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NHS-39

THE NIKON  JOURNAL



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ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



THE NIKON JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

Another packed issue and another editorial page that just doesn't seem large enough! Again I have a great deal to cover on this page so here goes....

Some of our recent publicity is still generating new members, as we add 32 new names to our rolls & now number nearly 360 total! Those of you who have not returned your NHS directory questionnaire that was inserted in #38, please do so as soon as possible, as we want to get to work on the book. Those of you who do not send it in by June 1st will be listed using what information I now have in my database of labels. Also, those who do not wish home addresses listed will have only their name in the directory, as requested. Over 200 of you have responded so let's finish as soon as possible.

Remember Bob Rogen's idea for our 10th Anniversary issue? To put together a photo gallery of as many members as possible? Let's do it!!!! But we must start now! Send me B&W or color photos of you (and maybe a piece of Nikon gear) when possible. Try to keep your image about the size of mine on this page, and if you include a camera, keep it near your face as in my previous photo, so the resultant shot is about 1x1 or 1.5x1.5 inches. This way I can get all of you in! Start thinking about it now and join the NHS Rogues' Gallery!

We again have two inserts for you. One is a gift from member Al Brody who has had reproduced the hard to find instruction sheet for the Nikon Reflex Housing Type 2. Al has done this at his own cost as a service to the membership to help enhance your enjoyment of this hobby. I am sure there are owners of housings who lack this sheet, and those who have yet to find one will possess the knowledge found in the official instructions. I want to thank Al for this gesture as I am sure all of you would. Also this issue you will find a copy of the Auction Team Koln (Cologne) newsletter for 1993 listing, as well as other events, two photographic auctions. This is one of the major auction houses in Europe that features photographica, and they produce an exquisite catalog which is worth owning. (Revenue obtained from this insertion will help offset part of the postage cost for NHS-39).

To return to the special edition set of Tony Hurst photos shown in NHS-37, a full color version recently appeared in issue #25 of "Nikon Marketing News", an official publication of Nikon Japan that goes to distributors and their staffs (not to the dealers). Not only are former Journal back covers on display, but the NHS is listed as the original publisher as well! It is part of a promo for Gray Levett's celebration of Nikon's 75th birthday and his Nippon Kogaku room. Thanks to Gray the Society has finally been mentioned in an "official" Nikon publication! And remember that Gray produces a fine catalog, as well as an interesting newsletter, for Nikon lovers. Drop him a line and get on his mailing list. Gray has done many things to promote the NHS in Europe and deserves our support as well.

At this point I would like to mention other publications that are produced by NHS members in various parts of the world, that can be of great interest to you. Fred Jansz is the publisher of "Camerabuers", a high quality Dutch magazine that deals with all facets of photography including collectibles such as Nikon. Fred has run many articles that tie in with the NHS and has given us free ad space as well. I can't read Dutch, but I still enjoy every issue! (Fred Jansz, Camerabuers, Postbus 252, 3700 AG Zeist, Holland). From France we have two items! Patrick Ghnassia produces the exquisite magazine "Cyclope", also a general purpose photo journal, but with heavy emphasis on older and collectible cameras. It is one of the finest quality journals I have seen with a very heavy and glossy stock for the cover. Really well done! I also can't read French, but every issue is a joy! (Patrick Ghnassia, Cyclope Magazine, 30140 Mialet, France). Also from France comes Patrice-Herve Pont

and his Fotosaga publications. Patrice has produced a series of what he calls "fotofiches", each concerned with a particular camera, including the Nikkormat (#11) and the Nikon F (#29), (these are also in French, but still very usable). He was kind enough to run an ad for the NHS in the Nikon F booklet in exchange for information I had on file. In addition he is the author of "300 Leica Copies" and the "Fotosaga" directories, a worldwide listing of collectors, museums, societies, and publications that is updated periodically. (Fotosaga, Flassy, 58420 Neuilly, France). Finally from down under we have Neil Smith's "Photographic Trader", a newsletter that reminds me so much of the early Shutterbug (remember those?). It is full of personal ads plus a few commercial type, as well as informative little articles that I find very interesting (yes this one is in English!). Neil has graciously promoted the NHS in every issue with a free ad, and will showcase the Journal in future issues. It's a good "trader" type paper you should check out. (Neil Smith, Photographic Trader, PO Box 95, Carina, QLD 4152, Australia).

On this page in NHS-38 I hinted that there would be a change in my personal life this year. If all goes well, it should occur by the time you receive this issue. I have decided to go in debt up to my eyeballs and try my hand at running my own pharmacy. For over 20 years I have been working 50+ hours a week for others, so I might as well work 80 a week for myself! Naturally this deadline fell at exactly the same time, but I still managed to get the Journal done. It will not be easy (if up to now can be called easy) to find the time, but I will do my best. Every effort will be made to get the Journal out on schedule, and if I continue to get the volume of articles and ideas I did this time, I'll have no problem filling these pages and getting it to you on time. My work load will increase drastically and the business will require my attention at all times, but the NHS will continue on. All I ask is your patience and support (both of which have been in abundant supply this last decade!), and the Journal will continue uninterrupted! However, until further notice, I will not have a FAX number, but I will publish it as soon as possible. Please do not send Faxes to my old number!

This brings me to the subject of NHS-Con4! It appears that Europe is the front runner right now with NHSers in Holland, Ireland, England & Germany all offering to do most of the work. I think it can happen and I hope it does. My only concern at this time is my getting there! Securing time off will be difficult, but I have a year to do it. So let's go to Europe (probably Holland) for NHS-Con4, and add yet another page to the history of the Society, our first convention overseas! Holland is a beautiful country, easy to get to and well located for getting to the rest of Europe, so think about it and let me know your thoughts!



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THE ORIGINAL NIKON "1"?

by Mike H. Symons

Assisted by Masahiko Fuketa

To the majority of people, the name NIKON is synonymous with a line of high quality cameras developed in the 1950s to meet the growing demands of the miniature (35mm) enthusiast. Most members of the NHS know that the key date in this development is March 1948, when production began on the now famous Nikon I. But was the Nikon I actually the first camera to be produced by Nippon Kogaku? As our knowledge and interest in this fascinating company unfolds, we are beginning to get a sharper picture of other quality products manufactured long before the historic Nikon I. Included would be the following newly identified Nikon camera.

The "HOTAI KYOU CAMERA 96", or "ARTILLERY TELESCOPE CAMERA", was developed in about 1936 for use by the Japanese Imperial Army (artillery). Mr. Masahiko Fuketa, a key player in the early years of the company, now retired, furnished much of the background information for this article. He states "In order to take pictures in the battlefield, we (Nippon Kogaku) developed a simple camera named the "Artillery Telescope Camera" which was a camera using dry-plates (glass) of 82x107mm format. The focal length of the relay lens was (approx.) 20cm, and the combined focal length with the artillery telescope was (approx.) 200cm. Its production continued during the war."

To glean more information on this truly unique piece of Nikon hardware, I began corresponding with Mr. Fuketa, who provided the following answers to questions I asked him about the history of this camera.

Symons..Were you working for Nippon Kogaku during the period these cameras were produced (1936-45?).

Fuketa-san..I entered the company in April 1937, and worked as a designing engineer on Fire Control Directors for the Navy for about 8 1/2 years. In those days we had several factories around Tokyo, and they were different according to their product type. Our factory specialized in "FCD" for the Navy. For this reason I know almost nothing about the HOTAI KYOU CAMERA 96 made for the Army.

Symons..Do you recall this camera, and have you any further information on it...production figures, years built, etc?

Fuketa-san..Unfortunately, no. No records remain now, as all of the documents and materials related to these military products were destroyed at the end of the war, and most of the engineers involved have passed away.

Symons..Was the entire outfit made by Nippon Kogaku or just the camera body and lens?

Fuketa-san..We made the principal parts ourselves, some parts were made by sub-contractors, and we bought others in the market and assembled them.

Symons..Do you have any photographs of this camera in actual use at an artillery site during the war?

Fuketa-san..Unfortunately, no.

Symons..Can you explain the tripod base calibrations? Do they somehow translate into the normal 360 degrees that we are familiar with, or was there some other purpose intended?

Fuketa-san..According to the photos you sent me, your camera seems to be for dual purposes: normal and telephoto. In cases where it was used as a normal camera you must set it on the tripod. The graduations on the tripod base are for the purpose of surveying. The Imperial army used the so-called "mil-unit system" for angular measurement, instead of the normal "degree/minute/second unit system", where 6400 mils equals 360 degrees. The "mil" system was said to be very convenient in artillery because 1 mil equals about .001 radian; 1 meter length at a distance of 1000 meters sustains 1 mil in angle. The numerical figures around the scale on the tripod are in 100 mil units, and one scale division is 20 mils.

When you adjust the rotating axis of the tripod vertically, using the adjusting screws on the tripod and the spirit level on the camera, and turn the camera at proper angular intervals, you can take consecutive panoramic pictures which can be used for surveying purposes.

When you use this camera in its telephoto mode, you must join the connecting arm with the artillery telescope, and set the camera on the connecting arm. In this case the lens on the camera serves as a relay lens for the whole system, and the focal length would be increased by the magnification power of the telescope.

Mr. Fuketa also provided me with the translation of all Japanese characters inscribed on the outfit. This included an inventory sheet attached to the inside top lid, developing tank information, and characters inscribed inside the box.

Some of the older members (seniority in the NHS-not age!) will recall a short one page article on a similar camera in NHS-4 (June 84). The outfit pictured is owned by John Angle, while Bob Rotoloni wrote the accompanying article with a few photos. It is fair to state that neither knew exactly what they were looking at, except that the camera had an N-K logo, and was definitely Japanese military (probably army due to the drab olive brown color). The serial number of that particular camera is #439, whereas our subject camera is substantially earlier at #292. From these known numbers it may be assumed that there were probably a minimum of 500 such units produced, but the devastation of the war has, in all likelihood, destroyed most outfits. Recently I have heard of another surfacing in California, but it is in fairly poor condition and missing some key parts.

The captions accompanying the photographs will give you some idea what a complete outfit this appears to be, with just a few very insignificant pieces missing (cleaning brushes, focusing cloth, one or two cable releases). The stainless steel developing kit is a wonder to behold. Once polished it appears brand new! The three thermometers are still in good working order, and there are glass vials, corked and wax-sealed, containing developer powder!

Probably some of the most exciting pieces in this collection, and not really considered part of the actual outfit, are 6 boxes of Fuji 8x10.5cm glass plates...4 still unopened! It would be interesting to see if some of these plates could still register an image...after almost 50 years!

It wasn't until Mr. Fuketa passed along his information, that I was aware of the binocular/telescope connection with the camera. Now, for me, the search begins to find a pair of binoculars so I can complete this truly interesting and historic outfit. A "needle in the haystack" challenge...yes, but worth the effort if one is found!

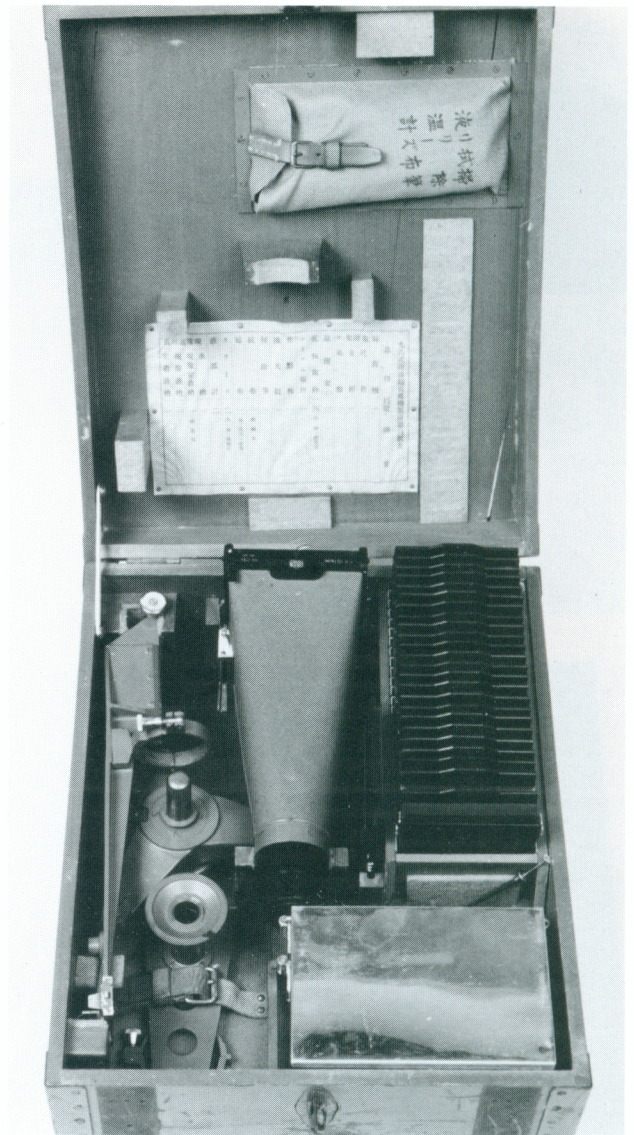
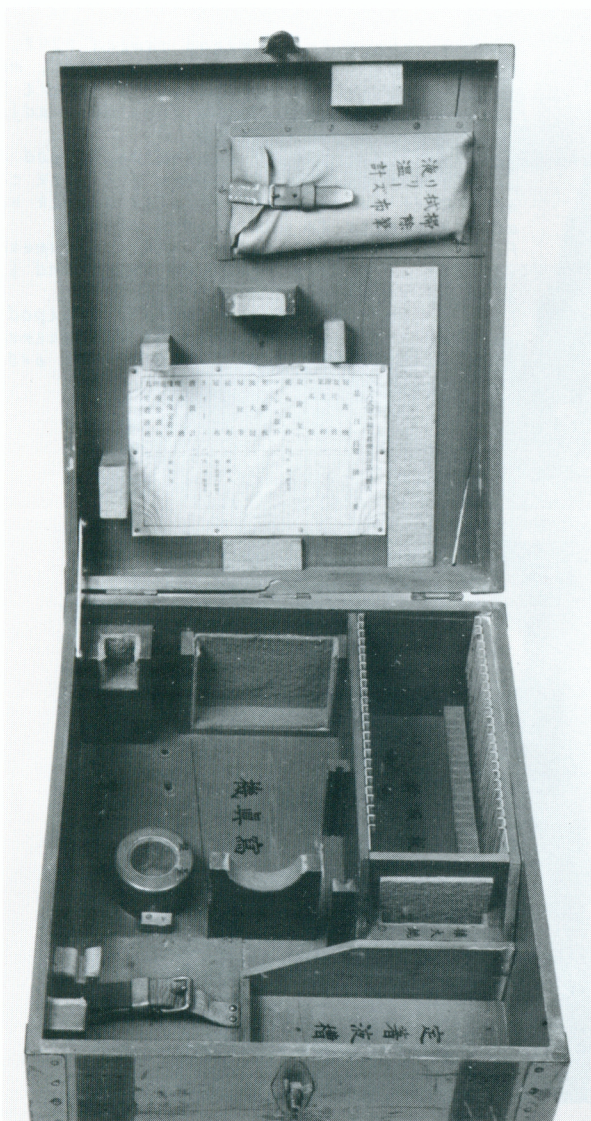


Fig. 1..above..Inside view of wooden carrying box revealing contents in their proper positions. Items include (clockwise from 12 o'clock): camera; focusing hood; 23 of 24 plate holders and additional multi-plate back; stainless steel developing tank outfit; 2 piece mounting/tripod base; telescope/binocular mounting device. Canvas bag attached to lid contains 3 thermometers and 2 glass vials of developer powder.

Fig. 2..left..Empty box with Japanese character indicator markings (everything in its place!). Notice paper inventory sheet in top lid. (Fully translated by Mr. Masahiko Fuketa).

**All Photos by
Mike Symons**

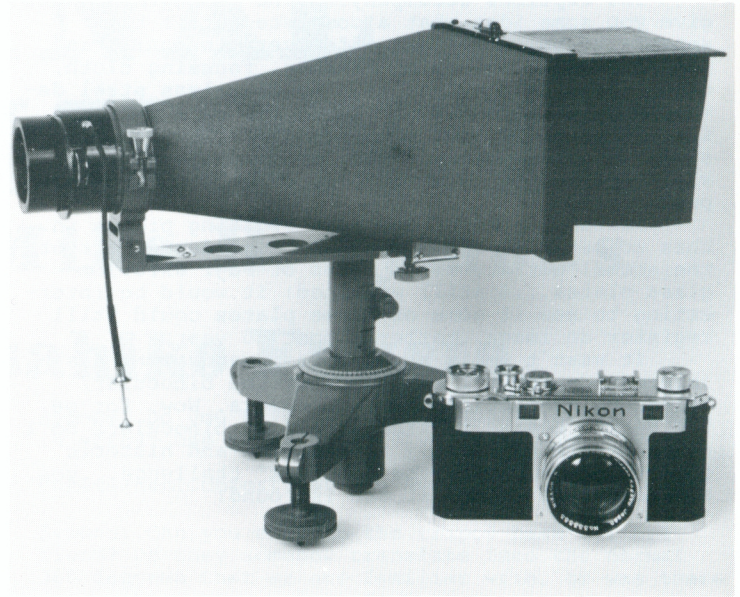
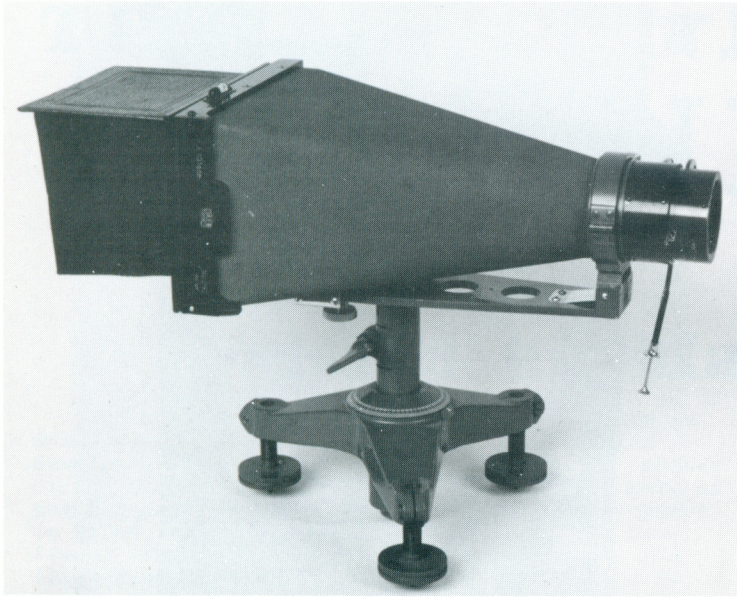
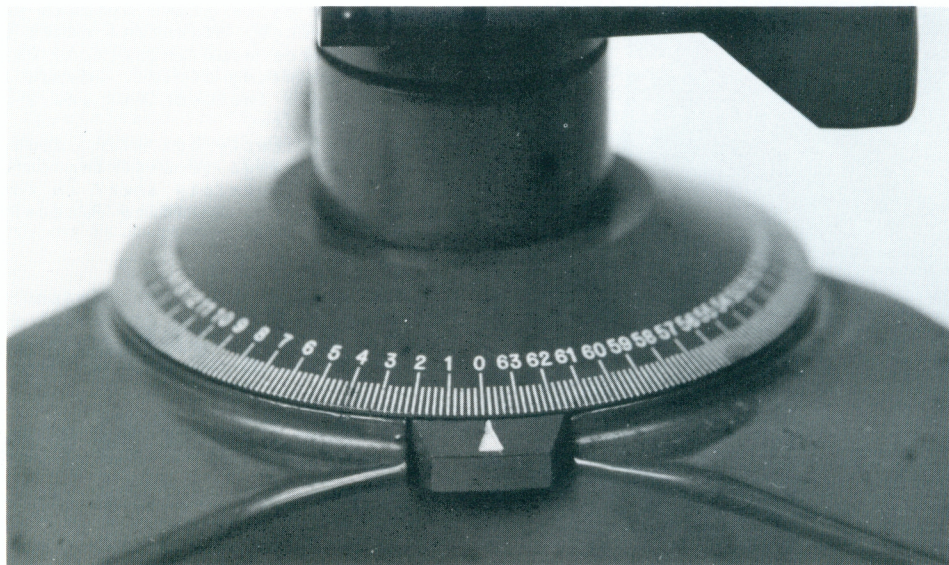
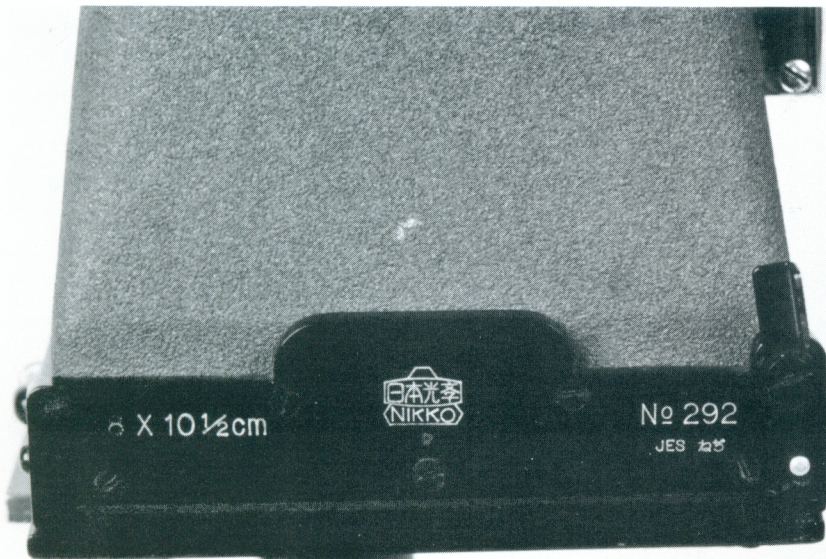


Fig. 3..above left..Nikon camera #292, with attached ground glass focusing hood, mounted on the 2 piece tripod stand. A spirit level (still working!) sits on top. Note adjuster wheels on tripod.

Fig. 4..above right..Camera on tripod stand with Nikon S #6116925 shown for size comparison. Note mounting clamp with silver nut to attach camera to arm/tripod stand.

Fig. 5..left..Closeup of side of camera showing serial number, "NIKKO" logo, and film plate size--8 x 10 1/2cm.

Fig. 6..bottom..Closeup view of tripod base showing "mil-unit" system of measurement explained by Mr. Fuketa in the text. 6400 Mils= 360 degrees.



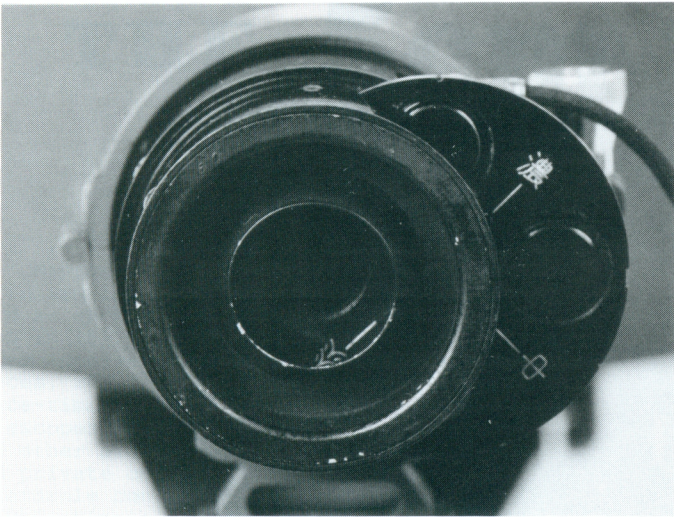


Fig. 7..left..Front of lens showing 3-filter wheel (light-med-dark red filters). Note the absence of the usual identification markings on lens such as focal length (estimated at 13.5cm), maximum aperture, serial number, etc.

Fig. 8, 9 & 10..below..Secondary mounting arm with camera attached.

Secondary mounting arm used in conjunction with the binoculars/telescope. The combination of the camera's objective coupled with the binocular's objective turns this unit into a 2000mm optic!

View of complete "ready to go" developing outfit. Includes water tank, developer and fixer canisters (each marked with Japanese identifying characters), plate developing tank with rubber spout, 3 thermometers with their wooden tubes, and 2 vials of "M-Q" (Metol & Hydroquinone) developer powder. Both vials have cork plugs and are wax sealed!

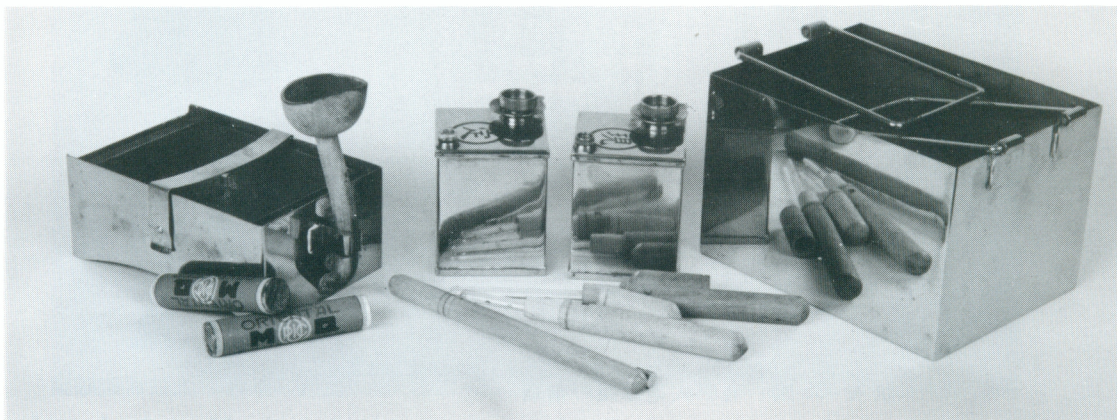
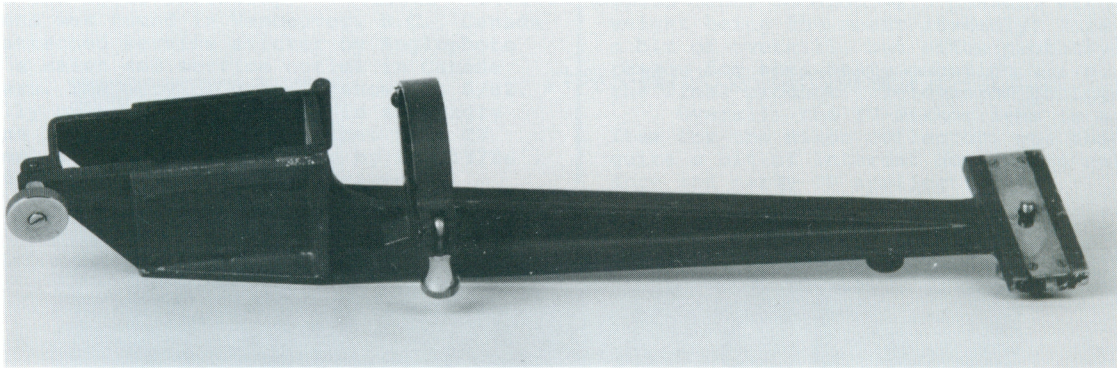
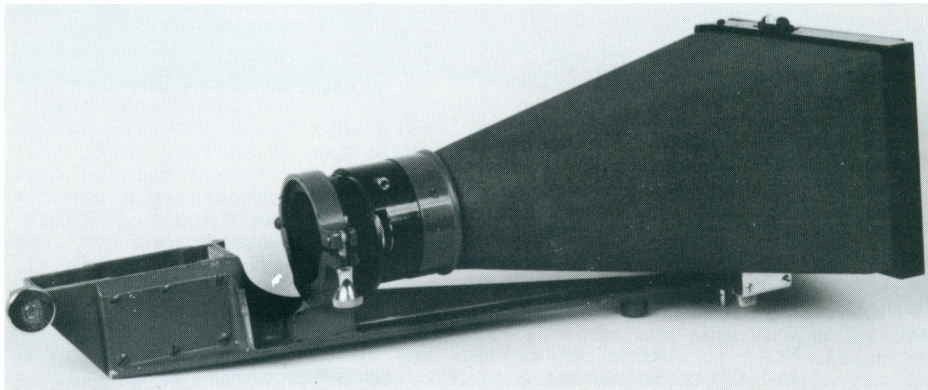
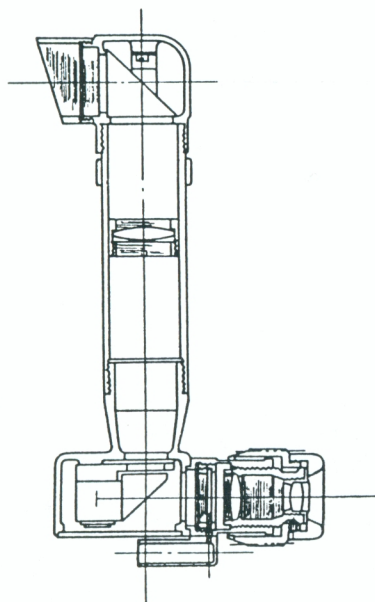




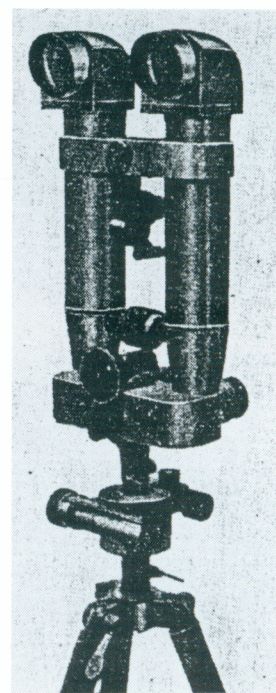
Fig. 11..above..Six boxes (four still sealed!) of 8 x 10 1/2cm dry glass plate film. Five are Fuji "A-1" High Speed Orthochromatic (one entirely in Japanese characters), and one box of Fuji Portrait Panchromatic. Three of the 24 glass plate holders are shown in foreground.

Fig. 12..below..Photograph and optical diagram of Artillery Telescope, MK-93. These binoculars were attached to the camera with the auxiliary connecting arm to greatly increase magnification... up to 2000mm. (Courtesy Masahiko Fuketa)

図は九三式砲隊鏡の構造及び外観を示す。



第 V-35 図 九三式砲隊鏡の構造



第 V-36 図 九三式砲隊鏡

THE 5cm/f2.0 TV-NIKKOR!!

by
Mike H. Symons

Nippon Kogaku has long been an innovative leader in new technology, as evidenced by its track record as an optical "front-runner" since its inception in 1917. Not only was the company chosen as a major supplier of military optics to the Imperial forces, but also produced an inventory of superb peace-time optical equipment, including binoculars, telescopes, transits, microscopes, camera lenses and other similar high quality devices for industry and private consumption. When television became an affordable consumer commodity in the very early 1950s', Nippon Kogaku responded with a line of high resolution Television Camera Optics.

The "mystery" canister unveiled in NHS-38 contains an early example of such a lens, a 5cm/f2.0 TV-Nikkor-H.C. The lens itself, #733254, appears to be a normal production f2.0 Nikkor made for the RF cameras. The serial number would indicate a date of late 1955 to early 56. The red "C" would also date it from the mid to late '50s', before it was eliminated by 1957. The lens portion itself can be removed from the rather elaborate housing and appears identical to the RF version, minus the outer black barrel. As can be seen, the impressive "RCA" TV mounting assembly fits around this lens and contains the aperture scale (f2-f16) which is linked internally to the actual lens by a sliding pin arrangement. When mated to the TV mounting attachment, the aperture is adjusted by a large dull chrome semi-circular collar with serrated teeth. This collar could have been activated by an early form of a Selenium cell which opened and closed depending on the light intensity.

This lens was found in Vancouver, B.C., Canada and has an attached service sticker by Anglophoto Ltd., Nikon's sales and service outlet in Canada for many years. The service date is shown as 6/82. I was actually quite surprised at this seemingly late date, as I would have thought that this TV lens represented obsolete technology by the 1970s', as newer and more refined methods arrived.

The "tin" used to house this optic is also quite impressive. It measures 7 7/8 (L) x 5 1/2 (W) x 4 1/2 (H), and is finished in a mottled silver-grey paint, very similar to the carrying case for the massive 1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor, which appeared 5-6 years later. On the front top lid is an identification tag which contains the Nippon Kogaku logo, focal length, maximum aperture, plus "F" for mount, but makes no reference to a serial number. The meaning of "F" mount is a bit confusing, as the lens, mounted in its TV attachment, bears no resemblance to the familiar "Nikon F" mount, which wasn't introduced until June 1959! A metal handle is attached to the top lid, giving the tin the appearance of a small child's lunch box!

The inside base contains a pair of mounting bolts with silver retaining nuts. The mounting platform is padded with maroon felt...for protection... in the typical Nikon fashion!

As the photographs illustrate, the majority of the weight of this outfit is in the "RCA" TV mount assembly, which is fashioned out of a slab of solid steel..... almost 3/8 inch thick! It is estimated that the combined weight of this assembly (with lens) is about 2.5 pounds, with most of the weight being the mount assembly! This appears to be a bit of overkill, but Nikon probably had a good reason for this heavy mounting...i.e. rigidity for the final product...Television photography.

Overall, the TV-Nikkor lens is a fascinating item for the Nikon collector, one that generates quite a bit of interest due to its unique appearance and early TV application.



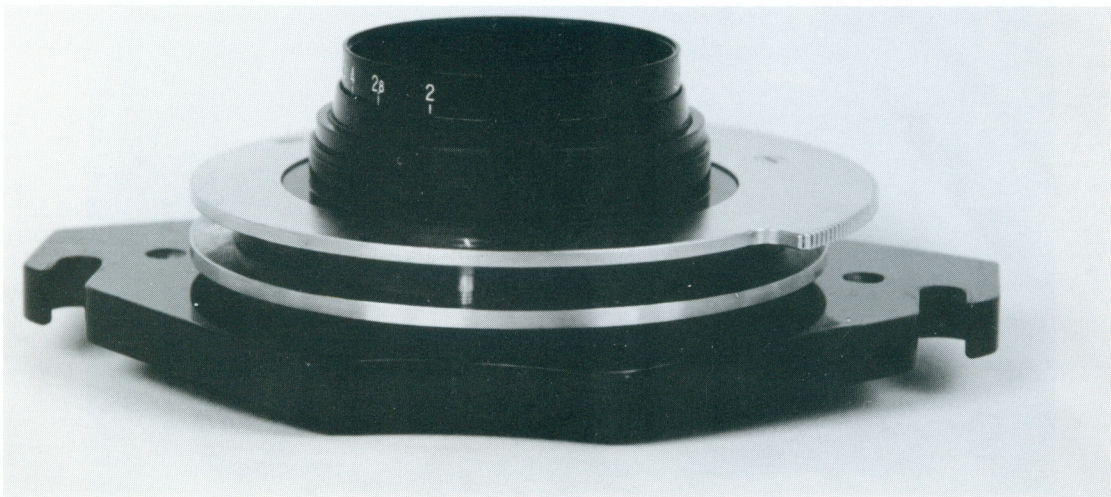
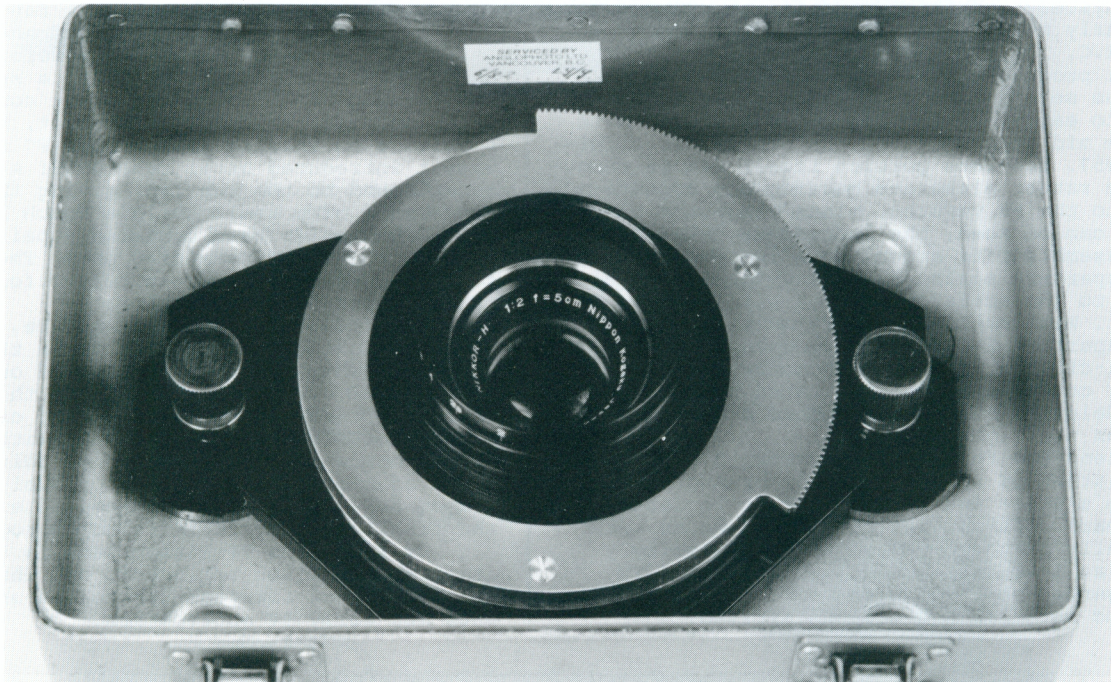
Fig. 1..Overall view of tin container showing identification tag and top carrying handle.



Fig. 2..left..Closeup shot of identification tag. Note the absence of a serial number for this particular lens, and the misleading "F" mount reference!

Fig. 3..below..5cm/f2.0 TV-Nikkor #733254 in "stored" position (on maroon felt pad) inside tin container, held tight by 2 large silver locking nuts. Note the Anglophoto "Service" sticker dated 6/82.

Fig. 4..bottom..Side view of TV housing assembly removed from tin. Large dull chrome ring with serrated teeth controls aperture. Note thickness of "RCA" mounting plate (approx. 3/8") and side mounting slots.



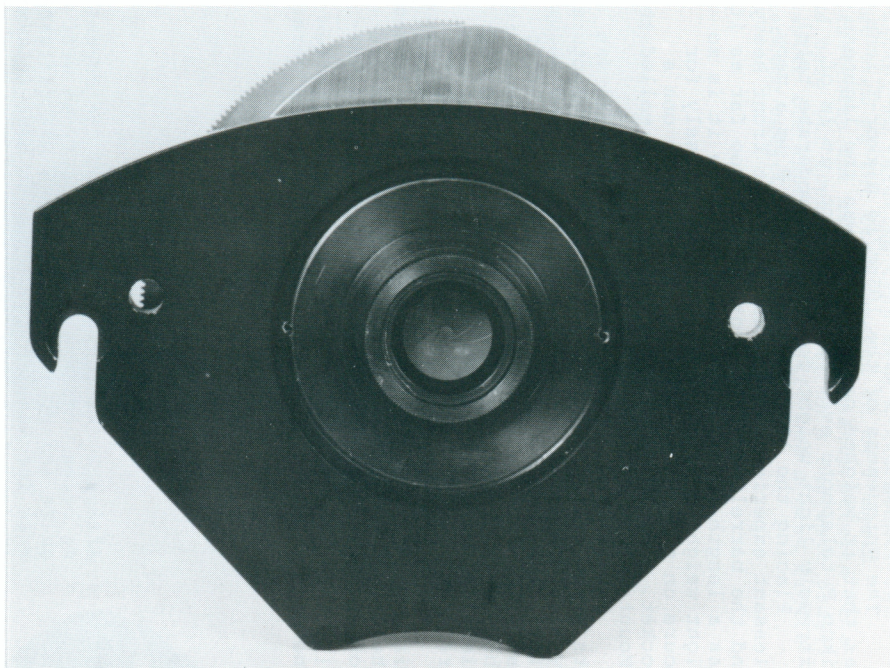


Fig. 5..above..Rear view of assembly showing lens retaining rings and heavy black mounting plate.
 Fig. 6..below..Lens component, with retaining ring, removed from housing. Note aperture linkage slot and pin mechanism which mates with a groove in the actual TV housing, adjusted by large toothed dull chrome ring. The last 4 digits of the serial number (3254) are scratched into lens barrel, thus indicating matching of units.

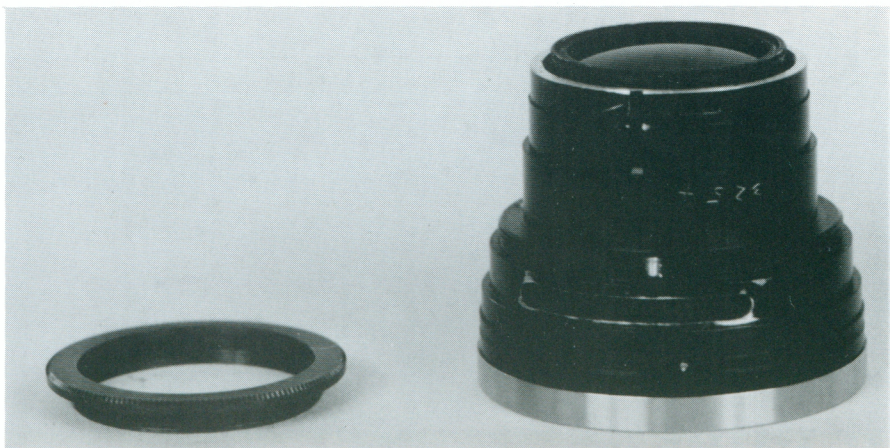
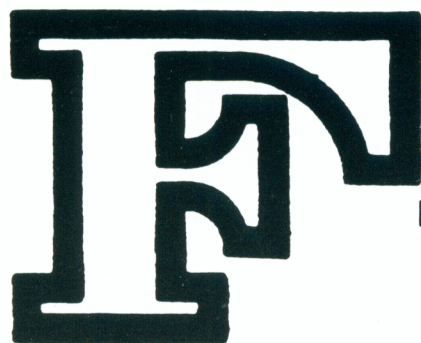


Fig. 7..above..A 1962 publication "The Home of Nikon", displays a selection of TV-Nikkors available at that time. Notice the 2 longest lenses are equipped with similar mounts as pictured here. The caption mentions 2 mounts-"PYE" & "RCA". I am guessing that our mount is the "RCA" type, but this has not been confirmed. Even in 1962, the move appeared to be towards TV zoom lenses, rather than fixed focus lenses. The subject lens pre-dates this publication by more than 6 years, at a time when TV was still in its developmental stage, and zoom lenses were still on the drawing boards.



THE "FUNNY" NIKKOR 105/f4!

by Richard Keyishian

During the early part of the modern reflex era, it was not uncommon for preset lenses to be utilized on single lens reflex cameras. A photographer, with a preset lens, could set the aperture ahead of time with one ring and keep the iris wide open with the other ring. Once the focusing was completed, the photographer turned the ring controlling the iris to its preset opening stop. This was not a very fast system to say the least, and made action photography very difficult.

With the advent of the Nikon F, Nippon Kogaku introduced a small number of preset Nikkors. These lenses, unincumbered by the internal mechanics of automatic lenses, had features that made them quite unique. For instance, the 55mm/f3.5 Preset Micro-Nikkor could focus down to 4 inches 'without' the use of extension tubes (see Rotoloni, NHS-38).

So what was so unique about a moderate tele with an f4 aperture? First, it was definitely a rangefinder lens that Nikon had retro-fitted with an "F" bayonet mount. In fact, this Nikkor looked rather 'funny' on a Nikon F body. The 105/f4 Nikkor was constructed with a narrow light weight barrel. The barrel was so slim that the rear of the lens flared outward to accommodate the "F" bayonet!

This Nikkor's configuration was 3 elements in 3 groups with stops from f4-f22. Its exceptionally close focusing range was from 2.75 feet (0.8m) to infinity, and the lens had a viewing angle of 19 degrees. The 105/f4 used rangefinder size 34.5mm accessories. It was supplied with a plastic snap-on lens cap, a plastic rear cap and its own shade, which snapped on and could be reversed and stored on the lens.

This lens was made in black only. The mounting ring, which was below the focusing grip, was chrome. The preset diaphragm mechanism on this Nikkor was similar to that used on the rangefinder lenses made for the reflex housing. The recommended Nikon F focusing screens were the: A,F,J and H2.

The uniqueness of the 105mm/f4 Nikkor-T lens was that it weighed only 9oz! It was the lightest Nikon F telephoto ever made. In fact, it is of extremely light weight for any SLR moderate tele!

Placing the 105mm/f4 on a Nikon F is a very pleasant experience. The camera is not front heavy and the barrel does not protrude out too far as it has a length of only 3.75 inches. Since it is so light weight it can be carried effortlessly for hours on end, either on the camera or in one's pocket. I would guess this lens could be called the "Mountain Elmar" of the Nikon system!

The lightness of weight of the 105mm/f4 was its prime reason for being created and manufactured by Nippon Kogaku. Other than the 21mm/f4 and 100mm/f6.3, this was the only rangefinder Nikkor that was produced in a reflex mount without a change in the optical formula. Since it provided for exceptionally close focusing to 2.75 feet, it was frequently utilized for close-up portrait work.

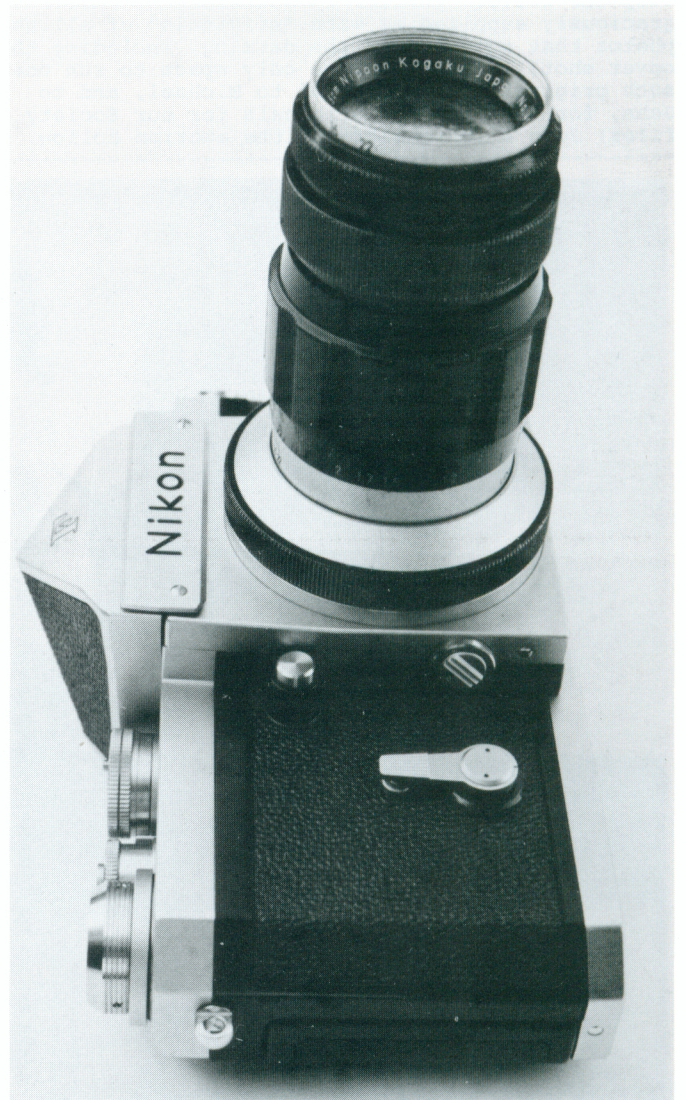
With the popularity of the newly introduced Nikon F came a growing demand for automatic lenses. The 105mm/f4 died a very early death. It was discontinued not long after it was introduced (1959-61)! This lens has become a rare, but unforgotten and much sought after item from the early "F" era!



*Although the 105/f4 Nikkor had the advantage of being very light and compact, as well as quite sharp, it obviously was not designed with the Nikon F in mind. You have to admit, it does look a little "funny"!
(All photos by Richard Keyishian)*



The most striking physical feature of the reflex version of the 105/f4 Nikkor-T, is its wildly flared bayonet mount. This was necessary because of the much larger throat of the F mount compared to the S bayonet. The resulting mismatch between barrel and mount diameters is accentuated by the fact that Nikon decided to finish the flared surface in a satin aluminum instead of black, which might have produced a more handsome, if not more balanced, design. The 105 is an obvious case of grafting an existing lens unto a new mount. The side view of the lens mounted on an F again illustrates the awkward relationship between lens and body (it looks even worse on a Photomic body)! Despite its appearance it still was a neat little shooting outfit in its day!



12

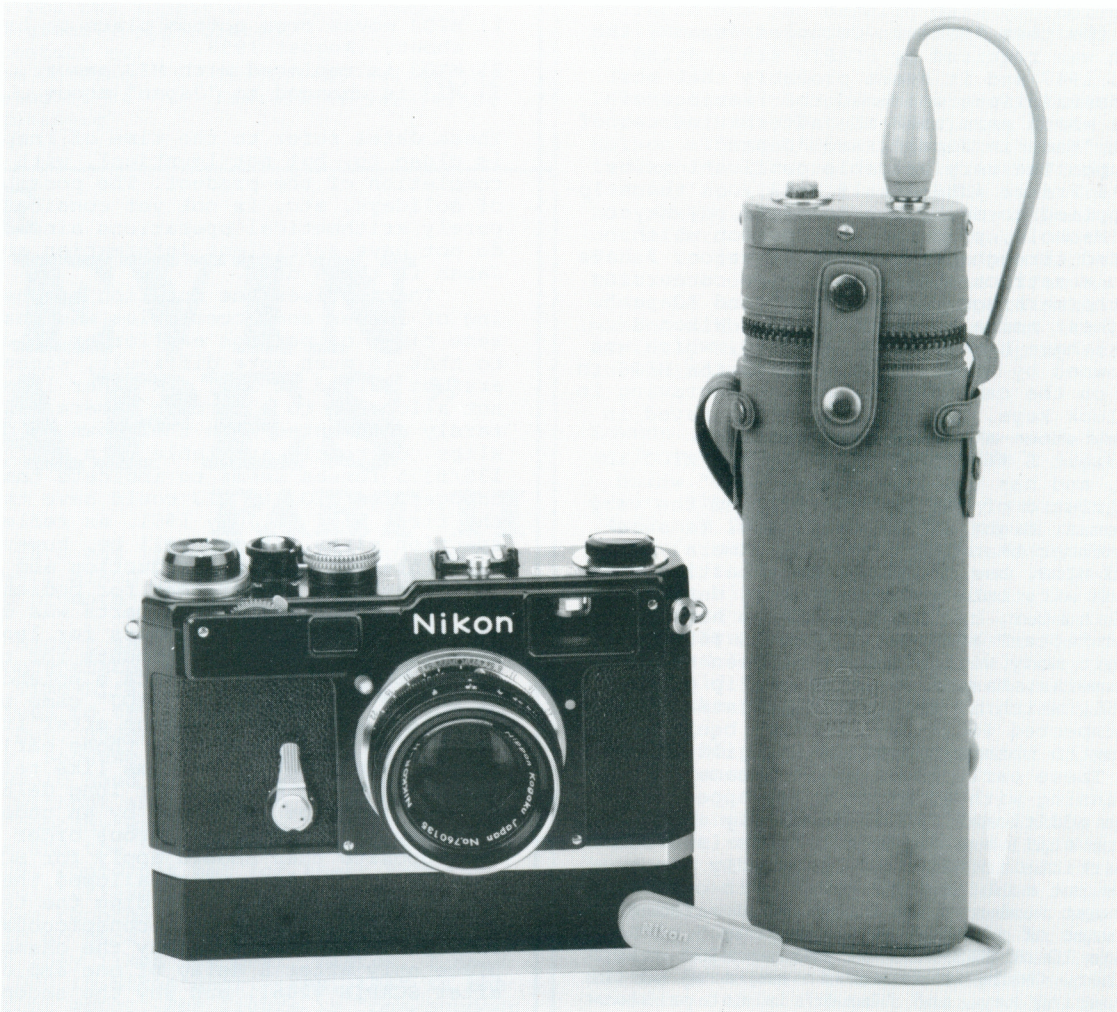
CHRISTIE AUCTION FEATURES TWO NIKON S3Ms!

Many NHS members have been kind enough to supply me with information concerning the recent Christie's auction that included two black Nikon S3M cameras! Most are from England or the continent and many were actually present for the sale and were able to physically examine the items. At the risk of forgetting someone, I would like to thank NHS members Peter Lownds, Jose Wu Chang, Gray Levett, Gideon Bachmann and Peter Walnes for pricing information. However, John Millham went that extra mile to supply our Nikon Journal with special coverage of this very important sale. John was able to convince Michael Pritchard, Christie's Photographic Specialist, to pose with both S3Ms atop the auction podium! In addition, Michael graciously supplied me with "originals" of all the photos that appeared in the catalog, including the cover shot! Although I have only space to run one such original, I am grateful to Michael, and to John, for securing the originals for our Society files! John's impressions of the auction follow.

I thought I had better let you know about the latest sale at Christie's a couple of weeks ago, when two very special items sold. They were S3Ms, one pretty good, the other like new. The first, #6600090 with motor drive #95005, had been slightly modified in that the format had been neatly changed to give almost a circular image. There were minor scuff marks on some of the edges. The other one was #6600056 with f2.0 #760135 and motor drive #95117. This camera was as new and had a grey battery pack and grey connecting cord. This camera had not been modified and was superb. The hammer prices were 20,350 Pounds and 28,600 Pounds, which includes Christie's 10% buyer's premium. (If my math is right that would make the final prices about \$35,000 and \$49,000....editor.) They were previously owned by an "educational institute" somewhere abroad who purchased them new, but only put one of them into service, the other being kept in reserve, but never needed. Christies' estimates had been \$8,500-\$12,000 and \$20,000-\$30,000....I guess the seller was well pleased with the actual results!

I enclose photos I took of Michael Pritchard with the cameras, if you have room in the Journal, and Michael has kindly obtained original prints of the photos used in the catalog for you.





DATING THE END OF 'MIOJ'

A Research Project by Clemens Cording, MD.

"THIS ARTICLE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM
FRAKER, WHOSE ORIGINAL RESEARCH WAS MY INSPIRATION"
DR. CLEMENS CORDING, MD.

In his article "MIOJ-From When to When?" (NHS-38, pg.13-14), member Cy Meyer published important information about the practice and administrative basis for the use of the MIOJ markings which appeared on Japanese export articles in the immediate post WWII period. Cy also pointed out the negative reaction to the term "Made in Occupied Japan", the use of which was required by SCAPIN #1535 dated February 20, 1947 and it seems probable that most Japanese industrialists welcomed the issuance of SCAPIN #2061 which permitted the alternative use of the markings "Made in Japan", and "Japan".

Based upon the very valuable publications by the late Bill Fraker (NHS-18, 19 & 23), on the helpful data supplied to me by Bob Rotoloni, Cy Meyer and Dietmar Machold, plus the information which I've collected through personal observation, I have been able to construct a dated sequence concerning the use of the markings "MIOJ", "MIJ" and "Japan".

The highest normally numbered MIOJ Nikon S camera that I have heard of is #6094433, which was originally owned by Ansel Adams. It has the MIOJ in the leather on the camera back, has no engraving in the bottom lock keys, but has "JAPAN" engraved in the accessory shoe--a seldom seen feature!

Eight digit S #60945261 also has the MIOJ in the leather, and has the "synch wire tube" which was characteristic of the synched Ms' and the very early S cameras. Eight digit S #60944991 (a somewhat lower number than the foregoing camera) is "not" marked MIOJ, has the newer body casting without the synch wire tube and, therefore, despite its lower serial number, can be presumed to have been manufactured "after" #60945261! Nikon S #60945131, an eight digit body with a number between the two foregoing cameras, has an inspection slip dated June 15, 1951, which is about 28 days later than I would have expected #609(4513) to have been made (I am attempting to obtain additional details about #60945131). These early eight digit S cameras with numbers beginning with 60944 or 60945 appear to have had the additional "1" deliberately added for reasons which still are not clear to us (see Bob Rotoloni's article in NHS-25). Presumably these cameras were not manufactured exactly in order.

The lowest numbered S without MIOJ markings that I am aware of is #6094467 (see page 5 of Bob's book and page 10 of NHS-25). It has no MIOJ stamp in its leather, "Made in Japan" in engraved on the left back opening key, and "Japan" is not present in the accessory shoe.

If we agree that Nikon quit marking their cameras MIOJ somewhere between cameras #6094433 and #6094467 (a gap of only 33 cameras which currently have not yet been reported upon), we can work out the corresponding calendar dates fairly accurately. Taking into consideration six documented Nikon S cameras with dated inspection slips between bodies #M6093445 (March 1, 1951) & #6097046 (Nov.11, 1951) we find that during that 8 month period approximately 13.2 cameras left the factory daily. This estimated daily production also applies to a narrower time range between cameras #6094053 (Apr.13, 1951) and #6095741 (Aug.20, 1951).

From this it can be assumed that the last recorded MIOJ Nikon S body (#6094433) was inspected about May 12, 1951, and the first post-MIOJ body (#6094467) about May 14, 1951. That means the end for the "MIOJ" on Nikon camera bodies was about May 13, 1951, which was a Sunday! This is in concordance with an entry in Mr. Fuketa's notebook that Nippon Kogaku stopped marking cameras "MIOJ" in May 1951!

Applying the same interpolations to the other mentioned changes, some probable dates are thus:

- 1) MIOJ moves from bottom plate to back leather about...August 1950.
- 2) MIOJ is replaced with MIJ about...May 13, 1951.
- 3) MIJ is changed to "Japan" about...Feb. 29, 1952.

These dates refer to the time of inspection, which is close to, but not identical, with the time of completion of the product. The possible influence of holidays, etc, is not yet considered in these purely arithmetical operations since, at present, I do not have sufficient information about life in Japan in those days.

There arises the question of whether the marking of lenses and accessories was changed at the same time, or perhaps earlier or later. The answer to that is much more difficult, since normal lenses are not marked at all, and other lenses usually are not allocated to a certain camera body and are only rarely documented with their own dated inspection slips. Currently available data on the 35/f3.5 and 135/f3.5 lenses seems to indicate that here the change from MIOJ to MIJ could have taken place in the first half of July 1951, as reflected by inspection slips. It may well be, however, that the time interval between production and inspection of the lenses was longer than for bodies, or that the marking of the respective parts was done earlier within the production process for lenses than for cameras, and that this accounts for the difference.

According to Mr. Fuketa's notebook, the order to denote conspicuously "MIOJ" came to him on Dec. 27, 1947...that is 10 months after it was issued by the Allied powers! Even in those early days without modern communication systems like telefax, etc, that strikes me as a rather long delay. While this perhaps could be explained by an understandable "hesitation" to put an onerous order into practice, the opposite then should apply for SCAPIN #2061 dated Dec. 5, 1949, which allowed the use of more acceptable markings. Regarding the tendency to "hide" the MIOJ in very inconspicuous niches, it remains to be explained why the change to MIJ took place only after a delay of one and one half years after SCAPIN #2061, and why the second step to "Japan" was made nine additional months later!

What can be achieved by monitoring cameras and corresponding lens serial numbers as well as dates from inspection slips and guarantee cards, and by applying statistical methods and drawing creative conclusions from there, Bill Fraker demonstrated in his series "The Original Lens Factor" in NHS-18, 19 and 23. Some time before I got to know his articles I started a quite similar research project myself, like Bill getting help from Bob Rotoloni, Cy Meyer and other involved NHS members. By now I have collected numbers on about 1000 cameras and lenses, enriched by some information on variations, dated slips and even photos! For identifying and dating the numerous little variations it is necessary to gather more information on as many Nikon RF items as possible. Not only for the early but also for the later models from the SP onwards, dated inspection slips and/or guarantee cards are needed! I am strongly motivated to continue with this research, to answer questions of all collectors contributing to the project, and to publish results in our Nikon Journal. Any information about the owner will be kept strictly confidential, of course! Participants may even send data anonymously. Xerox copies of cards, slips and other printed material are preferred, and photos on variations or special items welcome.

Let me close with Bill's words from March 1988 (NHS-19 pgl1):

"This is an ongoing research project and I feel confident that, with the help of NHS members, the above information can be expanded and made more accurate.... I'm still asking for your help. I require the body and lens serial numbers and any dates from inspection slips or guaranty cards.... Any assistance you can supply will be of immense importance and greatly appreciated."

Please contact me:

Dr. Clemens Cording Tel:011-49-941-941102
Universitätsstr. 84 Fax:011-49-941-941104
D-8400 Regensburg
Germany

THE "LEVIN TAPES" PART II

Rotoloni..How hard was it to get things rolling? And once you were Nikon exclusively, what methods did you use to promote the line?

Levin..I just didn't sell the product and go home at night. I concentrated everyday on seeing the press people, Time-Life, all the top magazines and the wire services to try to get them to use Nikons. I also signed out, under my own name, \$5-10,000 in equipment. Why? Because when I traveled with the press boys I would hand them different pieces of gear to try...without any red tape or forms to fill out..like the company wanted to do. I let them use the wideangles and the teles. The wides and teles were things they could not get for their Speed Graphics and Rolliflexes. So I gave them things to try, kept my own records, but I didn't tell Nikon. Then they would go back and tell their bosses to buy it because they liked the gear. Listen, I sold over \$100,000,000 in Nikon gear! (Yes, that is the correct number of zeros. The figure is "one hundred million dollars!..Editor) And it was much harder to sell it then as now!

Hurst..When you started there must have been great prejudice against Japanese equipment. How long did it take to feel you were making some headway?

Levin..In the early post-war years everyone thought they only made toys and miniatures and things they just wanted to throw at us to make some money. So it was difficult to get dealers to listen to me. I flew 14 missions during the War on a B-29 so I was a veteran. When I spoke to dealers I said "give me a break, I'm a veteran..please listen to me...just listen and examine the product." Until I got the press started with Nikon it was very difficult, and Canon was there before Nikon! But Nikon made their lenses in Leica screw mount and they were very good sellers early on. Remember that Leica was accepted immediately after the war, so there was a market for the screw mount lenses. German cameras were accepted, but not the Japanese. When Nikon stopped making screw mount lenses I had to sell them out. We had 6-7000 lenses! I found one dealer to buy them all!..Willoughbys! The Germans were not too happy with the new Japanese cameras. I remember in 1958 or so, Joe and I went to a convention and one of the execs at Contax (Zeiss) walks over to us. Joe wanted to talk to him but he didn't. All he did was stand there and wave his hands yelling..Fake, Fake!

Millham..What did you sell in the beginning besides Nikon?

Levin..I was the one who brought the Steky camera into the U.S., but besides that I was selling the Holson albums and making quite a bit of money. This is why Joe Ehrenreich could not afford me at first. I said "look what I am making with the albums..I'm not making that much with your Nikons." So he could not afford to give me a contract. But I was the first to get a contract from him and that was in 1955. Not until 1955 could he offer me a contract where he could guarantee I would make what I was making with Holson. He guaranteed it! I was then strictly Nikon. I had to give up my other lines including Holson.

Lownds..Was there any problems with the gear in the early years? Anything they didn't like?

Levin..The first cameras they gave me to sell were 24x32 and 24x34 format. The press pros told me "Al we can't use it". Until I got Marty Forscher to cut them out to a full 24x36 it was very difficult to sell the Nikons to replace their Leicas & Contaxes, which were 24x36. Not until I could tell them and the dealers that I could deliver Nikons that were 24x36 was I able to move them in any numbers. I just could not convince them that the neg size fitted the paper size. It didn't work!

Lownds..Do you like the new stuff like the F4 and the AF lenses?

Levin..I use the F4 and I like it. I always felt confident selling anything made by Nikon. There were not many problems with Nikons. I would help the pros with their cameras. If a repair or adjustment was needed I made sure it was done quickly. Sometimes I would take it myself to the office to expedite matters. My feelings were that if the pros were using the equipment then others would see this and want it as well. So I had to keep the pros happy.

First Seen _____

NEW

135mm VARIANT

Recently the existence of a variation of the 135mm/f3.5 Nikkor Q-C not yet covered in either my books or The Journal was brought to my attention by two NHS members! Almost simultaneously I received photos and letters from Jim Bogler and Dr. Clemens Cording describing two very early examples of this lens that had at least one feature I was not aware was found on the seemingly common place 135 Nikkor. Both NHSers reported that their lenses possessed the front rim groove previously found only on the earlier 135mm/f4 Nikkor! Having never heard of nor seen this variation, I requested more photos and information, and this article is the result. We now have an additional variation for the 135mm/f3.5 that appears to exist only on the very earliest lenses and was changed almost immediately. Following are photos and some descriptive information provided for the members by Jim and Clemens.

From Clemens...

"The prints of my photos are enclosed. Interesting is the grooved front rim as well as the M42 mount, which probably was not made by Nikon. As a 'preset' lens it is fully usable on any M42 body, and with the help of an adapter ring (sold in Germany by HAMA), even on reflex Nikons! This adapter contains a single optical element which corrects for the difference in focal plane distances. Since the fork-like RF cam coming out of the rear of the lens while focusing is stopped by the element, the adapter will not function for distances exceeding 15-20 feet on the Nikon F."



From Jim Bogler...

Lens #50060112 in Nikon mount has MIOJ on the rear cam and the front ring is grooved just like the 135/f4! The significance of this groove is that it is at this point that the whole optical assembly unscrews from the barrel on the old 135/f4 and this lens. The later 135/f3.5s' mount the elements in an entirely different manner with a separation point that is concealed by the diaphragm ring. None of the barrel parts, except maybe the iris diaphragm, from #50060112 would fit a later lens! This lens shows that the very earliest 135/f3.5 Nikkors were, from a mechanical point of view, just scaled up versions of the older 135/f4 design. What is clear is that somewhere between 50060112 and 50060189 in your book, the entire lens barrel and mounting of the elements was redesigned!

The photo of the three heads (L-R..135/f4, 135/f3.5 grooved, late 135 Tokyo MIJ), tells what happened. They tried to groove it proportionally to the 135/f4, but it made for absurdly long threads. When you unscrew this head it seems like it takes forever! The only real function of the old groove was cosmetic...it concealed the joint nicely. The solution was to thread only near the bottom and let the aperture ring hide the joint. Simple!

I want to thank Jim and Clemens for the photos and information on this new variant of the 135/f3.5 Nikkor. This is another example of the fact that the Journal can act as a continuing supplement to my book, and thus keep us up to date on what is 'new' in the world of Nikon collecting! (R.J.R.)



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The famous Nippon Kogaku Room where early Nikon items are on display is situated in a separate area of Grays of Westminster. It was opened on the 25th July 1992 as part of our celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of Nikon. The name Nikon comes from the first four letters of the original company name: Nippon KOGaku to which the letter 'N' was added. The stock is, of course, ever-changing, but typically includes Nikon Rangefinder, the Nikon F family and all the F2 models, lenses and accessories. Grays of Westminster have become renowned for the quality of their equipment, and have set a standard to which other dealers aspire. People who demand and value top quality will not be disappointed. Furthermore both written and telephone queries will always be dealt with in a prompt, friendly and helpful manner.

Grays are usually the first place that collectors contact for early and rare Nikon cameras, lenses and accessories. We are regularly consulted by writers, researchers, television and film production companies for advice and supply of Nikon equipment for both period and modern films. All this can be viewed in delightfully comfortable old-fashioned surroundings where we welcome part exchanges of other quality equipment.

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"... the kind of service of which legends are made
... Grays of Westminster."

Amateur Photographer magazine



"NHS" PRODUCTS

The following is a list of remaining items in our collection of "NHS" Products. I still have copies of the "DDD" book, but I am out of stock on the Nikon F repair manual. Remember that proceeds from the sale of these items are used to offset the cost of producing The Nikon Journal, and helps me to maintain our current dues!

"THIS IS WAR"....DUNCAN...NEW.....	\$25.00 US
	\$40.00 OVERSEAS
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NIKON F MOD. III METER REPRINT.....	\$10.00 US
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OFFICIAL "NHS" LAPEL PIN.....	\$5.00 US
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FAWCETT 35MM HANDBOOK..S. NATHAN....	\$10.00 US
	\$12.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL "NHS" T-SHIRT (MED ONLY!)..	\$8.00 US
	\$10.00 OVERSEAS

LETTERS..

From Behram Kapadia...

I thoroughly enjoyed the David Douglas Duncan book I recently received. The printing is of top quality as is the real cloth binding, which one sees so rarely now-a-days. Too expensive for most publishers. I think this book would be a good value at \$75.00!

From Richard de Stoutz...

Thank you very much for NHS-38 which I enjoyed very much and which helps me with my studies. As I collect primarily Nikon Fs (RFs are quite difficult to find here in Switzerland), I enjoyed your article on the Preset Micro-Nikkor, a lens I have never seen here and which I would like to have in my collection. Allow me some suggestions for future articles of this kind.

It is a pity that all the beautiful photos show the lens from the same point of view, since it cannot be seen if the focal length is in 'cm' or 'mm', or if the lens is engraved 'PAT. PEND.', and what the bayonet really looks like.

Please give more technical facts, e.g. the diaphragm range, the number of blades, length and weight of the lens, information on the range of production numbers (first and last known), etc.

In the existing literature there seems to be a mistake concerning serial number ranges. For the Auto-Micro-Nikkor they all mention the same number 211001 as the first one, but I have lens #199xxx in my collection!

From Bob Rogen...

Just got the latest issue of the Journal. Great issue! Thanks for running my ad and my letter as well. I hope that you get positive response to the suggestion I made concerning a special anniversary issue. It is one of those ideas that feels "right". Here is another one...Let's have a pool on the date that the NHS hits 500 members!! Winner gets a free year's membership, or something like that!! (Dear Bob..Yet another interesting idea! However, the thought of having to address and stuff 500 Journals 4 times a year has already got me losing sleep at night! (Just kidding!?!?#@#!))

CLASSIC CAMERA COMPANY

LIMITED

MARION AND CHRISTOPH TRESTLER
45 AINGER ROAD, LONDON NW3
TELEPHONE & FAX: 071-722 9417

Having grown out of our own collecting activities, our company has specialized in Nikon equipment from 1946 up to the late seventies, and we are now the first address for collectors all over Europe. Our wide range of cameras, lenses, accessories and literature includes all the "standard" items like S, SP, F, Photomics and all the regular lenses. On top of that we always have a selection of special or very rare items (currently there is, amongst others, a rangefinder 21mm and a Nikon F Highspeed Model. We are constantly looking to buy equipment in collectible quality. Recently we arranged the sale of the collection of the late William Fraker.

Another important part of our service is to advise our clients in finding items and structuring their collections (being collectors ourselves, we enjoy exchanging knowledge and experience).

Please call us for further details or just a first chat. You can reach us during the day (sometimes our answer phone is on), but also during evenings and weekends. Our telephone also works as a fax machine. We welcome visitors by appointment.

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 steady 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 back-issues professionally re-produced. His copier 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. Following are the prices for 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 BACKISSUES OF THE NIKON JOURNAL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37 & 38)
\$6 EACH U.S. POSTPAID
\$8 EACH OVERSEAS PPD.

HIGH QUALITY COPIES PRINTED ON 11x17 PAPER, FOLDED AND STAPLED (INCLUDES ALL ISSUES NOT LISTED ABOVE).
\$4 EACH U.S. POSTPAID
\$6 EACH OVERSEAS PPD.

(PLEASE ALLOW 2 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. THANK YOU!)

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of THE NIKON JOURNAL will be June 1, 1993. This will be the first issue (hopefully) that I will produce after entering into my own business. Because of the increased demand on my time it is important that all contributions arrive no later than the above date. I intend to maintain my schedule for THE JOURNAL, and I know it can be done with a little help from my friends! Thank you!

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL!

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

6200035 6202525 6208416 6210518
6210570 6600056 6600090
NIKON JOURNAL MAR.31,1993

CLASSIFIED

NIKON LIST...Please send for my list of rangefinder and Nikon F bodies and lenses. No SASE necessary. Henry Lilien, 3211 Westedge Rd, Topeka, KS 66605 Tel...(913) 266-2683.

FOR SALE...Kirk Enterprises tripod collars for the 80-200mm AF & AFD lenses, and the innovative circular polarizing filter which drops into the rear slot of most EDIF lenses between 300mm-600mm. The advantage of this filter, besides physical size, is that because it fits the filter slot you can easily reach the geared wheel to observe the polarization effect through the finder. There is now a slightly different version for the new focus driven/servo 300/2.8 & 600/4 AFD lenses. Collars are 93 Pounds and the filters are 162 Pounds, plus tax and shipping. Peter Walnes, Fieldgrass & Gale, 203 Welsbach House, Broomhill Rd, London SW18 4JQ, England. Tel-11-44-081-870-7611. Fax-11-44-081-870-6551.

FOR SALE/TRADE...Three page list of early Nikon "F" and rangefinder equipment available. List includes bodies, lenses, finders and accessories. Some are in boxes. David Miller, 356 Kensington Avenue, Westmount, Quebec, Canada H3Z 2H3..(514)846-1379.

FOR SALE/TRADE...For Nikon RF, etc..Unusual "NIKKO" AM-FM tuner (not Nikon). Has "NK" logo, made in Japan, black/chrome, Ex++. Good collectible. Leica III (F) 1934, black w/nickle knobs, Ex+; 5cm/f3.5 Elmar, ctd, Ex++; 9cm/f4 Elmar, ch w/black band, ctd, bubble case, mint-; 135/3.5 Zorki, Ex+++ w/cs; filters, caps, hoods, Leica camera cs, papers, IB; 105/4.5 Steinheil Cassar, ch, Ex+. Jim Leatham, Box 50355, Parks, AZ 86018. (602) 635-2117.

WANTED...Early F body in original condition, early instruction books for F and Photomic F, eyelevel prism finder black with square eyepiece, early F lenses with 'tic marks', early F36 motor, F clip-on meter, shades for the 2.1cm/f4 and 45mm/f2.8 GN. Richard de Stoutz, Fliederweg 11, CH-3600 Thun, Switzerland. Tel.41-33-22-2767, Fax.41-31-63-6852.

NEW NIKON RFDR SERIAL NUMBER SERVICE. Please send serial numbers, questions about serial numbers to NHS member Simon Nathan. Through a direct NKK connection he is able to determine "odd" or "even" for just about every serial number available in factory records since day one. Pls enclose S.A.S.E.

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...New Nikon Faszination from Peter Braczk 420 pages of Nikon. Signed & dedicated! Book weight 1.88kg. Please add postage, air-sea-land. Please send check drawn on US bank. Print your name and address clearly. WANTED...Oddball Nikon bits like microscopes, transits, theodolites, binoculars, F2 Data camera, F2 Highspeed, telescopes, gun sights. Peter Lownds, W. de Zwijgerstraat 24, Rotterdam 3043 VD, Holland. Tel/Fax. 31-10-4159136.

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NEW ADDRESSES

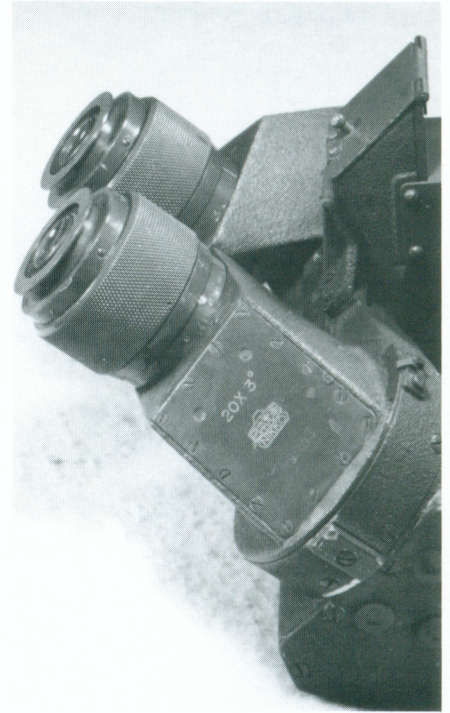
BILL KRAUS
148 JERICHO VALLEY
NEWTOWN, PA 18940

FOR SALE/TRADE...Nikon F items-the following items are in mint to near mint condition and in original boxes. Leather case for FTn finder; polarizing filter & 52mm hood (HN-12); gelatin filter holder (AF-1); sportsfinder; BC-7 flash & bulbs; right angle viewing attachment; +3 diopter finder ring; Focusing screens (B,G1,J); 43-86/f3.5 NAI; 50/f1.4 NAI (lenses include front & rear caps, original packing). I'm interested in mint to near mint Nikon equipment. Larry Jessie, 1308 Parkington Ln, Bowie, MD 20716. Tel..301-249-9648.

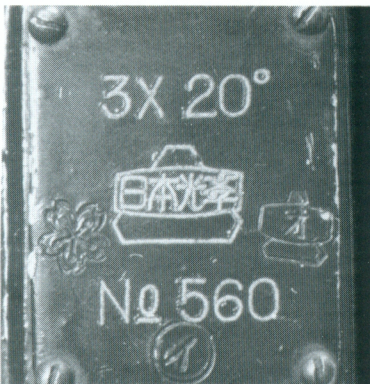
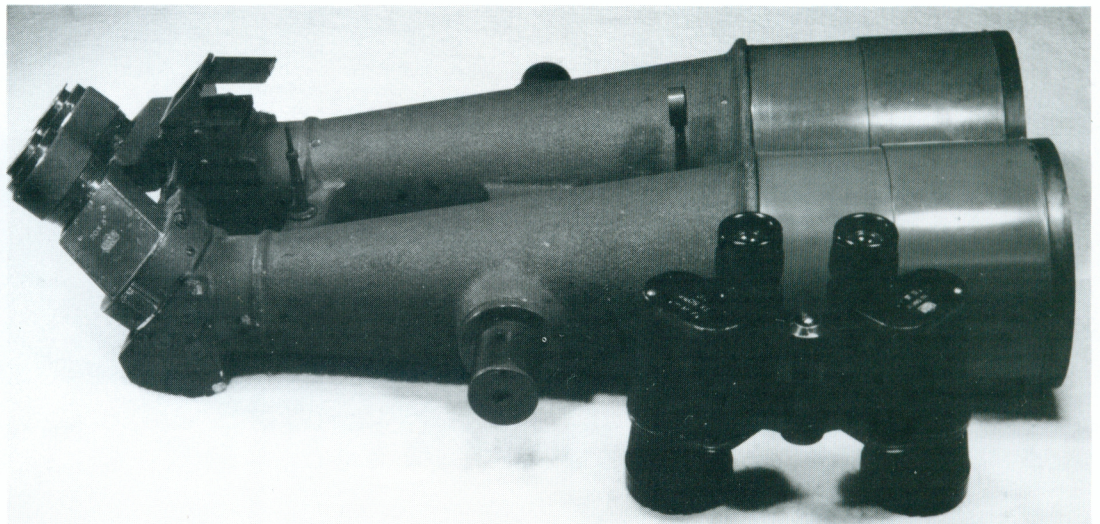
Send for my list of rare and quality Nikon rangefinder equipment including bodies, accessories and lenses. Alan C. Brody, 1014 Lincoln Rd Mall, Miami Beach, FL 33139. Tel/305-534-0047/Fax/305-532-6086.

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!



I had originally planned an article for this issue on some very interesting WWII vintage Nikon made optical ordnance by member Richard Lane, but I had a problem....I ran out of room! The volume of articles contributed by members was such that I could not fit in all that I wanted to. However, I will run Richard's article in NHS-40 and I thought I'd give you a "taste" of what will be featured. Just take a look at these few photos and stay tuned for NHS-40. (All photos by Richard Lane)





Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST