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'9th' ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!!
THE NIKON  JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE..

PG.2--THE NIKON REFLEX HOUSING
PG.8--"PROTOTYPE" PHOTOMIC FINDERS!!
PG.14-"NHS BLACK LIST"

ROBERT ROTOLONI
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EDITORIAL

The "NHS" is 9 years old this month! If this year goes by as quickly as the last (it seems I was just talking about our Society's 8th birthday!), before we know it we will be celebrating our first "decade"! It seems hard to believe that we have 9 years of Journals and 3 Conventions behind us, yet soon I will have to come up with some ideas on how to make NHS-41 special! I have a few but I'm always open to suggestions. Any ideas?

Since this is an anniversary issue I thought I would include an item I produced for NHS-Con3. On page 15 is some information about the Society that you might find interesting. It is a demographic study of our members based on who lives where. From which U.S. states do most of our American members reside and which countries are represented within our ranks. When compiling this information I was surprised at what some of the numbers say!

We continue to grow with over 275 members, including '19' additions this issue! At this rate we may reach the magic number '300' in time to celebrate our first decade. Not only are we getting new people, but we are becoming better known thanks to increased exposure, much of which is the result of efforts made by current members. It was only a bit over a year ago that we were finally able to make contact with the right people at Nikon in Tokyo, thanks to the efforts of Simon Nathan. He also has helped me contact some of the key people in the Ehrenreich organization, which has led to even more contacts. Al Levin, after seeing what we were all about at NHS-Con3, has embarked on a crusade to make us known within the current Nikon USA offices as well as the photographic press. He was able to have a photo of Simon Nathan and I, taken at NHS-Con3, published in the August issue of "Photo Business"! In addition he has helped me make contact with the likes of Joseph C. Abbott and Herbert Keppler, all of which can only help our Society become better known. As Simon and Al continue to work behind the scenes, it is my responsibility to follow up on these opportunities, which I am striving to do. All of this activity, both here and in Japan, can only help us grow and our Journal become more influential. Its a never ending project, but boy is it fun!

There have been repeated requests for me to print our membership list in the Journal. I can do this in the next issue, and would print only name and address, no phone numbers. I have done this in the past and, as I did then, I am announcing it ahead of time in case a particular member does not want to be so listed. "If" you do not want to have your address listed in NHS-38 you must let me know by November 15, 1992!!! Please!!

On page 19 you will find an announcement for a new service for the members. Since so many current members joined only in recent years, there has been a growing demand for backissues of The Journal. For a while I was able to keep up with the demand, but as originals dried up making copies became a bigger and bigger chore. In response to a steady and growing demand from newer members for the back-issues, both originals and copies, I have set up a reprint service using my printer to produce the copies. The result will be a much better product than I could do myself, one that will hopefully rival originals in quality. I feel this will go a long way in satisfying the demand and enable our newer members to have access to all the information that has appeared in The Journal over the last nine years.

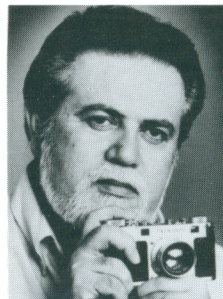
There are actually two main articles this issue, one on the rangefinders, the other on the reflexes. On page two you will find a detailed article on the Nikon Reflex Housing Type Two. One of the most desirable accessories for the rangefinders, these housings were never made in large numbers and have increased in value appreciably in recent years. Those that appear on the market do not remain there for very long, as trading in this item is very active. Although few variations are known, you will see that there are a few things to look for when collecting this item.

The second main piece is again our F-Spot feature beginning on page eight. I am grateful to member Jose Wu Chang for again making available photos of yet another prototype made for the reflex system! This time around we have two different Photomic meter prism prototypes that are extremely interesting. One is a working version that I have never seen mentioned in any literature anywhere, while the second unit is a 'dummy' that is probably the very same piece seen in some of the earliest literature for the Photomics! Both may be the last surviving examples and this marks the first time such detailed photos have ever been published anywhere in the world!!

Also this issue we have the fourth installment of the 'Fuketa Tapes' in which Fuketa-san again answers some very interesting questions, including a detailed discussion of the S36 motor drive from its inception to production. As always we can all learn from Fuketa-san's extensive knowledge of the early years of Nikon.

Another request that I have heard repeatedly is that I reprint my black rangefinder body serial number list. It has been some years since I last did and even though I list new numbers in every issue, many of you have asked that I put it all together in one issue. Turn to page 14 to find my current list of over 400 black Nikons. Use it as a guide and contribute to it if you know of others not listed. Remember, there are fakes out there and they are becoming more common all the time, so the more knowledgeable we are the better for all!

Other features this issue include Simon Nathan's article on what may be the very first 'compacted' Nikon (I know its the first I have seen!). Dr. Stephen Sipos relates the last day in the life of famous war photographer Robert Capa, who used an early Nikon to produce some of his images. On page 18 is an ad from Grays of Westminster for a limited edition of Nikon prints for collectors. It showcases the work of member Tony Hurst and consists of a series of six beautiful 9 by 12 inch enlargements, all of which made their first appearance on the back cover of our own Nikon Journal. Many of you have written to tell me how superb Tony's cover shots are, and I always say "you should see the originals!". See Gray's ad on how to order these custom printed, numbered and signed originals!



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Photo: Tony Hurst

THE NIKON REFLEX HOUSING

by **Robert J. Rotoloni**

Actual operation of the reflex housing was quite simple. It bayoneted to the body exactly as a lens would. On the users right side was a small protrusion that housed two fittings. The forward receptacle would take either a Nikon cable release or the standard equipment finger tip release. The finger tip unit stood nearly three inches high and had a locking plunger. It served as the primary release for the entire camera-housing-lens setup and was quite comfortable to use. As you depressed the plunger the mirror would begin to rise. At the same time a rod would rise within the second rear mounted receptacle, to which was attached a special cable supplied with the housing. The other end of this cable attached to the shutter release on the Nikon body. As the rod extended upward into the cable it would release the camera shutter. The time of release could be user adjusted to synchronize exactly with the rising mirror! A locking knob visible on the side of the rear fitting could be used to adjust the height of the release socket. Careful adjustment of the height allowed for the shutter to release only when the mirror was fully raised with practically no delay factor. It works, try it! As mentioned a regular cable release could be used in place of the finger tip if wanted. Both releases could be locked to hold the mirror in the 'up' position. Why? Well, if you were shooting with a motor on rapid sequence for a few frames you could do it without the mirror getting in the way. Maybe a bit crude, but it worked for short bursts.

The user could switch from horizontal to vertical format by depressing a small chrome button on the left side of the housing. This allowed the body mount to rotate 90 degrees. This movement was, via a geared wheel, connected to the fine ground glass focusing screen. As you rotated the camera through the 90 degrees the screen also rotated to indicate the proper vertical frame! A nice touch and it works quite smoothly.

Serial numbers appear to begin at #471101 (which is pictured here!), and have been reported as high as #471769 (also in this article!). This would suggest that less than 800 were made. More may exist but probable production is under 1000! The prisms are also numbered, but were not mated to the housings in exact order. The 45 degree prisms are numbered from #67001 and have been recorded up to #67623. The 90 degree prisms begin at #77001 but have only been reported up to #77056!!

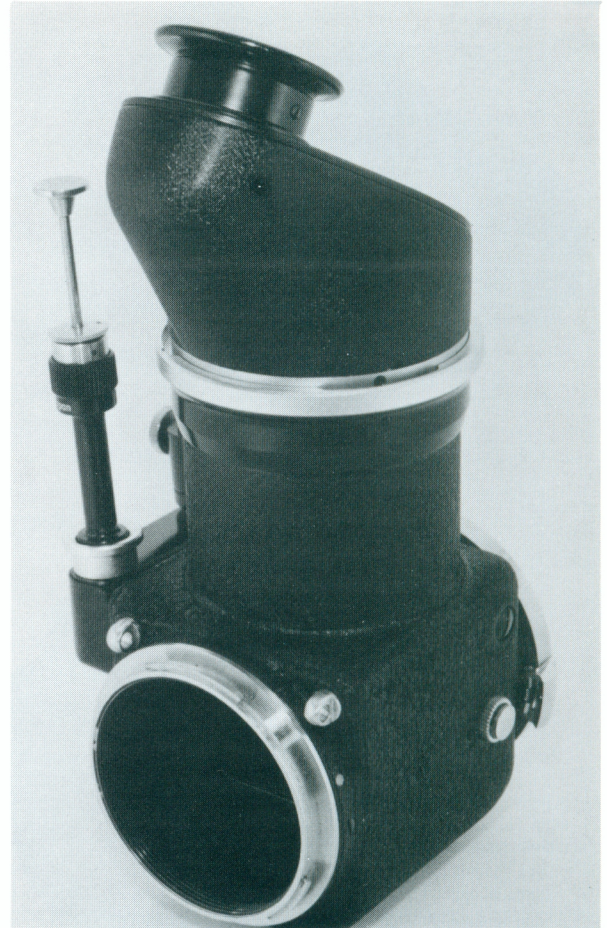
The Nikon Reflex Housing was never made in large numbers, and the 90 degree prism can be considered rare. They are also an impressive item and mechanically interesting, all of which makes them an exceedingly valuable accessory today, with reported sales at 20 times original list price!

This article is concerned with the second version of the Nikon Reflex Housing, which we call the Type Two. Its predecessor will be covered at some later date, as not enough information is available at this time to produce a definitive report on the much rarer Type One. However, even though this second type was made in larger numbers, it also is not what can be called a common item, and changes hands at very high prices. In addition, two of its accessories can be considered extremely hard to find, if not actually "rare".

The first price sheet which lists the new type reflex housing that I am aware of is dated May 1, 1956, while the last one showing the older type is from November 15, 1955. Therefore, we can assume that sometime in the early months of 1956 the new and improved second version was released at a price of \$129.50 (dealer cost was \$84.18!), including the 45' angle prism, 4.3X magnifying eyepiece, finger release and cable! The latest listing I have is dated April 1, 1964 where its price had risen to \$138.50, still a bargain. The accessory prices were cable release (\$7.95), finger tip release (\$5.95) and 90' pentaprism (\$42.00), about which more will be discussed later.

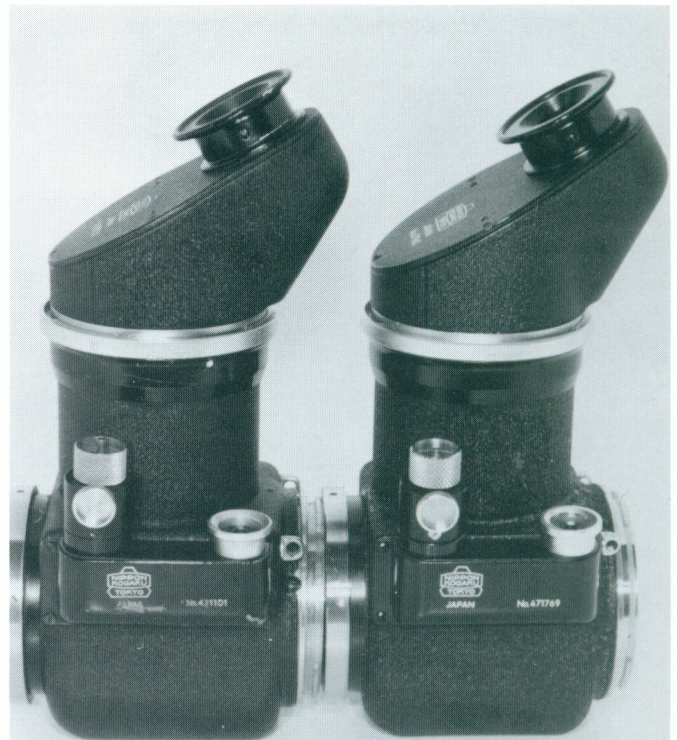
This newer housing differed significantly from its predecessor in design, if not in function. Its exterior finish was changed from a glossy black to a crackle surface, which extended to both types of interchangeable prisms. Nearly every corner and edge was rounded and contoured to produce an item that, though bulky by nature, was easy to grasp and hold, and seemed less intrusive. The standard prism (of the image erecting type), was newly angled at 45 degrees, a marked improvement over the original model's straight up design. Not only was this new prism more comfortable to use, but it also had a built in 4.3X magnifier and diopter correction! It was mounted and removed via a very easy to use bayonet locking system.

A second interchangeable prism was announced as early as 1957, but doesn't seem to have been actually available to possibly as late as 1959. It was a 90 degree pentaprism that allowed the user to focus at eyelevel, as you would with a single lens reflex camera! With this prism mounted you could actually aim, focus and shoot in what is, for most photographers, a more natural position. It also had a focusing eyepiece and bayoneted on and off in the same manner. Its original price was only \$42.00 but it did increase to \$45.00 later on. Though bulkier and heavier than the standard 45 degree prism, it did offer the user a choice of viewing angles. It appears that every few users took advantage, as to this day collected serial numbers still suggest a production run of less than 100 pieces!



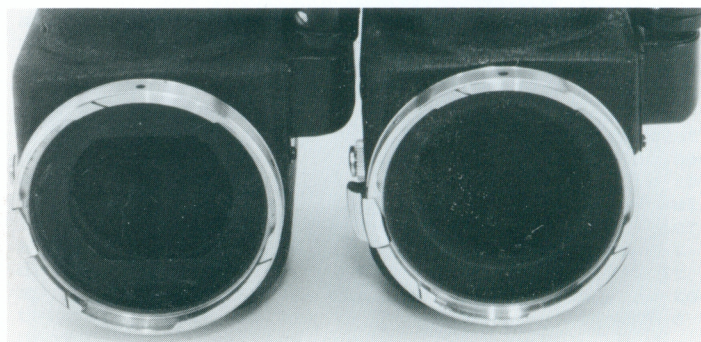
The above 2 photos are of a very late example of the Nikon Reflex Housing Type 2 #471769 (actually the latest number on my list at this time). This particular unit came with a 45' finder #67562 and are a matched pair, as both numbers appear on the box it came in. As mentioned in the text, the finder numbers do not follow the housing numbers exactly. Below left shows the finder removed. The two prisms bayonet on & off easily. Bottom right; These two housings currently reign as the earliest and latest numbers known to me at this time. On the left is #471101 and on the right is #471769. Unit #471101 "may" be the first one made as #471128 is used in the instructions & Nikon generally starts things at '01'!

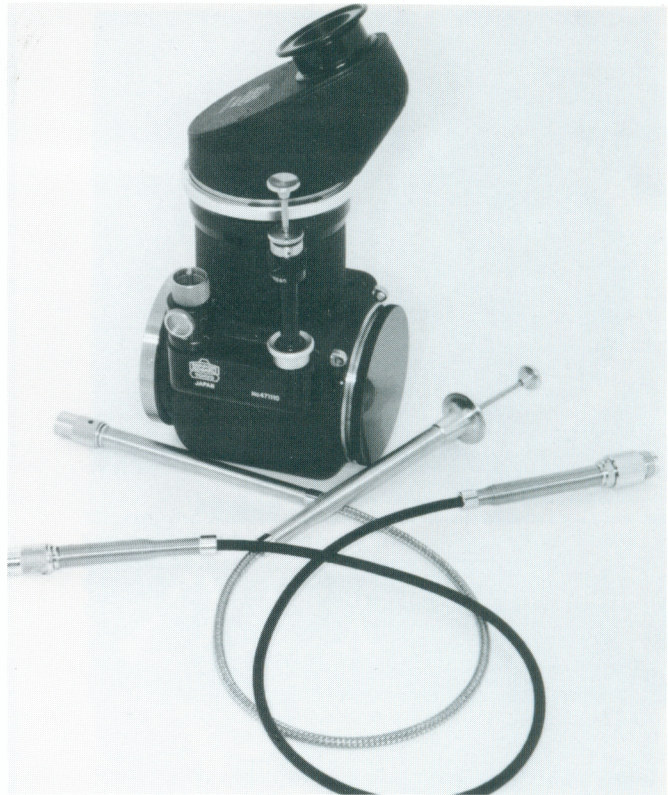
Robert J. Rotoloni





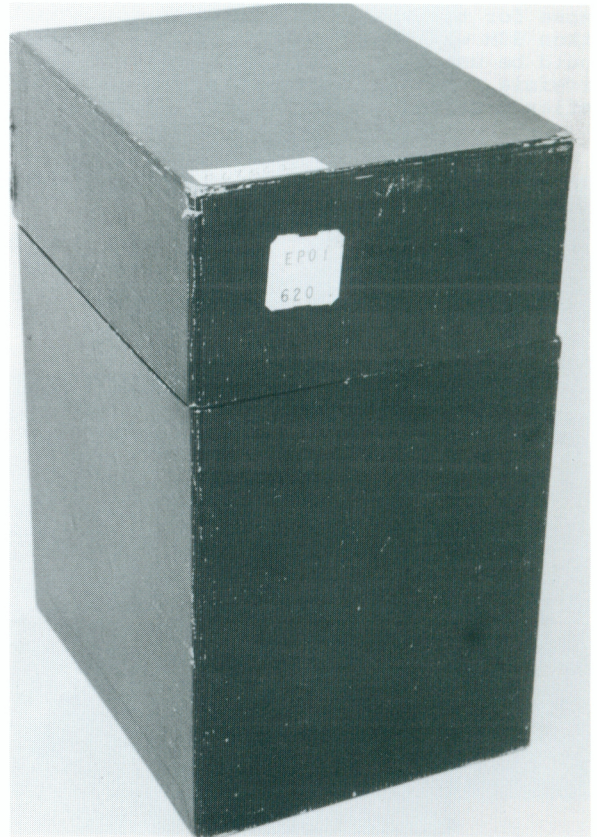
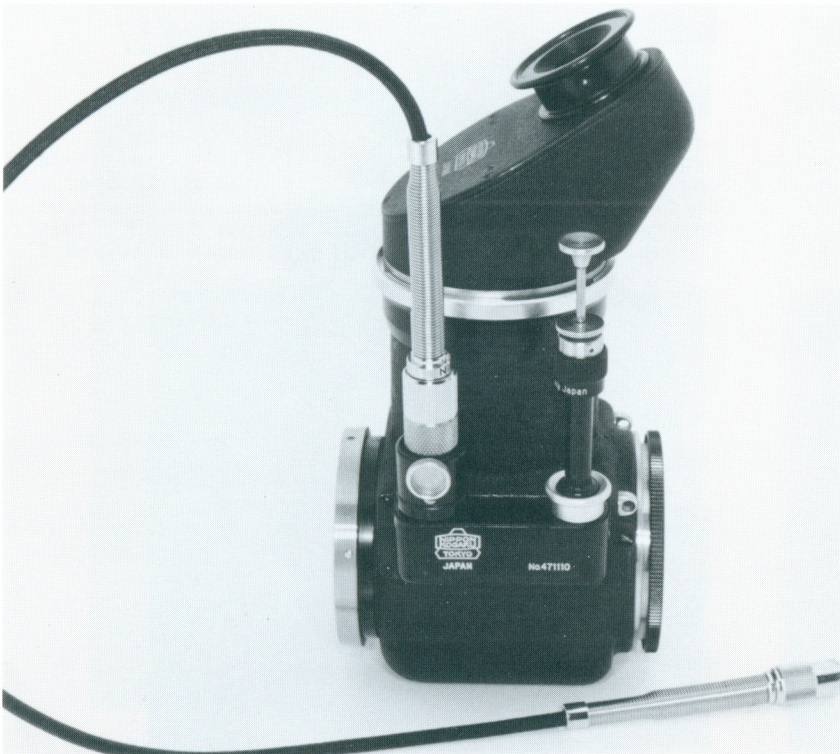
The most interesting accessory, as well as the rarest, made for the housing is the 90 degree penta prism finder. This is a genuine eyelevel prism with an upright, non-reversed image just like that found on any SLR today. It is finished exactly like the housing and the 45 degree finder, and it also has a focusing eyepiece with diopter control. Serial numbers begin at #77001 and have been recorded as high as #77056. This is unit #77032 mounted on a mid-production housing #471376 (which has a special modification shown on page 6!). The lower left photo shows finder #77018 with its original plain unmarked box which simply has written on the bottom "Pentaprism Finder for Reflex Housing"! Below are units #471101 (left) & #471769 (right). Note the modified exit pupil. The earlier squared off type has been seen as late as #471422. Did the round exit produce less vignetting? Robert J. Rotoloni

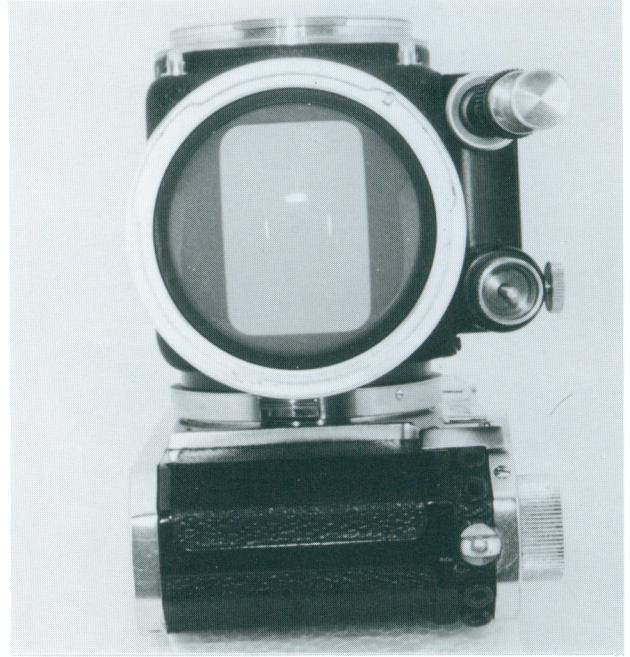
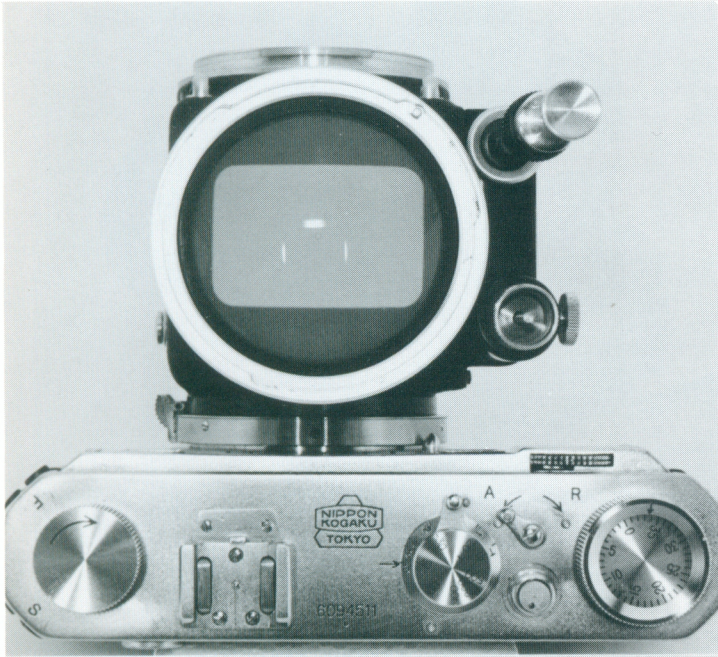




The array of releases includes the finger tip, cable (black) & standard cable release which replaces the finger tip. Also made was the Microswitch unit seen in the upper left photo. It would mate the housing to a motorized Nikon. Note the round locking wheel below the chrome fitting. This is the wheel that was used to synchronize the shutter release to the rise of the mirror!

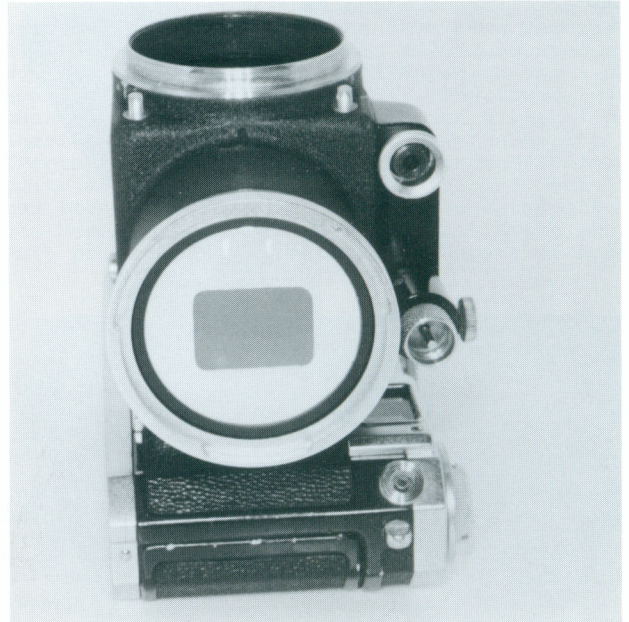
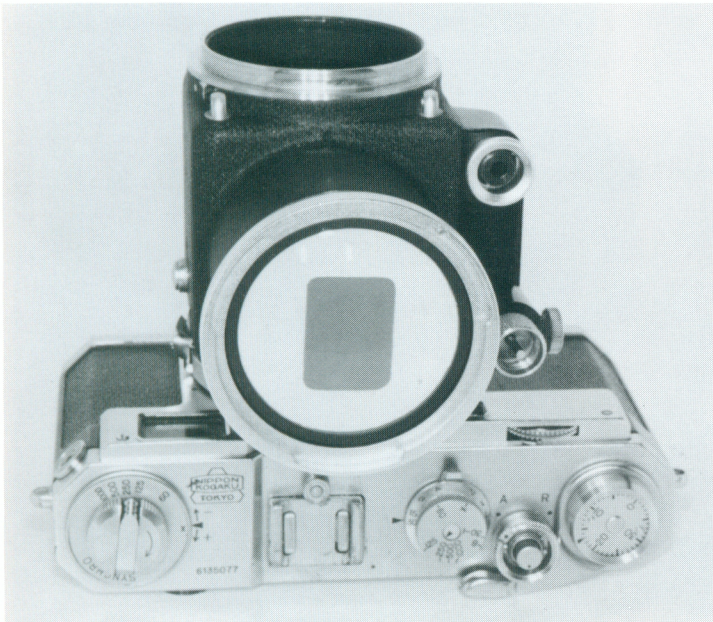
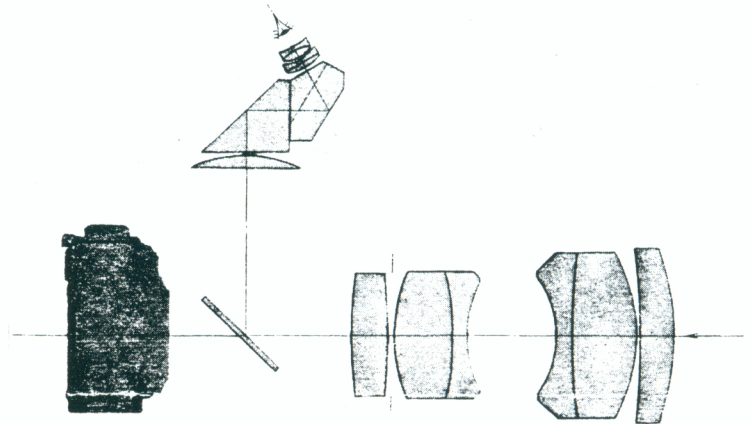
Robert J. Rotoloni

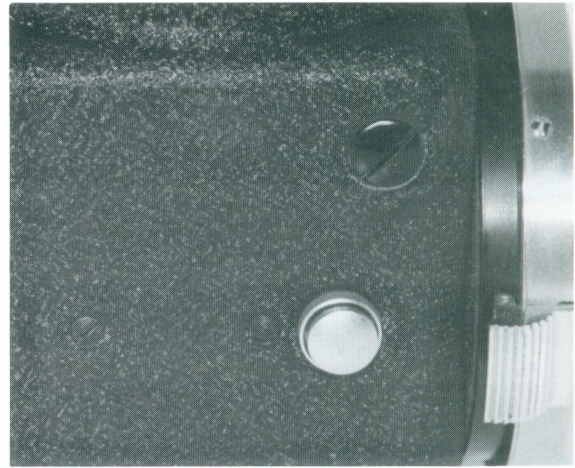
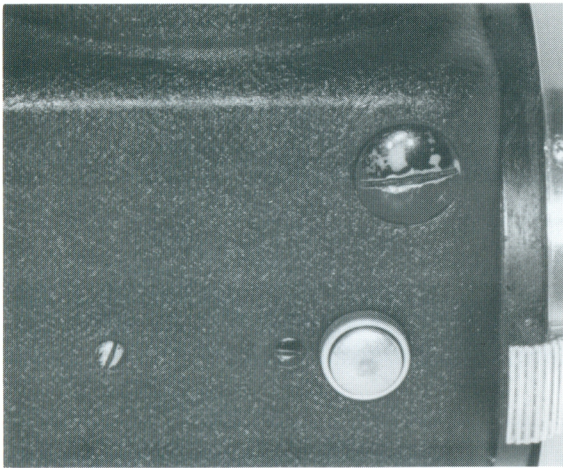




The camera body could be rotated 90 degrees for vertical photos using the side mounted button. As the body was rotated, an interconnected geared wheel would simultaneously rotate the focusing screen to the vertical mode! Very neatly done!

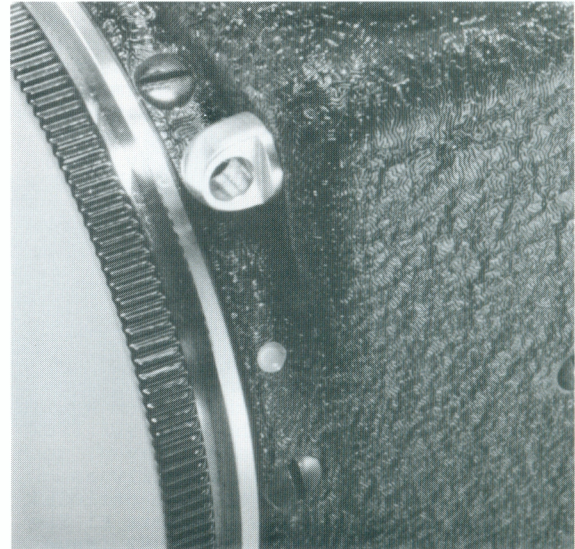
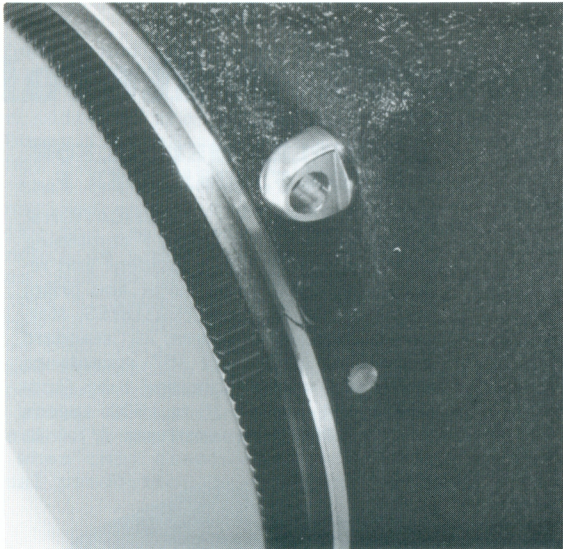
Below is the modified unit #471376 mentioned on page 4. Note that it has a built in mask for the half-frame format! When the body is in the horizontal mode the screen is vertical, as is correct for half-frame. Why has this been done? Who did it? Is it a factory modification? Its existence makes sense for the simple fact that if you were using a Nikon S3M with the housing the full size screen would be useless for framing! Wouldn't it? Yes, Virginia, someone somewhere would need a half-frame reflex housing, and here it is! Robert J. Rotoloni





Although there are no major variations, the reflex housing, as with any Nikon product, was slowly modified over time. Note the large black screw head just above the chrome flange release button in the two photos above. The left unit is #471101 while

the right unit is #471110! Obviously the earlier type is much larger. The only other one I have recorded with this larger screw is #471128 used in the instruction sheet, yet my own #471110 has the smaller type! Could this be a prototype feature?



Above left...#471110 with 3 lens mount retaining screws...1 on each side near the lug and one on the bottom. Above right...#471769 with 5 screws...2 on each side of lug and one on the bottom. Units with 3 screws are known up to at least #471422. Later

type would be a much stronger mount! Below left ...button to rotate camera on #471110. Below right ...same on #471769 has a serrated edge.

Robert J. Rotoloni



THE F--SPOT!!

THE PHOTOMIC PROTOTYPES

I am proud to announce that again our NIKON JOURNAL is the showcase for yet another "first" in the coverage of the history of Nippon Kogaku! For the first time anywhere you will see, in this installment of the "F-Spot", photographs of two Nikon F accessory prototypes! One is a unique 'dummy' mock-up that many of you have already seen (though you may not be aware of it), and the other is a working prototype the likes of which has never been published anywhere before now that I am aware of! Both are exotic one-of-a-kind items that may be the only examples left in the world. They are now part of the Hong Kong collection of Jose Wu Chang, who was gracious enough to supply me with the photographs used for this article.

Although the series of Photomic meter heads eventually became so common as to be thought an integral part of the Nikon F, we all know that thousands of Nikon Fs were originally shipped with the standard eye-level prism, and the subsequent Photomics were actually an accessory, especially in the early 1960s'.

Development of the Photomics had to begin at some point. The first report of such an item was in Modern Photography's coverage of the May 1961 IPEX show in Philadelphia, where one was displayed. Such a finder is also pictured in Modern as early as June 1961. This was a year before Nikon's official April 1962 announcement of the new Photomic F! The same finder was again seen in the July 1962 issue of Modern, and is reproduced here for reference.

Although a cursory glance might suggest that this is a genuine Photomic F meter head, a closer look reveals some remarkable differences. They include...the large "F" is machined into the face and is not an outline engraving, as used on the production units, nor is it painted in; the trademark aperture coupling prong and its sliding latch are not present at all; the CdS cell appears to be featureless; a small hole is present next to the CdS cell at about 2 o'clock. Now closely examine the photos of the dummy head pictured on these pages! Could this be the very same unit? Take one last look at the slotted battery covers....their orientations are identical! You decide!

As the photos illustrate, the dummy head has been machined out of a solid block of aluminum! However, it does have the correct leather covering as well as a rotating shutter speed and ASA dial assembly made from genuine parts! Also the exterior has been painted black where applicable. The result is a dummy that closely resembles the real thing to the point where it could be used in the literature as well as on public display, if at a distance.

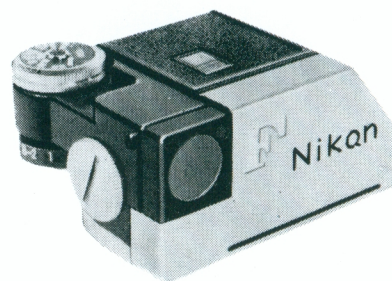
After taking a close look at the photos on these pages, and comparing them to the article from Modern Photography, the reader may very well decide that they represent the very same 'dummy' unit! You will not be alone in that belief.

NIKON JOURNAL SEPT.30,1992

by **Jose Wu Chang**
&
Robert J. Rotoloni

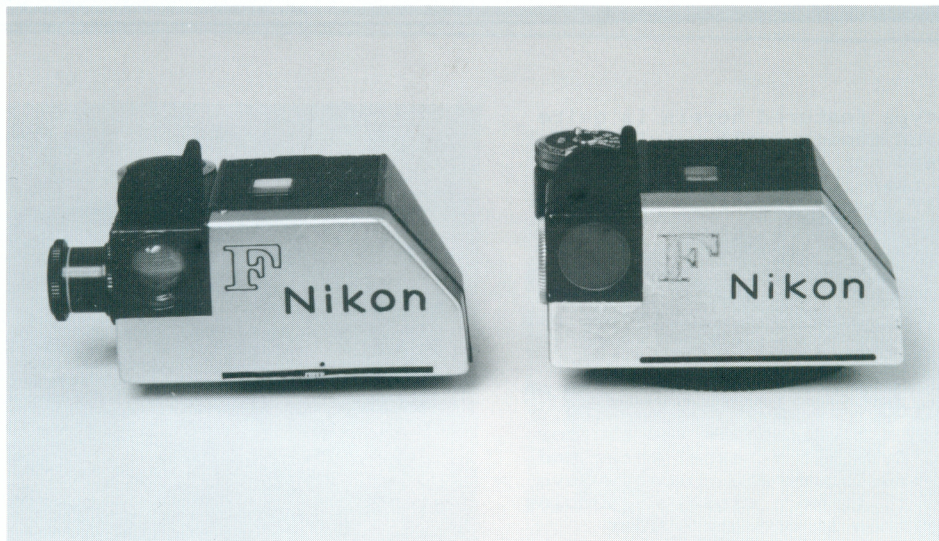
3 COUPLED METERS FOR NIKON F, NIKKOREX F

MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS: Photomic Finder for Nikon F combining cadmium sulfide (CdS) incident and reflected light exposure meter and prism finder in one housing. FEATURES: Mercury-battery power source; 75° standard acceptance angle and 15° acceptance angle with special threaded tube (supplied); ASA indexes 10 to 1600; speeds 2 to 1/1000 sec.; apertures f/1.4 to

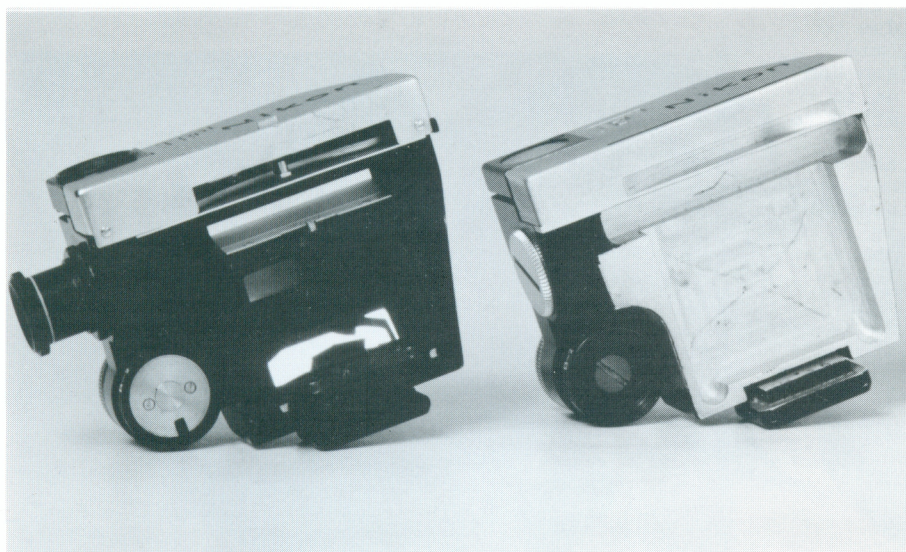
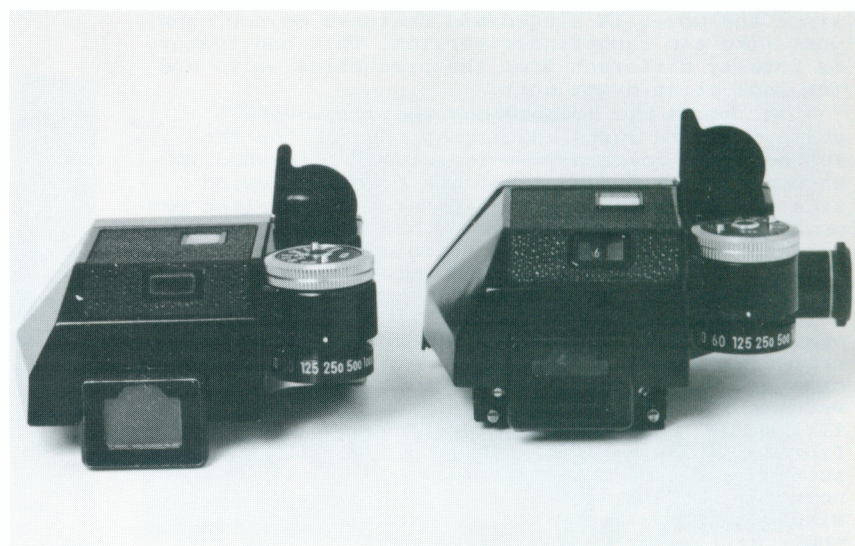


f/22; provision for filter factor adjustment to 4X; needle visible through viewfinder and in top of prism housing; aperture window in housing rear allows meter to be used separately. PRICE: \$89.50.

ANOTHER
"NHS"
EXCLUSIVE!



Top... "Dummy" unit (R) next to the real thing (L). Note the featureless cell and the missing sliding latch and its index mark. In addition the "F" is machined out on the Dummy instead of a painted line engraving. Right... From the rear it is obvious that the shape and contours have been finalized on the Dummy. It almost looks like the real thing! Bottom photos ... An underside view reveals that the Dummy has been machined from a single solid block of aluminum! Note how close it matches the production item. Nikon must have been very close to putting the meter into production when this Dummy was made. The lines, contours and features are too close to the final design. There may have been a very short time period between when this display piece was made and actual production began. Jose Wu Chang.

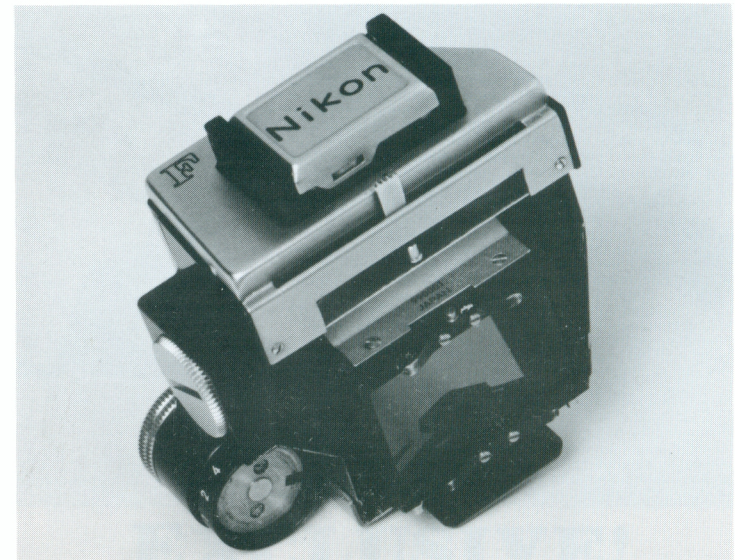
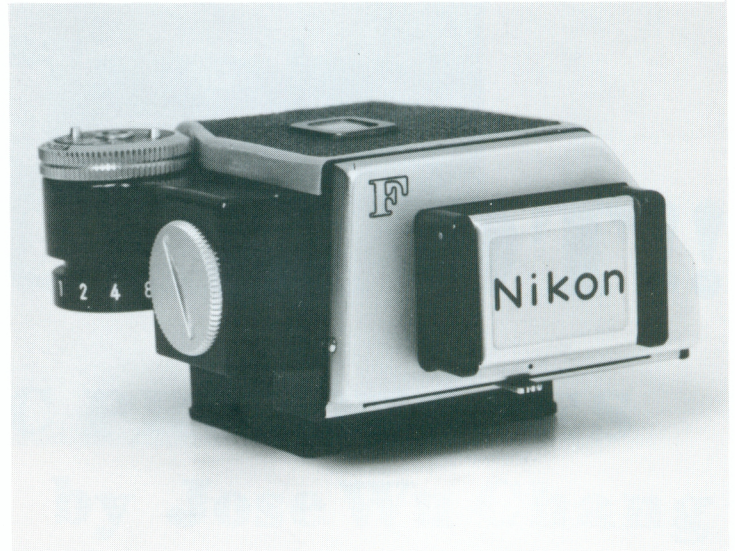


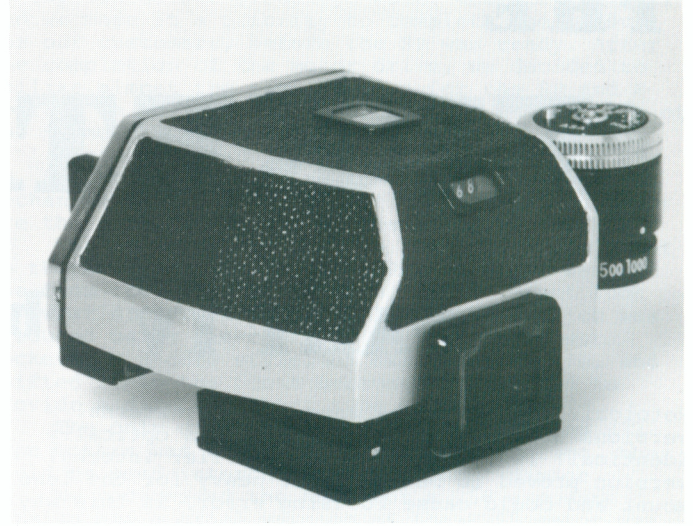
The second prototype featured herein is quite interesting in that even though it is a fully functional Photomic, and not a 'dummy' mock-up, it is probably 'earlier' than the preceding unit and not later! Let's see if we can make some sense out of this.

This unit, as stated, is fully functional and will mount to a Nikon F and couple to Nikkor lenses as any other Photomic. It is completely finished and is even serial numbered (#990001..it is typical of Nikon to number the first of anything as '01' and not '00')! All of its engravings are complete and painted in, although the "F" is smaller than on production units. The coupling prong and sliding latch are present and functional as is the shutter dial and ASA assembly. Even the external meter and aperture windows with indicators are correct. Save for its meter cell cover, it more closely resembles the final FTn Photomic than it does the older types. So why do I say it is earlier than the dummy unit? We'll start with its most prominent feature.. the centrally mounted rectangular housing and cover for the CdS cell which carries the Nikon logo. This is very reminiscent of the SP/S3 meter especially since the cover is hinged and designed to pop open just like the rangefinder version! This one feature is totally different from the production units and the look-alike dummy unit.

Although the housing has the same overall shape of later units, note that, except for the leather like covering, it is actually finished in chrome and not black. Also note that the rewind side of the housing has a leather insert unlike the production units. On the dummy head both of these cosmetic features closely resemble the actual item, much more so than this working prototype. Finally, we need to take a look at its serial number. The "01" ending tells us that this is the very first numbered specimen, and it could very well be the true original working Photomic prototype! Keep in mind that the predecessor to the Photomic heads were the clip-on selenium meters, Models I, II and III. Model I used the 97xxxx block and was made from June 1959 to June 1960. The Model III came out in the summer of 1960 and used the 98xxxx block of numbers. Therefore, it would only be logical for Nikon to assign the next number block, 99xxxx, to their next meter design. And that design was most probably this very unit! That would date this item to possibly as early as late 1960. Based on its features it would appear that this prototype did actually precede the 'dummy' unit. The fact that the dummy is a non-working mockup could be due to the need to have a 'display' piece ready by mid 1961 for the IPEX show and the press. If Nikon had decided that #990001 was not going to work as is and had already redesigned the CdS cell location to the more familiar configuration, it may not have had time to produce a working unit, but at the same time wanted, for promotional purposes, to show a unit more akin to the final product, then the dummy unit makes more sense. Someday we may be able to conclusively verify these theories, but in the meantime the historical importance of these two units cannot be overstated!

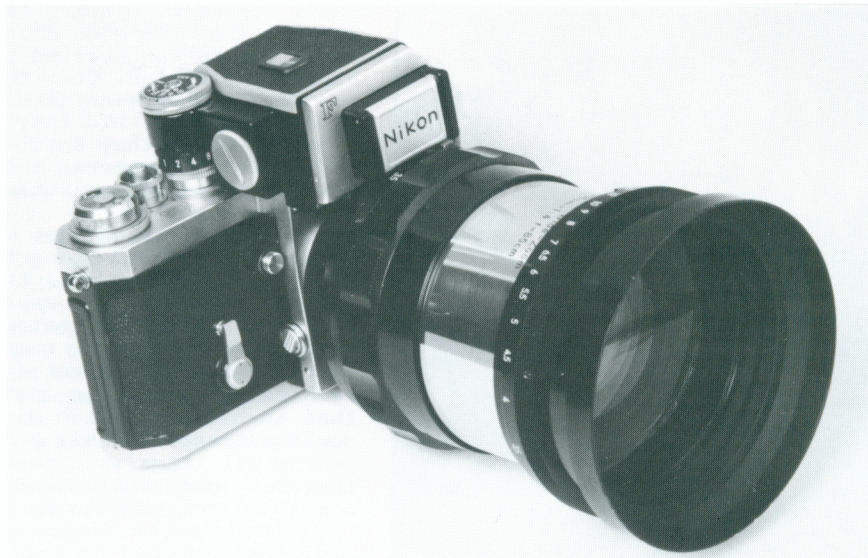
(I would also like to thank member Calvin Ho for his input. Calvin had originally planned to do an article on these prototypes, but circumstances prevented this. Many of the dates and serial numbers quoted in this article are based on his research.)





On these two pages we have the working prototype. The design of this unit is interesting in that some features suggest it is later than the "Dummy" while other features date it as earlier! First of all, it is a fully functioning item, including the lens coupling prong and slide. In addition, the shape & size of the front plate resembles that of the final Photomic, the FTn! The mounting method is the same and it is even serial numbered! But we believe that it is actually an earlier stage of development. The center mounted cell and its cover are right out of the SP meter design book, and nothing like the final production item. Even though the front plate is FTn-like, it is grafted onto the housing in a haphazard way (note the large gap where the front plate meets the housing!). Also all the exposed metal surfaces are chrome and not black, which makes it appear more massive. The rewind side is "leathered" unlike the production item. Therefore, even though it is a working prototype and mounts and functions like the real thing, its exterior design is not as close to the actual production finder as that of the "Dummy" unit! What do you think?

Jose Wu Chang



THE

“FUKETA TAPES”

PART IV by Robert J. Rotoloni

Rotoloni..Were both the internal and external versions of the 50mm/f1.1 Nikkor lens optically identical? Is it true that the earlier internal version proved to be too front heavy for the lens mount and could cause focusing error? Is this why it was redesigned to an external mount? Or was it because the external mount would allow for more focusing accuracy...or is a combination of both reasons?

Fuketa-san..The same optics were used for both the internal and external mount versions. Since this was to be a standard lens, we designed it with an internal mount first. However, later we learned that our customers used this lens by revolving the lens barrel directly instead of using the focusing wheel, as with other standard lenses. Because this lens was so much heavier, using the focusing wheel was not as smooth as revolving the barrel. Therefore, we redesigned the lens to the external mount version. So it can be said that the reason for the redesign was to make focusing easier, and not to improve focusing accuracy.

Rotoloni..I have seen a very early piece of literature in Japanese that shows the 85mm/f1.5 Nikkor in a completely "chrome" barrel! Do you recall this lens being made in chrome?

Fuketa-san..When the 85mm/f1.5 lens was placed on the market in 1950, it was chrome finished! Sales volume was not very good because it was expensive and heavy (sales data does not exist). The main reason for the weight was the glass material, but in 1951 we changed some of the lens parts into light alloy and the color of the outer finish into black.

Rotoloni..On my first trip to Tokyo in 1987 I was shown a "black" version of an early MIOJ 135mm/f3.5 Nikkor in a Miranda bayonet mount! Do you recall such an item? Also Mr. Jun Miki once stated that he had an early 135mm Nikkor lens in a light weight "aluminum" barrel! Was it special made for him?

Fuketa-san..I have no memory of having produced Miranda mount lenses. It is possible to modify a lens for an SLR camera by just changing the bayonet mount. I suppose what you saw was such a modified lens. Mr. Jun Miki has been a long time user of Nikkor lenses, but, if my memory is correct, we have never supplied specially modified lenses for him. He had often told us that our products, including cameras and lenses, were too heavy to handle easily and requested that we make them lighter. In response to his and other photographers requests, we started to use light alloys for our lens and body parts to make them lighter.

Rotoloni..The black version of the 1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor is quite rare. To date 3 such lenses have surfaced. Were these black lenses made in any real numbers or were they special order items?

Fuketa-san..The 1000mm reflex lens was delivered in black finish in the beginning. This lens was often used outside in the strong sunshine. In such cases the temperature of the lens barrel increased by absorbing the heat of the sun. The lens was so designed that the reflector in the lens would not be distorted under such conditions, but it is advisable to avoid this rapid temperature rise in the lens barrel, therefore, we changed the color of the outer finish of the barrel to white and grey like a telescope. We have no record of how many pieces of the black finished lenses were made.

Rotoloni..The Close-up Devices must have been relatively popular as they are easily found today. Do you recall how early they started? Were they made for the Nikon M? None have been found marked MIOJ, but we wonder if they were made that early.

Fuketa-san..We started to sell the first model at the end of 1951 or the beginning of 1952. They were finished in chrome or silver-aluminum. The selling of the S2 type was in 1955, and the SP in 1957. However, sales quantity was very few.

Rotoloni..If my information is correct, the Occupation ended in September 1951. Nikons were marked MIOJ from the beginning and all Nikon I, M and MS cameras are so marked. There are also a small number of Nikon S cameras marked MIOJ. It appears that the MIOJ marking were removed just after the "S" production began with only a few hundred so marked. Does this sound right to you? Do you recall when manufacturers were allowed to remove the MIOJ? Did they have to wait until Sept. 1951, or could they do it sooner? How serious was this rule? Did cameras and lenses have to be marked by law, or was it voluntary?

Fuketa-san..I think that your opinion is correct, because we stopped using the MIOJ marking in the year we started to sell the S Type body. But it is not clear when it was exactly, and we are now investigating that. Instructions from the Command Department (GHQ) were communicated through the route of the government agency MITI to the JCIA to each company. And the instructions were so absolute that any company which did not follow the rule could not export their products! I suppose that nearly all items were marked with the MIOJ including accessories and leather cases. However, boxes did not have to be marked as such.

The Story of the Nikon S36 Electric Motor Drive!

Rotoloni..The S36 Electric Motor Drive is probably the most interesting and sought after accessory in the rangefinder system. There is much interest in it and how it was developed. We talked about it during my visit last June where I learned that it was Fukuoka-san who actually did the design work on it. Could you tell the story of how the motor came about and where it fit into the development of the Nikon S2 (on which it was first used) and the SP/S3 models? Any memories you might have about the motor would be very interesting I am sure.

Fuketa-san..I think that you are very interested in the motor drive, so I would like to write about it rather precisely. In press photography it is often necessary to take pictures very quickly. Therefore, we studied a rapid winder of the baseplate trigger type and made a prototype of it around 1953 in the process of designing the S2, as you know. However, when we decided to use a lever type winder for the S2, the idea of a baseplate winder was discarded. But requests from press photographers for a more rapid winder still remained.

It was probably in the summer of 1956 that the president of a newly developed company called "Japan Micromotor" visited Mr. Hiroshi Shirahama, Managing Director (Technology), who became the president later between 1959 to 1969, and explained he had developed a very high quality micromotor and left a sample of it, asking us to study it and see if it could be used for optical instruments. At that time, the people in our design department were working very hard and on a very tight schedule on designing the SP and the F. Mr. Shirahama chose Mr. Fukuoka, Manager of the Trial production section at that time, to make a prototype using the motor to test the idea of a camera auto winding system, without adding the burden to the design department. I do not remember how long the trial period lasted. Mr. Fukuoka completed the prototype by himself, and it proved to be very good according to our internal tests. Therefore, we decided soon after to make it an accessory for the S2 prior to the SP camera.

The product Mr. Fukuoka designed was a modified version of the S2, with the motor placed in parallel with the axis of the film take up spool in the style of a grip! But its construction was not convenient for selling as an accessory for the S2. We redesigned it in order to allow the motor drive to be attached to the base of the camera, without any large changes in its internal design features. It was this motor that was exhibited at the IPEX show, after we had run some trials. According to our tests with this model, we confirmed that we could take 1,500 frames by using six National brand "AA" type batteries, and decided to produce it. After exhibiting it at the show, we asked some professionals to use it as a trial. But their reaction was not good because the "AA" batteries were exhausted too quickly to be practical!

Mr. Fukuoka and his team were very disappointed and changed the batteries to the "C" type cell and a leather battery pack. At the same time the cable connecting the pack with the motor was made thicker and tougher, plus we made the wire three core and added a button for remote control. Also as a result of reports from professionals, we learned that the switch was easily burned out by induction current when stopping the motor, so we added an arc extinction circuit using a Zenar diode. This was the first time for us to use a semiconductor, except for electronic batteries, in our camera products.

I and Mr. Fukuoka met with the president of Japan Micromotor several times. His motor was the commutator type using a permanent magnet, and its design used a rolling contact to reduce commutator and bearing loss.

We used this type of motor drive for 6-7 years, but after that we switched to an advanced version. As explained, our prototype motor was very unique, and we made it a priority to complete the product for our customers, before the SP was ready. After the completion of the motor drive, we decided to utilize almost the same version for the SP and F bodies. We now have no record of how many pieces of the SP motors we sold.

Because the shutter mechanism of the S2, SP, S3, S3M and S4 is the same except for the control mechanism, the reliability of the camera and motor are the same regardless of the price of the body.

The first motor shown in the literature might be the one exhibited at the IPEX show. It was the one from the trial production, and it might look somewhat different from the later motor which was produced using die-casting. We made the power socket the 3-core style, as explained before, and shifted it to the front because we intended to provide a direct contact type battery case.

The only difference between the S36 and S72 type motors was the frame counter. Therefore, they could be used interchangeably without damage.

We recognized the need for a 250 exposure version and a trial version of the S250 motor was produced, but we could not forecast the market demand for this item. Therefore, we decided not to make it. The number produced for trial purposes might be 2 or 3 pieces.

As for the "AA" type battery pack, we have no record of the total numbers exported to the U.S.A., but I think it was less than the figure of 100 that you suggested!



BLACK IS

BEAUTIFUL!

'NHS' BLACK LIST!

Compiled by Robert J. Rotoloni

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS THE OFFICIAL "NHS" LIST OF BLACK NIKON RANGEFINDER BODIES AS OF 9/1/92. THIS LIST IS THE RESULT OF A TWENTY YEAR SEARCH BY YOUR EDITOR TO CATALOG AND VERIFY THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THESE RARE CAMERAS. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE NO "FAKES" OR "REPLICAS" ARE LISTED, BUT ONLY GENUINE FACTORY MANUFACTURED BLACK RANGEFINDER NIKONS!

 NIKON I.....TOTAL OF 1 PIECE!
 609431

NIKON S.....TOTAL OF 2 PIECES!
 6105936 6108685

NIKON S2.....TOTAL OF 81 PIECES!

6137647	6140804	6140818	6140822	6130823
6140825	6140834	6140841	6140848	6144454
6144574	6144662	6144666	6144682	6145922
6146101	6157502	6157511	6157525	6157552
6157555	6157557	6157565	6157571	6157576
6170901	6170902	6170906	6170913	6170916
6170921	6170927	6170934	6170938	6170941
6170953	6170954	6170960	6170962	6170964
6170967	6170974	6170991	6170995	6180604
6180623	6180643	6180659	6180661	6180666
6180701	6180734	6180754	6180758	6180773
6180776	6180866	6180886	6180910	6180915
6180923	6180937	6180947	6181654	6181707
6185735	6194009	6194013	6194051	6194052
6194068	6194109	6194115	6194116	6194126
6194142	6194146	6194148	6194204	6194208
6194297				

NIKON SP.....TOTAL OF 156 PIECES!

6200045	6200050	6200065	6200082	6200083
6200084	6202459	6202469	6202482	6202508
6202511	6202513	6202516	6202526	6202547
6202551	6202552	6202557	6202562	6202577
6202580	6202585	6202589	6202594	6202595
6202599	6202611	6202613	6202618	6202619
6202628	6202630	6202632	6202646	6202653
6202672	6202698	6206332	6206405	6206413
6206414	6206415	6206419	6206422	6206423
6206434	6206441	6206448	6206451	6206452
6206456	6206463	6206471	6206472	6206473
6206480	6206819	6206823	6206825	6206835
6206837	6206847	6206848	6206863	6206874
6206876	6206878	6206881	6206884	6206888
6206893	6206899	6208291	6208401	6208403
6208406	6208422	6208424	6208430	6208462
6208473	6208484	6208487	6208488	6208499
6209523	6209602	6209605	6209615	6209624
6209627	6209633	6209642	6209652	6209660
6209679	6210502	6210515	6210532	6210543
6210549	6210550	6210561	6210597	6210598
6210953	6212101	6212147	6212188	6212190
6212192	6212200	6214197	6214590	6215304
6215314	6215330	6215336	6215363	6215374
6215376	6215397	6215412	6215417	6215422
6215430	6215442	6215612	6215689	6215884

6216502	6218836	6218859	6218940	6218944
6218988	6218991	6218994	6218997	6219024
6219027	6219041	6219164	6219179	6219374
6219971	6220710	6220713	6220720	6220721
6221531	6221534	6223116	6232137	6232141
6232150				

NIKON S3.....TOTAL OF 147 PIECES!

6307454	6307461	6307475	6307481	6307482
6307489	6307508	6307576	6312108	6312121
6312123	6312129	6312140	6312145	6312157
6312187	6312214	6312215	6312220	6312235
6312245	6312247	6312273	6312278	6320016
6320054	6320059	6320078	6320143	6320150
6320174	6320203	6320243	6320284	6320312
6320314	6320340	6320355	6320366	6320381
6320411	6320415	6320463	6320480	6320481
6320522	6320529	6320531	6320539	6320540
6320556	6320580	6320590	6320671	6320674
6320684	6320699	6320705	6320773	6320814
6320826	6320880	6320911	6320920	6320938
6320939	6320961	6320983	6320992	6321015
6321021	6321054	6321069	6321119	6321129
6321133	6321136	6321147	6321152	6321162
6321184	6321211	6321260	6321270	6321283
6321304	6321312	6321376	6321378	6321379
6321387	6321400	6321424	6321466	6321535
6321553	6321563	6321640	6321750	6321764
6321780	6321874	6321894	6321923	6321924
6321929	6321986	6321988	6322019	6322029
6322032	6322047	6322083	6322085	6322121
6322127	6322129	6322176	6322201	6322202
6322204	6322217	6322251	6322274	6322275
6322282	6322286	6322304	6322327	6322331
6322348	6322368	6322386	6322392	6322394
6322405	6322441	6322456	6322465	6322472
6322473	6322501	6322503	6322525	6322533
6322552	6322561			

NIKON S3M.....TOTAL OF 20 PIECES!

6600015	6600031	6600041	6600046	6600048
6600051	6600064	6600086	6600099	6600100
6600113	6600115	6600135	6600174	6600193
6600198	6600199	6600215	6600221	6600223

The above list includes a total of '407' black RF body numbers collected over a 22 year period. A few things are obvious to even the casual observer....

- The most plentiful models are the Nikon SP/S3.
- The S2 was made in much smaller numbers.
- Production was usually in well defined batches.
- Batches ran from less than 50 to over 500.
- Black SPs show up in the first 100 numbers.
- No black Nikon M bodies have been verified.
- Nikon I & S production was extremely limited.
- No black Nikon M or S4 bodies have been verified

Anyone with additional unlisted numbers is invited to send them to this editor. As always, all such contributions will be kept in strictest confidence! Thank you in advance. Robert J. Rotoloni, Editor.

15 DEMOGRAPHICS

The following demographic information sheet was originally produced for, and distributed during NHS-Con3 in Seattle. It gives each of you a good idea from where our membership actually derives. Besides it makes interesting reading, at least I think so!

U.S. NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP BY STATE

ARIZONA---6
CALIFORNIA---26
COLORADO---3
CONNECTICUT---6
FLORIDA---9
GEORGIA---2
HAWAII---2
ILLINOIS---12
INDIANA---4
IOWA---1
KENTUCKY---2
LOUISIANA---1
MARYLAND---4
MASSACHUSETTS---3
MICHIGAN---5
MINNESOTA---1
MISSOURI---2
NEVADA---2
NEW JERSEY---6
NEW MEXICO---1
NEW YORK---25
N. CAROLINA---1
OHIO---4
OKLAHOMA---1
OREGON---5
PENNSYLVANIA---6
S. CAROLINA---2
TENNESSEE---2
TEXAS---8
VERMONT---1
VIRGINIA---6
WASHINGTON---18
WISCONSIN---3

FOREIGN NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS BY COUNTRY

AUSTRALIA---6
BELGIUM---1
CANADA---8
DENMARK---2
ENGLAND---17
FRANCE---2
GERMANY---10
GREECE---1
HOLLAND---5
HONG KONG---7
IRELAND---1
ITALY---3
JAPAN---21
NEW ZEALAND---2
NORWAY---2
SINGAPORE---2
SO. AFRICA---1
SPAIN---1
SWEDEN---1
SWITZERLAND---3

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF 9/15/92

U.S.....180
FOREIGN.....96

TOTAL...=276

STATE RANKINGS.....#1.....CALIFORNIA (26)
#2.....NEW YORK (25)
#3.....WASHINGTON (18)

FOREIGN RANKINGS....#1.....JAPAN (21)
#2.....ENGLAND (17)
#3.....GERMANY (10)

PERCENTAGES....U.S. MEMBERSHIP....66% OF THE TOTAL
FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP..34% OF THE TOTAL

WEST COAST.....27% OF U.S. MEMBERS
EAST COAST.....27% OF U.S. MEMBERS
S. PACIFIC.....41% OF FOREIGN MEMBERS
EUROPE.....50% OF FOREIGN MEMBERS
CANADA.....9% OF FOREIGN MEMBERS

#1 STATE (CALIFORNIA).....10% OF ALL MEMBERS
#1 FOREIGN (JAPAN).....8% OF ALL MEMBERS

TOP 3 STATES.....38% OF U.S. MEMBERS
25% OF ALL MEMBERS

TOP 3 COUNTRIES.....50% FOREIGN MEMBERS
17% OF ALL MEMBERS

TOP 3 STATES & COUNTRIES..42% OF ALL MEMBERS

Looking at these figures reveals some interesting statistics. We are truly an international group since one third of our members are from outside the United States...That the East & West coasts of the U.S. are equally represented...That Asia and the S. Pacific are nearly equal to all of Europe...That the #1 state has 10% of our entire membership and that 25% of our society resides in just 3 states!! ...That the 2 most populous states rank #1 & 2 yet a sparsely populated state is #3 (Washington!). Interesting what the numbers say!

"NHS" PRODUCTS

The following items are available through the Society. These "NHS" Products include items both unique to our organization and produced by us, as well as official Nikon items. All proceeds from the sale of these items 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
NIKON F REPAIR MANUAL REPRINT.....\$17.00 US
\$20.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON MOTOR DRIVE MANUAL REPRINT...\$17.00 US
\$20.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON SP REPAIR MANUAL REPRINT.....\$10.00 US
\$13.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON RANGEFINDER (ROLOLONI)-HOVE..\$25.00 US
(SIGNED) \$35.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL NIKON CALCULATORS.....\$5.00 US
\$6.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL "NHS" LAPEL PIN.....\$5.00 US
\$6.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL "NHS" TIE CLASP/CUFF.....\$15.00 US
LINKS SET. \$18.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.....\$150.00 US
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9TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

16 ROBERT CAPA

by Dr. Stephen Sipos



HIS LAST DAY

The other day I saw a picture of Robert Capa wearing a Nikon S with 50mm lens, early chrome shade and Varifocal finder, in Viet Nam in 1954. I thought the members might be interested in a few facts about him.

Robert Capa was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1913 under the name of Endre Erno Friedmann. He left Hungary about 1931 and went to Berlin first, then to Paris.

He was a great war photographer. He photographed the Spanish Civil War and he was in the first wave in the Normandy landings in 1944.

He was founder and President of Magnum, the legendary Paris-based photographer's cooperative that included most of the great photographers of the time. He took picture of Picasso and Hemmingway and had a brief affair with Ingrid Bergman.

He used mostly Contax cameras before the war, but around 1953-54 he received and invitation from Japan. Richard Whelan, in his excellent biography of Capa, discusses this period. Capa received an offer from Manichi Press who planned to publish a new magazine in Japan called "Camera Manichi", and offered him an extensive stay and generous money for the use of his pictures, provided he used only "Japanese made camera equipment"! While in Japan Life Magazine made an offer to Capa to go to Viet Nam, and since he was always short of money, Capa accepted. Another reason might have been that he had avoided the Korean War, and had not practiced his chosen profession of "war photographer" in a long time.

This was an opportunity for him. David Douglas Duncan had already been there and left, so it was Capa's turn to try his luck with the French in Viet Nam.

On Tuesday may 25, 1954, Capa went with some companions in a jeep to a combat area with a Contax loaded with black and white and a Nikon loaded with color film. Later on that day he stepped on a Viet Minh anti-personnel mine. When they found him, his left leg was almost completely blown off and he had a chest wound. He was holding his Contax in his left hand, but the Nikon was blown several feet away. He died soon after. The French gave him one of their highest decorations, the "Croix de Guerre with Palm", and this was pinned to the American flag on the casket.

Robert Capa was a great photographer, one of the first users of the Nikon rangefinder camera, and a man of compassion. The most recent book of his photographs called "Children of War", should still be available.

PLEASE NOTE STOLEN GEAR!

The following equipment was recently stolen from Chicago member Chuck Skibo. Please keep your eyes open for these items. If you have any information concerning any of the following please contact the Society or Chuck at Chuck Skibo Photography, 730 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 60661. 312-627-0400...FAX 312-454-9260. Thank you!!

Nikon S2 chrome #6141827 w/EP marking.
105/f2.5 Nikkor black #921997.
135/f3.5 Nikkor black #272509.

ADDENDUM

Member Earl Wong from Van Nuys California writes with further information about the 55mm/f1.2 Nikkor-O featured in Odds n' Ends in NHS-33. He recently acquired one that came with its inspection slip as well as a fact sheet from the "Military and Special Products Div. of Ehrenreich Photo Optical Industries of California" (what a mouth-full!). It is "Data Sheet #3" and discusses the "CRT P-11 NIKKOR DATA DISPLAY LENS" which is our very same 55mm/f1.2 Nikkor-O! Some of its specifications are: 35mm 24x36 format; 43.2mm image diameter; 6 groups of 8 elements; magnification 1:5.5-1:4.4; up to 250 lines per/mm possible!; for oscilloscope use. It is listed in two mounts...Barrel w/extra long Leica thread (as shown in NHS-33)...Bayonet for Nikon F and Nikon Model D oscilloscope Record Camera Unit (anyone seen one of these?). Its 1969 price is shown as \$299.95, which was a lot of money then! Thank you Earl for identifying this lens for us.

THE 'COMPACTED' NIKON

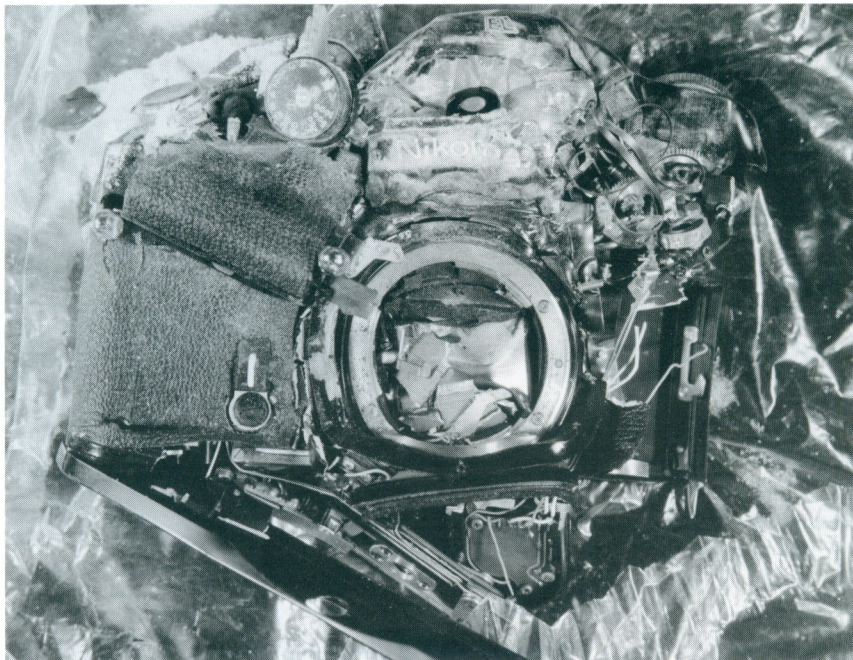
by **Simon Nathan**

O.K., some flashback. It's 1976 and Olympus has sprung the OM-1, a thinner SLR which was mainly a rearrangement of the essentials in a package where more stuff was on the lens and less on the body. Photogs were on the way to Marty Forscher's to see if they could have their Nikkors fitted to the Olympus for psychic reasons that can never be explained. The UPI photo division made a deal whereby Olympus (in their advertising) could say that UPI photogs were using the Olympus for hard news coverage. The advert was valid as a deal had been cut and UPI bureaus had a barrel-full of OM stuff. Joel Landau and other UPI press aces did not carry their Olympus gear because, should they be struck down in the street by a runaway 16-wheeler, well they wouldn't be found dead using the Olympus. Nikon wheels were panicked. The wanna-be photo writer Sean Callahan, in a signed piece in the Village Voice, detailed it thusly. He was so full of crap that he moved on to become the editor of Popular Photography magazine...This is no longer a problem for staff members there anymore.

This is juicy stuff, so get a beer or a coffee and savor the fantasy. Title of article is "Camera for our Time." Boxed blurb excerpts from the article "It was only a matter of time before Nikon would be knocked off its perch, and its time has come in the form of the Olympus OM-1." You know the rest. Because of the power of the press there is no more Nikon F. There is no more Olympus OM-1.

Nikon didn't exactly have a compact SLR though press releases on newer Nikon models claimed that they were more compact. They still hadda have the same flange distance to stay compatible with the Nikon lenses and lens mount, right?

O.K., here we have Simon Nathan, the great kidder, who decided to challenge Nikon, USA. He wrote to Hideo Fukuchi on a postcard to "please send one dollar for photo of compact Nikon." Nathan had a compact Nikon, but he wanted to be paid to reveal it. There was so much chatter about the compact Nikon that Nathan went to a sheet metal stamping shop on Canal street in NYC and paid to have his Nikkormat EL, modified by Marty Forscher to do multiple exposures on demand, COMPACTED. Recall that the Nikkormat EL was winterized. It would cost ten bucks, and Nathan said that the charge seemed fair. "What is this, an insurance claim?" he was asked before the giant press compacted Nathan's EL. Nope. I just want to have the first compact Nikon. Fukuchi sent the dollar. Nathan sent him the picture you see on this page. Fukuchi said that was not the compact Nikon. Nathan said that it was the compact Nikon he had. He kept the dollar. Eventually, the Nikon Extra Marvelous came along, a camera that is hardly listed in Nikon camera evolutionary charts. But for that matter, neither is the Nikkorex via Mamiya. Signed: Simon.



NIKON LIMITED EDITION PRINTS FOR COLLECTORS

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of Nikon Grays of Westminster, who deal exclusively in Nikon equipment, commissioned a rather special set of commemorative prints. These depict early Nikon cameras from the Nikon S to the Nikon F Photomic. The photographs are the work of Tony Hurst and originally appeared on the cover of the *Journal of the Nikon Historical Society*.

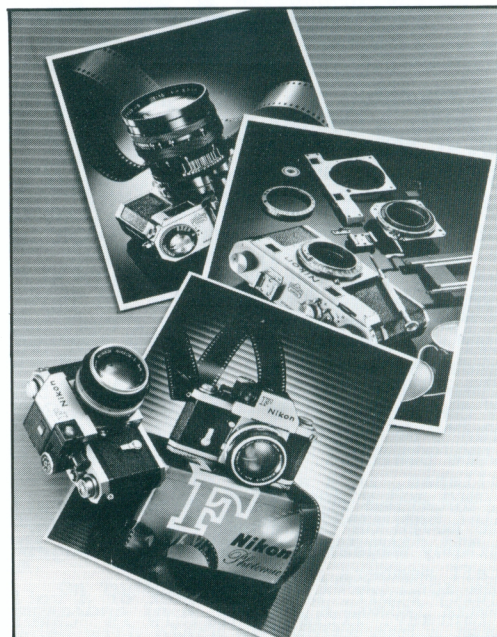
There are six 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " prints in the set and the edition is limited to 250 prints of each photograph. Each set has been hand-signed and numbered by Tony who has also designed a gallery-quality Nippon Kogaku mount ready for framing.

The prints including the specially designed mount cost US\$900.00 for the set of six. The prints may be purchased individually for US\$150.00.

For more information and details of how to place an order for a complete set or individual prints please contact: Grays of Westminster, 40 Churton Street, London SW1V 2LP, England. Tel: +44 71 828 4925. Fax: +44 71 976 5783

Individual prints feature:

- #1. Nikon S2 black dial c/w 8.5cm f/1.5
- #2. Nikon S & lenses
- #3. Nikon SP, black c/ motor drive
- #4. Nikon S3 <EP>, boxed
- #5. Nikon S body
- #6. Nikon F Photomic, boxed

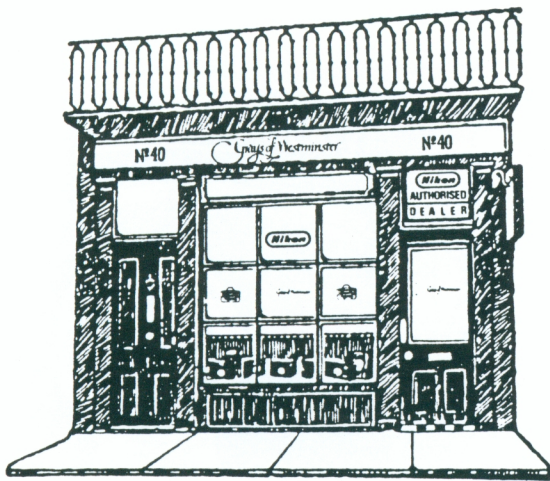


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New Backissue & Reprint Service

There has always been a constant demand for back-issues of 'THE JOURNAL' from our very beginnings 9 years ago, right up to the present. However, as the years have gone by, the number of original back-issues has dwindled to the point where less than a third are available to new members, who are joining at a constant rate. Many newer members request back-issues, including xerox copies of those no longer available as originals. I have endeavored to supply copies to those who wanted them, sometimes spending hours in front of a copier. But now things have reached a point where this is no longer feasible. Between the number of requests, and the fact that hundreds of pages are needed to satisfy each one, I no longer can find the time to do it. Also, the copier I have access to is not the best, and only copies on one side, resulting in a finished product double the thickness of the original, with marginal reproduction quality.

In response to this growing demand, and in an effort to improve quality, I have contracted with my printer to have the back-issues professionally reproduced. His copier, a multi-thousand dollar Minolta unit, prints on both sides and can handle 11x17 paper. Therefore, copies will now be done in a fashion similar to the originals, folded and stapled to look almost like the real thing! Now I can have literally thousands of past Journal pages copied, collated, folded and stapled, to produce a high quality 'xerox' and keep up with demand. Those of you who have written recently asking about copies please take note. Below are the prices for the copies, as well as the issue numbers of those remaining originals. This new back-issue service will become a regular feature in the Journal and the list of originals will be updated as needed.

ORIGINAL BACK-ISSUES OF THE NIKON JOURNAL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (NHS-26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 & 36)
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(PLEASE ALLOW 2 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. THANK YOU.)

NEXT ISSUE

* The deadline for the next issue of THE NIKON JOURNAL will be November 15, 1992. This slightly earlier deadline is necessary because of the Holiday season and the fact that time is very short for me then, and I want to get NHS-38 out on time. Please get all materials to me by then. Thank you!

9TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE...Several Nikon rangefinder bodies, lenses & accessories. Includes model S, S2 and S3 bodies. John Williams, 1260 Huntington Drive, Suite 107, South Pasadena, CA 91030.

WANTED...Bellows to fit rear of 1000/f6.3 Nikkor; reflex housing type 1 or 2; Nikon brand microscope. John Millham, 82 Brasenose Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7BN, England.

WANTED...Collector seeks RF items: bodies, lenses & accessories. Nikkors in SM. Canon bodies and lenses in particular the 19mm, 25mm, 50/0.95, 200mm and 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.

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.

WANTED...Need rangefinder literature of all kinds including manuals. Looking for mint black 85mm/f2; motorized SP; 50mm/fl.5 & Olympic 1.4; 28mm shade; front & rear caps for 50mm/fl.1 external; shade & case for external fl.1; reflex housing type two. Dr. Stephen Sipos, MD., 1400 Sunset Ave, Suite #3, Waukegan, IL 60087. Eve/708-662-0430/Day/708-336-7788

WANTED...Black Type 7 Variframe finder/cs, EX+ or better; diopter eyepieces for SP & S3; early chrome "push-on" shade for old style 35/f3.5. Will buy outright or trade. Have interesting selection of older Nikon "F" equipment, some RF & original literature for early "F" and RF. Mike H. Symons, 3844 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8P 2S9. Tel- (604) 477-1867 after 6PM PST.

WANTED...VG/EX/MINT Nikon F from 64xxxxl to first Photomic (59-62). FOR TRADE..Tydings guides for S2 (VG) & S2+ SP (LN). Wright Manual 1st. ed. 1957, no DJ (EX). Instruction book for MS, same for 135mm Nikkor lens. Trade for early "F" literature 59-62. Tel..011-31-3404-63122/FAX-61805. Or write..Fred Jansz, PO Box 252, 3700 AG Zeist, The Netherlands.

WANTED...Nikon SP in good optical and mechanical condition. Arnfinn M. Manders, Magnus Bergsgt. 2, 0266 Oslo, Norway.

WANTED...New collector seeks the following RF items in mint- or better condition: black 50mm/f2; 35/fl.8 lens; shade for 35/fl.8; S3 chrome body; S4 body (EX or better); boxes for S2,SP,S3; close-up for S2 w/either lens. Thanks! Bob Rogan, 916-454-3317.

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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!



AIRES-NIKKOR

Nippon Kogaku has had a tradition of supplying their optics, on a selective basis, to others manufacturers. This began with the famous Hansa Canon and continued with a whole series of screw mounts (many of which were sold on Niccas and, by Sears, on Towers). They also supplied optics for Bronica from 1957 into the 1970s, as well as the weird and wonderful Marshall Press. In addition, their early catalog list a 75mm/f3.5 Nikkor for 120 coverage. This design could be the result of their early desire to produce a 120 TLR, which never made it to market. However, the lens did! I have seen at least two models of the Tower TLR with Nikkor lenses, but the best known example is the Airesflex from the mid 1950s. I do own the Tower models (which will someday make it into the Journal), but not the Aires. Member Harry Schmuell recently loaned me his camera to take some photos for our Odds n' Ends feature. The model on this page is the lever wind version and an earlier knob wind type may exist. Both were standard Airesflex cameras that were mated with a set of Nikkor lenses, which was really a good selling point! They were premium priced (I can't remember how much more but I believe there was a 20% difference) and were well advertised by Aires. So the next time you see a table packed with TLRs, don't just breeze by. Stop and take a closer look..you might find that one mounts Nikkor lenses!





Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST