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ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

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EDITORIAL

I have a great deal to squeeze onto this one page this issue...many things to mention and much to talk about, and all are important, so here goes.

This issue of the Journal is dedicated to the memory of member William Fraker, who succumbed to Lou Gerig's disease on September 12th. at the age of 32. Please see page two for a Memoriam to Bill, who was an avid collector and contributor to our Journal, and will be missed.

The Society has received two prime pieces of publicity since NHS-37. Both are reproduced on pages 16 & 17. One is a photo of Simon Nathan and I at NHS-Con3 taken by Al Levin, that appeared in "Photo Business" in August. This eventually led to our Society being the subject of John Durniak's photo column in the Sunday, October 18 edition, of the New York Times! Mr. Durniak interviewed me by phone and gave us a very favorable write-up. The result...over 150 pieces of mail within two weeks and, as I write this editorial, over 60 new members as a direct result of this exposure! We now have over 320 members...and I was hoping to hit 300 in time for our 10th Anniversary issue next fall!

You will find two inserts in this issue. One is a Christmas card from Peter Lownds that he asked I distribute to all the members. The second is also from Peter and relates back to NHS-37 wherein I mentioned producing a membership list. Peter and I have decided not to consume valuable Journal space for this, but to produce a separate publication listing our entire membership, possibly on a yearly basis. Since so many new members resulted from the NY Times article, and I would need to hear from those who did not want to be listed, a listing in this issue was not feasible. Therefore, each of you will find a form to fill out for the NHS Membership Directory. Please...fill these out and mail them back to me as soon as possible so we can get the book put together, and please answer the questions that pertain to you. Those of you who 'DO NOT' want to be listed also return it and tell me so. You will only be mentioned by name, with no address or other info. We want this book to be as complete as possible, but we also do not want to violate any member's privacy (those of you who have already told me not to mention your address, please send the form in so I can keep it in my file!). Don't just set the form aside, but take a few moments to fill it out and mail it in! Thank you.

You remember Gray Levett's ad for the special edition of six of Tony Hurst's fabulous NHS Journal rear covers in NHS-37? I had not yet received my set when finishing up #37, but now I have, and I cannot overstate how impressive this collection of original photographic artwork is. Truly a great set of photos! If any of you have any intentions of displaying your collection and need something for your walls...well you cannot do better than this. Nikon never got close to this quality during the rangefinder era! Each and everyone is a masterpiece!

Tony has again provided us with a great rear cover this issue, spotlighting the unusual, and very collectable, Nikon Model H Microscope. Gray Levett was the source and went through the trouble of sending it to Tony (and dealing with customs) so we could enjoy it this issue. Thanks Gray. I also recently received two publications produced by Gray for his Grays of Westminster. One is an interesting newsletter and the other his very elegant catalog which is devoted to Nikon only (and includes the Model H Microscope). Why not drop Gray a line and get on his mailing list.

Bob Rogan had a great idea to commemorate our 10th Anniversary next September. See his letter on page 14 and let me hear some feedback on it! Time has come to at least start talking about NHS-Con4 due to occur in 1994. A contingent of avid members in Europe have put forth the idea of a convention on the Continent. They are willing to do all the work required and have some really good ideas to

help turn it into a mini-European vacation for those willing to make the trip. It is never too early to start talking this up, so if anyone has any thoughts whatsoever on the subject, let me hear from you NOW! I personally like the idea and I'd be very interested in hearing how others feel about it, so talk to me!

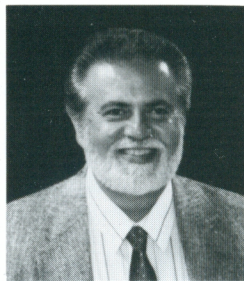
The main article this issue deals with a Nikon rangefinder prototype item that has been known to the collector community for over a decade, but has never been fully discussed. That oversight has now been corrected starting on page 3, where the reader will learn all that is known about the 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor...yes, f1.8! What was once rumor and conjecture can now be verified, thanks to sources within the factory including Masahiko Fuketa. So a factual and definitive article on this rare piece (1 of only 3 produced!) is now possible. And where else would you find the first detailed coverage of this item but in your own Journal!

Also this issue we have an article on one of the few reflex Nikkors that has already achieved collector status, and that is the 55mm/f3.5 Preset Micro-Nikkor. An early reflex optic, it was quickly replaced by the first Auto-Micro-Nikkor nearly 30 years ago, and forgotten by most reflex users. Now it is one of the most sought after reflex Nikkors in the new expanding world of Nikon F collecting!

A large sub-category of Nikon collecting is that body of equipment made during the Occupation of Japan and fondly known as the "MIOJ" era. It has always been a subject of conversation as to when the Occupation ended and within what actual date range were items marked "MIOJ". On page 13 Cy Meyer gives us some new found information to consider and Masahiko Fuketa also contributes some very interesting pieces of the puzzle.

Finally on page 15 is the first part of an interview with Al Levin that took place in my room following NHS-Con3 in Seattle. It was Sunday evening and a group of us got together to talk over the weekend and we found ourselves asking Al all sorts of questions. The recorder came out and more questions were asked. You might find the answers a bit surprising... but surely very interesting.

As always this issue will arrive shortly after January 1st, but I still would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a healthy and prosperous New Year and I hope that everyone had a pleasant Holiday Season. The year 1993 will undoubtedly bring changes for all of us, but hopefully they will all be for the better. My personal life may take a definite turn in 1993, but this will not interfere with the Society or this Journal! My time may become a little more precious as my work load may increase drastically, but rest assured that time will be found to continue my favorite hobby. As a matter of fact, it may become more important to my sanity than ever before!



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

In Memoriam

WILLIAM A. FRAKER, Jr.

July 1960 — Sept 1992

By now many of his friends have learned of the untimely death of NHS member William Fraker. Bill was a steady contributor to The Journal from 1987 to 1990, at which point he could no longer write about his passion for Nikons because of his illness. Although I was never able to meet Bill personally, we had many great talks on the phone, especially when he was working on his fine three part series "The Original Lens Factor". Bill was a true collector in that he not only enjoyed owning the hardware, but also had a desire to learn the history behind what he collected. His series was the result of a great deal of time-consuming research in which he was able to correlate the relationship between body and normal lens serial numbers. He also contributed many items to the Odds n' Ends feature as well. Bill would have surely continued to share his knowledge with the members (for he was that rare collector who loved to share what he knew with others to enhance their enjoyment of the hobby), if the circumstances of his illness had not prevented it. Those of us who knew Bill will miss him, for the Society has lost a true friend. This issue of The Journal, which he loved to receive, is dedicated to his memory. Bill's wife Karen has provided the following biography & photo.

Dear Bob,

Here is a picture of Bill taken Christmas 1988. Bill was born July 14, 1960 and died September 12, 1992. He was born and raised in the Santa Monica, CA, area and went to USC, where he graduated with honors from the cinema department, as did his father. He was following in his father's footsteps, as he is a cinematographer with 6 Oscar nominations to his credit. Bill worked as an assistant cameraman with his dad on such movies as "Spacecamp" and "Murphy's Romance".

He began getting symptoms in April 1985 and was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gerig's Disease, later that same year.

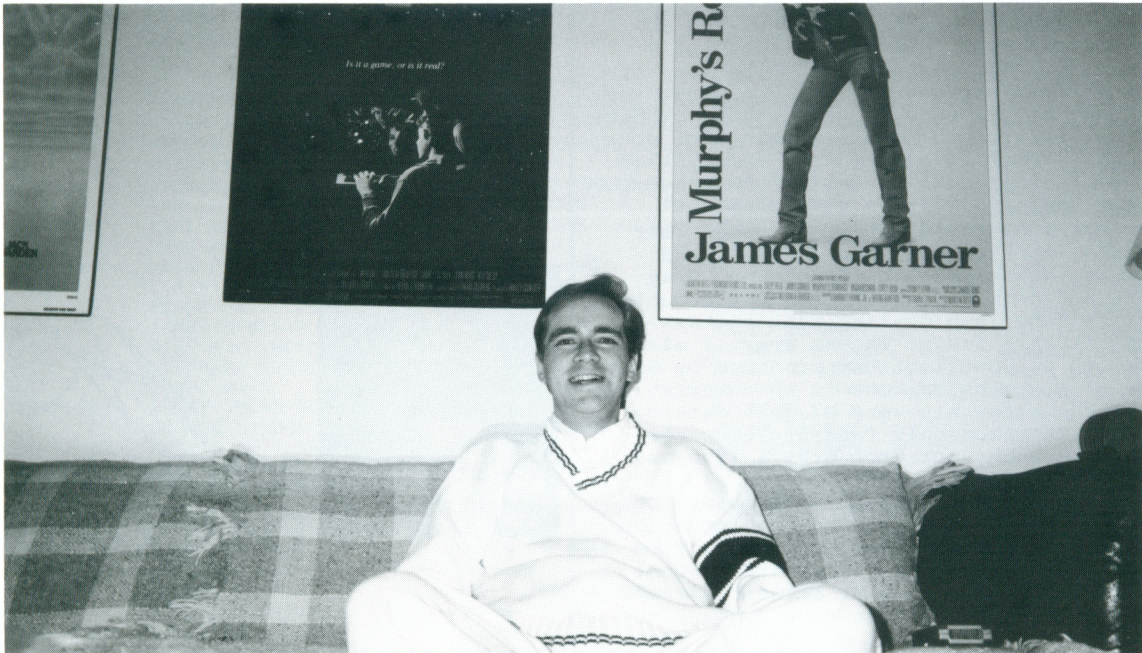
Bill never stopped camera collecting. He wrote his series of articles for the NHS Journal on a word processor because he could no longer write with a pen. He would have contributed more if possible. I had to read all the camera lists to him and, of course, the Journal (cover to cover!).

Bill was made the first, and remains the only, special member of the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) in July 1989. His father is the current president of the ASC.

Bill left notice in his will to donate \$1000 to the NHS from the sale of his collection.

Nikons made Bill happy. We hope that Bill's sharing his knowledge of the Nikons helped enhance each of your collections!

Sincerely, Mrs. Karen Fraker.



"PROTOTYPE"

THE 50mm/f1.8

NIKKOR!!

by **Robert J. Rotoloni**

The subject of our main article this issue is a true rangefinder "prototype" item that has been known to reside in the United States for at least 12 to 15 years. Until now, however, it has only been fleetingly mentioned in print (mostly in Japan) and was not included in my book because of the lack of photos, the optical formula, or any real information from factory sources pertaining to its history and authenticity. After passing through at least 3 previous American owners, the author has finally been able to secure possession and to make available to Nikon collectors not only detailed photos, but all previous published sources as well as the latest information from the factory. What follows is our current knowledge and detailed photos of the only known surviving example of the production run of the prototype 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor!

Before we get into a discussion of these photos and a letter I recently received from Mr. Fuketa, a short synopsis of what has been previously known and published about this lens is necessary.

The first mention of the f1.8 Nikkor outside of Japan that I am aware of was in the October 1979 issue of the Nikon S Collector's Newsletter. A note from its then American owner read as follows..."I have a 50mm Nikkor HC that is collapsible and has a low serial number, 8024, and is f1.8. It is coated and in chrome finish except for one area around the center of the barrel. Many bubbles in the glass. It must be an early lens..." This was followed in the April 1980 issue by a letter from Akito Tamla (one of the original charter members of the NHS) which stated..."I have heard that the 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor was manufactured by Nippon Kogaku as an experiment. The lens number 8024 indicates the date of design was "8" for 1948, "02" for February and "4" is the serial number. Originally they planned to produce 10 pieces, but as far as can be ascertained, only 3 pieces were manufactured...I suppose the Nippon Kogaku technicians intended to get a faster lens for their Nikon than 50/f2.0. Later they would reach f1.4 through the 50mm/f1.5..." Up to this point our knowledge consisted of the serial number of one sample (8024); the probable date of design and manufacture (February 1948); the fact that it was an experimental lens; and a suspected run of 10 pieces but only 3 having been made. Still no photos seen. Then four years later the April 1984 issue of Camera Collector's News (CCN) published in Osaka, Japan, featured what was then a blockbuster amount of information! On page 10 can be found the optical formula (finally), a May 1949 Japanese ad listing the 50mm/f1.8 as one of the available normal lenses along with the f2.0 (!), and a larger than lifesize side view of lens #8024 itself (at last!!) This one page answered three questions: its formula, which is different than the f2; it was actually listed in a piece of Nippon Kogaku literature; and what it looked like, even though the photo is less than perfect (it does show the black barrel section).

One question that remained unanswered was if the f1.8 was ever mentioned or shown in any Nikon literature meant for a market other than Japan. Was anything produced for the U.S. or European markets to suggest that Nippon Kogaku intended to actually distribute the lens, and was it pictured, or just mentioned, as in the Japanese ad. The answer came a few years later when another NHS charter member, Bill Kraus, came up with a piece of literature in English dated to 1950. It shows a Nikon M with an f2 and lists all its lenses. However, the f1.5 is listed but not the f1.8. A total of 5 Nikkors are mentioned, but 7 are pictured! What are the other 2 lenses? Along with the f2 and f1.5 can be seen the recently discontinued f3.5 and between the f2 and f1.5 another collapsible lens that is definitely "f2-like" but much longer. Bill and I both agreed--the elusive 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor had been at the least photographed, and used in an English language ad!

For the last six years it has been my intention to cover this rare prototype lens in detail once it became available to me. After meeting Mr. Fuketa in 1991, I now had the factory source needed to obtain factual information and to verify what we already knew about the lens. It has also been my hope to someday own this lens, and after a great deal of effort that occurred in October. Now I could photograph it in detail, compare it with the f2 lens, learn what I could from Fuketa-san, and put it all together right here in our Journal. So again we have an exclusive! For the first time anywhere are detailed photos and the latest information on the 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor-HC "Prototype"!

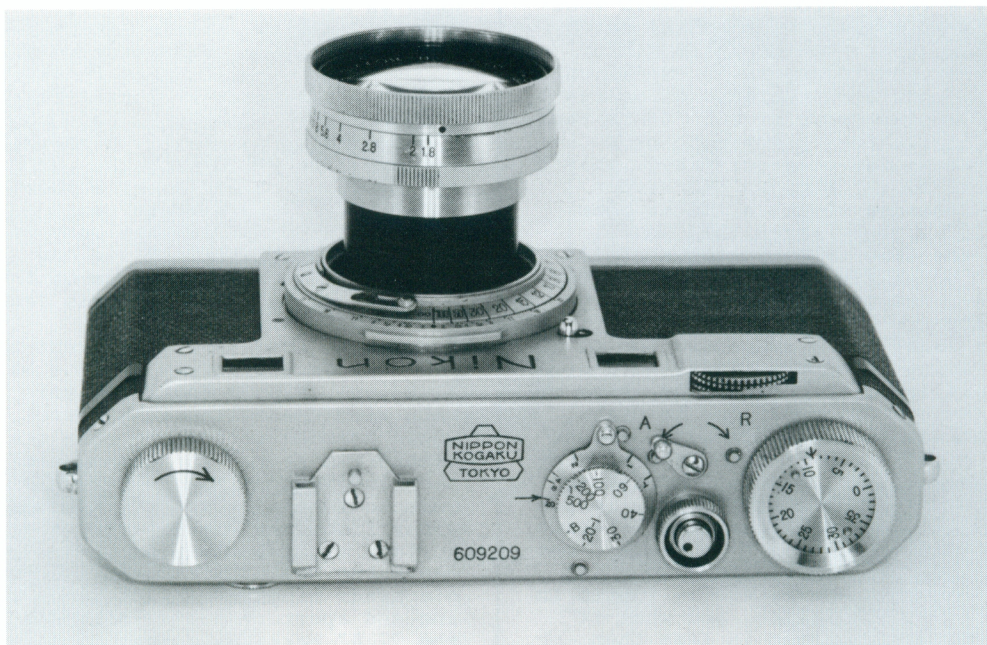
I have tried to show this lens from as many angles as possible to detail its construction and cosmetics. In addition I have shown it in direct comparison with an early 50mm/f2.0 lens, which it resembles in many ways. The purpose of all of this is to give each and every member as much pictorial information within these pages as possible, since it is quite possible that many of you will never have the opportunity to see one in person. However, hopefully, after this issue of The Journal, you will have a knowledge of this lens just short of actually handling one.

It is immediately apparent that the f2 Nikkor was used as a platform for the barrel design of the f1.8 lens. Nippon Kogaku at this time wished to remain with the collapsible barrel, even though they would abandon it for the more stable rigid design within two years! The strong similarity of the rear mounting section and the front diaphragm/optical unit to the f2 is obvious. Except for a slightly wider front rim knurling and a very narrow smooth surface with the aperture index dot just to its rear, the front sections are identical. Even the diaphragm ring itself, with its intermittent knurling and aperture scale (save for the addition of the "1.8" marking) appear dimensionally and cosmetically identical. From the side two items set these



ANOTHER "NHS" EXCLUSIVE!

Because of its physical features, the 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor-HC has a distinctive appearance when mounted on a contemporary body, such as this Nikon I from late 1948. Its length, which is accentuated by the black finished barrel section, is obvious (see page 8 for a comparison with the f2 Nikkor), as is the contrast between the black mid-section and the large chrome main barrel. A third departure from the norm is the identification ring. Although later lenses such as the 25mm and the 21mm would have similar parallel rings, this lens is unique amongst its peers. All other early Nikkors (save for those based on the Leitz Elmar style and originally designed for the Canon Hansa) have sloped or slanted rings, usually at about 45 degrees, but sometimes even steeper. This lens, with its identification ring parallel to the front glass, is unique, and it gives this optic a very different look.



lenses apart...the addition of a slightly wider smooth chrome finished barrel approximately 8-10mm deep...followed by the black finished collapsible section which appears the same diameter as that on the f2 lens. The result is a much longer optic set off by the distinctive black surface (which may or may not be original...see the Fuketa letter). This design resulted in a barrel a full 12mm (nearly 1/2 inch) longer than the f2, a feature that is almost immediately apparent when seeing this lens. The second obvious difference is visible from the front view. To my knowledge, save for the 21, 25, and the 50/f3.5 Nikkors, this lens is the only rangefinder Nikkor with an identification ring that is parallel to the glass surface as opposed to angled at about 45 degrees. This gives the f1.8 a very distinctive look, especially when compared to its contemporary stable-mates, and puts the front glass surface closer to the leading edge of the filter thread. And remember, the 25 came later and the 21 much later. As for the 50/f3.5, its design mimicked the Leitz Elmar (as did the other Nikkors made for the early Canons, such as the f2.8 and f4.5), with the broad front flange. Taken with its peers, the f1.8 is distinctively different looking because of this feature (see the Fuketa letter for an explanation as to why it is this way). One other difference is visible when viewing the lens from the back. The rear element is recessed, placing it further from the focal plane than that of the f2 lens. This contributes to its overall length, and is related to the fact that this lens was optically quite different from the f2.

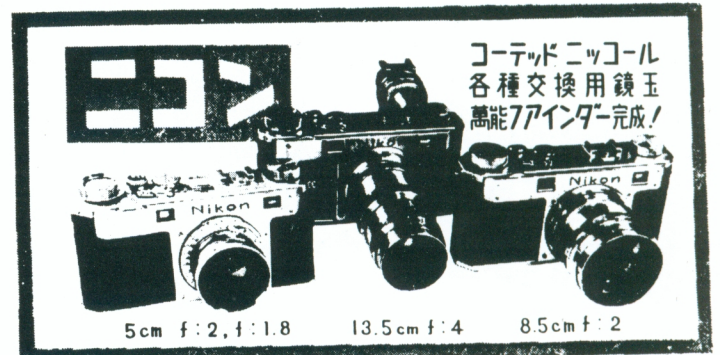
The photo below is interesting for two reasons. First it illustrates the parallel configuration of the identification ring more clearly. Second, and you must look closely, there can be seen at least three "bubbles" in this lens (actually there are four). This is the first time I have ever seen a Nikkor with more than one bubble, which tends to support our opinions that this lens is part of a prototype batch, since a production lens would never leave the factory this way. To the right is the page from the April 1984 "CCN" that contained a wealth of information back then: a 1949 ad that lists the f1.8 in addition to the f2; an optical diagram; and the first known photo of #8024! A bonanza for the collector in 1984.



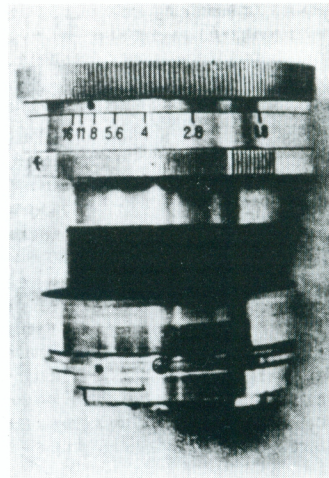
In preparation for this article, I sent Mr. Fuketa photos and a list of questions. I also sent copies of the CCN article and the Kraus literature for comment. I knew that if anyone had information, or could acquire it, about this lens, Fuketa-san was that man. He was kind enough to research it and get back to me in time for this issue, and I have reproduced his letter. In it he details many facts about the lens, which for the most part, confirm our theories. He also goes into the physical construction of the lens and even explains the flat identification ring. Because no one now knows what happened to the other prototypes, nor exactly the circumstances pertaining to just how much and what quality of glass was available in February 1948, Fuketa-san conjectures about some of the history behind the production run. However, he speaks from vast knowledge of the period, and one cannot help but feel that his theory is very close to what probably did occur.

I would like to thank Fuketa-san for his input and ask that if anyone has additional information about this lens, such as other surviving examples or listings in the literature, to please share them with the Society.

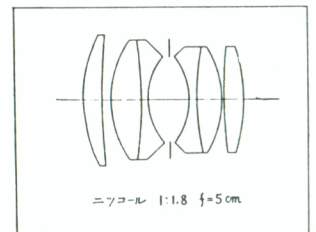
All Photos by Robert J. Rotoloni



V-⑧ 「カメラ」誌・昭和24年5月号の広告。50ミリとしてF2とF1.8が並記されている。



V-⑨ 50ミリF1.8の側面。沈鏡胴である。

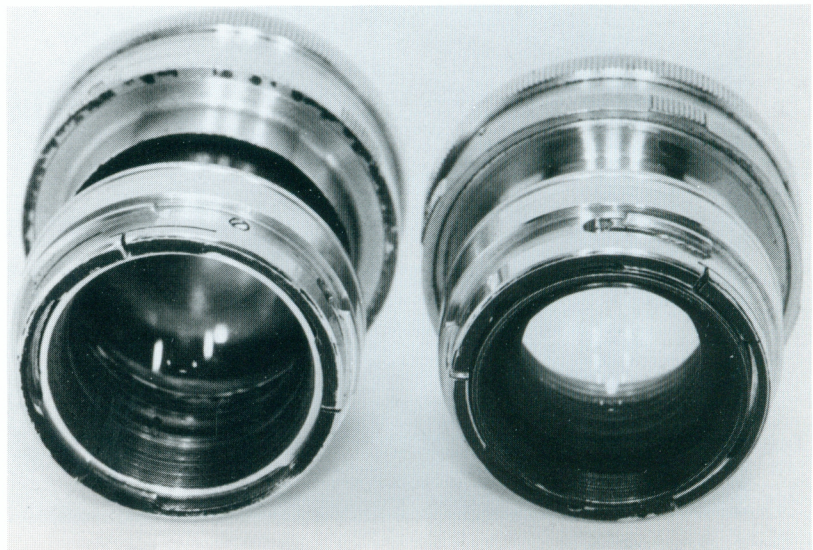
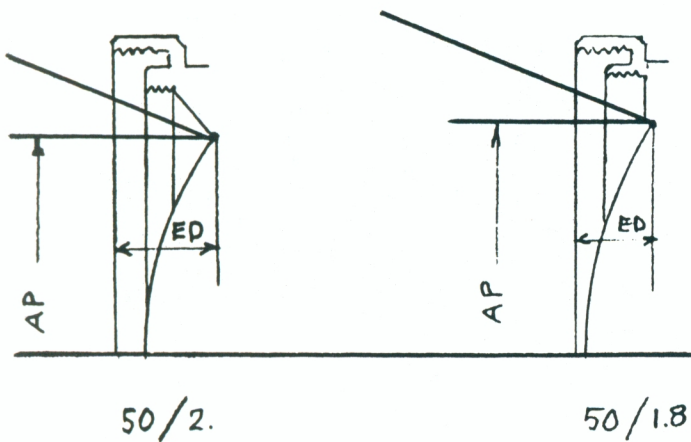


ニッコール 1:1.8 f=5cm

V-⑩ 50ミリF1.8のレンズ構成。



On this page are all four aspect-views of this prototype alongside a contemporary 50mm/f2 Nikkor. It is very obvious that the newer f1.8 barrel design is largely based on the older f2 including...same 40.5mm filter size; identical mounting flange; an almost identical front optical section. Note the slightly larger front element resulting in a narrowing of the identification ring. The front knurling is slightly broader and the aperture index dot is below the knurling, unlike this f2 where the dot is within the knurled surface (however, later f2s do have the added smooth surface where the dot has been moved). The large chrome surface next to the black barrel is new to this lens and part of the reason it is longer. Another is shown in the bottom photo where the rear glass is more recessed than the f2. Finally, in the lower left corner, is Fuketa-san's diagram illustrating why the identification ring on the f1.8 is different (see his letter on the following page). From these photos the 12mm, or 1/2 inch, difference in length between the lenses is very obvious.....but so are their many similarities!



Comments on the 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor by Masahiko Fuketa

In 1948 we were still in the chaos of the post-war period. Industrial circumstances were extremely bad. Among them the most serious problem was the shortage of fuel and electrical power.

We were permitted to produce optical goods relatively early, but because of the shortage of fuel and electric power, we were prohibited from firing the glass furnace until the fall of 1947. Fortunately we had some optical glass of many kinds left which we had melted during the war, and we could start production of civilian optical goods. But, after about 20 months or more, the inventory of glass became very poor, and we were permitted to fire the furnace under limited conditions. We had hit the bottom of our glass supply, and it took a year or more to overcome this shortage.

The design of the barrel of the 50mm/f1.8 was finished by our group in February 1948 (thus the starting number 8021), and the drawings were issued for the production of pilot models. The size of the order to produce the prototypes was initially "10", but the number of lenses that was actually produced was "3" (as confirmed by a reliable source)!

In April 1948 I left the designing department and worked as the manager of the Camera Assembly Shop for about four years. So I do not know directly about the actual result of the prototype production. Since there is no record left today, I would like to tell you, instead, a story which seems to me to be the case.... "but you must not treat it as the true history unless confirmed by others" as follows:

The formula used for the 50mm/f1.8 lens was of the Gaussian type, which was completely different from our conventional type. Also the new lens needed other types of glass which our conventional lenses did not need. As we had a small quantity of such glasses in stock we could make prototypes. As the performance of the prototypes was acceptable, the board decided to put it into production. The Sales Department began to announce it as a "forth coming product"...this kind of early announcement was a popular practice just after the war. The management tried to place an order for production, but it was found that it would be a year before we could melt the special glasses needed for the new lens! While withholding the issuing of the order, preparation for another new lens, the 50mm/f1.5, was completed, and it was decided to abandon the 50mm/f1.8 project.

In the past it was generally recognized that some kinds of optical glass, such as dense barium crown, often contained bubbles. When we used this we took great care to select only a good portion. These kinds of glass were listed in the catalog as "b" or "bb" according to the amount of bubbles.

My story continues as follows:

At the beginning of production, it was found that the amount of optical glass in the stock room was only enough for four lenses, and they provisionally changed the size of the order to 4. But later it was found that among the six kinds of glass needed there was a "b" glass, and in order to fulfill the order they must use a piece with rather conspicuous bubbles. They thought that bubbles in optical glass were almost harmless to performance, and decided to use it for the 4th lens. Of course the 4th lens failed in its examination by the lens inspection department.

The story ends here, but nothing can be found to tell us how the lens got out of the factory.

I do not know the reason why the collapsible barrel is painted black. As far as my memory is correct, when we designed it it was totally chrome plated. I suppose, when it was finished, the outer surface of the barrel was found to be rough, and they polished it and painted it black.

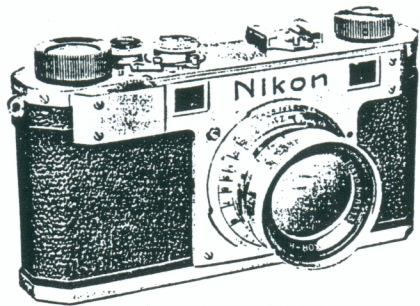
The distances between the front edge and the focal plane were: 50/2.0..61mm.
50/1.8..73mm.

When we designed the lens we thought that it would be more convenient for the users to keep the filter diameter the same as the 50/2 and the 135/4 (40.5mm). Because of this condition, and the larger aperture of the 50/1.8, and in order to prevent any vignetting caused by the filter or the lens hood, and to keep the total length of the lens to a minimum, we made the distance between the front edge and the aperture edge (ED) as small as possible. As a result, the identification ring was made flat. (See sketch below.) I hope the above information will be helpful to you.

Masahiko Fuketa.



WORLD FAMOUS
NIPPON KOGAKU K.K.
 (JAPAN OPTICAL COMPANY, LTD.)
 OLDEST AND LARGEST (Established 1880)



Camera "NIKON"

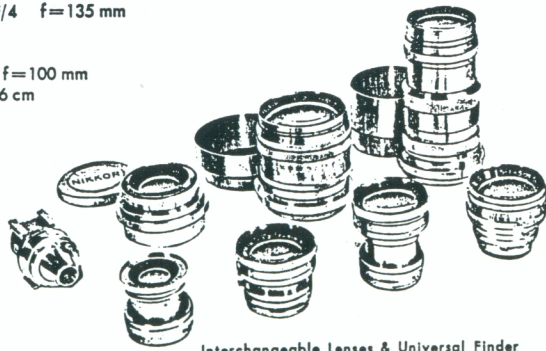
CAMERA &
 Photographic
 Lenses

35 mm Camera "NIKON"

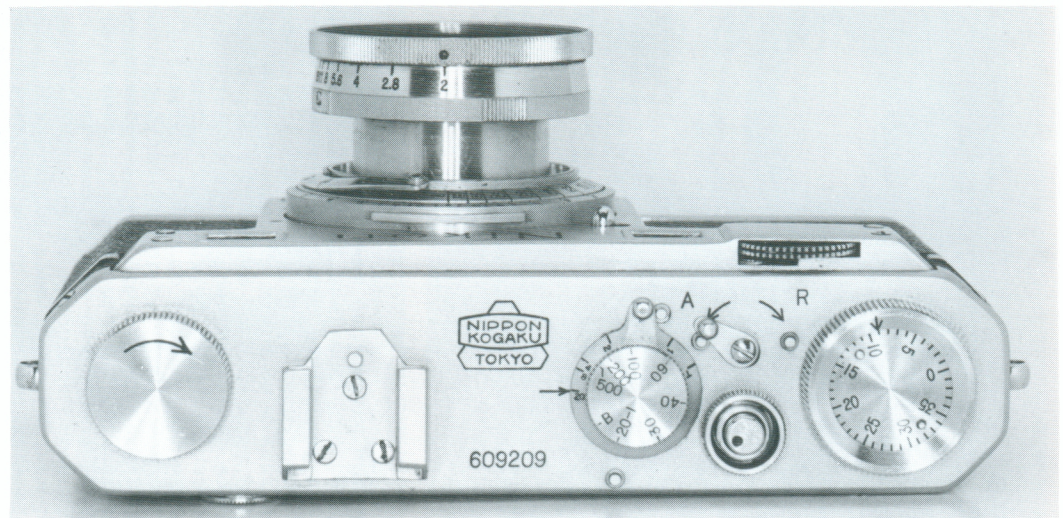
- Standard Lens F/2 f=50 mm
- Speed Lens F/1.5 f=50 mm
- Wide-angle Lens F/3.5 f=35 mm
- Telephoto Lenses F/2 f=85 mm
- F/4 f=135 mm

Universal Finder

- X Ray Camera Lens F/1.5 f=100 mm
- Picture Size 6 cm x 6 cm
- Process Lenses & Prisms F/9 f=30 cm, 45 cm, 60 cm



Interchangeable Lenses & Universal Finder



MAKERS & SUPPLIERS
 OFFICE & FACTORY Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan
 Cable Address: NIKKO TOKYO

Above is the 1950 vintage piece of literature that was uncovered by member Bill Kraus. To date this is the only English language information so far discovered featuring the 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor! Probably intended for the American market, it lists five lenses for the Nikon including the 50mm/f1.5, which was produced in 1949-50 and replaced by the f1.4 in 1950! Therefore, this literature must date to 1950, or earlier. But it shows seven lenses, not five! Easily identified are the 35, 85 and 135mm

lenses (back row). In the front, from left to right are the 50mm/f3.5 (probably no longer being made at this time), the f2 like that on the camera, an f2-like lens that is longer, and the new 50mm/f1.5. We now know that the "longer" lens is the f1.8 Nikkor!

For comparison purposes I have included the two photos above. From this angle the obvious difference in length between the f2 and f1.8 Nikkors can be clearly seen, as well as their similarities.

THE LN--SPOT!!

THE PRESET MICRO - NIKKOR

by **Robert J. Rotoloni**

There are only a few early optics made for the Nikon F reflex system that have attained the status of "collectable" at this point in time. Some that come to mind are the 105mm/f4 Preset, the original 5.8cm/f1.4, and the 1000mm/f6.3 in Nikon F mount. However, there is another that has rapidly come to the forefront in recent years and is sought after not only for its relative rarity, but also its unique features. Add to that the fact that it is the forerunner of a long series of Micro-Nikkors that have proven to be both extremely popular as well as respected. Although its predecessor was actually designed for the Nikon rangefinder system, its construction was so different that it has always been considered unique in its own right, and thought of as a distinct departure from the RF version. It is the original reflex 55mm/f3.5 Micro-Nikkor.

Although it was not a member of the original set of reflex Nikkors released along with the new Nikon F in June of 1959, the 55mm Micro-Nikkor was announced as early as mid-1961 and actually came to the market in August of 1961. This makes it one of the earliest lenses made for the Nikon F and now over 30 years old. It was probably inevitable that the Micro-Nikkor would be produced, since its RF ancestor had been available as far back as October 1956, and such a close focusing lens really comes into its own when used with a reflex camera. The RF Micro-Nikkor was intended as a high quality normal lens focusing down to the standard 3ft. Although it could be collapsed and used in copy work on Nikon's copy stands, or for extreme closeups in conjunction with a reflex housing and bellows, it was almost always used simply as a normal optic. However, the arrival of the 35mm SLR really demonstrated the immense potential for such a close focusing optic, to say nothing of the ease of operation compared to the RF version, and demand exploded! Thus the RF version is a landmark design to this day, but it was the reflex version that made the Micro-Nikkor a member of everyone's standard lens system!

The long running 55mm/f3.5 Micro-Nikkor series survives to this day in the 55mm/f2.8 version and the new 60mm "AF" lens! In addition, Nikon now also makes a series of "Micros" that include the 105mm and 200mm focal lengths (I use the 105mm/f2.8 to shoot the Journal). It is one of the most successful series of optics ever made by Nippon Kogaku, and this lens started it all for the Nikon F reflex system.

The first price sheet that I can locate that lists this lens is dated October 2, 1961. It is lens #LN249 with a retail price of \$169.50. This is only 2 months after it was first marketed and it is probable that the first lenses were available by October or shortly afterward. By 1963 the price had risen to \$175.00, but its replacement had also arrived (more on that later)!

The Micro-Nikkor is specially corrected for close-ups and the lens focuses from infinity to a 1:1 reproduction ratio without interruption by about 2 complete revolutions of the barrel. There is no need for an extension tube to reach the 1:1 ratio. It could also be attached to the bellows by means of the B-R ring for up to a 3:1 ratio. It has color-coded exposure factor and reproduction ratio scales, and is fitted with a preset diaphragm, not automatic. However, it was the preset system that allowed this lens to do something quite unique that separates it from those models that followed...it could focus all the way down to 1:1, or 4 inches, without the addition of an extension tube! How, you may ask, since those lenses made throughout the 1960s to the 1980s could not do it without the ubiquitous "M" tube. It was done with what has to be one of the most exotic and intriguing helixes ever designed. As you focus this lens the barrel just seems to keep getting longer and longer, until you begin to wonder if it will ever stop! The lens doubles in length from a little over 2 inches to just over 4 inches! It is really fun to watch this lens just keep racking out, all the while wondering where all this barrel is coming from! It has a 'parallel' mount (the front does not rotate) and I believe what is known as a dual focusing helicoid. As you rotate the focusing ring the lens appears to extend not only forward, but also rearward, as the focusing ring ends up at least one inch further from the body than when you started. Really a fascinating lens!.....so what happened to it?

By January of 1963 its replacement had been announced, only a little over two years after its debut. The new lens had the same optical formula (the optics remained the same from the original RF version up to the revised f2.8 type), but it now required the addition of an included "M" ring to get down to 1:1 ratio. Without the ring it could get to 1:2. Is this progress? Who needs an extra piece of gear to carry along? Why use two pieces to do what one piece did before? What was the real advantage of the new lens? Actually there were two...an auto-compensating diaphragm system for proper exposures at very close distances and....the addition of an automatic diaphragm! What you got was ease of operation in the infinity to 1:2 range, and simpler exposure computation, but you lost continuous focusing down to 1:1 and that glorious barrel! Such is progress! The new design proved to be much more viable, especially with the arrival of TTL metering, and the uniquely designed preset version drifted into obscurity. I am sure that most owners of the preset version ran down to their local dealer to trade it in on the new automatic, which is understandable, but there was no real gain in quality, and the loss of continuous 1:1 focusing might have been missed by some. It appears that many of these lenses were not totally discarded, as



they still can be found today. Both it and the new automatic version were listed in the price sheets during 1963, with the newer lens (#LN250) selling for about \$15 more. It is probable that once the automatic lens went into full production, the preset version was discontinued, and those still listed in the price sheets were simply left over inventory. I cannot find any evidence that they were ever closed out at a reduced price, although they may have been. It is also possible that this was not necessary. We do not know at this time.

The result is that the original Micro-Nikkor for the Nikon F was available for only a little over 2 years and has now been out of production for almost 30 years! An entire generation of Nikon users have used the modern Micros never knowing that this preset version ever existed. A short production run over three decades ago makes for a collectable piece. But the awesome barrel makes for a really "fun" collectable piece!

In the above photo the Preset Micro-Nikkor for the Nikon F reflex sits alongside its rangefinder ancestor, the one that started it all. From this photo it is obvious why many people could never associate the RF and reflex versions of this lens as being so closely related. Optically they are the identical lens, but externally-no way! Yet they are really the same lens, just dressed up a little differently. But why would such a demure item like the RF Micro-Nikkor need to take on the dimensions of its reflex sibling, simply to mount to the new Nikon F? Not only is the bayonet mount itself much larger on the Nikon F, but it's Micro-Nikkor was asked to do much more than the RF version. The RF Micro was mostly used as any other normal lens of the period...that is from 3 feet to infinity. For anything closer, a bellows, housing or copy stand was used (but only infrequently). But the reflex lens was designed from the beginning for "real" close-up work down to 1:1 ratios! So it had to be able to grow! And grow it did!

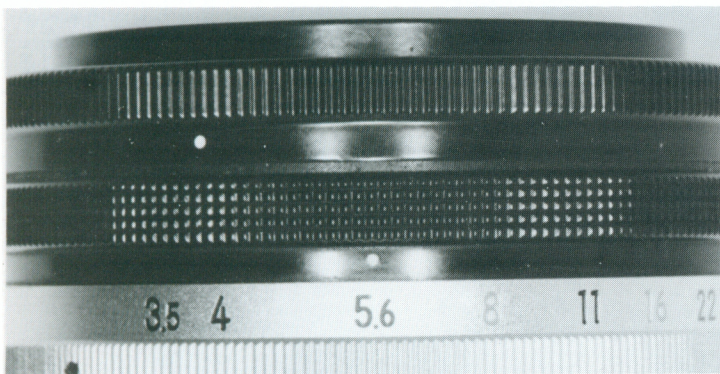




The two bottom photos on page 10 and the three on this page show just how this lens could surprise you. In these successive shots the lens is being racked out to it's closest focusing ratio of 1:1. During this process the lens doubles in physical length and, even on this 30 year old sample, it does it as smooth as silk! Although it is massive looking, the barrel is really not that heavy, as there is very little glass and aluminum alloys are used extensively. This is a modern lens in all respects, and one impressively unique optic!



For comparison a later Auto version is shown above. In the left photo the Auto lens is set at 1:2 and the Preset at 1:1. Only by adding the "M" extension ring can the Auto go down to 1:1... now matches the Preset in overall length (right)... but the Preset is more "fun"! Below are close-ups of the preset diaphragm system used. Set you f-stop with the second ring and close it down with the front ring by aligning the white dots. Simple and effective. When mounted on a Nikon F the Preset Micro is well proportioned, yet still impressive, and still very useful!



by 'CY' MEYER

Like most Nikon collectors, I have been aware that the production period for items marked "Made in Occupied Japan" or "MIOJ", was not identical with the period of the Occupation. I found some interesting information while looking for an explanation to this situation.

The combat phase of World War II ended on September 2, 1945 with the Japanese government signing the surrender documents on board the battleship USS Missouri. The Allied Occupation of Japan began on that same day when General McArthur with US soldiers and marines entered the country and took up their duties as occupation forces.

Although there is a definite date associated with the beginning of the Occupation, the date of its termination is more open to interpretation. The Occupation, though principally accomplished by US military and civilian personnel, was a function and responsibility of the Allies; and, since the Soviet Union had joined the Allies in their war against Japan just before the cessation of hostilities, the Soviets were included among the Allies. The invasion of South Korea by the North Koreans in June 1950, the subsequent support and defense of the South Koreans by the US and other allies, plus the support of the North Koreans by China (another wartime member of the Allies) and the Soviet Union further complicated the matter.

The Occupation of Japan was to end with the signing of a peace treaty between Japan and the Allies. The treaty, which had been drafted by the US State Dept., was signed at the San Francisco Conference on September 8, 1951 by Japan and 48 members of the Allies...the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia refused to sign. The treaty became effective on April 28, 1952. Thus various references give different dates for the end of the Occupation, some citing the date of the San Francisco Conference, some the effective date of the treaty, and a few the dates that China and the Soviet Union finally signed.

Initially, the occupying forces were primarily concerned with disarming the Japanese military forces, destroying Japanese war materials, freeing and providing medical care for US and other Allied prisoners, identifying and capturing suspected war criminals, and performing many other tasks which had to be given a higher priority than rebuilding and regulating Japan's manufacturing. Once the military phase of the Occupation had been accomplished, more attention was given to controlling Japan's growing industries. This control was exercised through the promulgation and enforcement of documents called "SCAPINS", which were issued by the Headquarters of General McArthur who held the title of "SCAP" (Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers). Copies of SCAPINS which were issued during the Occupation are on file in the library of the US Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

The two SCAPINS which appear to be most pertinent to this subject are: SCAPIN 1535, dated February 20, 1947. Subject-"Marking of Export Articles" which directed the Japanese government to take necessary steps to see that articles manufactured for export were conspicuously marked "Made in Occupied Japan". This document appears to be the first to levy that requirement on Japan. The other is SCAPIN 2061, dated December 5, 1949. The same subject, which rescinds SCAPIN 1535 and then goes on to say that all items prepared for export will be marked in legible English with the words "Made in Occupied Japan", "Made in Japan", or "Japan".

The implications of the second document are quite obvious-by using the term "Made in Japan" or even just the word "Japan", the Japanese manufacturers could avoid using the onerous term "Made in Occupied Japan". There is considerable anecdotal information indicating that use of "MIOJ" was particularly distasteful to the Japanese, and some after-the-fact observations tend to confirm this. Even though SCAPIN 1535 required that articles be "conspicuously" marked, many were, in fact, quite inconspicuous. On Nikon items the MIOJ marking on the camera was initially placed on the baseplate where it would not be visible when the camera was in its carrying case, and later it was changed to an almost invisible impression on the back of the camera in the leather. Camera cases were marked on the top of the bottom half where it is not visible when the top half is in place. There was no marking for the 5cm lenses other than inside the lens caps. Markings on the Variframe and Varifocal finders are on the bottom of the mounting foot and hence not visible when on the camera. On the 3.5cm lenses the marking was hidden inside the camera when the lens was mounted. Only the 8.5cm and 13.5cm lenses had truly conspicuous markings on the barrels but those were short lived..the serial number series of those two lenses were changed and the marking moved to inside the focusing cam. Anyone who has examined an 8.5 or 13.5cm Nikkor trying to determine whether it is marked MIOJ will agree that this marking is far from conspicuous!

With the apparent dislike that the Japanese had for the term "MIOJ" one might expect that they would have discontinued using it almost immediately after the requirement had been rescinded; but for unexplained reasons they continued to mark items until about March 1951, and even possibly later! There may have been some difficulty in interpreting SCAPIN 2061, or maybe the manufacturers were not informed of its provisions. It is interesting that camera #60945261, pictured on page 3 of NHS-24 is marked MIOJ and that other "8 Digit S's" are not. I have a copy of the inspection slip for a non-MIOJ 8 Digit S, #60945131 presumably made before #60945261 and which is dated June 15, 1951; thus it seems possible that MIOJ parts were being used as late as June 1951, 18 months after SCAPIN 2061!

Although the occupation of Japan lasted more than six years, it appears that the MIOJ period lasted only about three years. Additional information must be gleaned from dated inspection slips related to cameras and accessories marked MIOJ before more nearly exact dates can be given; and it would be very interesting to hear from Japanese manufacturers exactly when and how it ended.

SCAPIN 1535

20 February 1947

Subject: Marking of Export Articles.

1. The Imperial Japanese Government is hereby directed to take immediate steps to insure that every article prepared for export after 15 days of receipt of this Directive, the immediate container thereof and the outside package will be marked, stamped, branded or labeled in legible English with the words "Made in Occupied Japan."
2. All marking, stamping, branding or labeling shall be made in a conspicuous place and shall be as nearly indelible and permanent as the nature of the article will permit.

Subject: Marking of Export Articles.

1. References are following memoranda from Japanese Government from General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers:
 - a. SCAPIN 1535, 20 February 1947, subject: Marking of Export Articles;
2. Reference 1a is hereby rescinded.
3. Except as permitted in paragraph 4, all articles prepared for export, the immediate container thereof and the outside package will be marked, stamped, branded or labeled in legible English with the words "Made in Occupied Japan", "Made in Japan", or "Japan"
4. The above requirement need not be fulfilled in those cases where buyer requests omission thereof and certifies in the contract with the seller that such marking, stamping, branding or labeling is not required by country of destination.

 (The above are excerpts of the most pertinent parts of SCAPINs 1535 and 2061 as they relate to this article, and are not the complete text. However, from the above it is obvious that the MIOJ marking was not required for the entire period of the Occupation as was once thought. Editor)

(In a recent letter from Mr. Masahiko Fuketa was an answer to one of the many questions I have asked that, by chance, pertains to this very subject! It reads as follows....."I recently found in my old note book the following items:

- (1) The instruction to denote conspicuously "Made in Occupied Japan" came to me on December 22, 1947!
- (2) We stopped engraving "Occupied" in May 1951. According to my calculations at that time, the total number of cameras engraved "Occupied" was 4,470!")

MEMBER EVENTS

Member Les Seeligson recently gave a talk before the Michigan Photographic Historical Society on the history of Nippon Kogaku from before the war and into the reflex era. Les presented the audience with information about format sizes, serial numbers and production quantities. He also put together a handout sheet that summarized information on each of the rangefinder and early reflex bodies, as well as the lenses. Les was also kind enough to provide information on the "NHS" to those present, and to list both my book and our Nikon Journal in his bibliography! Congratulations Les, and thanks for mentioning the Society and the Journal!

 In the July 1992 issue of Popular Photography, Jason Schneider printed a correction to an error he made in a column on the Nikon F that appeared in the April issue. It concerned the fact that he had erroneously passed along the same old "myth" that you could date a Nikon F by the first 2 digits of its serial number (when-oh-when is the press going to get this straight?!), which we here in the NHS know did not occur, and by accident yet, until 1969 or so. Member Fred Krughoff, who is acknowledged in the article to belong to the NHS, is credited with supplying the errant Schneider with a list of serial numbers matched to body models, which is reproduced for the readers of Pop Photo.

Thanks, Fred, for helping to keep the "press" a little more accurate. Now if we can only kill the myth that the Nikon S had a 24x36 format!!!

NIKON JOURNAL DEC.31,1992

LETTERS..

From Bob Rogen...

Here is my suggestion for the 10th Anniversary issue of the Journal: make it a photo album! Each member sends in a photograph (small) holding any Nikon item. The photo is printed with the members name under it, and voila...a lasting memento for all members to enjoy. Photographs would be due to you by September 1, 1993 and no later, so you have time to get the printing done. Members can chip in some money if needed to cover the costs of printing so many more photos than usual. This idea is based on making this a Journal 'by' the members 'for' the members...something special!

(Hell of an idea, Bob! How about some feedback on this idea! Photos about the size of mine on the editorial page would work just fine (color or B/W is OK). Might make for a very interesting issue!)

 From Alan Blake...

Thank you for another splendid issue of the Journal. I was very pleased to see that reprints of earlier Journals are now available. I have it in mind to order a complete my set of Journals and have them bound. I will also try to produce an alphabetic subject index to go with as many issues as conveniently bind together and will pass on the results of my efforts.

 From Jack Griffin...

I enjoyed my first look at the Nikon Journal. It is well done. As a non-technical person I find articles such as that about Robert Capa more interesting than some of the more highly technical stories.

I bought my first Nikon at the factory in the southern part of Tokyo, not far from Yokohama, in what I believe was the summer of 1951. Word of Duncan's use of the Nikon appeared in the press, but the camera was only rarely available at the big PX in downtown Tokyo. I was only a lousy first-lieutenant at the time, but I worked for the Surgeon General of the Far East Command and he occasionally let me borrow his car and driver (as long as I kept the flags on the front bumper covered). The big Buick, covered flags and all, was enough to impress the Nikon sales manager with my importance in life and he courteously produced the items that I, in my relative naivete, asked for: an RF camera with f2 normal lens, an f/3.5 wide angle, a 135 tele and a Varifocal finder, with leather cases for all. I don't recall the prices...on my modest budget, they seemed high to me...but they would sound laughable now! I fell in love with the equipment at first sight. It saw almost daily use in and around Tokyo, accompanied me on a number of trips to Korean combat areas, and then served me as both a professional and as hobbyist for perhaps ten years after my return to civilian life. For a while in the fifties I was art director on the Renault account, and many of the photographs of the cars for advertising and promotion materials were taken by me with this Nikon on location in New York and Paris!

 From Peter Lownds...

I would like to put before the membership a subject that you and I and others discussed at the convention in Seattle, namely, where to hold NHS-Con4 in 1994. My suggestion is that it be held in Europe in one of the easier to get to countries such as England or Holland. If you are willing to try a meeting in Europe, I and other European members would be more than happy to do all the work required to set it up, as Bill Adams and others did for you so we could have NHS-Con3 in Seattle. I've been to all 3 conventions and I know the work that is required. Lets' have NHS-Con4 here!!
 (Any comments from the the members??? let us know!)

THE "LEVIN TAPES" PART I

The following excerpts are from a taped interview with Mr. Al Levin on Sunday June 14, 1992, following the NHS sponsored Convention, and took place in my room. Many of those present asked questions of Al and included myself, Simon Nathan, Tony Hurst, Peter Lownds, Jaap Kortzen, Roger Swan, Mike Symons and John Millham. Below are some of the highlights from the interview..(Robert J. Rotoloni)

Nathan..How well did you know Joseph Ehrenreich?

Levin..I knew Joe Ehrenreich from Penn Camera which he ran with his brother.

Nathan..Were you calling on Penn Camera trying to get Nikons in there?

Levin..Not try..I was selling him Nikons!

Nathan..Joe was interested in bringing in Nikons, but you already were selling them!

Levin..I know I already had Nikon, but he wanted it for the rest of the country. He told me he was interested, wanted to know what I could do to help him. He asked me for advice on how to sell the Nikons, since I was already doing it successfully.

Nathan..How many Nikons were you selling before Noboru Hamashima came to New York looking for a distributor? Two a week?

Levin..No, it was more than that because Penn was next door to Willoughbys' and I had them in both Willoughbys and Peerless as well. Willoughbys was a good customer, it was they who started it. Both Willoughbys and Peerless were leading the industry in promoting and stocking new products, such as the Nikon. Joe heard that the distributorship for Nikon was available. He, and others, were offered it. Remember there were two companies in San Francisco. There was the Nikon company and Overseas Finance & Trading, which was an international company. They wanted to get together with someone who was local and they could work with. So they got in touch with me.

Nathan..So you were the first guy on the East Coast to sell Nikons?

Levin..I was the only guy until Joe became the distributor and importer. As he put his company together I was offered every executive position they had. Joe offered them to me when he started and he offered them to me afterwards. But I started to raise a family and I thought the children were more important.



Nathan..So you stayed a salesman on commission, right?

Levin..I was not only a salesman on commission, I was the only salesman without a sales manager over me. They eventually began to cut up my territory, but they still didn't give me a sales manager. I didn't work for anyone, no one went out with me and I did the work all by myself.

Nathan..So you got the best deal at Nikon of anybody? Along comes Joe Abbott then they took in Oscar Heinemann. Wasn't Joe Ehrenreich Oscar's landlord?

Levin..I handled the instruments, the microscopes, etc, before Joe Ehrenreich and before Oscar. I also brought into New York the very first microscope. Later Oscar was made manager of the Instruments Division, but I actually brought in the instruments before the cameras.

Nathan..If you didn't have a sales manager over you then you could make your own schedule. Were they happy with you and you happy with them in the early years?

Levin..I was working for Nikon but none of them ever went out with me to my accounts or told me how to sell the product. As the Japanese came in and certain execs came in they tried to take things away from me, but they didn't know how to deal with the press. Even to this day the press still call me to tell me that Nikon is not doing for them what they did back then. Once or twice a year I went to the press guys and brought along 2-3 Japanese. They took the gear, checked it out, took it apart and cleaned it and gave it back to them. So they used Nikon. That's how I did it. Now they complain, no one is doing anything for them.

Nathan..Did you like Joe Ehrenreich?

Levin..Joe and I were very friendly. We also lived very close to each other, only about a mile apart. He was at my wedding. I used to take the Japanese out for him. I took the Japanese to introduce them to the governor and the mayor.

Symons..How long did you actually work for Nikon?

Levin..I worked for them for 35 years...35 years of selling for them starting in 1950. I am still affiliated with them as a consultant.

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1992

CAMERA

John Durniak

For Nikon Aficionados, A Club of Their Own

IF you were a member of the Nikon Historical Society, you would no doubt know that the Nippon Kogaku Company, creator of the Nikon camera and Nikkor lenses, got into the photography business because of the earthquake of 1923. The Japanese Navy, which until then was in charge of all optical research for the country, lost all its laboratory facilities; the Government then turned to Nippon Kogaku, an optical company known mainly for binoculars, for all its research and development.

The Nikon Historical Society, which celebrated its ninth anniversary last month, was founded by Robert J. Rotoloni, a camera collector from Munster, Ind. "After writing my second book, 'Nikon Rangefinder Camera,' on the early history of the Nikon, and its Rangefinder system in 1983," he said in a telephone interview, "I decided the time was right to start a society for Nikon collectors and those interested in the factual history of this important company. We began with only 50 members."

Mr. Rotoloni is the editor and publisher of the society's quarterly publication, *The Nikon Journal*, which is sent to the society's 280 members in 20 countries. It includes a letters-to-the-editor column that functions as a forum for discussions about everything from equipment prices to whether instruction books to old cameras should be reprinted. Each issue also has classified advertising for members to list cameras and accessories that they want to sell or trade.

Each issue also includes all the members' names in the order in which they joined. Three new members are Americans who were greatly responsible for the success of the Nikon: Len Silverman, Joe Abbott and Al Levin, all original members of Joe Ehrenreich's Photo Optical Industries, a company that was once the sole distributor of Nikon products in the United States. Other members include Masahiko Fuketa, the chief designer for Nikon from the first Nikon 1, produced in 1948, to the 1959 Nikon F, and the photographer and

John Durniak is a freelance writer, editor and consultant on photography.

writer Simon Nathan, who helped introduce the Nikon to the American public after World War II. Mr. Rotoloni said he was in his teens when Mr. Nathan's writings inspired him to get into Nikon photo equipment.

"The society and journal are really labors of love," Mr. Rotoloni said. "I do everything in my home on my computer and then have it printed locally."

Besides the magazine, the club offers annual meetings that allow the society's members to swap information in person. The society's third convention was held last June in Seattle, where members could buy Nikon collectibles and view two Nikon 1 cameras. There are only about 150 Nikon 1's left from a production run of 450. Mr. Rotoloni estimated that an unmodified model is worth \$20,000 to \$40,000.

The journal is continually a source of fascinating facts about the Nikon, like these:

- Because of the high cost of film in Japan after World War II, the frame size of the Nikon 1 was originally 24 x 32 millimeters instead of the standard 24 x 36 millimeters, and 40 exposures could be produced on a single role. But American G.I.'s in Japan who were Nikon's best customers, and American labs had difficulty handling the smaller frame. Because of complaints, Gen. Douglas MacArthur pressured Nikon to change the frame size (Issue No. 33, Sept 30, 1991.)

- Nikon lenses were used by the United States Defense Atomic Support Agency during nuclear weapons testing. ("The 'Atomic' Nikkor!" by Fred Krughoff, No. 29, Sept 30, 1990.)

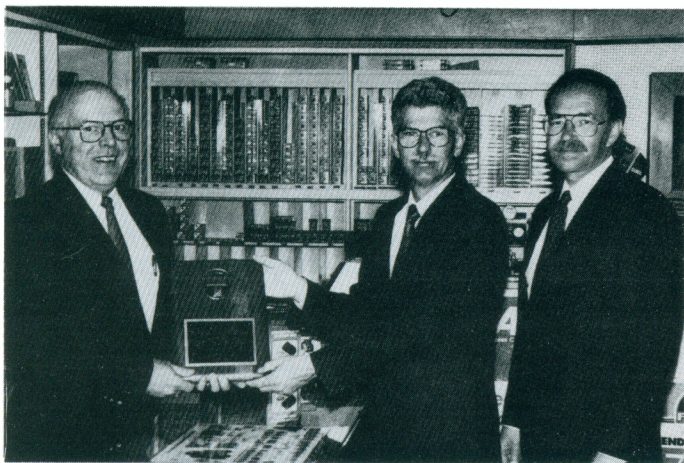
- Zeiss Ikon, the German camera company, claimed that Nippon Kogaku was infringing on the name of their Zeiss Ikonat cameras. So, the Nikonat became the Nikkormat. ("Nikon Dummies," by Richard Keyishian, No. 30, Dec. 31, 1990)

- The war photographer Robert Capa was using a Nikon the day he died covering the French Indochina War, May 25, 1954. ("Robert Capa, His Last Day," Dr. Stephen Sipos, No. 37, Sept. 30, 1992).

Details on membership are available from the Nikon Historical Society, P.O. Box 3213, Munster, Ind. 46321. Membership is \$25 a year.

To show you how one thing can lead to another, we start with NHS-Con3 in Seattle last June. Mr. Al Levin attended the Convention and, like so many others, took photos throughout the weekend. He mentioned to me that he would get a shot published in one of the photo journals, since he is a press photographer for some of them. True to his word, the August issue of "Photo Business" ran one of Al's photos of Simon Nathan and I at NHS-Con3. It appeared in the "Picture Gallery" section on page 34 and is reproduced on the facing page. Mention of the NHS and the Convention was made in the caption. (Note that Simon and I are directly below a little

guy named Ross Perot!) John Durniak, who used to be the editor of *Popular Photography* before he was picture editor at *Time*, as well as managing editor at *Look* magazine before he was picture editor at the *New York Times*...well you get the idea...learned of the Society and the Convention through both Simon and Al. Simon called me one night and told me to get some backissues to Durniak A.S.A.P., which I did. The result was a half hour phone interview and the article reproduced on this page. Couldn't ask for better exposure! Can you believe it, 53 new members this issue!! Thank you Simon and Al and John Durniak!!



Arrow Camera Shop in Pottstown, Pa., is celebrating its golden anniversary as a Kodak dealer. Owner Donald Frey, left, accepts a Kodak Special Recognition Award honoring the 50-year relationship. Presenters are Bill Burnhater, center, Kodak CID account executive, and Dick Cramer, right, Kodak CID district manager.



Former presidential non-candidate H. Ross Perot (right) visited his buddy Doc Miller of Doc Miller Cameras and Luggage in Dallas, during the heat of his non-campaign. Perot was there to pick up a photofinishing order.



Now that Bausch & Lomb has acquired Jason Empire, B&L's Bushnell Division has been renamed the Bausch & Lomb Sports Optics Division. Showing off a sculpted version of their company's new logo are, from left, David Dess, vice president, Marketing, B. Joseph Messner, president, and Larry Lucas, vice president, Sales.



A convention of the Nikon Historical Society was held recently in Seattle and was addressed by Robert Rotoloni (left) and Simon Nathan, seen here with his Minolta Maxxum 7xi.

Photo by Al Levin.



Herbert Keppler (left), VP/publishing director, Popular Photography and American Photo, gave his views at the June PMDA meeting on what Kodak's plans may be for a new imaging system. Robert P. Curran (right), VP/senior analyst, Merrill Lynch Capital Markets, talked about Wall Street's view of the photo industry today. James Chung (center), PMDA board member, presided over the meeting.

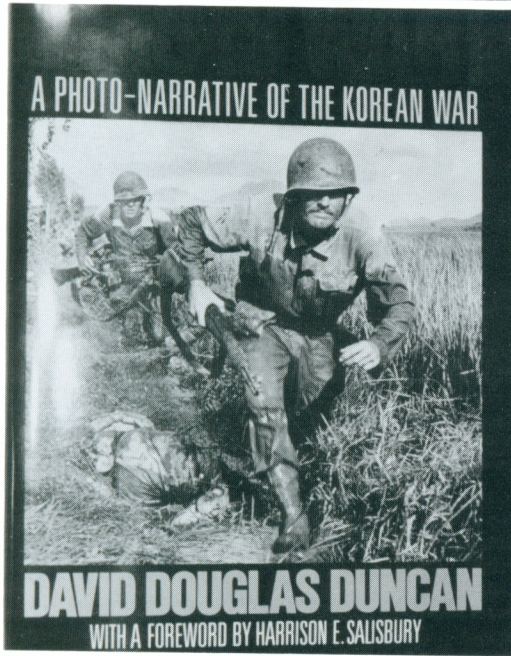
Photo by Al Levin.



Photographer Michael A. Smith (center) and his wife Paula Chamlee, also a photographer, spoke at the June PAI luncheon. Smith, in conjunction with a 25-year retrospective exhibit at the George Eastman House, published a book priced at \$1,250. With Smith is Henry Froehlich, president of Mamiya America Corp.

Photo by Al Levin.

"NHS"



We have a new addition to our selection of "NHS" Products. Thanks to the keen eye and quick work of member Dr. Stephen Sipos, the Society has been able to acquire a supply of BRAND NEW copies of the 1990 reprint of the famous David Douglas Duncan book, "This Is War"! This is the very book that DDD used his newly acquired Nikkors to shoot, and in which he discusses these "new" lenses and praises them highly. The result was the discovery of the Nikkor lenses, and the rest is history. This exact reprint is of superior quality when compared to the original (reproduction has come a long way in 40 years!) and it is a superb book. These are

new books still with shrink wrapping! I only have 40 copies and they are \$25 US and \$40 overseas, including all postage. I will also include, while they last, a copy of the famous photo of DDD taken by Jun Miki that led to their visiting the Nikon factory that fateful day. These were distributed at NHS-Con2, but I have some left.

Also, copies of Simon Nathan's Fawcett book shown in NHS-35 are still available as well as other items listed below. Another addition this issue is a reprint of the repair & parts manual for the Nikon Model III exposure meter for the Nikon F. This is the fourth in a series of exact reprints of original Nikon manuals provided to the Society by member Peter Lownds! All proceeds from the sale of "NHS" Products go to offset the cost of The Nikon Journal, and helps maintain our current dues!

"THIS IS WAR"..DUNCAN..NEW.....	\$25.00 US
	\$40.00 OVERSEAS
THE 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 F MOD. III METER REPRINT.....	\$10.00 US
	\$13.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON RANGEFINDER (ROTONONI).....	\$30.00 US
(SIGNED!)	\$40.00 OVERSEAS
FAWCETT 35MM HANDBOOK..NATHAN.....	\$10.00 US
	\$12.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL "NHS" LAPEL PIN.....	\$5.00 US
	\$6.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL "NHS" TIE CLASP/CUFF.....	\$15.00 US
LINKS SET.	\$18.00 OVERSEAS
GENUINE NIKON CALCULATORS.....	\$5.00 US
	\$6.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.....	\$140.00 US
	165.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL "NHS" T-SHIRT (MED ONLY)...	\$8.00 US
	\$10.00 OVERSEAS

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 available original backissues has dwindled to the point where less than a third remain for new members, many of whom request backissues, including xerox copies of those no longer available as originals. I have endeavored to supply copies to those who wanted them, often spending hours in front of a copier. But now things have reached a point where this is not feasible. Between the number of requests, and the fact that hundreds of pages need to be copied to satisfy each one, I can no longer 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 item double the thickness of the original, with only 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 backissues professionally reproduced. His multi-thousand dollar copier prints on both sides & can handle 11x17 paper. Therefore, copies will now be done in a fashion similar to the originals, that is, folded and stapled to look just like the real thing! Those of you who have written recently asking about copies, please take note. The prices for copies and remaining originals follow. This new backissue service will become a regular feature in the Journal and updated each issue.

 ORIGINAL BACKISSUES OF THE NIKON JOURNAL INCLUDE
 THE FOLLOWING:(NHS-26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36 & 37)
 \$6 EACH U.S. POSTPAID
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 NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663

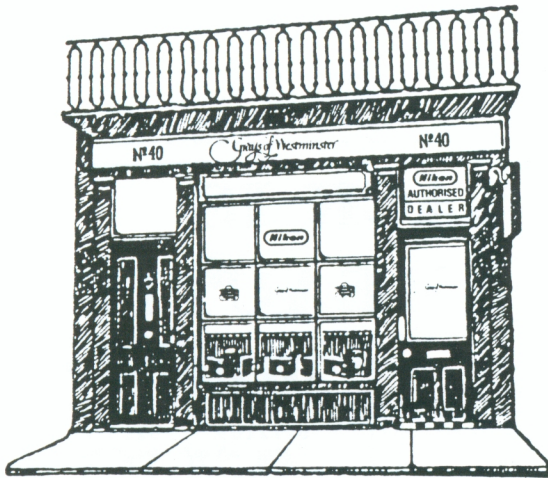
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Specialising exclusively in **Nikon** (the choice of 85% of the world's professional photographers) we endeavour to stock almost all catalogued Nikon items, for instance all five types of F3 body plus **F4, F4E, F4S, F-801S, F-601**, as well as the **FM2** in black and chrome plus the Nikonos underwater system. Additionally we hold in stock all the finders, eye-piece correction lenses, focusing screens, filters, lens hoods, the complete range of close-up equipment, flash sync cords, cases, and of course almost every lens in the extensive Nikkor range, manual as well as auto focus.

A vast range of secondhand equipment is always available covering early models such as Nikon F series, **F2, F2 Photomic, F2S, F2SB, F2A, F2AS, F2/T, F2 'Titan', F2 'High Speed', F2 Data**, Special Editions, as well as Rangefinder equipment.

New and secondhand Nikon equipment can be viewed in delightfully comfortable, old fashioned surroundings where we welcome part exchanges of other quality equipment. We accept all major credit cards: Visa, Mastercard, Access, Eurocard, American Express and Diners Club.

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



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CLASSIFIED

WANTED...50mm/f1.1 Nikkor in Damaged Condition! Any "junk" will do provided the rear glass module is intact. External/Internal mount is OK. John Walsh, PO Box N III, Grosvenor Place, N.S.W.2000 Australia.

WANTED...Student of technical history wants to purchase Nikon SP w/50f1.4 lens in good optical & mechanical condition for the purpose of studying its performance and general usability. External appearance is not of primary importance. Arnfinn M. Manders, Magnus Bergsgt. 2, 0266 Oslo, Norway. Tel..47-2-55-1084.

Have the Nikon plastic shade for the Fl.1 Nikkor. Minor use marks only. Would like to trade for a black Variframe either type or very early S/N black Nikon F body w/proper black prism. Latter must be in mint or near mint condition. Bill Adams, 23255-27th Ave. So., Des Moines, WA 98198. Tel..306-824-0183 after 6PM PST.

WANTED...Nikkor 21mm/f4.0 w/finder & 58mm/f1.4 in F-mount; Nikon F with or without prism (black preferred). Condition to be Mint- or better. Wolfgang Kuster, Ahornstrasse 6, 6729 Jockgrim, Germany.

Novice Nikonos collector seeks the following mint items: Nikonos II body, 35/f2.5 lens, Nikonos III body, 28mm UW lens for II; in-air optical finder for 80mm/f4; & all Nikonos brochures and packaging, O-ring grease kits. Also need anything Calypso! Thanks! Bob Rogan. Tel..916-454-3317.

Please send long SASE for list of boxed & unboxed Nikon F & RF bodies, lenses & accessories, plus boxed Leica R4, Minolta CLE (3 lenses) and Contax T2 outfits; Voightlander Virtus and Superb w/Heliar lens. Also have some 75 mint and near mint books on photography, mostly w/DJs plus good assortment of instruction books, brochures, catalogs, etc. Please enquire. Bob Harris, 1507 Fairway Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698. 813-734-4906 before 10PM EST.

WANTED...Original instruction books for the S2 & SP as well as original brochures in EX to mint condition. Will buy or I have the following for trade: 1952 Nikon camera brochure for "S" (M-), instructions for Nikon S (EX), "F" price list dated 10/2/61 (VG). Craig Swearingen, 8111 Durklyn Lane, Houston, TX 77070. Tel..713-469-0966 from 7:30-10PM CST.

FOR SALE/TRADE...Nikon hood for 50mm/f1.1 plastic (8)-\$450; 50mm/f1.4 hood (8)-\$60; 105mm/f2.5 hood (9)-\$75; metal body cap, \$100; Sportsfinder (have 2 in condition (9)-\$900 & (8.5)-\$850; grey flash/finder adapter (9)-\$150; for "F", 43/86mm Zoom #438617 (lens #7)-\$500. Douglas Napier, 103 Clark Ave, Thornhill, Ont. Canada L3T 1T1. Tel..416-731-4694. Fax-416-731-8623.

GOING, GOING, GONG!...Owner, user selling special Nikon items. Nikon Full Sky Camera, \$210,000 (NHS-35). Nikon Bronica Fisheye 30mm/f4 Nikkor, described, but not illustrated in Peter Braczko's nifty "Das Nikon Handbuch", serial No.1 of three ever made! This fisheye is a working lens, not model, \$200,000. Body for Nikon Xray camera, from which the Full Sky Camera was hatched, \$100,000. Total run was 50 of these bodies, 31 were used for Sky Cameras. See article for inventory control destruction. Tel..201-675-4220. Fax..201-675-5026. Can be seen at NYC bank during their hours, but ending 2PM. Simon Nathan, USA.

FOR SALE/TRADE...For Nikon RF, accessories, etc.. 3 black Nikon F bodies, 3 Nippon Kogaku lenses, some odds & ends, leather cases, 2 prisms, 1 WL, etc. Jim Leathem, PO Box 50355, Parks, AZ 86018-0355. Tel..602-635-2117.

WANTED...Nikon 15mm/f3.5 ultrawide lens w/filters and shade. Richard Stern..Tel..201-868-0288..Eve.

FOR SALE/TRADE...W-Nikkor 35/f2.5 #246950: screw mount, proper front/rear caps/case. Unusual serial # variation with (:) after number! Mint w/matching chrome finder (L marking) in case, \$395 or interesting Nikon RF trade. Late arrival..Nikon SP/1.4 chrome (boxed) and 5 lenses, including the unusual 105/f4.0, cases, IB. All in EX+ condition. Call or write for details. Mike Symons, 3844 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C. Canada, V8P 2S9. Tel...604-477-1867 after 6pm Pacific Stand. Time.

I have many investment quality Nikon rangefinder items available. Write for list. Fred Krughoff, PO Box 497, Peck Slip Station, New York, NY 10272.

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PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR OFFICIAL "NHS BLACK LIST" PUBLISHED IN NHS-37!!

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6208436	6210571	6212109	6215384	6215437
6307483	6312156	6320103	6320248	6321886
	6322254	6600207		

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of "THE NIKON JOURNAL" will be March 1, 1993. Please get all material to me by this date so that I can get NHS-39 out on schedule. Thank you.

WHAT IS IT? SEE NHS-39!



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!

A 25mm NIKKO !!!

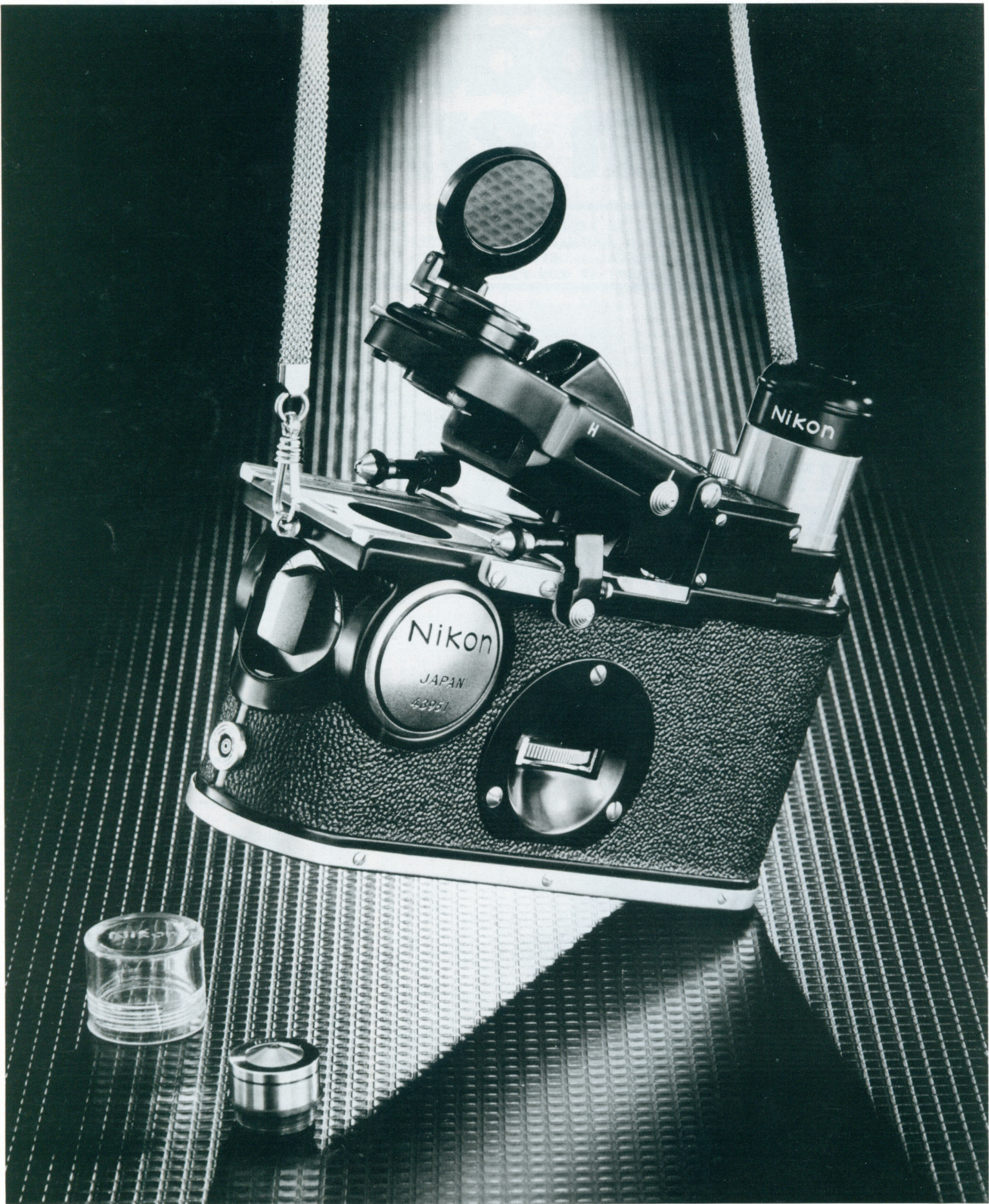


Here we have what appears to be a pedestrian 25mm/f4.0 Nikkor in black, #404398. A fine sample of the later version of this lens, it came to me complete with the proper caps, finder, and the seldom seen filter holder/shade (or shade/filter holder, whichever you prefer). At least at first glance that's all it appears to be. However, this lens is different in one respect. Take a closer look at the second photo and then check out the last shot...Yep! Someone fell asleep at the old

engraving station and left the letter "R" off of "NIKKOR" to give us a 25mm/f4.0 "NIKKO"! Note that in the third photo the light reflection is such that it is obvious the missing "R" was never there. I have one other "NIKKO" lens recorded, but of a much earlier vintage. It is a 50mm/f2.8 lens #50212 which came on a Canon S. It too is missing the "R". It can be seen on page 93 of member Hayato Ueyama's superb Canon book.

Anybody else out there have a "NIKKO"? If so let us know about it!





Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST