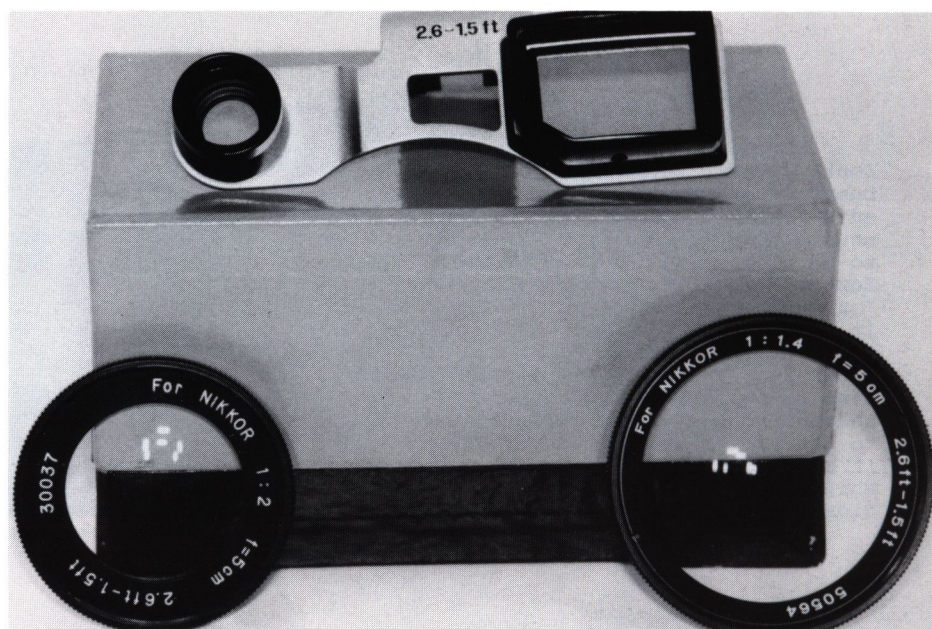
R. Rotoloni.





The Close-up Devices came in a selection of box types, some identified, others not readily. All were sold with the proper leather case, which was matched to either the f2 or f1.4 lenses. Note in the middle photo that the SP type came with all black lenses. The bottom photo illustrates quite well that all three types are different, yet at the same time very similar in design, if not execution. I guess there are only so many ways to make such an item, and Nippon Kogaku seems to have tried them all.

R. Rotoloni



First Seen \_\_\_\_\_

by Roger Swan

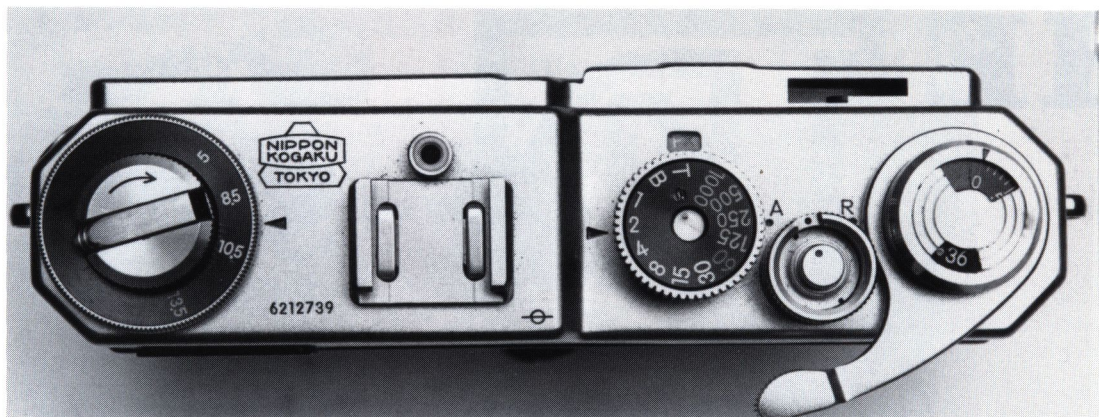
**DUMMY****NIKON SP**

NHS-34 contained a very detailed article by South African member Roger Swan, about a true Dummy Nikon S3. In the editorial in #34 I mentioned a possible follow-up article about yet another unusual camera that Roger owns, namely what seems to be a Dummy Nikon SP! (Please refer to NHS-34 for comparison.) To quote from Roger's letters... ".I have unearthed an SP, #6212739, and find that it has the same shutter release assembly as the S3! I had never thought of the SP as anything other than a body which had been cannibalized. It also has a complete self-timer mechanism. The shutter speed dial is more or less complete down to the timing cam and the sync indicator moves as it should. The wind lever is spring loaded..... While I had the S3 apart I decided to have a much closer look at the SP and found that all parts

which were there appeared to be standard except for the shutter release button, which is identical to that on the S3! I wonder if this button could be the same on Dummy Nikon F cameras? The rangefinder is absent on this camera as well and the screw holes show no evidence of having had screws in them either. I wonder if this could also have started out as a Dummy which, during its life, has been cannibalized for parts? It needs only a lens mount, focussing wheel and a back to make it acceptable from an appearance point of view."...

I have reproduced 4 of Roger's photos of his Nikon SP for this article. Compare them to those of the S3 in NHS-34, but keep in mind that the very unusual shutter release button assembly of the S3 is present on this camera as well!! It looks like a "Dummy" to me! What do you think?





Although externally this camera looks no more like a Dummy than either the S2 or S3 types, both of which are unidentified, internal features are another story. If you refer to NHS-34 with the article on Roger's Dummy S3, you will see a photo of its unique shutter release button which is "identical" to the one on this camera! From that article it is obvious that the shutter button assembly is meant for a Dummy camera, as it is here. Also note that the rangefinder module is missing and the screw holes show no signs of having been used. In addition the entire shutter assembly and chassis plate are missing. Although a few parts appear to have been cannibalized, such as the focusing mount, the overall appearance of this camera is too good to warrant stripping out the entire "guts". The camera shows little use and no damage, and does not resemble your average "parts" body. Photos by Roger Swan.

# 14

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# THE F--SPOT!!

## THE NIKKOR 'J'

by **ULRICH KOCH**

First mention of the variant "NIKKOR F" in these pages was in NHS-23 back in 1989. That initial coverage concentrated on two ads produced by the then current German importer (which is where most items marked "NIKKOR" appeared to have been distributed). Further information, including photos of an actual example of a Nikkor F, can be found in NHS-33. However, there is an item shown in the initial article that caught my eye. In the lower right corner on page 10 can be seen a shot of a Nikkorex F that isn't called a Nikkorex F, but instead is engraved "NIKKOR J"! At that point began a search for information about this strange little camera I'd never heard of. Finally, one of our German members has provided me with photos and information about the "NIKKOR J", which is in his collection. Thanks to Ulrich Koch we now have detailed photos of yet another strange Nikon item for this issue's "F-Spot"! His article follows.

\*\*\*\*\*

When Nikon items were imported into Germany by the German company Varimex, Frankfurt, who started in 1963, Zeiss Ikon, Stuttgart, thought that the name "Nikon" looked and sounded very much like their name "Ikon". And they started a legal battle against the name "Nikon". However, it was told that this battle was not between Zeiss and Nikon Japan, but between Zeiss and Varimex. Zeiss won this battle and so every item with the name Nikon which was imported into Germany must have another name. Therefore, all Nikon items imported into Germany were renamed "NIKKOR", the same as their lenses. All items!!! Cameras, finders, Photomics, meters, motors, bellows, relay boxes, screens, flashes and everything else. Even the brochures and instruction books used only photos showing "NIKKOR" marked items!

I do not know if the legal battle was only for Germany or for all German speaking countries. I was told it was not settled until Photokina 1968, where Nikon announced that all items would now be engraved "Nikon" worldwide.







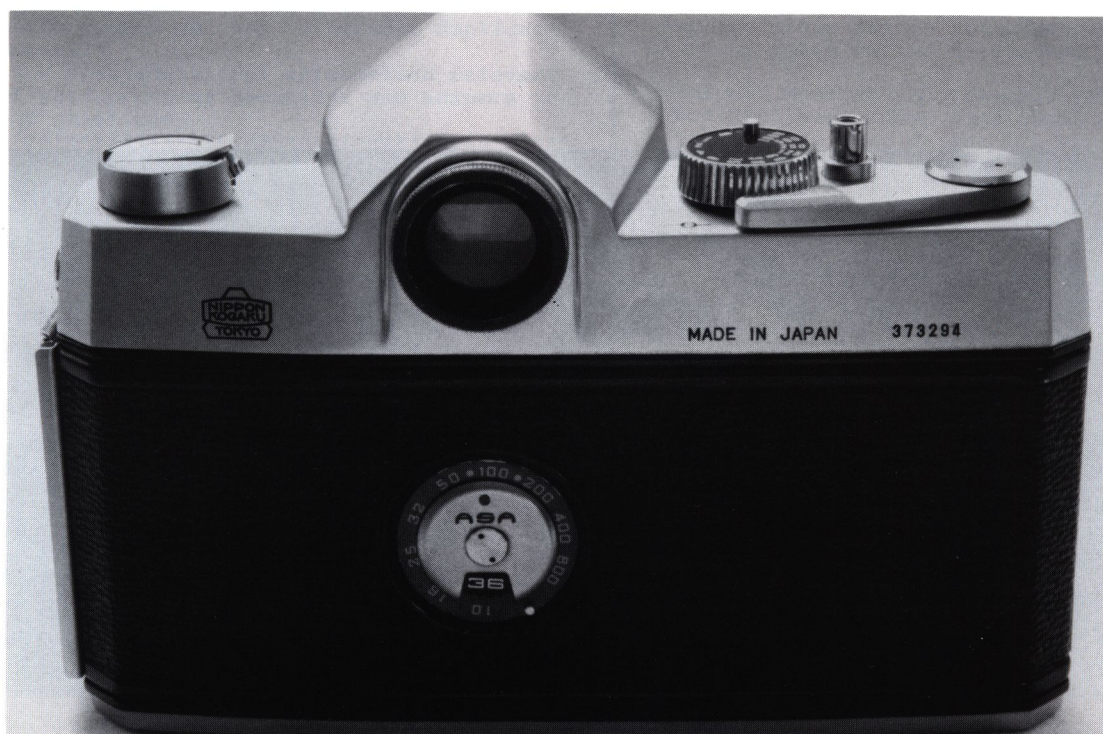
But now to the "NIKKOR J". This camera is exactly the same as the Nikkorex F. Mine is like Version 1. Version 2 has a different selftimer, rewind knob, no film guide on the back, and other differently colored controls. I do not know if the NIKKOR J in Version 2 exists, but it might.

Very little is known about the NIKKOR J and I believe that it was not a fast selling camera. The exposure meter was probably also marked as NIKKOR, but I have not seen any as yet.

But why the name "NIKKOR J"? The original Nikkorex name did not sound at all like anything having to do with Zeiss, so why Nikkor? I think the answer is that 3 different names for their

products in one country may have been confusing (Nikon F, Nikkor F, and Nikkorex F). So Nikon called all their items in Germany "Nikkor", thus the name "NIKKOR J". But again, why "J"? Because the Nikon F was called Nikkor F in Germany and they could not rename the Nikkorex F a Nikkor F (talk about confusion!!) So the letter "J" was chosen. First I thought it might be that it came with the "J" screen, but it has the standard "A" screen. It is possible the "J" comes from the word "Japan", and so the Japanese showed the Germans their forehead, like two bulls who stand against each other!

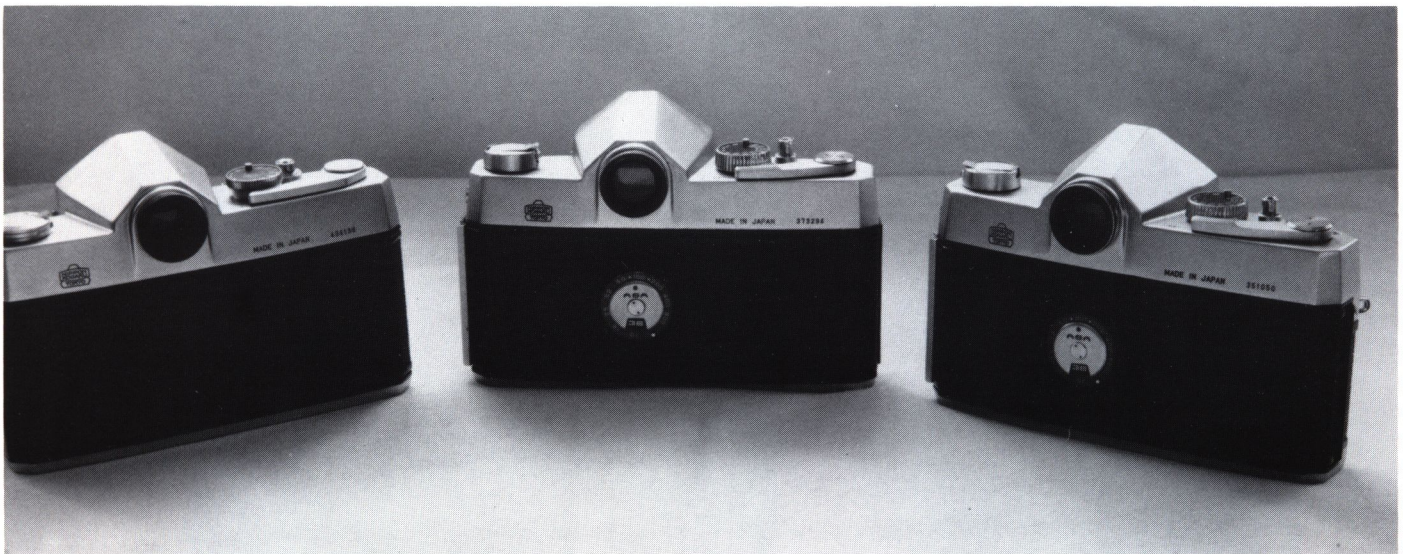
Ulrich Koch.





On these three pages are photos of Ulrich Koch's "Nikkor J". Although most Nikon collectors and users tend to dismiss the Nikkorex F as the only mistake Nikon made during the 1960s, and which to a certain extent they are undoubtedly correct, this variation is unusual enough to warrant coverage in *The Journal*. The same can be said for the black Nikkorex F that was discussed in these pages a few years ago. Both cameras are virtually unknown outside of their respective distribution areas in Europe. Therefore, for the vast majority of NHS members this is the first time that you are seeing photos of a genuine "Nikkor J", a camera that most of us will never see in person.

Ulrich has provided samples of both versions of the standard Nikkorex F for comparison. You will note that the Nikkor J resembles more closely the first version of the Nikkorex F in that it has the same selftimer lever, rewind knob and film type reminder dial (which is totally missing on the second version of the Nikkorex F). Whether or not a Nikkor J with features found on the Type 2 Nikkorex exist is not known at this time. It is possible that the restrictions which caused the use of the "Nikkor" name were removed by the time the restyled Nikkorex F arrived on the scene. So now, like the black Nikkorex F, we have verified that the Nikkor J pictured in that German ad does exist. Who knows where they might be today?  
 Photos by Ulrich Koch.



THE

# "FUKETA TAPES"

## PART III by Robert J. Rotoloni

Dear Mr. Rotoloni,

I have received your latest issues of your Nikon Journal including the article on our meeting held last June, with great pleasure. I sincerely hope that you will have a fruitful Convention meeting in Seattle. In answer to your request about facts concerning the recent death of Mr. Jun Miki, I send you the following:

Date...Feb. 22, 1992

Time...Midnight

Place...Jikei Central Hospital

Cause...Acute heart failure.

Concerning the 35-85mm Wide-Zoom featured in NHS-35, I recall the following. This lens was made early in 1961 and sent to the United States for use as a sample at the IPEX show held in Philadelphia. But, since it was too big, heavy and expensive, the response was not very good, and we decided not to put it into production. I forgot about the matter of the "Caution Note", but I do have a faint memory that the lens had a problem with too many internal reflections that could not be reduced.

The number produced was "two"! It is my guess that the reason why the lens in NHS-35 has a serial number ending in "03", is as follows:

"There was some type of error made when the two serial number rings were engraved, and an additional blank ring was supplied to the engraving department. The shop engraved the number "03" because "01" and "02" had already been used, which was the system we used to prevent duplicate serial numbers."

And now some additional information relevant to some of your previous questions and answers to your latest questions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Rotoloni..Is it true the rangefinder Nikons were discontinued because of the huge early success of the Nikon F, but that an additional batch of SPs were made because of consumer demand, possibly as late as 1964?

-----  
 Fuketa-san..After having started the sale of the Nikon F in 1959, we continued the production of the Nikon SP in parallel. But after launching the Nikon F demand for it increased drastically while the demand for the rangefinder cameras decreased proportionally. As a result it became difficult for us to continue the production of the Nikon SP from an economic point of view. Then we decided to stop production of the SP in April of 1963! However, once the public learned that the SP had been discontinued, a lot of requests came to us not to stop its production. Press photographers strongly requested that we make it because the Olympic Games would be held in Tokyo in 1964. In response to the reaction from the press people, we decided to produce a rangefinder body again, but in limited quantity of one lot.

Rotoloni..Was this additional lot of rangefinder bodies Nikon SPs or Nikon S3s?

-----  
 Fuketa-san..When we resumed the production, we changed specifications so that we could manufacture it somewhat easier, in order to reduce the cost overruns. We used the simpler range/viewfinder of the Nikon S3 with framelines for the 35, 50 & 105mm lenses, since the use of the 35mm lens had become more popular by that time. Also the removal of the 28mm optical finder reduced costs. Although black bodies were not that popular in those days, since it was the press photographers who mostly requested these cameras, we made them in black because they needed the more plain body.

Rotoloni..What about the f1.4 Nikkor that is often found with these cameras that we usually call the "Olympic" lens?

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 Fuketa-san..The lens that you call the "Olympic Nikkor" was the standard lens being produced at that time. However, it was not planned simply for usage at the Olympic Games! We had already designed the prototype for this new lens, which consists of 7 elements in 5 groups instead of 7 elements in 3 groups, as the previous f1.4 lens. Since we were going to resume the production lot of the bodies, we needed a lens also. We decided to use this new lens which was of better quality than the older design (it produced a better out of focus image in the foreground and background).

Rotoloni..What do you remember about the "DUMMY" Nikon RFs? Most known Dummies appear to have mismatched backs that do not fit very well and leather cut wrong.

-----  
 Fuketa-san..In response to requests for exhibit cameras for shows or shop windows, we made dummy cameras and lenses occasionally. So no planned quantity was made, only as regards specific requests. If my memory is correct, the requests for dummy cameras and lenses was very rare! Their manufacture was decided by the person in charge of production on a case by case method. Since requested quantities were very small, they made dummies from bodies and lenses regarded as "defective" and missing internal parts. To fill a request for a dummy, these defective partially completed items had the necessary external parts added to complete the outer appearance, so they look just like the standard production item. Now at this time we have no record of the quantities of dummies that we produced, but the total figure was quite small.

## THE FIRST!... by Frank Landry

Everyone has certain things in their lives that they never forget. Some things that come to mind include the birth of your first child, your first "love", your first solo in an airplane, and your first Nikon. Surely everyone reading this magazine can remember obtaining their very first Nikon camera, whether it was a rangefinder type or the Nikon F. I thought it might be of interest to some of the younger members to relate my first Nikon purchase made in the early 60s', to talk of the experience and show the availability and market conditions at the time.

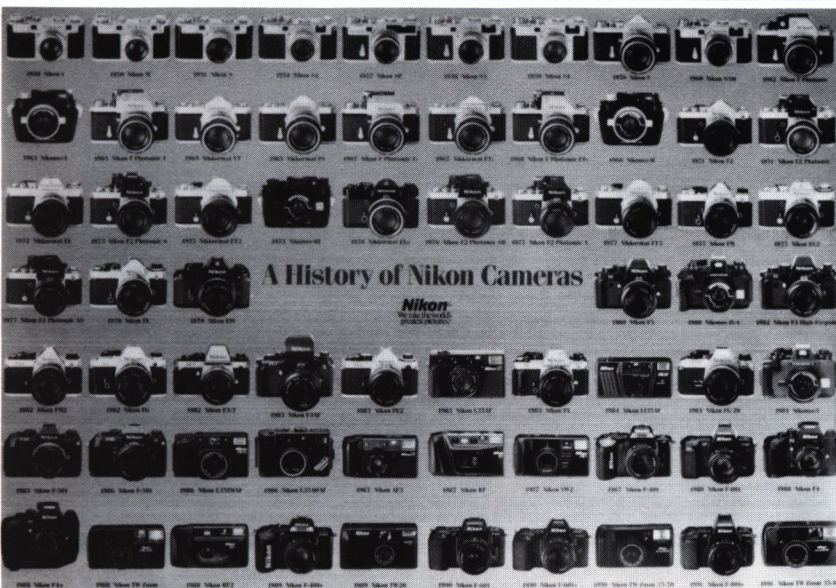
My actual purchase took place in the Base Exchange (BX) at Misawa A.B., Misawa, Japan in May of 1962. I had just enlisted in the U.S. Air Force that past September and after basic training and tech school, I drew an assignment to Japan. Boy, what a day! Before I left home for overseas, I stopped at the best camera store in New Orleans, told them of my tour to Japan and asked what they recommended I purchase. I was looking for a high quality excellent camera. The manager, without hesitation, told me to buy a Nikon F if I could afford it. He showed me one and I believe the body alone was \$400 at that time...a lot of money in those days. I made some notes.....

I hit Japan in late May, 1962, and with all my back pay/travel pay, etc.(\$400), I went to the BX and purchased my first Nikon, an F, brand new in the box. I also got a 5.8cm/f1.4 lens with it, together with lens case, plastic bubble and camera case, all for \$175.00 total, no tax! The camera was #6454129 and the lens #168980. Shortly after I purchased a 35mm/f2.8 (#177885) and a 135mm/f3.5 (#730345). I picked up a BC-5 flash with coupler and a non-Nikon leather bag. Total cost of those purchases was \$129.65! So I spent more than half of my back pay in a week, but boy did I have a piece of machinery. In those days that "baby" was the "cat's meow"!! I MEAN.....! I had come from an old, knocked around, Argus C3 to the Nikon F in one big jump...What an absolute joy to use. I was 21 years old and using the best camera available at that time.... the best that money could buy.

The prices in the BX were about 20% less than in the Japanese stores. The only problem was they had certain restrictions as to quantities the BX could sell and all items were not available for one reason or another. Whether it was because of quotas imposed by the Japanese government or by the military itself, in order to maintain good community relations, I don't know. The basic system was available, but certain lenses, motor drives, clip-on meters, etc, were not easy to obtain through the BX. In town you could get anything, I believe. About as fast as the BX got lenses and bodies in, they were gone. I tried to order the 200mm/f4 Nikkor lens and was not able to obtain one without being more assertive (or having more rank!).

About my second paycheck there, I finally made it "downtown" and rapidly discovered the availability of other Japanese items such as Wine, Food and Song. The Nikon gear took a back seat shortly thereafter, as I sampled, sampled and sampled again! Wow, what a place! What good times! The Japanese people were very nice, the country was just beautiful, and for not much Yen, you could buy just about anything. These were very pleasant experiences I will never forget.

Except for the 5.8cm lens, which I lost through damage about 12 years ago, I still have the original F, together with the 35mm, 135mm, the flash unit and the non-Nikon leather bag. I lost the top to the camera's box, but still have the bottom with it's purple velveteen lining material. (I am looking for a top!) I no longer have the lens boxes, literature, instruction book nor the plastic bubbles. But I am looking. I had a very pleasant surprise at the recent Houston show. I was finally able to obtain a 5.8cm f1.4 lens (for \$20!) and a 5.8cm Nikon shade across the room as well (for \$3.00!). The lens was rough and needed work, but I had it overhauled for \$47 and she works fine. I finally got the original "outfit" back together again, some 30 years later! But... some nine Nikon Fs later, I still like my "first" one and use it regularly.



NIKON COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE...\$150.00 US  
 \$175.00 OVERSEAS  
 "NHS" T-SHIRTS (MED. ONLY)...\$10.00 US  
 \$12.00 OVERSEAS

## "NHS" PRODUCTS

Member Peter Lownds has come up with another item for "NHS" Products! We now have available a reproduction of the complete repair manual for the Nikon F, including the entire parts list! It is priced the same as the Motor Drive Manual, and is available now. Listed below are other current items & their prices. All proceeds go to offset the cost of The Journal, and helps maintain current dues!

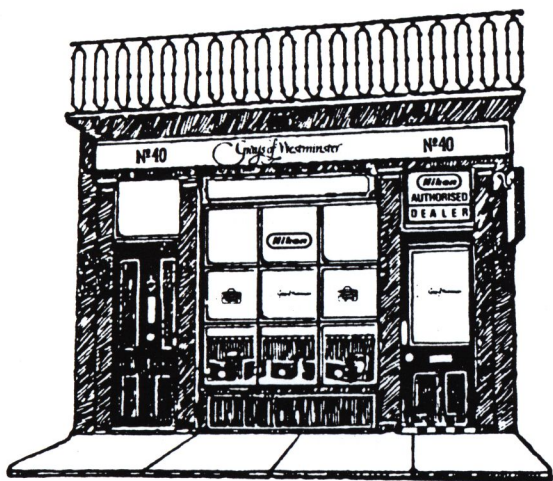
ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE!

HISTORY OF NIKON POSTER.....	\$20.00 US
	\$25.00 OVERSEAS
"NHS" LAPEL PIN.....	\$5.00 US
	\$6.00 OVERSEAS
"NHS" TIE CLASP/CUFF LINKS....	\$15.00 US
	\$18.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON F REPAIR MANUAL.....	\$17.00 US
	\$20.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON MOTOR DRIVE MANUAL.....	\$17.00 US
	\$20.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON SP REPAIR MANUAL.....	\$10.00 US
	\$13.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON RANGEFINDER/ROTONONI....	\$25.00 US
(SIGNED)	\$35.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL NIKON CALCULATORS....	\$5.00 US
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## LETTERS..

From Karl Eichhorn...

Just received NHS-35. Great job! With regard to the exotic "Odds n' Ends" item, perhaps I can help with the following info. In the Nikon price lists for 1965, 67 and 69, I find the following item listed under the "Finders" category:

Product #2305-"Field Viewer for F lenses" \$8.95.

Same listing and price in all three lists. Though this is called a "Viewer", not a "Previewer", I think it is the same item. The item is NOT listed in the 1960 or the 1973 lists I have, which are as close chronologically as I can come. Hope this helps. (It certainly does help, Karl! At least we now have a date range and price, which is less than the price of an "A" screen by itself!?.Ed.)

From Alan Blake...

NHS-35 was truly fascinating reading! Two thoughts spring to my mind in relation to the articles in this issue. The first is to wonder if the field previewer was produced as a commercial item for resale or for dealers to demonstrate the coverage of available lenses without tying up an F body. I cannot believe that it would have made an effective telescope converter without an eye-piece to view the screen or a means to shield the eye from extraneous light. The second is to wonder if Mr. Chang has actually tried his 35-85mm zoom. It would be interesting to know what its optical performance was like. My first brush with zoom lenses was the 43-86mm (with the earlier computation) and it was certainly no match for their single focal length lenses!!

## PLEASE NOTE

Grays of Westminster recently presented a set of rather special photographs depicting older Nikon cameras to Nikon UK's Director & General Manager, Harry Collins. The black & white photographs were commissioned to commemorate 75 years of Nikon by Grays, who deal exclusively in Nikon equipment. There are six prints in the set and the edition is limited to 250 sets. Each set will be numbered and signed by the photographer, Dublin based Tony Hurst.

The photos were originally covers of the NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL. Gray Levett, of Grays of Westminster, a member of the Society, says:

"I used to look forward to seeing Tony's photographs of the old Nikons in the Journal. I met Tony recently and spoke to him about having a complete set of the photos. At the same time I'd been thinking about what Grays could do to commemorate Nikon's 75th anniversary. The quality of Tony's photos was so good that they just seemed like the perfect vehicle."

The prints will be available for sale as complete sets or individually from mid-June at Grays & the launch of the prints ties in neatly with the opening of the shop's new showroom. "The Nippon Kogaku Room is devoted to the early Nikons from the RFs, the F series and up to and including the F2" says Levett. There will be items for sale and some on display only. "There is great demand for early Nikons and the Nippon Kogaku Room will be a paradise for Nikon collectors & browsers alike."

**NIKON'S 75th BIRTHDAY!**

**CLASSIFIED**

FOR SALE...Mint black Nikon rangefinder lenses with caps, cases, hoods; Nikon SP bodies Mint to EX+ and accessories; also Leica SM lenses and other collectibles. Send SASE to: Ron Wilson, 1311 Crossfield, Katy, Texas 77450.

WANTED...New collector seeks the following small items in EX or better condition. Rangefinder items..shade for 28/f3.5; shade for late 35/f2.5; rear "W" cap w/logo for 28/f3.5; leather case for 28/f3.5 and 35/f2.5. "F" items..shade for 3.5cm f2.8; 10.5cm/f2.5 lens (mint) w/shade, caps, cs; 21mm/f4 lens w/finder. Bob Rogen, 4823 "A" St., Sacramento, CA 95819..Tel. 916-454-3317.

FOR TRADE ONLY...Exakta-mount Nikkor Q.C. 135mm S/N 257451, caps and hood, quite clean and quite rare. Examples of trade wanted: Miranda-made Contax to Leica focusing adapter; clean S3 w/lens; NIB to mint S2 w/1.4, cap/case. Anything interesting? Tom Surovek, Box 2001, Hammond, IN 46323.

FOR SALE...Nikon rangefinder bodies and lenses for sale, as well as other collectible cameras. Please send SASE to: Bruce Hansen, Box 89437, Honolulu, HI 96830-9437. Foreign buyers welcome.

FOR SALE...Have copies of Peter Braczko's Nikon book signed by the author with dedication! For DM.111 ppd. anywhere in the world! Peter Lownds, W. de Zwijgerstraat 24, 3043 VD, Rotterdam, Holland. Tel. 31-10-415-9136.

WANTED...Collector seeks RF items:bodies, lenses & accessories. Nikkors in SM. Canon bodies and lenses in particular the 19mm,25mm,50/0.95,200mm & Mirror Box. All types of Leica copies. Nikkors for F like Fisheye OP,55mm UV,PS Micro,400-600-800-1200 heads & mount. Per Kullenberg, Ollingvej 11, 6933 Kibaek, Denmark. Tel-45-971-91393.

WANTED...Blue velvet box for 35/f2.5 Nikkor;black snap-on shade for same; blue velvet box for Type One Varifocal finder; front cap & chrome 2 piece shade for early rigid 50/f2.0 Nikkor. John Baird, 120 Clark Ln., Naches, WA 98937. Fax(509)453-3835

FOR SALE...Nikon MS w/fl.4 #M6092770/50051176, 8.0 condition.\$2900; S2 black (repainted?), black dial #6181748, 8.5 condition.\$1900; 3.5cm/fl.8 #357665, 7.5 condition.\$425; 5cm/fl.4 #375554, hood/cap, 9.5 condition.\$250; S3 chrome #6304772, #s on back, 7.5 condition.\$700; Please call Doug Napier, 103 Clark Ave, Thornhill, Ont., Canada. Tel.09-1-416-731-4694.

TRADE...35mm/f2.0 AI-Nikkor for SLR, near Mint, with caps. Trade toward 85mm/f2.0 Nikkor for the RF cameras, near Mint. Fred Maurer, 5697 Green Circle Dr. #101, Minnetonka, MN 55343. Tel..(612) 938-7166.

WANTED...Speed Magny 4 x 5 for F/F2; bellows to fit rear of 1000/f6.3 Nikkor; reflex housing type 1 or 2; Nikon brand microscope: original copies NHS Journal before 31. John Millham, 82 Brasenose Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7BN, England.

TRADE/SALE...Unusual 18mm/f2 Apo-Kinoptic in RF coupled Nikon mount. Lens is fixed at F2.0 and records a circular image on the film. Only one of 2 or 3 known to exist. Hersul Huyghue, Javette Studios, 13 Rosewood Ln, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Tel..(203) 242-1649.

**NEW MEMBERS**

MICHAEL J. DOWNEY  
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LESLEY BELL/DUNCAN DOW  
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BOULDER, CO 80302

DON/STEVE HORNSTEIN  
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NORFOLK, VA 23514

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NORTHBROOK, IL 60062-4718

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11579 S.W. DAVIES RD. #2902  
BEAVERTON, OR 97007

**NEXT ISSUE**

The deadline for the next issue of THE NIKON JOURNAL will be September 1, 1992. NHS-37 will mark our 9th Anniversary issue!! Please get all photos and articles to me by that date. Thank you!

**BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL!**

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR OFFICIAL "NHS" LIST OF BLACK NIKON RANGEFINDERS!

6170954 6194146 6208484 6218836 6322441

# 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!



## PHOTO-SONICS 250

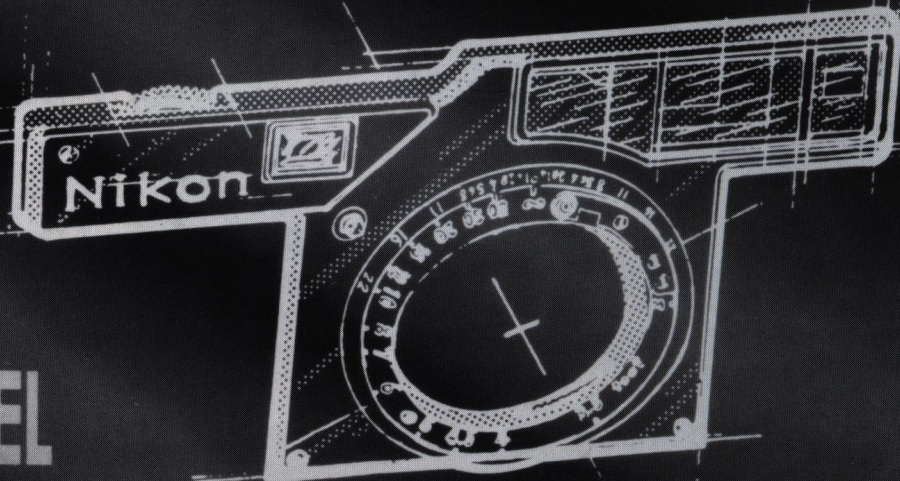
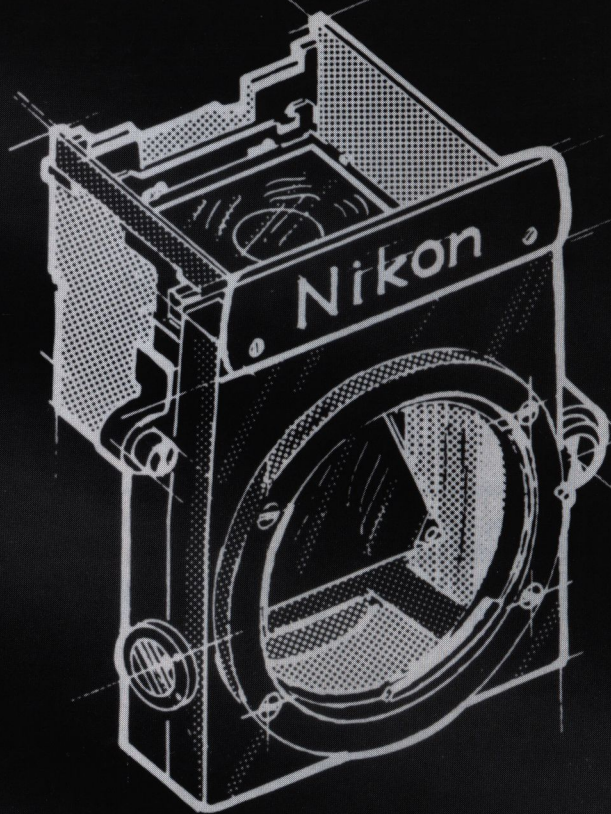
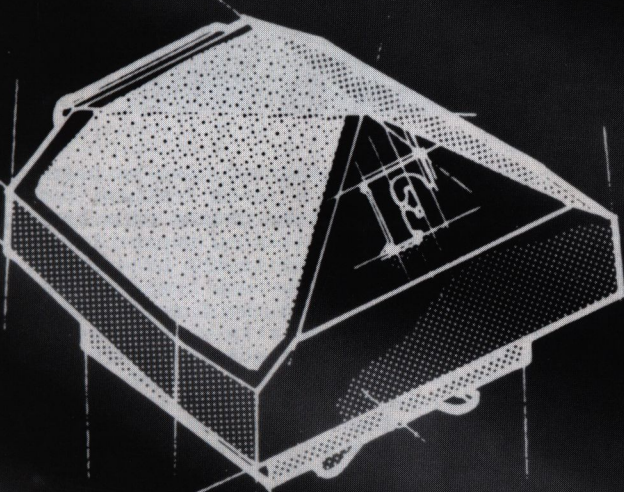
From member Richard Lane we have an unusual item for our Odds n' Ends feature this issue. He recently sent me some photos of a rather unique looking 250mm/f4 Nikkor-Q preset lens, #277364, (which is quite late in the production run.). At first look it was obvious that the mount had been extensively modified, so I requested more info from Richard, especially since this lens appeared to have the same "interrupted screw" mount found on the "Atomic-Nikkor" featured in NHS-29! The following is from Richard's letters...."In answer to your questions about my 250mm/f4 Nikkor, the entire mounting section of the original lens is gone----it is not usable on a Nikon camera. The adapter does screw on to the Nikkor lens and is held in place by a small allen screw on the side of the adapter. The new mount is, as you suspected, an interrupted screw! I may be receiving more information about this Nikon lens and others they may have modified. I recently visited the Air Force base where the lens once resided. They had no idea what it might have been used for or what type of camera it mounted on, but they did know about "Photo-sonics", whose name is engraved on the adapter! The large motion picture cameras used to record rocket launches there are made by Photo-sonics. They informed me that Photo-sonics was located in Burbank, CA, so I called them and asked about the lens. I sent several photos and I am waiting to hear back from them. Photo-sonics apparently specializes in modifications to lenses which are used by the military and the commercial motion picture industry. They modify lenses to withstand extreme vibrations by making the mount more rugged through increased size and the use of high strength materials. It is unknown how many Nikon lenses Photo-sonics modified, but the possibilities are interesting. Perhaps they have modified one of the 1000mm/f6.3 Nikkors or even the "Atomic-Nikkor" 500mm/f5.0 lens featured in NHS-29!" (Editors note..two things about this adapter stand out....one is that it was made to match the Nikkor right down to the knurling and paint!...two is the interrupted screw mount which looks just like that seen on the Atomic-Nikkor!)



**NHS**  
**CON3**

**SEATTLE**  
**1992**

June 13 & 14



**RADISSON HOTEL**  
**Seattle Airport**