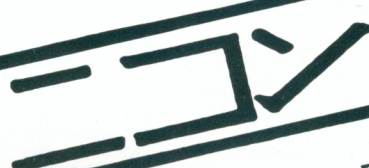


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NHS-42

The Nikon  JOURNAL



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THIS ISSUE..

- PG. 2--THE "ORION" LENS COUPLER.
- PG. 6--MITCHELL MOUNT NIKKORS?
- PG. 8--F-SPOT..THE U.S. NAVY F250!
- PG. 12-RARE NIKON ITEMS AT CHRISTIE'S!
- PG. 14-NIKON WWII OPTICAL ORDNANCE.



CONTENTS

PAGE ONE..... EDITORIAL.....BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
PAGE TWO..... THE RARE ORION LENS COUPLER. BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
PAGE SIX..... TWO NIKKORS IN A STRANGE MOUNT! BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

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PAGE EIGHT..... THE "F-SPOT"...THE U.S. NAVY F250 MOTOR BY PETER LOWNDS
PAGE TWELVE..... RARE NIKON ITEMS FEATURED AT CHRISTIE'S!!!
PAGE FOURTEEN..... NIKON WWII OPTICAL ORDNANCE...PART III BY RICHARD LANE
PAGE SIXTEEN..... "LET THE BUYER BEWARE!!"...A HORROR STORY! BY PETER LOWNDS
PAGE TWENTY..... CLASSIFIEDS...NEW MEMBERS & ADDRESSES INSIDE REAR COVER.
ODDS N' ENDS...THE BEST POSSIBLE NUMBER? BY PETER LOWNDS

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EDITORIAL

I again ran out of space in this issue and will need to reserve a few pieces for NHS-43. In addition I have much to cover on this page so I must be brief. However, I sincerely hope that this issue finds all of you in good health and I truly hope that each of you had a great holiday season, and all the best for 1994!

Christie's of London held another auction with some major Nikon items featured. On page 12-13 are original catalog photos of two of the most significant items: a black Olympic S3 with proper lens and box...and a Stereo-Nikkor outfit! Although the rare Stereo did not reach the reserve price, it still topped out at nearly \$40,000 plus! Unbelievable!

We have yet another installment of Rich Lane's fascinating collection of Nikon optical ordnance on page 14 featuring some massive "night" glasses! On page 16 is a short and sad story from Peter Lownds about what can happen out there in the real world! Please read it for your own protection!!

And now we must address the upcoming NHS-Con4, which is definitely scheduled for Saturday, March 5th, in Utrecht Holland! Peter Lownds and Jaap Kortten have done the work necessary to set up such a meeting, and it appears that this will be our biggest Convention yet! Peter tells me that he has at least 40 confirmed European attendees and I have at least another 6 from this Continent who say they are going! So this will be the largest group of NHS members to assemble in one place to date! It will mark my first trip ever to Europe, so for me it is a double-fantasy come true. I am looking forward to meeting many European members who I have either talked to, or exchanged countless letters with, over the years! Most of the major collectors in Europe will be there as well as some of the major American and Canadian contributors to the Journal. It should be a great deal of fun and informative as well, since Peter has lined up quite a few speakers for Saturday.

As I write this editorial (Dec. 21st) I have the following information. However, if all goes according to plan, you will find inserted in this issue a Newsletter from Peter containing all the information you need to make the trip. If not, those of you who respond, or have already responded to either Peter or myself, will receive a mailing as soon as possible. Available information is as follows....

Our Convention will be from 9AM to 5PM on Saturday March 5th at the IBIS Hotel in Utrecht, which is less than an hour from the Amsterdam airport, where you will land. There will be a get together on Friday evening in a hospitality suite as we have always done in the past. Saturday evening will take care of itself as usual, and Sunday you will have the opportunity to attend the annual 350 table camera show in Utrecht to top your weekend off! Peter's newsletter will have travel tips, a map, customs and hotel information and telephone numbers. So we have activities planned that should fill a 3 day weekend quite well. You get to visit one of the best countries in Europe (and one of the easiest as English is well understood), enjoy a weekend with fellow members, and see what a large European show is really like. Distances are not large so you can get around quite well and even go into Germany, France or Belgium if you want to! So those of you who feel you want to make the trip, please contact Peter or myself as soon as possible for further info. See this page in NHS-41 for our addresses and other details.

See you there!!!!!!!!!!!!

In Memoriam

It is with sincere regret that I must inform you that charter member Robert Harris passed away on October 21st. A long time collector, Bob was one of the very first to answer my original letter regarding a Society. You will note that his name is third on our list! I met Bob at NHS-Con2 here in Chicago. Though in his late 70s' (Bob would have been 81 next month!), he made the trip to spend a weekend with fellow members. I remember him telling me how much he enjoyed those 3 days, and all of us present were grateful to make his acquaintance. I have talked to him many times by phone over the years and one thing I noticed was that collecting made him happy, and also kept him young. We have lost one of the real "gentlemen" of the collecting world and he will be missed!

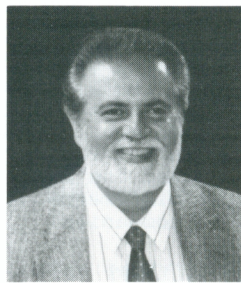
You will notice both an ad and insert for the London Camera Fair in this issue. For those of you in Europe (or if you plan to be there in March), this could be one of the highlights of your trip. Peter Walnes has gracefully offered me a table to promote the Society, but unfortunately I cannot make the trip myself. Being only 2 weeks after our own NHS-Con4 in Holland, I cannot find the time for a return trip. However, if you are planning on attending the Convention and can stay another two weeks, this sounds like a really fine way to complete your vacation! Keep it in mind!

On page 18 is an ad for PHOTO Deal by member Rudolf Hillebrand. It is really a fine magazine and worth your attention, and he has also promised to include coverage of NHS-Con4 in a succeeding issue! You may recognize his name as the author of "Nikon Compendium" as well as his "Infrared-Photography on a Different Wavelength", just released. Rudi has informed me that Society members can place a FREE classified ad in Photo Deal, as he wishes to contribute to making photography and collecting an international hobby. A fine magazine and a fine offer!

Just a quick survey of what this issue holds before we get into the Convention (which we must cover in detail as this is the last Journal before our meeting). NHS-42 turned into a collection of unusual bits n' pieces with six articles instead of the usual four. Starting off on page 2 is an item I was not able to fit into NHS-41 on the quite rare "Orion" Nikon BM-to-Leica SM adapter. Made just after the war by the man who eventually started the Miranda Camera Co., this work of art (and it truly is an impressive piece) may only have been made in a run of 200 pieces possibly as late as 1948! Not often seen today, demand far exceeds supply, making it a very interesting item.

Another "weird" item is a pair of lenses seen on page 6-7. Purchased in Tokyo in 1987, I have finally gotten around to covering them in the Journal. They are an 85 and a 135 Nikkor in a very strange mount. Check them out.

Our F-Spot feature item this time around is one of possibly 10 prototype 250 shot KS-80A air-to-air cameras produced by EPOI for the US Navy. The 36 shot version is well known and is illustrated in the Cooper/Abbott books. However, this 250 version, Experimental #005, marks the first time I have ever seen one covered in any literature anywhere and is yet another "first" for the Nikon Journal!



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THE 'ORION LENS COUPLER'

by

Robert J. Rotoloni

It is not often that we address an item in this Journal that is not a product of Nippon Kogaku. However, every once in awhile a piece that is designed to work with the Nikon system, yet is made by some other manufacturer, comes along that warrants our attention. Such is the case with the unique & rare accessory for the Nikon rangefinder system featured in this article. To say it is rare may be an understatement, as evidence suggests that only 200 units were made, possibly as far back as 1948. Unique is not a misnomer in this case, as I am not aware of another version with all the features of this item.

It is an adapter whose design allows any Nikkor in rangefinder bayonet mount to be mated to any body with a standard 39MM Leica screw mount. This in itself is not unique in that other such adapters do exist, but this version accomplishes this while maintaining...."complete and accurate rangefinder coupling throughout the entire focusing range"....! Imagine being able to mount any Nikkor made for your Nikon SP on a Canon, Leica or Nicca body (or the countless variations on the theme), and to have it usable from infinity down to 3 feet! Although the various screw mount systems had comprehensive lens stables, there are certain Nikkors that are unique in one way or another, and would certainly be of interest to screw mount users.

The adapter in question was one designed by Mr. Akira Ogihara who founded, in 1946, the Orion Seiki Company, Ltd., in Tokyo to produce various photographic accessories and to repair and service professional equipment. Thus his adapter is now known as the "Orion lens coupler", though it appears that none have been found so marked. As a matter of fact, Mr. Ogihara's masterpiece lacks any markings as to origin, including that of Miranda, which is what his company eventually became known as worldwide!

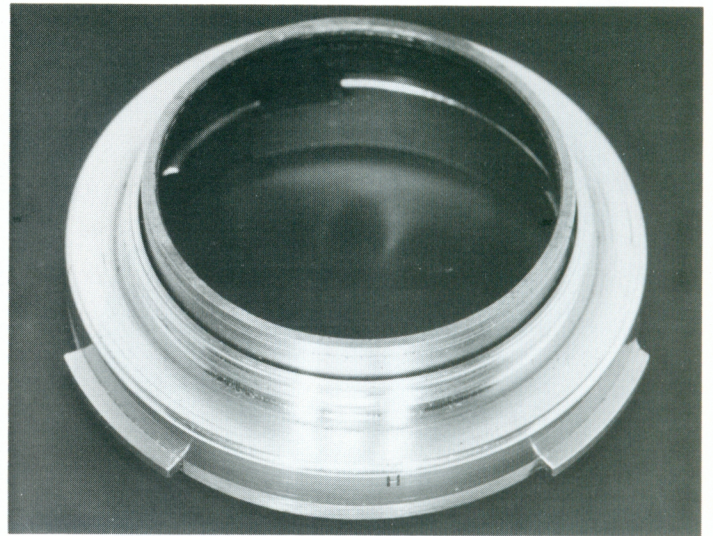
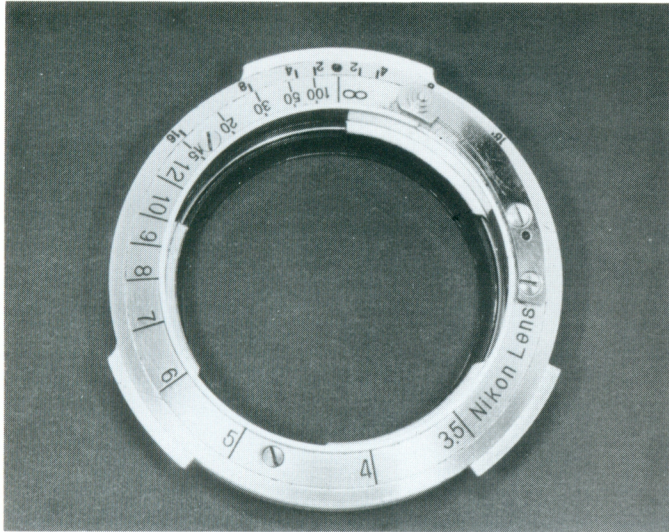
Sometime in 1948 Orion released their coupler to allow local photographers to use Zeiss lenses on Leica bodies, or one of the many Japanese Leica copies that were beginning to come to market. But what about the Nikkors for the then new Nikon I with their Contax compatible mount? Mr. Ogihara, being the superb engineer he was, first designed his coupler to work with the Zeiss lenses but later released a revised version that would mount the new Nikkors and correct for the very slight difference in rangefinder tracking used by the two companies!

Thus today there exists two versions of the Orion lens coupler. One is engraved "Contax Lens" and the other "Nikon Lens" (pictured here). To the naked eye they appear to be identical. However, the basic design called for a Contax mount attached to a helicoid tube inside a Leica thread. As the Contax lenses rotated from infinity to 1 meter, the helicoid would move into the camera body and make contact with the Leica rangefinder cam. The design was complex and the machining and pitch of the threads was very precise. Actually so precise were the threads that they were recomputed to work with the Nikkors and correct for the very slight difference between them and the Zeiss lenses! To say the least, this was no easy accomplishment in early post-war Japan where precision tools of all types were hardly existent.

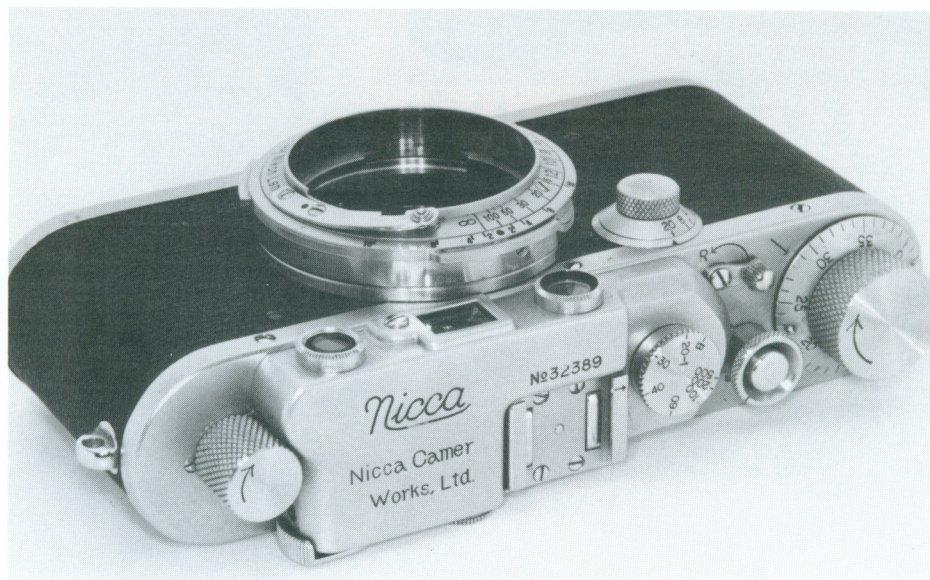
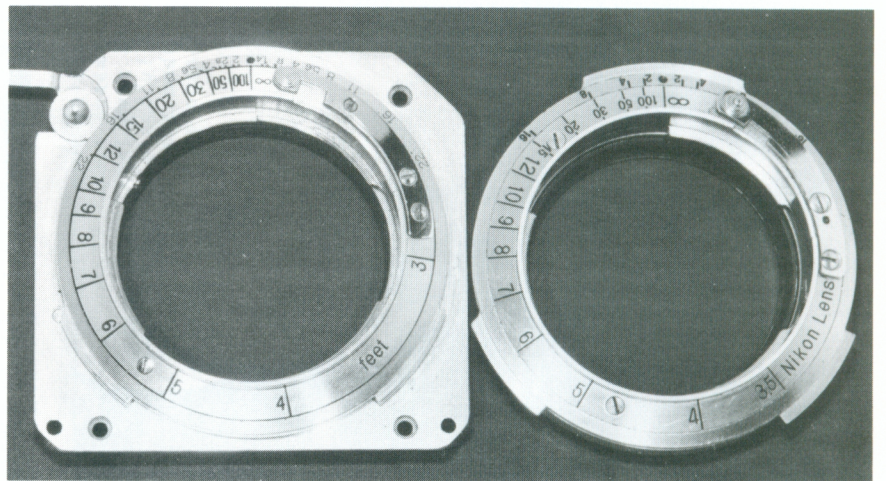
But Mr. Ogihara was able to successfully mate two incompatible lens systems to perfection. And not only the internal mounting normal lenses, as some competitors did, but also the external mounting wides and telephotos! I was curious to see just how well the Orion coupler really worked so I set up a shooting session with my example, an early Nicca body, and some of my rangefinder Nikkors. The results were consistent and superb, with all lens/body combinations focusing accurately and to the same preset distance repeatedly. I used many combinations, some of which are pictured here, such as....50/f1.4 Aluminum Nikkor; 28/f3.5; 25/f4.0; 85/f2.0 and 105/f4.0. Four of the five lenses use the outer bayonet, including the 25mm, which is a very difficult lens to couple. All worked perfectly! Mounting was precise and tight, coupling was flawless, and the focusing was smooth with no binding or tightness.

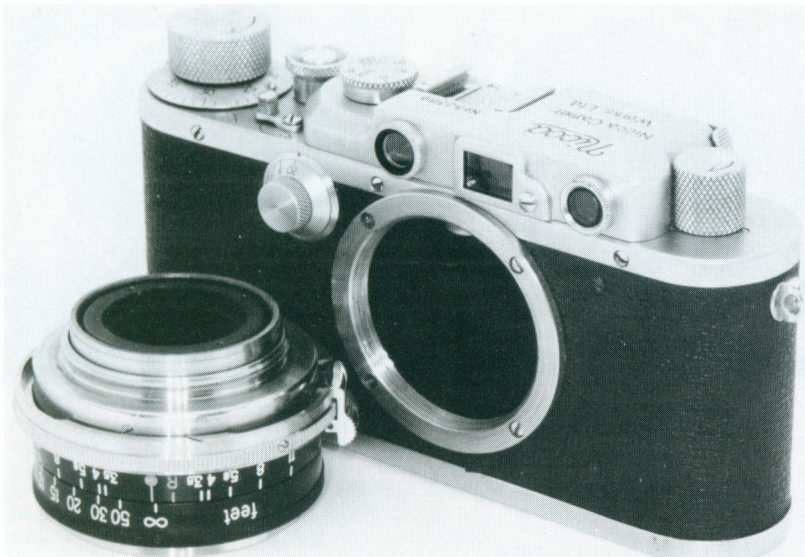
Every reference to the Orion coupler I have seen has quoted the figure of 200 being produced. This includes at least one Japanese article, but I have not been able to determine if the total of Contax and Nikon versions was 200, or if 200 of each type were made. Whichever the case, after nearly 45 years this small accessory is extremely hard to come by in any version, and well worth the search finding one would require!

(I would like to thank NHS member Tom Surovec for his input. As founder and guiding light of the Miranda Historical Society, Tom proved invaluable as a source for this article. I was able to learn much of what you read here from his article in his Miranda Journal about the early accomplishments of Mr. Akira Ogihara, one of the most influential photographic minds in post-war Japan.)



Above are front and rear views of the Orion lens coupler. Note the legend "Nikon Lens". Those for Contax are supposedly marked as such. In the rear view can be seen the Leica-type screw mount (outer threads) and those on the coupling cam. It is this set of threads that had to be perfectly designed to allow accurate focus on a screw mount body. Right-The coupler compared with a genuine Nikon S lens mount. Below-The coupler mounted on an early Nicca body. R.Rotoloni

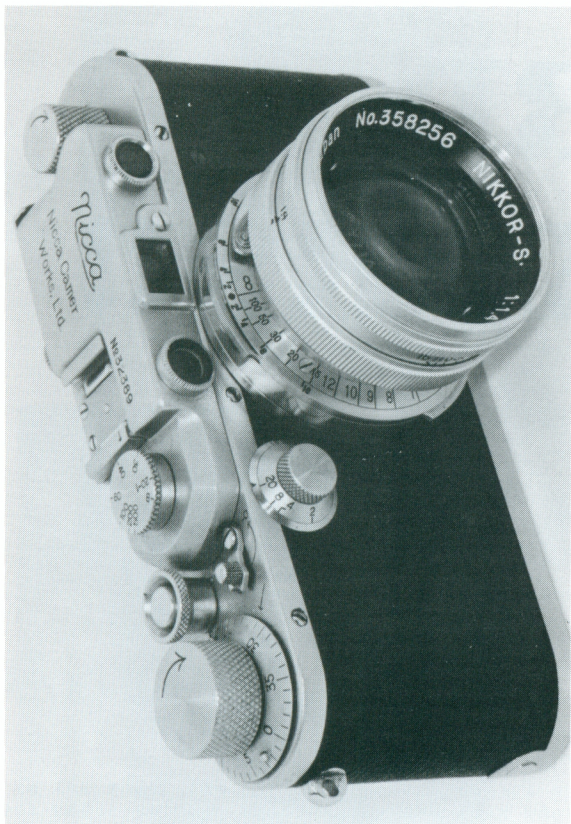




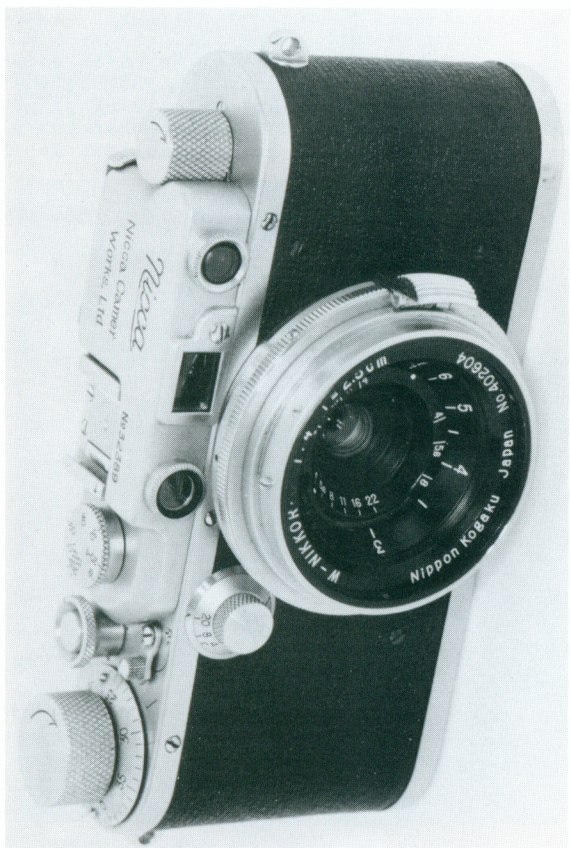
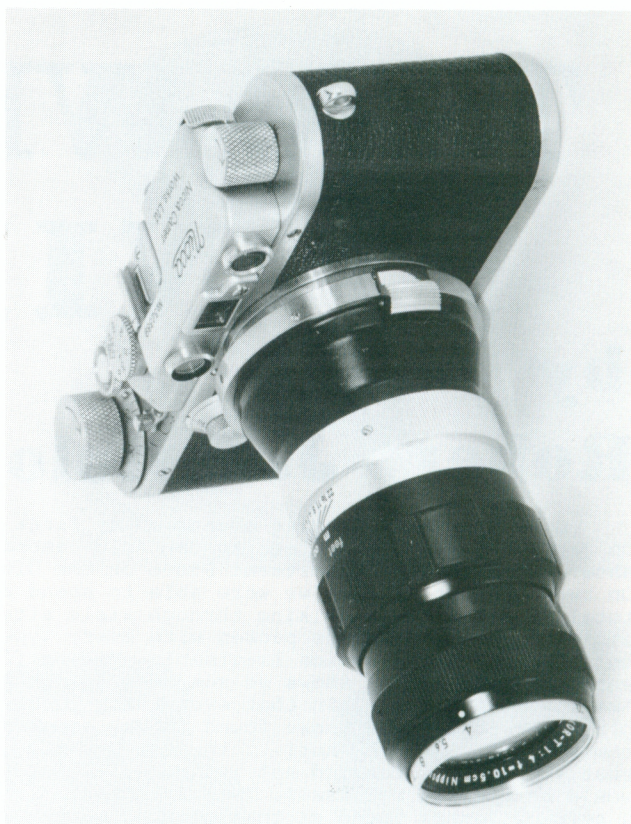
Using a late black 35mm/f3.5 Nikkor lens to illustrate mounting the coupler. This can be done in one of two ways. The upper two photos show the coupler being mounted to the lens. Using this method the lens is attached to the coupler in exactly the same way one would mount a lens to a Nikon body. The same procedure is followed including setting the lens to infinity and lining up the two red dots. Then a quarter turn and it clicks on. The entire assembly can then be screwed into your Leica-type body and it will focus and track perfectly! An alternate method is to screw the adapter onto the body first, then bayonet the lens as you would to any Nikon body.

R. Rotoloni





made in screw mount, but you could still put one on your screw mount body if you had the coupler! Upper left-even the difficult to mount 25mm Nikkor works perfectly! Lower left-how about an early 85mm/f2.0 Nikkor made for the Nikon I on your Nicca body! Other possibilities: 21mm, Micro or a 50mm/f1.1!!!



As mentioned in the text, the Orion coupler works with both internal and external bayonet mount Nikkors. The results can be quite interesting as the coupler can make possible heretofore impossible combinations. Upper right-an Aluminum mount f1.4 Nikkor!...Lower right-the 105/f4 Nikkor was never



TWO WEIRD NIKKORS!!

by
Robert J. Rotoloni

One of the outstanding events on my first trip to Japan in 1987, was attending the "old camera" show at the Matsuya Department Store on the Ginza. On two consecutive days we were able to spend a total of eight hours walking through aisle after aisle of glass showcases packed with every type of collectible photographica imaginable. Very different from the type of shows we see here in North America or in Europe, in that everything is displayed in cases like those found in any commercial camera store. And why not?...the sellers are just that...camera stores and not individuals. But that would be a story by itself. This article deals with a pair of lenses found at that show by member John Angle (old Eagle-eye himself).

John spotted a pair of Nikkors languishing in one of those glass cases the likes of which we had never seen before. The pair consisted of an 85/f2 and a 135/f3.5 Nikkor, both in a very weird mount!

Our immediate response was one of disbelief, since the rear half of the barrels (especially that on the 135mm Nikkor) appeared to be manufactured from a different metal. However, the knurling was very Nikon-like as were the numbers on the distance scale. But the metal was obviously different in color, sheen and weight. So what did we have?

Amongst the many Japanese collectors we met on the first trip was Mikio Awano from Osaka. He is both the editor/publisher of Camera Collector's News (known affectionately as C.C.N) and co-author, with Koichi Sugiyama, of the landmark book, "The Collector's Guide to Japanese Cameras". Mr. Awano had knowledge of these lenses and told us that they were in a Mitchell movie mount and that his information suggested that as few as 10 sets (85mm and 135mm) were produced. As to our question...."did Nippon Kogaku make them?" he could not be sure.

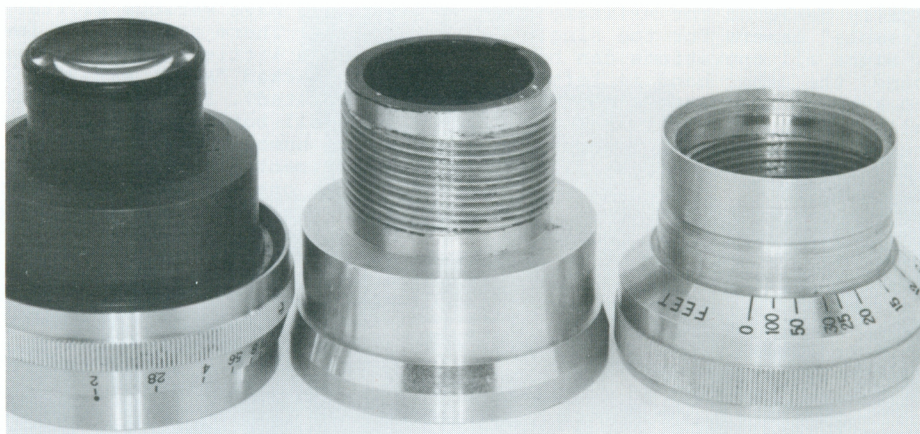
The accompanying photos pretty well illustrate what this pair looks like. I eventually purchased the set from John and had time to photograph them in detail. I have disassembled the 85mm showing that the rear mount is actually a two-piece item.

I really have no knowledge of movie mounts, if that is what we have here, nor do I know for sure who really made these. Nikkor optics have been adapted for many uses by many people over the years, including governments & large corporations. So it is quite possible it was done outside of the factory. On the other hand, Nippon Kogaku has been known to adapt their glass to various mounts on special order, especially during the early years. As to who actually modified these 2 lenses, and how many were really made, is not known at this time. Right now they are just two more "weird and wild" items for us to search for.





It is the mount that sets these two lenses apart! Above-close-ups of the 85mm. Do you know what mount this is? Right-optical part of lens (entirely a product of Nippon Kogaku) separated from the rear focusing mount (they simply screw apart). The entire rear mount does not appear to be a Nikon product. Below-the rear mount is actually two parts which screw together using the very long thread visible here. Action is smooth but not up to Nikon standards. The metal used for these two parts is probably an aluminum alloy which contrasts markedly with the heavy massive construction of the front optical section made by Nikon. R. Rotoloni



THE

F

--SPOT!!

First Seen _____ 250 SHOT**U.S. NAVY KS-80a****by PETER LOWNDS**

As far back as the mid 1960s, the original "Cooper and Abbott" book (The Nikon F-Nikkormat Handbook of Photography) touched on a rather unique adaptation of the Nikon F. The last 2 pages of chapter 11 featured an item called "the Nikon KS-80a". I quote...."An interesting adaptation of the Nikon F camera is the hand-held aerial camera model KS-80a. Exposures can be made one at a time or in rapid succession at a rate of 4 frames per second. Control circuits are energized by a two-position trigger switch located on the pistol grip handle. When the trigger is depressed half-way, the shutter is released and the film automatically advances to the next frame. Sequential photographs are taken by depressing the trigger all the way to the handle, causing continuous shutter release and film advance. The camera is equipped with a Zoom-Nikkor 43-86mm f/3.5 lens. Standard 35mm cartridges of 20 or 36 exposures are used in the Nikon F camera body around which the equipment was designed. A miniature battery charger is included, which can be left in charging mode at all times for camera readiness, inasmuch as the battery cannot be overcharged..... The camera was originally designed for military use as an air-to-air "scramble" camera for the single place fighter pilot. Since all operations can be performed with one hand, the other hand is left free for the pilot to keep on the plane's controls. The camera accepts all standard Nikkor lenses and Photomic T light meters. The KS-80a can be operated for a minimum of 65,000 mean cycles before failure prior to requiring inspection."

Thus is the complete description of the KS-80a found in official Ehrenreich literature. Complete and to the point. (I have reproduced the photo from page 11-32 of the Cooper/Abbott book)

Over the years a fair number of these cameras have surfaced, usually coming to market as government surplus. I have owned some including one complete outfit with battery pack and charger. The cameras are usually engraved "US NAVY" on the rear by the wind lever and the motors on the bottom plate. They generally show up in anywhere from mint to "abused" condition, with most having nonworking motors (usually due to electrical problems). So the KS-80a cannot be characterized as a rare camera at all, at least not yet. However, what we have here

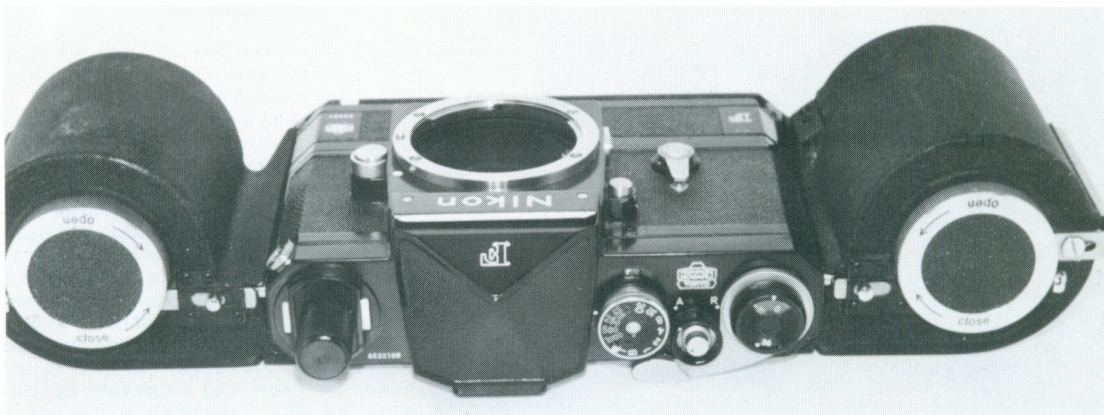
in the Journal can be called rare, or at least damned unusual! Not mentioned in Cooper/Abbott, or even alluded to, it is the only example of a 250 shot version of the KS-80a known to me! And even though the longer film length makes sense, it is probable that it was never commercially produced. Our best evidence is this unit itself, illustrated here for the first time anywhere that I am aware!

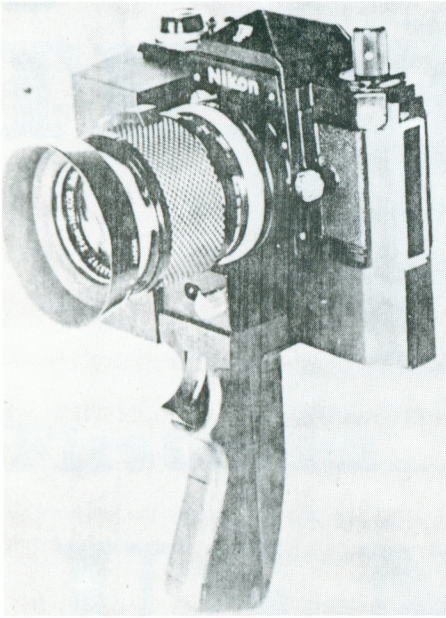
This example has many of the features of the standard 36 exposure KS-80a. This includes... the same inch high oversized rewind knob; same motor under-carriage save for the added 250 back; same battery pack; same pistol grip and rectangular housing just above the trigger; same plug outlet & locking screw on this housing; same method of cord routing from motor to grip and pack; same mode of operation. What is different about this piece, besides the obvious, is that the body is not marked "US NAVY" (I could not disassemble it to see if the motor base is so marked, but I doubt it is), and the nomenclature on the back. The control panel of the KS-80a is found with various types of engraving and wording. Most, but not all are serial numbered, and some have various military contract and lot numbers. There are quite a few varieties. But this one is a little different. First of all, note that it is marked "MODEL MFA-250" (with the "A" slightly obliterated). Secondly, and this might not reproduce well but believe me it is there, it has the serial number "EXP 005"!! What does it mean? Simply "experimental #5"!! From our current information, this is one of "10" F250 exposure KS-80a cameras that were submitted by Ehrenreich Photo-Optical Industries of California (EPOI of CA modified all the KS-80a cameras. They were done here and not at the factory.) to the Navy for consideration. It appears that the Navy chose to buy only the 36 exp type and turned down the Model MFA-250!

Where the other 9 units are is not known at this time. They may surface someday or they may have been dismantled by EPOI after they were rejected. Possibly they were converted into 36 exp KS-80a bodies and the bulk backs were discarded. Whatever the case, we now know that a 250 exposure KS-80a "scramble" camera was contemplated, and at least one example was produced and still exists to this day.

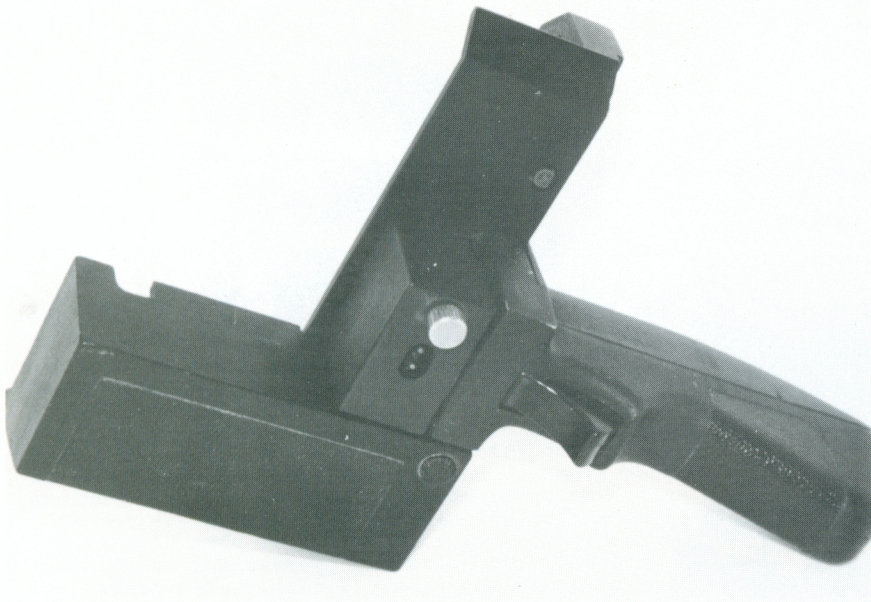
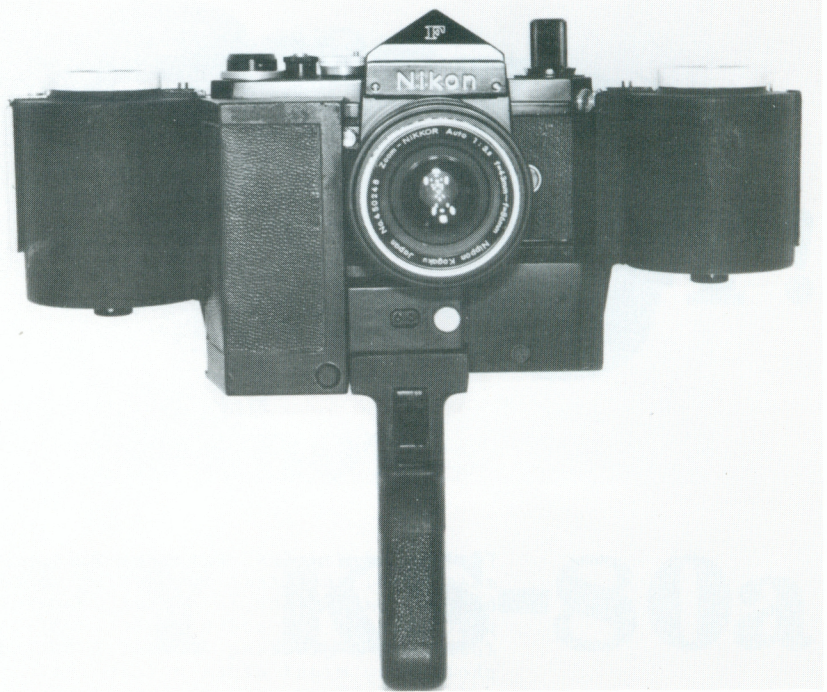


The Aerial Model KS-80A (MFA-250) partially assembled. Note that the bottom photo includes the battery pack which is actually mounted to the pistol grip, but not visible in this photo. If one took only a fleeting look at the camera in the top photo they might never notice that it is something different. Keep your eyes open for the tell-tale enlarged rewind knob! Photos by R. Rotoloni

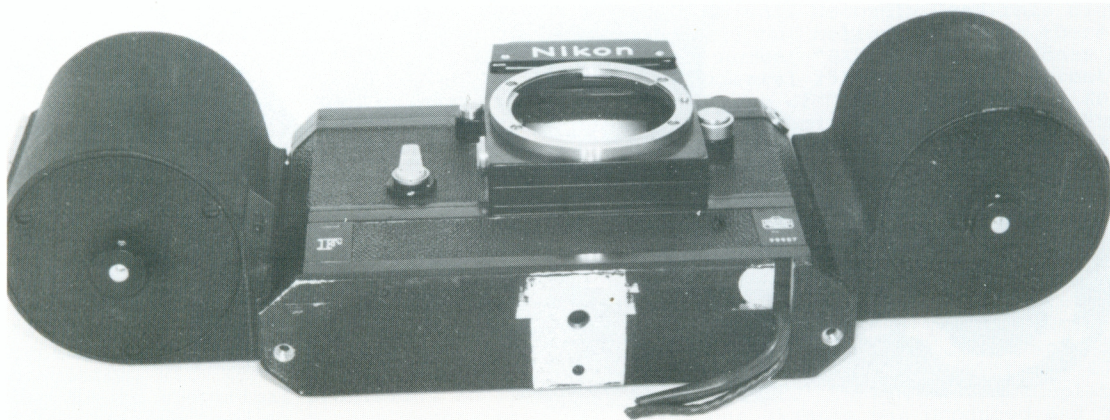


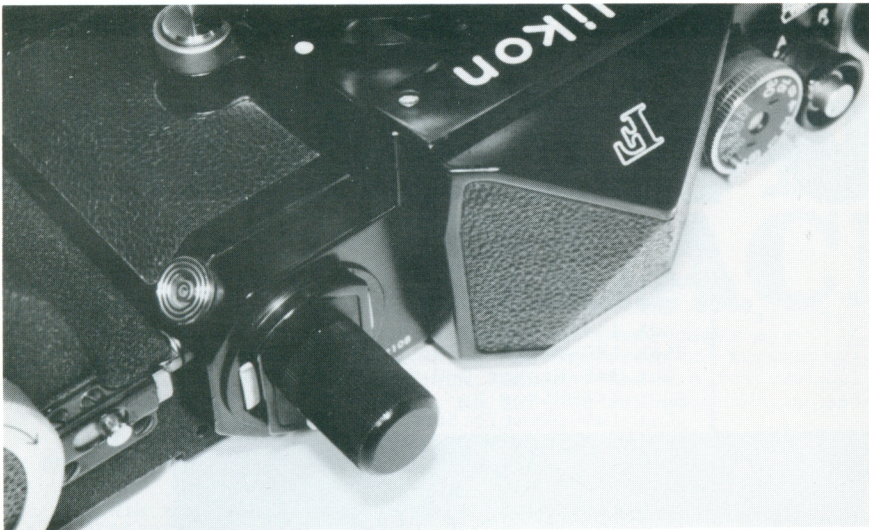


Aerial Model KS-80A camera.



Above left-the illustration of the KS-80A found in the Cooper/Abbott books. Compare it with our F250 version. Note the pistol grip, battery pack and rewind knob! Even the rectangular housing just above the trigger has the identical locking knob & small port with 2 electrical pin contacts. Left-the pistol grip/battery pack assembly removed from the camera. Below-the underside of the assembly with the pistol grip removed. The 2 wires originally went to the battery pack and trigger.

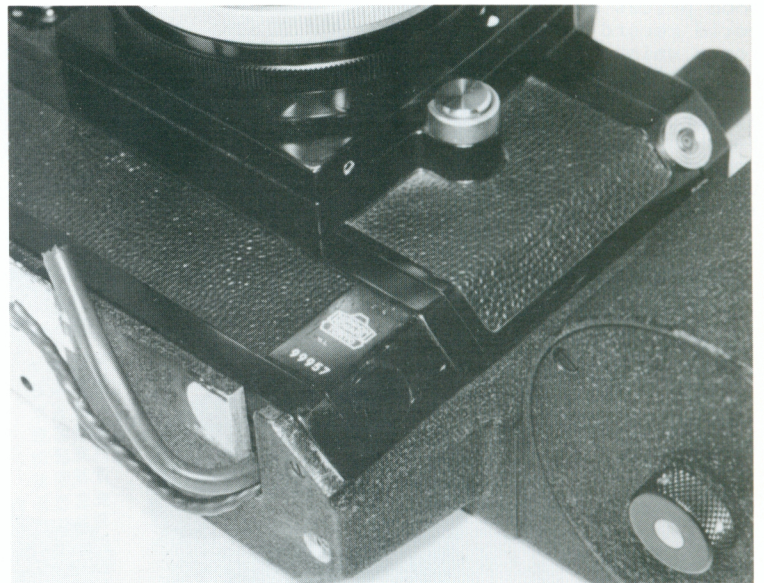




ANOTHER "NHS" EXCLUSIVE!

All Photos by Robert J. Rotoloni

Above-the unique inch high rewind knob found on most of the US Navy Nikon Fs. Most other controls were unchanged from the production type. Of course a rewind knob doesn't make any sense on this F250 version, but did for the standard 36 exposure KS-80A. Right-the power socket on the motor has been blanked out as it is unnecessary, since electrical contact was made with the 2 severed wires. Note the serial number...99957...a relatively early version of the Nikon F motor which dates to about 1961-63. Below-the control panel with blanked out speed selector on the left. Note the Model is MFA-250! The serial number (not readable in this photo (sorry!)) reads EXP 005! Photos by R.Rotoloni



CHRISTIE AUCTION FEATURES

STEREO-NIKKOR!

On November 25th Christie's held another major photographic auction in which the Nikon rangefinder system was well represented. Amongst the many items were an Olympic 50/f1.4, an as-new black Olympic S3 with original box, and a complete Stereo-Nikkor outfit including the viewer. Following is a letter from Michael Pritchard, photographic specialist for Christie's, to the Society with information on the hammer prices realized, as well as a special offer to the membership. Please read on.

Dear Robert,

The sale as a whole was strong with some very good prices being achieved across all areas. A new world record auction price was set at 39,600 pounds for a unique Adams & Co camera made for the Sultan of Morocco in 1901.

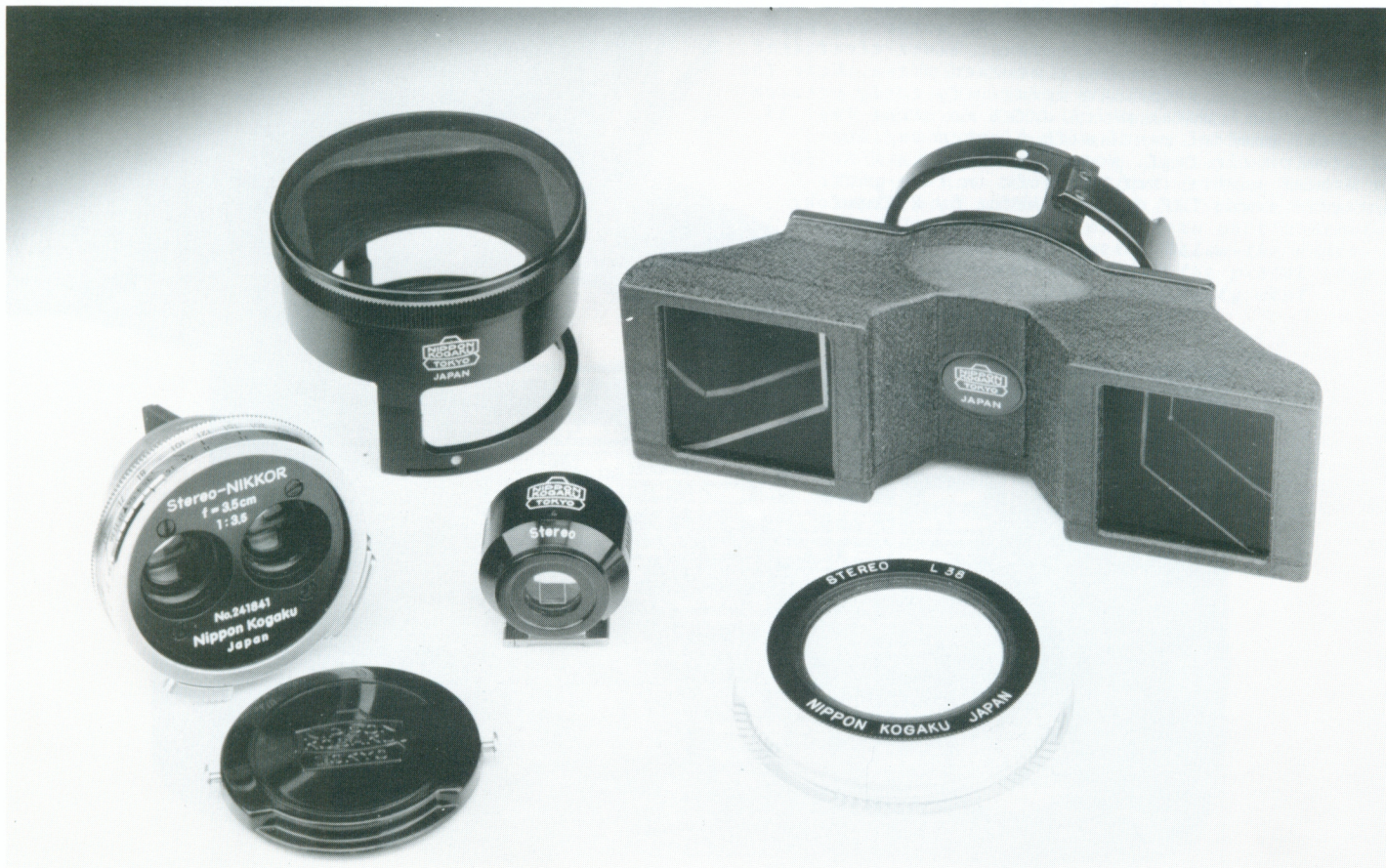
The Nikon prices seemed strong with the only disappointment being the Stereo-Nikkor set which reached 28,000 pounds but was not quite high enough to reach the vendor's reserve price. Despite this the price shows that there is a great deal of interest in the Nikon collectables market.

The other results are:

Lot 142-Nikon F	264 pounds
Lot 143-15mm/f5.6 Nikkor lens	440 "
Lot 144-Nikon MD-12 motor drive	88 "
Lot 145-Nikko Orion 6x24mm binoculars	220 "
Lot 146-Nikkor Q-C 5cm/f3.5 lens	2200 "
Lot 148-Nikon S	550 "
Lot 149-Olympic 50mm/f1.4 Nikkor lens	1760 "
Lot 150-Black S3 w/Olympic in box	8800 "
Lot 151-Stereo-Nikkor (not sold)	28,000 "

The January 13 auction includes a Nikon I camera #609415 with 5cm/f3.5 Nikkor #7051879 in case, plus other Nikon collectables. If any NHS member wants a catalog "FREE OF CHARGE" (as a special service to members) they can contact me by phone at 071-321-3279 or fax at 071-321-3321.

 Since Christie's catalogs are collectables themselves it would be to your advantage to take Mr. Pritchard up on his offer. To convert the prices to dollars multiply by 1.5 for an approximate figure. Just look what that does to the S3 price! Although the Stereo-Nikkor did not reach the reserve price, it still attained a level of over \$42,000!!! RJR.



& NIKON S3 BLACK

The photographs on these pages are originals from the catalog and are credited to Christie's South Kensington, London, and are for use only in the NHS Journal. No further reproduction is allowed!



N-K OPTICAL ORDNANCE

PART III

by **Richard Lane**

Here are photos of yet another large pair of Nikon wartime binoculars. They are NIKKO 18.8 power with objectives of 150mm, field of view 3 degrees. The relatively low power did not at first make any sense to me with such large objectives. And why such an odd power of 18.8? I remembered that 7mm exit pupils were ideal for night use binoculars and these were almost 8mm. As it turns out, the maximum pupil diameter for the human eye is a function of age. For people between 20 & 30 the maximum (dark adapted) is 8mm. Then the obvious occurred to me. These huge binoculars are "night glasses"!

Characteristics are as follows....

a) They weigh almost 64 pounds (98 with the box!). The body is cast alloy and the trunnions and mounts are brass. The front hoods are 6.5 inches across. Overall width is 17 inches, length 27 inches. The serial number is 399. Could they have made 400!?:

b) The front objectives are comprised of 3 air spaced elements. I have never seen glasses with this configuration before! My 20x120s have single elements only. The 3 element design could indicate an apochromatic which is only used in the very best refractor telescopes!

c) There is an appendage through which a light can be shone, illuminating the cross-hairs...probably for night use.

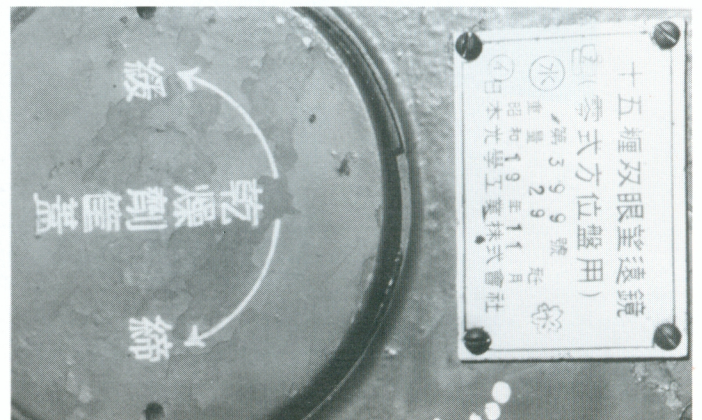
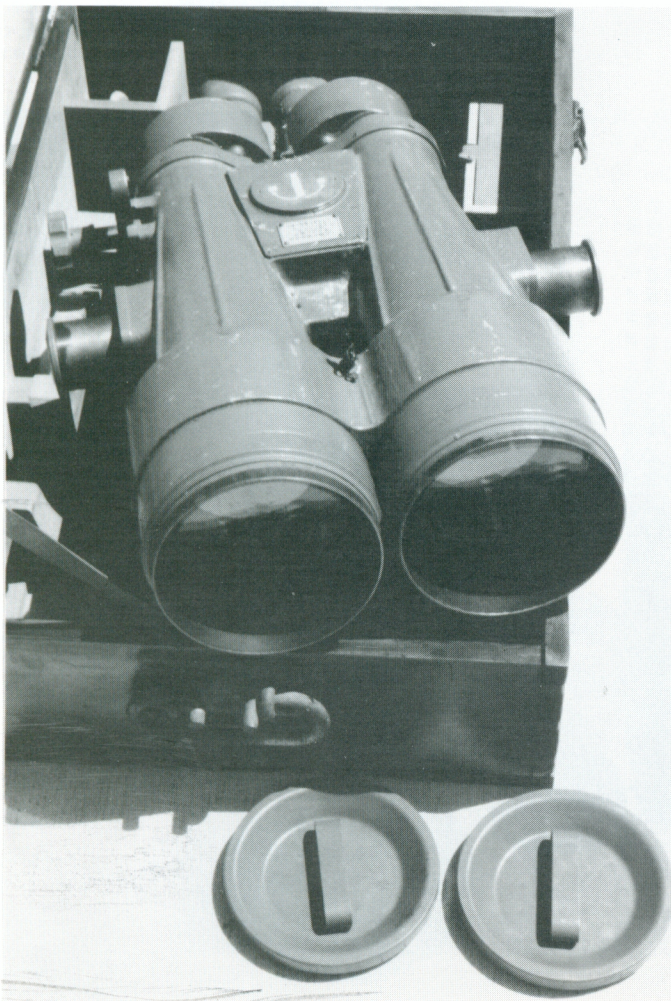
d) The 2 small sights on top have screw on caps with chains. With caps removed a yellowish mark can be seen (only a few millimeters). These marks glow in the dark provided you shine a light on them first. They still work after all these years! So even in pitch dark you can sight your target before you even look through the glasses!

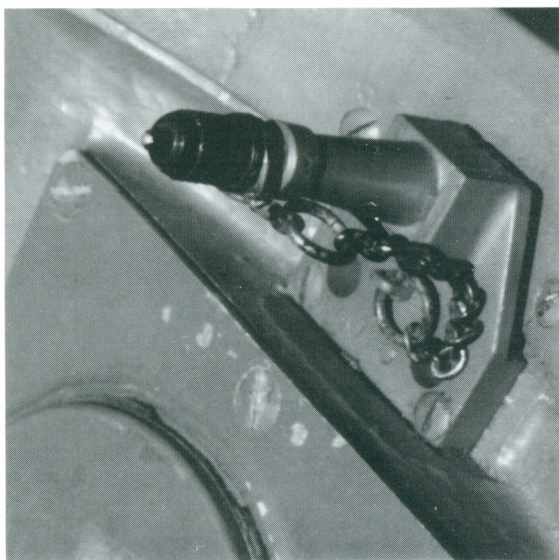
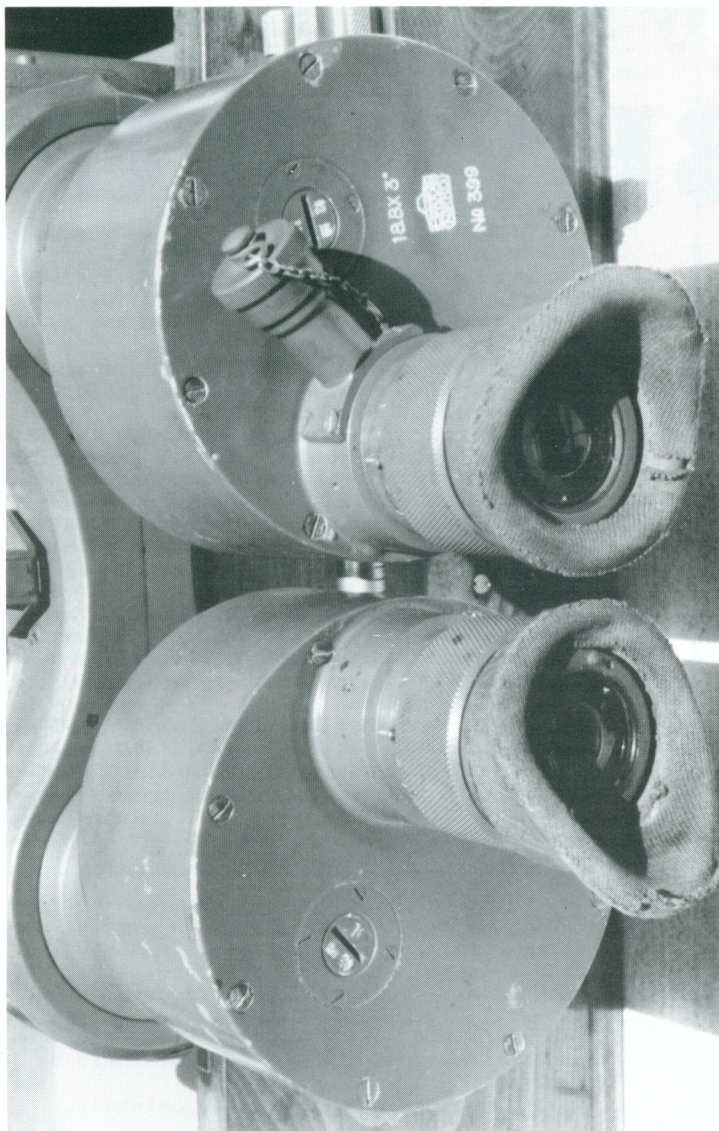
e) The disk shaped cap on top unscrews with the spanner wrench provided. Within are 6 black bags of silica gel.

f) The box contains some interesting accessories:

1. Eleven light bulbs with small anchors painted on them & 22 volts.
2. A small box containing 4 filters.
3. Two extra eyecups.
4. A spanner wrench.
5. A wrench (probably for the mount as there are no bolts on the binoculars).
6. Two lens caps for the front objectives.
7. A black ruler with Japanese characters. The ruler is interesting as it is not in inches or meters??

My best guess is that these are Navy Night Glasses. This would make sense considering that the Japanese Navy were expert in night battles. From the book "A Battle History of the Imperial Japanese Navy" can be found.... "Battle records do show the work of Japanese lookouts was phenomenal. They could often spot American ships before US Navy radar could detect Japanese ships. In addition, Japanese optical equipment was of a superior quality."...No doubt a lot of that optical gear was made by Nippon Kogaku!





Above & below-the sight mentioned in the text that would glow in the dark for night sighting! Right-the two business ends of this massive set of glasses! Note the NIKKO logo and the serial No. 399. A 50mm/f1.4 Nikkor is shown for size comparison!



by **PETER LOWNDS****BUYER BEWARE!!**

"LET THE BUYER BEWARE"... That is what it says in Jim McKeown's price guide, and after what happened to me a few weeks ago, it can be said to be very true. I got out of bed and, behold, a toilet roll was hanging from my Fax. Amongst the messages was a list from a fellow in Charlotte, N.C. who had put together a most cunning plan to cheat me, and many more collectors, out of our hard to come by cash. He had faxed me a list of the most cherry items, the things dreams are made of, the list everyone hopes to get once in a lifetime. This was to be my list to end all lists, with such items as an S3M with motor (\$12,000), Stereo-Nikkor (\$8,000), and a Nikon I (\$12,000). At first I thought it was a joke and I go to work thinking about the list, and I decide to reply. What could I lose (in hindsight, the shirt off my back!). It has happened many times before...some unknown sends you a list of items for sale, and in good faith you make the telephone call, send a reply letter and money changes hands. Hopefully both parties come away richer from the deal. But that's where dreamland ends! Because this fax was going to cost me \$1000, about \$300 on phone calls plus \$200 to cancel a plane ticket! A Mr. William Keene of Charlotte, N.C. was to give me 3 sleepless nights. He wanted to rob me, and many others. How many we do not know. I made that call from work to the number on the fax...got only an answering service....and left a message saying that I wanted to buy most of his list. Twenty four hours go by with no reply. Three faxes and 4 phone calls later I get Mr. Keene on the phone. The conversation went something like this.....

W.K.-Can I speak to Mr. Lownds?

P.L.-Good morning, speaking.

W.K.-You have received my Fax?

P.L.-Do you still have the items for sale?

W.K.-Yes I do! You were the first person that I sent the fax to. Sorry it took so long to get back to you, but I've been working.

P.L.-What is the condition of the Nikon items?

W.K.-Well sir these items belong to my father. He has had this thing about collecting cameras for about 30 years. I got your name from the back of a collector's guide. He has such a large collection that has been his life for over 30 odd years. He has so many and now that he has asked me to help him part with some of his collection. He spent some time in Holland during the war and always had a soft spot for the land.

P.L.-Do you still have any of the original boxes?

W.K.-Somewhere, but you will have to give me some time because my father has so much.

P.L.-What would be your best price for all of the Nikon items?

W.K.-Well, I'll take 7% off my father's price.

P.L.-Done! (He had me on the line like a fish and only had to reel me in. Greed thinking about how much money I was going to make! I could see the darker side.)

W.K.-Do you want all the Nikon items?

P.L.-Yes! Please place my name on all 6 items. I will try to fly out Monday.

W.K.-Monday..just let me check. I think that I will be working all next week. Saturday would be better for me. How do I know you are OK for

the money? Would it be possible for you to

send me a deposit to show good faith? Would you like me to book a hotel for you? I live close to the airport, you will be coming in late. I could come to the hotel Saturday AM.

P.L.-Do you have more cameras for sale?

W.K.-Yes. If you like we could take a ride to where my father keeps his collection. He has lots more for sale. You can make an offer, should you find things you like. He has so much junk.

P.L.-Will your father be there Saturday so we can finish the deal? (I was sold on the scam!)

W.K.-I hope so, but he is very old and does not hear well. But I'll do my best. Please let me know what time you are arriving. I may be able to pick you up at the airport!!

P.L.-OK. Thanks again for calling. I'll send you a check for \$1000. You will have it tomorrow. I'll send it UPS, or FED EX, but you will have your money tomorrow. Let me know as soon as it arrives.

By this time I was wound up! I got on the phone to my good friend Al Brody to ask him if he would send a check to this man for \$1000 as fast as possible.

A.B.-What have you got?

P.L.-I can't talk but its a deal to end all deals!!

A.B.-Are you getting a Stereo??

P.L.-And more!!

A.B.-How much more can there be? You can tell me.

P.L.-Well an S3M with motor, a Nikon I, plus some rare lenses. But I don't want to say more, its like a dream, like I've won the lottery. Al keep this to yourself. If word gets out someone will be down there before me!

A.B.-You're OK kid. I'll send the \$1000 today by post office overnight. Should be there by 10AM tomorrow.

P.L.-I'll phone you next Friday or Saturday.

I move heaven and earth to get a flight out on Friday to Charlotte. I dig up every last cent that I can find. I don't hear anymore from Mr. Keene. On Tuesday afternoon I start to phone around to see if I can move a few items such as a Canon J and Nikkor 50/f4.5 and Leica A with an Elmax. I call David Lawrence, owner of Classic Collection in London. I leave a message that I have a Canon J and a Leica Elmax. David phones me back and asks me the serial number of the Elmax. I grab the Keene list and read off the Elmax number.....1128.....a long pause. Is there a Nikon S3M on the list? Another long pause.. yes. Do you have a list from a guy in the States by the name of Keene? Yes. David says he has bought the entire list. I say no you cant have because I have! I've sent the guy \$1000 Friday morning. But David says he has sent the guy \$5000!! Lights start flashing and bells start ringing! A long pause. This sounds like a scam and I think that we have been taken to the cleaners. David, I'm going to make a few calls, phone you back in 30 minutes. I get on the phone to Bob Rotoloni. Bob I need your help! Can you get me the phone number of the police in Charlotte, N.C.? I'm caught up in a big scam! Some S.O.B. has taken me and David Lawrence, plus maybe others, on a camera scam for a lot of money! I get on the phone to the police in Charlotte and spend an hour giving all the details to a Sargent David Graham. No Mr. Keene as yet!

MEMBER EVENTS

It seems that our membership contains its fair share of published authors. Recently I have become aware of an assortment of books and articles produced by an international selection of NHSers, and thought I would make their efforts known to the membership as a whole. Keep in mind that getting a book or article published is no easy task and even a self-published volume can be a difficult venture.

British member Jonathan Harris has contributed to a series called "The Great Cameras" featured in the weekly magazine "Amateur Photographer" in the U.K. Although many different makes are covered by Jon, Nikon has had its fair share of exposure. Each of Jon's articles is well written and illustrated and manages to get a great deal of information to the reader despite being limited to only 2 pages each issue! A weekly deadline?!? Gawd!!

Another member has embarked on a series of articles for a magazine. He is Jose Wu Chang from Hong Kong. Jose is in the midst of writing and illustrating a series of articles on the rare and unusual aspects of the Nikon reflex system from the F through the F3 for the monthly Chinese language magazine "Photog", published in Hong Kong. To date he has produced 4 installments with more to come. Jose has concentrated on the more esoteric members of the system, including some items that have appeared in the Journal, such as the high speed Fs (including the 250 shot version) and the Nikkor F.

Paul Comon is known for his recent book "Nikon Data" which was previously reviewed in these pages. Paul now has a new volume just out which is part of Hove Foto Books "Modern Classics Series", and deals with the Nikon F2 series from its beginning through the F2AS. This 5 x 7 paperback volume is handy and easy to carry and is designed as a user's guide to the F2 series. Paul covers at least 10 different

model configurations of the basic F2 as well as the finders, motors and countless accessories made for the F2 camera. In addition Paul devotes space to the Nikkors that were more or less concurrent with the F2 era, discussing the many innovative optics that were released during the 1970s when the F2 was the premier Nikon. If you are looking for a concise and handy reference guide to the Nikon F2 series that puts all types of useful information at your fingertips, then the "Complete User's Guide to the Nikon F2" will fit the bill perfectly.

From Australian member Alan Elliott comes something a little different. Not a camera or "hardware" book, but a beautiful collection of photographs produced by members of the Melbourne Camera Club over a period of 100 years! Titled, "A Century Exposed", it chronicles the photographic achievements of the club since its founding in 1891. Written and compiled by Alan, the book consists of 52 B&W and 32 color plates as well as a historical paper that details the beginnings of the Club and its development through the years. It is a large 9 x 12 hardbound volume with dust jacket and was printed in Australia.

I would like to congratulate all of our fellow members mentioned in this article. If others of you are involved in similar projects please let me know and I will try to make your efforts known to the entire Society.

Robert J. Rotoloni

THE LONDON CAMERA FAIR

Sunday 20 March 1994

Cophorne Tara Hotel, Kensington, London W8

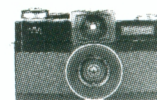
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The famous Nippon Kogaku Room where early Nikon items are on display is situated in a separate area of Grays of Westminster. It was opened on the 25th July 1992 as part of our celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of Nikon. The name Nikon comes from 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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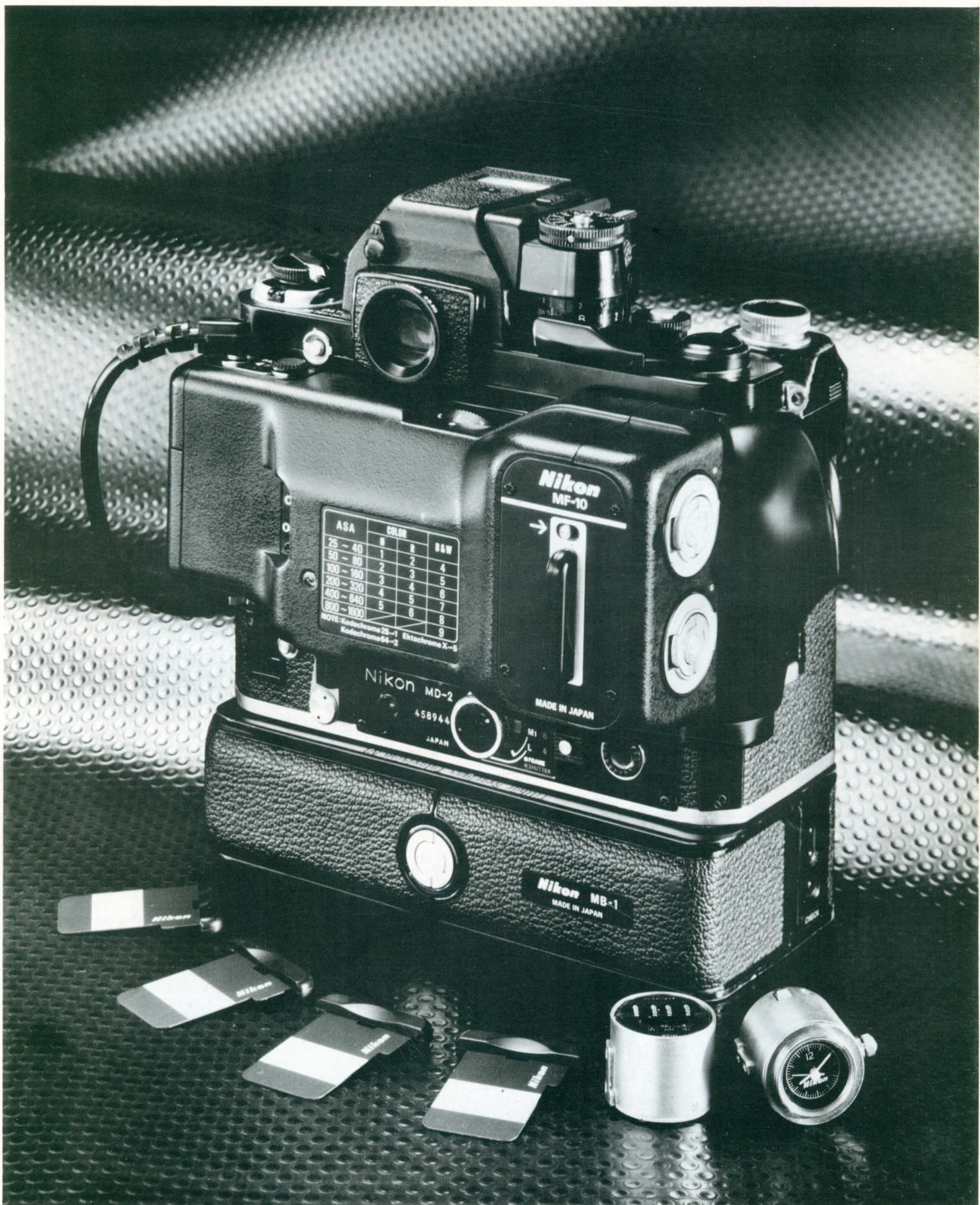
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A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEC. 31, 1993



NHS-42

The Nikon  JOURNAL



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THIS ISSUE..

- PG. 2--THE "ORION" LENS COUPLER.
- PG. 6--MITCHELL MOUNT NIKKORS?
- PG. 8--F-SPOT..THE U.S. NAVY F250!
- PG. 12-RARE NIKON ITEMS AT CHRISTIE'S!
- PG. 14-NIKON WWII OPTICAL ORDNANCE.



CONTENTS

PAGE ONE..... EDITORIAL.....BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
PAGE TWO..... THE RARE ORION LENS COUPLER. BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
PAGE SIX..... TWO NIKKORS IN A STRANGE MOUNT! BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

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PAGE EIGHT..... THE "F-SPOT"...THE U.S. NAVY F250 MOTOR BY PETER LOWNDS
PAGE TWELVE..... RARE NIKON ITEMS FEATURED AT CHRISTIE'S!!!
PAGE FOURTEEN..... NIKON WWII OPTICAL ORDNANCE...PART III BY RICHARD LANE
PAGE SIXTEEN..... "LET THE BUYER BEWARE!!"...A HORROR STORY! BY PETER LOWNDS
PAGE TWENTY..... CLASSIFIEDS...NEW MEMBERS & ADDRESSES
INSIDE REAR COVER. ODDS N' ENDS...THE BEST POSSIBLE NUMBER? BY PETER LOWNDS

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EDITORIAL

I again ran out of space in this issue and will need to reserve a few pieces for NHS-43. In addition I have much to cover on this page so I must be brief. However, I sincerely hope that this issue finds all of you in good health and I truly hope that each of you had a great holiday season, and all the best for 1994!

Christie's of London held another auction with some major Nikon items featured. On page 12-13 are original catalog photos of two of the most significant items: a black Olympic S3 with proper lens and box...and a Stereo-Nikkor outfit! Although the rare Stereo did not reach the reserve price, it still topped out at nearly \$40,000 plus! Unbelievable!

We have yet another installment of Rich Lane's fascinating collection of Nikon optical ordnance on page 14 featuring some massive "night" glasses! On page 16 is a short and sad story from Peter Lownds about what can happen out there in the real world! Please read it for your own protection!!

And now we must address the upcoming NHS-Con4, which is definitely scheduled for Saturday, March 5th, in Utrecht Holland! Peter Lownds and Jaap Kortten have done the work necessary to set up such a meeting, and it appears that this will be our biggest Convention yet! Peter tells me that he has at least 40 confirmed European attendees and I have at least another 6 from this Continent who say they are going! So this will be the largest group of NHS members to assemble in one place to date! It will mark my first trip ever to Europe, so for me it is a double-fantasy come true. I am looking forward to meeting many European members who I have either talked to, or exchanged countless letters with, over the years! Most of the major collectors in Europe will be there as well as some of the major American and Canadian contributors to the Journal. It should be a great deal of fun and informative as well, since Peter has lined up quite a few speakers for Saturday.

As I write this editorial (Dec. 21st) I have the following information. However, if all goes according to plan, you will find inserted in this issue a Newsletter from Peter containing all the information you need to make the trip. If not, those of you who respond, or have already responded to either Peter or myself, will receive a mailing as soon as possible. Available information is as follows....

Our Convention will be from 9AM to 5PM on Saturday March 5th at the IBIS Hotel in Utrecht, which is less than an hour from the Amsterdam airport, where you will land. There will be a get together on Friday evening in a hospitality suite as we have always done in the past. Saturday evening will take care of itself as usual, and Sunday you will have the opportunity to attend the annual 350 table camera show in Utrecht to top your weekend off! Peter's newsletter will have travel tips, a map, customs and hotel information and telephone numbers. So we have activities planned that should fill a 3 day weekend quite well. You get to visit one of the best countries in Europe (and one of the easiest as English is well understood), enjoy a weekend with fellow members, and see what a large European show is really like. Distances are not large so you can get around quite well and even go into Germany, France or Belgium if you want to! So those of you who feel you want to make the trip, please contact Peter or myself as soon as possible for further info. See this page in NHS-41 for our addresses and other details.

See you there!!!!!!!!!!!!

In Memoriam

It is with sincere regret that I must inform you that charter member Robert Harris passed away on October 21st. A long time collector, Bob was one of the very first to answer my original letter regarding a Society. You will note that his name is third on our list! I met Bob at NHS-Con2 here in Chicago. Though in his late 70s' (Bob would have been 81 next month!), he made the trip to spend a weekend with fellow members. I remember him telling me how much he enjoyed those 3 days, and all of us present were grateful to make his acquaintance. I have talked to him many times by phone over the years and one thing I noticed was that collecting made him happy, and also kept him young. We have lost one of the real "gentlemen" of the collecting world and he will be missed!

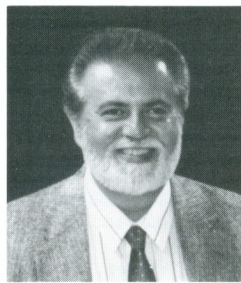
You will notice both an ad and insert for the London Camera Fair in this issue. For those of you in Europe (or if you plan to be there in March), this could be one of the highlights of your trip. Peter Walnes has gracefully offered me a table to promote the Society, but unfortunately I cannot make the trip myself. Being only 2 weeks after our own NHS-Con4 in Holland, I cannot find the time for a return trip. However, if you are planning on attending the Convention and can stay another two weeks, this sounds like a really fine way to complete your vacation! Keep it in mind!

On page 18 is an ad for PHOTO Deal by member Rudolf Hillebrand. It is really a fine magazine and worth your attention, and he has also promised to include coverage of NHS-Con4 in a succeeding issue! You may recognize his name as the author of "Nikon Compendium" as well as his "Infrared-Photography on a Different Wavelength", just released. Rudi has informed me that Society members can place a FREE classified ad in Photo Deal, as he wishes to contribute to making photography and collecting an international hobby. A fine magazine and a fine offer!

Just a quick survey of what this issue holds before we get into the Convention (which we must cover in detail as this is the last Journal before our meeting). NHS-42 turned into a collection of unusual bits n' pieces with six articles instead of the usual four. Starting off on page 2 is an item I was not able to fit into NHS-41 on the quite rare "Orion" Nikon BM-to-Leica SM adapter. Made just after the war by the man who eventually started the Miranda Camera Co., this work of art (and it truly is an impressive piece) may only have been made in a run of 200 pieces possibly as late as 1948! Not often seen today, demand far exceeds supply, making it a very interesting item.

Another "weird" item is a pair of lenses seen on page 6-7. Purchased in Tokyo in 1987, I have finally gotten around to covering them in the Journal. They are an 85 and a 135 Nikkor in a very strange mount. Check them out.

Our F-Spot feature item this time around is one of possibly 10 prototype 250 shot KS-80A air-to-air cameras produced by EPOI for the US Navy. The 36 shot version is well known and is illustrated in the Cooper/Abbott books. However, this 250 version, Experimental #005, marks the first time I have ever seen one covered in any literature anywhere and is yet another "first" for the Nikon Journal!



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THE 'ORION LENS COUPLER'

by

Robert J. Rotoloni

It is not often that we address an item in this Journal that is not a product of Nippon Kogaku. However, every once in awhile a piece that is designed to work with the Nikon system, yet is made by some other manufacturer, comes along that warrants our attention. Such is the case with the unique & rare accessory for the Nikon rangefinder system featured in this article. To say it is rare may be an understatement, as evidence suggests that only 200 units were made, possibly as far back as 1948. Unique is not a misnomer in this case, as I am not aware of another version with all the features of this item.

It is an adapter whose design allows any Nikkor in rangefinder bayonet mount to be mated to any body with a standard 39MM Leica screw mount. This in itself is not unique in that other such adapters do exist, but this version accomplishes this while maintaining...."complete and accurate rangefinder coupling throughout the entire focusing range"....! Imagine being able to mount any Nikkor made for your Nikon SP on a Canon, Leica or Nicca body (or the countless variations on the theme), and to have it usable from infinity down to 3 feet! Although the various screw mount systems had comprehensive lens stables, there are certain Nikkors that are unique in one way or another, and would certainly be of interest to screw mount users.

The adapter in question was one designed by Mr. Akira Ogihara who founded, in 1946, the Orion Seiki Company, Ltd., in Tokyo to produce various photographic accessories and to repair and service professional equipment. Thus his adapter is now known as the "Orion lens coupler", though it appears that none have been found so marked. As a matter of fact, Mr. Ogihara's masterpiece lacks any markings as to origin, including that of Miranda, which is what his company eventually became known as worldwide!

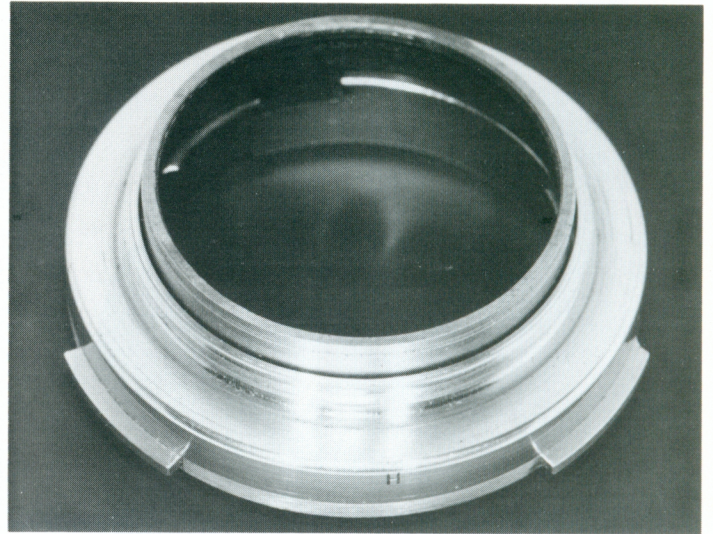
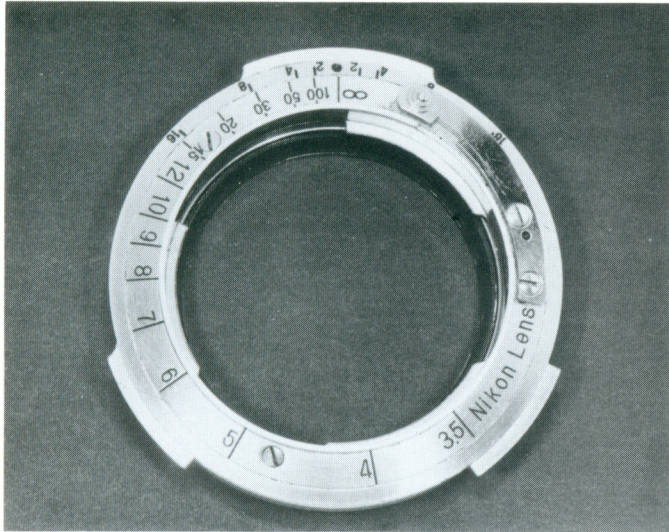
Sometime in 1948 Orion released their coupler to allow local photographers to use Zeiss lenses on Leica bodies, or one of the many Japanese Leica copies that were beginning to come to market. But what about the Nikkors for the then new Nikon I with their Contax compatible mount? Mr. Ogihara, being the superb engineer he was, first designed his coupler to work with the Zeiss lenses but later released a revised version that would mount the new Nikkors and correct for the very slight difference in rangefinder tracking used by the two companies!

Thus today there exists two versions of the Orion lens coupler. One is engraved "Contax Lens" and the other "Nikon Lens" (pictured here). To the naked eye they appear to be identical. However, the basic design called for a Contax mount attached to a helicoid tube inside a Leica thread. As the Contax lenses rotated from infinity to 1 meter, the helicoid would move into the camera body and make contact with the Leica rangefinder cam. The design was complex and the machining and pitch of the threads was very precise. Actually so precise were the threads that they were recomputed to work with the Nikkors and correct for the very slight difference between them and the Zeiss lenses! To say the least, this was no easy accomplishment in early post-war Japan where precision tools of all types were hardly existent.

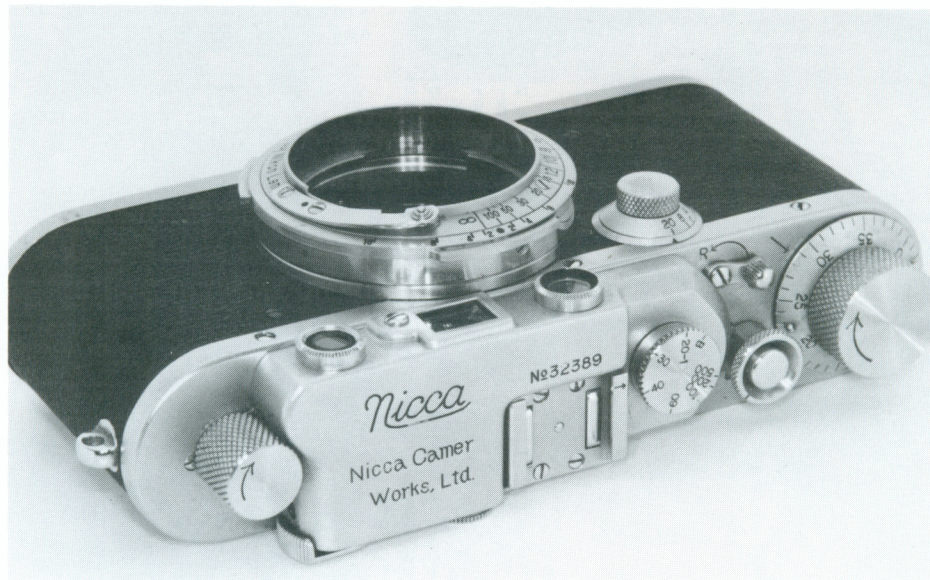
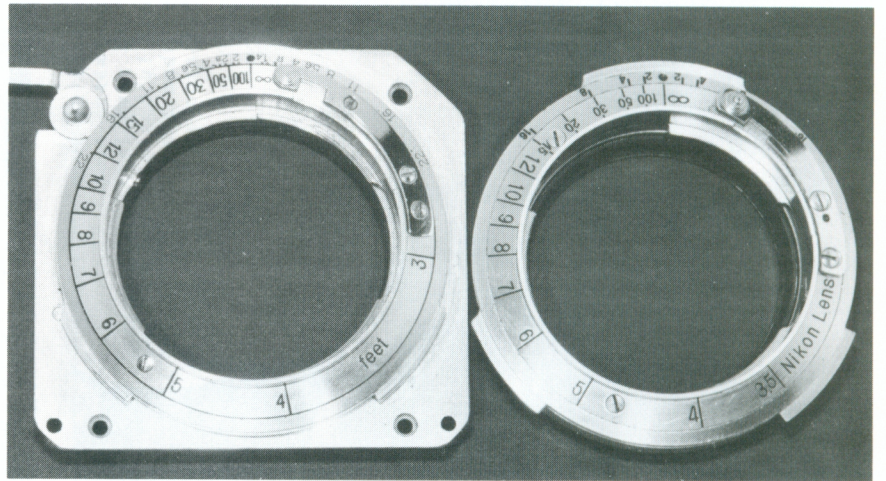
But Mr. Ogihara was able to successfully mate two incompatible lens systems to perfection. And not only the internal mounting normal lenses, as some competitors did, but also the external mounting wides and telephotos! I was curious to see just how well the Orion coupler really worked so I set up a shooting session with my example, an early Nicca body, and some of my rangefinder Nikkors. The results were consistent and superb, with all lens/body combinations focusing accurately and to the same preset distance repeatedly. I used many combinations, some of which are pictured here, such as....50/f1.4 Aluminum Nikkor; 28/f3.5; 25/f4.0; 85/f2.0 and 105/f4.0. Four of the five lenses use the outer bayonet, including the 25mm, which is a very difficult lens to couple. All worked perfectly! Mounting was precise and tight, coupling was flawless, and the focusing was smooth with no binding or tightness.

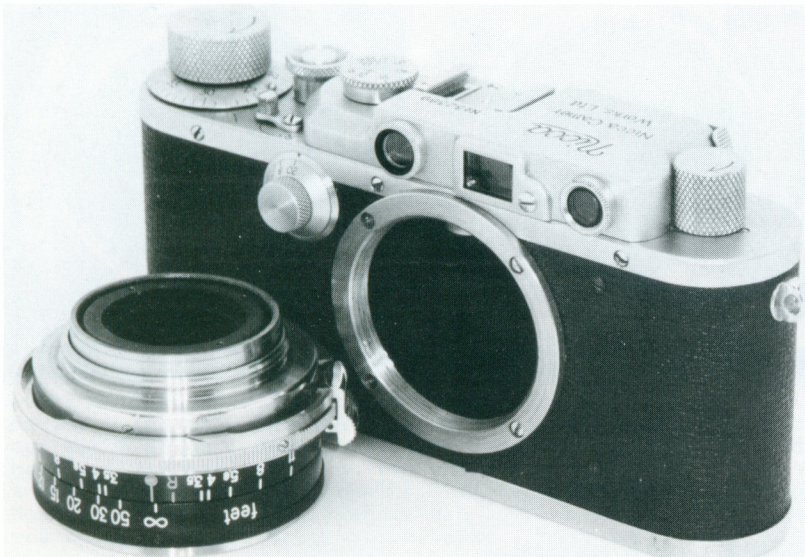
Every reference to the Orion coupler I have seen has quoted the figure of 200 being produced. This includes at least one Japanese article, but I have not been able to determine if the total of Contax and Nikon versions was 200, or if 200 of each type were made. Whichever the case, after nearly 45 years this small accessory is extremely hard to come by in any version, and well worth the search finding one would require!

(I would like to thank NHS member Tom Surovec for his input. As founder and guiding light of the Miranda Historical Society, Tom proved invaluable as a source for this article. I was able to learn much of what you read here from his article in his Miranda Journal about the early accomplishments of Mr. Akira Ogihara, one of the most influential photographic minds in post-war Japan.)



Above are front and rear views of the Orion lens coupler. Note the legend "Nikon Lens". Those for Contax are supposedly marked as such. In the rear view can be seen the Leica-type screw mount (outer threads) and those on the coupling cam. It is this set of threads that had to be perfectly designed to allow accurate focus on a screw mount body. Right-The coupler compared with a genuine Nikon S lens mount. Below-The coupler mounted on an early Nicca body. R.Rotoloni

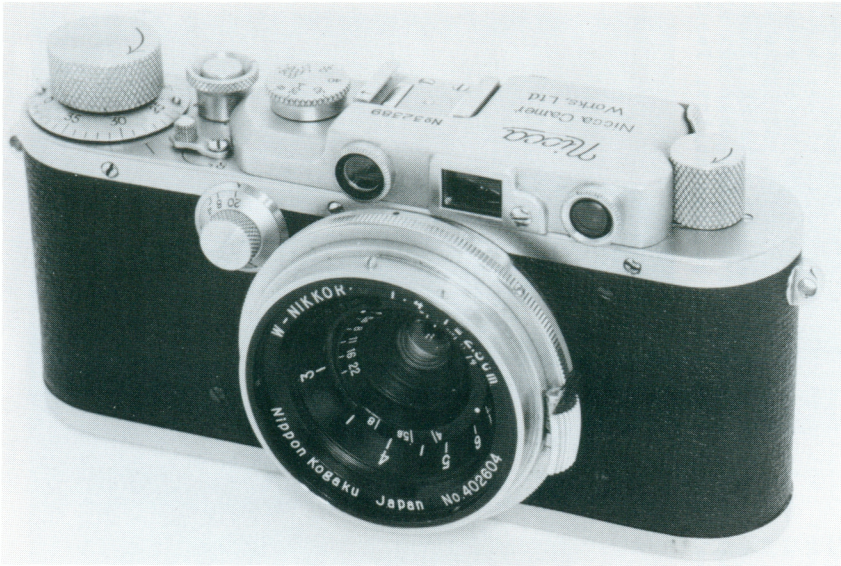




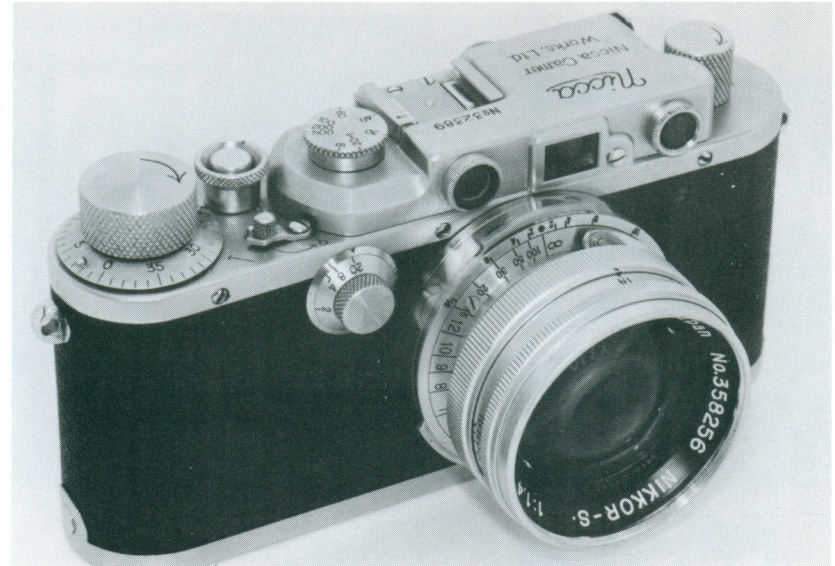
Using a late black 35mm/f3.5 Nikkor lens to illustrate mounting the coupler. This can be done in one of two ways. The upper two photos show the coupler being mounted to the lens. Using this method the lens is attached to the coupler in exactly the same way one would mount a lens to a Nikon body. The same procedure is followed including setting the lens to infinity and lining up the two red dots. Then a quarter turn and it clicks on. The entire assembly can then be screwed into your Leica-type body and it will focus and track perfectly! An alternate method is to screw the adapter onto the body first, then bayonet the lens as you would to any Nikon body.

R. Rotoloni

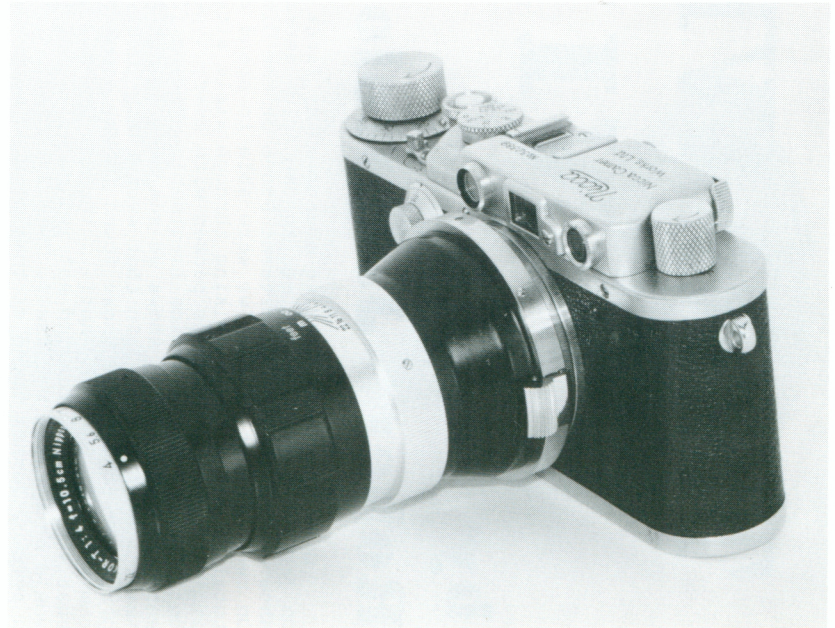
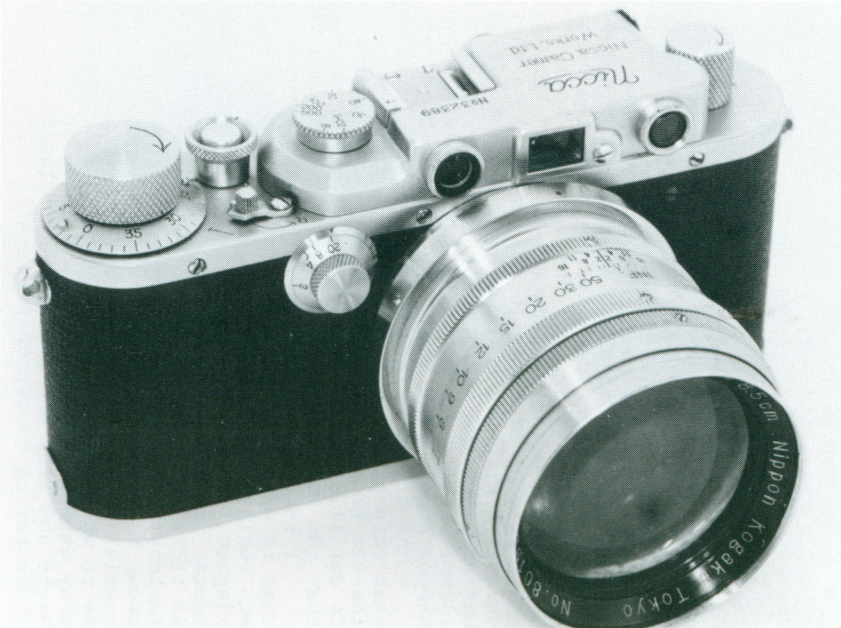




As mentioned in the text, the Orion coupler works with both internal and external bayonet mount Nikkors. The results can be quite interesting as the coupler can make possible heretofore impossible combinations. Upper right-an Aluminum mount f1.4 Nikkor!...Lower right-the 105/f4 Nikkor was never



made in screw mount, but you could still put one on your screw mount body if you had the coupler! Upper left-even the difficult to mount 25mm Nikkor works perfectly! Lower left-how about an early 85mm/f2.0 Nikkor made for the Nikon I on your Nicca body! Other possibilities: 21mm, Micro or a 50mm/f1.1!!!



TWO WEIRD NIKKORS!!

by
Robert J. Rotoloni

One of the outstanding events on my first trip to Japan in 1987, was attending the "old camera" show at the Matsuya Department Store on the Ginza. On two consecutive days we were able to spend a total of eight hours walking through aisle after aisle of glass showcases packed with every type of collectible photographica imaginable. Very different from the type of shows we see here in North America or in Europe, in that everything is displayed in cases like those found in any commercial camera store. And why not?...the sellers are just that...camera stores and not individuals. But that would be a story by itself. This article deals with a pair of lenses found at that show by member John Angle (old Eagle-eye himself).

John spotted a pair of Nikkors languishing in one of those glass cases the likes of which we had never seen before. The pair consisted of an 85/f2 and a 135/f3.5 Nikkor, both in a very weird mount!

Our immediate response was one of disbelief, since the rear half of the barrels (especially that on the 135mm Nikkor) appeared to be manufactured from a different metal. However, the knurling was very Nikon-like as were the numbers on the distance scale. But the metal was obviously different in color, sheen and weight. So what did we have?

Amongst the many Japanese collectors we met on the first trip was Mikio Awano from Osaka. He is both the editor/publisher of Camera Collector's News (known affectionately as C.C.N) and co-author, with Koichi Sugiyama, of the landmark book, "The Collector's Guide to Japanese Cameras". Mr. Awano had knowledge of these lenses and told us that they were in a Mitchell movie mount and that his information suggested that as few as 10 sets (85mm and 135mm) were produced. As to our question...."did Nippon Kogaku make them?" he could not be sure.

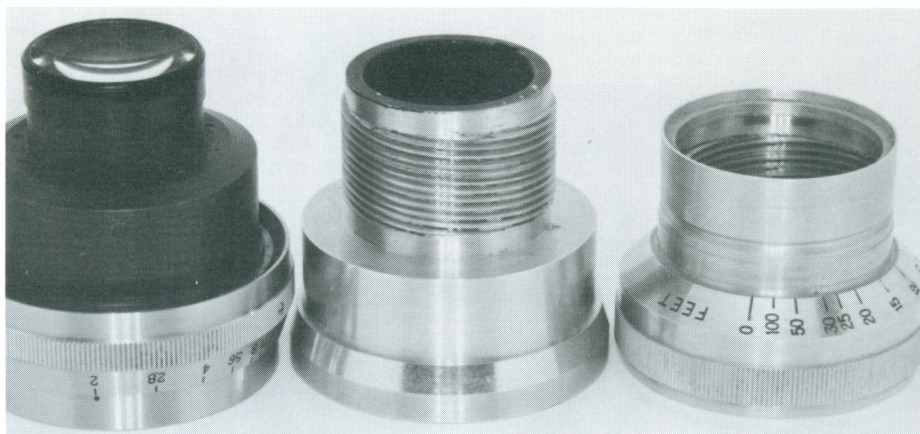
The accompanying photos pretty well illustrate what this pair looks like. I eventually purchased the set from John and had time to photograph them in detail. I have disassembled the 85mm showing that the rear mount is actually a two-piece item.

I really have no knowledge of movie mounts, if that is what we have here, nor do I know for sure who really made these. Nikkor optics have been adapted for many uses by many people over the years, including governments & large corporations. So it is quite possible it was done outside of the factory. On the other hand, Nippon Kogaku has been known to adapt their glass to various mounts on special order, especially during the early years. As to who actually modified these 2 lenses, and how many were really made, is not known at this time. Right now they are just two more "weird and wild" items for us to search for.





It is the mount that sets these two lenses apart! Above-close-ups of the 85mm. Do you know what mount this is? Right-optical part of lens (entirely a product of Nippon Kogaku) separated from the rear focusing mount (they simply screw apart). The entire rear mount does not appear to be a Nikon product. Below-the rear mount is actually two parts which screw together using the very long thread visible here. Action is smooth but not up to Nikon standards. The metal used for these two parts is probably an aluminum alloy which contrasts markedly with the heavy massive construction of the front optical section made by Nikon. R. Rotoloni



THE

F

--SPOT!!

First Seen _____ 250 SHOT**U.S. NAVY KS-80a****by PETER LOWNDS**

As far back as the mid 1960s, the original "Cooper and Abbott" book (The Nikon F-Nikkormat Handbook of Photography) touched on a rather unique adaptation of the Nikon F. The last 2 pages of chapter 11 featured an item called "the Nikon KS-80a". I quote...."An interesting adaptation of the Nikon F camera is the hand-held aerial camera model KS-80a. Exposures can be made one at a time or in rapid succession at a rate of 4 frames per second. Control circuits are energized by a two-position trigger switch located on the pistol grip handle. When the trigger is depressed half-way, the shutter is released and the film automatically advances to the next frame. Sequential photographs are taken by depressing the trigger all the way to the handle, causing continuous shutter release and film advance. The camera is equipped with a Zoom-Nikkor 43-86mm f/3.5 lens. Standard 35mm cartridges of 20 or 36 exposures are used in the Nikon F camera body around which the equipment was designed. A miniature battery charger is included, which can be left in charging mode at all times for camera readiness, inasmuch as the battery cannot be overcharged..... The camera was originally designed for military use as an air-to-air "scramble" camera for the single place fighter pilot. Since all operations can be performed with one hand, the other hand is left free for the pilot to keep on the plane's controls. The camera accepts all standard Nikkor lenses and Photomic T light meters. The KS-80a can be operated for a minimum of 65,000 mean cycles before failure prior to requiring inspection."

Thus is the complete description of the KS-80a found in official Ehrenreich literature. Complete and to the point. (I have reproduced the photo from page 11-32 of the Cooper/Abbott book)

Over the years a fair number of these cameras have surfaced, usually coming to market as government surplus. I have owned some including one complete outfit with battery pack and charger. The cameras are usually engraved "US NAVY" on the rear by the wind lever and the motors on the bottom plate. They generally show up in anywhere from mint to "abused" condition, with most having nonworking motors (usually due to electrical problems). So the KS-80a cannot be characterized as a rare camera at all, at least not yet. However, what we have here

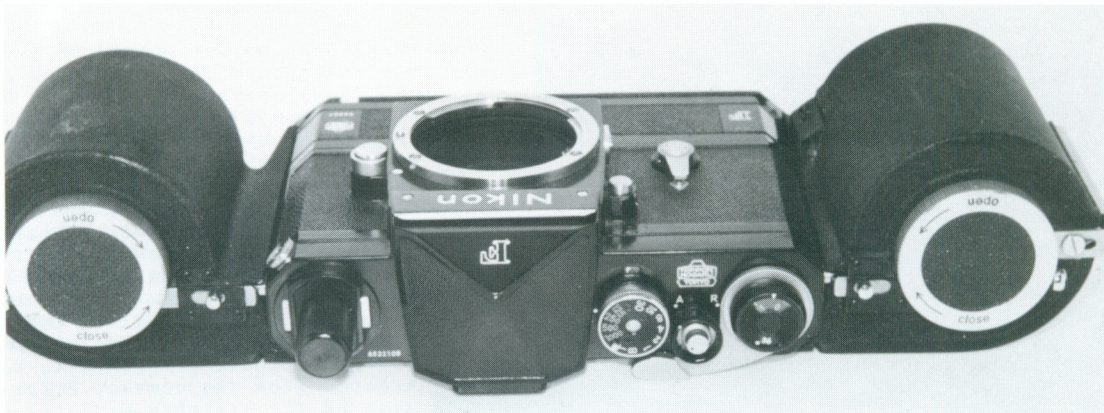
in the Journal can be called rare, or at least damned unusual! Not mentioned in Cooper/Abbott, or even alluded to, it is the only example of a 250 shot version of the KS-80a known to me! And even though the longer film length makes sense, it is probable that it was never commercially produced. Our best evidence is this unit itself, illustrated here for the first time anywhere that I am aware!

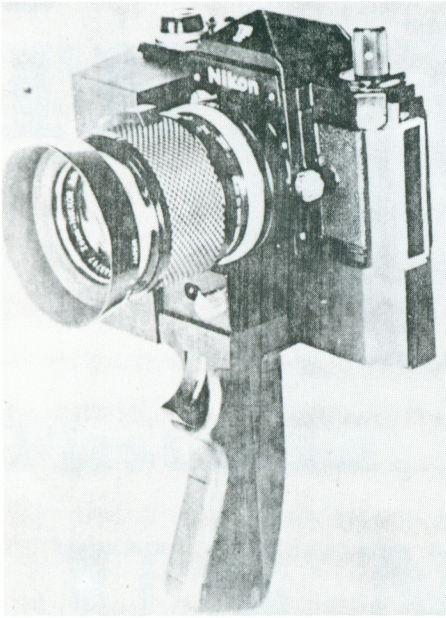
This example has many of the features of the standard 36 exposure KS-80a. This includes... the same inch high oversized rewind knob; same motor under-carriage save for the added 250 back; same battery pack; same pistol grip and rectangular housing just above the trigger; same plug outlet & locking screw on this housing; same method of cord routing from motor to grip and pack; same mode of operation. What is different about this piece, besides the obvious, is that the body is not marked "US NAVY" (I could not disassemble it to see if the motor base is so marked, but I doubt it is), and the nomenclature on the back. The control panel of the KS-80a is found with various types of engraving and wording. Most, but not all are serial numbered, and some have various military contract and lot numbers. There are quite a few varieties. But this one is a little different. First of all, note that it is marked "MODEL MFA-250" (with the "A" slightly obliterated). Secondly, and this might not reproduce well but believe me it is there, it has the serial number "EXP 005"!! What does it mean? Simply "experimental #5"!! From our current information, this is one of "10" F250 exposure KS-80a cameras that were submitted by Ehrenreich Photo-Optical Industries of California (EPOI of CA modified all the KS-80a cameras. They were done here and not at the factory.) to the Navy for consideration. It appears that the Navy chose to buy only the 36 exp type and turned down the Model MFA-250!

Where the other 9 units are is not known at this time. They may surface someday or they may have been dismantled by EPOI after they were rejected. Possibly they were converted into 36 exp KS-80a bodies and the bulk backs were discarded. Whatever the case, we now know that a 250 exposure KS-80a "scramble" camera was contemplated, and at least one example was produced and still exists to this day.

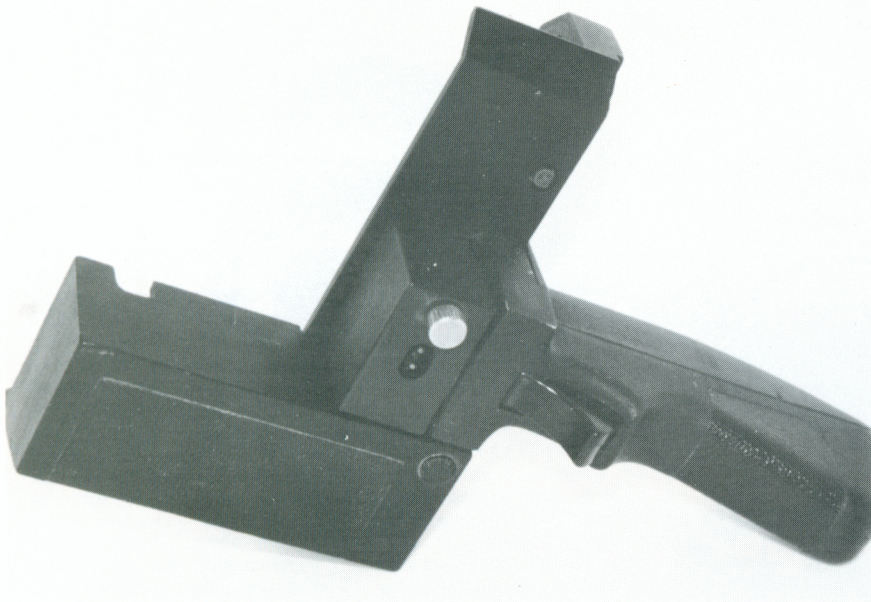
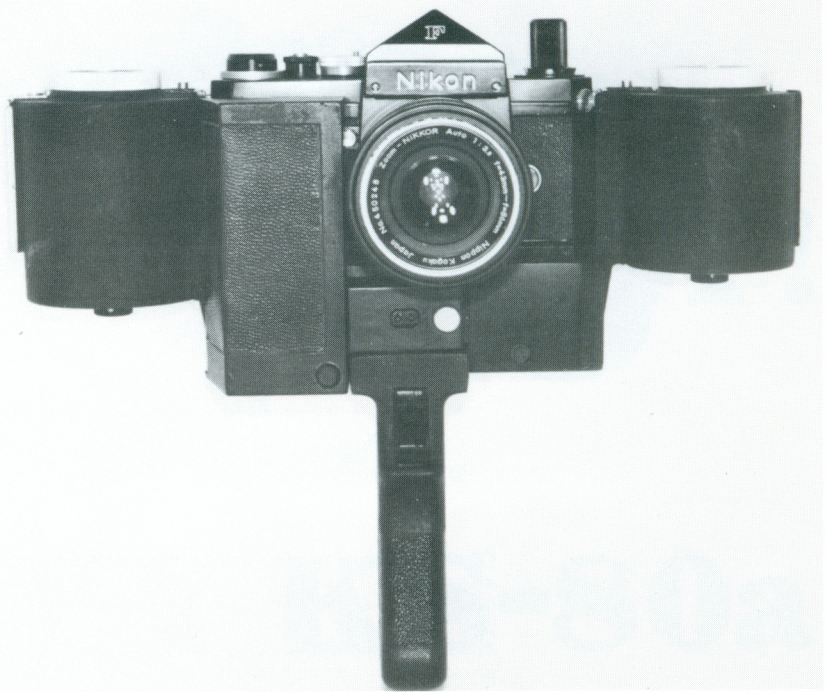


The Aerial Model KS-80A (MFA-250) partially assembled. Note that the bottom photo includes the battery pack which is actually mounted to the pistol grip, but not visible in this photo. If one took only a fleeting look at the camera in the top photo they might never notice that it is something different. Keep your eyes open for the tell-tale enlarged rewind knob! Photos by R. Rotoloni

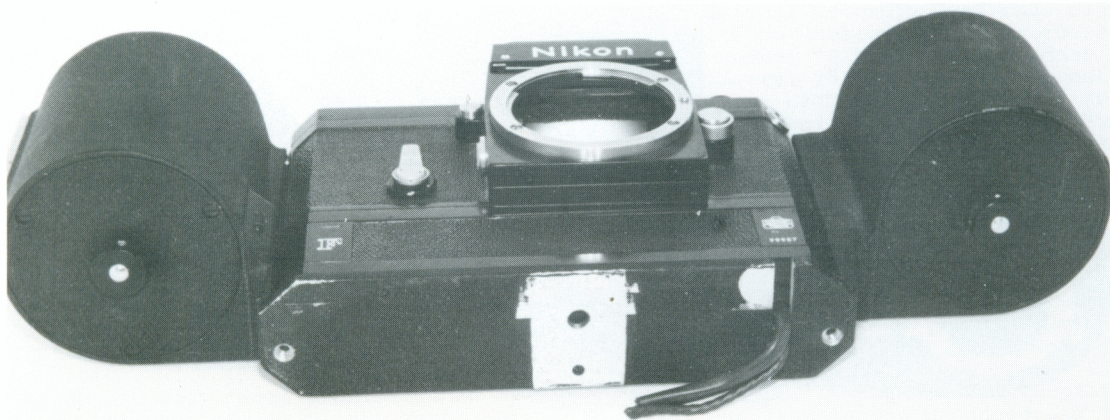


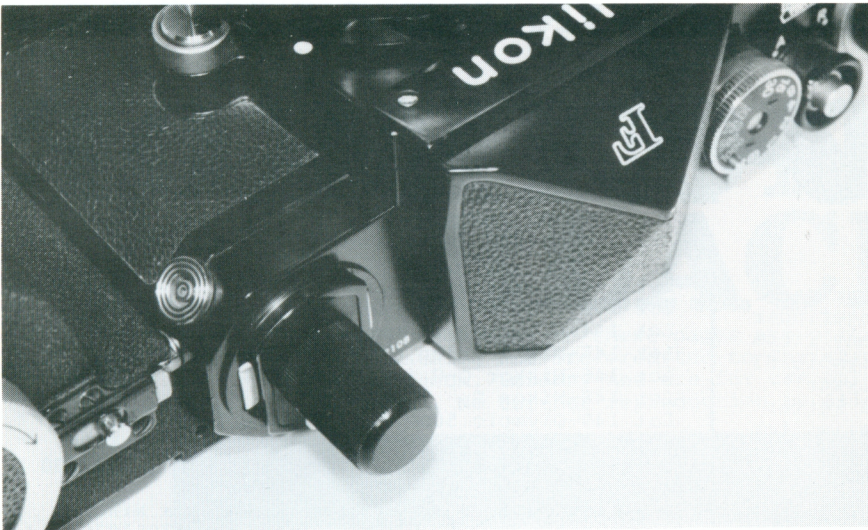


Aerial Model KS-80A camera.



Above left-the illustration of the KS-80A found in the Cooper/Abbott books. Compare it with our F250 version. Note the pistol grip, battery pack and rewind knob! Even the rectangular housing just above the trigger has the identical locking knob & small port with 2 electrical pin contacts. Left-the pistol grip/battery pack assembly removed from the camera. Below-the underside of the assembly with the pistol grip removed. The 2 wires originally went to the battery pack and trigger.

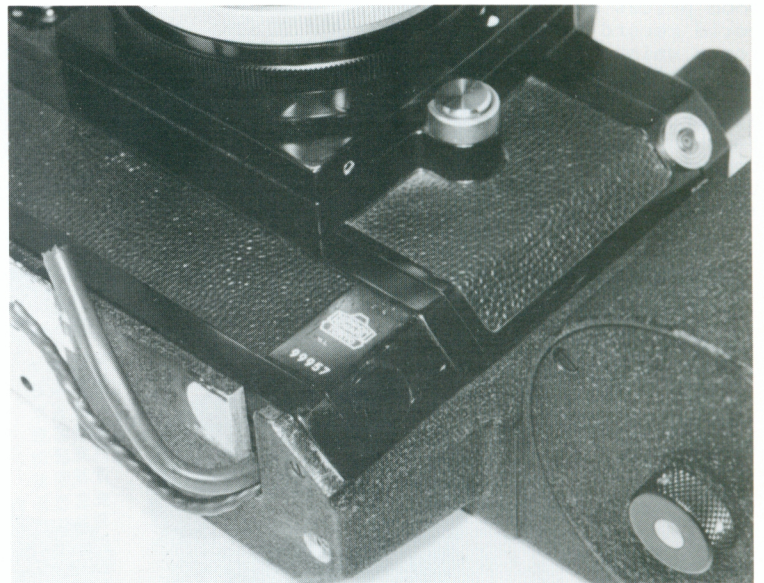




ANOTHER "NHS" EXCLUSIVE!

All Photos by Robert J. Rotoloni

Above-the unique inch high rewind knob found on most of the US Navy Nikon Fs. Most other controls were unchanged from the production type. Of course a rewind knob doesn't make any sense on this F250 version, but did for the standard 36 exposure KS-80A. Right-the power socket on the motor has been blanked out as it is unnecessary, since electrical contact was made with the 2 severed wires. Note the serial number...99957...a relatively early version of the Nikon F motor which dates to about 1961-63. Below-the control panel with blanked out speed selector on the left. Note the Model is MFA-250! The serial number (not readable in this photo (sorry!!)) reads EXP 005! Photos by R.Rotoloni



CHRISTIE AUCTION FEATURES

STEREO-NIKKOR!

On November 25th Christie's held another major photographic auction in which the Nikon rangefinder system was well represented. Amongst the many items were an Olympic 50/f1.4, an as-new black Olympic S3 with original box, and a complete Stereo-Nikkor outfit including the viewer. Following is a letter from Michael Pritchard, photographic specialist for Christie's, to the Society with information on the hammer prices realized, as well as a special offer to the membership. Please read on.

Dear Robert,

The sale as a whole was strong with some very good prices being achieved across all areas. A new world record auction price was set at 39,600 pounds for a unique Adams & Co camera made for the Sultan of Morocco in 1901.

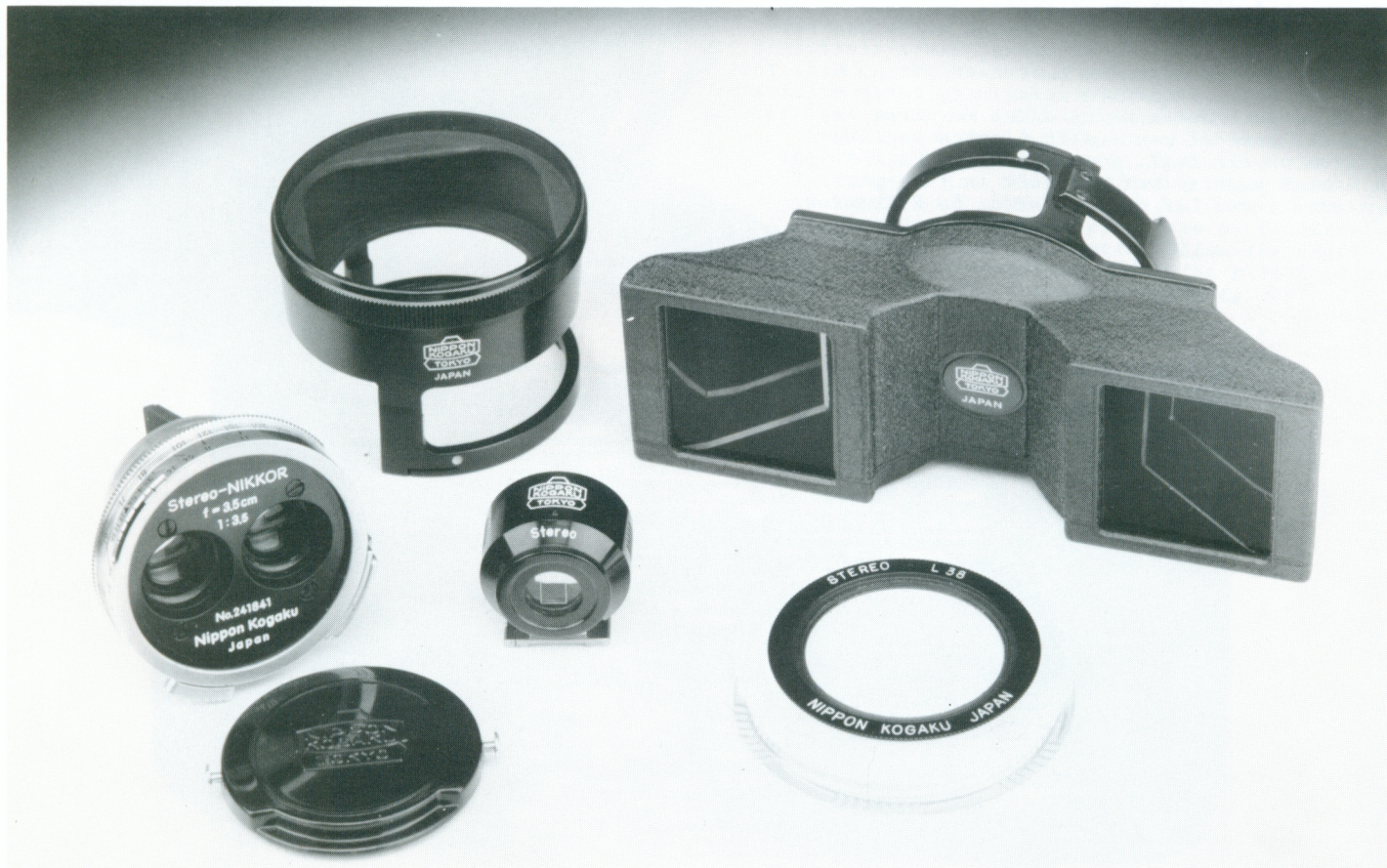
The Nikon prices seemed strong with the only disappointment being the Stereo-Nikkor set which reached 28,000 pounds but was not quite high enough to reach the vendor's reserve price. Despite this the price shows that there is a great deal of interest in the Nikon collectables market.

The other results are:

Lot 142-Nikon F	264 pounds
Lot 143-15mm/f5.6 Nikkor lens	440 "
Lot 144-Nikon MD-12 motor drive	88 "
Lot 145-Nikko Orion 6x24mm binoculars	220 "
Lot 146-Nikkor Q-C 5cm/f3.5 lens	2200 "
Lot 148-Nikon S	550 "
Lot 149-Olympic 50mm/f1.4 Nikkor lens	1760 "
Lot 150-Black S3 w/Olympic in box	8800 "
Lot 151-Stereo-Nikkor (not sold)	28,000 "

The January 13 auction includes a Nikon I camera #609415 with 5cm/f3.5 Nikkor #7051879 in case, plus other Nikon collectables. If any NHS member wants a catalog "FREE OF CHARGE" (as a special service to members) they can contact me by phone at 071-321-3279 or fax at 071-321-3321.

 Since Christie's catalogs are collectables themselves it would be to your advantage to take Mr. Pritchard up on his offer. To convert the prices to dollars multiply by 1.5 for an approximate figure. Just look what that does to the S3 price! Although the Stereo-Nikkor did not reach the reserve price, it still attained a level of over \$42,000!!! RJR.



& NIKON S3 BLACK

The photographs on these pages are originals from the catalog and are credited to Christie's South Kensington, London, and are for use only in the NHS Journal. No further reproduction is allowed!



N-K OPTICAL ORDNANCE

PART III

by Richard Lane

Here are photos of yet another large pair of Nikon wartime binoculars. They are NIKKO 18.8 power with objectives of 150mm, field of view 3 degrees. The relatively low power did not at first make any sense to me with such large objectives. And why such an odd power of 18.8? I remembered that 7mm exit pupils were ideal for night use binoculars and these were almost 8mm. As it turns out, the maximum pupil diameter for the human eye is a function of age. For people between 20 & 30 the maximum (dark adapted) is 8mm. Then the obvious occurred to me. These huge binoculars are "night glasses"!

Characteristics are as follows....

a) They weigh almost 64 pounds (98 with the box!). The body is cast alloy and the trunnions and mounts are brass. The front hoods are 6.5 inches across. Overall width is 17 inches, length 27 inches. The serial number is 399. Could they have made 400!?:

b) The front objectives are comprised of 3 air spaced elements. I have never seen glasses with this configuration before! My 20x120s have single elements only. The 3 element design could indicate an apochromatic which is only used in the very best refractor telescopes!

c) There is an appendage through which a light can be shone, illuminating the cross-hairs...probably for night use.

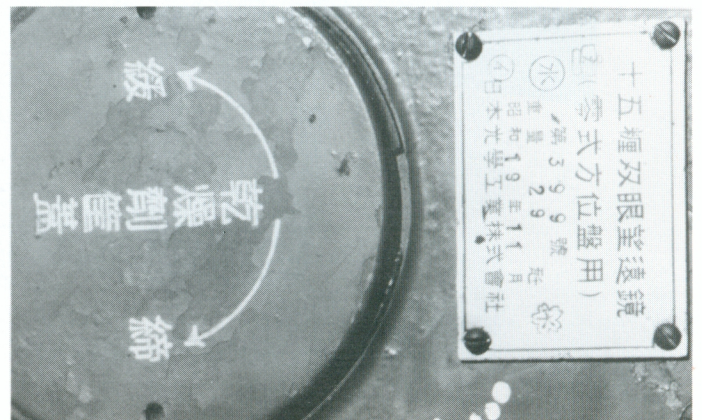
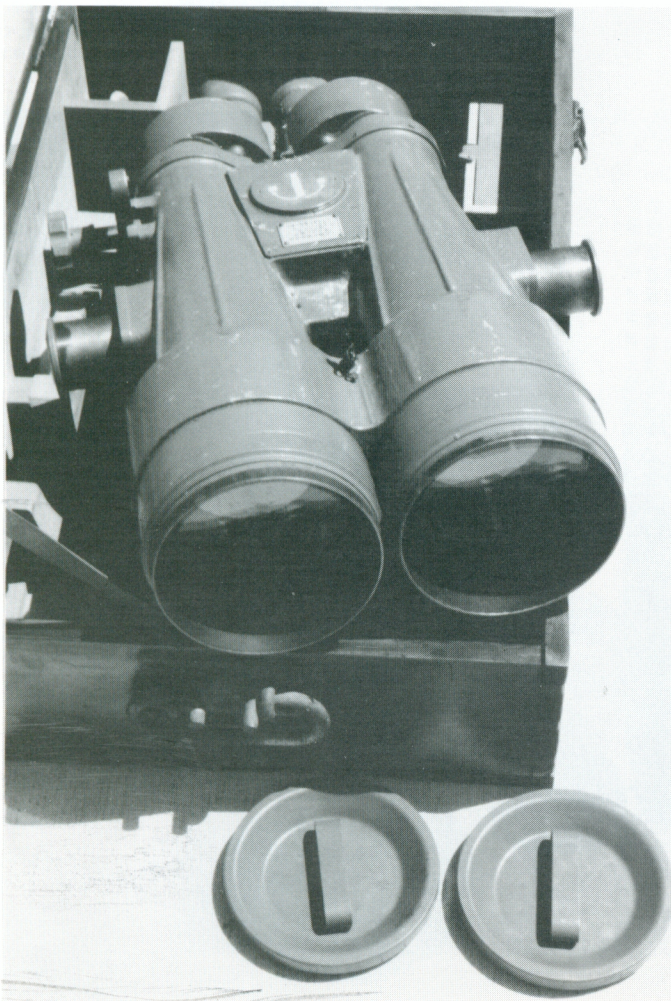
d) The 2 small sights on top have screw on caps with chains. With caps removed a yellowish mark can be seen (only a few millimeters). These marks glow in the dark provided you shine a light on them first. They still work after all these years! So even in pitch dark you can sight your target before you even look through the glasses!

e) The disk shaped cap on top unscrews with the spanner wrench provided. Within are 6 black bags of silica gel.

f) The box contains some interesting accessories:

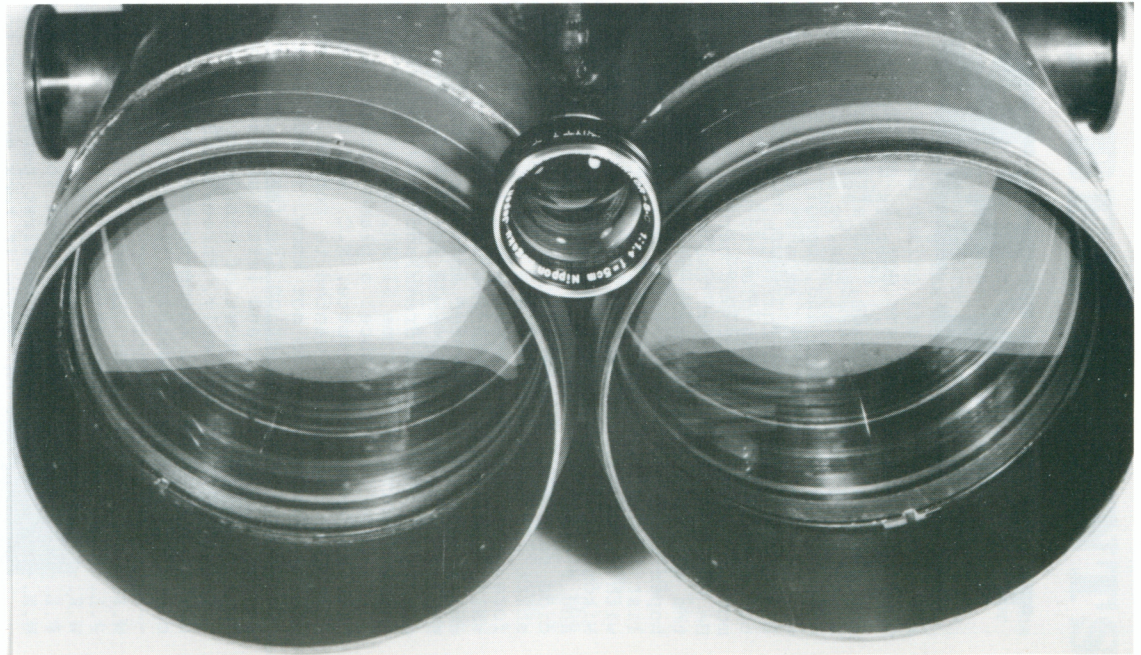
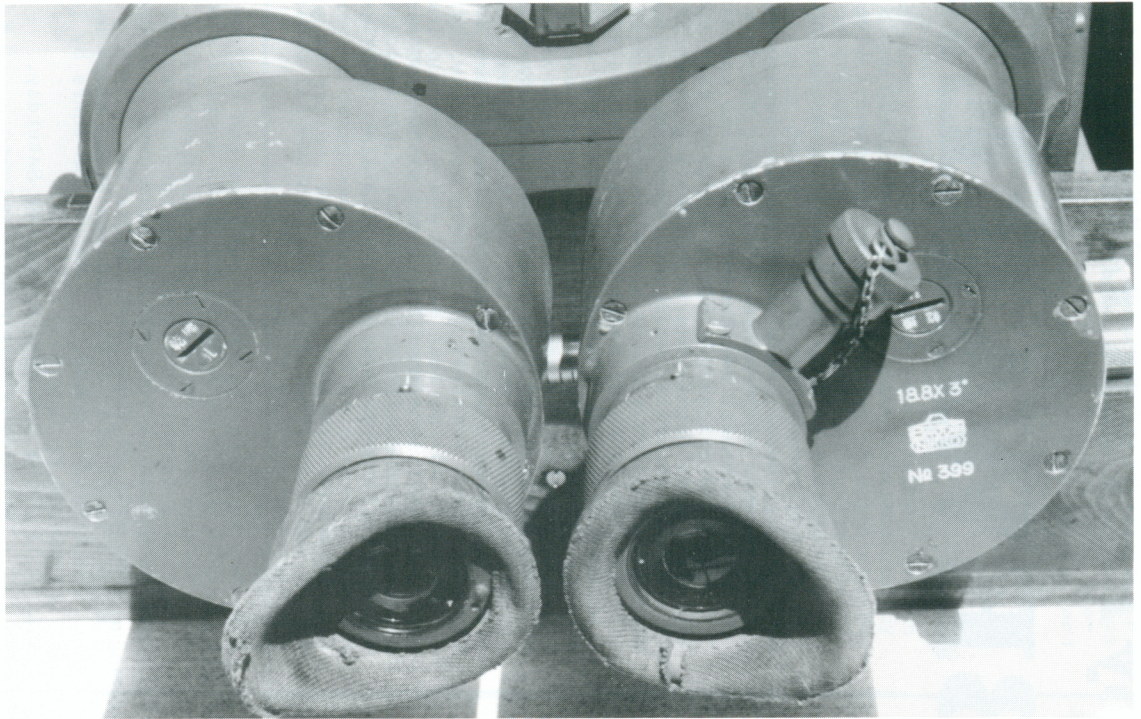
1. Eleven light bulbs with small anchors painted on them & 22 volts.
2. A small box containing 4 filters.
3. Two extra eyecups.
4. A spanner wrench.
5. A wrench (probably for the mount as there are no bolts on the binoculars).
6. Two lens caps for the front objectives.
7. A black ruler with Japanese characters. The ruler is interesting as it is not in inches or meters??

My best guess is that these are Navy Night Glasses. This would make sense considering that the Japanese Navy were expert in night battles. From the book "A Battle History of the Imperial Japanese Navy" can be found.... "Battle records do show the work of Japanese lookouts was phenomenal. They could often spot American ships before US Navy radar could detect Japanese ships. In addition, Japanese optical equipment was of a superior quality."...No doubt a lot of that optical gear was made by Nippon Kogaku!





Above & below—the sight mentioned in the text that would glow in the dark for night sighting! Right—the two business ends of this massive set of glasses! Note the NIKKO logo and the serial No. 399. A 50mm/f1.4 Nikkor is shown for size comparison!



by **PETER LOWNDS****BUYER BEWARE!!**

"LET THE BUYER BEWARE"... That is what it says in Jim McKeown's price guide, and after what happened to me a few weeks ago, it can be said to be very true. I got out of bed and, behold, a toilet roll was hanging from my Fax. Amongst the messages was a list from a fellow in Charlotte, N.C. who had put together a most cunning plan to cheat me, and many more collectors, out of our hard to come by cash. He had faxed me a list of the most cherry items, the things dreams are made of, the list everyone hopes to get once in a lifetime. This was to be my list to end all lists, with such items as an S3M with motor (\$12,000), Stereo-Nikkor (\$8,000), and a Nikon I (\$12,000). At first I thought it was a joke and I go to work thinking about the list, and I decide to reply. What could I lose (in hindsight, the shirt off my back!). It has happened many times before...some unknown sends you a list of items for sale, and in good faith you make the telephone call, send a reply letter and money changes hands. Hopefully both parties come away richer from the deal. But that's where dreamland ends! Because this fax was going to cost me \$1000, about \$300 on phone calls plus \$200 to cancel a plane ticket! A Mr. William Keene of Charlotte, N.C. was to give me 3 sleepless nights. He wanted to rob me, and many others. How many we do not know. I made that call from work to the number on the fax...got only an answering service....and left a message saying that I wanted to buy most of his list. Twenty four hours go by with no reply. Three faxes and 4 phone calls later I get Mr. Keene on the phone. The conversation went something like this.....

W.K.-Can I speak to Mr. Lownds?

P.L.-Good morning, speaking.

W.K.-You have received my Fax?

P.L.-Do you still have the items for sale?

W.K.-Yes I do! You were the first person that I sent the fax to. Sorry it took so long to get back to you, but I've been working.

P.L.-What is the condition of the Nikon items?

W.K.-Well sir these items belong to my father. He has had this thing about collecting cameras for about 30 years. I got your name from the back of a collector's guide. He has such a large collection that has been his life for over 30 odd years. He has so many and now that he has asked me to help him part with some of his collection. He spent some time in Holland during the war and always had a soft spot for the land.

P.L.-Do you still have any of the original boxes?

W.K.-Somewhere, but you will have to give me some time because my father has so much.

P.L.-What would be your best price for all of the Nikon items?

W.K.-Well, I'll take 7% off my father's price.

P.L.-Done! (He had me on the line like a fish and only had to reel me in. Greed thinking about how much money I was going to make! I could see the darker side.)

W.K.-Do you want all the Nikon items?

P.L.-Yes! Please place my name on all 6 items. I will try to fly out Monday.

W.K.-Monday..just let me check. I think that I will be working all next week. Saturday would be better for me. How do I know you are OK for

the money? Would it be possible for you to

send me a deposit to show good faith? Would you like me to book a hotel for you? I live close to the airport, you will be coming in late. I could come to the hotel Saturday AM.

P.L.-Do you have more cameras for sale?

W.K.-Yes. If you like we could take a ride to where my father keeps his collection. He has lots more for sale. You can make an offer, should you find things you like. He has so much junk.

P.L.-Will your father be there Saturday so we can finish the deal? (I was sold on the scam!)

W.K.-I hope so, but he is very old and does not hear well. But I'll do my best. Please let me know what time you are arriving. I may be able to pick you up at the airport!!

P.L.-OK. Thanks again for calling. I'll send you a check for \$1000. You will have it tomorrow. I'll send it UPS, or FED EX, but you will have your money tomorrow. Let me know as soon as it arrives.

By this time I was wound up! I got on the phone to my good friend Al Brody to ask him if he would send a check to this man for \$1000 as fast as possible.

A.B.-What have you got?

P.L.-I can't talk but its a deal to end all deals!!

A.B.-Are you getting a Stereo??

P.L.-And more!!

A.B.-How much more can there be? You can tell me.

P.L.-Well an S3M with motor, a Nikon I, plus some rare lenses. But I don't want to say more, its like a dream, like I've won the lottery. Al keep this to yourself. If word gets out someone will be down there before me!

A.B.-You're OK kid. I'll send the \$1000 today by post office overnight. Should be there by 10AM tomorrow.

P.L.-I'll phone you next Friday or Saturday.

I move heaven and earth to get a flight out on Friday to Charlotte. I dig up every last cent that I can find. I don't hear anymore from Mr. Keene. On Tuesday afternoon I start to phone around to see if I can move a few items such as a Canon J and Nikkor 50/f4.5 and Leica A with an Elmax. I call David Lawrence, owner of Classic Collection in London. I leave a message that I have a Canon J and a Leica Elmax. David phones me back and asks me the serial number of the Elmax. I grab the Keene list and read off the Elmax number.....1128.....a long pause. Is there a Nikon S3M on the list? Another long pause.. yes. Do you have a list from a guy in the States by the name of Keene? Yes. David says he has bought the entire list. I say no you cant have because I have! I've sent the guy \$1000 Friday morning. But David says he has sent the guy \$5000!! Lights start flashing and bells start ringing! A long pause. This sounds like a scam and I think that we have been taken to the cleaners. David, I'm going to make a few calls, phone you back in 30 minutes. I get on the phone to Bob Rotoloni. Bob I need your help! Can you get me the phone number of the police in Charlotte, N.C.? I'm caught up in a big scam! Some S.O.B. has taken me and David Lawrence, plus maybe others, on a camera scam for a lot of money! I get on the phone to the police in Charlotte and spend an hour giving all the details to a Sargent David Graham. No Mr. Keene as yet!

MEMBER EVENTS

It seems that our membership contains its fair share of published authors. Recently I have become aware of an assortment of books and articles produced by an international selection of NHSers, and thought I would make their efforts known to the membership as a whole. Keep in mind that getting a book or article published is no easy task and even a self-published volume can be a difficult venture.

British member Jonathan Harris has contributed to a series called "The Great Cameras" featured in the weekly magazine "Amateur Photographer" in the U.K. Although many different makes are covered by Jon, Nikon has had its fair share of exposure. Each of Jon's articles is well written and illustrated and manages to get a great deal of information to the reader despite being limited to only 2 pages each issue! A weekly deadline?!? Gawd!!

Another member has embarked on a series of articles for a magazine. He is Jose Wu Chang from Hong Kong. Jose is in the midst of writing and illustrating a series of articles on the rare and unusual aspects of the Nikon reflex system from the F through the F3 for the monthly Chinese language magazine "Photog", published in Hong Kong. To date he has produced 4 installments with more to come. Jose has concentrated on the more esoteric members of the system, including some items that have appeared in the Journal, such as the high speed Fs (including the 250 shot version) and the Nikkor F.

Paul Comon is known for his recent book "Nikon Data" which was previously reviewed in these pages. Paul now has a new volume just out which is part of Hove Foto Books "Modern Classics Series", and deals with the Nikon F2 series from its beginning through the F2AS. This 5 x 7 paperback volume is handy and easy to carry and is designed as a user's guide to the F2 series. Paul covers at least 10 different

model configurations of the basic F2 as well as the finders, motors and countless accessories made for the F2 camera. In addition Paul devotes space to the Nikkors that were more or less concurrent with the F2 era, discussing the many innovative optics that were released during the 1970s when the F2 was the premier Nikon. If you are looking for a concise and handy reference guide to the Nikon F2 series that puts all types of useful information at your fingertips, then the "Complete User's Guide to the Nikon F2" will fit the bill perfectly.

From Australian member Alan Elliott comes something a little different. Not a camera or "hardware" book, but a beautiful collection of photographs produced by members of the Melbourne Camera Club over a period of 100 years! Titled, "A Century Exposed", it chronicles the photographic achievements of the club since its founding in 1891. Written and compiled by Alan, the book consists of 52 B&W and 32 color plates as well as a historical paper that details the beginnings of the Club and its development through the years. It is a large 9 x 12 hardbound volume with dust jacket and was printed in Australia.

I would like to congratulate all of our fellow members mentioned in this article. If others of you are involved in similar projects please let me know and I will try to make your efforts known to the entire Society.

Robert J. Rotoloni

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GRAYS OF WESTMINSTER is a charming period shop situated in a quiet Georgian street in central London just a few minutes walk from Victoria Railway Station and within easy reach of the world-famous Tate Gallery and the historic River Thames.

Specialising exclusively in Nikon (the choice of 85% of the world's professional photographers) we endeavour to stock almost all catalogued Nikon items, for instance all types of F4, all models of F3, the F90 series plus F-801S, F-601, FM2n in black and chrome, and also the Nikonos RS & V underwater systems. Naturally we stock every one of the range of twenty-five Autofocus lenses and a selection of the manual Nikkor lenses. The Grays of Westminster Catalogue issued twice yearly and the Grays of Westminster Gazette issued every six weeks have become an institution in the Nikon world.

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.

Fast and reliable MAIL ORDER on any Nikon item is available to all UK and worldwide destinations. We send goods right across the globe as a matter of routine, so you can confidently rely on us to meet your requirements for despatch to any part of the world. Our hours of business are 9.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and from 9.30am to 2pm Saturdays local time. Out of these hours an answerphone service is available, or if you prefer you may deal with us by fax at any time.

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

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The new German magazine for collectable cameras, second hand cameras and photo highlights published four times a year; February, June, September and December.

This "must" for every photo enthusiast is published in a classical layout and printed on high quality paper. The first issue, which is 40 pages, features Nikon rangefinder cameras, Minox, Rollei, Contax, Konica Hexar, all dates of German photo shows and other interesting articles. It is available for \$14 by international reply coupons or cash. Subscription rates for overseas is just \$55 which entitles you to five lines of free classified advertising per issue. Display ads are also very reasonable--e.g. 1/4 page is \$155, 1/8 page just \$80.

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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 2lmm 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.

FIELDGRASS & GALE

WANTED FOR CASH OR TRADE

Nikon rangefinder bodies, lenses, motors, mirror boxes, stereo attachment, anything Nikon!

Nikon reflex... classic to contemporary... vintage 1959 to 1993.

Leica screw mount, M and R in clean, original condition.

Rare Leica, e.g. Compur, 72, GG reporter, III d, III f black, III g black, Monte en Sarre, MP, black paint M, military green & gray M, Hologon, 50/1.2 Noctilux, Thambar, Summarex, screw-mt. Summilux/Summicron.

Commemorative Leica, e.g. M4 50 yr, M4P Everest, M6G, M6 Platinum, M6 Colombo, R3 LHSA

Leica copies... Canon, Hansa, Seiki, Leotax, Tanack, Tower, Honor, Nicca, Ducati, Look, Peerless, etc.

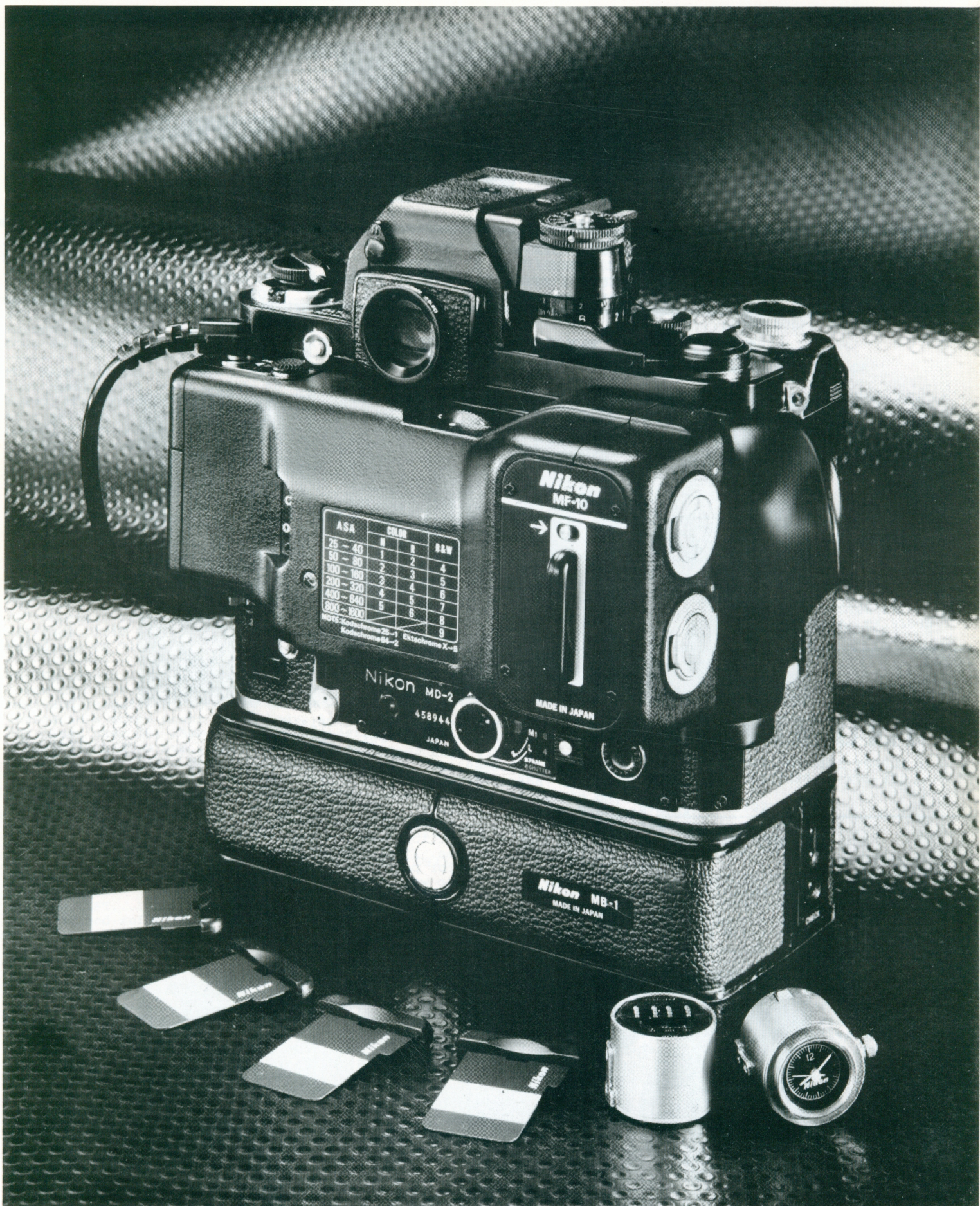
Contax, Contarex, Zeiss Hologon, Contaflex TLR, Alpa, Minolta CL / CLE, Kinoptik, Angenieux, Zunow, Topogon, Biotar, Biogon, Heliar, Apo-Lanthar, Hypergon, Bronica, Pentax LX, Pentax 67, Hasselblad.

This is not a complete list. Contact us if you have ANYTHING you think may be of interest to us. Thank you!

Ask for Peter Walnes or Jon Harris (both NHS members!). Available for advice from 4:30am E.S.T. Monday thru Friday!

See You At London Camera Fair, March 20th 1994

203 Welsbach House, The Business Village, Broomhill Road, London SW18 4JQ
Telephone: 01144 81 870 7611 Fax: 01144 81 870 6551



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