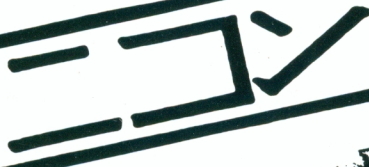


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THE NIKON  JOURNAL



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ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



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EDITORIAL

This issue of The Journal is about 10 days late based on the schedule I have maintained the last 10 years. For those of you who know my personal work situation, 10 days really isn't that bad. On May 12th I was finally able, after what seemed like countless delays, successfully complete my efforts to obtain my own business after 22 years of working for others. I make my living (and help pay for my Nikon addiction) as a pharmacist, which is the type of occupation that requires long hours including evenings, weekends and holidays. Because of my schedule, producing the Journal on a timely basis has always been a challenge as it takes many more hours than most people would imagine. I knew that going into business for myself would result in an even longer workweek, but the Journal will continue to be produced on schedule. Missing by a few days is actually better than I thought as my hours have gone from 50+ to 80 a week. So please remain patient, for the Journal will continue to arrive on schedule, but keep those articles coming as it keeps some of the pressure off me to fill each and every issue. That is exactly what is happening at this time as you will notice that this entire issue is the work of various members. I am receiving both articles and ideas constantly and I feel that this is great for it makes the Journal a group effort and not just the work of a few.

For those of you who have gone a few months without being able to contact me by Fax I now have a new 24 hour Fax number!...708-895-9663.

I am writing this editorial exactly one year to the day since we had NHS-Con3 in Seattle, which means we are half way to NHS-Con4! Peter Lownds, et al, are in the process of setting up #4 for Europe next spring. I've given Peter the go ahead to begin preparations for our first convention in Europe and plans call for either Holland or Germany for the actual meeting (Peter tells me we might end up in a German castle for the weekend. Now doesn't that sound interesting?) So start making plans and setting aside some time to do what you've always wanted to do...spend some time in Europe with a bunch of Nikon fanatics! Try it, you might like it! For those who wish to contact Peter with comments or questions his address is:

Peter Lownds
W. de Zwiijgerstraat 24
3043 VD Rotterdam, Holland

Peter has also begun work on our membership book and I have sent on to him all the forms I have received to date. Although such a book can never be completely up to date, as new members are joining constantly, it should still form a sound nucleus for an up to date directory allowing the membership to get and stay in touch with each other.

To date I have only received about 20 photos for our 10th Anniversary issue member gallery. It seems that we are a shy group. However, I am committed to the idea and will run those photos that I receive by September 1st. It may only be a 1 page spread but I may also include photos taken at the first 3 conventions as well. Those of you who want to be included get your shot to me by 9/1/93!

It appears that the Christie auction that saw two Nikon S3Ms sell for record prices has garnered a fair amount of publicity. I have seen it quoted along with photos in at least 3 European photo magazines, as well as being mentioned in various newsletters for the collecting community, including that produced by the American Photographic Historical Society. All quote it as being the highest price ever paid for a 35mm camera (they also seem surprised that it is a Nikon and not a Leica that now holds this distinction...but it doesn't surprise us, right?). I must point out that none of the coverage was anywhere near as complete as what you saw in these pages. Also Christie's now has available a camera auction brochure (quoting the

S3M sale) available free on request which lists all their 1993 auction dates & how to obtain catalogs. Write to: Michael Pritchard, Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD. Tel: 44-071-321-3279 or Fax 44-071-321-3321.

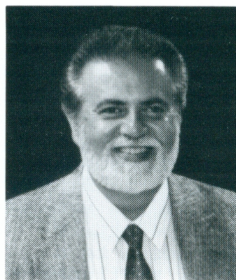
For this our 40th Journal, we have what I feel is a very significant selection of articles. As a matter of fact, for awhile I contemplated holding one or more pieces back for the anniversary issue because of their importance, but decided otherwise. I am sure the next Journal will take care of itself and I prefer to publish member submissions on as timely a basis as possible. Therefore, we start off with a fine article about the rather rare Type One Nikon Reflex Housing, with photos supplied by Jose Wu Chang. Not only is this exceedingly hard to find piece covered in detail, but what could very well be a one-of-a-kind prototype version is used to illustrate it! Coverage begins on page 2.

Turn to page 6 to view an article that had one of the longest gestation periods to date for an NHS feature. Mike Symons, with the help of Lesley Bell of Fujii Collectable Cameras, has managed to put together the first article ever published anywhere in English on the nearly mythical Nikon 6x6 X-Ray camera! Mike and Lesley combined equipment to make our coverage complete and Lesley contracted with a photographer to supply the illustrations. In addition, Masahiko Fuketa again supplied the Society with first-hand factual historical information to help make ours the most accurate of publications! This is truly a rare piece, so please enjoy!

Although I didn't have as much space as I had hoped for, the series on Nikon made WWII military optical ordnance showcased in Odds n' Ends in #39 begins on page 14. Member Richard Lane has to date sent me many photos of all types of items he has managed to acquire over the years, and this first installment is only the beginning. I plan to run much more of Rich's material and I have already begun to receive feedback from members just due to the few shots in #39. So it looks like we will be able to see and learn more about this viable alternative to Nikon's photographic production.

There was quite a lot of feedback on my article on the Preset Micro Nikkor for the F. Many of you wrote to point out that two major versions were produced as well as an interesting accessory, which I didn't cover in my article. I like that type of response! See the F-Spot on page 16 for a follow up piece by reflex expert Les Seeligson.

Remember that it is time we get serious about our next convention. This will be the first one that I will have very little to do with because of time and distance. NHS-Con3 in Seattle worked very well because of the work of NHS members. I am sure that the same will happen this time as well. But the logistics are much more difficult because of the distances involved, so any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions, you might have for Peter or myself feel free to contact us soon! This can be a really major memorable event for those who attend, so give us some feedback and we all will benefit. It will mark my first trip to Europe and I can't think of a better way to do it!!



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

2 NIKON REFLEX HOUSING TYPE ONE

by Jose Wu Chang

Following the article in NHS-37 on the Reflex Housing Type 2, I received many letters asking if I planned a second article devoted to the earlier, and much rarer, Original Type 1 version. Actually my plans did call for coverage of the seldom seen Type 1, but I needed to wait for certain information to arrive first, along with photos to illustrate an unusual variation just made available to the Journal. Now that all needed materials have arrived, mostly thanks to member Jose Wu Chang, I can now cover in detail an item I could only touch on in my book. Although only a few have surfaced since I did the book, I believe we now have enough information to cover this rather rare item in some detail, so here goes.

Although a precise announcement date for the Original Reflex Housing has not been reported to me as yet, its arrival would necessarily have to correspond with that of the first Nikkor designed to be used with it. Historically that would be the preset 25cm/f4.0 Nikkor for which we have a fairly accurate release date of January 1951. Therefore, this housing must date from at least that early, if not actually mid to late 1950. Since its successor arrived about May 1956, it would have been available for at least five full years. This span of time is interesting in that recorded serial numbers still suggest, after all these years, that only 200 were ever made! However, if Nippon Kogaku used its normal numbering scheme for this item, and if recorded units do not go much higher than is presently known, then production may have been as little as 100 units! To date the range of serial numbers reported to me runs from 371111 to 371201, with the "371" being a constant. If the starting point was 371001 then we can assume about 200 pieces. However, if 371101 was the initial unit, then only 100 or so were produced. Since none under 371111 have shown up, and for the Type 2 nothing under 471101 ("471" being a constant), it is possible that Nippon Kogaku used "101" for the starting point for both versions. This is feasible as it is unusual, to say the least, that for both types none with a number under "101" have surfaced! Which ever theory is correct, the Original Nikon Reflex Housing rates as one of the rarer accessories made for the system, with only "11" units reported to me in the last 22 years!

The photos in this article are the work of Jose Wu Chang, and give the reader a very concise idea of what the Type 1 looked like. Obviously the main body consists of a box with the screen housing rising in a straight vertical and topped by a removeable eyepiece. The entire housing is painted a high gloss black (in marked contrast to the rough wrinkle finish of the Type 2), except for the lens flange surface, which is chrome. Although the eyepiece does bayonet off like the later type, it is orientated in a straight vertical as opposed to a 45 degree angle, and, unlike the Type 2, no finder

options were offered. It is a focusing eyepiece and was originally topped by a rubber eye shield (but in most cases the rubber has deteriorated and been discarded). Unlike the Type 2, there is no secondary serial number for the eyepiece, with the only number being that engraved on the side of the mirror box under the large N-K logo. Another difference is that the focusing screen on the Type 1 does not rotate with the body, but remains stationary. However, the screen is constructed in such a way that both the vertical and horizontal field of coverage is shown with accuracy. The control mechanism for rotating the body is not as elegant as on the Type 2. Instead of an integrated push-button, the Type 1 uses a rather simple, if not crude, sliding chrome latch attached to one side of the mirror box. The cable attachments are housed in a protruding platform as the Type 2, but much larger. However, unlike the Type 2, the cable fitting is on the bottom with the finger release fitting on the top. Also, since there is no prism required to divert the image 45 degrees as on the Type 2, the finder on the Type 1 is virtually empty with only simple eyepiece optics, and therefore much lighter as well.

All in all, the basic layout and functions of the Type 1 are very similar to the later version, which was just a more modern evolved design. It is a very straight forward design with few frills, yet very functional and quite modern for its time. Its construction is very robust and solid as well as simple, so I am sure most have survived, yet where are they? And why is it that so many more 25cm/f4 Nikkors were made than housings? How could you use the lens without the housing? The ratio of lenses to housings appears to be about 3 to 1! Now isn't that a little bit strange?

The unit used to illustrate this article was chosen to do double duty. Not only is it a fine example of a Type 1, but it is also unique in that it has a feature found on no others to date. The eyepiece housing is equipped with an external knob that is used to swing into position a built-in focusing magnifier! This feature has not been seen on any other example and appears to be a factory modification. Jose has supplied us with a series of close-ups illustrating how this feature works. He tells me that the mechanism functions perfectly in that it positions the magnifier correctly over the center of the focusing screen. However, he does say that the magnified section is quite small and not that usable. It is possible that this is the reason this feature was not incorporated into the regular production run. Regardless, it makes for a very interesting variation that may prove to be one of a kind!

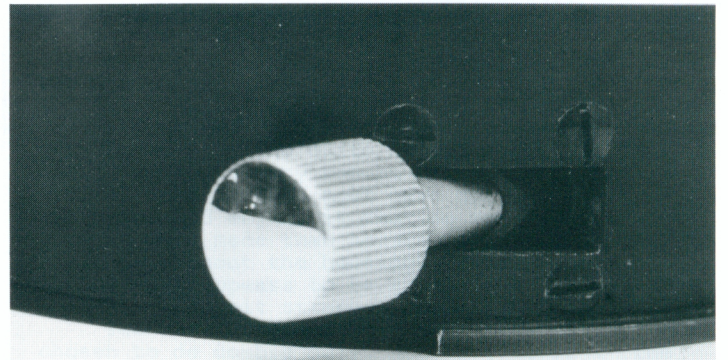
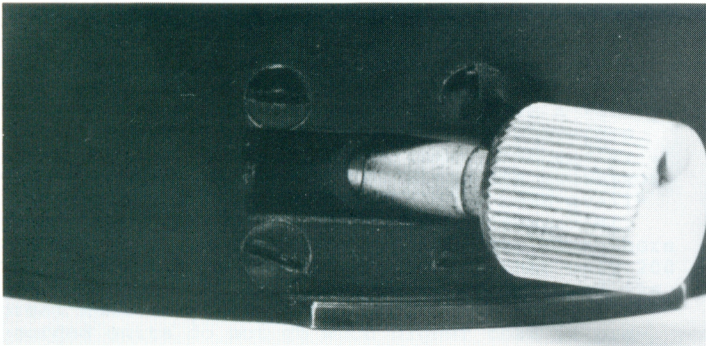
It is obvious that the Type 1 Housing is one of the harder to find early accessories made for the RF system. This is supported by the fact that only 11 have been reported to me in 22 years!



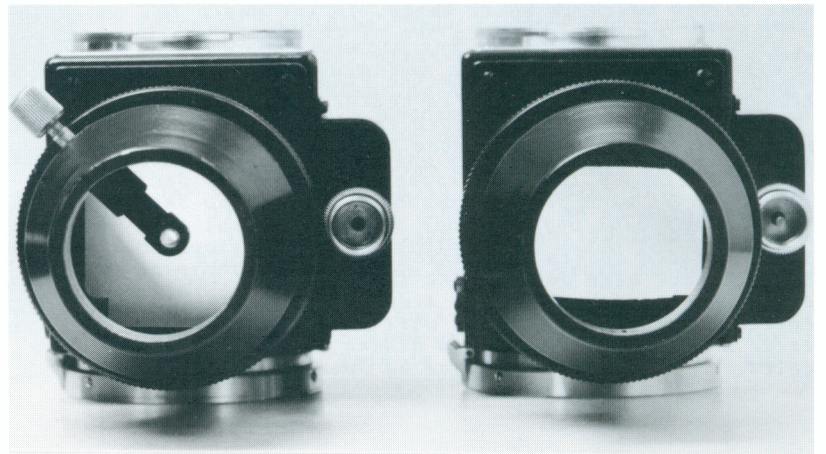
Shown on this page are two examples of the rare Type One Nikon Reflex Housing. At the top is unit number 371124 which is quite early. In the photo to the right it is shown next to one of the latest numbers known, 371201. Cosmetically the Type One housing is very different from the version that followed. It is more angular in design and finished in a gloss black paint. The eyepiece can only be used in a straight vertical mode and contains no prism. Although removable, no optional viewing attachments were offered. At first glance these two housings appear to be identical, and in overall design and construction they are. However, the earlier version sports a modification that could very well have been done at the factory. Note the protruding chrome knob on the side of the focusing eyepiece housing. The knob is what makes #371124 special and sets it apart from others of its species.

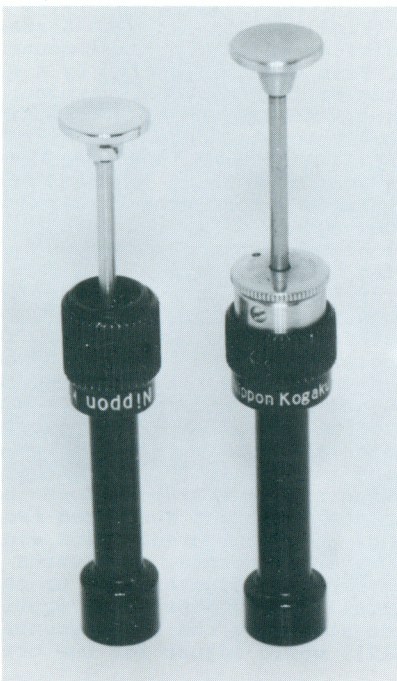
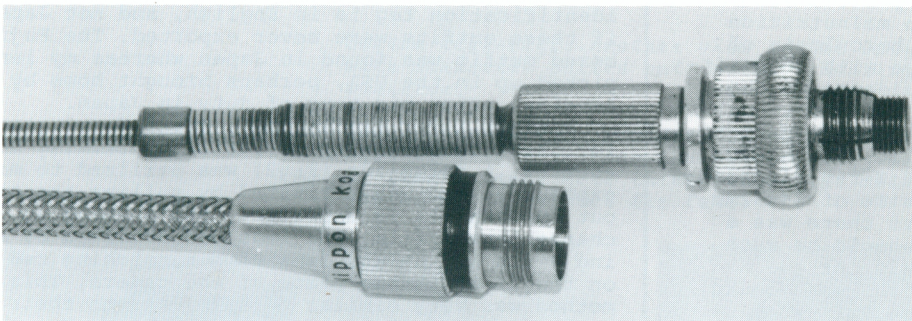
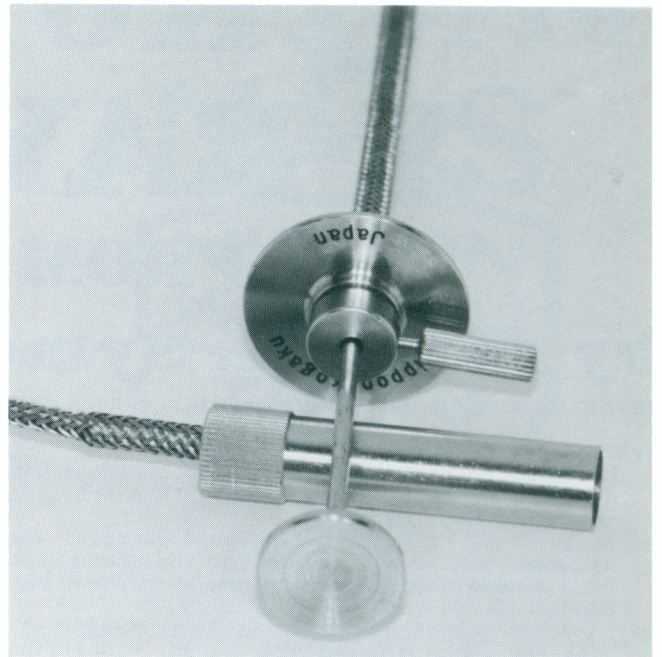
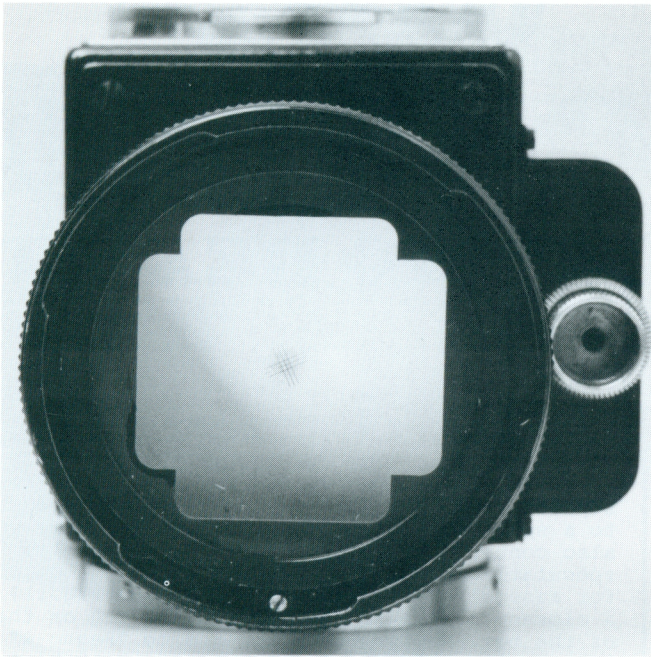
(Photos by Jose Wu Chang)



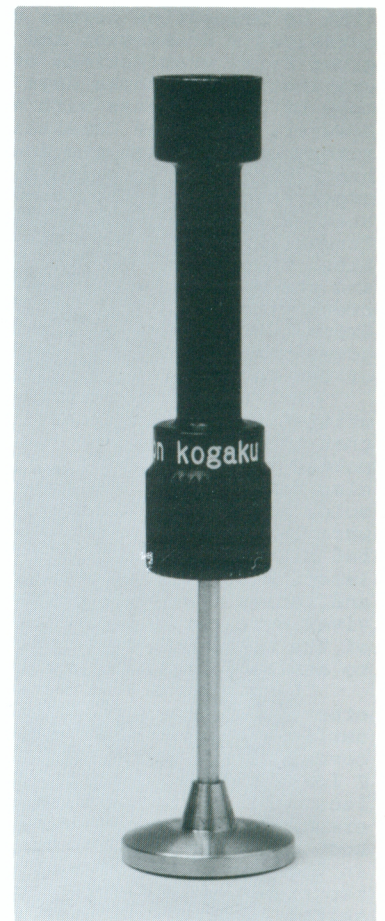


Both the knob and what it controls can be seen on this page. Sliding the knob in its machined slot from side to side determines the position of a small magnifier at the other end. Using this control the magnifier can be positioned in the center of the viewing screen and used for more precise focusing! Note that the slot is neatly machined and the inside mounting bracket is fixed by 4 screws whose finish matches those on the rest of the unit. The top photos show the magnifier in its stored and working positions. The bottom photo illustrates the magnifier centered within the focusing screen. (Photos by Jose Wu Chang)





The top photo shows the unique cross-hairs found on the modified unit. It is possible they were added to aid in focusing the magnified image. There is some uncertainty as to what types of cables came with this housing. Top right is what came with my Type One, while above we see 2 different cable fittings. Al Brody (upper) and mine are very different from each other. We do know that in most cases the lettering on the fingertip release is reversed from that on the Type 2. When mounted the lettering is upside-down! Left-Al Brody's Type 1 (left) next to my Type 2. Note the lettering! Also, the Type 1 is shorter. Right-Jose's fingertip release is different in that the chrome release button is larger and "kogaku" is spelled with a small "k"!!!!



6 THE NIKON 6x6 X-RAY CAMERA FROM MYTH TO REALITY

by Mike H. Symons

PHOTOS BY TIM MURPHY OF FOTO IMAGERY, BOULDER, CO.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Masahiko Fuketa, without whose tremendous background into early Nikon history this article could not have occurred; Lesley Bell of Fujii Collectable Cameras, Inc., Boulder, Co., who arranged for the photography, plus loaned their boxed "Regno-R" Nikon X-Ray Camera outfit for this article.

As the smoke cleared over Japan, signalling the end of their participation in WWII, some very serious health problems prevailed. Mr. Fuketa, formally with Nippon Kogaku during that period, continues this fascinating saga.... "Due to malnutrition and the bad hygienic environment, Tuberculosis of the lungs prevailed. In order to cope with this situation, the government, under the guidance of GHQ (the US Occupation forces under General MacArthur) organized a Commission and took measures to promote group X-ray examinations of the public. For mass examinations in those days they used X-ray fluoroscopy by 35mm cameras with a format size of 24x32mm. However, among the Commission members there was a strong opinion that the image size should be much bigger in order to avoid mis-diagnosis. At the urgent request of the Commission, we (Nippon Kogaku) started to design a fluoroscopy camera of 6x6cm format, and in October 1947, we put it into production. The prototypes were tested by the Commission and the results were satisfactory. They made a concrete plan to switch the format from 24x32mm to 6x6cm. Unfortunately, the plan was rejected by the government due to the very poor financial situation of the country, and we stopped its production"....

Mr. Fuketa goes on further to state that no written records have survived on this project, but that the batch size of the production run was reported to be only 30 to 50 units! Nippon Kogaku also have no idea how many of these were actually sold, but did state that some of these 30-50 bodies were later (9-10 years later!) converted into the 6x6 Nikon Sky Camera. More on the numbers aspect later. What ever happened to the Nikon X-ray camera and lenses that were produced in 1947? Did any survive? Were any exported to the U.S. or other parts of the world, or were they all to remain in Japan to assist with their post war health crisis?

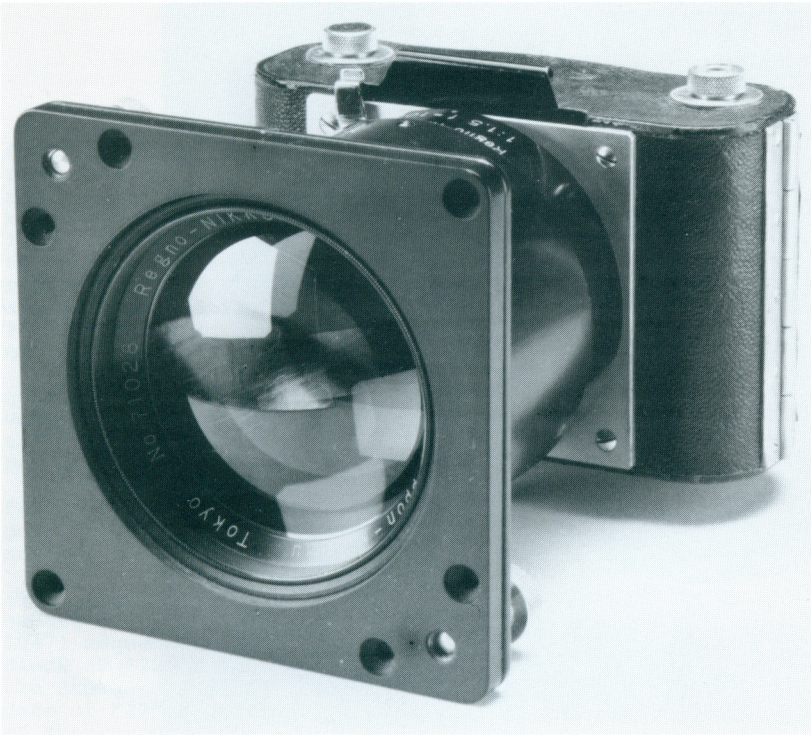
Less than a year ago, answers to these and other questions surrounding this almost mythical outfit have been resolved, due in part to the discovery of the proper lens, a 10cm/f1.5 Regno-Nikkor-C lens, #71028 (October 1947)...the 28th production lens! This date ties in with Mr. Fuketa's above reference to the design date of 10/47. A Nikon X-ray body numbered 22790 is reported to have been seen in the New Jersey area. This being the case, the two items would tie in together. Both body and lens serial numbers will bear significance later in the article, as I'll attempt to explain the different numbering sequences used.

Even more recently a "Regno-R" Fluoro-Record Camera, housed in a hardwood box, was purchased by Fujii Collectable Cameras. This outfit contains a Nikon 6x6 X-ray body, #80282, and a 10cm/f1.5 Regno Nikkor-C, #71085. The body and lens are fitted in separate compartments inside the box, in addition to a spare front shield plate (Fig.10). The box also contained an empty compartment and I am speculating that it was meant to house some tools for assembling the fluorescence box. (Fig.11) shows a closeup of the red identification tag on the lid of the box. Notice the reference to "Regno-R" and "Fluoro-Record Camera". It appears that this was the official name given by Nippon Kogaku to the X-ray Nikon, but it seems a bit unusual that the red identification tag is in English, and not Japanese, if these outfits were never exported. The Fujii boxed outfit was found in Japan whereas my lens was picked up in the USA, perhaps brought home by an American after his tour of duty in Japan.

NIKON X-RAY CAMERA BODY: A 6x6 format camera for use with 120 X-ray roll film containing no shutter. A darkslide (Fig2) was utilized to make exposures, and was activated by pulling the slide out to make all 12 exposures, and pushing it in to change lenses/film. The lens was attached by aligning a red dot on the lens with a matching red dot on the front chrome plate of the camera. This method was very similar to that used on their soon to be produced 35mm rangefinder camera. Four sturdy male bayonet claws on the body mated with female slots on the lens (Fig7), creating a very secure fit. A substantial chrome spring lever (7:00 to 11:00 positions) (Fig4), was pressed to disengage the lens, again similar to the internal mount used on the RF Nikons. Film was transported by a winding lever on the bottom of the body. Once exposure #1 was aligned in the window on the back, the film was automatically wound through the camera (like the Rolliflex Automat!). A picture in Nippon Kogaku's 40th. Anniversary book also shows a special cut film adapter...a single exposure back (Fig13)!

10CM/F1.5 REGNO-NIKKOR-C LENS: An exceedingly fast 4 element (3 group) lens, fixed focus (more on this later), giving an image size of 5.5 x 5.5cm on 120 film, with a 38 degree coverage. Reduction ratio was 1:6.4. Maximum aperture of f1.5 was also fixed. The optical formula was specifically designed for Roentgenography, so the lens could not be easily used for anything else. It is housed in an extremely heavy black metal housing with the whole lens assembly weighing approximately 4 pounds!

Although stated above as a fixed focus lens, there was provision for critical fine-tuning by way of a large adjusting ring (Fig3) positioned behind the front steel plate guard and activated from the top or underside of the lens. Graduations are from 0-100, in "1" increment segments. Mr. Fuketa states that the distance from the fluoroscreen to the film plane was mechanically fixed. The X-ray appliance manufacturer, when attaching the fluorescence box arrangement (Fig12), would adjust for the critical

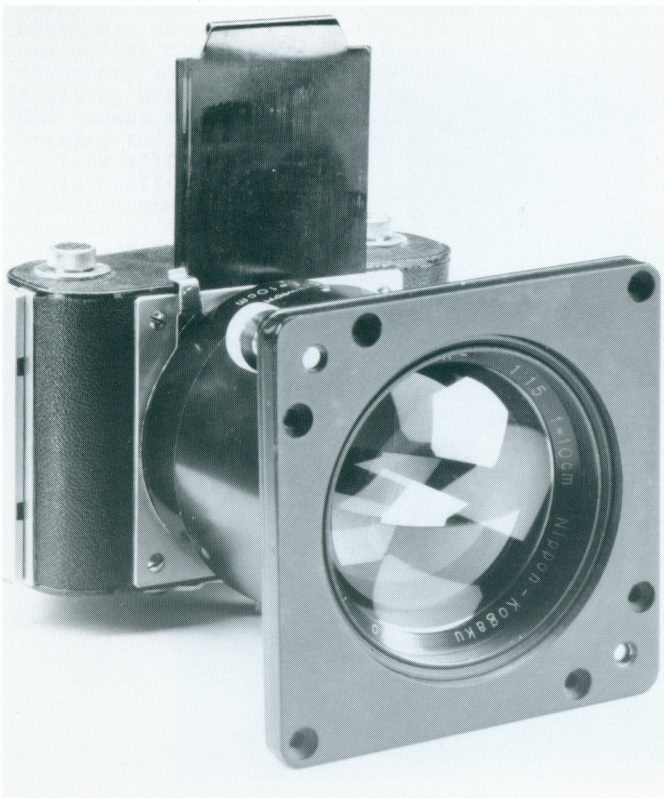


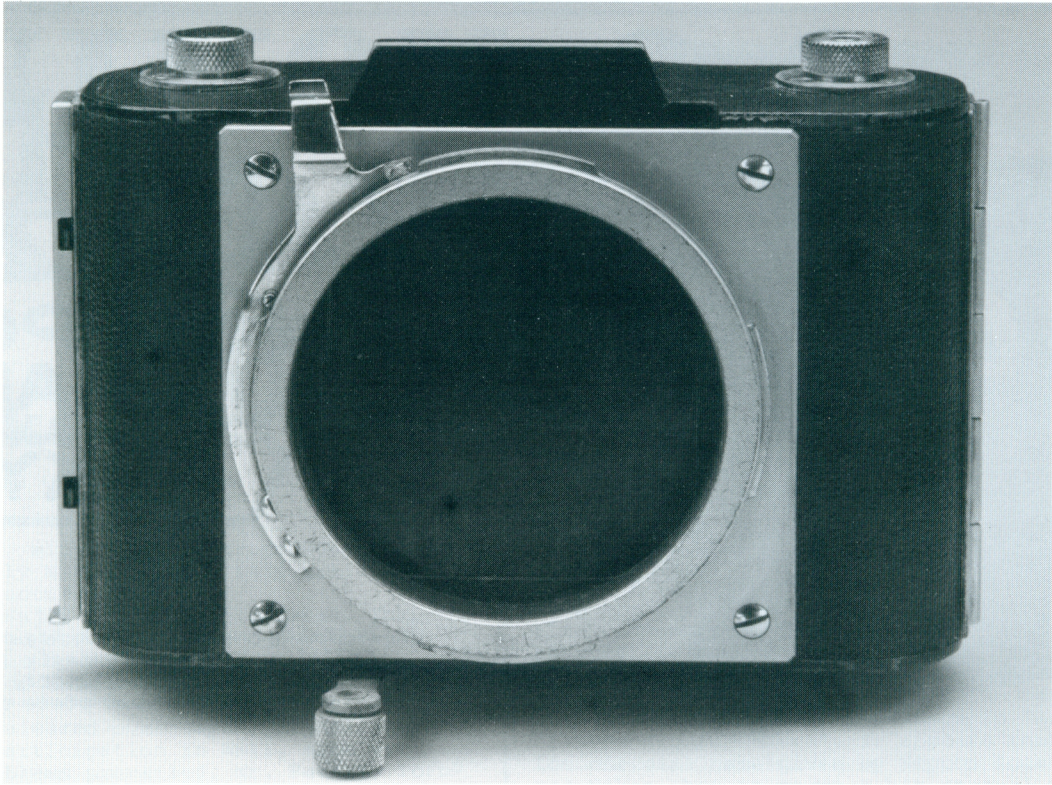
NHS
 NIPPON
 KOGAKU
 TOKYO

Left-Fig1..The Nikon X-Ray outfit (body #80282 and the exceedingly fast 10cm/f1.5 Regno-Nikkor-C lens #71028) with darkslide in place. Note front plate detail.

Bottom left-Fig2..Another view of the outfit with darkslide pulled out in the "shooting" position.

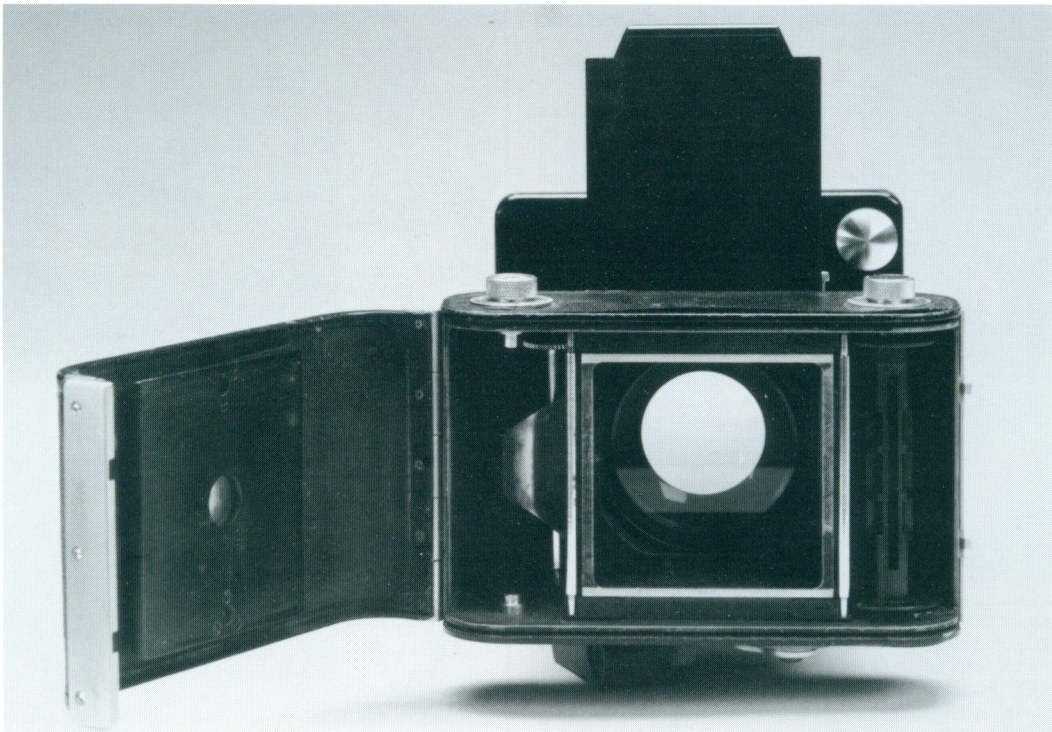
Bottom right-Fig3..Top view of X-Ray outfit, showing detail of fine-tuning adjusting ring on lens barrel. Note thickness of the metal jacket which encases the lens.





Top-Fig4..Close-up detail of body #80282, showing the front plate mounting mechanism-male bayonet claws and large spring lever for mounting/removal of lens. Note the similarity (other than the left side placement) to the system which would eventually be used on their rangefinder series of cameras for internal and external mount lenses.

Bottom-Fig5..Rear view of camera body, lens attached, with back open and darkslide pulled up. Note the film chambers, square format and guide rails.



focus point by turning this chrome focus adjusting ring. When the optimum focus was noted on the ring, the "scale" number was recorded in the instruction book. Therefore, it is safe to assume that each lens/fluorescence box was individually pre-focused to match a particular lens/box distance. Its interesting to note that the Fujii camera lens, #71085, appears to contain a focus-lock screw, whereas lens #71028 does not. Could this have been part of the evolutionary process?

THE NUMBERS GAME: Now comes the inevitable question asked by collectors...how many of these were produced? As in most situations where time has erased production records, the answer is difficult, but here is what I believe could have happened.

It appears that there could have been two different production runs of the Nikon X-ray bodies... one in 1947 (the one Mr. Fuketa alludes to), and another in early 1948...a modification run.

1947...Lenses were allocated a production serial number block beginning with a fixed "710" (October 1947) sequence. The matching bodies used a number block of "227". John Bairds' book, "The History of the Japanese Camera", indicates that in Japan the date of "22" signified the 22nd year of the reign of Emperor Hirohito, which began in 1925, thus the 22nd year would be 1947. Just coincidence? I don't believe so, and it now makes sense that Nippon Kogaku would have purposely used two different methods to date their lenses and bodies on a particular project. If the same method was used they could have had situations where both bodies and lenses ended up with the same serial numbers. Potentially very confusing. The "7" after the "22" could have been used to signify the month (July) the body was developed.

1948...A second batch of X-ray bodies appears to have been developed in early 1948, and was given a new serial number sequence beginning with "802" (February 1948). This number block indicates a shift by N-K back to the "western" dating system. The lenses matched with this second batch of bodies appears to be a continuation of the "710" series, as lens #71085 is mated with body #80282 in the Fujii outfit. Could these 1948 bodies with the different numbers have been the result of design modifications? The time frame between the "227" (July 1947) and the "802" (Feb. 1948) batches is eight months, time enough to have perhaps detected some minor design flaws needing modification. Using a different serial number block would have segregated the originals from the modified bodies. However, since there are no production records to verify my assumptions, this is merely speculation on my part.

Mr. Fuketa states that "30-50" units were produced before work was halted. This could indicate a reference to the original "227" body series. It is uncertain at this time how many of the second batch were produced. It now appears that perhaps more

ANOTHER "NHS" EXCLUSIVE!

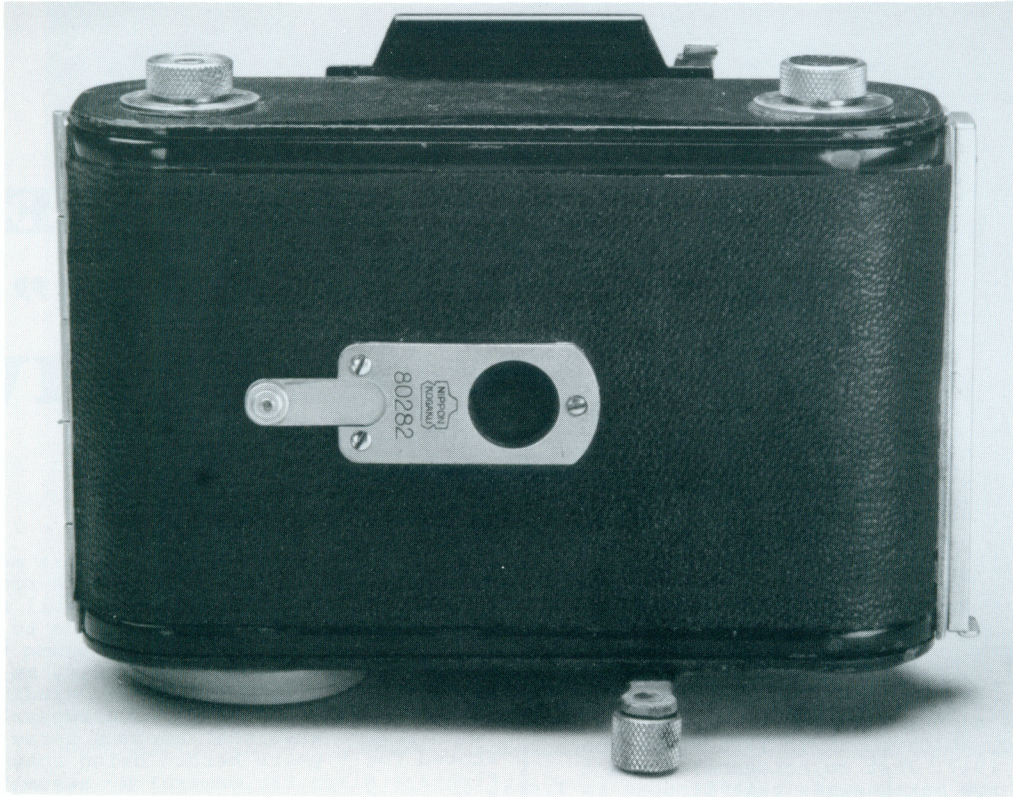
than 50 Regno-Nikkor-C lenses were made, as the Fujii lens #71085 has surfaced. A rough guess would now be approximately 100, but until more surface we have no way of knowing. Also, due to the application, it might be prudent to assume that many more bodies than lenses were produced, as the transport mechanisms had to contend with winding thousands of frames, thus being subject to excessive wear.

We also know that surplus X-ray bodies were stored for 9 years before being converted into the Fish-eye Nikon Sky Camera! My assumption is that perhaps the X-ray body "rejects" were shelved rather than destroyed, to be later converted into the Nikon Sky Camera. They originally could have been rejected due to imperfect lens mount flanges, the matching critical for the heavy 10cm/f1.5 Regno-Nikkor optic. It must be remembered that Nippon Kogaku was still experimenting with interchangeability on their 35mm camera, the Nikon I, which was still on the drawing boards or testing stages in 1947. Therefore, rather than destroying rejects, they were saved and later converted to a fixed lens camera. This could be the reason for the seemingly inconsistent out-of-synch random numbering system.

Mr. Fuketa has records that indicate the following number of X-ray camera bodies converted to Sky Cameras.....3 to 5 bodies in 1957, and 10 to 15 bodies in 1961! It is quite possible that only as many as 31 bodies from the original "227" batch were actually used for their intended purpose.... X-ray cameras. How many X-ray body and lens combinations were produced as a result of the second batch (1948) of bodies remains uncertain until more units are discovered.

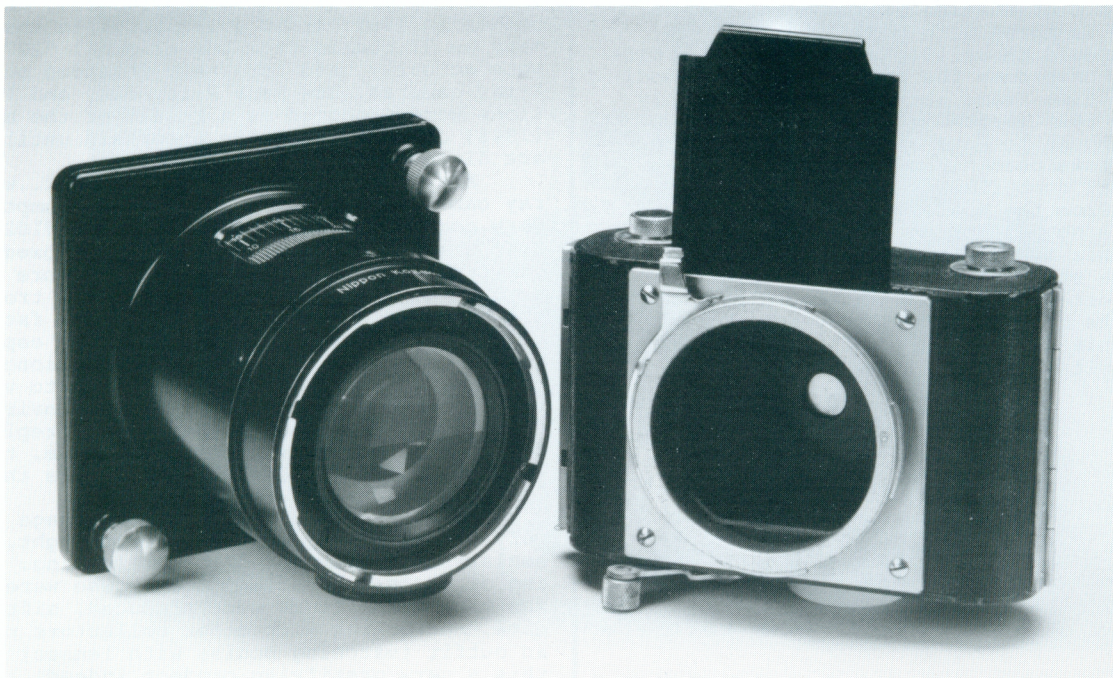
Another area seems a bit cloudy...were these X-ray cameras only built for home consumption, or were some exported? While my lens, #71028, was found in the eastern US, the Fujii boxed outfit was purchased in Japan. There could be more out there, perhaps liberated by US occupational troops during their tour of duty in Japan. Another factor worth considering is the attrition aspect, especially when it comes to the bodies. As mentioned above, the bodies must have been subjected to very heavy use in their hospital or X-ray lab environment, and probably many were discarded, to be replaced by a "fresh" new body. This being the case, the number of bodies could be significantly less than existing lenses.

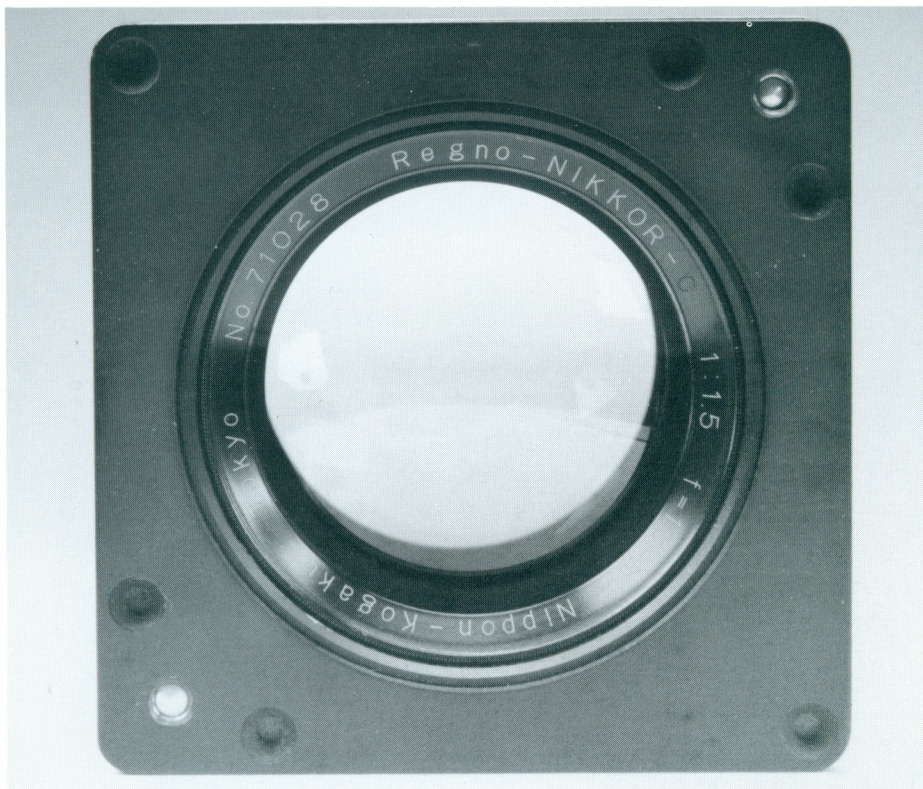
In any event this fascinating saga in the history of Nippon Kogaku has come to light, and to me, emulates the true spirit of collecting. The gathering of facts, contacting people who were there at the time these items were produced, sifting through data, networking with other collectors to produce an outfit (matching bodies with lenses) has made this a very gratifying project indeed!



Top-Fig6..Back view of camera body #80282, showing serial number placement and Nippon Kogaku logo. The yellow film window is also evident. Note film winding lever on bottom of camera.

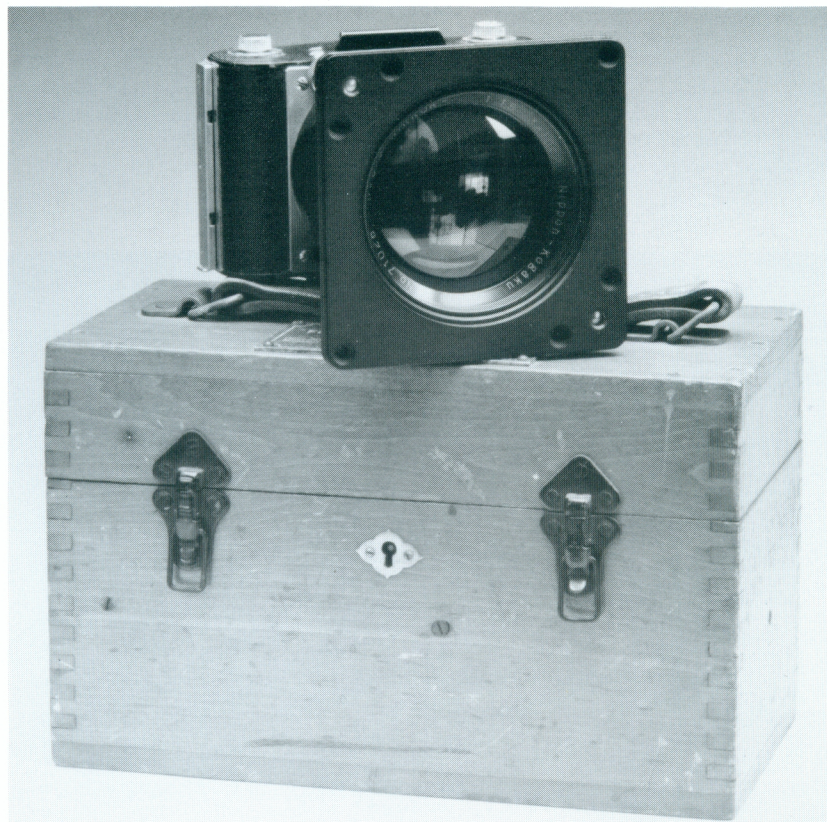
Bottom-Fig7..Body #80282 and lens #71028 showing detail of male bayonet claws on body front plate, and female "mate" on lens. This provided the necessary sturdy connection!

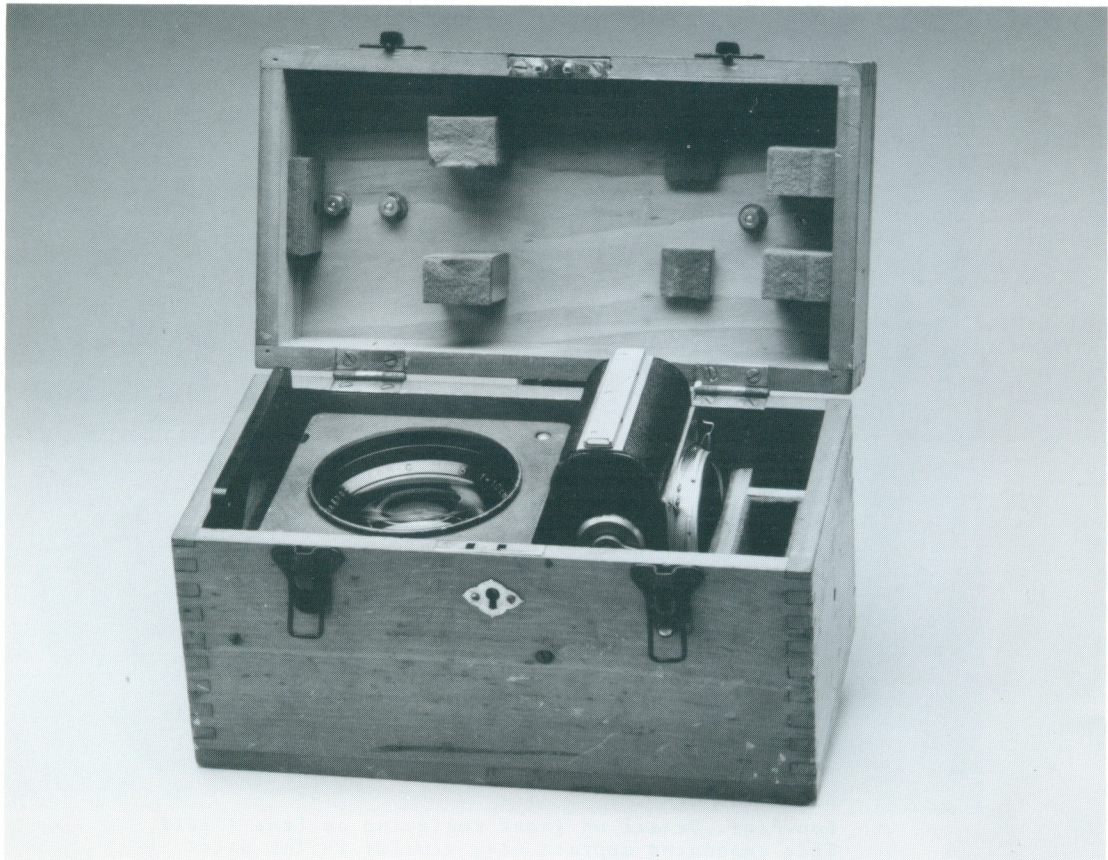




Top-Fig8..Detail of front engraving on lens #71028. This engraving appears very similar to the print style seen on the original series of Nikkor lenses used on their soon-to-be-produced Nikon "I".

Bottom-Fig9..The Fujii Collectable Camera outfit, showing camera body #80282 with lens #71028 on top of hardwood box.

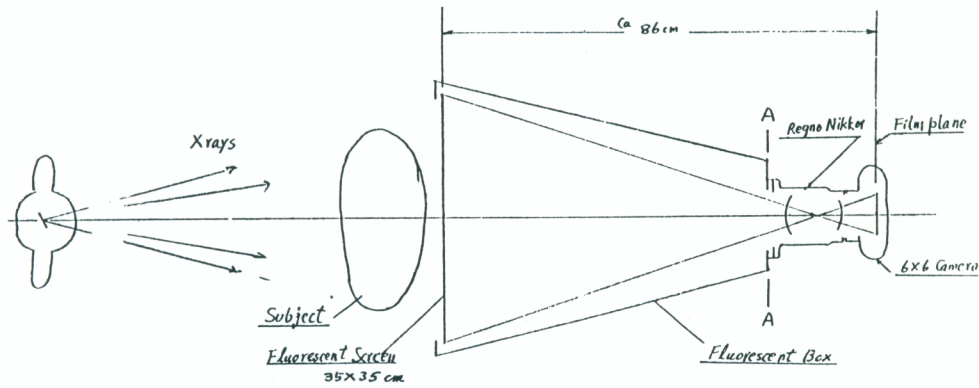




Top-Fig10..Interior of the hardwood box showing individual compartments. The body and lens were housed in separate compartments. There is also a spare front shield (far left) housed in another separate compartment, in addition to an empty compartment (far right), probably used to store tools for the assembling of the fluorescent box attachment.

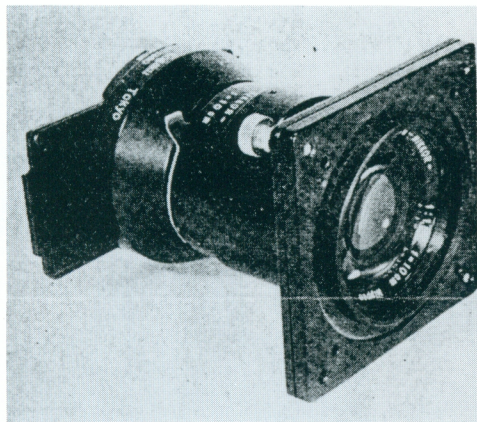
Bottom-Fig11..Detailed view of the red plastic identification plate attached to the top lid of the hardwood box. Interesting to note that the outfit is referred to as a "FLURO-RECORD CAMERA".



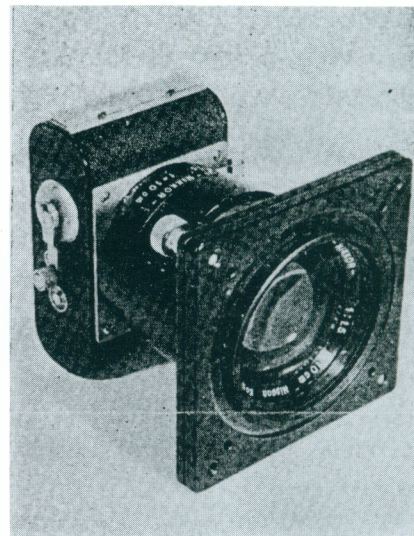


Top-Fig12..Diagram illustrating the basic set-up for X-Ray photography with the Nikon 6x6 Fluoroscopic camera. Note dimensions of the Fluorescent box which was attached to the front of the lens assembly. (Diagram courtesy of Masahiko Fuketa).

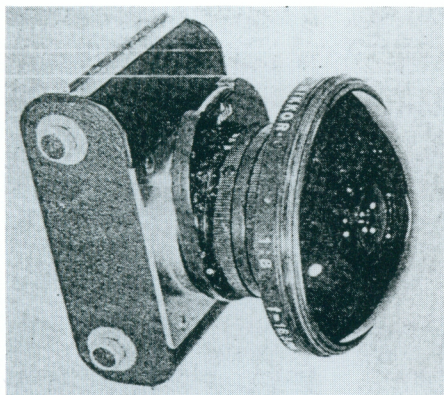
Bottom-Fig13..Photographs from the Nippon Kogaku Corporate history book, published in 1957 (40th anniversary). The two pictures of the X-ray camera are the only two known to have been published. The set-up on the left shows a Regno-Nikkor lens with a cut film (single exposure adapter). Camera on the lower left is the Nikon Sky Camera. (Photo courtesy of Nippon Kogaku..40th. Anniversary History of the Company..provided by Masahiko Fuketa)



第 V-175 図 レントゲンカメラ
(フィルムバック用)



第 V-176 図 レントゲンカメラ
(ロールフィルム用)



第 V-177 図 全天カメラ

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N-K OPTICAL ORDNANCE

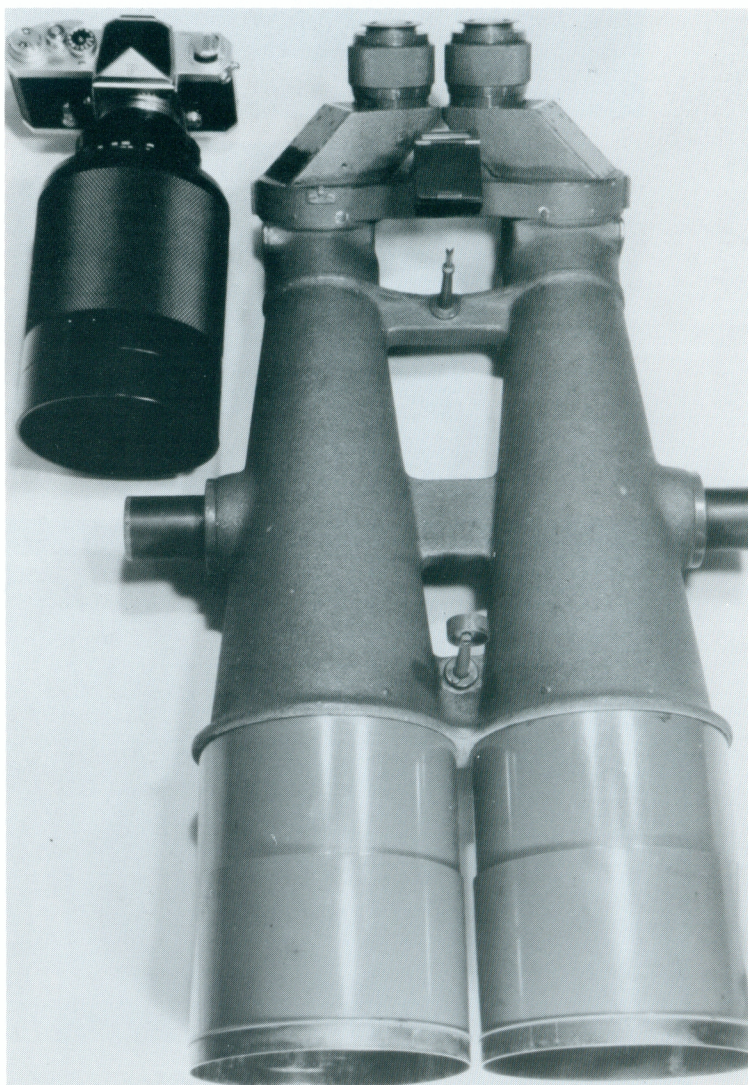
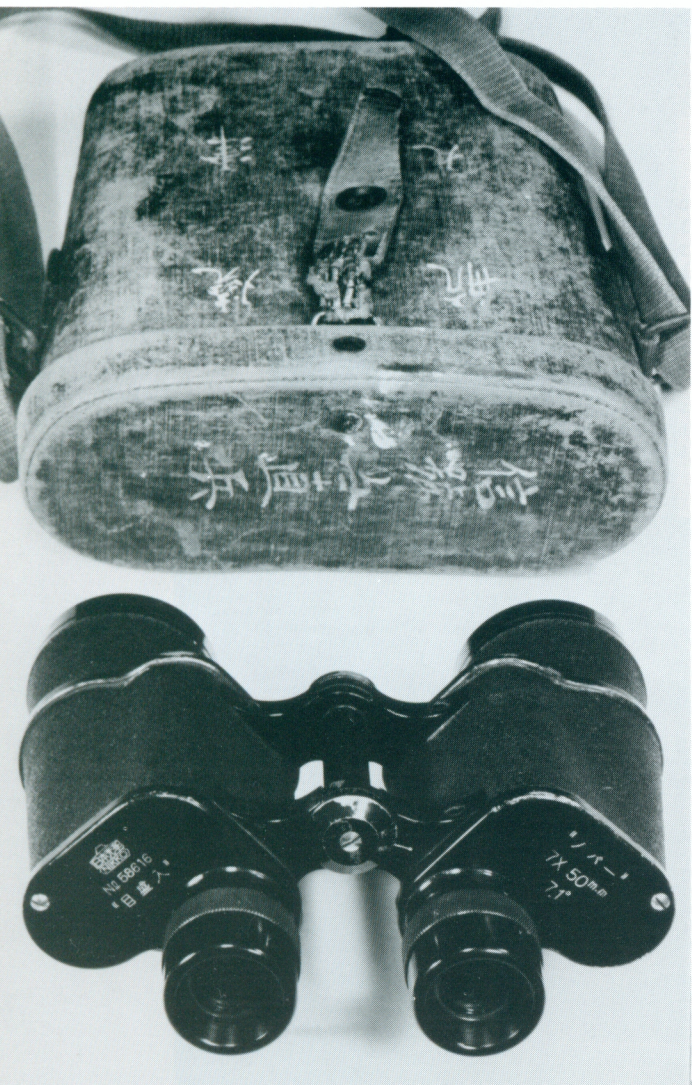
by **Richard Lane**

As promised in NHS-39 I am beginning a series of picture articles dealing with some of the many types of optical ordnance produced by Nippon Kogaku for the Japanese Army, Navy & Air Force both before and during WWII. Most of what you will see in this series is from the collection of Richard Lane who has been sending me a steady stream of photos and other information for months. It seems that Rich has the uncanny ability to unearth this type of item at a rate I never thought possible. I have been able to acquire some pieces over the last 20 plus years, but nothing like what he has been finding lately. Some of the items have been so unusual or impressive, or both, that I thought we would start to delve into this area of Nippon Kogaku production using his material as an excellent starting point. We have captioned each item to the best of our ability, as little factual info is available on some items. Hopefully the photos alone will suffice to illustrate how interesting some of these items really are.....RJR.

I came across this pair of NIKKO 7x50s with their original case and filters and a signed statement indicating that they were confiscated by Captain John Waters, Commander of the Cruiser USS Quincy in Tokyo Harbor, November 1945! Optical quality is outstanding and they appear to have a single optical coating on the front objectives and the eyepieces.

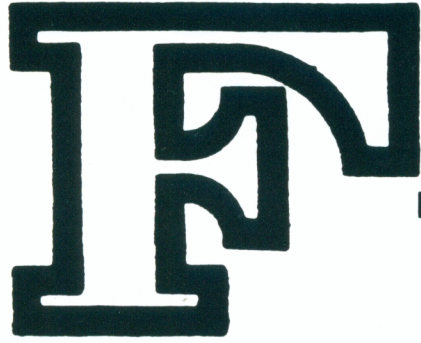
Below is a pair of 20 x 120 Nikon binoculars from WWII. These are BIG glasses that weigh in at 42 pounds! I have placed a Nikon F with a 500mm/f5 Reflex Nikkor beside them to give all an idea of size! The front objectives of these glasses are actually wider than the 500mm f5! Total length is 25 inches and width is 15 inches. The front objectives have retracting hoods like many current lenses. Their serial number is "145".

(All photos by Richard Lane)





The above left photo has a selection of NIKKO optical items, including a pair of trench binoculars. The item directly above is a pair of NIKKO monoculars marked 4 x 15. It came with its original case marked with a star and two filters. The filters snap into place on the front objective which is 30mm in width. There is a reticle with horizontal and vertical scales. At the left is a gun sight marked 3 x 20. The NIKKO trademark lacks the actual "NIKKO" letters having just the triangle logo and symbols.



THE PRESET MICRO - NIKKOR

To my surprise the article in NHS-38 on the Preset Micro-Nikkor has fostered more letters and calls than any other "F-Spot" item to date! This is a bit strange as we have run much rarer and more exotic items in this section, yet the not so rare, but decidedly interesting, Preset Micro has really stirred some feedback. Member Les Seeligson wrote me almost immediately to suggest a follow up piece noting the scarce M-B ring accessory as well as the earlier version of the lens that lacked an external filter ring. (My Type 1 lens has an M-B ring stuck on at this time so I couldn't use it!..see text for this problem) Here is Les' follow up article. (RJR)

As frequently intended, the December 1992 "F-Spot" feature on the Micro-Nikkor started a line of interest and inquiry rather than ending it. The 5.5cm Micro-Nikkor first appeared in the 171xxx serial number block. The initial design was somewhat different than is shown by the lens illustrated in the Rotoloni article...and the difference makes for an interesting and elusive accessory: the M-B Tube or "Ring".

Examination of the photos of Bob's 173xxx lens shows an obvious extended filter ring. The earlier variation of this lens has no extended filter ring. Rather, the filter ring is 'inset' into the preset ring so that it rotates whenever the aperture is stopped down. The negative implications of this system are obvious; the solution is less so. As shown in these photos, Nikon supplied the M-B tube for insertion deep into the throat of the lens below the rotating preset ring. Accessories such as the 52mm filters and the bellows reversing ring could be threaded to the M-B tube rather than the front ring of the lens and would not rotate when the lens was stopped down.

Early Nikon F literature illustrated the Micro-Nikkor with the "M-B Adapter Tube" for use with the polarizing filter and the "B-R Adapter" (BR2 Reversing ring):

..M-B Tube is furnished which prevents rotation of the lens front while focusing even when the lens is attached to the Bellows in the reversed position for macrophotography. Use of the tube is also recommended for the use of the polarizing filter. Supplied in plastic case.

The quotation is from a 1961 Nikon F brochure (F7601 (36.11.E0)B) Illustrations of the lens and tube are difficult to find. The earliest depiction in my collection is in an undated dealer promotion released by Joseph Ehrenreich Inc. in early 1961. This literature promoted Nikon, Nikkorex, Fujica, Bronica and Mamiya. It included a typewritten temporary price list for the 55 Micro-Nikkor (LN 249) at \$169.50. This was followed in September 1961 with a printed Supplementary Dealer Price List released by Nikon Inc. Neither price list mentions the M-B Tube. It subsequently appeared in price lists under "Copy Equipment" as item BFP2637 for \$4.00 retail. I cannot presently document the first date of appearance.

by Les Seeligson

PART II



(The Ehrenreich material was a publicity release for the trade show scheduled in Philadelphia in 1961. It is a truly tantalizing piece for the Nikon F collector. This single publication contains the first information on the 500/f5 Mirror; the 35-85 /f2.8 zoom; the 55 Micro-Nikkor; the 200mm/f4; the 135mm/f2 and the 200-600mm zoom. The follow up supplementary price list is even more interesting. It lists the 35-85 zoom at \$399.50 with a special leather case (CC451) at \$22.50! The 2 publications together suggest a lengthy retrospective of 1961. To be resumed.)

Unfortunately, the M-B Tube proved less than effective. Mounted on the lens, it tends to rotate with the preset ring. Further, it tends to stick in place and, when loosened, to unscrew the front element with it (I can attest to this, as I have just such a problem...RJR!)! Not every piece can be wonderful. Motivation for the redesigned front end shown in the later lenses is apparent.

Even with these troublesome "faults", the original 5.5cm Micro-Nikkor appears to have been a favorite lens for close up and bellows work. I believe many of these lenses continue in use. The one in these photos was obtained from an active photographer who had two of them; he now has one lens and a solicitous friend.



Top..The M-B Tube originally came in a light gray box with a red felt interior. The tube itself was packaged in a plastic bag with the NKT logo. This particular box has an interesting typo!
 Left..The M-B tube in place on the BR adapter mounted on the Bellows II. This configuration shows the structure of the set up when the lens is mounted in reverse on the Bellows.
 Bottom..Lens is now mounted and extended to about one half maximum. The obvious stress may explain the annoying tendency of the tube to bind or to loosen the front element of the lens.

(All photos by Les Seeligson)



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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.

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Amateur Photographer magazine



Tony 'Back Cover' Hurst and myself have seven 50mm/f1.1 Nikkors between us, and neither of us knows the whole story behind this lens. We need to know more, and with your help we shall. Many years ago we can both remember seeing in Bob's book an SP with a huge lump of glass. I can remember dreaming at the time about owning one of these beautiful toys! Well 4 lenses later, and 3 for Tony, we want to attempt to throw more light on this already light sensitive lens. So far it has been covered by 500 words in 'the book', that is the Nikon range-finder bible. At the time of writing his book, RJR knew more than anybody, even Nikon, which says a lot for his ground work. But now 10 years and 39 NHS Journals later, still no more has been written about the 50mm/f1.1 Nikkor. Lens #119600 seems to be the start of production and of our quest. February 1956 saw the launch of the lens. This was a world class lens coming from a company which only a few years before faced near bankruptcy. This must have been a major decision for the people at N-K, for Leitz and Zeiss had no plans to make such a lens. So in six short years they went from copying the Germans to market leaders.

All of you who have had a chance to play with the 5cm/f1.1 will know that the internal mount does not look or feel quite right. Why? Well the only reason I can come up with is that it was the first lens N-K made themselves. There was no one to copy, they had to break new ground. The bayonet of the internal f1.1 is not as close fitting, as we had come to expect from Nikon. They are slightly loose. However, this did not affect the sharpness. In 1956 no one had heard of ergonomics, about making things feel right. The f1.1 worked, that was the most important thing. But we as collectors want to know more and that's why you all are now getting the chance. Speak now or forever hold your peace.

Looking back at 1956 it must have been a difficult decision, placing Nikon's head on the block (Thank God. If they had done otherwise we might now be collecting Practikas or stamps!). I've seen about 10 internals without noticing many differences until I recently got my second one and noticed it differed from the one I had. It appears the back part of the lens has been re-thought. Why would N-K want to re-tool and re-think just the back part of such a low production lens? I am sure that quite a few items made in the 50s were made at a loss, and this was probably one of them. An f1.1 loss leader back in the days when quality came first, second and last, and cost-cutting was an unheard of dirty word.

I have 2 externals, 1 engraved in feet, the other in meters. This is the only difference I can find. What we would like from you fellow members are photos, details..and more. Screw mount lenses! Has anyone seen one in Contax mount? Is there or was there a Dummy lens made? What sort of cases were made. How many different types of shades? Try to take a few photos. I know we collectors are lousy photographers, but try anyway. Lets put this lens on the map together and give it its rightful place in the sun. We look forward to hearing from

you. Lets make NHS-41 or 42 the Journal to cover the 5cm f1.1 Nikkor!
Tony & Peter.

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FIELDGRASS & GALE

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 Telephone: 081-870 7611 · Fax: 081-870 6551 · Telex: 917003

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE...Nikon FTn black #74xxxxx, F2 cosmetics, Mint-. \$325; Nikon F2AS chrome #80xxxxx, Ex-. \$650; Nikon F2AS black #79xxxxx, Mint-. \$700; Nikkor 50mm f1.4, non-AI, Mint. \$90; 50mm f1.2 AIS. \$300; 15mm f3.5. \$1450; 85mm f1.4 w/shade/caps. \$615; 105mm f2.8 Micro w/shade/caps. \$510; MD2/MB1. \$550; MD3/MB2. \$495
Newer Nikon equipment available, please call.
Edward's Fine Cameras, 4200 Easton Dr., Suite 14, Bakersfield, CA 93309. Tel.. (805)-872-5335
Fax.. (805)-325-6554.

FOR SALE...Nikon EL2 chrome, mint beauty, \$305; Nikkormat FT3 chrome, mint beauty, \$240; Nikkormat FTn black, mint-, sharp!, \$185. Prices include all shipping. WANTED...Nikon F2 eyelevel, mint+, Nikon rangefinder (S2)-economical? Larry Jessie, 1308 Parkington Lane, Bowie, MD 20716. (301) 249-9648.

Selling List..I periodically send out a list of Nikon RF and reflex items as well as some other quality gear for sale or trade. To get on my mailing list just drop me a line telling me so.
Robert Rotoloni, PO Box 3213, Munster, IN 46321.

WANTED..By Nikonos collector..Nikonos I with white leather covering; Calypso camera w/35 lens; any Calypso and Nikonos I literature. Please call Bob Rogen at (916) 454-3317. Thank you!

WANTED..Nikon M and S cameras and related items. Quality is important. David Simon, 819 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

FOR TRADE..85-250mm/f4-4.5 #174xxx with funny mis-engraving on the chrome front ring (f=25mm and not 250mm!), complete w/close-up lens, shade & caps, mint-, recently serviced by Nikon. WANTED..early Nikon F eyelevel or Photomic F, early F36, 8.5-25cm f/4-4.5 zoom, preset 5.5cm Micro, preset 10.5cm/f4 Nikkor. Richard de Stoutz, Fliederweg 11, CH-3600 Thun, Switzerland. Tel-011-41-33-22-2767 or Fax at 011-41-31-63-6830.

WANTED..camera bracket for SB-1 electronic flash for early F. Have RF item(s) for trade..two piece hood for 35/50mm lens & series filter retaining ring, black finish, mint cond. Earl Wong, PO Box 8175, Van Nuys, CA 91409-8175. ATT 0700-703-9516.

FOR SALE..Nikon SP exposure meter #9625734 (works) with incident plate & cs, mint-, \$295; Variframe finder Type 6 #364750, parts condition only, \$100; 13.5/f4 MIOJ Nikkor #904333, rear cap, but no shade or case, EX+, \$750; Close-up outfit for Nikon S, in case & box, EX/EX+, box torn on top, \$245; Good supply of original RF literature, including IBs on the M, S, S2, SP, S3. Also original dealer's brochures. Mike Symons, 3844 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8P 2S9. Tel-604-477-1867 after 6PM PDT.

FOR SALE...New Nikon Faszination from Peter Braczko 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, transitte, theodolites, binoculars, F2 Data Camera, F2 High Speed, telescopes, gun sights. Peter Lownds, E. de Zwijgerstraat 24, Rotterdam 3043 VD, Holland. Tel/Fax. 31-10-415-9136.

WANTED...Collector seeks RF items: bodies, lenses & accessories. Nikkors in SM. Canon bodies and lenses in particular 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.

NEW MEMBERS

DAVID BIREN
CINCINNATI, OH

TATSUSHI IIJIMA
TOKYO JAPAN

JOHN CARDEN
HUNTINGTON, NY

NICK JANNES
EAST MOLINE, IL

EDDIE CHAN
HONG KONG

SYDNEY JU
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

JOSE LUIS COSENTINO
PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

CHRIS KOK
HONG KONG

AARON DAVIS
UNITED CAMERA
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

PIERRE LAFFONTA
TARBES, FRANCE

LARRY GREEN
FORT WAYNE, IN

HUBERT LOZANO
SYRACUSE, NY

KAREN HILLMAN
BELLEVUE, WA

ERNESTO LUCIDI
ARICCIA, ITALY

KENNETH K.C. HO
HONG KONG

BERNARD PINAZZI
SEMEAC, FRANCE

JACK HOBAN
BEAUMONT, AUSTRALIA

DANNY TUYELAARS
TURNHOUT, BELGIUM

NEW ADDRESSES

JOHN BAIRD
PO BOX 90
GLEED STATION
YAKIMA, WA 98904

STEPHEN GANDY
1591 STODDARD AVE
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360

DEREK COOKE
2 BIRCH GROVE, WELLING,
KENT DA16 2JW, ENGLAND

FRANK MAZZOCCHI
117 N. 5TH STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11211

MICHAEL DOWNEY
H4 PAK TAK YUEN,
LOK KWAI PATH, FO TAN,
NT, HONG KONG

JIMMY PURIMAHUWA
GROTE BUITENDIJK 144
1991 TE VELSERBROEK
HOLLAND

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of the NIKON JOURNAL will be September 1, 1993. This will be our "10TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE"!!!!!!...I would hope to make it a special one in some way. Remember to get your photos to me for our special member gallery! Lets celebrate our first decade in style! Get all contributions to me by the above date so issue #41 can come off on schedule. Thank You!!!

BLACK IS**BEAUTIFUL!**

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

6180663 6320220

FOR TRADE/SALE...Two Nikon S cameras w/f2 & f1.4 lenses; 85/f2 MIOJ Nikkor w/caps/cs; various reflex lenses in 'cm'; waist & eyelevel finders for "F". Wanted..Nikon S2 black dials. James Leatham, PO Box 50355, Parks, AZ 86018. Tel..602-635-2117.

WANTED..Specialized adapter made by Cook & Perkins, Orion or other off brands, which allows the placement & rangefinder focusing of Nikon RF and Contax lenses on a screw mount Leica body. Also looking for clean user SP, 25mm & 19mm viewfinders. David Biren, 338 Ludlow Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45220. Office-513-751-1440. Home Tel/Fax-513-221-3541.

odds 'n ends

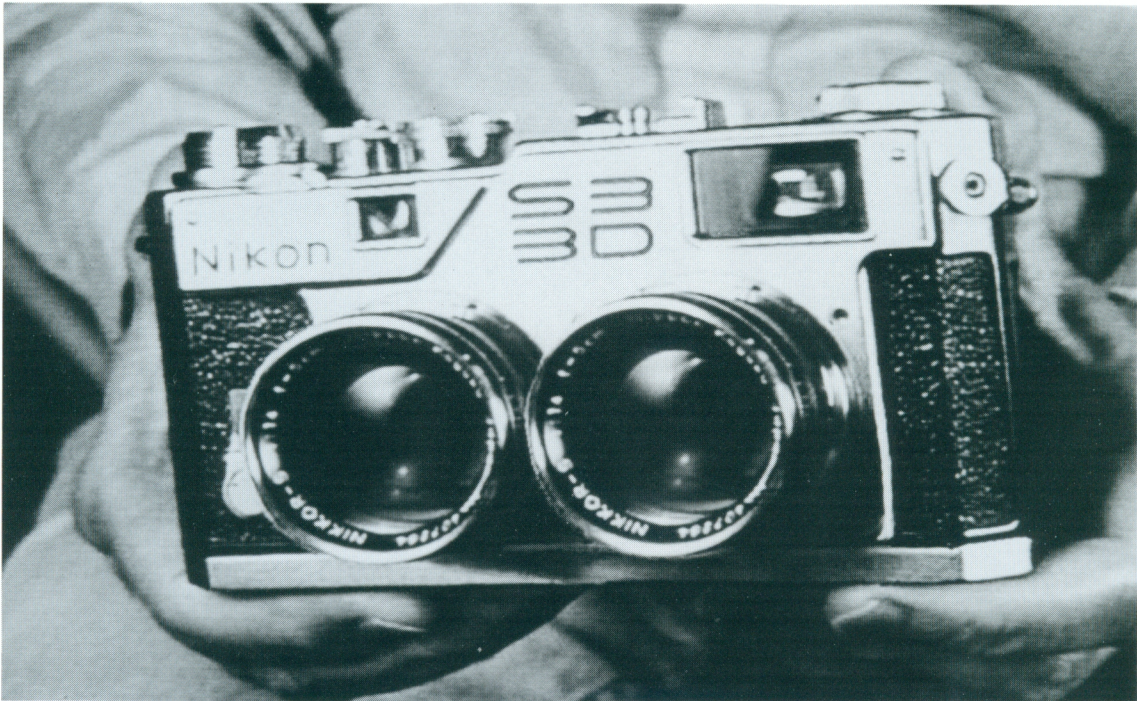
THIS "ODDS N' ENDS" PAGE WILL BE RESERVED IN ALL FUTURE ISSUES OF "THE NIKON JOURNAL" AS A SHOWCASE FOR THE RARE, THE UNUSUAL & OFFBEAT, OR JUST THE OUT OF THE ORDINARY! IF YOU FEEL

THAT YOU POSSESS AN ITEM THAT FULFILLS THESE CRITERIA, PLEASE SEND ME AT LEAST TWO OR MORE VARIED VIEWS OF YOUR ODDITY ALONG WITH ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST. THANKS!

THE NIKON S3 3D

I recently received this letter and photo from member Bob Thompson. Since I was not able to answer his questions I thought maybe someone else could help out! (RJR)

Bob, I recently found this item at a local garage sale, and not finding it mentioned in your book, I thought I would see if you knew of it or had seen it before. It is basically a Nikon S3 with an elongated body casting allowing for the addition of a second lens mount producing a stereo camera similar to so many others made during the 1950s'. It is fitted with a matched set of 50/f1.4 Nikkors with the same serial number, yet the body has no number of any kind! Strange! Any idea of what I may have? Since it has 2 standard Nikon RF lens mounts, it is much more practical than the Stereo-Nikkor as it can produce the 3D effect with different focal lengths. Can you imagine a pair of 25mm Nikkors, or how about a set of 50/f1.1s!!!



Now that you have suffered through this slightly "less than true" fairy tale, lets see where the Nikon S3-3D really came from! Bob Thompson tells it like this...I was recently breaking in a new electronic imaging computer system, and decided it would be interesting to see if I could use it to do some creative manipulation of reality. So I digitized a Nikon S3 photo, and used the computer's tools to make my own version of a Nikon 3D prototype! Sadly, this camera exists only as a bunch of ones and zeros inside my computer. I hope that you have enjoyed my stretch of the imagination as much as I did making it! (Thanks Bob! How about making one in black with a motor attached?!.RJR)



Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST