

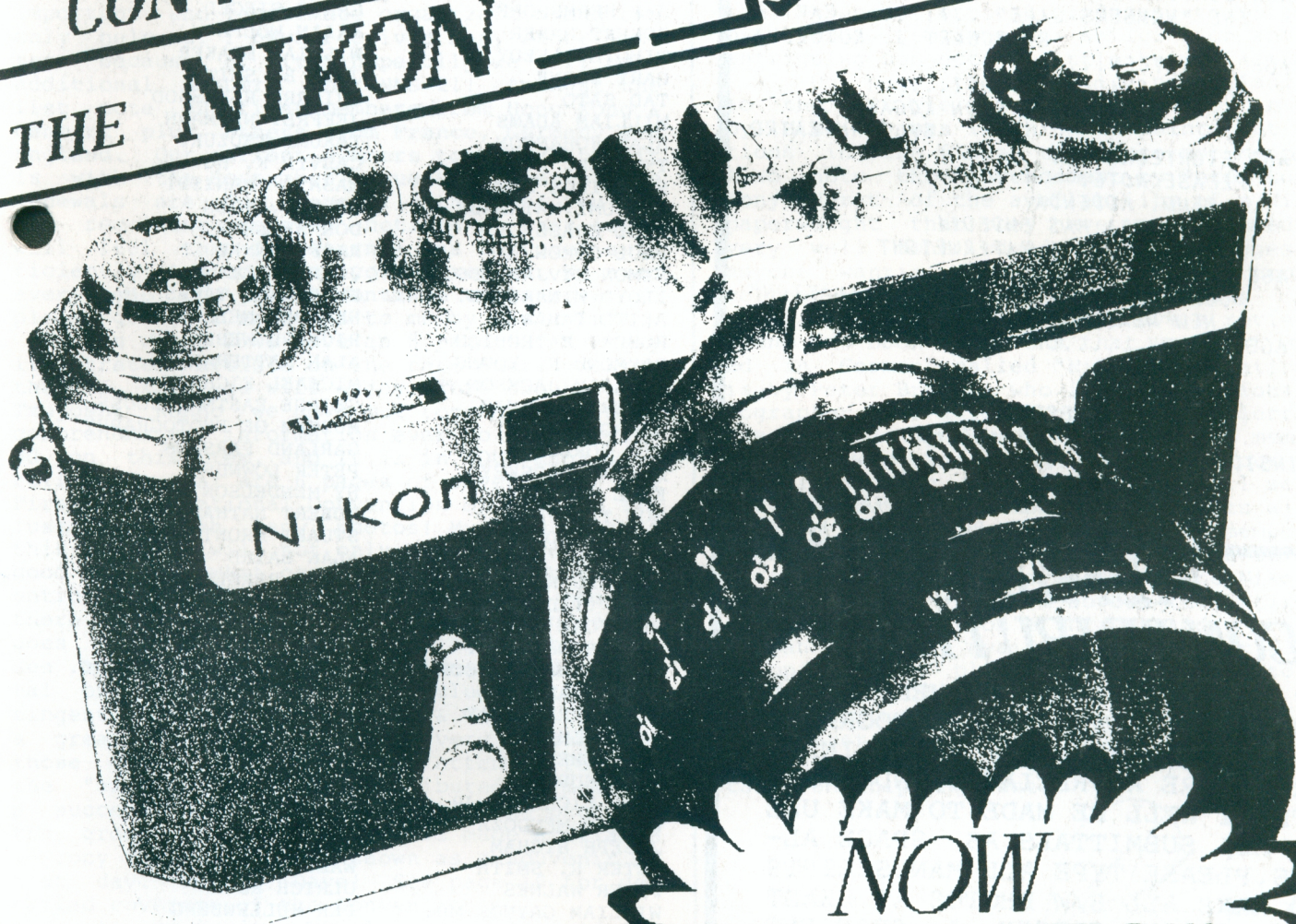
A PUBLICATION OF THE
NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 30, 1988



20

CONVENTION COVERAGE INSIDE!!!
THE NIKON JOURNAL



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24 PAGES!!!

ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THE NIKON Journal

ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER

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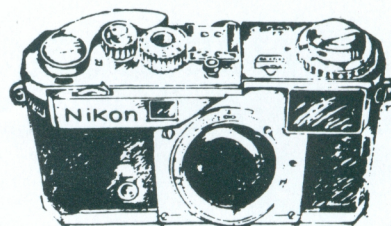
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BACKGROUND IS PREFERRED AND TRY
TO MAKE PHOTOS HIGH CONTRAST.
YOU WILL BE GIVEN A BY-LINE UN-
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ENCLOSE AN "SASE" IF RETURN OF
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the biggest (and hopefully the best!) issue of "The Journal" yet!! I have so many things to cover on this page that I will dispense with all "small talk" and get right into it. First we are now a 24 PAGE magazine! I have decided to go ahead and do it with the hope that memberships will maintain at least their current levels. With the postage hike & the added weight things will be a bit tight for awhile, but each additional member will improve the bottom line. While on the subject of members see page 19 for a list of 17 new people! Some of them have joined as a direct result of our Convention and the fine article on page 116 of the June issue of SHUTTERBUG ADS written by member Peter Dechert. I am extremely grateful to Peter for using both his influence at Shutterbug as well as his writing skills to report on our Convention & help publicize our existence to the world. Articles such as Peter's help make our Society a more important and legitimate organization and can only help us. I have received many other letters because of it & hopefully we will have additional members for NHS-21! Amongst the list note our first members from Hong Kong & Denmark plus others from France, Germany and England. Our current numbers total 130 but it is with the September issue that most of the renewals are due. Hopefully those of you who receiving renewal notices in this issue will feel that The Journal has improved sufficiently to convince you to rejoin. We need every one of you to continue to improve, so please get your renewals to me by Sept. 1st!

On page 2 we have an 8 page extensively illustrated article on the rare Stereo-Nikkor that I know you will enjoy. With the help of Tsuyoshi Konno we have put together the most comprehensive information ever to be published on this item, and it is in YOUR magazine! Following that are 6 pages of coverage of the First International Convention of the NHS illustrated with many photos! My hope is that this article will not only give each of you a good idea of what occurred that day, but also entice more of you to attend the next one! Yes there will be another in a year or two if all goes well! So keep it in mind and maybe we'll see more of you the second time around. A total of 25 members attended including the contingent from Holland, France & Canada. It was a great day for me and I am very grateful to those who made the effort to attend & for all the "extras" that many contributed to make it a success. On page 15 is a full page photo of the group and Dave Weiler has made available a copy for each person shown as a souvenir of that day. Thanks Dave! See page 10 for detailed coverage of the Convention.

As promised in NHS-19, you will find enclosed a printed copy of Joe Higham's superb presentation on overlapping serial numbers on Nikkor lenses. Joe did a great deal of work on this paper. You will also find inserted in

this issue an application for a new collector's magazine being put together by member John Baird. This is the item that was mentioned in Dechert's article. John's paper on the early years at N-K that was inserted in NHS19 will give you a good idea of what he will be producing. His is a "general" magazine & will in no way compete with our Journal. Because of this many of you who have interests beyond Nikkons will find it to be a worthwhile addition to your library. I have agreed to help John & he has agreed to promote the NHS in his publication, so this should be mutually beneficial for both parties. I have joined and I hope many of you will as well. Besides this item see page 17 for the first installment of a new column that John has agreed to write for each issue of The Journal on various aspects & "Tales of Nippon Kogaku" that I think you will find very interesting and entertaining. John knows enough about the early history of the Japanese optical industry to fill a 400 page book, so look for articles on some very intriguing subjects & little known facts.

On page 18 you will find an "addition" to the article on the 25mm Nikkor in NHS-19 by Mike Symons in which he points out variations in the finder that were not mentioned. Also note the announcement by Peter Lownds & Tony Hurst of the availability of a Nikon S2 paperweight that they have manufactured. It is very well done indeed & I would suggest that anyone wanting something "unique" for their collection get in touch with Peter!

Finally on page 19 I have a review of a brand new book on Nikons that was just released in Germany called "Nikon Faszination". It is by Peter Braczko who is a professional photographer and avid Nikon user & collector. He was helped by some of our very own members & he also was kind enough to mention our Society along with our address. It will sell for \$40 US but I have made arrangements with the publisher to bring in some for my members who might be interested. Although it is in German I feel it is well worth it to the Nikon collector to own, since it covers the entire picture from the Nikon I through today's models. I can make it available to you for \$35 plus shipping, but please get your money to me as soon as possible. I am only getting 50 in the first shipment due here in August & these are the first to arrive in the US! So be the first on your block to own one!! See page 19 for details on shipping costs.



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

"STEREO" WITH THE NIKON SYSTEM!!!

by *ROBERT ROTOLONI*
& *TSUYOSHI KONNO*

In keeping with the nature of this special issue, I wanted the main article to be on a subject matter that most would feel to be appropriate for this, our initial enlarged 24 page Journal, and one that would stand up to the extensive coverage of the very 1st Nikon Historical Society Convention. There are various items of importance that could hold their own in such circumstances, but few could overshadow the significance of the subject of our main article for this issue. With the help of member Tsuyoshi Konno, who graciously agreed to supply me with an extensive array of photographs, we will now take a very close look at one of the rarest and most important pieces in the entire Nikon RF system...The 35mm/f3.5 STEREO-NIKKOR!!

Except for possibly the Nikon I, no other item in the "RF" system is surrounded by such an aura of myth and misconception as that concerning the Stereo-Nikkor. Even to this day its actual production figures remain unknown and are clouded by rumor and innuendo that cannot be either proven or totally discounted by the collector. Five years after researching my book I still must use the estimate of approximately "170" pieces produced, with the possibility of 28 or so having been destroyed for tax reasons(!), resulting in the total existence of only "about" 142 examples! No additional information has been reported to me these long five years to cause me to change these numbers. Therefore, until factual information that differs comes to light, it appears that the figure of 142 remains a sound estimate. Even the statement that the taxman destroyed 28 of these lenses is really hearsay obtained from various sources who may, or may not, have compared notes at one time or another. Obviously determining the actual production of the Stereo-Nikkor is still ripe for more research and is the type of mystery that keeps us looking! However, it is also obvious that even when, and if, the actual figure is discovered, the Stereo-Nikkor will always rank as one of the rarest items in the entire Nikon RF system!

The first piece of Nikon produced literature that mentions the Stereo, and has come to my attention, is their price list with the effective date of May 1, 1956. Allowing for a bit a lead time in printing such an item suggests that by the early part of 1956 at least the idea of a Stereo lens had been discussed at Nippon Kogaku and some design work begun.

This first price sheet listing bears this out if read carefully. To quote...."Nikon Stereo Outfit consists of dual f3.5 Nikkor lenses, stereo prism unit, stereo viewfinder, stereo viewer, leather case.... AC600 Stereo outfit, complete w/leather case.....price to be announced."

Even though no price has been determined at this point, many other features have! Even the product number has already been assigned! Also note that the speed has been decided and that a viewer for the finished slides is even listed! For an item whose price has not been determined, this is a very accurate description of what the final production outfit actually consisted of! One can't help but wonder just how far along the design work was by the time this price sheet was distributed. By the way, the prices are listed as early as the sheet dated September 1, 1957. In this later price list the description is the same except a haze filter is also mentioned, and the viewer is listed as an accessory, which it was! But the product number is still AC600 and the price is \$274.00, with the viewer (AC603) listed at \$24.50 and the lenshood (AC604) is an \$8.00 accessory! One further bit of information is that by the price list dated July 1, 1959, the description and prices are the same but the product numbers have been changed to AC2050, AC2053 & AC2054! These new numbers, along with the prices, remain the same up to at least the price list dated October 2, 1961! Why were the product numbers changed in 1959? Possibly it was just the result of a change in nomenclature at Nikon and of no real importance. However, what I find interesting is that, even though the Stereo was definitely available by the introduction of the SP in September 1957 (where one is pictured in the Modern Photography test report on the SP), the lens is listed in the "What's New" section of Popular Photography's November 1959 issue!? Why would an item supposedly available since at least 1957 be listed as a "new" item in late 1959? Is it possible that the Stereo was really not made available to the public until that late date? Were those seen in 1957-58 preproduction items for the press and certain professionals only, such as George Wright pictures one in his 1957 Nikon Manual (and different version as well, which we will get to later!)? Possibly it was withdrawn and re-designed. At least two versions of the prism

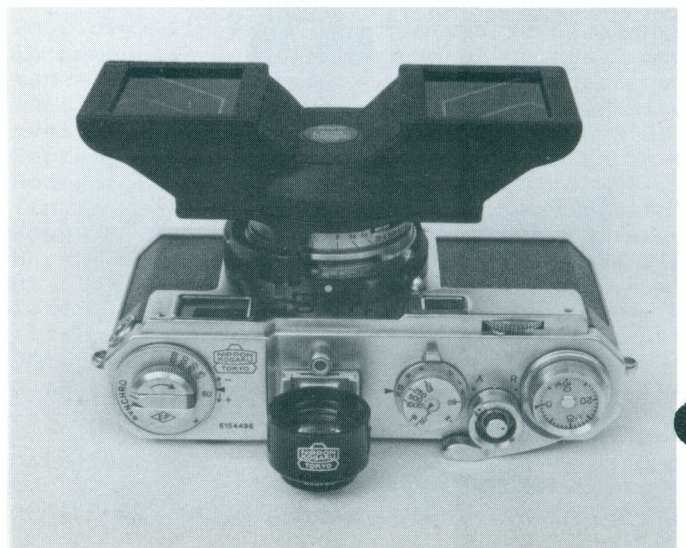
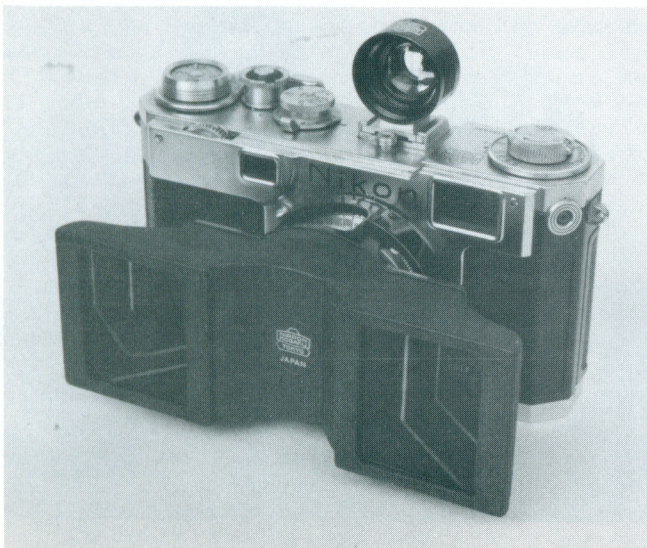


The top photo illustrates the fact that the Stereo-Nikkor is not much larger than other 35mm lenses in the system. Just compare it to your 35/f2.5 or 1.8 Nikkors. In the photo on the right the special Stereo L38 filter has been mounted. Some Stereo lenses are missing this particular item which may have been lost or broken over the years. The special SB-51.5 lens hood is illustrated in the bottom photos both on and off the lens. This was an \$8.50 option for the Stereo system, yet a space for it was provided in the special leather compartment case. Note the rectangular opening at the front of this hood and also how deep set it is. Also note the unique Stereo finder mounted in these photos, which is quite similar to the standard 35mm bright line finder. (All photos courtesy Tsuyoshi Konno.)





Here we have some detailed photos of the accessory prism attachment, including the seldom seen rear aspect which is where one finds the serial number. In this case it is 679199. The mounting mechanism is like that of the hood on the preceding page and quite evident in this rear view. Also note the two square exit pupils visible from this angle. The two bottom photos illustrate the prism mounted to the Stereo-Nikkor. It is quite obvious that in this configuration, the Stereo-Nikkor was not what could be called a "compact" shooting outfit by any means. However, the prism design is the only way to maintain the proper stereo aspect when shooting at distances over 10ft. It is actually more impressive than ungainly, although one cant help but wonder how bystanders might look upon someone shooting with such an exotic looking outfit!
(All photos courtesy Tsuyoshi Konno)

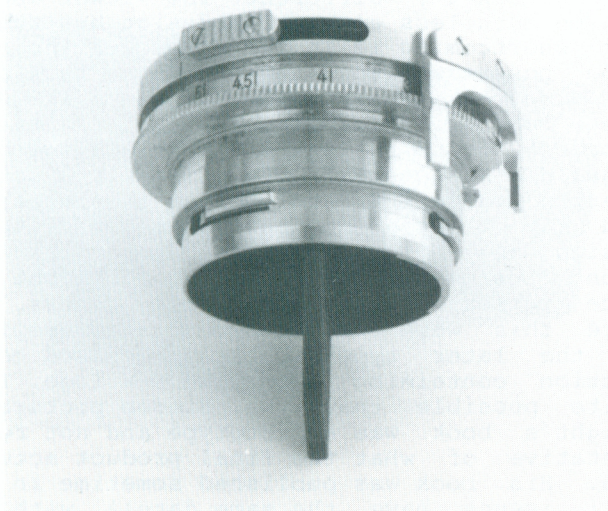


and viewer, as well as the lens itself, are shown in the literature. If so, this could account for the very low production figures for an item that was listed in their price sheets for at least 5 years! Stereo photography was relatively popular in the 1950s and the price of the Stereo-Nikkor outfit was actually very reasonable when compared to some of their other offerings. One would think that a 5 year production run during the heyday of stereo photography by a major company (and the only Japanese competition for the Leitz and Zeiss offerings), would result in somewhat more than 170 lenses being produced. Unless the Stereo was not readily available for that entire period of time!? If it really didn't reach the general public until mid to late 1959, then it would have only been a viable part of the RF system for about a year, at which time Nikon began to abandon the rangefinders in favor of the Nikon F. If so, then the more exotic and low demand items such as the Stereo would be the first to go. All of this of course is just theory, and may add to the mystery and myth surrounding the Stereo-Nikkor, but it is good food for thought.

The basic physical characteristics are as follows. Although it is obvious from available literature that at least two versions of the Stereo as well as its prism and viewer exist, they share certain features. Both are mounted in a chrome barrel with a black face containing the two tiny 35mm/f3.5 lenses with an acceptance angle of 45.5 degrees. The effective separation of the two optical centers is 18mm and a septum prevents image overlap on the two stereo frames, each 17x24mm, which fill the standard 24x36 frame. It couples to the Nikon rangefinder from 3ft to infinity as do all other Nikkors, and stops down to f16. The actual outfit consisted of the lens and prism assembly, plus the bright line finder & a 40.5mm front cap and special rear cap. Some literature suggests that the special 40.5mm haze filter marked for the Stereo was available on order only, while other published information states it is part of the standard outfit. It is known that the unique SB-51.5 bayonet lens hood was a special order item at the outrageous price of \$8.50, yet the fitted leather case for the entire outfit, which was standard, has compartments for both of these items! However, the literature does definitely state that the \$25 slide viewer was an option and that the case was for the entire outfit excluding the viewer. Therefore, the Nikon Stereo Outfit consists of eight pieces, seven of which were designed to be carried in the special leather case. They are the lens, caps, shade, finder, filter, prism and viewer. The total retail price for this outfit was \$307 in the late 1950s.

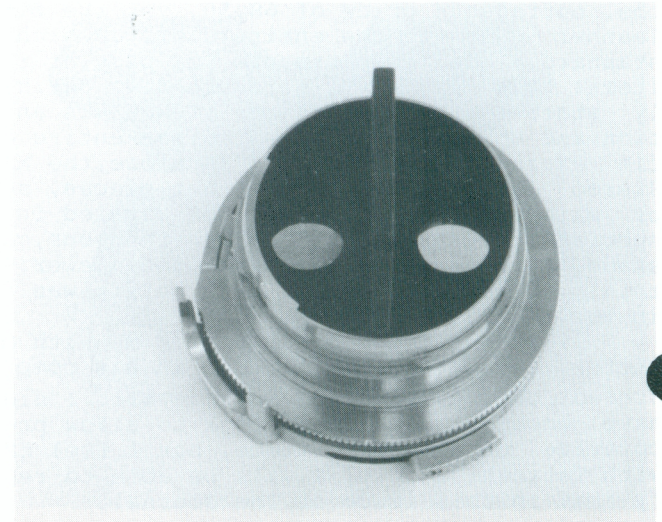
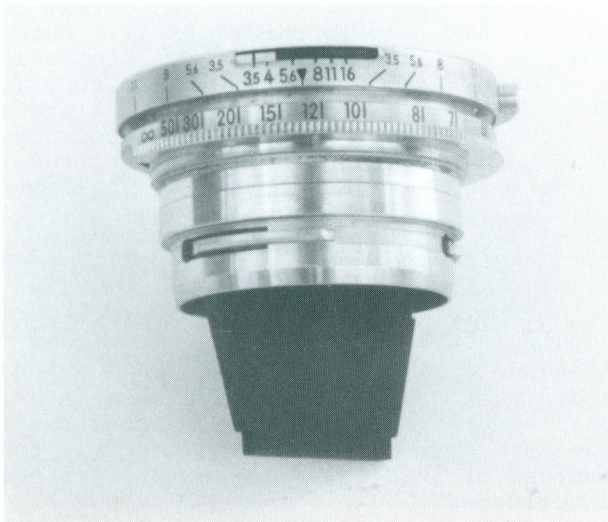
Tsuyoshi Konno has supplied me with many photos showing every piece in his complete stereo outfit, and in great detail. I didn't have enough space in my book to allow proper coverage of this rare piece, but I feel that, with Tsuyoshi's help, I will be able to rectify that in this issue of The Journal.

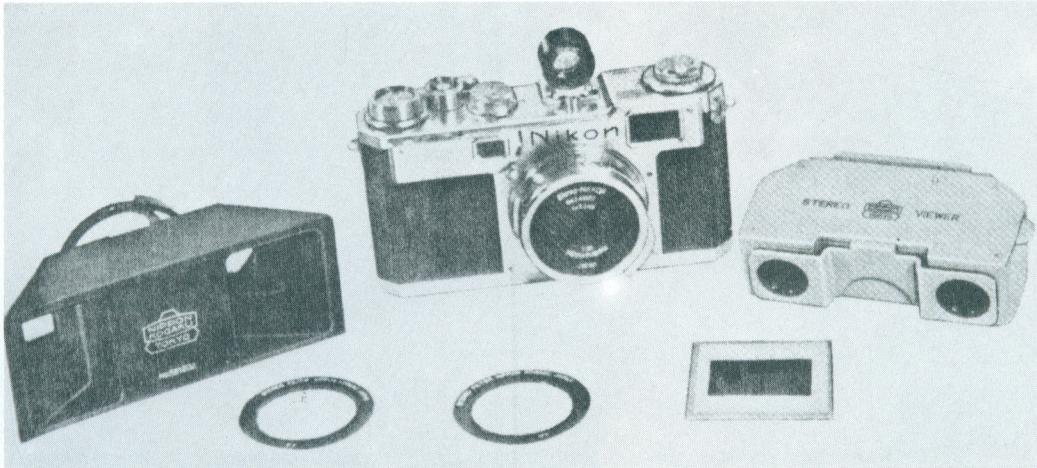
On these pages you will find illustrated from nearly every conceivable angle every aspect of the Stereo-Nikkor outfit. The example is of the type most often seen in both the literature and in various collections, and, it appears, the later version. However, another type does exist. The best photo available of what seems to be an earlier version is seen on page 255 in Wright's Manual. For those of you who do not possess a copy of this book, I have reproduced it here. The original is not a high quality photograph so this reproduction suffers a little, but at least those differences that are obvious can be seen. There are three points of comparison that distinguish this version from Tsuyoshi's. They are the very different prism and viewer, plus the face of the lens itself. This photo, which has been used in other publications, is the only one I've seen where the engraving on the face of the lens is in a semicircular pattern as opposed to the straight lettering seen on the later type. Larger differences are apparent when we get to the prism and viewer. It is obvious even from this poor photo that both are distinctly different. The viewer appears to be much less elegant in design but the major shortcoming is in the eyepieces. The later type possesses focusing eyepieces that could be adjusted individually and to a large degree, as illustrated here. The earlier type appears not to be adjustable at all! The other major difference is in the prism. Its configuration varies markedly from the later type and may be of an entirely different internal design as well. Its serial number is on the front instead of the rear and the front surface is nearly flush all the way across. Compare this with the more pronounced eyepieces of the later type with its recessed center section containing just the N-K logo. It is quite possible that the Stereo pictured in Wright's book was a prototype and not representative of what the final product actually was. His book was published sometime in 1957 (all issues have the same date!), with work on it probably beginning in 1956. To be anywhere near current it had to contain information on as much of the Nikon system as possible, including the latest (note that the SP used in his book is camera #20!!). Surely he would be supplied with as much information as the factory and Ehrenreich could supply. If a Stereo was in the works, and if a prototype or mockup had been produced, why not supply a photo for the Nikon Manual? Even if the final product would vary a bit, the basic specifications would be the same and any small differences in cosmetics would go unnoticed, especially considering the poor quality of photos used in his book. So the unusual Stereo with its different prism and viewer could be one of only a small batch of preproduction items available at the time the book was being prepared, and those that we have seen in collections today are the actual production type. Maybe someday we will know more as further examples of this seldom seen rarity are found and collected.



On this page we have a selection of photos that illustrate in close-up various aspects of the Stereo-Nikkor. The top two photos of lens #242017 show in detail the straight type lettering mentioned in the text. Also shown are the relative lens openings at both $f3.5$ & $f16$. The lower three photos are unique in that they, for the first time known to this author, illustrate the rear construction of this rare lens. Never before have such detailed photos of the rear of the Stereo-Nikkor been reproduced. Note the size and shape of the septum used on this lens. Obviously it was designed to come as close as possible to the shutter to ensure that the two individual stereo images would not overlap nor would any image degradation occur due to light leakage between the two light paths. Note that it is a quite substantial partition made from relatively thick metal.

(All photos courtesy Tsuyoshi Konno)





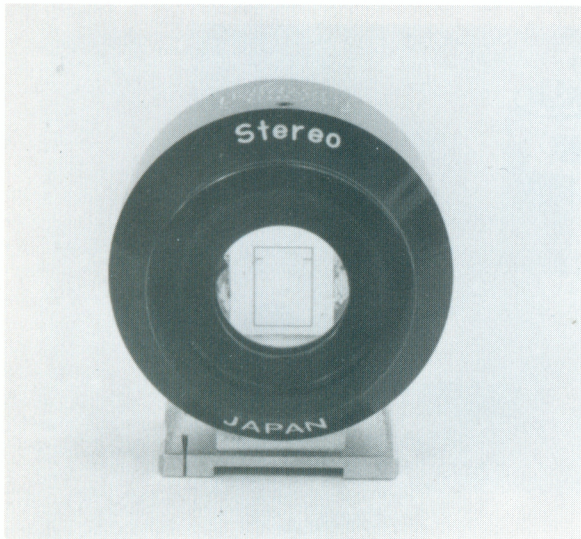
Reproduced above is the famous (or is it the notorious) photo from Wright's Manual showing a Stereo-Nikkor outfit that varies substantially from those units examined by the author to date. If one examines this photo very carefully certain obvious differences are readily evident. Note an entirely different prism attachment on the left. Not only is the front face flat all the way across, but the serial number can be seen (but it is not readable) below the N-K logo instead of on the back as illustrated in this article. Definitely a very different prism! Next look at the slide viewer. It doesn't even remotely resemble that which is pictured in this article and is of obviously different design. It is even marked "Stereo Viewer" while those known to this author are not. Finally the lens itself varies in that the front face engravings are in an arching pattern with the serial number (again unreadable) directly under the words Stereo-Nikkor followed by the focal length. To date I have not recorded any numbers for a Stereo with this configuration. Could this be one of the prototypes or simply a very early example made available to Wright for his book?

Besides the reproduction of the Wright Manual photo, I have also used as many as possible of the fine photos provided by Tsuyoshi Konno. He has gone to great lengths to photograph every aspect of the Stereo from as many angles as possible to convey a tremendous variety of visual information. I wish I'd been able to provide this wealth of coverage when doing my book, but space did not allow for it. Again, as in past articles, the members of the Society are benefiting from a much more extensive coverage of an important item than was possible in my book. This is why I often call The Journal a continuing supplement for the book and, as is often the case with supplements, much more detailed.

To date the serial numbers that I've recorded range from #241830 to #242017 (shown here). The number in Wright's Manual is not readable, and I have no lenses with the semi-circular lettering recorded at this time. This range of numbers "suggests" that at least 187 Stereos were made. Who knows for this could be correct, and this number is not that far from the "official" figure of 170! However, we will need to discover more numbers in the future to obtain a clearer picture of the total production. All those for which I have numbers are identical to Konno's in that all are fitted with the same type prism and have the straight lettering. Also the three viewers I have seen have all been the type pictured in this article. Whether or not the version seen in Wright's book actually exists is yet to be conveyed to me. Maybe the publication of this article will unearth such information.

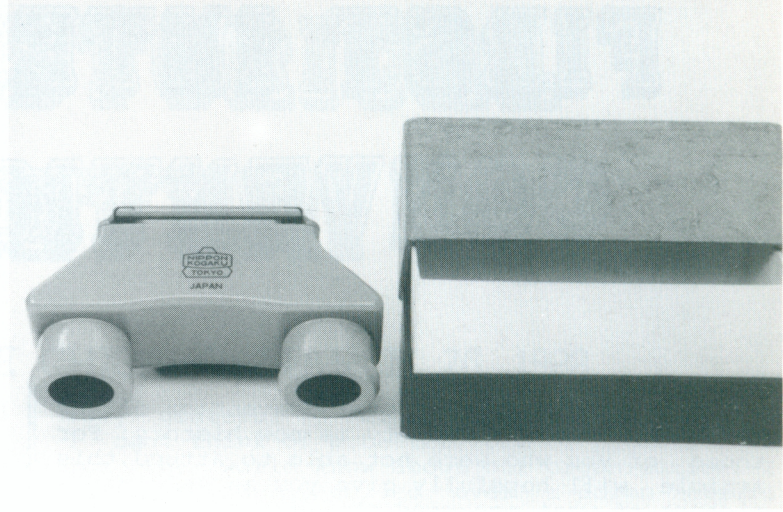
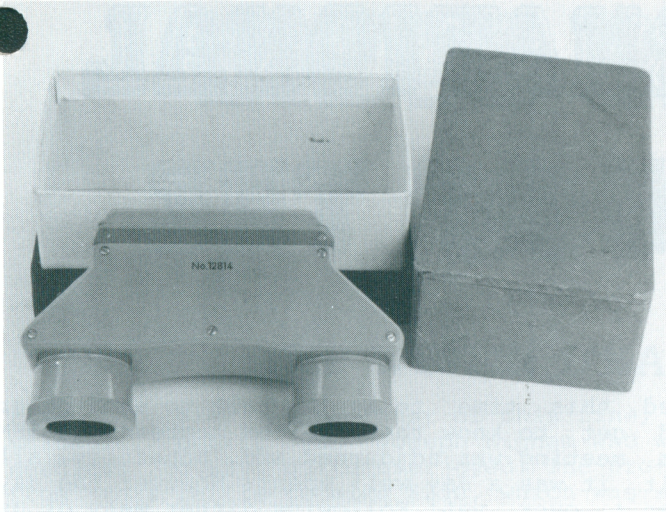
Konno-san's outfit is truly complete in that it includes all the pieces listed in the literature including the special L-38 Stereo filter and the accessory viewer in its original grey box! Note that everything, save the viewer fits nicely in the special leather zippered compartment case marked simply "NIKON STEREO EQUIPMENT"! I will let Konno's excellent photos speak for themselves. Please refer to the captions for specific details on each item and may all of us one day own an example of this magnificent outfit!



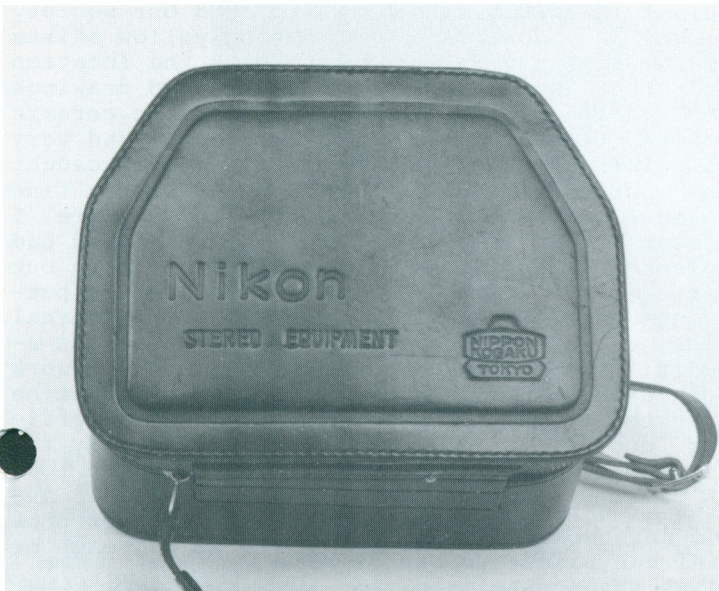
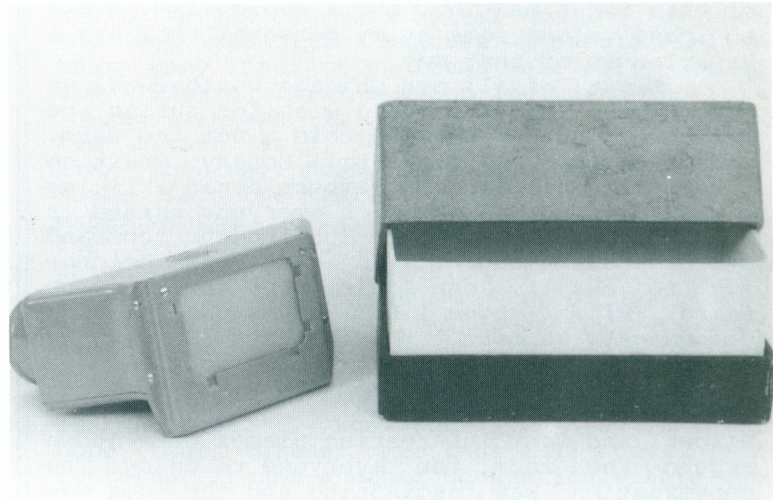


Three views of the special Stereo finder. From the exterior it appears to be a standard item except for the word "Stereo" engraved above the eyepiece. Note the vertical "half frame" visible in the upper left photo. Also I have recorded at least two of these finders with serial numbers. The one here is #235191. Below are two additional detailed photos of the unique hood for the Stereo-Nikkor. It is unmarked except for the N-K logo and the word Japan. No where on this example does it say it is made for the Stereo lens. (All photos courtesy Tsuyoshi Konno).





The final two parts of a complete Stereo outfit are illustrated here. The top three photos are of the special viewer made for the Stereo system shown with its plain grey box. On one side is the N-K logo and the word Japan, while on the opposite side is the serial number. In this case it is #12814. Compare these photos with the Wright Manual illustration and note how different the two viewers are. The bottom photos are of the compartment case designed to contain the entire Stereo system except for the slide viewer. Note that the lens, finder, hood, prism and filter all have fitted compartments. I would like to thank Tsuyoshi Konno for supplying us with these very detailed photos of a complete Stereo-Nikkor outfit!



FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE

The First International Convention of the Nikon Historical Society is now history! For those of you who were not able to attend, this article will hopefully give you as complete a picture of what occurred that day as is possible and maybe even entice you to make it to the next Convention. The many photos reproduced here will convey the actual look and feel of this first meeting, but I would like to also pass along some of my personal thoughts & experiences of that day.

First of all our Chicago weather was as cooperative as one could wish for during the month of March. Not too cold & not too warm, and the rain held off till Monday. Starting early Friday afternoon members began arriving at The Westin O'Hare which everyone agreed is a fine hotel. By early evening the "command post", consisting of 2 adjacent rooms belonging to myself, John Angle, Dave Weiler, John Baird, Mike Symons & Bill Adams, was filling up quickly as more & more members arrived. We spent some fine hours getting to know each other and meeting many for the first time. Of course the main subject of conversation was Nikon, and many interesting pieces were shown around the room for everyone to enjoy. The conversation was fascinating and the food was excellent (compliments of John Angle). After a dinner break downstairs most returned to the rooms where the schedule for the following day was discussed and conversation continued until quite late.

The next morning we gathered by 9AM in the room reserved for the Convention. After my thankfully short introduction, John Baird presented his fine paper on the very early history of Nippon Kogaku, a copy of which was given to each attendee as well as mailed out with NHS-19. Following John's talk Joseph Higham, using an overhead projector, gave us a very detailed and scholarly presentation in which he tracked the possibilities of obtaining various Nikkor lenses with identical serial numbers using graphs & tables. Joe's report was also distributed to those attending and is included in this issue for the remainder of the membership. The conclusion of these fine reports brought us up to lunchtime. We then returned an hour or so later to begin the afternoon session, which was a more relaxed affair consisting of a "Show n' Tell" followed by a trade fair for the members. Many items were traded & sold and the members also

used this time to again talk to each other and get to know their fellow members. At 5PM the meeting was adjourned and, hopefully, all felt it was a day well spent. However, the day wasn't over yet! Following dinner many of us again got together for discussions on various topics and also to ready ourselves for the following day, which was to be the very large Chicago show. Those who stayed for Sunday were treated to one of the best shows in the country. It lasted until 5PM and was a fitting finale to the weekend.

So far I have given you a general overall report on the Convention. However, as with any such event, one is also left with small personal experiences and memories. Many things were happening quite rapidly and many people did things that enhanced the experience for all of us and made the Convention a success. Sometimes these small things are just as important as the larger ones and I would like to mention them now. Naturally the presentations by Baird & Higham went a long way towards making the day a success. They both put a great deal of time and effort into it and I am especially grateful to them. The importance of their work cannot be overstated.

In addition there were a few small surprises that enhanced the day as well. A few members brought items I had not been made aware of. Bill Adams had some caps made up with the NHS logo. Tim Leedy brought along some black T-shirts that also sported our Society logo and John Angle had some yellow shirts made with a very large logo plus the location of the Convention. Peter Lownds had drawings of various Nikon cameras mounted on ceramic tiles that were extremely well done and very popular as well. Yours truly was even caught by surprise when I was presented with a fine plaque commemorating the event by my wife. I later found out that she and John Baird had planned that little event! Thank you both but actually my wife should get the award for putting up with all of this. Without the Journal she could have her den and utility rooms again! The biggest "gift" of all was the work of John Angle. He decided, on his own, that he wanted to donate something to use as a raffle or door prize in an effort to help defray the costs of the Convention. To this end he took a Nikon M with a proper 50/f1.4, 35/f3.5 and 135/f3.5 plus the very first instruction book for the Nikon and sold tickets at \$25 each or

NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY!!!

THE WESTIN O'HARE CHICAGO...MARCH 26, 1988

five for \$100! The winner of this fine, and valuable, outfit was Joseph Higham who was, needless to say, quite overjoyed. The profits from this raffle totaled \$250, which was sufficient to pay for the rental of our meeting room and greatly reduced the costs to the Society. We have John Angle to thank for this whose generosity can now be called famous!

Peter Lownds and his brother-in-law J.L. Korten, came all the way from Holland. They were joined by Thierry Ravassod who made the trip from France to attend our first Convention! Along with Mike Symons from Canada, the fact that members from such distances attended made our Convention truly an international affair! Time was taken to get everyone together for a group photo which is reproduced here as a full page. Dave Weiler has also supplied me with copies for each member who appears in the photo as a souvenir. The many photos in this issue were supplied to me by the members since, in all the rush, I forgot to bring my camera! Can you believe it! Thankfully many members were constantly taking photos so the event was well documented. As a follow-up member Peter Dechert used his considerable influence at Shutterbug Ads to get a fine article including a photo of John Baird, in the June issue of the magazine! Look on page 116! I am

very grateful to Peter for doing this for us. I can't think of a better form of promotion to let the world know about our organization. I have already received over a dozen letters from readers requesting info on the Society, and this kind of exposure can only help us grow. Thank you Peter.

I will now let the photos tell the story and give all of you a better feeling for what the day was like. However, I should mention that many interesting items were shown during the "Show n' Tell" session including the following....Nikon I, black chrome Nikon S with red lizard skin, 90 degree prism for the reflex housing, Nikon S3M, aluminum 50/f1.4, a shade for the screw mount 35/f1.8, and the experimental 50/f1.8 Nikkor. There was much for everyone to see and touch and talk about, which is what a Convention is all about. The learning process, the meeting of new people and the making of new friends is the very reason to hold such an event. I truly hope that everyone who attended left with the feeling that it was worthwhile and that it fulfilled its purpose. I know that I enjoyed it and I hope that further meetings will occur. Talk centered around another Convention within two years, which sounds fine with me. My feelings are...LETS' DO IT AGAIN!!



L-R..Yours truly and John Baird relaxing for a moment towards the end of the day. By this time we were both sort of "numb" from it all. John had come into Chicago on Wednesday and spent two days with me and my family, and they were very full days. We spent many hours talking about the upcoming events of the weekend

as well as our experiences in Japan and the many plans for the future. We discussed my ideas for the NHS as well as his preparations for launching his new collector's society. We also spent a great day in Chicago when I took John to places I hadn't seen in years.



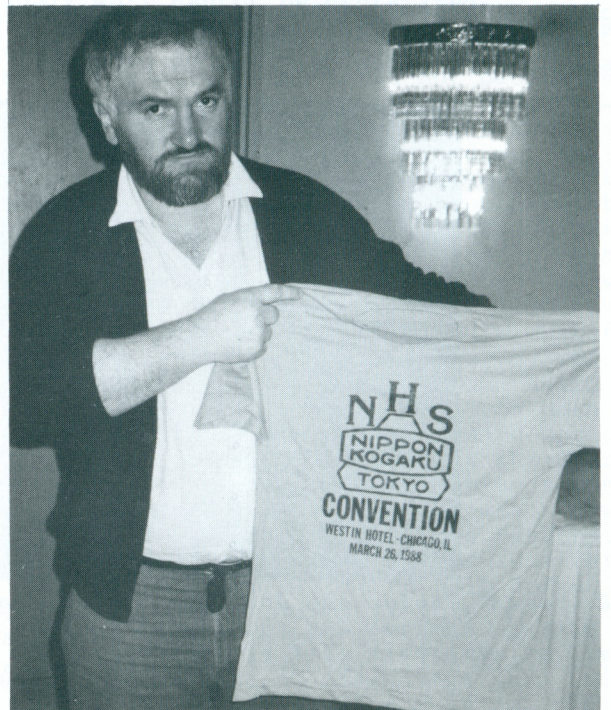
From Tim Leedy...My thoughts, a few photos, & many thanks for our first convention. It was great! Although it was sad that I didn't win the "M" outfit, I think it is extremely just that one of the members who worked so hard to make the convention a success did win.

In John Baird's article he states that 90% of the employees of N-K lost their jobs following the War. These people probably started or went to work for other optical firms. I wonder if this is when and why the other optical houses in Japan became much less conservative in their designs? Finally I hope that in the future I will be able to participate in the pre-convention party and "war story" night!!

(It was Tim who showed up with a supply of black T-shirts with the NHS logo that he distributed free to those there. It is very well done and my personal thanks goes out to him at this time.)

R. Rotoloni

Clockwise from upper left..John Hansen with his "bargain" black S2; L-R..John Baird, Peter Dechert & Mike Symons; Peter Lownds who came all the way from Holland shows off one of the yellow T-shirts that were supplied by member John Angle for those who attended; Bill Adams with his unique "black chrome" Nikon S with red lizard skin covering that he brought for the "show n' tell" session.





Clockwise from upper left..Joseph Higham giving his fine presentation which utilized an overhead projector; John Baird in the midst of presenting his paper on the early optical history of Nippon Kogaku; L-R..Don Sellers making a sale from his fully stocked table to Mike Symons during the afternoon swap & trade session; John Angle on the right presenting Joe Higham with his Nikon "M" prize, which was a gift to the Society from John and helped to offset much of the expense of the Convention. That's me looking on; Joe and I in a "victory" stance in honor of his winning this valuable outfit.



From Peter Lownds...Thanks again for making a 10,000 mile round trip very very worthwhile!! I had a great weekend and even got some Nikon RF items for my collection. Please find within a few photos of the great day. Thanks again for all your hard work and looking forward to the next one!!

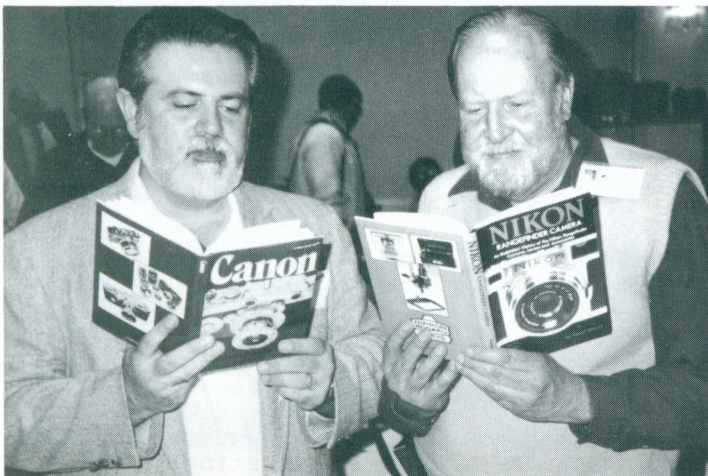
(Peter brought his brother-in-law with him all the way from Holland! He also had with him some sets of ceramic tiles with reproductions of various Nikon RF models. A nice touch was that he used our cover camera for the SP tile and we talked about my getting a large enough supply to retile my bathroom! However, I'm not quite sure how this plan would set with my wife, but the idea is interesting!) R. Rotoloni



From Mike Symons...A great convention!!! Congratulations on pulling it off. Your hard work, dedication, and good planning made it all well worthwhile. It was difficult getting back to reality once it was all over! Other than the material presented (all excellent), I feel the best part was actually meeting the guys, many of whom I've merely dealt with on the phone & by letter. Now I can put faces with names. It is great that we all share a common interest and were able to meet and discuss it. (Mike made the long trip from Victoria B.C. to attend and has provided some of the photos of the convention. Thanks Mike.) R. Rotoloni



Clockwise from upper left..I was surprised to receive a plaque from my wife commemorating our first Convention. Also note the cap and the T-shirt souvenirs; L-R..Bill Adams, John Baird, Bob Rotoloni & Mike Symons in the command post on Friday night; John Angle discussing his experimental 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor during the "show n' tell" session; myself and Peter Dechert caught in the act of critiquing each others work during the Chicago show Sunday.



From Jim Berglund...Starting with NHS-1, the Journal has been a quality publication which has become more professional with each issue. It was indeed good fortune for me to become a member just a few weeks before the convention date. I thoroughly enjoyed it & it was a pleasure to meet fellow members. They turned out to be a friendly, well informed group and the NHS is a classy organization. John Baird and Joe Higham are to be congratulated for their excellent presentations. I'm glad their talks were made available to us in printed form as a permanent record for future reference. I'd also like to thank the fellow (J. Angle) who made the yellow T-shirts with the NHS logo. It was a nice touch and a great souvenir. I missed out on the Nikon cap but was pleased to get the shirt. I hope to attend future conventions. An annual event may be too much for you as an organizer and for the membership in its present size, considering the distances traveled and expenses incurred by those from the coasts & outside the U.S..I do feel that Chicago is a good choice as a compromise when as far as distance required & available transportation, plus tying it in with the Chicago show gave us access to convenient and excellent facilities. You will no doubt get plenty of feedback from members on preparations for NHS International #2!!



Above is the group photo that we all posed for the afternoon of the convention. Starting with the front row kneeling left to right...JOHN HANSEN, DON SELLERS, THIERRY RAVASSOD, TIM LEEDY, BOB THOMPSON, DAVE WEILER, RANDOL HOOPER & JOSEPH HIGHAM. Standing behind them left to right...PETER DECHERT, PETER LOWNDS, RAY YOUNG, ALAN BAIRD, J.L. KORTEN, ROBERT ROTOLONI, MIKE SYMONS (far rear), FRED KRUGHOFF, JIM MARTIN, BILL ADAMS, JAMES BERGLUND, HARRY SOLETSKY, JERRY ROLD, JOHN BAIRD & JOHN ANGLE. (Not pictured...B. RUBIN & G. URY)
NOW YOU CAN ATTACH A FACE TO SOME OF THE NAMES YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE JOURNAL ALL THESE YEARS!!

(Photo by DAVE WEILER)



IN THE SHADOW OF FUJI...

TALES OF NIPPON KOGAKU!!

BY JOHN BAIRD

During the second world war, Nippon Kogaku produced a wide variety of optical ordnance & instruments for the Japanese Army and Navy. In doing so, the company made great advances in the design and manufacturing of optical goods which eventually enhanced Nippon Kogaku's post-war products. One of the most important selling points for cameras during the 1950's was the use of coated optics. With a thin layer of anti-reflection material applied to each lens surface, light transmission was increased immensely. After the War, with the popularity of miniature (35mm) cameras and the wide spread use of color film, camera manufacturers who did not feature coated lenses, in most cases, failed in the competitive photographic post-war marketplace. Nippon Kogaku has been a leader in the field of lens coating since the red "C" first appeared on Nikkor lenses many years ago. To gain an appreciation of this technology, let's go back & see why Nippon Kogaku had to develop skills in this field.

H. Dennis Taylor of the English optical firm of Taylor, Taylor & Hobson, was first to notice that old camera lenses which had developed a surface "bloom" with age sported an increased light transmission over newer lenses. Later, during the 1930's, the Zeiss company was the first firm to develop methods to successfully apply metallic fluorides to glass lenses to increase the transmission of light. With WWII, the importance of lens coating became paramount with respect to military optical equipment.

As we all know, Nippon Kogaku was the main supplier of optical ordnance to the Imperial Japanese Navy during the late 1930's & early 1940's, & nowhere else would the use of coated optics be as important as in a submarine's periscope. In order to make a periscope slender, hence less noticeable to Allied surface ships, Nippon Kogaku made use of several relay lenses in the periscope's optics. Since this greatly increased the number of individual lens components, the percentage of light transmission was greatly reduced due to the high number of air-to-glass surfaces found within the periscope. Since the magnification power (ratio) of Nippon Kogaku's periscopes was about 1.5, the commander of a Japanese submarine with a non-coated periscope, under even the best lighting conditions, would be at a

disadvantage when compared to the much larger and brighter binoculars found on the surface ships. In order to increase the effectiveness and safety of Japanese subs, Nippon Kogaku made extensive use of anti-reflection coatings. Based upon the work of Zeiss, the optical performance of these periscopes was good enough that they could be used in the early morning or late evening when the reflection of light was not great. In fact, according to one report, some sub captains refused to sail unless the periscope had coated optics!

After the War, Nippon Kogaku used this experience to increase the light transmission of Nikkor lenses found on Nikon and other cameras. Because of this, and other reasons as well, the company designed newer and more complex wideangle and telephoto lenses for it's Nikon S series of cameras while other makers were forced to settle with a limited range of lenses. Without advanced lens coating technology, Nippon Kogaku could not have produced some of their most prized rangefinder lenses, such as the 50mm/f1.1 (12 air-to glass surfaces!), or the 1000mm/f6.3 catadioptric with it's delicately silver coated rear mirror.

Even with all it's experience in optical production gained during the War, Nippon Kogaku was not the first Japanese lens maker to introduce a coated photographic lens for non-military use. That honor belongs to the Semi-Minolta IIIA brought out in 1946. The optic, a coated 75mm/f3.5 Rokkor!

(With this issue photo-historian and NHS member John Baird, has begun a series of columns that will hopefully appear in each succeeding issue of THE JOURNAL. We discussed this idea at the Convention and felt that the members would learn from & enjoy such a feature. John is a storehouse of information on the entire Japanese optical industry. He has enough knowledge and information to fill a 400 page book and he has agreed to share it with use. Many pieces of information and anecdotes are not large enough for an entire article but lend themselves to a format such as this. Look for more fascinating bits of Nikon lore and many unknown facts to appear on this page in the future. I thank John for adding this chore to his already busy schedule in an effort to enhance our Journal. I feel it is a great idea & look forward to future columns.) R. Rotoloni

PLEASE NOTE...

Thank you for your positive responses to my request for Nikon F clip-on meter info for my upcoming article. I still could use more on early F36 motors #96000-99999. I would also like to know if anyone has any of the following "debut F" equipment that was released at the same time as the F in 1959...F bodies number 6400xxx, clip-on meter Mod.I #97xxxx, early Auto-Nikkors (cm focal lengths, calibrations have "tick" marks) + matching shades/caps.... 2.1cm/f4 #220xxx, 3.5cm/f2.8 #18xxxx, 5cm/f2 #520xxx, 10.5cm/f2.5 #147xxx, and 13.5cm/f3.5 #72xxxx. Wouldn't be nice to collect these in a group photo to celebrate 30 years of the Nikon F in June 1989?!!! Calvin Ho, Div. Biology 147-75, Caltech, Pasadena, CA 91125.

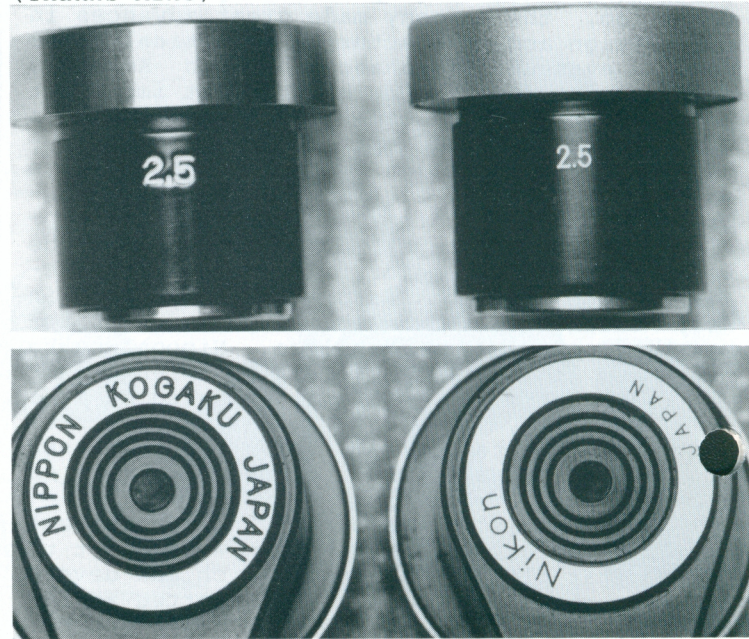
UNIQUE NIKON ITEM!

Members Peter Lownds and Tony Hurst have come up with a great idea. Shown here is a photo of a beautiful glass paperweight containing an etched image of the Nikon S2. I have just received mine and it is really a fine piece of work. The image of the S2 is on the bottom so it is enlarged by the "lens effect" of the glass itself. At over 3 1/2 in. across and about 1 1/2 in. high, it is quite substantial. This is a unique item that our two fellow members have made for those who might be interested. Those of you who saw Peter's tiles at the Convention know the great work he does & this item is very impressive indeed. It will sell in the \$35 range plus shipping. For the actual price and more details write to; Peter Lownds, W. de Zwijgerstraat 24, 3043 VD Rotterdam, Holland. I don't think you will be disappointed! I wasn't!! (R. Rotoloni)



25mm. ADDENDA...

From Mike Symons...After reading your article on the 25mm Nikkor I pulled out my 2 outfits to compare them. Although your article mentions that there are no known variations with the finders, I have come across one. In both photos the finder on the left is from an early chrome outfit & the one on the right from a later black version. Note the size of the numbers 2.5...much larger on the early type. Next, the early type has a bright chrome ring while the later one has a dull brushed chrome finish. Lastly, the early version has NIPPON KOGAKU JAPAN around the eyepiece while the later finder has only NIKON JAPAN. (Thanks Mike)



AN ERA HAS ENDED!

An era has come to an end!! On page 18 of the April 1988 issue of Popular Photography, Bob Schwalberg has written a small article announcing the "official" end of the phrase "NIPPON KOGAKU, K.K.", and its replacement with simply the word "NIKON"! According to the company it has been changed to foster "more efficient communication with the market and society in general".? We who use and collect the more classic Nikon equipment have known for quite some time that Nippon Kogaku has never been very interested in their past. We also are aware that an entire generation has come into the photographic world with absolutely zero knowledge of N-K's past much beyond the Nikon F2 & F3. This is to be understood as is their need to compete in an ever changing business world. However, saddens me to see them relinquish their name for the sake of some copy writer or ad agency. Although they now wish to be known simply as Nikon, I for one will always consider them to be what they have always been..NIPPON KOGAKU, K.K.! (R. Rotoloni)

NEW NIKON BOOK!!!**NEW MEMBERS!!!****"NIKON FASZINATION"!!!**

For those of you who have called or written to ask me if I was planning a book on the reflex Nikons, I now have a definite answer for you..No! Why? Because I have known of such a project for some time now being done by a German photographer, collector and Nikon expert by the name of Peter Braczko. Peter has kept me informed of the progress of his book which is now finally available. The title is "NIKON FASZINATION" and it has been just released in March in Europe. Even though I cant read any German this is really a "faszinating" book to say the least. Peter is a working photographer and a moving force in the German NIKKOR CLUB to which I am a member. This 300 page book is full of great photographs covering the early History of N-K and it's photographic production from the Nikon I all the way through the current auto-focus Nikons and everything in between! The first 75 pages are on the rangefinders & contain many fascinating photos. You will even recognize some items such as the black Nikon I & some early ads from our very own Journal. As a matter of fact some NHS members were involved in this book including Tsuyoshi Konno, Ralf Jannke, Tony Hurst & Burt Rubin. In addition Mr. Braczko is kind enough to not only mention our Society but to list our address & picture a copy of our NHS Journal in the section on literature!! So we as a Society possess a definite connection to this fine book in addition to the fact that anyone who has an interest in Nikons will enjoy the many photographs, all of which are very well done. Of interest is the section on the Nikon F. As the "F" quickly approaches its 30th birthday much of the equipment and literature on this landmark camera is now aged to the point that it is becoming collectible. Add to this the fact that much of the info from the early "F" era is unknown to many current Nikon users, & one can see how someday it will become sought after as we do the rangefinder items today. German is not entirely impossible to read and much information can be gleaned from the text and the fine photos.

I have made arrangements with the publisher to obtain a shipment of these books which may arrive as early as August 1st. I will be getting 50 copies in my first order & I am making them available to the members. The book will list for about \$40 plus what it will be to airmail them from Germany and then ship it to each of you who orders one. Based on my current info I feel I can sell it to the members (only) for \$35 + shipping. US postage is \$5 & Canada is \$6. For those in Japan and the Pacific, airmail is \$24.00! while seamail would be \$6.00. (These might be a bit off but not very much.) If interested please let me know since it will be first come first served until I can obtain a 2nd shipment. I am sure you will find it very "Faszinating"!

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San Mateo, CA 94402

Neil Smith
5 Mee Street
Carina QLD 4152
Australia

Michael Hoyt
3922 Rickover Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Classified

WANTED...135/f3.5 all black outfit; 85/f2.0 MIOJ outfit; box for S2 close-up device; grey top meter; vinyl cs & box for BC-3; long cable for reflex housing; proper front/rear aluminum caps for early 135/4.0. I have some Nikon trading stock including boxed meter; 35/f3.5 MIOJ in SM #910580, caps, cs, EX+; misc. boxes; lenses, etc. Mike Symons, 3844 Merriman Drive, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8P 2S9... (604) 477-1867

WANTED...Any good clean Nikon RF. Top prices paid! FOR SALE...I have a large selection of BRAND NEW top & bottom plates for most Nikon reflex models including F, F2, F3, FE, FM, and the Nikkormat series. These are new and in either chrome or black! Write for details and price! Peter Lownds, W. de Zwijgerstraat 24, 3043 VD Rotterdam, Holland.

FOR SALE...Nikon product #41-pistol grip for SP(S36) or F(F36/F250) motor drives w/built-in microswitch & cords. Instructions state... The pistol grip attached to the Nikon F or SP camera permits convenient & stable shooting.. S/C switch built into grip. EX+ with box and instructions, \$39 + shipping (SASE). Steven A. Fischer, 15711 126th Ave. NE, Woodinville, Washington 98072

FOR SALE...Large Nikon REFLEX collection including rare prototypes & very early serial numbers. Some of the more interesting items.. Nikon F body "cutaway" one of 2 made!; 200/f4 "DUMMY Nikkor; 2 very early Nikon F bodies numbers 6400254 & 6400363 (#254 & 363!); first design Photomic finder #860167; prototype standard prism w/top mounted HOT SHOE!; handmade prototype Photomic finder #990001, has cell in CENTER of finder face!; DUMMY prototype F2S & Photomic finders made from solid blocks of aluminum for design studies; external clip-on meters both 1st & 2nd versions; waist level finders both 1st & 2nd designs; last run Nikon F "Apollo" #7435002 w/mirror up button; Nikon fiber optic sign; original F2 counter mat with the word Photography misspelled!; Nikkormat FT #3100065 not marked FT w/Nikon on top cover front under release..one of the 1st 100 made! The above list includes many IBs, brochures including the first F book etc., as well as some smaller accessories. All being sold as a package for \$8,000. Inquiries on separate pieces will be answered & photos are available-all letters answered! Please send a long SASE for a detailed listing to-Pat MacFarlane P.O.Box 58, Babylon NY 11702. I also have SP meter #953222, complete & working, \$175, and SP illuminator, mint w/case for \$350.00.

WANTED...Grey plastic battery pack & cord for F36 motor. Have cordless pack (mint) for trade or sale (\$95). Calvin Ho, Biology Div. 147-75, Caltech, Pasadena, CA 91125..818-356-3797(work)

Mark Your Calendar For

PhotoHistory VII

October 14-16, 1988 Rochester, N.Y.

The seventh triennial Symposium on the History of Photography
Sponsored by The Photographic Historical Society in cooperation with
The International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House.

- A reception Friday evening, October 14
- Full day of presentations on all aspects of photographic history, and the preservation/appreciation of photographica, Saturday, October 15
- Banquet and featured speaker, Saturday, October 15
- Sale of: Fine Photographs, Cameras, Apparatus, Photographic Literature, Daguerreotypes, Stereo Views, and much more, Sunday, October 16
 - The longest running event in the field (since 1970)
 - Meet with scholars, collectors, and dealers, from all over the world

For more information contact: The Photographic Historical Society Box 39563 Rochester N.Y. 14604
Phone: Daytime George Eastman House 716/271-3361, Weekends: Robert Herden 716/617-3633

THERE WILL BE MORE INFORMATION ON THIS MAJOR
EVENT IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

NEW ADDRESSES!!!

Herbert Nelson
14 Farley Ave.
Madison, WI 53705

Harry Soletsky
Box 413
Brookfield Ctr., CT 06804

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL!

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

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"NEXT ISSUE"

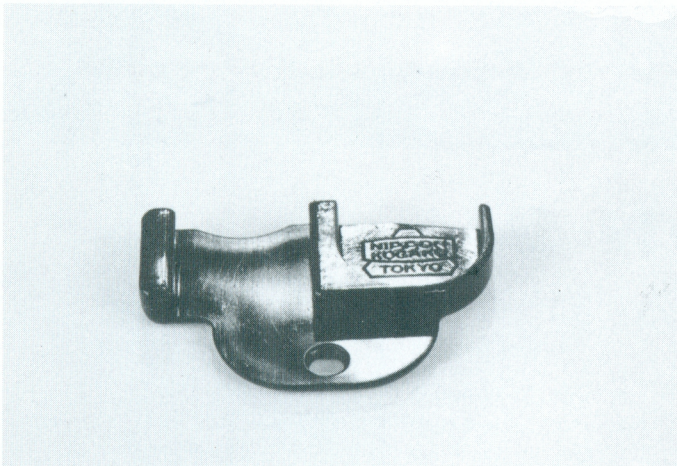
The deadline for the next issue of "THE NIKON JOURNAL" will be September 1, 1988, and will mark our 5th Anniversary!! It is hard to believe that 5 years have gone, but they have. I will try to make it a special issue in some way and it will remain a 24 page magazine, as I have decided that the additional four pages are worth the effort. I hope you feel this way as well. Please have all contributions to me by the above date.

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 METER RETAINER..



The Nikon Exposure Meter is a relatively easy item to find today. They seem to appear on a regular basis and, except for the very early "grey top" version, cannot be considered rare or scarce. However, many meters are no longer in working order because of the limited life of Selenium and some have lost their cases or the small plastic incident light shields that were originally supplied with them. Besides these items there was only one accessory ever made for the meter and that was the item pictured here. It was called the Meter Retainer, and allowed for hand held use of the meter by attaching to the shoe & protecting the gears plus it had a small hole for a neck strap. It was made of fragile plastic with its only identification the N-K logo. It was listed in the price sheets at the ridiculous price of.. "60 cents"!!! That's right, 60 cents! Can you imagine your dealer special ordering this for you? Can you imagine even wanting one? How many could there be left in this world? (Photos submitted by William Fraker.)



By Design...



NIKON S-2

The Fastest Handling '35' in the Field

The vital question is—how **fast** can a fine camera deliver its precision and quality.

There is no waste motion when you use a Nikon S-2. You advance the film—focus the lens—and release the shutter using only three fingers. Here's how.

You hold the Nikon in your right hand so that the middle finger is on the focusing wheel—your forefinger rests on the body release—and your thumb is held ready at the transport lever. Now, start... a short, single stroke of the lever

advances the film and 'cocks' the shutter. Immediately, you adjust focus with your middle finger—your forefinger ready for the exposure.

Now, make this 1-2-3 test with any other 35. Advance the film—focus the lens—and shoot. Notice how many more movements are involved... how much more time it takes... and you will see how the **Nikon S-2**—by design—is the fastest handling '35' in the field.

Nikon S-2 with 50mm Nikkor f2 \$299.50

Nikon S-2 with 50mm Nikkor f1.4 345.00

See Your Nikon Dealer or write to Dept. NF-3



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