


A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MAR. 31, 1998

NHS-59

NHS-CONG INFORMATION INSIDE!!!!

NIKON  JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE

Page 1 ~ Rapid Rewind Nikon 'S'
Page 4 ~ More Historic Photographs
Page 7 ~ A 'NASA' Nikon Ftn.

**ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER**



THE NIKON JOURNAL

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NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL , #60, is **JUNE 1, 1998**. This will be our semi-annual convention issue which will feature full coverage of the event! Please get all other contributions to me by the above date.

EDITORIAL

I am very pleased to be able to get this issue out on time. Things have been very hectic here lately. Knee surgery slowed me down a bit then mother nature kicked in with a Chicago blizzard that knocked out all power for 2 days and things didn't get back to normal for almost a week. But all fell into place finally and I hope you like this issue. I know it can't hold a candle to the f1.1 issue, but then it wouldn't have been a special issue, would it?

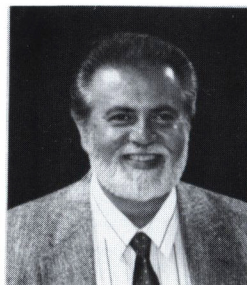
I had to cut back to 16 pages this time to offset the extra 4 pages last issue, because of costs. Number 59 not only cost more to print (about \$300), but more to mail (\$250 extra), so this one is only 16 pages. Next issue goes back top 24.

On page 1 we have an article by Bill Kraus on the very unusual Nikon S with rapid rewind! Yes, there is such a thing! Keep your eyes open at any shows you visit. On page 4 we have even more historic vintage photos of some very important people at Nippon Kogaku. Arakawa-san has made these available to us. The F-Spot this time is by good old Peter Lownds and it covers yet another NASA Nikon, this time the Ftms that were used during the Apollo launches. You have to realize how rare and historic these cameras are. On page 10 I have started what I hope will be an interesting series for the Journal. We have been selling a copy of the Nikon S General List for some time. It is an official publication apparently produced by the factory, not EPOI. It is a collection of "facts", pure and simple. Detailed information on cameras, lenses and accessories. And I mean detailed. I have started with some of the lenses and look for more in future issues. This book is a gold mine of information useful to every collector.

And now for the convention.....on page 12 I have a fact sheet on NHS-Con6 so please refer to that. However, I want to say a few things here. Plans are going ahead and May 16 is the date! We have plans for a get together on Friday evening in Manhattan where we might be able to view a major collection. Saturday is the meeting with speakers, a Tony Hurst slide presentation, show n' tell, and some trading amongst the members. Saturday evening will be an opportunity to see how our WebPage is produced and learn some things about digital imaging and the new technology that is changing everything, including collecting. On Sunday there is a show at our hotel that you can attend (or even have a table). Please try to come but.....**time is short!** If you plan to stay at the hotel you **must** reserve by April 13th to get the rate! Also you **must** let me or Bill Kraus know you are coming for two reasons...(1) **We need a head count to properly plan the event!....**(2) **Those who respond will receive a future mailing with more details!**

So, please let us know if you are coming!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Finally, did you see the ad in the December B&H catalog? On page 102 is an unsynched Nikon M body, no lens, said to be in "8 condition". Price...\$15,000. Amazing!



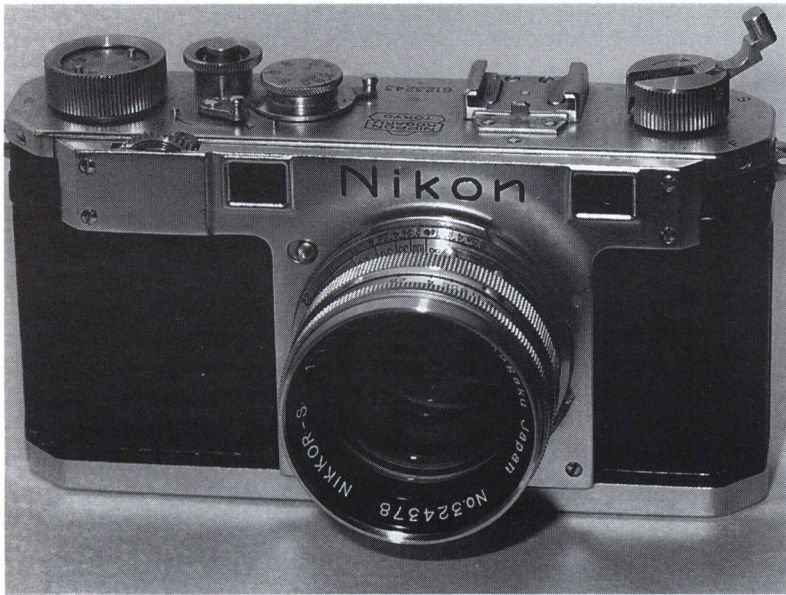
ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

A 'RAPID REWIND' NIKON S??

TWO NIKONS SHARE A....

SPECIAL FEATURE !

by **BILL KRAUS** with **MASAHIKO FUKETA**



About 15 years ago, a dealer at one of our New York shows offered a Nikon S. It sat on his table all day, no one bought it. Why? Because \$500.00 in 1983 was big bucks for a common model S. But what was **not common** about that camera, I was not to see again for some time. And this time I grabbed it, for as we all know, lightning almost never strikes twice. It is a Nikon S with *a rapid rewind lever!* The genuine article, factory made, crank rewinder!

Rumor has it amongst those of us in the greater New York area, that Joe Ehrenreich had a handful of these most useful parts made, and gave them to a few friends. History, I later learned, did not begin with Joe Ehrenreich. It began a few years earlier.

Our good friend, Masahiko Fuketa, was kind enough to share his recollections of the origin of this unique item, and added to our understanding as follows:

"One day (maybe in 1951/52), while Mr. Jun Miki (the late chairman of the Nikkor Club, then a staff photographer for LIFE magazine) was talking with our engineers, he suggested to improve the rewind system of the Nikon S. According to him, as the diameter of the rewind knob on our camera was larger compared to Leica, it took him more time to rewind a roll of film. They discussed the matter enthusiastically and came to a conclusion to make a prototype crank rewinder. The prototype was tested by him then he requested further improvement, and we tried again. Perhaps he boasted of the new rewinder among other LIFE photographers, and consequently LIFE gave us a minor order for its production. As Mr. Joe Ehrenreich entered the Nikon business in 1953 and we introduced the Nikon S2 in December 1954, it was feasible that he placed a similar order with us. However, we have no means to verify this."



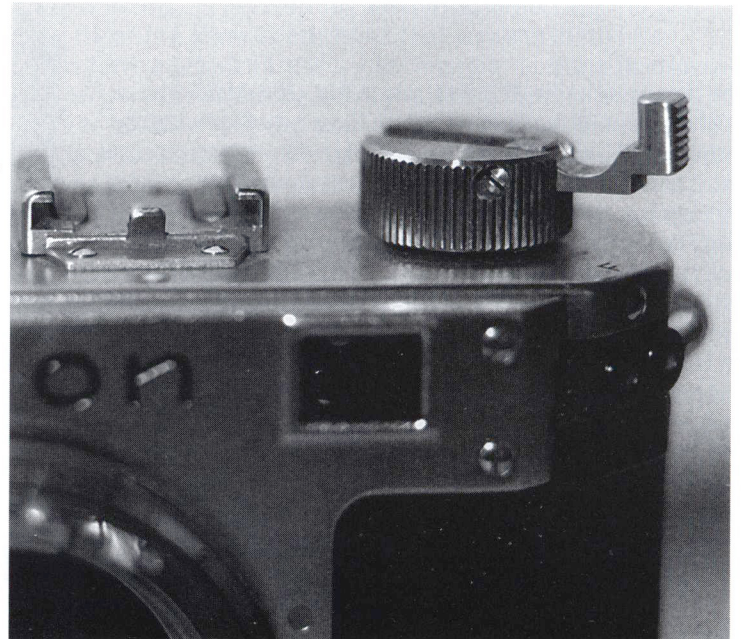


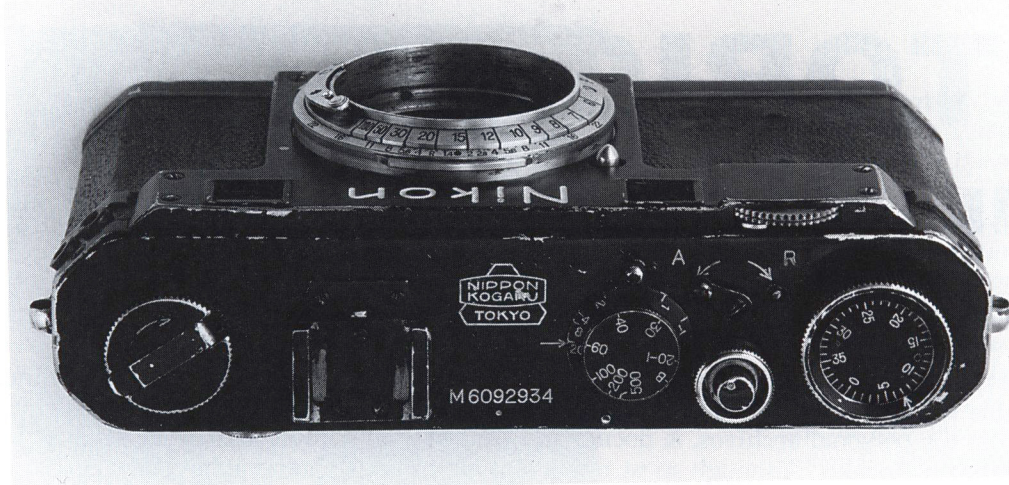
Two very different looking Nikons, yet they are actually very similar. This mid-production black Nikon M is not that different in design than this late production chrome Nikon S. But they share something very significant: both are fitted with a vintage Nikon-made crank rewinder. By vintage I mean that the black version, being earlier, is made a bit wider than the later chrome type, which is typical for the knobs on Nikons made at different times. As the years passed, Nikon made the knob taller and narrower, and these two crank rewinds follow this same process. This makes sense: They would modify a rewind knob concurrent with the body it was to be used on! Including the one that Bill mentions he saw at that New York camera show, at least 3 such Nikons have surfaced. More must be out there, but it will always be one of those strange and wonderful "finds" that make collecting fun. (Photos of chrome Nikon S by Bill Kraus: those of black M from Robert Rotoloni)

Fuketa-san's recollection is reinforced with the recent discovery of a black Nikon M 6092934, which has the crank rewinder. This camera, once the provenance of LIFE magazine photographer Michael Rougier, is, presumably, one of the special order cameras. Special since it was ordered black and has the crank rewinder. (For the record, this camera was auctioned by Christie's South Kensington on June 8, 1995, and realized 19,125 pounds!)

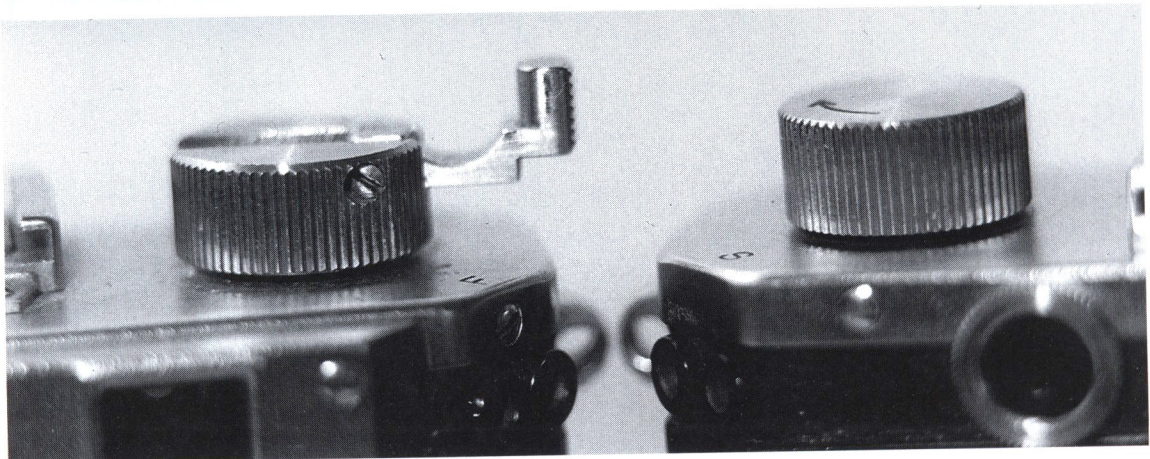
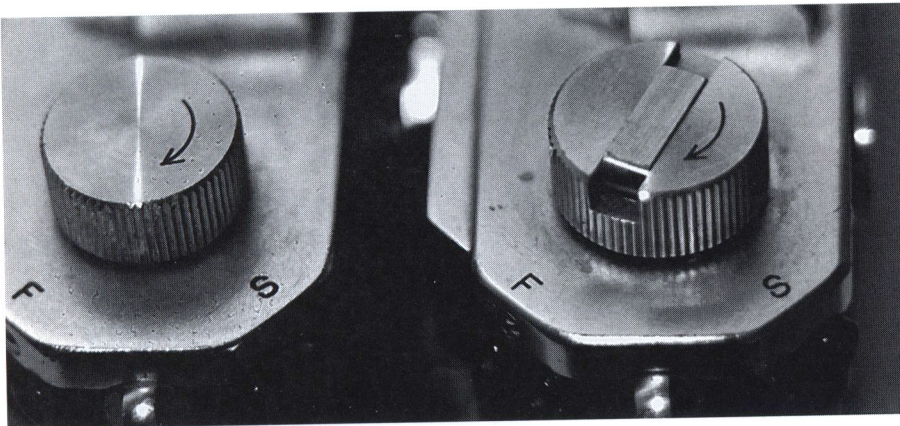
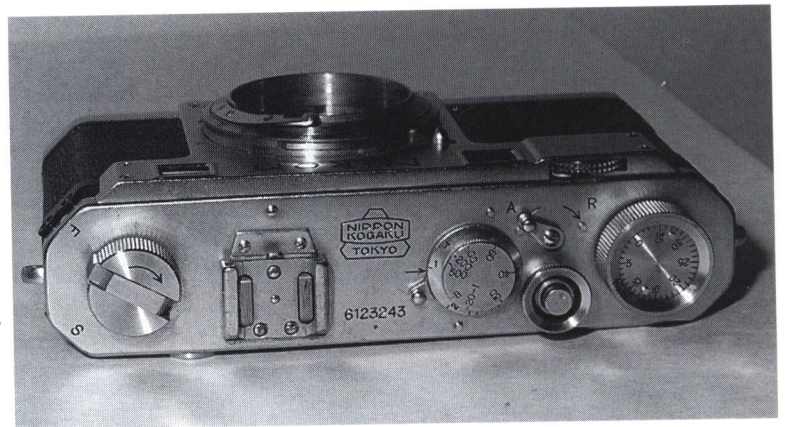
The rewind on the Nikon S shown here, body #6123243, appears identical to that on the LIFE camera, sans the black finish. Comparing it to the standard knob on the model S, it is a millimeter larger in diameter, but the design, engraving, fluting and metallurgy are identical. Now, the question is, "How many Nikon cameras came from the factory this way?"

Masahiko Fuketa was one of the original designers of the Nikon One camera, and was very influential in the course taken by Nippon Kogaku in the continued growth and enlargement of their camera system. He remained the chief designer for all the camera models throughout the range-finder era, and was also the man behind the famous Nikon F model! He has, over the years, been very generous to our Society, sharing his knowledge and memories with us many times, and answering many of our questions. RJR.





Again a comparison of the black LIFE magazine Nikon M and the later chrome S. Below are some good close-ups of the crank rewinder compared to a concurrently made rewind knob. Note that the knurling, dimensions, shape and height of the two controls are identical! One can only wonder why such a simple modification was not made a permanent feature, especially on the later cameras, since the idea existed at least as early as the era of the Nikon M. It would have made the Nikon S a much better piece of equipment.



4

HISTORIC PHOTOS!

PART II

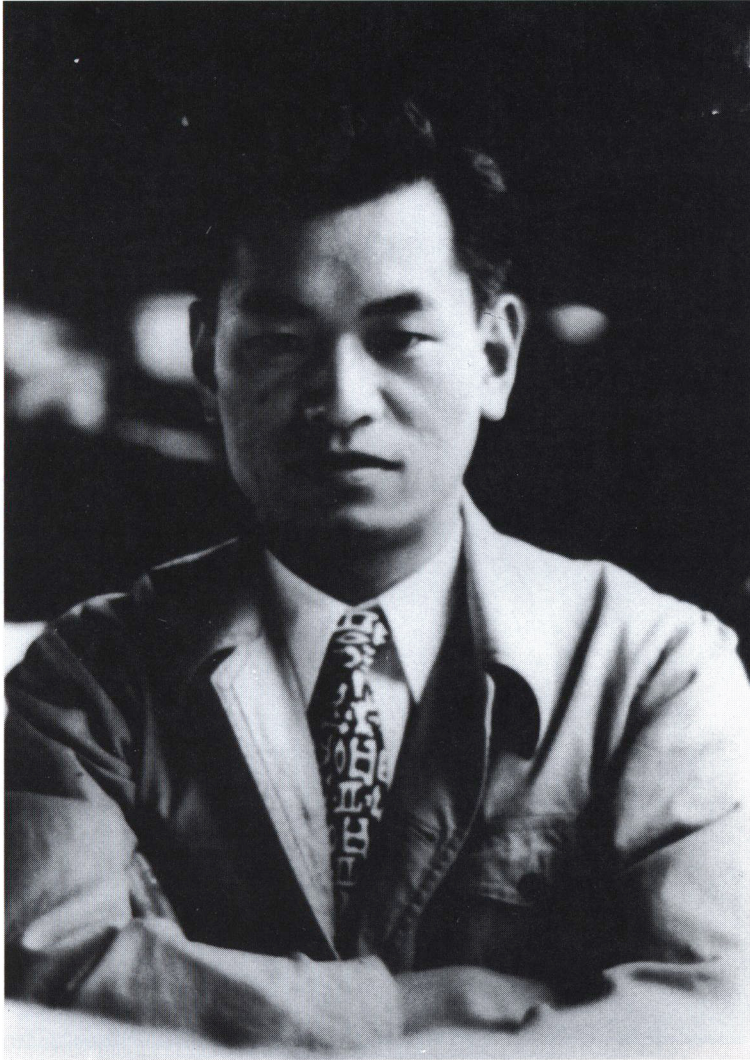
by **T. ARAKAWA**

This issue we have a further selection of vintage Nikon photos made available to the Society by Mr. T. Arakawa. These photos are from his personal archives, & document an historic era at Nippon Kogaku. Although most manufacturers produce a variety of copy and photos for public relation and advertising needs, it is generally proportional to the prosperity and well being of the company. The better the times, the more abundant the promotional material! However, the most interesting, and important, period in Nippon Kogaku's history, was the early post-war era from 1946 to the end of the Occupation and the Korean War. But this is also the point in time when both Nippon Kogaku's, and Japan's, fortunes were at their lowest. Because of this fact very little money was available for promotional mater-

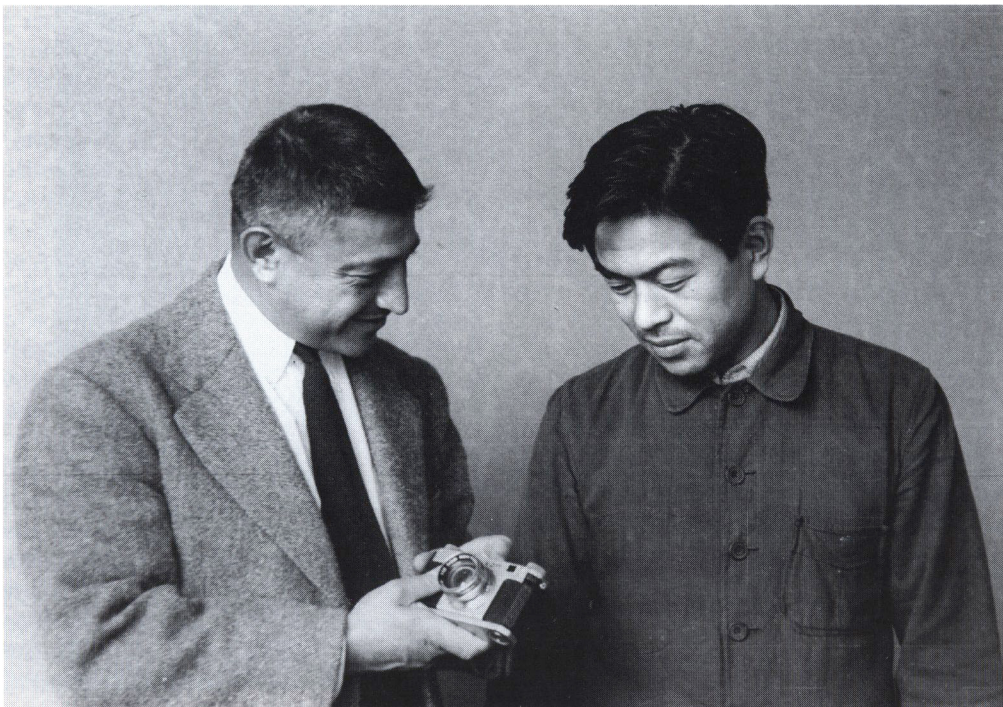
ial as we know it today. Sure, a few ads were placed in magazines, and some pamphlets, now quite rare, were produced, but nothing like what came in later years. Therefore, vintage photographs of people and places are few and far between. Now, thanks to Mr. Arakawa, some new and fascinating images have come to light! I would think that this is the first time that most of these historic photos have ever appeared in print, if not in Japan, surely in the rest of the world! And what better place than our own Journal!

My hopes are for more photos such as these to appear within these pages in the near future. Besides Arakawa-san, I am trying to obtain others from Nikon directly and will run whatever I can here in our Journal for all to see!



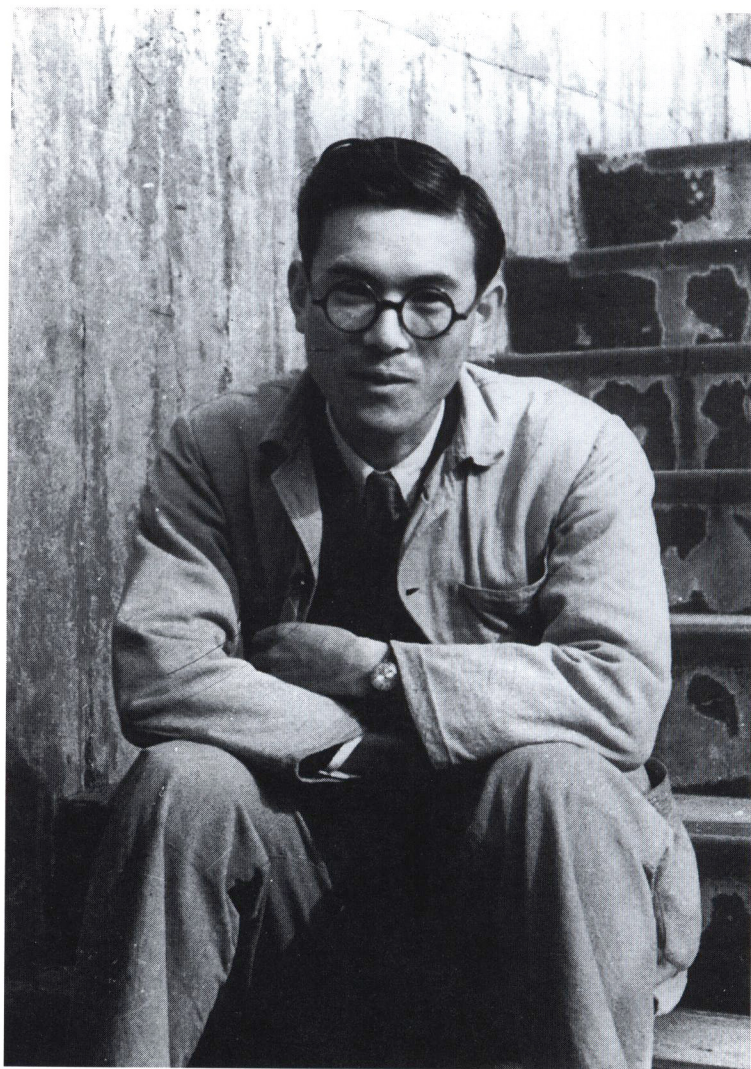


You may recall in NHS-57 I ran two photos by Mr. Arakawa. One showed a gentleman in the camera and lens design room, circa 1950. As promised, he now has a name. On page four is another photo of him in the same room but from the opposite direction. He is Mr. Goro Matsunaga, the designer of the flash system used on the Nikon M which caused it to be renamed the "S"!! On this page, left, is Mr. Koji Sho, who was the man who designed the finder system for the famous Nikon SP!! Below we have the famous LIFE photographer and Nikon user, Carl Mydans, holding and un-synched Nikon with an f1.5 lens. (It would be either a late Nikon I or an early Nikon M). Who is he talking to? Why, non other than Mr. Watanabe! The very same Mr. Watanabe whose name is found on all those lens inspection slips!!



To the right is a photo of Mr. Minoru Takahashi. This gentleman is the designer of the shutter mechanism on the Nikon One!

Below is another photo from the meeting Carl Mydans had at the factory sometime in the early 1950s'. Besides Mr. Watanabe (standing directly behind Mr. Mydans), who are these gentlemen? I may not be able to identify all of them for you (and you might already recognize a few), but in a future issue I will be able to name a few of them. Stay tuned!



THE FTn!!--SPOT!!



NASA NIKON FTn!!

by **PETER LOWNDS**

If you all send me \$20 I promise not to send any more articles in for your enjoyment to our chief cook and bottle washer, old brown owl Rotosan, for use in the NHS parish magazine. Nothing forthcoming, save for two old shirt buttons and a paper clip. Don't blame me!

An old Chinese saying is "a picture is worth a thousand words" (this is written with a Chinese accent), and what you see in this issue of the Journal must be considered a row of books! This is an **out-of-this-world** camera! It's part of the history of the American space program, of man's endeavors to leave this blue planet for new horizons. In the National Air & Space Museum in Washington, D.C., in the bottom of a small display case, is a strange looking Ansco camera. It looks like something out of a Flintstones movie, with a pistol grip and a large sports finder. This little camera has the honor of being the first camera in space, used on the Mercury & Gemini manned programs.

The Hasselblad involvement with the space program came about because one of the NASA astronauts was an active amateur photographer, and had purchased some years before a Hasselblad 500C with a few lenses for his own use. He managed to talk the flight operations project manager into allowing him to take it on the next flight. NASA were so impressed with the results that he was told

to go out to one of the local stores and purchase for NASA 2 complete Hasselblad sets. But enough about Hasselblad, this is the NHS, which means **Not Home Sunday club!** The public relations department at NASA saw the potential of photos of the blue planet taken from space. At the start of the Gemini program, NASA were approached by thousands of companies who wanted to be associated with the manned space program. It became a problem when NASA would put out a tender. NASA had to write the specifications in such a way that it would be impossible for them to purchase from the wrong supplier just because they were the low bidder. Every major camera maker wanted their camera to be used in space. Leitz went to great trouble to design an M4 with large knobs for use with large space gloves. Zeiss also did the same. The Nikon F was the bread and butter camera of 90% of all working pros (the best!), and NASA wanted the best. So they wrote a 72 page specifications document for a 35mm single lens reflex camera, and in one sentence they were able to disqualify all other competitors, save one. The document reads "*The supplier of the 35mm single lens reflex camera for use in space should have at least 10 years of electronic motor drive experience on a production camera.*" **Only Nikon had that!**



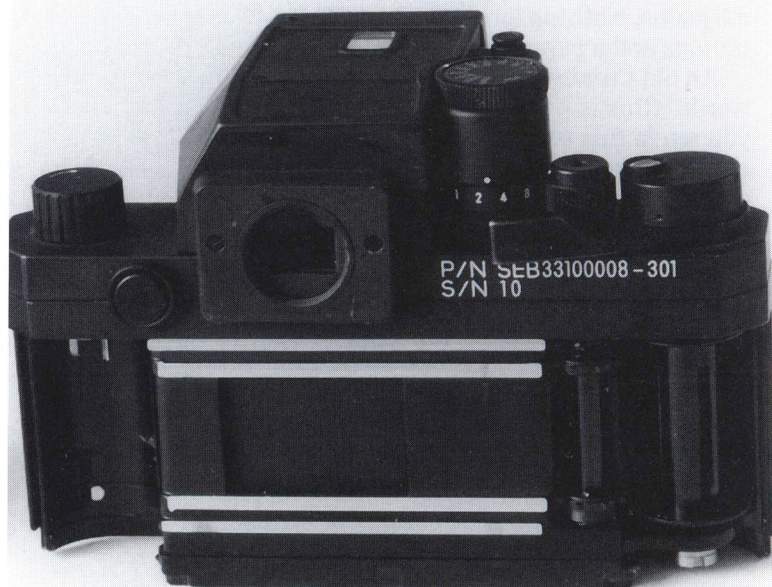
*On these three pages are some photos from Peter Lownds of his "NASA" Nikon F! Those of you who have ever seen any photos of the space Nikons from the 60s', will surely recognize this item. Note that it is fitted with an f1.2 Nikkor. Also note that **everything** is serial numbered, in true military fashion! What a set of numbers! But that is part of the mystique of this item. Also note the modifications to the rewind, rapid wind, frame counter, shutter release, and prism release, to name just a few. I look forward to a future article by Peter on the space Nikons, including a 250 shot F3!!*

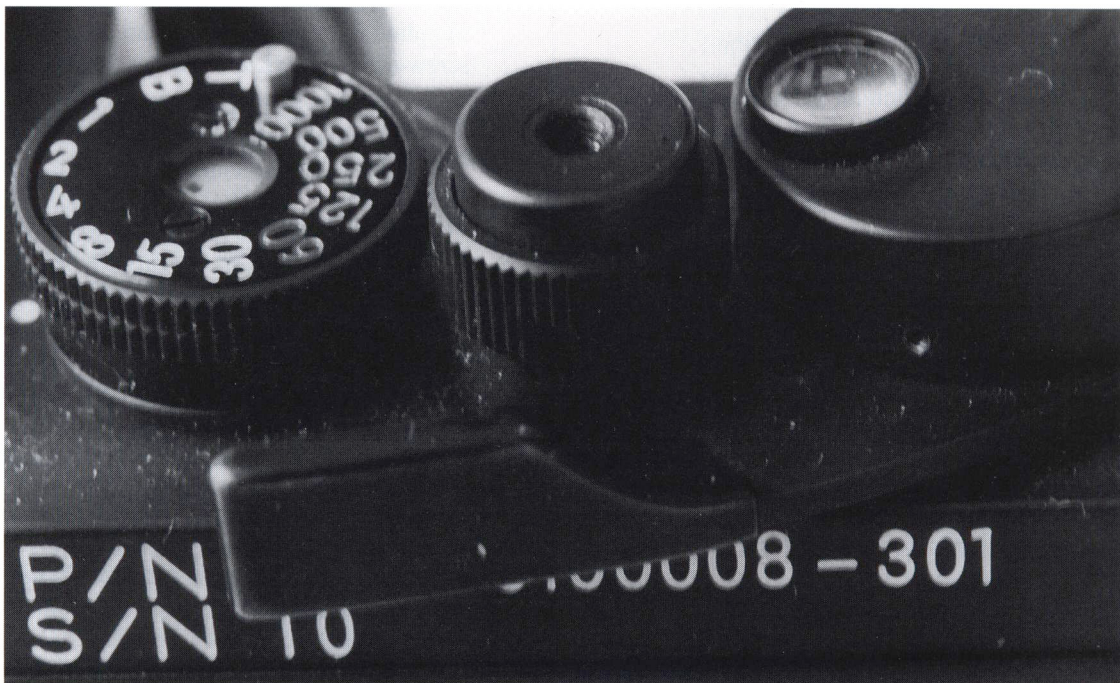
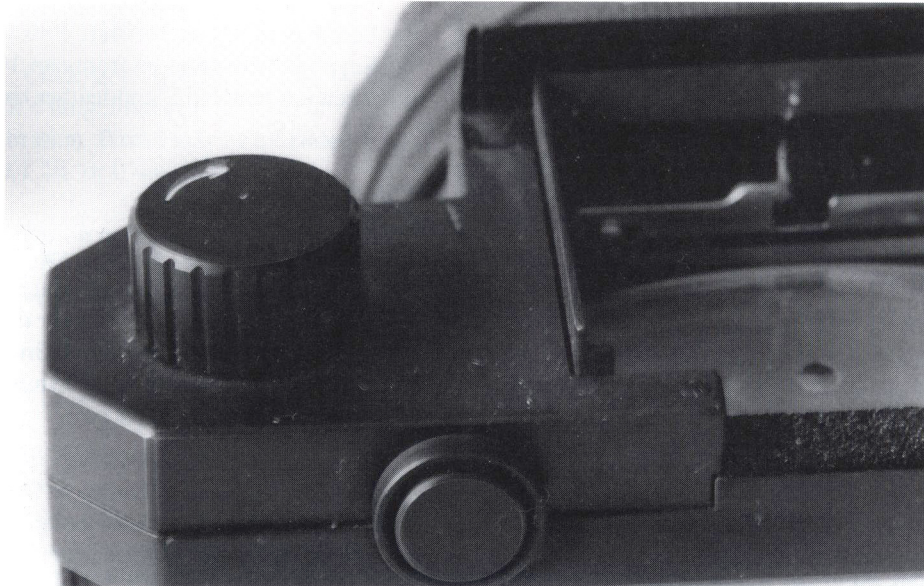
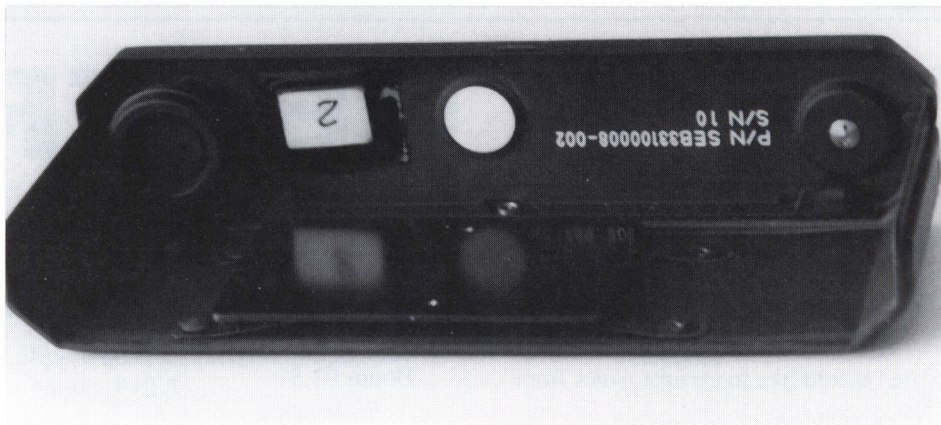
This is one of the first Nikon Fs produced for use on the Apollo space program. A wealth of information can be found in the back of the "Nikon World" magazines. At first glance it looks like any old black Nikon F, but take another look, because there are about 20 major differences from the F we know and love so well. Some would have been great improvements for the public, such as the release for the Photomic head and screen. With my sausage like fingers this would have been a god send. The film counter goes to 72! Kodak, out of the kindness of their heart, made for NASA a special thin film which allowed for 72 frames. If my memory serves me right, Ilford tried this with a B&W film, but it never took off.

I have a complete set of "Nikon World" magazines from 1966 onwards. Nearly every issue had a picture or text about Nikon's involvement in the space program..... Joseph Ehrenreich signs deal for supplying Nikon cameras and lenses with NASA team.....Joe at factory.....Joe at Cape Kennedy.....Joe shaking hands with an astronaut.....Joe drinking coffee from his NASA coffee cup.....Joe cutting a large space-shuttle like cake....then into space himself after a nasty car accident....more Nikon in space, etc, etc.

A second type of Nikon F was also used in the space program. This one had a motor drive with a built-in battery pack and no prism. This was used by the astronauts while wearing a space suit on an "EVA" (extra vehicular activity", or "space walk").

I hope at a later date to cover in depth more about Nikon's involvement with the space program. If you are all very good and clean up your rooms, we'll perhaps do a whole issue on Nikons in space in the future!





NIKON 'S' GENERAL

LIST.....PART I by ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

Starting with this issue I would like to excerpt pages from a document known as "The General List Of The Nikon System (Nikon S Series)", produced by Nippon Kogaku and printed in English. The first copies of this opus first came on the collector scene about 20 years ago. Since then I have been fortunate to obtain an "original" copy, of which I have seen no others, though they must exist. There is no date visible but an approximation can be made by the fact that the 21mm, 105mm/f4, 350mm, and 1000mm lenses are not mentioned, all of which were announced in early 1959. Curiously, the external mount 50mm/f1.1 is listed and it also reputedly came out in 1959? Add to this the statement that the screw mount lenses are discontinued as of October 1959! The SP and S3 are included, but the S4 and S3M are absent. From this we can surmise that this volume was produced sometime in late 1959. The only addresses listed are those of the Ohi factory in Shinagawa and the sales office, also in Tokyo, as are their phone numbers. Nowhere is there to be found any mention of EPOI or Ehrenreich or any office outside of Japan. Therefore, we must assume that this article was produced in Japan without the input of Ehrenreich, but in English so meant for sales people outside of Japan. Its catalog number is F2060 followed by "3 ED." for 3rd edition! Where, oh where are editions 1 & 2?

So it appears that what we have here is an official inside document written in a matter-of-fact style to convey accurate information, and nothing more. No sales pitch or exaggerated claims. Just pure factual information, sometimes sparse but always to the point.

I would like to start with the section on the screw mount lenses produced by Nippon Kogaku. It is an area not often covered in our Journal and one that many collectors have only a passing knowledge of. The following is reproduced exactly as it is found within this official document.

NIKKOR LENSES IN SCREW MOUNT

(USED WITH LEICA-THREADED CAMERAS)

Discontinued as from October 1959 except the EI-Nikkor
50mm/f2.8

25mm f/4

Wide Angle

Picture angle: 80°30'. Click-stops to f/22.

Focuses to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: slip-on outer diameter 36mm,
Screw-in diameter 34.5mm, P=0.5

Supplied complete with snap-on front cap
34.5mm, filter adapter ring (screw mount), ring
insert No. 5, screw-in rear cap LL, leather case
and individual viewfinder.

28mm f/3.5

Wide angle

Picture angle: 74°. Click stops to f/22.

Focuses to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 36mm,
Screw-in diameter 34.5mm, P=0.5

Supplied with snap-on front cap 34.5mm,
screw-on rear cap L and leather case.

35mm f/1.8

Wide angle:

Picture angle: 62°. Click-stops to f/22.

Focuses to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter
45.5mm, Screw-in diameter 43mm, P=0.5

Supplied with snap-on cap 43mm, screw-on
rear cap LL and leather case.

35mm f/2.5

Wide angle

Picture angle : 62°. Click-stops to f/22.

Focuses to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 36mm,
Screw-in diameter 34.5mm, P=0.5.

Supplied with snap-on front cap 34.5mm,
screw-on rear cap L and leather case.

35mm f/3.5

Wide angle

Picture angle: 62°. Click-stops to f/22.

Focuses to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 36mm,
Screw-in diameter 34.5mm, P=0.5.

Supplied with snap-on front cap 34.5mm,
screw-on rear cap L and leather case.

50mm f/1.1

Normal

Picture angle: 46°. Click-stops to f/22.

Focuses to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 65mm,
Screw-in diameter 62mm, P=0.75

Supplied with snap-on front cap 62mm,
screw-on rear cap L and leather case.

50mm f/1.4

Normal

Picture angle: 46°. Click-stops to f/16.

Couples to camera's rangefinder up to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration. Barrel may be extended for focusing up to 1.5ft. or 0.45m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 45.5mm.

Screw-in diameter 43mm, P=0.5.

Supplied with snap-on front cap 43mm and plastic case.

50mm f/2

Normal

Picture angle 46°. Click-stops to f/16.

Couples to camera's rangefinder up to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration. Barrel may be extended for focusing up to 1.5ft. or 0.4m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 42mm.

Screw-in diameter 40.5mm, P=0.5.

Supplied with snap-on front cap 40.5mm and plastic case.

85mm f1.5

Telephoto

Picture angle: 28°30'. Click-stops to f/32.

Focuses to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 60mm.

Screw-in diameter 58mm, P=0.5. Tripod socket provided.

Supplied with slip-on front cap K-62, screw-on rear cap L, bayonet hood AB-60 & leather case.

85mm f/2

Telephoto

Picture angle 28°30'. Click-stops to f/32.

Focuses to 3.5ft. or 1m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 50.5mm.

Screw-in diameter 48mm, P=0.5.

Supplied with screw-on front cap N-48, screw-on rear cap L, screw-in hood AN-48 & leather case.

105mm f/2.5

Telephoto

Picture angle: 23°20'. Click-stops to f/32.

Focuses to 4ft. or 1.2m in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 54mm.

Screw-in diameter 52mm, P=0.75. Tripod socket provided.

Supplied with snap-on front cap 52mm, screw-on rear cap L, snap-on hood AS-52 and leather case.

135mm f/3.5

Telephoto

Picture angle: 18°. Click-stops to f/32.

Focuses to 5ft. or 1.5m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: slip-on outer diameter 44.5mm.

Screw-in diameter 43mm, P=0.5. Tripod

socket provided. Supplied with snap-on front cap 43mm, screw-on rear cap L, snap-on hood BS-43 and leather case.

180mm f/2.5

Long telephoto

Picture angle: 13°30'. Click-stops to f/32.

Preset diaphragm control.

Focuses to 7ft. or 2.1m in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 90mm.

Screw-in diameter 82mm, P=0.75. Tripod

socket provided. Supplied with screw-on front cap N-82, screw-on rear cap L and screw-in hood AN-82.

250mm f/4

Long telephoto

Picture angle: 10°. Click-stops to f/32.

Focuses to 10ft. or 3m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 72mm.

Screw-in diameter 68mm, P=0.75. Tripod

socket provided.

Supplied with screw-on front cap N-68, screw-on rear cap L, screw-in hood AN-68.

500mm f/5

Long telephoto

Picture angle: 5°. Click-stops to f/45. Preset

diaphragm control.

Focuses to 25ft. or 8m. in meter calibration.

Attachment size: Slip-on outer diameter 112mm.

Screw-in diameter 108mm, P=1.0. Tripod socket

provided. Supplied with slip-on front cap K-126,

screw-on rear cap L, screw-in hood AN-108 and

fitted wooden case. Wooden tripod for use with

this lens is available on special order.

NHS-CON6!!!

OUR 6TH CONVENTION HAS BEEN SET FOR NEW YORK CITY MID-TOWN THE WEEKEND OF MAY 15-17, 1998!

All of you should have received a flyer announcing the convention inserted in your copy of NHS-58. Most of the basic information found in that flyer is correct. The dates and times remain the same as well as the hotel location, rates and phone numbers. However, to insure that everyone is aware of the details I will use this page to list all the current information for those who want to attend.

ITINERARY: FRIDAY MAY 15TH
SATURDAY MAY 16TH
SUNDAY MAY 17TH

REGISTRATION, RECEPTION & HOSPITALITY ON WALL STREET
MEETING, SPEAKERS, SHOW N' TELL, MEMBER TRADE SESSION
NYC CAMERA SHOW IN HOTEL

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: HOLIDAY INN (formerly the PARK INN)
440 WEST 57TH STREET (between 9th & 10th AVE.)
NEW YORK, NY 10019-3051
PHONES...1-212-581-8100 OR 1-800-231-0405
FAX #.....1-212-581-8719

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There will be a \$25.00 REGISTRATION FEE that will be due by May 1st, 1998! This is necessary to offset "some" of the costs such a meeting entails. However, many aspects of the convention are being donated by certain members! PLEASE CONTACT US NOW! DO NOT WAIT! AND SEE YOU THERE!!!!

LETTERS, LETTERS

From Philip Ramsden...

NHS-58 has just arrived and is a spectacular tour de force. Congratulations!

Tony Hurst's photos and Peter Lownds' text made my day. Not to mention the gems of arcane knowledge they have been able to uncover. If only all nights around the camp fire had been so rewarding.

In my small collection there are now two Nikkor 5cm f/1.1 lenses. The first, bought many years ago in Sydney, is in the external mount and is well worn by a photographer who cared more for his photos than his equipment. The black finish is exposed bare metal on the ridge tops of the focus and aperture rings. The way it is worn indicates paint was used rather than anodizing. The lens cap was of the older type with the N-K logo.

The second lens was discovered late last year also in Sydney. The provenance is known from new, as it was bought in the USA by the now retired Professor of Physics at the University of Sydney before he came to Australia to take up his post. The lens is in an internal mount and fixed to a Nikon S2 body. The inner end of the lens mount is chrome as expected. The original box is as illustrated in the article and it has the correct camera and lens serial numbers written in pencil in the space provided on the

NIKON POSTER

Member Gray Levett, owner of Grays of Westminster, announces the arrival of the new Nikon Illustrated History Wallchart. This colorful and up-to-date chart shows in words and pictures, the history of this famous marque. It covers all the Nikon cameras from the earliest rangefinder models up to and including the current F5. It was produced by the Book on the Wall Company in conjunction with Nikon UK. Grays of Westminster was approached to provide assistance in the form of photographs as well as write the company history & describe each model of importance.

This large (22" x 33") wallchart comes supplied in a packing tube and costs 10.95 pounds postpaid within the UK. Add 1.50 pounds for Europe and 2.55 pounds for the rest of the world. Contact.....Grays of Westminster, 40 Churton St., London, SW1V 2LP England. Tel: 011-44-171-828-4925. Fax: 976-5783...email: info@graysofwestminster.co.uk

NEW AGFA BOOK

Member Rudi Hillebrand, publisher of the German magazine, PhotoDeal, and author of various collector's books, has just released a new one. As in the past, I am covering a non-Nikon book because I feel that even though we may specialize in the products of Nippon Kogaku, we are not so narrow as to not find any good book dealing with some facet of camera collecting of interest. My library contains books on nearly every camera type worth having something written about them simply because I find them interesting and informative, and often they are valuable sources of information. Since the "game" of collecting is a perfect example of that old axiom "knowledge is money", you really cannot know too much about whatever is out there. Since Agfa is an old and venerable German maker, knowledge of what they produced can be quite important.

bottom of the box. The guarantee card is dated April 27, 1957 and also has the serial numbers printed on it. A packing slip with serial numbers is also in the box. The internal mount lens was supplied with the later style lens cap and a plastic hood with the Nikon logo on a line above the script. The hood and the lens were in the same style leather cases illustrated in the article.

As usual I read the whole Journal as soon as it arrived and will continue to return to back issues when questions arise at the local camera collectors group in Sydney of which I am treasurer.

From Bob Rogen...

Congratulations to you, Peter and Tony, and all the contributors on the phenomenal issue dedicated to the mighty f/1.1 Nikkor! Peter's writing is as bawdy and fun as ever. Tony's photographs are exquisite and the wooden box and tablecloth that Peter "found" are terrific. Add to these the rare items provided by Mr. Brody and Mr. Symons, and you have a project which represents the spirit of our club: members working together to present to the greater membership a wealth of information and insight. My thanks go out to all of you.

Thank you for the great job you do for all of us. I look forward to seeing you in New York!

"AGFA", Europe's largest photo company, will shortly celebrate the 100 anniversary of its trademark. The book describes the entire development of AGFA from its beginnings, the period between the two wars, and up to the present. With many never before published historical photos of the people who were involved as well as the tremendous variety of products AGFA has made over the decades, the book is a complete history of the company." Although written in German I found this book fascinating because of the awesome range of products AGFA made! This company at one time or another made "everything"! And much of it is collectible today. Get it, it's worth it!

Hard cover, 232 pages, DM98/\$55 plus postage. Contact Rudi Hillebrand, Kiefernweg 21, D-41470 Neuss, Germany. Tel:011-49-2137-77676. Fax: 011-49-2137-77635.

"NIKON TRIVIA"

Our "NIKON TRIVIA" question this issue is from Bill Kraus: What was the first Nikon lens to take a 69mm filter? Also, name ANY Nikkor lens taking a 69mm filter! Winners will be announced in NHS-60 and at NHS-CON6!!

NIKON MUSEUM!!

Member Peter Lownds announces he will open his new "Nikon Museum & Shop" at the end of March 1998. It is a dream come true for this avid Nikon collector. His shop will be wall-to-wall Nikon with lots of incredible items on display. Plans call for the Museum to be open three evenings a week & Saturday, by appointment only. He plans to have an Internet site and make sure you get on his mailing list for items being offered. Also commission items wanted. For more information call or fax 011-31-10-415-9136 or write Peter at W. de Zwijgerstraat 24, 3043 VD Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Just 2km from the airport.

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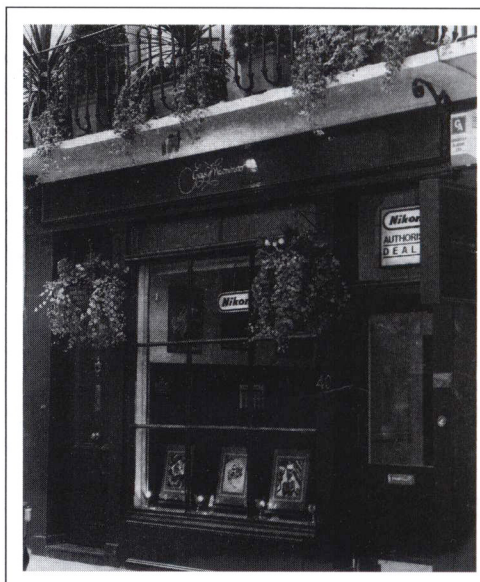
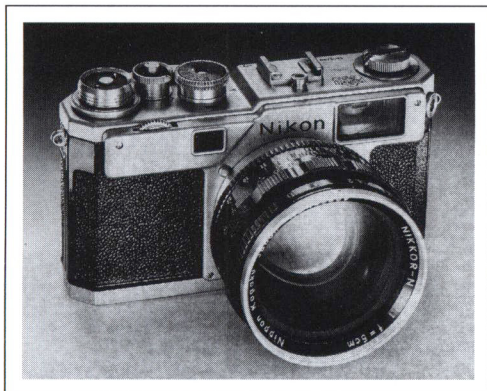
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Grays of Westminster is a charming period shop situated in a quiet Georgian street in central London. Specializing exclusively in **Nikon** we endeavour to stock almost all catalogued Nikon items, for instance all of the single lens reflex cameras. We stock the now very extensive range of autofocus lenses and a selection of manual Nikkor lenses. Additionally stocks include a wide range of accessories from eyepiece correction lenses to lens hoods. The Grays of Westminster catalogue and *The Grays of Westminster Gazette* issued every month have become an institution in the Nikon world and are available on subscription from anywhere in the world.

Grays of Westminster are unique in winning Dealer of the Year Awards by the readers of the three major photographic magazines in the UK.

We provide a comfortable atmosphere in unashamedly old world style, with leather topped desks and soft furnishings. By dealing in just one brand, Nikon, the choice of the majority of professional photographers, we can provide a distraction free environment. Here customers can gain an introduction to the Nikon system and have their queries answered. Our staff are highly knowledgeable, yet friendly and relaxed in their approach. Pressured selling is emphatically not part of the Grays of Westminster experience.

Furthermore, a vast amount of secondhand Nikon equipment is on display here. Nearly all of our secondhand stock has been amateur-owned, and is in mint or near-mint condition. Grays of Westminster have become renowned for the quality of their used equipment, and have set a standard to which other dealers aspire. Secondhand items are covered by a full



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Nikon wanted. We have a very large demand for secondhand Nikon equipment of the highest quality. If you have any Nikon which falls into this category please telephone, write or fax us with a list of the items you wish to dispose of.

The famous Nippon Kogaku Room where early Nikon products are on display is situated in a separate area of Grays of Westminster. It was opened on the 25th July 1992 as part of our celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of Nikon. The original name of the Nikon Corporation was Nippon Kogaku, meaning Japan Optical. The first two letters were taken from **N**ippon and **K**Ogaku, to which the letter "N" was added, thereby creating the name Nikon. Here you will find examples of Nikon rangefinder cameras and equipment, early Nikon F and F2 cameras as well as optical equipment.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE...Nikon F3HP body ex/ex+ in box, IB...\$595.00; Nikkor 28mm/f2.0 AI in box, IB, LN...\$295.00; Nikkor 28mm f/3.5 AI in box, IB, LN...\$160.00; Nikkor 35mm/f2.8 "PC", ex+...\$350.00. Julian "Jake" Jacobson, 736 St. Andrews Rd., Suite #150, Columbia, SC 29210. Phone/Fax (803) 798-6684. email address...JJACOB61370@Juno.com

FOR SALE...Early Nikkor lenses in Leica SM. 13.5cm/f3.5 #5006029 MIOJ; 5cm/f1.4 #50051031 MIOJ; 85/f2.0 #288353. These lenses are wasted on me. Please make offer to buy or trade for early F items. Henry Lilien, 3211 Westedge Rd., Topeka, KS 66605 or call 785-266-2683.

SELLING/TRADE LIST...My latest list is available now. Many items have sold, but lenses from 21mm to 500mm, a Nikon I, and many accessories remain, plus some new items. Please contact me to get on my mailing list. If you are on my list but did not receive one in NHS-58 please let me know. Thanks. Robert Rotoloni, P. O. Box 3213, Munster, In 46321....Fax..(708) 895-9663.

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odds 'n ends

NIKKOREX AUTO35



In issue #52 the F-Spot featured the Nikkorex 35. I have a Nikkorex Auto 35, which I have also seen named a Nikon Auto 35. You can see that it is a more stylish model although it has similar features to the one in the article, namely a non-interchangeable lens supported with auxiliary lenses, a leaf shutter and a built-in meter. The standard lens is a 48mm f2 Nikkor-H.

The selenium meter shows the aperture via a moving needle in the viewfinder and the camera can be set on shutter priority automatic, or manual: a red needle in the viewfinder shows when the reading is out of metering range. When the release is partly pressed, the aperture locks which allows a ready means of exposure compensation and creative exposure control. The release is mounted on the front of the camera similar to some Praktica models. The wind lever is set into the body and a button needs to be pressed to pop the film rewind knob. Because of these features the top plate is very smooth and stylish. On the back is the familiar N-K logo above the serial number, 405702.

Accessory close-up lenses for the 48mm lens come in two types; No. 11 & 12. Each have their own leather cases. Also made were a handsome leather camera case, lens caps, a rear cap for the auxiliary lenses, and a metal screw-in hood for the normal. It is a nice machine aimed at the amateur snap-shooter who wanted something better than a simple 35mm camera but who did not want something so grand as a Nikon F. The camera is typical of the thinking of the day in providing users with automated, easy to use yet versatile cameras.





Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST