

A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



DEC. 31, 1998
NHS-62

NIKON JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE
Page 1 ~ NEW NIKKOR DISCOVERED
Page 8 ~ MORE UNUSUAL FM2s
Page 12 ~ NEW NIKON MUSEUM

ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



THE NIKON JOURNAL

VOLUME SIXTEEN--NUMBER ONE--DECEMBER 31, 1998.
THE *NIKON JOURNAL* IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A
YEAR BY "RJR" PUBLISHING, INC., AT P.O. BOX 3213,
MUNSTER, INDIANA 46321 U.S.A.

COPYRIGHT 1998 BY "RJR" PUBLISHING, INC.

ALL OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE
VARIOUS AUTHORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THE
VIEWS OF THE *NIKON JOURNAL* OR OF THE *NIKON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY*.

OUR 24HR FAX NUMBER IS.....(708) 895-9663
OUR WEB SITE IS...<http://www.nikonhs.org>
OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS.....rotoloni@msn.com

SOCIETY DUES ARE:

U.S./CANADA...1YR \$25...3YRS \$65
OVERSEAS.....1YR \$35...3YRS \$95

CONTENTS

INSIDE FRONT COVER

NHS-62 EDITORIAL....by ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

PAGE ONE.....

A NIKON JOURNAL EXCLUSIVE!!!.....

NEW NIKKOR DISCOVERED!!

by MIKE SYMONS & TONY HURST

PAGE EIGHT.....

THE "F-SPOT"

TRIO OF SPECIAL FMs....LOWNDS/HURST

ANNIVERSARY F5 by TONY MUNDAY

PAGE TWELVE.....

A NEW NIKON MUSEUM OPENS!!!!

PETER LOWNDS' NIKON CANDY STORE!

by RUDOLF HILLEBRAND

PAGE SIXTEEN.....

A LOOK AT NIKON FILTERS.....

by DAVID BARTH

PAGE SEVENTEEN.....

NHS-CON7 SET FOR HOLLAND IN 2000!!

LATEST WORLD AUCTION RESULTS

PAGE TWENTY.....

CLASSIFIED MEMBER ADS

BACK ISSUE ORDERING INFO

NEW MEMBERS & ADDRESSES

INSIDE REAR COVER

NIKON WWII FIELD GLASSES!!!

by BOB THOMPSON

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of our *NIKON JOURNAL*, *NHS-63*, is **MARCH 1, 1999**. This will be our first issue of the last year of the millennia, so I hope to make it an interesting one. It also is exactly one year before our next convention so we should have some info on that. Please get all contributions to me by the above date. **Thank you.**

EDITORIAL

As 1998 winds down and we get ready to start the last year of this millennia, most of us are already fixated on the year 2000 (I wonder how long it will be before I feel comfortable without the prefix '19' when saying a date. '2000' just doesn't roll off the tongue as easily for me, but then my family has always said I'm stuck in the past. Just look at all these 'old' cameras & junk you buy. Why don't you have one of those nice 'point & shoots' or at least a camcorder?) Since 2000 is in everyone's mind even now, it is not too early to talk about NHS-Con7, also scheduled for that wondrous year. And there is already a great deal to talk about! Peter Lownds & friends have again agreed to take on the monumental task of setting up our international meeting. Only those who have been involved at the organizational level know how much time and effort go into these little get togethers. Each time we have a Convention I come out of it extremely grateful to whomever took on the task of show chairman, never having been disappointed! Peter has many great ideas and is open to more, so check out page 17 for all the current info and, please, give us your feedback and start making your plans for March 2000.

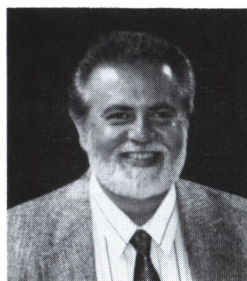
The key article this issue is another *NIKON JOURNAL* exclusive! Mike Symons has come up with a lens I have not seen nor heard of! When he first called me with the serial number I told him 'no way, it has to be a wrong number'. It looks like I was the one with the wrong number, because his little gem is for real! With his story of how he obtained it along with the Tony Hurst photos, makes for yet another landmark article for your magazine.

The 'F-Spot' is a follow-up of sorts to the last issue with a second installment by the team of Lownds/Hurst on some unusual Nikon Fms, and further information on the 50th Anniversary F5, this time courtesy of Grays of Westminster and Tony Munday.

On page 12 you will find coverage of a new Nikon Museum, owned and operated by non other than that friendly giant, Peter Lownds. A decade old dream that has finally come true for him has resulted in a unique Nikon experience. A combination Museum & Shop, it is filled to the brim with all type of Nikon made products covering over 50 years of production as well as less known areas, such as scientific items and non-Nikon cameras sporting Nikkor optics. It is a modern and well lighted emporium dedicated to all that is Nikon. The photos and text are courtesy of Rudi Hillebrand and his *PhotoDeal*, who ran this story a few months ago.

On page 16 we have a discussion of Nikon filters by David Barth. Nikon's filters have always been first class products, yet little attention is given to them. Maybe Dave's article will get some people talking about them.

Finally, may you all have a wonderful & healthy 1999!



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

ANOTHER "NIKON JOURNAL" EXCLUSIVE!!!!!!

NEW NIKKOR DISCOVERED!

by MIKE SYMONS WITH PHOTOS by TONY HURST

Background: In May of this year I was the successful bidder on a Nikon S outfit with a very "unusual" 5cm/f2.0 Nikkor lens. The camera appeared on the IDCC (Internet Directory of Camera Collectors...a camera chat group), the member having bought it at a local flea market in Southern California. He took it to his local camera repairman for a cleaning, and then decided he didn't want it, his collecting interests being antique movie cameras and projectors. According to his repairman, the 5cm/f2.0 Nikkor lens appeared to be very unusual....with some strange features, including an engraving error! However, he decided to put the outfit up for bid on the IDCC with a two week closure. As it turned out, I was the high bidder, being informed upon my return from NHS-Con6 in New York. I asked the IDCC member if he would ship it to fellow NHS member and good

friend Bob Rogen in Sacramento. Marcia and I were planning a trip to California two weeks hence, and we intended on visiting the Rogens on our way through.

The package was waiting for me in Sacramento, and it was with great anticipation that I opened the box to find a very clean Nikon S with the strange Nikkor lens (Fig.1). After examining the lens, I removed it from the body, handing the body to Bob (who was standing over my shoulder drooling). A few seconds later he yelled..."Symons, this is an MIOJ body. Didn't you know?" Well, you could have knocked me over with a feather. I was shocked, as I had asked the seller if it was MIOJ. He told me 'no', and looking at the serial number (6094528) I had figured it was a bit too late to be MIOJ. Surprise....surprise. Just goes to prove that one mustn't take anything for granted.



I first phoned Robert Rotoloni who suggested (rather strongly!) that I write a comprehensive article for our *Nikon Journal*. He was excited! I then wrote to Mr. Masahiko Fuketa, the former Nikon designer who worked for Nippon Kogaku during those interesting pre and post war years.

Here are my questions to Fuketa-san with his responses;
Symons: "Can you recall, during your early years with NK, any history regarding this lens?"

Fuketa-san: "I vividly recall your old photographic lens made during the war. The font (of the characters and numerals) is exactly the same as we used in those days. The unusual vertical alignment of the characters such as the 'p' and 'g' was our old Japanese fashion. Our photographic group used to use 'Nr.' and ',' instead of 'No.' and '.' as on German lenses."

Symons: "Can you give an approximate date of production?"

Fuketa-san: "As we started to sell the f2.0 in August of 1937, it must be between 1937 and 1945."

Symons: "Was it built for a specific purpose or application?"

Fuketa-san: "No."

Symons: "What would have caused NK to change the numbering sequence from '50' to '53'? (Note-During this period, NK used '50' as the first 2 digits in the serial numbers of their 50mm lenses.)

Fuketa-san: "As we have no records on these matters, it is not clear."

Symons: "Would you consider this lens an 'experimental' or 'prototype' lens?"

Fuketa-san: "I think it must be one of the lenses normally made."

Symons: "Could this be a civilian version of the Regno-Nikkor 5cm/f2.0?"

Fuketa-san: "I think no."

Symons: "Can you estimate from these photos how many elements of glass are in this lens?"

Fuketa-san: "Six elements in groups of 1, 3, & 2."

Fuketa-san also stated in his letter that "Your lens must be a genuine Nikkor lens made by us for the Hansa Canon camera during 1937-45, delivered to Seiki-Kogaku and sold normally. But later the mount was converted to the Nikon type for use on the Nikon."

I next contacted Dr. Peter Dechert in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Since Peter had written the "Rosetta Stone" saga "Canon Rangefinder Cameras 1933-68", and is extremely knowledgeable on the early marriage between Seiki Kogaku and Nippon Kogaku, I felt he could provide some of the missing pieces of this jigsaw puzzle. I also sent him the same photos I had sent to Fuketa-san. Peter was very interested in my lens, and stated that he thought we could be looking at a converted Regno-Nikkor 5cm/f2.0. That bit of knowledge really excited me as I knew how rare that particular lens is today. Peter has an example of a Canon mount Regno-Nikkor in his collection, and compared the pictures I had sent him with his lens. He then suggested the following scenario;

.....It is quite possible that the sleeve containing the actual elements began life as components for the 5cm/f2.0 Regno-Nikkor, intended for use on the Seiki Kogaku (Canon) X-Ray camera. Peter closely compared the details of my lens (from my photos) to those of his own Regno-Nikkor. He observed that the type style, font size, placement of the words and numbers around the front ring of the lens, the European engraving methods explained by Fuketa-san, etc., were almost identical to his own lens.....probably too similar to be coincidental. As his book points out, orders were given to Nippon Kogaku to produce sufficient numbers of the 5cm/f2.0 Regno-Nikkor lenses and lens components to fill the needs of the military as the war escalated. The Seiki Kogaku X-Ray cameras were widely used and attrition rates were extremely high in combat conditions.

All of a sudden the war had ended....and Nippon Kogaku was left with an inventory stockpile of these Regno-Nikkor lenses or lens components, sitting gathering dust in one of their warehouses. Then US Occupational Headquarters ordered Nippon Kogaku (and other optical manufacturers) to begin constructing strictly peacetime optical items (lenses, cameras, binoculars, microscopes, etc.). There was a terrific demand for these items by US servicemen posted to Japan as part of the Occupational Forces. The moment had arrived for this giant of the Japanese optical industry to begin the planning, development and construction of their very own camera. Perhaps it finally dawned on them..."Why should we continue producing our high quality, critically acclaimed

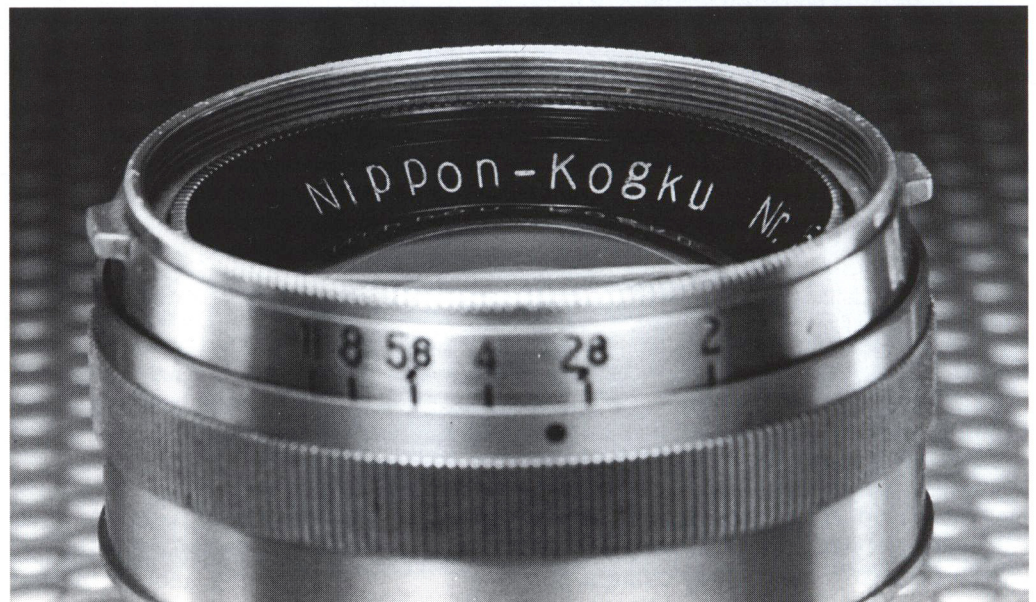


Fig.4) Close-up showing the engraving error in "Kogaku". Also notice the 2 'PP's in Nippon. They appear even with the bottom of the line, rather than below it.

optics to be fitted on other companies' cameras? Why not build our own cameras to use our own lenses?"

Thus, the Nikon One became reality, and it is Peter Dechert's contention (and one that I share) that some of these 5cm/f2.0 Regno-Nikkor lens component sleeves were pulled off the warehouse shelf and mounted into specially designed Contax inspired barrels for experimental use on their Nikon camera. This makes even more sense when one considers the bleak conditions that prevailed in post-war Japan between 1946 and 1948. Materials such as quality metal and optical glass were in extremely short supply, and it stands to reason that Nippon Kogaku would have made use of many existing/warehoused materials on hand and available to them. The retooling/reworking of previously manufactured parts was not uncommon during this period in Japan's photographic history.

My recently acquired 5cm/f2.0 Nikkor could be one of the "reworked" Regno-Nikkors as Peter Dechert contends. But here is where we come to a fork in the road.....a division in thought. You will recall that Fuketa-san stated that he didn't think that my lens was a Regno-Nikkor in a Nikon range-finder barrel. He believes my lens contains 6 elements in a 1-3-2 configuration. The Regno-Nikkor lens, by comparison, contained 5 elements and not 6 like the Sonnar designed f2.0 lens of the day. In order to settle this dilemma, I gave my lens to a Radiologist friend of mine, asking him to make some x-ray photographs for me. Unfortunately, due to the extreme thickness of the brass barrel, the results were inconclusive. Naturally I was hoping to pick out 5 glass elements...strongly

Fig.5) A shot of the subject lens with a 5cm/f2.0 Nikkor in Canon S mount, #50198, on the left. Note the similarity in the early typestyle. They do have a similar look to them, indicating that they are from the same era. Canon S mount Nikkor courtesy of Tony Hurst.



indicating the Regno-Nikkor theory. However, the results were too "muddy" to ascertain this. I wouldn't consider dismantling the lens, so the mystery remains. Does it have 5 or 6 glass elements????

What are we to believe? I would be very interested in feedback from some of the members. This is a fascinating lens, and it would be wonderful if it could talk! Quite a story it could tell, I'm sure. Seriously I believe that whether it be a Regno-Nikkor or a Sonnar designed 5cm/f2.0 Nikkor, this lens formed a part of the early Nikon One history and somehow found its way out of Japan and onto a mismatched MIOJ Nikon S body landing up at a flea market in Southern California. Strange how things work out.

Footnote: The writing of this article was only part of the equation, but the impact wouldn't have been nearly as great without Tony Hurst's terrific photographs that accompany the text. I sent the camera and lens to Tony in July, and these superb photographs are the result. I can't begin to express my gratitude to him for bringing this outfit to life. His photographs appear to live and breath. In addition to these, he also printed (and framed) a lovely 11x14 exactly like the one on the back cover of this issue! It now hangs on a wall in my home. It surely is unique. Also, I'd like to thank Tony for the use of 3 of his Nikkors which appear as 'comparison' lenses in some of the photographs. The inclusion of these lenses gives further depth of this article. Thanks so much Tony.



Fig. 6) View of subject lens flanked by a 5cm/f1.5 Nikkor-S, #9054, on the left, and a 5cm/f2.0 collapsible Nikkor, #8111435, on the right. They are all approximately the same height. Both 'side' lenses courtesy Tony Hurst.



Fig. 7) Same three lenses as in Fig. 6, but standing on their heads. Notice that the mounting flanges are very similar in appearance.

ALL PHOTOS
by
TONY HURST

NHS
NIPPON
KOGAKU
TOKYO

8

THE

F

--SPOT!!

A TRIO OF

SPECIAL FMs

by PETER LOWNDS with PHOTOS by TONY HURST



We have three more unusual Nikon FM2s for this follow-up to Part One in NHS-61. Two are factory made and promoted variants, while the third is a specially modified FM probably produced by the factory in very small numbers.

On page 8 is the Nikon FM2 "Fundus Camera", which has been covered in these pages previously. Very different in design and concept from the famous Nikon F Hand-Fundus model, this is probably much less common. It is used for taking photos of the human eye. The modifications are quite easily carried out with a few small adjustments, not a big deal. The motor, however, is another story, with a complete new housing. After a closer examination the internal workings are the same as the MD11/MD12. Also notice the special bayonet; this was so the camera would fit into a small space on a much larger instrument and lock in place by way of a ring, reminiscent of the Canon breech-lock system.

I can remember about 6-7 years ago, Nikon went "green" for awhile. It seems that it was reported in the photographic press that the process to use titanium in camera construction was very unfriendly to the environment, and that Nikon had stopped using this very expensive metal! Then about 4 years ago Nikon introduced the FM2/T, the same old FM2 we know and love, but with a new top hat and tails made of titanium. It was in response to a growing demand from pros who wanted a manual camera body that was strong and light

weight as a back-up. We all know what pros do to cameras; first place them in a concrete mixer with a bag of grit! It looks to the untrained eye that some pros try to see who can damage his or her camera the most in the shortest time. But it is ironic that the majority of these tough cameras were bought by either amateurs or collectors, looking for something just a little different. And this one is a beauty!

Finally, on page 10 is the FM2/T "Year of the Dog". Make the order big enough and not too complicated, and Nikon are willing to produce a limited run if the price is high enough! This model was made to commemorate 1994, the Year of the Dog in China. A Chinese businessman living in Taiwan had the bright idea of having it made for the very rich Hong Kong market, and a limited run of 300 bodies were made. I have seen quite a few for sale in the United States.

This is falling into the same trap as the Leica M6, at the last count 33 variations of one camera body, and still counting. This is not the first time Nikon have produced special edition cameras: 25th Anniversary F2s in a run of 2500; the F2 "Titan" (also titanium); the F3T produced in champagne finish with matching numbers on the body & lens in a wood box. It is possible only 100 such sets were made! For the home market Nikon made 2000 F3 Limited bodies & now we have the 50th Anniversary F5. I think we shall have another look at these special editions at a later date.





THIS TONY HURST PHOTO IS USED WITH PERMISSION OF THE GRAYS OF WESTMINSTER GAZETTE.

50th ANNIVERSARY NIKON F5!

11

by TONY MUNDAY.....

WITH PERMISSION OF THE GRAYS OF WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

It is well known that Nikon started life as an optical company. They began when three companies merged in 1917 and formed the Japanese Optical Company (Nippon Kogaku). It seems like moments ago that we were celebrating 75 years, with the opening of our Nippon Kogaku Room. That was in 1992. As we have previously mentioned, Nikon did not start life as a camera maker. That said they are awfully good at it. No, Nikon did not make cameras until they produced the Nikon I in 1948 (at least that is the official story....).

So fresh from the celebration of 80 years of optical excellence Nikon are faced with the dilemma of how to mark 50 years of camera production. It could be argued that Nikon have left a sufficient impression with 50 years of cameras out there, not to mention the fact that 40 years of them all carry the same lens mount. The obvious answer is to produce a special camera.

Unlike a certain German manufacturer, Nikon's history is not littered with special editions. Yes, they have produced the odd titanium versions and the legendary high-speed models, but little else. Notable recent ones are the F3 Limited and the Year of the Dog FM2/T. What these two have in common with the new camera is that they were designed with the Japanese market in mind!

Yes, they considered restricting sales of this camera to Japan only. The original plan was to produce 2,000 cameras and sell them all in Japan. We have it on good authority that they had plans to earmark some of these for a certain Nikon-only shop. A last minute change of mind led them to produce a further 1,000 for the rest of the world.

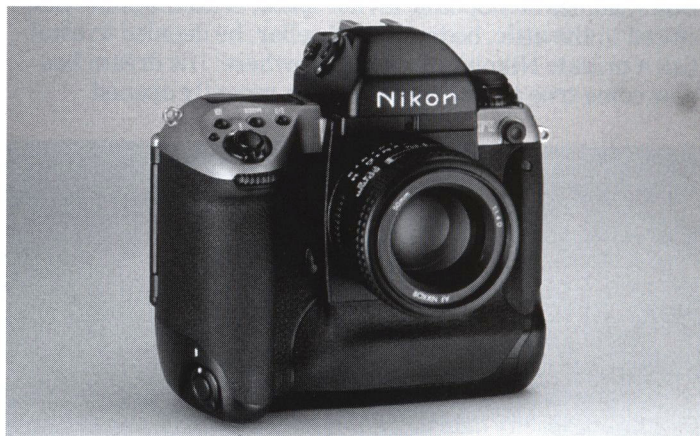
So without further delay let me say that the new camera is based on the flagship Nikon F5. The F5 is already a super camera and the changes made are cosmetic in nature. The word superficial seems inappropriate due to the significance of the changes, but below the skin breathes a normal F5.



In my mind's eye I have been building up a picture of the camera. My imagination was fired by various data. Some arrived over the telephone. Most fascinating were many short notes from anonymous fax machines bearing the tell-tale signs of a Japanese hand writing English script. More recently I eyed transparencies of what looked like an adapted F5, a mock-up if you like. All of these gave me a good idea of what to expect, as well as providing something of a story behind the camera's production.

Today (mid-August) I have been fortunate enough to see the camera. I can see that the photographs did not tell the full story. The top covers that form the shoulders of the camera looked silver in the shots; the data said they should be gray. They are certainly a metallic color and it has a slight bronze tinge to it. Gray is the color of the special BF1A body cap. Nikon have also used gray instead of the bright red stripe fitted to the handgrip of the standard offering. So we have a Giugiaro design, without the legendary red stripe!

The familiar titanium viewfinder cover is still black; that said, it is a less matte black. But that is not the only change. Gone is the familiar Nikon logo. It is replaced with the former version. The script is styled to match that of the first rangefinder! The change is subtle, yet the message is a powerful one!



Moving on, the rear of the camera is relatively unchanged. The discreet Nippon Kogaku triangular shaped logo graces the battery pack to the left of the liquid crystal display. It has a small "50" below it. There was some debate whether this was to be an 80. Clearly Nikon decided they were marking 50 years of cameras rather than 80 years of existence. Hopefully the photographs with this article will show this in sufficient detail for those unfamiliar with the design.

The camera arrives in a special presentation case. The outer surfaces of the case are a mottled light gray. Opening the box reveals a striking gold lining. The camera and a strap bearing a special inscription nestle into the padded inner. The box itself is protected in transit by a cardboard sleeve. The instruction booklet is let into a panel of card, which sits between presentation case and the sleeve.

NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.....A NEW

NIKON MUSEUM!

PETER LOWNDS OPENS HIS "NIKON CANDY STORE!"

PHOTOS & TEXT by RUDI HILLEBRAND/COURTESY PHOTODEAL

(The following words are excerpted from an article by Rudi Hillibrand in his German magazine "PhotoDeal", and the photos are used with his permission.)

Most collectors sooner or later must deal with the problem of too many camera s and too little space, unless he is the owner of a very large house or a collector of subminiatures! He eventually comes to the point where all show cases, boxes and drawers are filled to the brim. Then a decision must be made; either reduce the size of the collection, or expand the available space. Peter Lownds of Rotterdam , enthusiastic & long time Nikon collector, has chosen the latter.

This is easier said than done and more expensive. Not everybody has a spare room or an attic to expand into and Dutch homes do not offer lavish space. With his collection stored in the attic, bedroom and cellar, he decided to establish a private Nikon museum somewhere. His dream has now come true and his museum has recently opened.

Peter has been collecting for years and has gathered an impressive array of cameras, lenses, accessories and other Nikon products such as microscopes, theodolites, cine and other makers' products which are equipped with Nikon lenses. Of course all basic models are represented, above all the early rangefinder system with all its accessories, as well as the entire range of F and F2 models, Nikkormats, numerous rare cut-away models, a huge variety of literature in both English and German, and also a large selection of Nikon souvenir type items such as watches, loupes, pins, etc.

The passion for Nikon for this 46 year old collector began years ago when the Nikon F was still in production. As the owner of a Praktica, Peter saw a "real " system camera with removable lens as well as finder, screen and even the back to attach a motor drive. He acquired his first "F" followed by lenses, finders and the inevitable F36 Motor. The F2 succeeded the F and offered an even larger selection and thus the collecting passion had arrived. Soon he discovered that there

*The flag is showing the way:
Oranjestraat & W. de
Zwijgerstraat in the
Rotterdam city district of
Overschie, where Peter's
Nikon paradise is located.
Nikon enthusiasts will
find a real eldorado there
but also collectors of other
makes will surely be
delighted by the impressive
collection & presentation.*

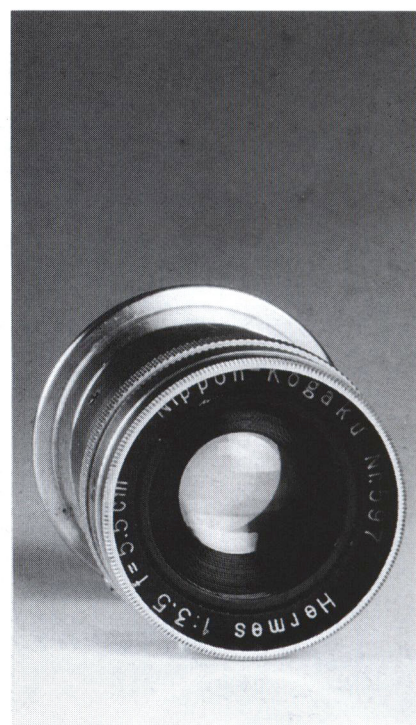


was a Nikon system before the F, the rangefinders. These had passed up Europe for the most part and Peter had to make international contacts in order to learn more about the history of this earlier system. Since then he has made many friends internationally, from Ireland to the USA and Japan.

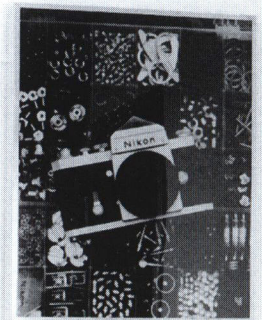
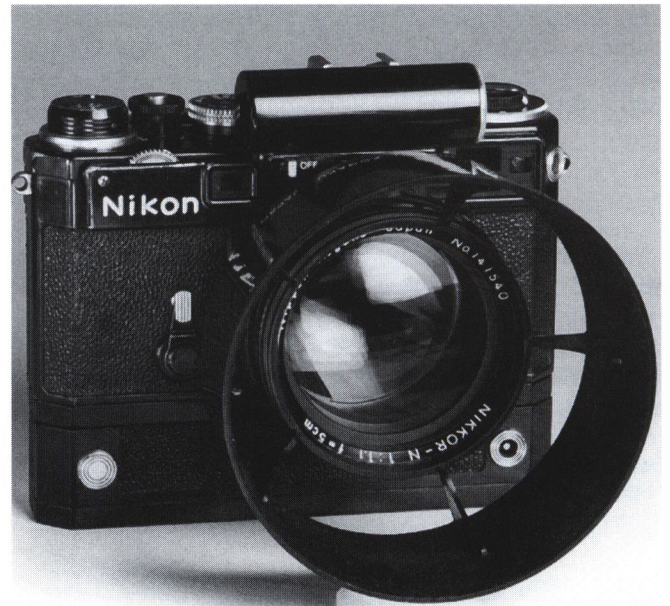
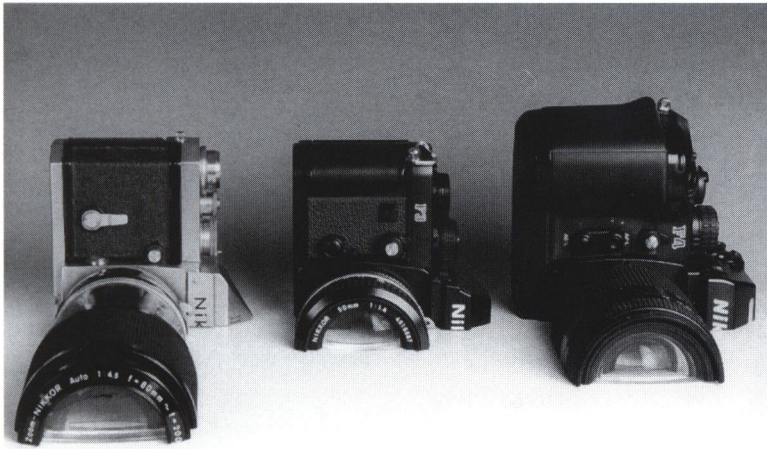
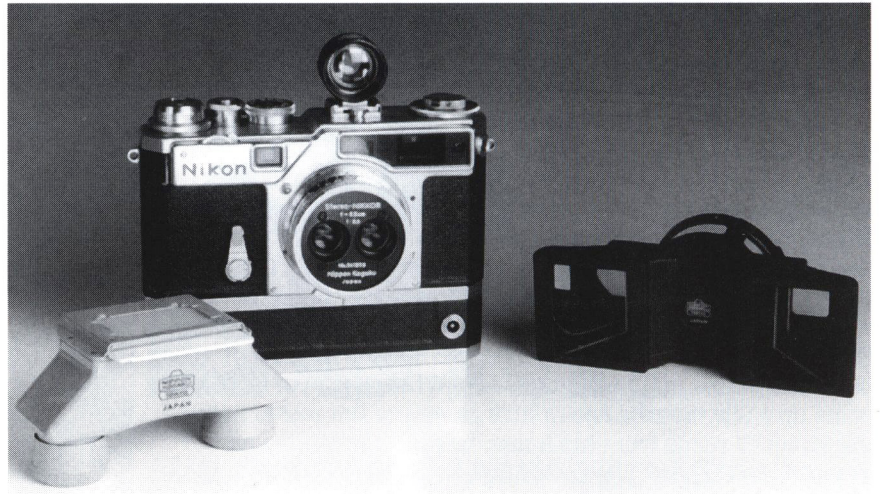
Though Peter is a Nikon collector heart and soul and the products are his main interest, he states that these friendships are very important to him--sharing the fun of collecting with others. Peter is one of a handful of members of the Nikon Historical Society who has taken part in all Conventions of the NHS..whether held in Seattle, Chicago, Tokyo or New York. The dream of his own Nikon museum has been with him for years...on the one hand because his house was filled to the brim, on the other hand to be able to present the beautiful pieces in an adequate way. When an opportunity came up a few months ago to hire an empty flat just across the street 50 yards from his home, he didn't hesitate and grasped the chance. The result is the first private Nikon museum. Visitors are welcome, but as he is after all still a working man, it is advisable to make an appointment with him. I cannot but recommend a visit to Peter's Nikon paradise where much fun and a cordial atmosphere are, like the entry, free of charge. The address is : Willem de Zwijgerstraat 24, 3043 VD Rotterdam. tel/fax 31/10-4159136.

Rudolf Hillebrand/PhotoDeal

Well-filled showcases are everywhere! The very large unit in the right photo is stocked with many Nikon reflex items of every vintage as well as the Nikkorex & Nikkormat lines. In addition many Nikon novelty items can be found, something they have made in a nearly endless array over the years. Below is another case with the Nikon F series on display. You can also see a small part of his library and a reading area. Lastly, one of the rarer items on display is the "Hermes" enlarging lens once featured in these pages.



Other rarities one can see are items such as the Stereo-Nikkor outfit (R), black SP with the awesome F1.1 Nikkor & shade, some of the many cut-aways dating from the F era to the present. At the bottom is yet another display case filled to the brim with F & F2 equipment, as well as a factory-made display on the left of a completely dis-assembled Nikon F2A!





More cases, this one packed with binoculars and all types of Bronica gear, which used Nikkor optics. Other facets of Nikon on display include the Nikonos system, Marshall Press with its Nikkors, microscopes, theodolites & other scientific gear and vertexometers for eye-glass manufacturing. Rare NASA items can be found such as this Nikon F7n as well as the Nikon F3 with 250 shot motor. Even "new" Nikons can find their way into a museum. At the bottom a future collectible; the F3H High Speed being handled with special gloves! All photos by Rudi Hillebrand & courtesy PhotoDeal.



A LOOK AT NIKON

FILTERS

by DAVID BARTH

Not much has been written about Nikon filters. They are an important part of the Nikon "system", but they have been neglected in Nikon literature. Yet they are also a very important aspect of photography. Nearly every photographer owns at least one filter, and older Nikon filters have become very collectible, especially those from the range-finder era. This discussion is aimed at Nikon filters from the early 1960's through today. Hopefully, it will elicit more accurate information on Nikon's filters from those who know.

THE RIM

Until around 1977, filter rims were chrome plated brass. As Nikon changed to black filter rings on its lenses, add on filters were painted black to match, although the underlying metal remained brass. Changing from plating to painting reduced the manufacturing cost of the filters, and this fact is thought to be a primary reason Nikon eliminated plating. One source thought the change to black was, in part, to reduce the possibility of light being reflected from the chrome rim into the lens in certain lighting conditions, but this theory has not been confirmed.

The brass is precision-milled to lightly clasp the glass, not grip it tightly. As a result, the glass is a bit "loose" in its rim, preventing extreme temperatures from causing the change in rim dimensions to distort the glass. The small clearance between the glass and the rim allows the metal to expand and contract without altering the flatness of the glass itself. More than once an inexperienced camera shop clerk has thought that filters with loose glass are defective!

THE GLASS

True to Nikon optical engineering, the glass in its filters is extremely well designed and manufactured. The surfaces are very flat, and they are parallel, except, of course, in special applications such as close-up lenses. How Nikon does this is, of course, a secret. In addition, the glass is coated, just as lens elements are, to make the light act correctly as it passes through. To what extent the glass is treated with rare earths during the melt is not known. However, it is believed that Nikon makes all the glass for its filters. Also unknown is if Nikon has experimented with "ED" (extra-low dispersion) or Noct-type glass in its filters.

THE MYSTIQUE

The sharp difference between the beautiful chrome filters and their more recent, ho-hum, painted cousins, has made the earlier ones very collectible. It is not known how many filters of each diameter Nikon made in chrome, but they are very difficult to find, even though it is probable that several million in the 52mm size alone, were made. When they are found, they cost upwards of \$20 each, without a filter case. A new Nikon filter costs around \$40.

THE PLASTIC FILTER CASE

Plastic cases from the early 1960's, for 52mm filters, are about 10mm larger in diameter than the filters themselves. Later cases are smaller in diameter, making it more difficult to lift the filter out of the case. Instead, the best method of removing the filter from a modern case is to tip it and dump the filter into the other hand. Theoretically, the larger diameter of the older cases makes it easier to lift the filter from the case using one's fingers, but they would have to be small fingers. Naturally, the older style filter cases are now very collectible and rarely seen.

THE NOMENCLATURE

One of the biggest mysteries of Nikon filters (and there are many) is what the difference is between filters labeled "Nikon" and those with "Nikkor" on them. One theory is that the "Nikkor" brand was solely for EPOI (Ehrenreich), which was purchased by Nikon in the early 1970's, but it has been reported that contemporary filters are coming from Japan with the "Nikkor" logo. Discussions on this matter can become nearly as heated as those concerning the differences (if any) between glass elements in Nikkors versus Series E lens glass.

MORE MYSTIQUE

Perhaps the gurus at Nikon delight in listening to the world-wide suspicions and theories that try to fill the vacuum of information on Nikon products. Perhaps much of this lore has been lost to time. For certain, the language gap plays a strong role in our lack of information. Oh, but were there a computer program so intelligent that it could scan Japanese literature and immediately translate in into accurate, readable English!



NHS CON-7 IN 2000

Robert Rotoloni would like the pleasure of your company at the next Convention, NHS-Con7, to be held in Rotterdam, Holland in March of the year 2000!

We held NHS-Con4 in Holland and we are going to do it again! Why Holland? First and foremost, Holland is very well connected with the rest of the world by plane, train, boat and tunnel! Members arriving by plane at Amsterdam International Airport, will find Schiphol a joy to travel into.

Only 6 months ago we had the last convention in the Big Apple. For quite a few members it was a problem not knowing the date and time far enough in advance to make plans. Well, this time we are giving you a 16 month notice!!

For those of you who attended the Tokyo Convention you will recall that the planning that went into the event was fantastic. Tamla-san had a whole week laid out for our enjoyment. I would like to do something along the same lines and make a few plans for at least Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

Tentative ideas are....Friday morning early breakfast followed by a trip to a secret destination to view and enjoy one of the most comprehensive Leica collections in the world. Most of what will be on display will be transported by armoured car to a secret location just for us! Afterwards, possibly a trip to either the Fuji or Agfa factory to see how film is made (the black stuff with holes that we never run in our Nikons), & finish the day in Antwerp at the Agfa Museum.

We need to know how many will make the trip. We are looking at various other locations and ideas, but it is most important that we get some sort of head count.

Master photographer, Tony Hurst, has already started work on a new audio-visual presentation. It's worth the trip just to see his work, or is it art! Andy Warhole once said that everyone would be famous for 15 minutes...well here is your chance to get your 15 minutes of glory and fame. This convention we would like to do things a little differently than in the past. We would like to have more speakers, but each with shorter presentations. You have 16 months to prepare a talk, so start thinking about it now. Slide equipment will be available for those who need it. John Millham informs me that he is working on a talk and slide show all about Nikon microscopes. Did you know that 80% of Nikon's production has no connection to photography and that microscopes are big business, with some costing as much as \$90,000!

As the last time, we will have the Convention on the same weekend as the Dutch collectors show at Houten. Normally there are about 400 tables, that's about 2/3 of a mile, of cameras and photographic related equipment both new, used and collectible! *(The last Houten show was so jammed with buyers that your editor, no small retiring type guy, found it difficult to get up to some of the tables! What a show! RJR)*

The Conventions have become a great meeting place to renew friendships and make new ones. As always we will reserve time for a member 'show n' tell', so bring that special item you are so proud of and show it off to the others! March is a good time to travel as the cheap winter fairs do not end until about March 14th. or so. So make your plans now and get the best fairs you can. We will work on hotel rooms on this end and let you know about that later.

Robert Rotoloni, Jaap Kortten and Peter Lownds are the only NHS members to have made all 6 previous Conventions. Will one of the three miss it this time? Come to Holland and find out!

Peter Lownds

NEWS & NOTES

Just a reminder that our official website keeps growing and reaching more and more people worldwide, thanks to the efforts of our own Webmaster, Fred Krughoff. Fred keeps updating our site which keeps us at the forefront of web page design. We've had thousands of 'hits' so make sure you keep checking it out on a regular basis. www.nikonhs.org

We also now have an e-mail address for those of you who wish to contact me quickly. I check it daily so hopefully my answers will always be timely. For this issue, Mike Symons and I communicated repeatedly via e-mail that worked much better than faxes or the phone! rotoloni@msn.com

I just received by mail the most interesting catalog I've seen lately. Now this is not a catalog of equipment for sale, we get those all the time. This one is really "useful"! It came from member Curt Fargo & his Fargo Enterprises and bills itself as "Earth's Largest Selection of Camera Repair Tools & Supplies". And it's great! Page after page of some of the most interesting tools and gadgets I've ever seen. As one who has dabbled in camera maintenance (as I am sure many of you have), I know I'll be needing something out of this book. You must check it out. Fargo Enterprises, PO Box 6505, Vacaville CA, 95696-6505. Fax..800-249-3182 & 707-446-3319

AUCTION NEWS

Now that there are interesting Nikons in every catalog from Christie's, there's always some news to report. Recent hammer prices for some 'interesting' pieces include....

(All prices quoted in British pounds plus buyers premium!)

NIKON SP CHROME W/F1.4 NIKKOR.....920
 TYPE I REFLEX HOUSING IN THE BOX!!.....4370!!
 MODEL 'H' FIELD MICROSCOPE.....1610!!
 NIKON S2 CHROME W/F1.4 NIKKOR BOXED!.....437
 NIKON S3 BLACK W/F1.4 NIKKOR.....3450!!
 NIKON S4 CHROME W/F1.4 NIKKOR.....1495
 NIKON SP CHROME W/35F1.8 NIKKOR.....978
 NIKON SP CHROME, BODY ONLY.....1610
 NIKKOR 105/2.5 W/SHADE.....437?!!
 NIKKOR 25/F4.0 IN SM!.....483

The above include a few surprises such as a common 105 selling for nearly the same as a much rarer SM 25mm! The black S3 sounds about right, but check out the Type I Reflex Housing, and the Model H Microscope!

The current catalog for Jan. 14th includes some really nice items! Like what? you ask. Well how about this..... Boxed Nikon M with dated papers; black Nikon S3 in really fine shape; a mini-finder; screw mount Micro; 180/f2.5 & two 250/f4 lenses!; an f1.1 with the shade!; 85/f1.5 screw mount; type II reflex housing and another type I also!!; MIOJ 35mm; chrome 25mm/f4; both the 350mm and 500mm lenses and last, but not least, a 21mm/f4 with finder!!! This is really a comprehensive selection and the most rounded group of Nikon items I have seen to date in one auction. There are some quite rare items and most appear to be in collector's condition. According to the catalog, all are the property of a collector, so it could all be from one source. Interesting!

As you can see, the auction scene is very active and the prices for the better items are quite strong. This is a little surprising considering the weak Asian market, but it looks like there are always buyers for those wonderful Nikons!!

Robert Rotoloni

OFFICIAL "NHS" PRODUCTS

NHS JOURNAL INDEX...ISSUES 1-46.....	\$5.00 US
	\$8.00 OVERSEAS
NHS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY.....	DONATION!!
NIKON "S" GENERAL LIST REPRINT.....	\$17.00 US
	\$20.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON F MODEL III METER REPRINT.....	\$10.00 US
	\$13.00 OVERSEAS
NHS-CON2 OR CON4 LAPEL PIN.....	\$5.00 US
	\$6.00 OVERSEAS
NHS-CON2 TIE CLASP/CUFFLINK SET.....	\$15.00 US
	\$18.00 OVERSEAS
NHS-CON3 & 4 INK PENS.....	\$2.00 ALL
NHS-CON4 "PUZZLE" w/NHS LOGO.....	\$3.00 ALL
NHS-CON6 CANVAS BAG w/NHS LOGO.....	\$7.00 ALL
NHS-CON6 DECAL w/NHS LOGO.....	\$4.00 ALL
"THIS IS WAR" by D.D.DUNCAN..NEW!.....	\$25.00 US
	\$40.00 OVERSEAS
"NIKON RANGEFINDER"..ROTOLONI.....	\$40.00US
	\$45.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.....	\$130.00 US
	\$150.00 OVERSEAS

NEW! Kadlubek's Camera Catalogue '98/99

The new most comprehensive German camera catalogue with unmatched detailedness, totally revised and extended compared to the second edition. Now 616 pages with technical data and German collectors prices of more than 17.700 cameras and over 2.500 professionally photographed illustrations of historical cameras of the last century through classic collectibles of the last decades to the latest APS and digital cameras of today.



Completely with practical pocket price guide to take on location such as camera fairs or auctions, available at \$45 plus \$10 (surface) or \$25 (airmail) postage directly from the publisher.

Payment is requested by Eurocheque, cash or credit card (Visa, MasterCard or American Express).

PHOTODeal, Rudolf Hillebrand DGPh, Kiefernweg 21, D-41470 Neuss, Fax: ++49 / 2137 / 7 76 35

E-mail: hillebrand@photodeal.ne.eunet.de

http://www.photodeal.de

FIELDGRASS & GALE

BUYING ★ SELLING ★ TRADING

LEICA NIKON CONTAREX

Also Leica copies (Leotax, Hansa, Kardon, etc)

SINGLE ITEMS OR COMPLETE COLLECTIONS

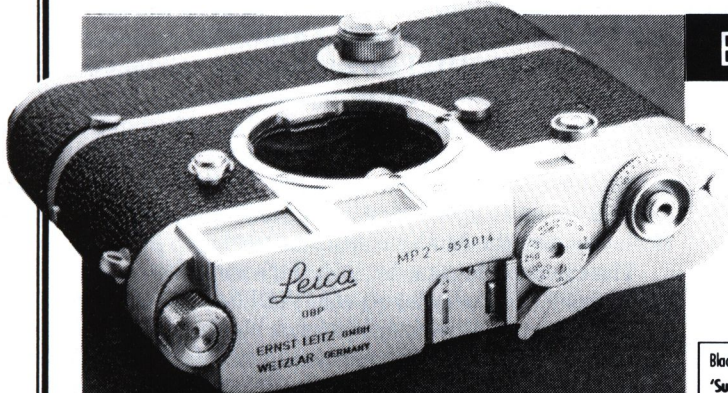
PLEASE CONSIDER US WHETHER YOU ARE SELLING YOUR CAMERA COLLECTION OF GRADUALLY BUILDING ONE.

JUST LOOK AT SOME OF THE RARE JEWELS WE HAVE SOLD RECENTLY:

Black point M2/M3/M4, grey enamel M2, olive green M1 and M3 bodies, M3 Betriebsk #1004 with 'Summikron' (Lager vol.1 p.181), 2 very early production M3 bodies (numbers under 700150), 3 chrome MP (inc. no.366, p70 'Leica in Colour' van Hasbroeck), black MP no.123 (as illustrated p.81 'Leica Collectors Guide', Dennis Laney), M2M and M4M (both with motors), black M4 with 'Midland Canada' top plate, M4-P half frame, M3 prototypes, dummies, Betriebsk and cutaways. 50 year anniversary CL, M4 and M5. Chrome MP2 with motor!

Leica 0 (null series) no.126, Leica I Anastigmat no.221 (illustrated p.126 'Leica Collection', Shinichi Nakamura), dladset and rimset Compurs. Leica II 'Luxus' (illustrated p.34 'Leica in Colour' van Hasbroeck). Leica 72, (Canadian, German and prototypes). 250 'Reporter' both FF and GG, black IIIg and IIIg (Swedish army), pre-production Ig and IIIg bodies (some illustrated in Lager vol.1), 33/3.5 Stemar set, 35/3.5 Stereo Elmar (only 32 ever made!) and 90mm f7 Stereo lens. Woolly motors, chrome, grey and black!

Very many early prototype Leicaflex models, some with interchangeable prism, some with unusual motors and some finished in black paint. Also Leicaflex mk.1 and mk.2 bodies in black paint finish. Early Leica copies including several Hansas, Canon J, Canon JS, Canon S, Leotax Specials (various models, all with correct and original Leica Anastigmat lenses). Nikon rangefinder equipment including Nikon 1, black Nikon S3, S3 Olympic, black SP with motor and black S3M with motor. 35/3.5 Stereo Nikkor. Nikon F# 6400xxx.



Please let us know your wants – we are buying daily from dealers and private individuals worldwide so we can probably help you!

Contact: PETER WALNES (LHSA AND NHS MEMBER SINCE 1982)

FIELDGRASS & GALE

THE BUSINESS VILLAGE,
BROOMHILL ROAD, LONDON SW18 4JQ

PHONE: +44 181 870 7611 FAX: +44 181 870 6551

Email: fieldgrass@lineone.net

Grays of Westminster

Exclusively... **Nikon**

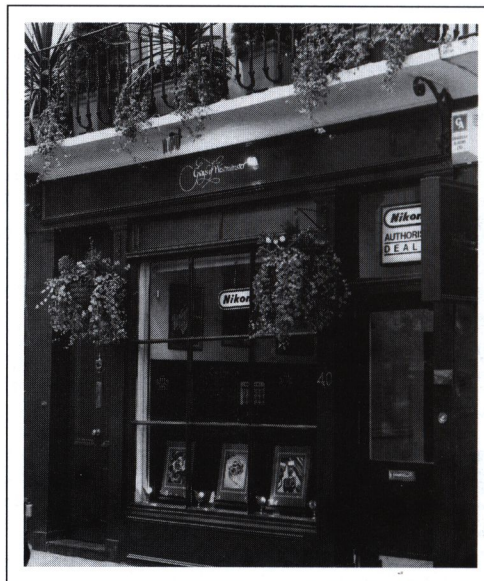
40 Churton Street, Pimlico, London, SW1V 2LP England
Telephone (0171) 828 4925 Fax (0171) 976 5783

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



one year guarantee. Mail order customers can buy in the knowledge and assurance that the equipment they receive will match and often exceed the grading description given.

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 **NI**ppon and **KO**gaku, 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.

Fast and reliable MAIL ORDER on any Nikon item is available to all world-wide destinations.

Our hours of business are 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, and from 9.30am to 2pm on Saturdays. If you prefer you may deal with us by fax at any time.

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

The Secret of Success Amateur Photographer magazine

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED...Nikon Stereo Viewer (not viewfinder) for Nikon Stereo Outfit. Good price paid but must be in excellent/mint condition. Nikon S4 also wanted. **Paul-Henry van Hasbroeck**. Tel..44-0171-352-8494/ Fax..44-0171-823-9058 or e-mail me at Hasbroeck@btinternet.com.

SELLING/TRADE LIST...My latest list is now nearly four pages long and includes many **Nikon RF & Reflex** items ranging from \$100 to \$10,000 as well as many other fine items from makers such as Canon, Pentax, Minolta, Leica, Zeiss, Rollei, Kodak, Mamiya, Konica & others. Those of you on my mailing list will receive all editions automatically!
Robert Rotoloni, P.O. Box 3213, Munster, IN 46321. Fax # 708-895-9663.....e-mail rotoloni@msn.com.

FOR SALE...Nikon F body black, #645xxxx w/ELF, near mint, \$1500; F eye level fdr, chrome, appears unused, \$275; Nikon F ch. #70xxxx, mint, \$675; Black back for F, unused!, \$175; Chrome back for F, unused!, \$185; Nikkor 10.5cm lens, EX+, \$150; Nikkor 5.8cm/1.4 mint, \$375; WLF (NKK) mint, \$185; several mint working meters for F; Nikkor 35mm/f2.8 mint, \$85. **Ron Wilson...**tel..281-578-2594

NEW ADDRESSES

O. AKENYELE
P.O. BOX 466
BROOKLYN, NY 11202

JAAP KORTEN
KIELDREEF 36
3067 RS ROTTERDAM
HOLLAND

RUTGER TEUSCHER
AUF DEM ROTHENBERG 8
D-50667 KOLN, GERMANY

CARROLL BARBER
1805 ASCOT LANE
CEDAR PARK, TX 78613

OLIVER REDDAWAY
P.O. BOX 147
ELANORA HEIGHTS
N.S.W 2101 AUSTRALIA

NHS BACKISSUE & REPRINT SERVICE

AVAILABLE "**ORIGINAL**" BACKISSUES OF THE "**NIKON JOURNAL**" INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING;

30,32,36,38,40,41,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,
50,51,52,53,54,55,57,58,59,60,61.

\$6.00 EACH IN U.S.A. POSTPAID
\$8.00 EACH OVERSEAS POSTPAID

HIGH QUALITY COPIES PRINTED ON 11X17 PAPER,
FOLDED & STAPLED (INCLUDES "**ONLY**" THOSE
ISSUE NUMBERS NOT LISTED ABOVE!)

\$4.00 EACH IN U.S.A. POSTPAID
\$6.00 EACH OVERSEAS POSTPAID

NEW MEMBERS

MARCO ANTONETTO
P.O. BOX 230
CH-6907 LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

MANUEL BISSEN
HASLACHERSTR 187
D-79115 FREIBURG, GERMANY

JAMES BROOM, c/o THE CAMERA CENTER
1220 'J' STREET
MODESTO, CA 95354

ATINDRA CHATURVEDI
10 CREVELING ROAD
BLOOMSBURY, NJ 08804

LARS DACHINO
GUENNIGFELDERSTR. 11
45886 GELSENKIRCHEN, GERMANY

THOR KJETIL FOERLI
HEYERDAHLS VEI 17
N-0386 OSLO, NORWAY

ALEX HURST
CORK FLORISTS
19 WINTHROP STREET
CORK, IRELAND

BO KLEVVALL
LINNEGATAN 5
S-532 32 SKARA, SWEDEN

STEPHEN KO
SHOP F, G/F, LISA HOUSE
35 NELSON ST., MONGKOK, HONG KONG

LARRY LIVINGSTON Ph.D.
1770 E. LAKE SHORE DR., SUITE #209
DECATUR, IL 62521

ALAN MCKENZIE
1000 CHARLES STREET
LOUISVILLE, KY 40204

EDWARD NIELSEN
1235 MILTON LANE
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60193

YASUYUKI ONISHI
4-2-15 NISHI-OCHIAI, SHUNJUKU,
TOKYO 161-0031, JAPAN

GUSTAVO OSBORNE
2011 N.W. 79TH. AVE.
MIAMI, FL 33122

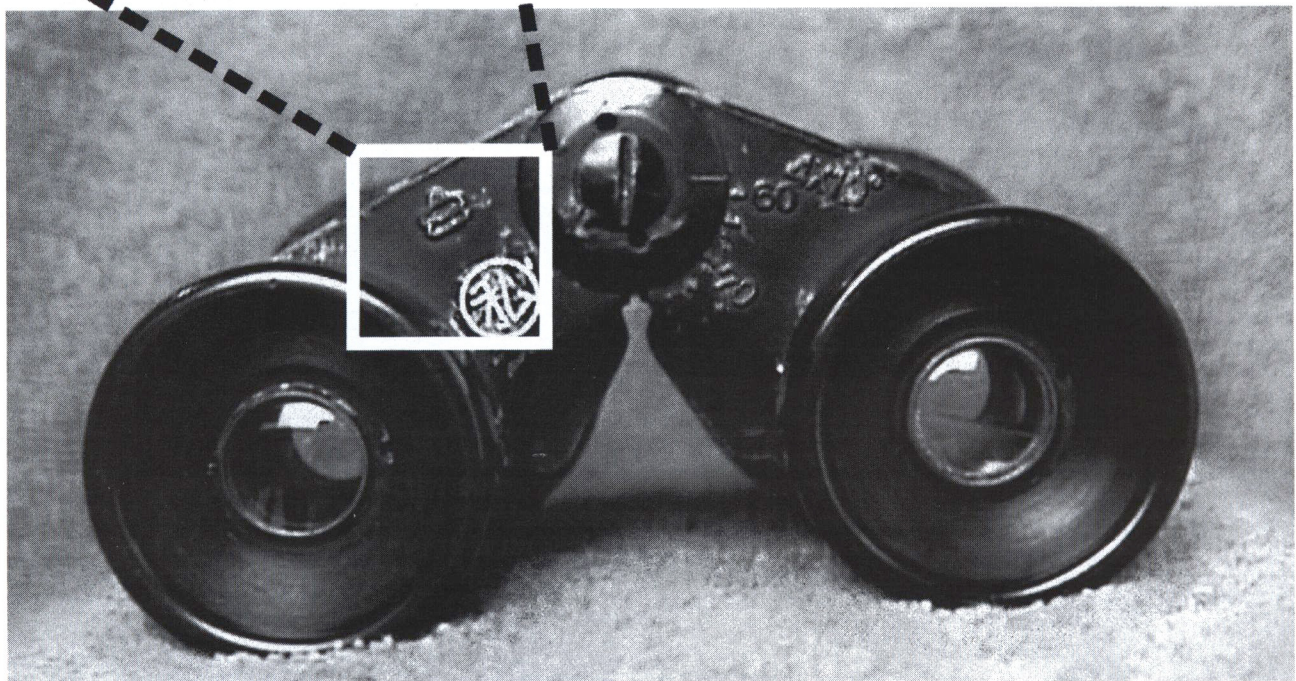
TED STONE
94 MARRUS DR.
GAHANNA, OH 43230

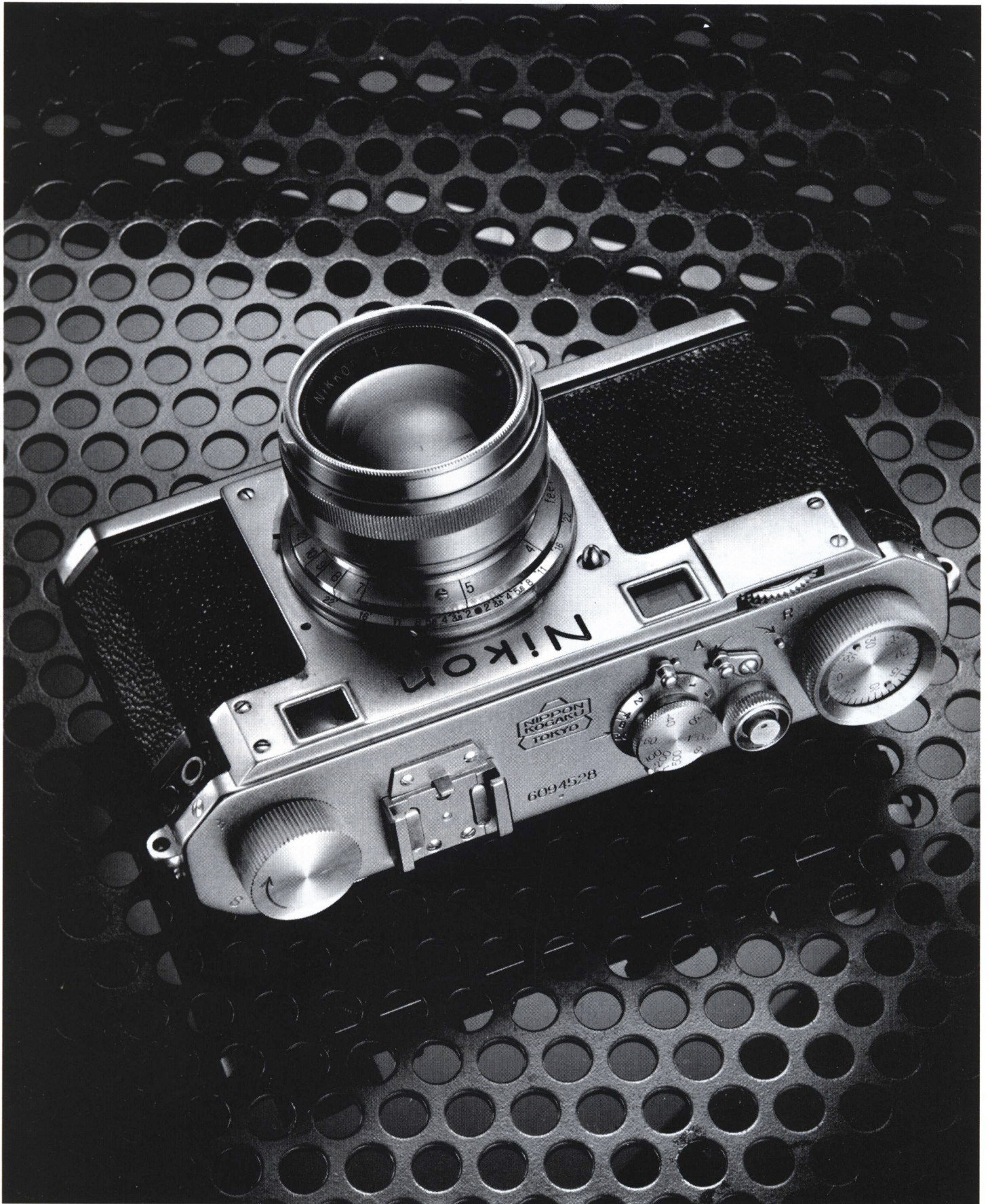
odds 'n ends

WWII N-K FIELD GLASSES



Bob Thompson sent me another interesting item that I felt would fit nicely into our "Odd n' Ends" feature. He writesWhen I first saw these I almost passed them up, since they were unlike any other NK binoculars I'd seen. They weren't even prismatic, and at first glance looked like a cheap plastic toy. But the large white circular Japanese character engraving caught my eye, and when I looked closer, I was quite surprised to see what might be a tiny NK logo, but the chipped paint obscured it so much it was hard to make out. Some cleaning revealed the logo, only about 4mm high. They are heavy duty all-metal, and quite well made. They are only 4x, but the optics are clean, and the right side contains a reticle.





Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST