


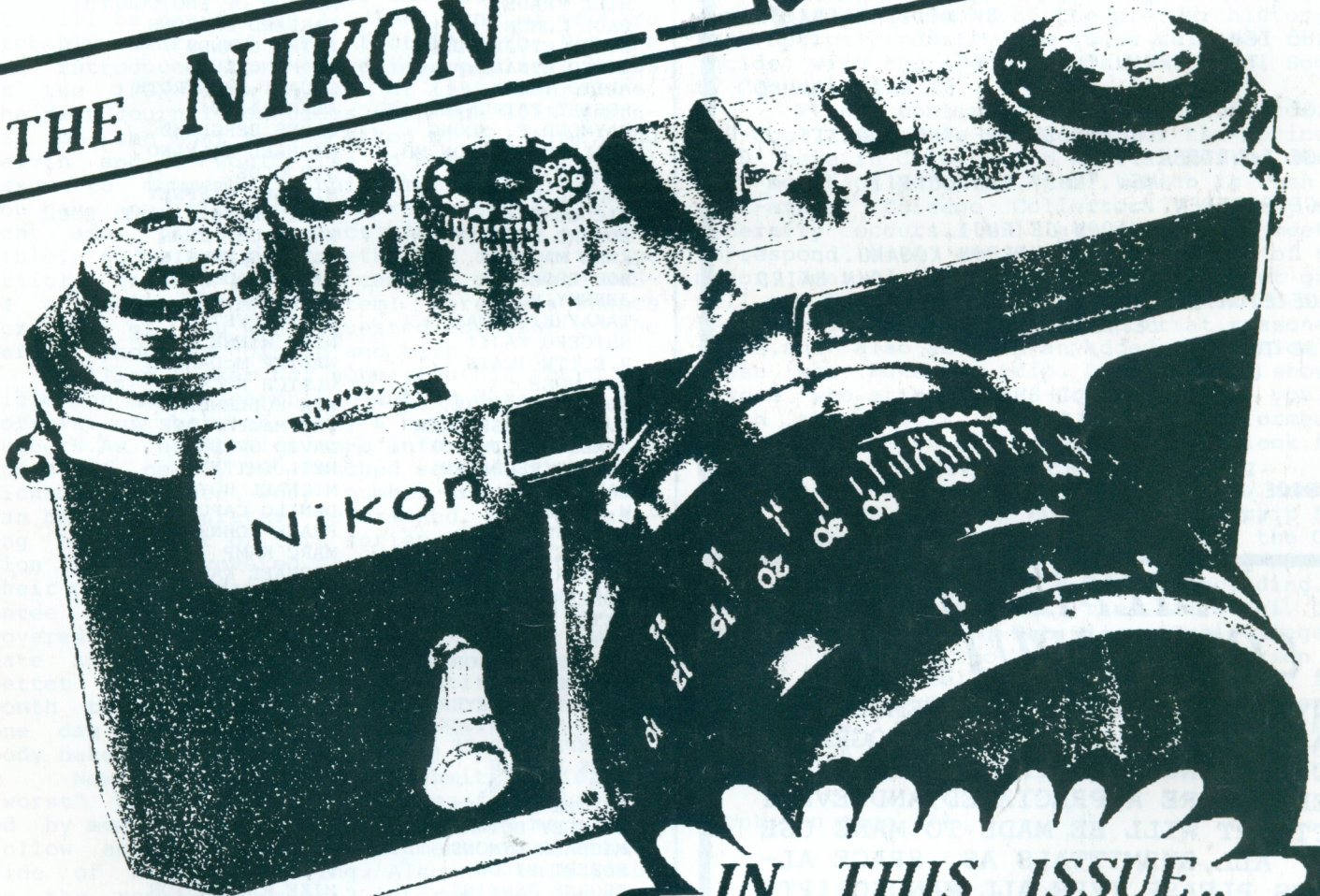
A PUBLICATION OF THE
NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 31, 1989



23

THE NIKON  JOURNAL



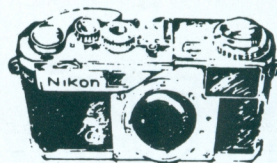
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ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THE NIKON Journal

ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



MEMBERS

VOLUME SIX---NUMBER THREE---MAR. 31, 1989
THE "NIKON JOURNAL" IS PUBLISHED FOUR
TIMES A YEAR BY "RJR" PUBLISHING, INC.
AT P.O. BOX 3213, MUNSTER, IN 46321 USA.
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SERIES ARE APPRECIATED, AND EVERY
ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO MAKE USE
OF ALL SUBMITTALS AS SPACE AL-
LWS. PLEASE TYPE ALL MANUSCRIPTS
AND MAKE ALL B/W PHOTOS AT LEAST
"3 BY 5" AND GLOSSY. A SEAMLESS
BACKGROUND IS PREFERRED AND TRY
TO MAKE PHOTOS HIGH CONTRAST.
YOU WILL BE GIVEN A BY-LINE UN-
LESS ANONYMITY IS REQUESTED AND
ENCLOSE AN "SASE" IF RETURN OF
THE MATERIAL IS DESIRED.....
THANK YOU.

EDITORIAL

This issue of The Journal may arrive about a week later than usual. My recent trip to Japan and our annual spring show here in Chicago has upset my schedule a little, but I've made every attempt to get NHS-23 out as close to on schedule as possible.

The second part of Tsuyoshi Konno's Nikon S article appears in this issue. While in Japan we were able to see Konno-san quite a bit and he hand delivered many of the photos that are in this installment. He has also gone into the meanings of the patent numbers that appear inside many of the Nikon RF bodies. This is new information for me since I was never able to determine their significance in the past, and it is an interesting addition to his article.

Calvin Ho is working on a large feature article for NHS-24 on the Nikon F. The significance of the next issue of the Journal is that it will be dated June 31, 1989. Many of you are probably aware of the fact that the Nikon F was introduced to the American public & press at the IPEX show in June of 1959! Therefore, the next Journal coincides with the 30th birthday of the most famous Nikon of all time, and Calvin and I would like to make it a special issue to commemorate this important event. If you have any information in response to his recent ads, please contact him as soon as possible, so he can put together an authoritative article on this landmark camera, and make NHS-24 a real collectors' item! Here is a chance for all of you who requested coverage of the reflex Nikons to join in and help.

William Fraker has submitted his third article on his research project to determine the correlation between body & normal lens serial numbers. As he obtains more information (he now knows of nearly 500 matched sets!), the relationship between body number and lens number can be more accurately determined. An interesting by product of this series is the information he has uncovered about cameras found with their original "dated" inspection slips & guarantee cards! As more facts like this are discovered the better we can determine the actual date an item was made, which also gives us a better idea of production quantities from one month to the next. Information such as this may one day allow us to be able to date nearly any body based on its serial number!

New this issue are two submittals for the "worst" Nikon, which was an idea first proposed by member Peter Lownds. Hopefully more will follow so we can better document this "other" side of Nikon collecting. Also new this issue is the reproduction of 2 interesting ads that appeared in the German press in the early period of the Nikon F, where it was called something else! Thanks to German member Ralf Janke for supplying them.

Our "Letters" page is a little different this time with a contribution from Alan Johanson about an interesting Nikon M & its' owner. On page 14 is an announcement for the first in a series (hopefully) of official Nikon Historical Society memorabilia. This is being done in response to two factors...the rather large number of letters I've received about those items that were available at the first Convention, & an effort to offset some Society expenses. So those of you who wrote asking when you could get an NHS T-shirt, the time has come.

Another column by John Baird is on page 15 and discusses how a natural tragedy contributed to the early optical research at Nippon Kogaku. This is followed by an announcement of his coming series of monographs on the Japanese camera and optical industry planned to begin this year. The final entry will be John's own learned account of the pre-war history of the optical industry due to be released to coincide with the second Nikon Historical Society Convention.

Plans continue to be formulated for the NHS-Con2, which is scheduled for the spring of 1990 here in Chicago. It will either be during the month of March or April, which is when the semi-annual Chicago Collectors' Society show generally occurs. I will again have our meeting correspond with the time and location of this major American show, which worked out quite well the last time. It gives us access to a hotel close to the Chicago airport at reasonable rates, and also acts as an added attraction for those who make the trip. It is a good show as anyone who attended NHS-Con1 will tell you, and worth the effort. I will keep you informed in these pages as to our progress, and I look forward to meeting many of you next spring.

While on the subject of shows, members Peter Lownds and Tony Hurst made the trip from Europe the weekend of March 10-12 for the Chicago show. We had a good time talking Nikon & were joined by other NHS members including.... Jerry Rold, John Angle, Frank Mazzocchi, Dave Weiler, Jim Martin, Bob Bilow, Craig Siegel & others. Needless to say, the competition for Nikons was fierce!! You will find another fine photograph by Tony Hurst on the back cover of this issue. From the photos that he has sent me, I think Tony should have been doing Nikon's ads back then!

(cont. on page 17)



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THE EARLY NIKON "S"...

BY TSUYOSHI KONNO

with ROBERT ROTOLONI

Part 2:

In this installment on the early Nikon "S" model, Tsuyoshi Konno describes some of the many small variations that can be found when one takes a closer look at this camera. Often overlooked as common or uninteresting, the Nikon "S", at least during its early production years, was a camera in constant flux. As Nikon grew more experienced with making their camera and learning the intricacies of the world market place, they were constantly improving and modifying their product as well as simply experimenting with the basic design. That design dated back to 1946 and as it entered the 1950s as the Model M and evolved into the "S", it began to show its age. In addition the Nikon I & early M cameras were produced during a period of time when many raw materials were in short supply as well as the proper machine tools required to produce really high quality goods. This is evident by the fit and finish of the earlier models which show ample evidence of hand fitting (a sign of less than precise mass production of parts), as well as the characteristic "dull" chrome found on these cameras. It wasn't until sometime in the second quarter of 1951 that Nippon Kogaku began to use the more elegant bright "satin" chrome on the late "M" bodies, a move that caused a momentous difference in the appearance of their camera. It is also at this point that things such as body panels begin to appear to fit much better with more precise seams. Also apparent are improvements in the fit and quality of the leather as well as an upgrading in the material used for the shutter curtains. After the arrival of the bright chrome "M" at about camera M6093600, it took on the look of a really first class piece of machinery and is quite impressive even to this day. The chrome plating used during this early period up through the "eight digit" Ss' appears very deep and lustrous and is brighter than that of the later cameras. To hold a late "M" or early "S" in mint condition is very satisfying, since they are really a beautiful, if slightly pedestrian, machine, and evidence that Nippon Kogaku was a company on the move & one to be reckoned with as time passed.

Their constant "tinkering" with the "S" produced many small variations, some of which are quite evident (such as the chrome) & others more subtle. This article illustrates some of these many variations that show a product in a constant state of change. Some variations are only cosmetic while others are functional. I'd like to thank not only Konno-san but also Bill Fraker who, in response to the first article,

has sent in some photos and information about items in his collection. Member participation in a series such as this is important and what the Society is all about. No one can possess every variation and a good article will always stimulate such an exchange.

Konno-san has entered a new area with this installment. Many of you have probably wondered what the various patent numbers stamped on the chassis cover of the Nikon S & inside the backs of the later cameras, mean. He has provided us with the following information about these numbers and their significance.

For the Nikon S up to 4 PT. (patent) numbers and 1 UM. (utility model) can appear. Generally no numbers are seen until about Nikon S #7000, although they may be found earlier. The four patent numbers are...116,634; 178,669; 178,974; & 190,382. The utility model number is 370,163 and seems to appear on all cameras dating from at least 6097300. The meaning of the earliest patent number has not been discovered as yet, but the second, 178669, was applied for on April 26, 1948 in the name of a Mr. Takahashi & had to do with the radial ball bearing assembly for the shutter shaft. Number 178974 was awarded for the film counter assembly within the advance knob. The final patent number is 190382 and was applied for in June of 1949 by Mr. Adachi & Mr. Fuketa, and had to do with an improvement in the shutter mechanism. The UM. number was for the coaxial mount for the slow and high speed shutter dials, which was a Nikon innovation and a definite improvement over the separate dials used on the Leica-type cameras.

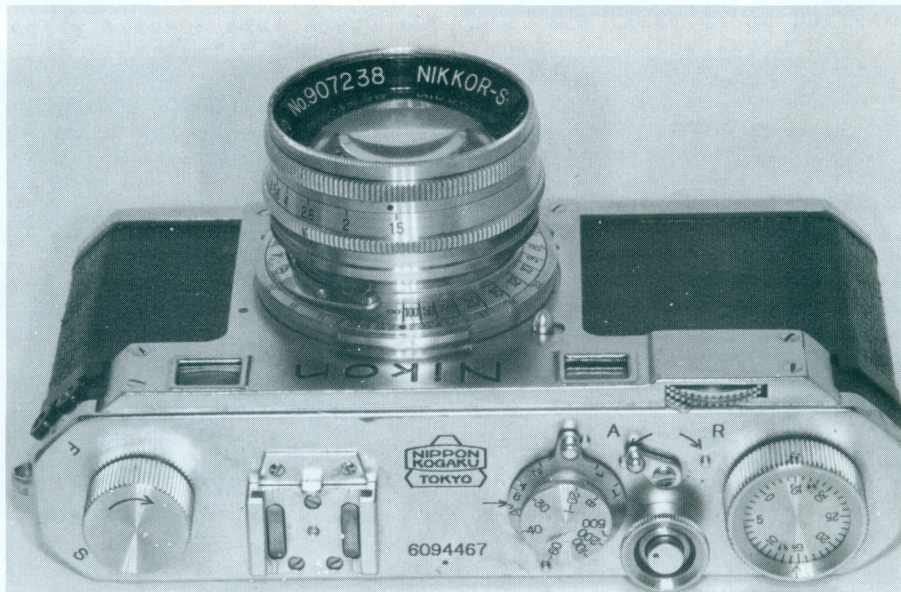
Correction...In NHS-23 it was stated that the screw found on the top plate just forward of the accessory shoe was a rangefinder adjustment port. This is incorrect. The screw is simply an additional attachment point for the cover plate that mated to a support plate under the cover for added rigidity. Early cameras (without this mounting point) often exhibit a pronounced depression or deforming of the top cover forward of the shoe, probably caused by leverage being applied to a mounted finder. The result would be a deformed cover a slightly askew accessory shoe. The addition of the extra top cover mounting screw appears to have corrected the problem. So don't try to adjust your rangefinder because it won't work!

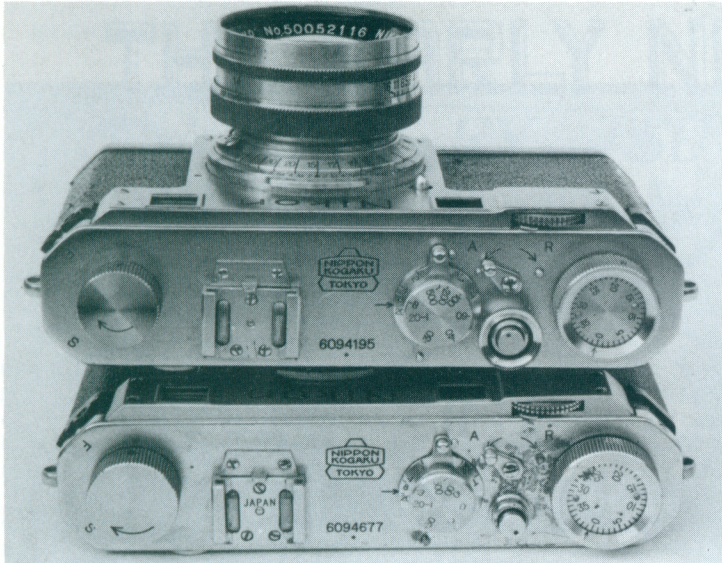


From Bill Fraker... These photos show the similarities between certain Nikon Ms' and early Ss'. Please note that Nikon Ss numbers 6094861 & 6094876 have the same wind, rewind & shutter collars as Nikon M #6091446. But body #6095451 has strictly S parts! There seems to be quite a bit of intermixing of parts since S #6094467 shown in your book also has the newer S style knobs & collar.

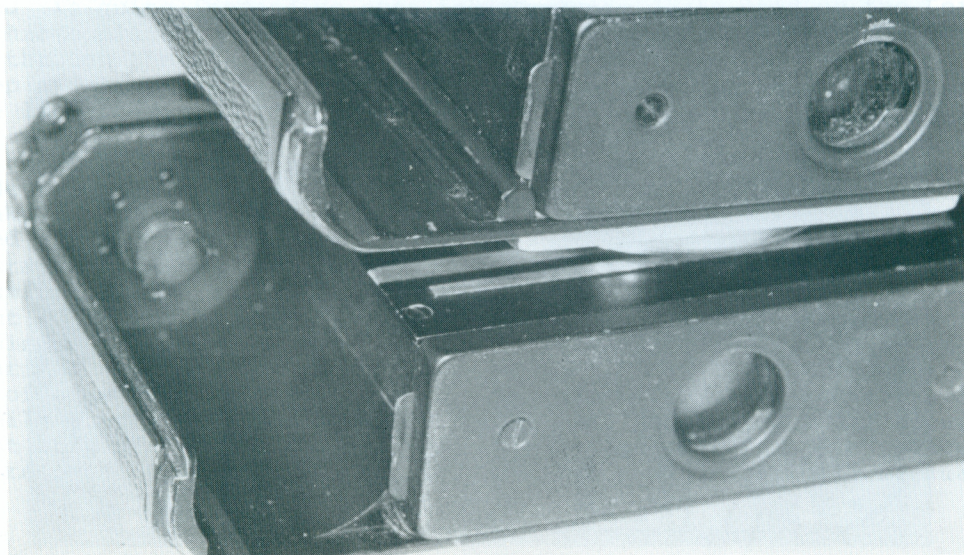
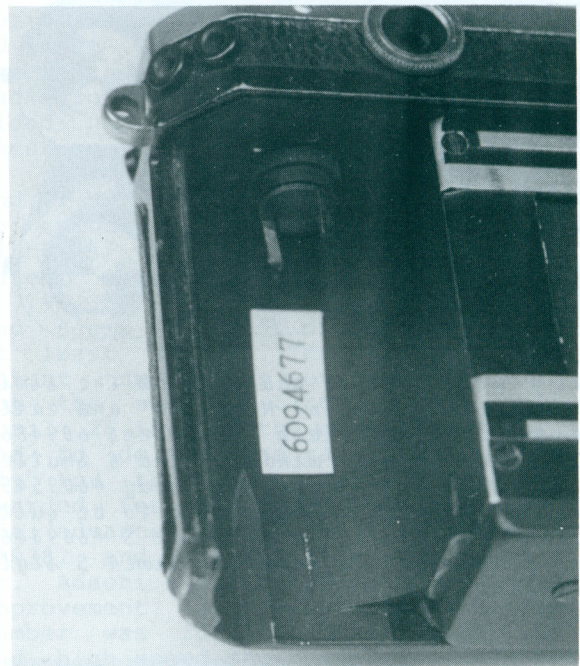


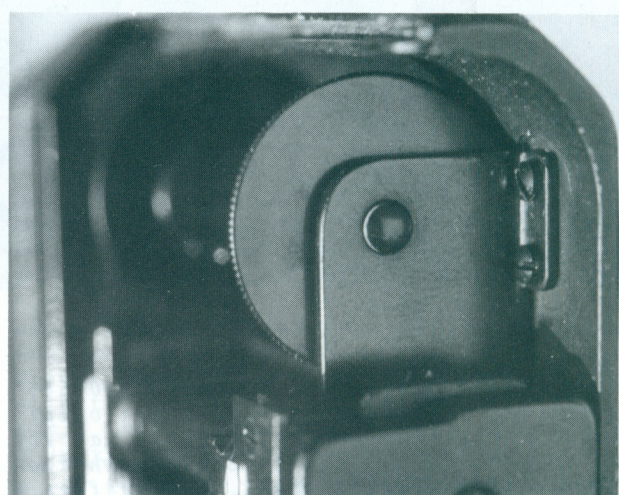
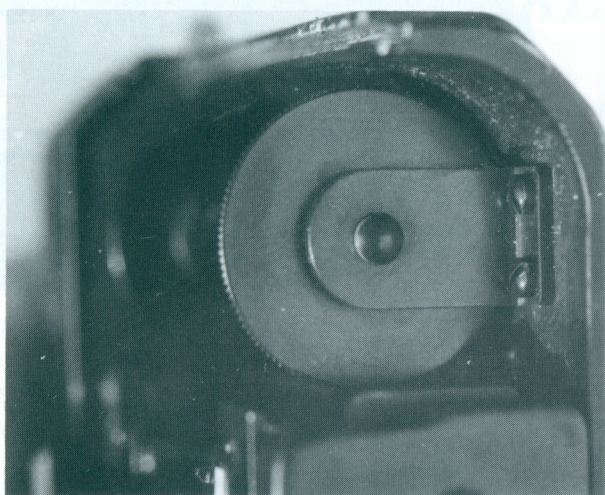
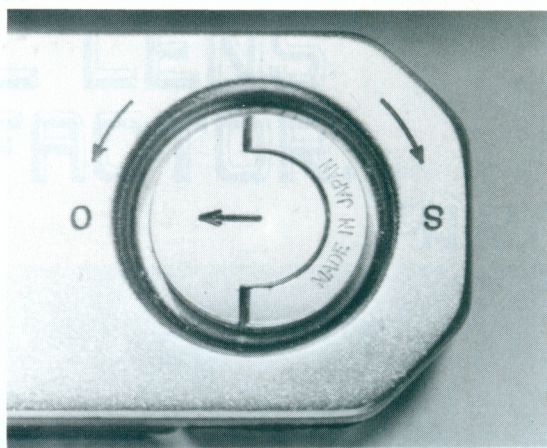
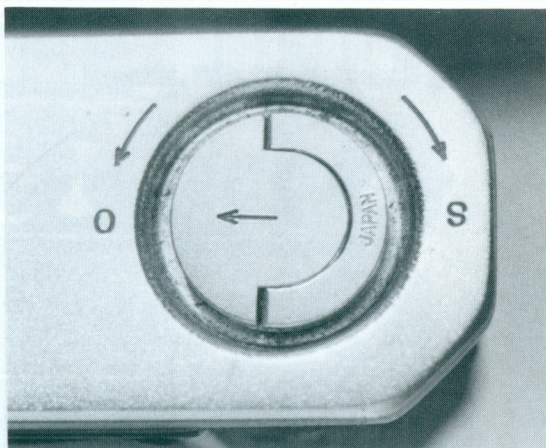
In the photo above Nikon M #6092810 has the correct knobs but a newer style release collar while S #6094876 also has M style knobs AND an M style release collar!? Nikon S cameras numbers 6094304 & 6094433 (not shown) have MIOJ markings and older M style parts. Is there any pattern to all of this? Pictured below is S #6094467 shown in my book. Even though its number is early it has normal S style parts such as knobs, release collar & black synch sockets. It does still possess an M style casting & baseplate but it's not MIOJ!





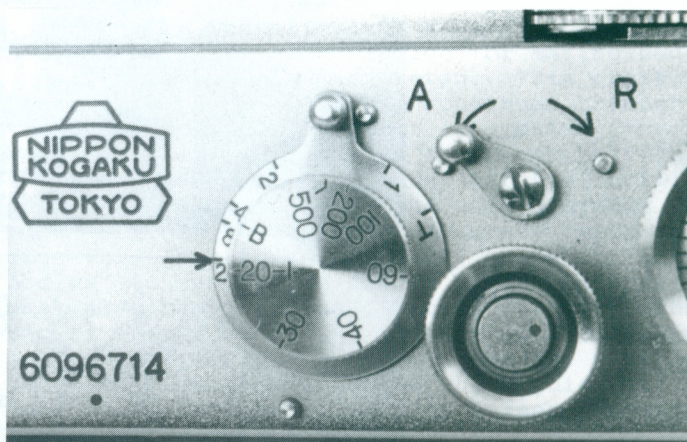
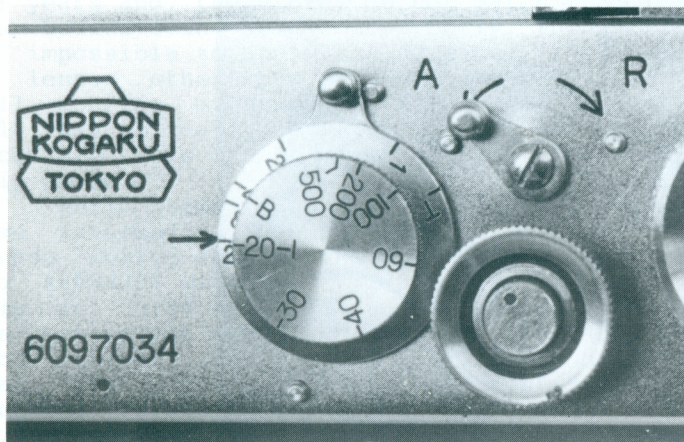
From T. Konno...Two early Ss' numbers 6094195 & 6094677. Note that externally 6094677 has more M style parts than the much earlier number! It even has the word JAPAN engraved in its accessory shoe, which is sometimes seen on late Ms and only a very few early Ss! However, when you open them up you will find that number 6094195 is built on a much earlier M type casting while 6094677 has the improved S type? Note that the earlier casting has a "tube" running up the side of the film chamber. This tube contains the synch wire running from the shutter mechanism under the chassis cover up to the sockets. In the later casting (right) its path is incorporated into an elegant curved housing. Note the barely visible wire as it exits the chassis cover & enters its channel. In later cameras even this small bit of wire is hidden by an outcropping of the chassis cover giving a very professional look.

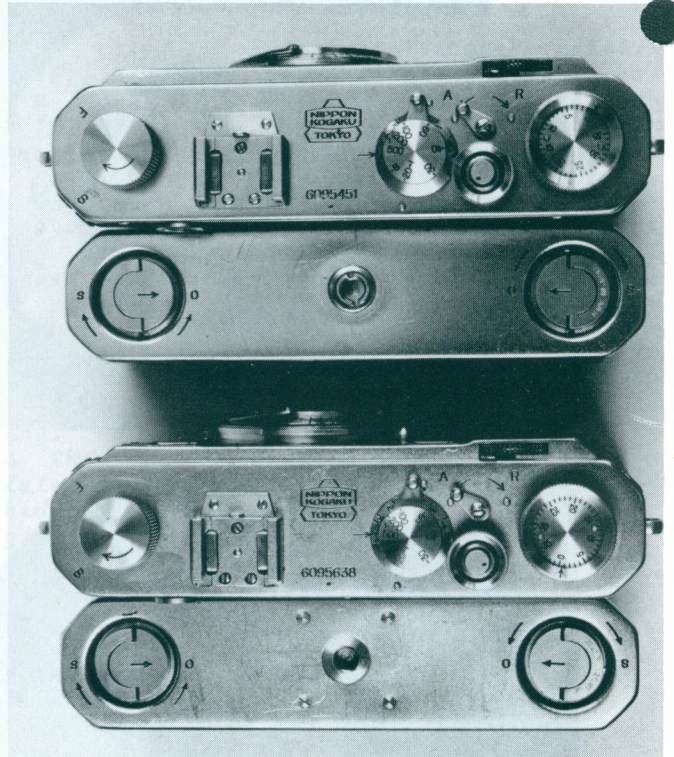
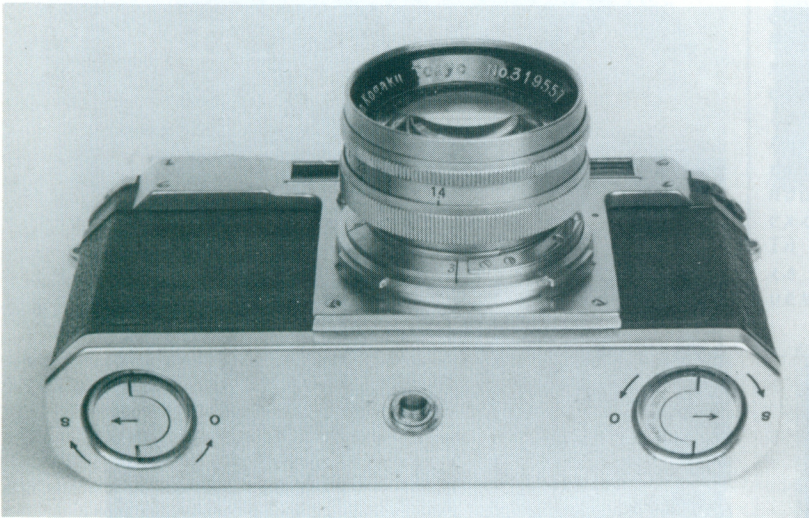




From T. Konno... In these photos are shown some of the many minor variations that can be found in the Nikon S if one looks closely. The top photos illustrate the two types of engravings of origin that can be found after the MIOJ was removed. The "Made in Japan" type is earlier & is found on such cameras as 6097034 & 6098039. The later "Japan" engraving can be seen as early as 6098594 & continued on into the S2 all the way into the early Nikon F era! Above are the two methods so far seen that Nikon used to hold the take-up spool in place. On the left is the much more common type dating back to the first Nikon Is with fixed spools all the way

to the latest known Nikon S. However, scattered amongst the early Nikon Ss can be found the type on the right. They are the same in that the mounting screws are identically located, but the left type is a separate piece while the right type is a permanent part of the shutter crate assembly! The type on the right has been seen on bodies such as 6097087, 6098594, 6098809, 6099662, 60910112 and 6106592. As you can see there is no pattern. Below are the two types of slow speed dial control knobs which, though a minor point, show how Nikon was constantly changing things on the Nikon S.





From Bill Fraker...Here are Nikon Ss #6095451 & 6095638. They are shown next to their original backs. Please note that 6095451 has the older M style back/baseplate assembly whereas 6095638 has the newer S style. The earlier M type used a screwless method of attaching the tripod socket. A plate with the socket was spot welded to the inside of the baseplate. However, this is a more or less permanent method and if the socket were damaged the entire back would probably have to be replaced. The newer S type used the same plate but it was now secured by 4 screws tapped directly through the baseplate with the result that a damaged socket could be replaced easily. These two closely numbered

bodies suggest that the change came somewhere in the 187 cameras between these two. Can this be narrowed down further?

Yes Bill they can! Tsuyoshi Konno submits this photo of the base of camera #6095503 with an M type base! That narrows it down to 135 units! From R. Rotoloni...Below is an example of the elusive MIOJ Nikon S. It has M style knobs and release collar, M baseplate and Red Eye synch. It has the MIOJ in the rear leather and the M style casting. Its serial number is 6094526... or is it? Take a closer look and you will see an 8th digit giving the number 60945261.....? More next issue!



THE "ORIGINAL LENS" FACTOR...

PART 3

BY

WILLIAM A. FRAKER

All collectors share in the quest for beauty and perfection. While a mint Nikon SP in black may have already attained beauty status, this series of articles is still seeking perfection. My database has grown to 403 pairs of original, factory coupled, bodies and 50mm lenses. My quest to provide collectors with a way to match bodies and lenses of similar vintage goes on. I have included in this installment a quick reference chart as well as some new insights not mentioned in my previous articles. Progress has been slow but I would like to express my thanks to those collectors who sent numbers and also encourage all NHS members to please send me more numbers. Even one suspected original factory coupled body and lens combination will help immensely. You may even submit anonymously, since I am only interested in the numbers. Any correspondence may be sent to.... Bill Fraker, 15516 Sunset Blvd. #302, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

A number of collectors have asked me to expand my project to include additional lenses besides the normals. A few entire outfits including cameras, wideangle, normal & telephoto lenses as well as accessories have been reported to me. These were reportedly bought at the same time and place, and should be of the same vintage. However, this may not be the case. Many lenses and accessories remain on store shelves for years and, therefore, do not match the camera bodies being sold concurrently. This makes it impossible to apply the same research logic to lenses other than the 50mm normals. Thus I will confine my studies to normal lenses. The only way to really determine the vintage of an accessory lens is to do a study of inspection slip dates.

While compiling data for the new chart, some interesting developments became apparent. Please notice that in the date section is camera #6098007 with lens #322038. The inspection slip is dated 1/27/52 and the lens is one of the very first seen to carry the "Japan" notation instead of "Tokyo". It can be deduced that this major switch in lens identification occurred in about January of 1952 for the 50mm f1.4 Nikkor lens.

It had been commonly thought that the "8 digit" Nikon S was an aberration which was corrected when Nikon switched to the 610xxxx numbering system. This means that after this point there were roughly 1200 more Nikon Ss than the serial numbers would indicate. The last recorded "8 digit S" at this time is #60911215, but the first confirmed 610.... series Nikon S is #6101238! This suggests that Nikon began numbering the 610.... series where the "8 digits" left off! This would mean that Nikon S #6101238 is the 11,238th. camera made by Nikon and that the majority of Nikon S body numbers really do reflect the actual number of cameras produced by Nippon Kogaku.

For those of us lucky enough to possess a black Nikon S2, there seems to be an interesting pattern developing. Almost all of those black S2s in the 6170900 range have been found with the all black version of the 50mm/1.4 Nikkor. These lenses have been recorded from the 358xxx, 3615xx and 365xxx batches.

Another interesting aspect concerns the Olympic 50mm/f1.4 lenses. A small number of these lenses has been reliably reported as coming on very late Nikon SPs in the 6230000 to 6232599 range. This range corresponds in time with the Olympic S3s and so it is not surprising that Olympic lenses are seen on these cameras. Perhaps this group of SPs should be referred to as the Olympic SPs, although not all lenses on these cameras are Olympics. The SP is thought to have outlasted the S3. The Olympic lens data bares this out. While the Olympic S3s appear to have only Olympic lenses below #141400, Nikon SPs after #6231700 often have Olympic lenses over #141400. This would seem to indicate that SPs over 6231700 were made after the Olympic S3s, and were thus mated with later numbered Olympic 1.4s.

In this installment I have included an expanded quick reference guide for mating bodies and lenses of similar vintage. This chart begins with the Nikon I and continues through to the S4. The middle section is updated from the last article & includes the Olympics. Please keep in mind that screwmount batches, original dealer lens switching, and user upgrades have made perfect historical accuracy impossible. Use this chart as a general guide for mating bodies to lenses. The camera dating information has also been expanded. With a little arithmetic it should be easier to determine the original production dates of our cameras. Only more recorded numbers will allow these guides to become more accurate, so please keep those numbers coming in!



CAMERA AND LENS VINTAGE GUIDE

CAMERA	to	LENS	CAMERA	to	LENS
50mm f3.5 (705XXX)					
60922 - 609150	=	7051 - 705300	/	609151 - 609759	= 7051 - 7052290
50mm f2.0 (609XXX)					
60922 - 609150	=	6091 - 60969			
50mm f2.0 (708XXX)					
60922 - 60983	=	7081 - 70880	/	60984 - 609759	= 70881 - 708691
50mm f2.0 (811XXX)					
M609760 - M6091079	=	8111 - 811220	/	M6091460 - M6092500	= 8111157 - 8112950
50mm f1.5 (905XXX & 907XXX)					
M6091080 - M6091459	=	9051 - 905550	/	M6091650 - M6092230	= 9071 - 907734
50mm f2.0 (5008XXXX)					
M6091800 - M6093350	=	50080001 - 50081050			
50mm f1.4 (5005XXXX)					
M6091700 - 6094159	=	50050001 - 50052116			
50mm f2.0 (617XXX)					
M6093200 - 6094460	=	617001 - 618200	/	6094461 - 6095100	= 618201 - 618999
6095101 - 60910810	=	619001 - 625408	/	60910811 - 6101279	= 625409 - 625478
50mm f1.4 (316XXX)					
M6093400 - 6094650	=	316001 - 316999	/	6094651 - 6095250	= 317000 - 317999
6095251 - 6096100	=	318000 - 318999	/	6096101 - 6096800	= 319000 - 320999
6096801 - 6097900	=	321000 - 321999	/	6097901 - 6099100	= 322000 - 322999
6099100 - 60910000	=	323000 - 323999	/	60910001 - 60910500	= 324000 - 324999
60910501 - 6101650	=	325000 - 325999			
S					
6101650 - 6109999			f1.4		f2.0
6110000 - 6119999			326000 - 335200		625200 - 633840
6120000 - 6129999			335200 - 3425XX		633940 - 6430XX
			3425XX - 3461XX		6430XX - 6517XX
S2					
6135000 - 6139999			338760 - 351500		640XXX - 653XXX
6140000 - 6149999			351500 - 361800		651XXX - 656XXX
6150000 - 6159999			361800 - 370XXX		656XXX - 659XXX
6160000 - 6169999			370XXX - 375XXX		659XXX - 725XXX
6170000 - 6179999			376XXX - 383XXX		725XXX - 734XXX
6180000 - 6189999			382XXX - 389XXX		735XXX - 745XXX
6190000 - 6196999			390XXX - 397XXX		746XXX - 747XXX
SP					
6200000 - 6204999			384XXX - 397XXX		737XXX - 746XXX
6205000 - 6207999			397XXX - 403XXX		746XXX - 748XXX
6208000 - 6209999			404XXX - 405XXX		748XXX - 749XXX
6210000 - 6214999			405XXX - 411XXX		750XXX - 760XXX
6215000 - 6229999			410XXX - 414XXX		760XXX - 766XXX
6230000 - 6232999			414XXX - 418XXX		766XXX - 768XXX
6230000 - 6231700			140001 - 1414XX (OLYMPIC)		766XXX - 768XXX
6231700 - 6232999			1414XX - 1415XX (OLYMPIC)		766XXX - 768XXX



CAMERA AND LENS VINTAGE GUIDE
CONT'D

S3	f1.4	f2.0
6300000 - 6302999	402XXX - 403XXX	746XXX - 748XXX
6303000 - 6305999	402XXX - 403XXX	748XXX - 750XXX
6306000 - 6308999	403XXX - 404XXX	750XXX - 752XXX
6309000 - 6313999	404XXX - 409XXX	752XXX - 757XXX
6320000 - 6320350	4095XX - 410XXX	NONE
6320351 - 6322599	1413XX - 140001 (OLYMPIC IN REVERSED ORDER)	
S4		
6500000 - 6505999	410XXX - 416XXX	749XXX - 757XXX

50mm f1.1 (1196XX INT. & 1407XX EXT.)

6167536 - 6185870 = 119637 - 119933 / 6201059 - 6213000 = 119939 - 121084
6213001 - 6214493 = 140701 - 141335 / 6214494 - 6232999 = 141336 - 142484

CAMERA PRODUCTION DATE GUIDE

BODY & LENS	DATE
I	
60939 - 70815	05-48 (p. 59 RJR)
609536 - 708651	04-49 (p. 59 RJR)
M	
M609841 - 81157	10-49 (p. 60 RJR)
M6091857 - 50080125	7-14-50 (?)
M6091890 - 907232	8-05-50 (IS)
M6093445 - 50052083	3-01-51 (IS)
S	
6095741 - 318079	8-20-51 (IS)
6097139 - 321311	12-13-51 (GC)
6098007 - 322038	1-27-52 (IS) 2-4-52 (GC)
6098594 - 322745	3-04-52 (IS)
6099176 - 323997	4-04-52 (IS) 4-11-52 (GC)
6099400 - 323913	5-04-52 (IS & GC)
60910012 - 324304	6-05-52 (IS & GC)
60910810 - 625408	7-08-52 (?)
6101279 - 625478	7-22-52 (?)
6102010 - 326477	9-03-52 (GC)
6103953 - 328226	12-10-52 (GC)
6109471 - 633832	8-07-53 (GC)
6109962 - 633805	8-17-53 (GC)
6112112 - 336549	9-30-53 (GC)
6115871 - 631651	12-17-53 (GC)
6122131 - 344142	6-24-54 (GC)
6129418 - 650839	12-08-54 (GC)
S2	
6138657 - 351568	3-30-55 (GC)
6166305 - 373465	7-03-56 (IS)
6167692 - 374958	8-21-56 (GC)
6168321 - 374277	9-04-56 (GC)
6191323 - 391588	9-04-57 (GC)
SP	
6206524 - 403068	7-01-58 (GC)
6209127 - 402810	9-30-58 (GC)
6214961 - 411592	7-07-59 (GC)

THE GERMAN

"NIKKOR F"!

BY RALF JANNKE



NIKKOR F Photomic

entscheiden sich für
NIKKOR

denn höchste mechanische und optische Präzision, Vielseitigkeit in der Anwendung, robuste Bauweise und einfachste Bedienung — kurz, höchste Leistungsfähigkeit — sind für jeden anspruchsvollen Fotofreund ausschlaggebend.

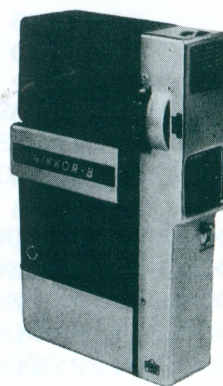
Die NIKKOR F, eine einäugige 35 mm Spiegelreflex-Kamera, die von den meisten Berufs-Fotografen verwendet wird, löst alle Aufnahme-probleme. Technisch vollkommen und ausgestattet mit zahlreichem Zubehör, wird das Fotografieren mit dieser Kamera zu einem wirklichen Vergnügen.

NIKKOR-Objektive zählen seit Jahren zur Weltspitzenklasse. Neuschöpfungen wie z. B. das NIKKOR-Fisheye-Objektiv mit einem Bildwinkel von 180° oder das PC-NIKKOR, ein Weitwinkel-Typ, welcher parallel zur Filmebene verschoben werden kann und deshalb eine Korrektur der Perspektive ermöglicht, sind Zeugnisse für bahnbrechende Leistungen. Zahlreiche weitere Objektive verschiedenster Brennweiten erschliessen mit dem entsprechenden Zubehör alle Bereiche von der Makro- bis zur Astro-Fotografie. Beachtung verdient auch der zur NIKKOR F lieferbare Motorantrieb mit einer Bildleistung von bis zu 250 Aufnahmen in einem Zeitintervall von 4 Sekunden.

Die NIKKOR F kann wahlweise mit dem «Photomic», einem gekuppelten Kadmium-Sulfid-Belichtungsmesser mit Lichteinfallwinkelbegrenzern, oder mit dem üblichen Standard-Prismensucher geliefert werden.

NIPPON KOGAKU K. K., das älteste und führende Unternehmen der japanischen optischen Industrie baut Kameras in verschiedenen Preisklassen. Besonders geschätzt wird die preisgünstige NIKKOR J, und die Schmalfilmfreunde sind begeistert von der vollautomatischen NIKKOR 8, welche dank kleinsten Abmessungen bequem in jeder Rocktasche Platz findet.

Lassen Sie sich bei Ihrem Fotohändler ganz unverbindlich eine NIKKOR-Kamera zeigen. Als Fachmann orientiert er Sie gerne über das umfassende NIKKOR-Programm.



NIKKOR 8



NIKKOR J



NIPPON KOGAKU K. K.

**TOKYO
JAPAN**

Hersteller der weltbekannten 24 x 36 mm NIKKOR-Foto- u. 8 mm Schmalfilmkameras — NIKKOR-Objektive — Feldstecher — Fernrohre — Mikroskope — optische Kontroll- und Messgeräte — optisches Rohglas



Beachten Sie die vielen Möglichkeiten des NIKKOR-Systems

Prüfen Sie z. B. das Sucher-System: Schon beim ersten Durchblick fällt das aussergewöhnlich helle und scharfe Bild des Standard-Prismensuchers auf. Mit einem Knopfdruck lässt sich dieser Dachkantprismensucher abheben. Hiefür gibt es zwei wichtige Gründe:

Erstens lässt sich der Suchereinsatz innerhalb von Sekunden austauschen. Anstelle des Standardsuchereinsatzes A (Mattscheibeneinsatz mit Schnittbild und Fresnellinse) haben Sie die Wahl unter vier anderen: Typ B (Matt Fresnel), Typ C (Mitte hell mit Fadenkreuz), Typ D (ganz matt ohne Fresnel) oder aber Typ E (matt mit vertikalen und horizontalen Linien) – und ganz nach Bedarf und Gewohnheit!

Zweitens: Der auswechselbare Dachkantprismensucher wird ebenso schnell gegen den Photomic Mess-Sucher oder gegen den Lichtschachtsucher ausgewechselt. Der Photomic Mess-Sucher ergibt eine Kombination eines mit dem Objektiv und der Zeit gekuppelten Belichtungsmessers und Prismensuchers. Die Messanzeige ist durch das Cds-System äusserst exakt. Verlängerungsfaktoren werden durch entsprechendes Einstellen automatisch berücksichtigt. Ebenso ermöglicht das Verschrauben des Lichtbegrenzers genaueste Lichtmessung im Tele-Bereich.

Der Lichtschachtsucher mit Suchlupe ermöglicht wiederum das Fotografieren im engsten Raum und bei beliebiger Kamerahaltung mit optimaler Scharfeinstellung.

Dies sind nur einige Beispiele des in seiner Vielseitigkeit unübertroffenen NIKKOR F-Systems. Hiervon gibt es Dutzende! Erlauben Sie uns insbesondere, auf die 22 in Qualität unvergleichlichen Nikkor-Objektive und all das Präzisionszubehör für die Micro-, Macro-, Astro- und Repro-Fotografie hinzuweisen. Ob es sich um Serienaufnahmen bis zu 250 Stück mit dem Motoransatz oder um die Fernsteuerung bis zu einer 300-m-Entfernung vom Standort der Kamera handelt – auch diese Aufgaben werden durch das allseitige NIKKOR F-System gelöst. Prüfen Sie dieses System eingehend – es verspricht auch Ihnen die Lösung aller fotografischen Spezialprobleme.

Nikkor F



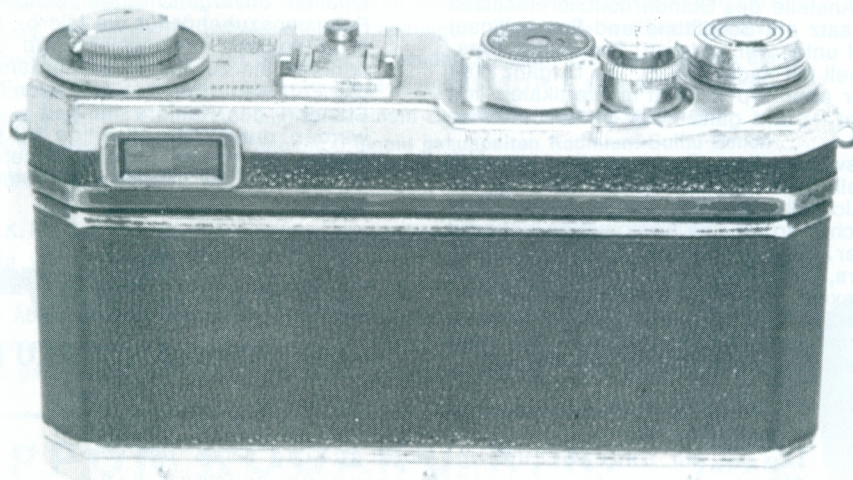
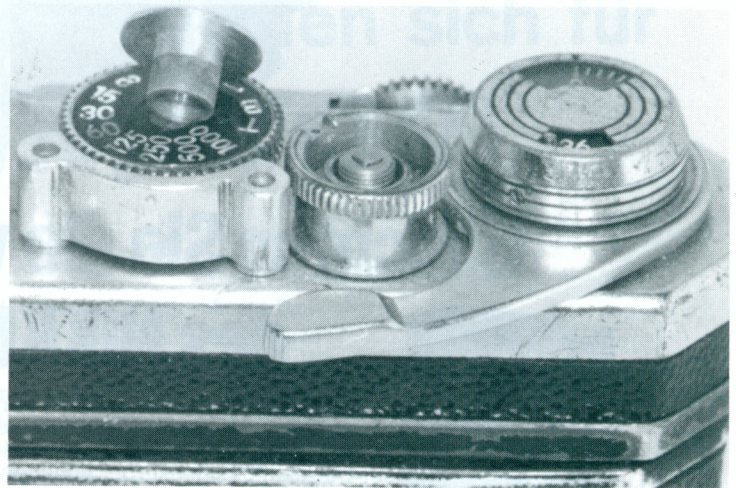
NIPPON KOGAKU K.K. TOKYO, JAPAN.

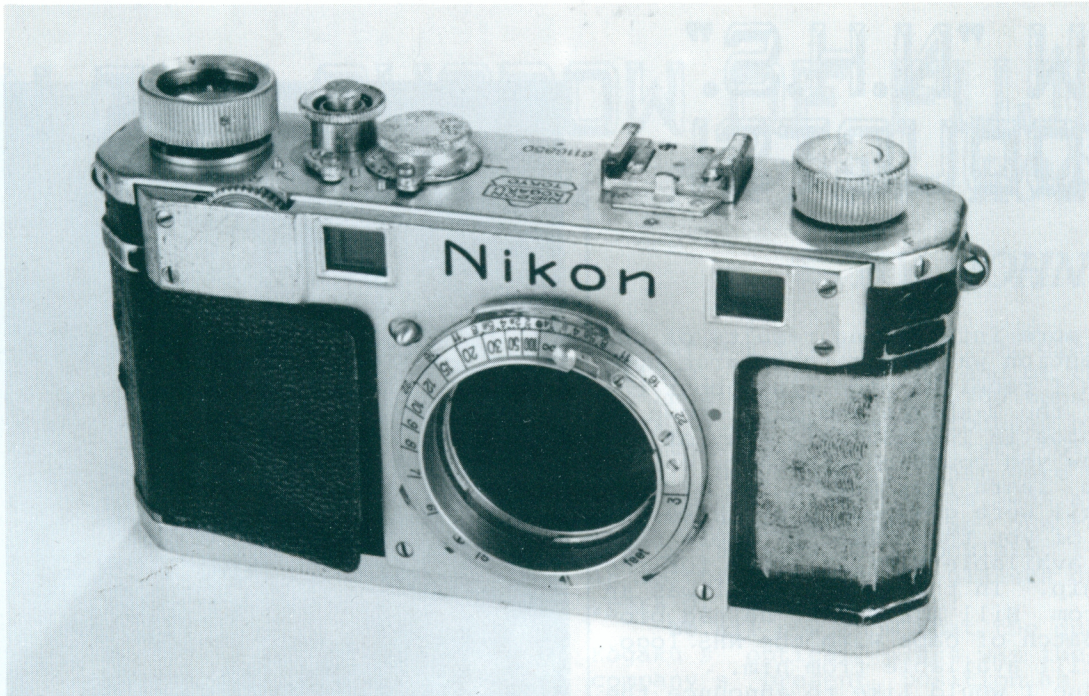
This ad, and the one on the previous page, are from German publications from the early 1960s. It is my understanding that during this period there was a legal battle going on between Nippon Kogaku & Zeiss over the similarity between the words "Nikon" & "Ikon" leading to the use of the label "Nikkor", but only for a time.

THE "BEST" OF THE "WORST"!?

In NHS-22 I mentioned an idea first proposed by member Peter Lownds to begin a search for the "worst" Nikon. This issue we have two candidates for the "ugliest" Nikon with, hopefully, more to come. So here is the other side of Nikon collecting.

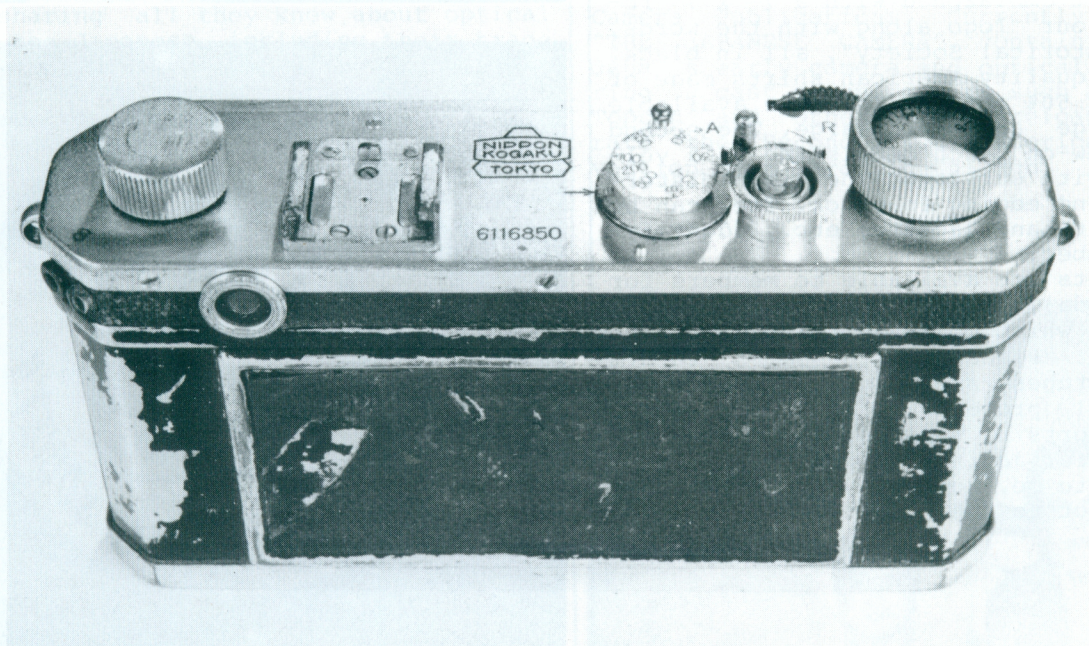
The Nikon SP illustrated on this page is, unfortunately, a part of this editors' collection. It was originally owned by a Chicago Tribune newspaper photographer and it looks it! I like to refer to this item as having "wall-to-wall" scratches, with barely a square millimeter of chrome plating or black paint untouched by the ravages of time. Note that it has also been modified with some sort of shutter dial "guard" (which is removable), that may have allowed its original owner to change speeds more quickly and accurately. It also has a homemade soft release that actually replaces the normal type, which is missing. One unusual aspect of this "beater" is that, despite its looks, it's one of the smoothest shooting SPs I've ever used and the range/viewfinder optics are perfect!





From Bill Fraker..

I acquired this Nikon S, serial #6116850, from LIFE Magazine photographer Phil Stern. He used it for many years, but its main use was in an underwater housing. That is how it probably got in this condition, and this is how he handed it to me! Much of the leather is badly damaged or completely gone and the controls and chrome parts show much wear, not to mention the black painted areas. I hope it qualifies for one of the "worst" Nikons.



NEW "N.H.S." PRODUCTS!

One of the more interesting results of our first NHS Convention was the rather large number of letters I received enquiring about the availability of the T-shirts and caps shown in some of the photos in The Journal. Many of you wrote to ask how you could obtain them, & were disappointed to learn that only a few of each were made and all were grabbed up by those who attended. Many of you then asked if there were plans to make available similar items for the entire membership. In the last Journal was an announcement from Bill Adams that he had produced another batch of caps with the NHS logo, and these are still available from him.

In this issue I would like to announce the arrival of, hopefully, the first in a series of "official" products bearing the "NHS" logo, to be made available to the members only! I have been thinking of doing something along these lines for some time, and two things occurred to convince me that the time was right. First, was the obvious interest in such items generated by the Convention. Second, was the urging of my accountant to do something to improve the fiscal condition of the Society, at least to the point of trying to break even. Therefore, in response to both of the above, I announce the availability of the first two "NHS" items: a yellow T-shirt emblazoned with a 7" x 7" reproduction of our logo along with the words, "The Nikon Historical Society", all in black. These are high quality American shirts made of 50% polyester & 50% cotton. They are available in medium, large and extra large. The second item is a 3" sew-on patch consisting of a yellow background with our logo, The Nikon Historical Society, and edging in black. They can be sewn onto shirts and jackets, etc., identifying you as a member.

The T-shirts are available to members for \$11 (US & Canada), \$13 (Europe), & \$16 (Japan & S. Pacific), which includes first class and airmail postage! Please state sizes in all orders! The patches are \$4 each anywhere in the world. All proceeds will be used to further the efforts of this Society. Anyone who has suggestions for additional products are encouraged to write me. Hopefully this will be a successful adjunct to the Society.



IN THE SHADOW OF FUJI...

TALES OF NIPPON KOGAKU!!

BY JOHN BAIRD

As many of you will recall, Nippon Kogaku, K.K., was originally formed in the summer of 1917 with the merger of three smaller optical companies, which included the Fujii Lens Factory. From the beginning, the new company was involved in both the fabrication and repair of binoculars and telescopes for the Japanese military establishment. At the same time that Nippon Kogaku, K.K., was getting off the ground, so to speak, the Japanese Imperial Navy was conducting experimental dissolvings of optical glass at its base at Tsukiji, Tokyo. This project was a continuation of an earlier program first initiated in 1915 and then restarted again in 1921. This project involved some 24 people and eventually conducted ten dissolvings during 1923.

A question that comes to mind is why did the Japanese Imperial Navy need this program? The reasons are actually quite simple. During the First World War Japan was cut off from its supplies of German-made glass that was used in optical devices and ordnance. In order to preclude future supply problems the Navy, who was at the time manufacturing several different types of optical devices, was determined to have its own supply of optical glass, independent of outside sources. Since the Germans were not sharing all they knew about optical glass with the Japanese, including their trade secrets dealing with the annealing process, the Imperial Navy was forced into conducting experimental dissolvings of glass in order to produce some of the barium-type glasses used in some larger lens systems. By the summer of 1923 the Navy's glass program was able to produce four different types of optical glass including "BK7". It would appear that everything was going along quite well without a hitch until the first day of September, 1923. This was the day the Great Kanto Earthquake shook the city of Tokyo, leaving the Navy's glass plant in shambles. Apparently, the damage to Nippon Kogaku was not as great. Because of Nippon Kogaku's optical expertise and relatively undamaged factories, in the following months the company was charged with the responsibility of the Navy's investigation into the production

of various types of optical glass. The rest is history....and by the end of the Second World War in mid-1945, over 1,700 tons of various optical glass had been produced by Nippon Kogaku for the Japanese military. Glass used in the early 50mm Nikkors that were fitted to those neat Hansa Canon cameras, was also used in optical ordnance such as gun rangefinders and sights as well as binoculars. It was also used in binoculars and eye-glasses during the first years of the Occupation!

We all now know that the quality of Nippon Kogaku's optical glass was the reason for the company's present position as Japan's premier optical house. But suppose for a moment...just for a moment...that the Kanto Earthquake had not happened at all...or to the degree that did not require Nippon Kogaku to take over the Navy's glass program. Would Nippon Kogaku have developed its own optical glass program to the extent that David D. Duncan would have still used Nikkor lenses in Korea? Kind of a scary thought!

Anyway, this Tale of Nippon Kogaku has been adapted from a monograph entitled, "THE JAPANESE CAMERA". This and 5 other monographs from Robert Rotoloni, Peter Dechert and myself will be available this fall from Historical Camera Publications. Currently plans call for "THE JAPANESE CAMERA", containing the saga of Japan's early camera and optical industry, starring a cast of characters such as Nikon, Canon, Topcon and others, to be released to commemorate the Second Nikon Historical Society Convention next March in Chicago.

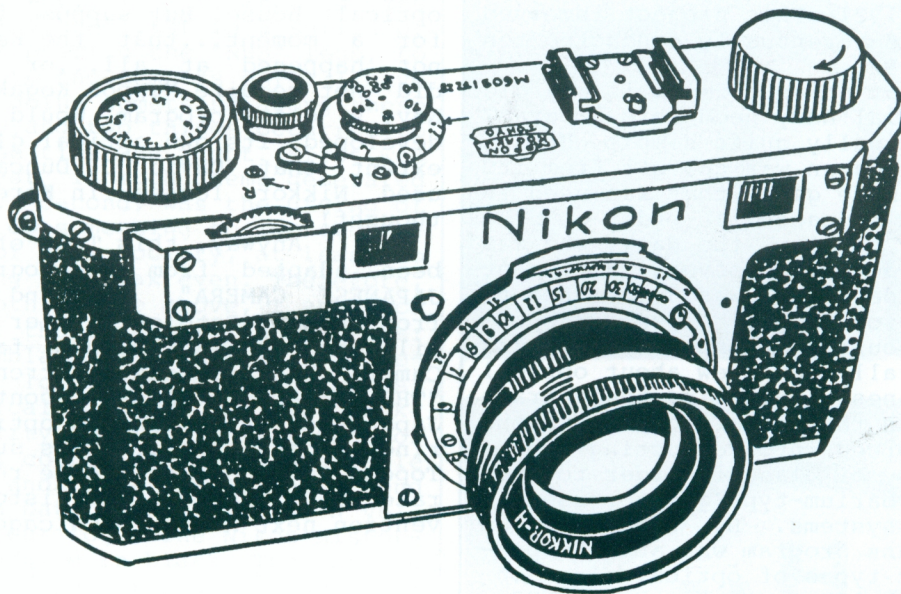
John Baird unmasked!! That's him on the left with John Angle in the middle and yours truly on the right. The Japanese gentleman is Hayato Ueyama, and this photo was taken at his home in Osaka the evening we viewed his fantastic Canon collection.



HISTORICAL CAMERA PUBLICATIONS

announces

THE HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE CAMERA



STARTING SUMMER 1989, A SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS ON COLLECTIBLE JAPANESE CAMERAS BY PETER DECHERT, ROBERT ROTOLONI, AND JOHN BAIRD. NEW AND UP-DATED PUBLICATIONS ON CANON, NIKON, AND OLYMPUS CAMERAS . . . PLUS A REVEALING LOOK INTO JAPAN'S PRE-WAR CAMERA INDUSTRY. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE WRITE HISTORICAL CAMERA PUBLICATIONS, P.O. BOX 90, GLEED STATION, YAKIMA, WASHINGTON 98904.

John Angle, John Baird and I returned to Japan for six days in February to renew many friendships and to make some new ones. We were again able to see and spend time with some of our Japanese members including; Yuki Kawai, Tsuyoshi Konno, Akito Tamla, Katsuharu Takashima, Tad Sato & Hayato Ueyama, as well as new member Tsuyoshi Oshima. In addition we again met with Koichi Sugiyama & Mikio Awano, who were two of the main people behind the excellent book "The Collectors' Guide to Japanese Cameras".

Our trip was different this time in that we had more opportunities to get out and see the world's largest city, which is impossible to describe in words and must be seen to be believed. We were able to make a return visit to the Pentax Gallery to view their collection, which included a Nikon I, #609150, on display. We spent nearly a day there looking at some of their extensive collection. The curator, Mr. Sakai, brought out a box containing about two dozen cameras and explained to us that these pieces were the original set of cameras used for the first Pentax Gallery display, a collection that now numbers over 5,000 pieces! I was happy to see that a Nikon SP was included!

On Sunday we again attended a meeting of the Tokyo Nikon Club where many interesting items were brought for us to see including two early Nikon Ms, one with a 6 digit serial number. Other items shown to us that week included; Type I reflex housing, black motorized SP with a Stereo-Nikkor mounted, boxed Canon Hansa with an early Nikkor, Nikon SP #123 and a very late Nikon I.

We had made plans to take the famous Shin-kansen bullet train to Osaka to meet with member Hayato Ueyama. This we did and were able to make the 600 mile round trip in one day because of this train's ability to average over 100 MPH! Ueyama-san was kind enough to take us to his home to view his Canon collection. Some of you may recall that Hayato Ueyama was a major contributor to Peter Dechert's Canon book and his collection is one of the most important in the world. We spent a few hours surrounded by Hansa, J and Seiki Canons, all with very early and rare Nikkors mounted. Some of these lenses are the rarest surviving Nikkors and are much more difficult to find than most of the lenses in our Nikon collections.

During walks through the Ginza we saw many interesting Nikons for sale in some of the camera shops. These included many SPs, S3s & S2s as well as harder to find items such as Ms, S4s and black S3 Olympics. About the only thing we didn't see on display was a Nikon I or S3M, but most other models are available in the stores of Tokyo. Camera shopping in Tokyo is very different than anywhere else in the world. Shops are everywhere and sometimes 3-4 to the block. All seem to carry an immense selection of both contemporary & collectible cameras, and we saw interesting Nikons at every stop!

I would like to thank our Japanese members for making it a successful trip and for their kindness and generosity. A trip such as this is much easier when you have friends amongst the locals to help you get around easily. With their help we were able to see much more in a short period of time than would have been possible without them.



The above photo was taken during the meeting of the Tokyo Nikon Club. Seated with me is Takayuki Kawai. Standing left to right.... Tad Sato, (unidentified), Dr. Kuno and Katsuharu Takashima.

Below is John Angle enjoying himself in front of Nikon House, which is a fantastic camera store specializing in Nikons of all vintages and is located right in the heart of the Ginza. In this unique curved window are rows after rows of Nikon items! More photos in the next issue.



LETTERS...LETTERS...LETTERS...

From Albert Kubanis...

Dear Robert,

The "Odds n' Ends" feature in issue #22 prompts this letter. I also possess a similar Cooke Amotal lens. Mine is serial #301961 and it appears to be identical to the "COOKIKKOR" featured in Mr. Fraker's article. I also have the lens cap, which appears identical to the one shown, except that the finish on mine seems to be more dull. I purchased the lens through Shutterbug some years ago because I was informed that it was "tack" sharp. Photos taken with it do not warrant this assumption! Largely because of the poor performance of the lens I had assumed it was a "homemade" item. Burton Tilly once examined the lens. His comment was that it was a non-professional adaptation. It may not be focusing to infinity because of disassembly and failure to replace a "spacer".

In response to Calvin Ho's article in #21, I have a clip-on meter for the "F" #203407. I believe this number is higher than any he has previously recorded.

In a previous issue of "The Journal" there was a discussion about the Society's symbol & our ability to protect it. I do not know if you have received any response from other lawyers who are members. However, I shall try to say a few words about the problem. I suspect the original logo is a "trademark", the property of Nippon Kogaku. To protect its usage in the U.S. Nikon would have registered it with the Patent Office. They may have abandoned this trademark since they now have a more modern design. If the trademark has been abandoned, then we may acquire ownership by obtaining a copyright of our design under federal law. All this is very complicated. If we have Nikon's permission to use their logo as we have adapted it for our Society, it is my opinion we have no problem. I do not believe we have any worry in people "pirating" our design. As a practical matter, almost no one has any interest in displaying it who is not a member of the Society.

From Allan Glenwright...

Dear Robert...

I know that you look for comments about the "Journal". Quite simply I welcome its arrival, & after a brief appraisal of the contents- especially the classifieds- I tend to save the remainder to read over a period of time. Certainly the depth and quality of the features are appreciated. After all, the "Journal" is a central point to exchange ideas & information and, frankly, I cannot fault it.

I was very pleased to note that you intend to hold a second "NHS" Convention in March of 1990, which I assume will again be in Chicago, and I hope to be able to attend.

From Thomas DiFiglio...

Dear Bob,

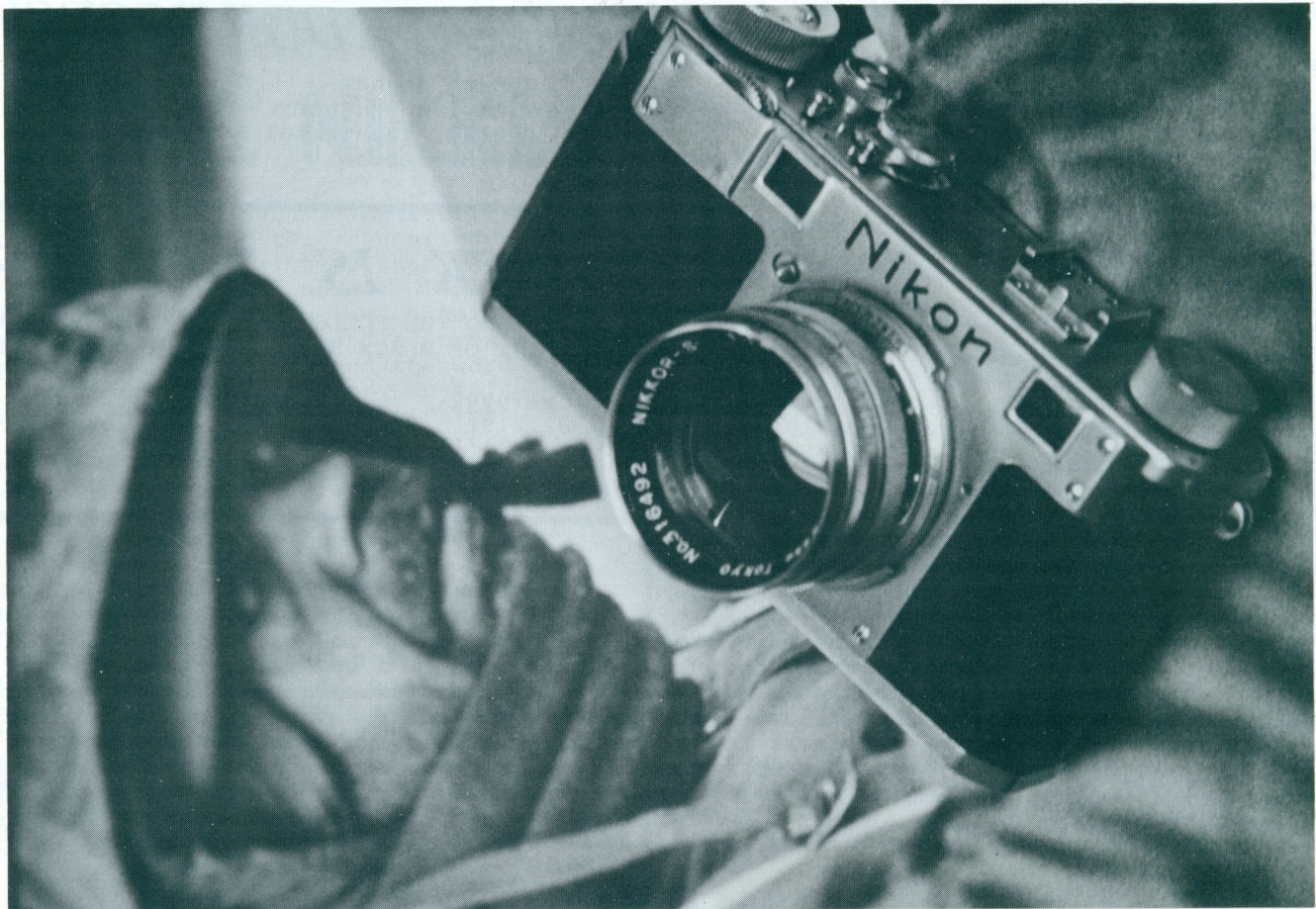
I am writing in to let you know that I also have a "COOKIKKOR" lens serial #300375! It is an F2.0 made by Taylor & Hobson of England and is in chrome finish. It came to me mounted on a chrome Nikon S2 serial #6181034. I do not have the original lens cap, which appears to be aluminum. My lens definitely has a Nikkor lens mount. The upper half is obviously made by Taylor and Hobson! Apparently somewhere along the line...either in Japan or England...the upper part was mated to the lens mount. Three tiny screws around the periphery of the lens hold it to the mount. It would make for interesting reading if you could research the manufacture of this lens, either from Nikon or Taylor and Hobson. Apparently the "COOKIKKOR" is not a "one-off" custom made lens...but in all probability a small batch made to test the waters so to speak. Whatever the case, it makes for a very interesting piece!

From Alan Johanson...

Dear Bob,

Talk about deja vu! Tony Hurst's retrospective Nikon ad on the back of #22 was a shock to me. Let me explain myself. Many years ago I interviewed the owner of a Nikon M who had been a Marine Captain in Korea. Photojournalist David Douglas Duncan followed his unit for awhile taking pictures. Based on Duncan's advice he got his Nikon M from a military exchange in Japan.

To substantiate his story he took out his copy of Duncan's famous Korean chronicle, "This Is War", and pointed to a picture Duncan had taken of him! I couldn't resist. Laying his Nikon M on the book opened up to the page with his very own portrait, I shot a rather artsy photograph, reuniting the soldier and his camera. And then, to bring everything up to date, I shot the old soldier as he is today! Seeing the ad in the "Nikon Journal" really makes me wonder if such a thing as extrasensory perception exists!



Classified

WANTED...Black Nikon SP/S3 body with/without lens in any cosmetic condition, but must function mechanically; viewfinder for 21mm reflex lens. Allan Glenwright, 5 Rectory Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1XR, England.

WANTED...Researching the early development of the Minolta-35 rangefinder cameras and accessories. Desire correspondence with members regarding information about early Minolta-35s. Alan Johanson, 1275 The By Way, Atlanta, GA., 30306 USA.

WANTED...Any book or magazine dealing with Nikon rangefinder or F systems. Danilo Capuani, via S. Spirito, 10 - 40026 Imola (Bo), Italy.

TRADE...135/f4.0 Bellows Nikkor-Q #579193 in EX+ condition w/BRL tube & caps. Will consider trades on one of the following items: black variframe finder, types 7 or 9; 2.8cm attachment for variframe; MIOJ varifocal finder; collar device for Micro-Nikkor; chrome dial S2 in Mint condition w/box & papers; all black original 135/f3.5 Nikkor w/proper shade/caps/case. Mike H. Symons, 3844 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8P 2S9. Phone (604)-477-1867 after 6PM PST.

WANTED...Any good clean Nion RF item wanted. Top prices paid! Please send photo along with price to: Peter Lownds, W.de Zwijgerstraat 24, 3043 VD Rotterdam, Holland.

WANTED...Unsynced Nikon M with proper "811" or "5005" lens. Also Nikon S4.....both EX+ or better. Reversing rings for RF Bellows focusing attachment. Have some trade items and/or cash. Want your trade/sell list. Robert Harris, 1507 Fairway Dr., Dunedin, FL 34698. (813)-734-4906 anytime 8AM to 10PM Eastern time.

Have available for trade/sale the following Nikon RF equipment: 28mm chrome lens; BC-5 units in case, some boxed w/IB; Nikon Manual by Geo. Wright; Varifocal Type 1 w/Leica markings; Nikkorex 8 cameras, new in box w/cards; Rolleicord III; Nikon fisheye finder. Want Nikon RF items especially wide angles, or Nikon F lenses and accessories, especially the exotics. Send list of available items to address in NHS-22 or daytime phone (213)-955-8442. John Williams.

FOR SALE...85/f4 Nikkor telephoto conversion lens for Nikkorex Auto-35, caps, case, boxed.. Rare..NEW \$130.00. Lens hood for 48mm Nikkor (Nikkorex Auto-35), boxed..NEW \$12.00. Grays of Westminster, 45A Moreton Terrace, London SW1V 2NS, U.K. Tele-(01) 828-4925. Call/write with your credit card for same day dispatch. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Amex & Diners.

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Tacoma, WA 98422

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PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR LIST OF BLACK NIKON RANGEFINDER BODIES!

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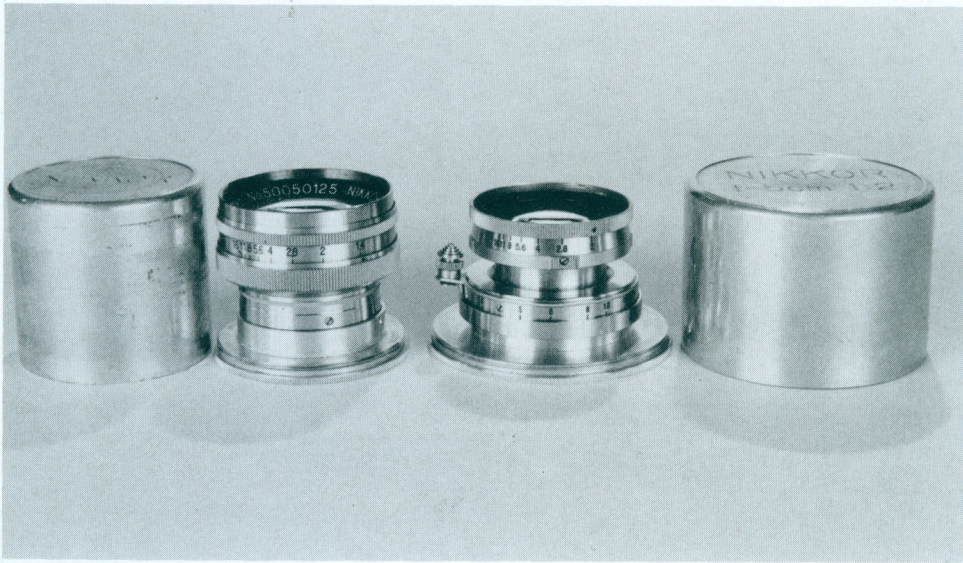
"NEXT ISSUE"

The deadline for the next issue of "THE NIKON JOURNAL" will be June 1, 1989. Many of you are aware that June marks the 30th anniversary of the original release of the Nikon F. If everything goes as planned NHS-24 will have a very interesting article on this landmark camera to coincide with this event and it will be from a collector's point of view. Those of you planning on submitting an article for NHS-24 must get it me by the deadline. Thank you.

odds 'n ends

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

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



THE NIKKOR "CANISTERS"!

One of the more unusual accessories from the early years of the rangefinder era were the aluminum canisters that are sometimes found with the normal lenses for which they served as shipping containers. They consisted of a base and a screw-on top upon which was emblazoned the word "NIKKOR" in rather large letters. Up to a few years ago only screw mount versions of these canisters had surfaced. A store owner once told me that he remembers that the screw mount normals sometimes came in these canisters, but he didn't recall ever seeing a bayonet version. Pictured here is such a bayonet type, courtesy of William Fraker. It came with a 50mm/f1.4 lens number 50050125, which is a very early version from 1950. At this time it is not known for how long Nippon Kogaku continued this practice, but black bakelite versions also are known, and it is thought that they would be of later vintage than the aluminum type. To date these metal canisters have generally been found with collapsible 50mm/f2.0 Nikkors, which dates them to no later than 1950. More need to be discovered to see how long they were produced.





*A "VINTAGE" AD FOR THE NIKON SP
AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!!
CREATED BY TONY HURST*