


A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MARCH 31, 2000  
**NHS-67**

13 PG COVERAGE OF NHS-CON7!!.

**NIKON**  **JOURNAL**



**THIS ISSUE**

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Page 14 ~ ORIGINAL NIKON F MANUAL

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THE NIKON JOURNAL

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NHS-68 DEADLINE!!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-68, is June 1, 2000. Please get all contributions to me by that date! Thank you!

EDITORIAL

NHS-CON8?? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?

I am writing this Editorial on March 30, so you will be receiving this issue of the Journal a few weeks later than usual, but this could not be helped because of the way the Convention fell. But, a little late is better than nothing. So please enjoy.

If the title above is a little confusing it is because of the fact that this was the BEST NHS convention yet!....but at the same time it was in some ways a disappointment to me and to the man who did the lion's share of the work, Peter Lownds. Those of you who were there (about 60) know exactly what I am talking about. The amount of effort and work, the number of events setup, the breath of ideas that were implemented, the sources he tapped for assistance, was truly awesome! Every last person who was there has acknowledged to me personally how unbelievable was the effort that Peter put into CON7! He had help, and I shall list them, but the BEST NHS convention yet would not have ever seen the light of day without Peter Lownds. I think that we all owe him an extreme debt of gratitude and I'm sure those who attended will contact him personally.

Those who helped in various ways (and are mentioned in the article) were Hans Pleogmakers, who went out of his way to help us enjoy it; Danny Tuyelaars who was gracious enough to allow us to view a selection of cameras worth god knows what!; Tony Hurst for yet another awesome slide show; all those who took the time to entertain us with a talk on our favorite subject; Jaap Korten for helping with "crowd control; and Job Bakker for doing all kinds of things including hauling 4 elevators full of gear up to the room (we broke the elevator!). There were others I have probably missed and please forgive me. I appreciate everything that everyone did, since I could not be of much help because of distance. You all did a great job, and you all should be proud. As for Peter, it was your show and you pulled it off brilliantly! I can't possibly list everything you did in this space, but "I" know you did it, and so do the others!

So Rotoloni, here you are saying how great a time you had, and how everything came off like clockwork, and everyone enjoyed themselves and it was the best so far....so what disappointment? I'll tell you!

Seven meetings over 14 years, each one unique and fulfilling in their own way, yet we still enticed only about 60 people to attend?! OK, I know it was in Europe, and I know many people cannot come because of jobs, family, health and money reasons. I understand that! I don't expect 100s to show up! However, the downside of this meeting was that we had planned things based on who had "emailed, written or called" to say they were coming, for sure! Some as late as 2-3 days before the meeting! Because of this, giveaways were ordered to accommodate about 100 people; the hotel's rates to us for the meeting room was based on so many rooms being occupied; the cost of lunch on Saturday had been based on about 100; also other cost factors. Why 100? Because, based on all those calls and emails that is how many were coming! Of course, the occasional illness or job problem could get in the way, but for 40%?? Hard to believe and even harder to swallow, because Peter and I went in deeper than we needed to. We only charged about \$35 to get through the door because we were expecting about 100, therefore, things did not work out very well. But forget the money for now...think of the work involved. No matter how many show up the work in about the same. So less people means less return on your labors.

Am I a little disappointed...yes! Is Peter...Yes! Our consolation is that those who were there had a great time and THAT makes it all worth it!

Will there be an NHS-Con8?? Who is willing to do the work? Do we have one back here in the states; do I try for Chicago, which is possible if my professional life takes the change I foresee in the near future; some other America city with an NHS member who could do something like what Peter did; or Tokyo, which has already expressed interest even before we left Holland. Give me some feedback here, and I mean soon!!! I would not mind Tokyo, but if someone wants it here the states where 65% of the members are, let me know.

Wherever we do it; whomever does the work; if it even happens at all; I only hope attendance will make it worth it!!!



# NHS-CON7

# 96 HRS

# TO

# REMEMBER!

Nearly 60 NHS members enjoyed four days in Holland that can only be called a "once in a lifetime experience". Ninety-six hours enjoying each other's company, swapping collecting stories, seeing all types of rarities or just plain "good stuff", learning something new or seeing something for the first time, eating good food, and just having a good time. This was one of the most event packed conventions ever, with 3 days and 4 nights overflowing with things to do and places to go. At every turn there was something planned to entertain and educate, with sufficient time for just good conversation with some of the best people on the planet! I can honestly say that this was the best time I have ever had since starting the Society 17 years ago! It is an event like this shared with the best of friends that is the real measure of the success of the Nikon Historical Society!

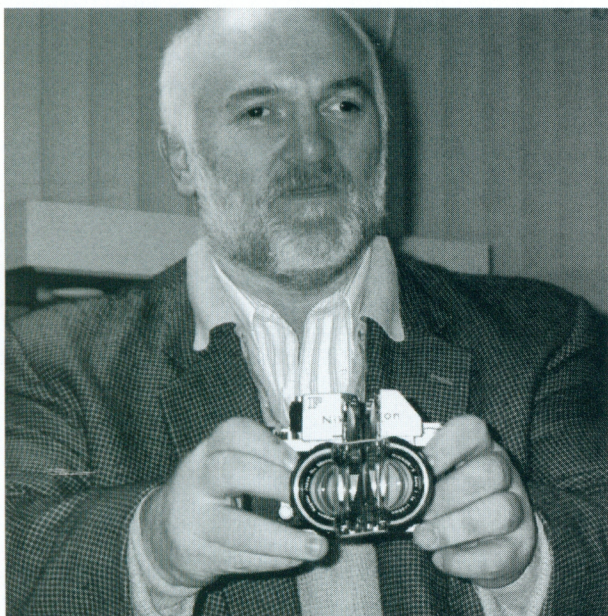


*Above is a frame from Tony Husr's wondrous slide presentation. Below left is the official logo used for this convention. It was designed by Jimmy Purimahuwa and Peter Lownds. Holland has many beautiful sights, including some of the most interesting architecture in Europe.*





**THURSDAY:** This was an event-filled convention and things started Thursday evening. Hans Ploegmakers, owner of the Talens chain of camera stores, hosted a fabulous hospitality food and drink fest at his nearby headquarters. Peter had arranged for a chartered bus to take all of us over on what was a damp and cold night...but we didn't care! The food was great (all local Dutch treats new to most of us) and there was more than enough liquid refreshments to go around! We started off with a group shot in the hotel lobby while waiting to gather together the nearly 45 people who would attend. Too hard to list names but this one shot represents members from the US, England, Australia, South Africa, Japan, Holland, Italy, Wales and Germany! Our meetings are truly an International event!



**Above.** Hans Ploegmakers, our host for the evening, welcomed us and bade us all to have a great evening. Hans had enough food on hand for twice the crowd so we all did very well, thank you! Not only did he supply the food, drink and meeting place, but even his wife and son and two employees helped keep all the wonderful items available for us to enjoy.

**Bottom..** RJR giving my personal thanks to Hans and surely expressing for all who were present our sincere gratitude. Seated in front of me are, L-R, Jaap Korten, Yuki Kawai and Jim Martin.

**Left.** Of course we had to let Peter in the place...and as usual he got himself into trouble. It seems that no matter what he touches, he ends up breaking it!! Don't give him one of your Nikons unless you really don't care much for it!!

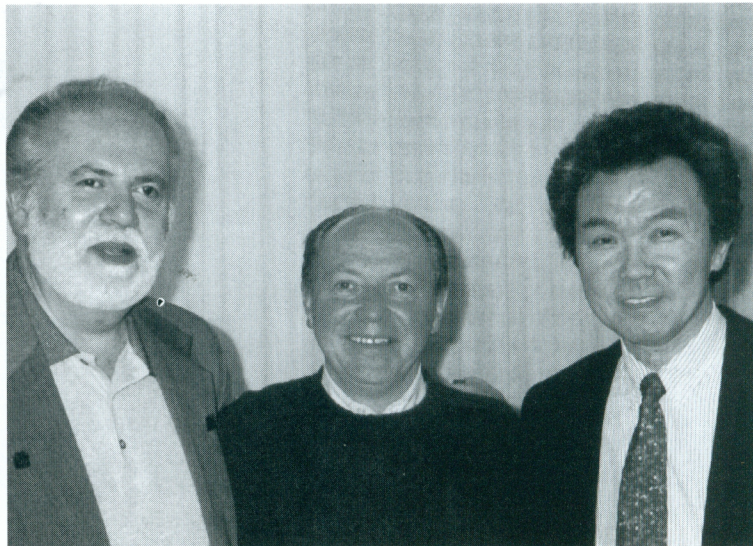




*Clockwise from the upper left...Just some guys having a good time talking about their favorite hobby. L-R....David Swan, Peter Lownds, Roger Swan, Ernesto Lucidi and Oliver Reddaway. Bill Kraus with one of Peter Lownds' remarkable "working" cutaways, this one an F5. We had fun with these all evening. **Bottom.** I'd title this shot "Decisions, Decisions, Decisions". **Bottom left.** Spirited conversations could be heard at every table. This one includes, L-R, Al Brody from the US and Mario Muraro and Luigi Cane, from Italy. Please disregard the Canon digital camera on the table! I forgave Luigi for bringing it because he does so well with it. Check out our NHS website for some of his great shots & kind words about his first NHS convention ([www.nikonhs.org](http://www.nikonhs.org)). **Middle left.** That's John Millham from England (L) and Rod Stines from the US. Both were speakers at the meeting on Saturday. From these photos and those on page 4, it is obvious that we all had a great time at Talens. For those of you who have yet to attend one of our conventions, we pride ourselves in having fun! Ours is a social event! Yes, you will learn things but first you must enjoy yourself! **And we did!***







*Top left...Hans Ploegmakers and Dorothy Kraus. Above...the original "Gang of Three"; Rotoloni, Kraus and Kawai. We now go back over 25 years! However, each time I run a shot of we three, I can't help but notice that Bill and I have less hair!!!...and Yuki seems to have more! Life "just ain't fair"! Bottom left...Lugi Cane and John Millham hitting the food table. No matter how fast we ate, it seemed that it was never empty! Middle left..Another happy table..L-R. Luigi Cane and Mario Muraro (Italy), Hans Braakhuis (Holland) & John Millham (England).*



It was such a busy time for me that I need a little help from my friends to get it all into these pages and to do it accurately. There was just too much to keep track of and do for me to take enough photos of all that was going on to say nothing of keeping an accurate "log" of events. For all the photos on these 13 pages I must thank those members who sent their best shots to me as soon as possible! Some arrived within a week of my returning to the States! For a chronological overview of events I am grateful to Bill Kraus whose notes I am using as a summary of what we did with a few comments thrown in by your editor. I want to thank Bill for sending his log, because my brain was on overload and I probably would have missed something. **A synopsis of NHS-CON7!**

"Dorothy and I arrived in Holland from Paris via the train on Thursday afternoon, just and Bob and Al Brody came flying into the hotel lobby. It seems that they had spent the day in Delft with Hans Ploegmakers and were just getting back at 4PM! Bob spotted us and said to hang in there while he got cleaned up because we had a 7PM appointment with a chartered coach for a hospitality dinner at Hans' place. So while Bob was getting ready we "roped in" everyone we saw and told them to be in the lobby before 7pm. Over 40 of us had a great time with Hans at the headquarters of his Talens Foto Group in nearby Delft. He and his family hosted our group with a dinner of typical Dutch food and drink. The evening, in addition to seeing the Talens collection of cameras, also included a special tour of Hans' personal collection of Delft ceramics, a highlight of the evening for this writer. Following the dinner some of us made a stopover at Peter's Nikon Museum to get out first look at Mecca! However, we couldn't stay too long since Friday promised to be a big day!

By 8am Friday we all had to be back down to the lobby to board our chartered coach to take off for Belgium and our appointment with a truly awesome collection of Leicas and Nikons. An hour later we were in a room full of showcases stocked with all types of rare Leicas and Nikons, enough to keep over 40 people busy for a few hours with looking and asking questions. I understand that our host, Danny Tuyelaars, had rented all those great cases so we could see everything in an orderly fashion and miss nothing. Coffee and rolls were served and all had a great time. What was in the room? Well, countless one-of-a-kind Leica prototypes and other very rare pieces as well as great Nikon items such as a One, S3M & motor and a Stereo-Nikkor outfit! "Incredible" is the only word to describe what we saw.





**FRIDAY:** The bus was ready by 8am the next morning to take us to Belgium for the showing of the Leica and Nikon collection. Even though only M-mount Leicas were shown, the amount, variety, and scarcity present was awesome. Each member was given a booklet showing most of the Leicas that were there. Member Danny Tuyelaars was our host & he went all out, renting display cases for the weekend, and having coffee and rolls ready for everyone. Some of the rarest Leicas in the world were in those cases! I asked a long time Leica collector who was there if it was worth the trip. His answer, "I'd go anywhere in the world to see these!" But Nikons were there too! Actually quite a few like those in the upper right photo. Look close and you will see a Nikon One, S3 with f1.1, Black S3M with motor and SP with motor and 2.5cm lens. **Right.** Robert Bakker, Erik van Straten and RJR talk about what they have seen. **Bottom right...** Oliver Reddaway looking through a really rare piece. **Bottom left..** Richard de Stoutz and Jimmy Purimahywa enjoying themselves. **All had a great time!**



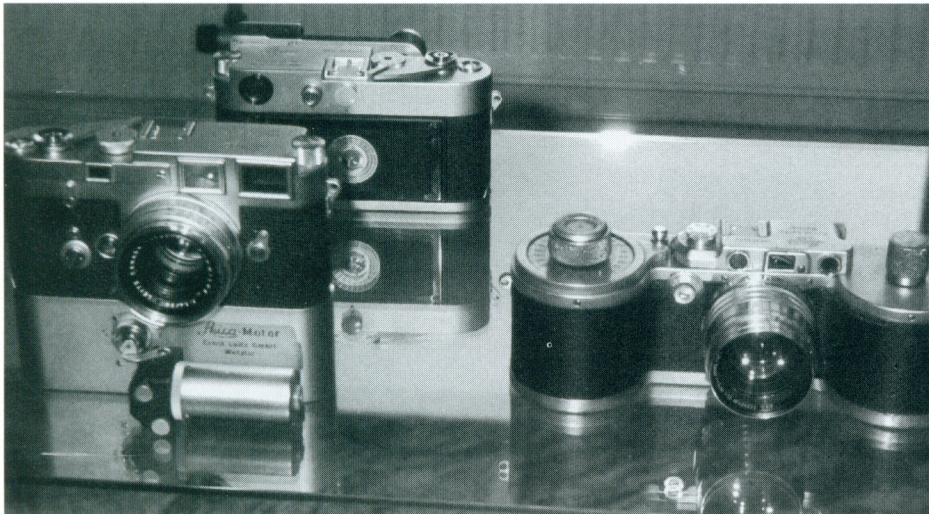


**Right..** In this photo are the only 3 NHS members who have been to all 7 conventions. **Peter Lownds told me he would award a Nikon One to whoever guesses who they are!!!** L-R...Yuki Kawai, Jaap Kortzen, Bill Kraus, RJR, Peter Lownds, and our host, Danny Tuvelaars.

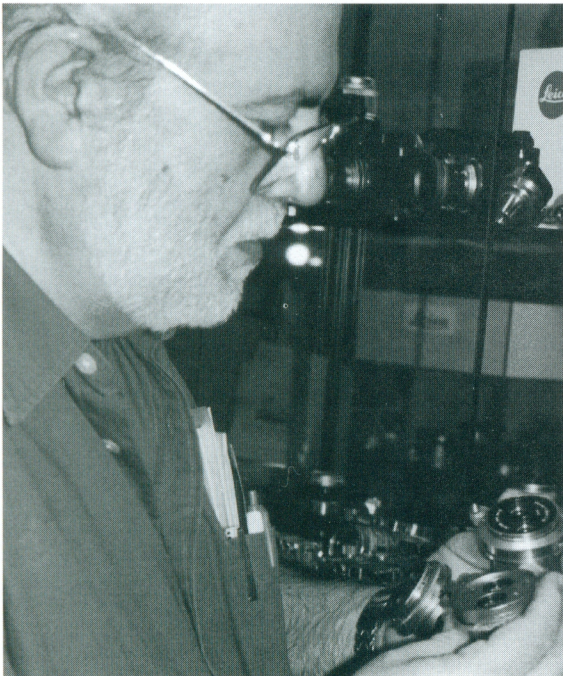
**Below...** Just a small sampling of the Leicas on view: on the left a one-of-a-kind prototype motor on a prototype Leica M3; right...a chrome finished Leica-250 shot.

**Bottom right...** More Nikons and Leicas! On the lower shelf are two Leica Stereo lenses. On the upper you can see a Stereo-Nikkor (1 of 2 that you would have seen if you had been there along with at least 3 Nikon Is' and 2 S3M cameras!) The black camera is an S3M with S72 motor.

**Bottom left...** Your editor could not resist comparing Stereo lenses by Nikon and Leitz. It isn't everyday that you can have a handful of rare Stereo lenses at your disposal! Needless to say, they did have to search me before I left the room!



*I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who made photos available to me for this issue. It is very important at each convention that members supply me with photos since I am usually too busy to take as many as I want or need, plus I cannot possibly be everywhere at one time. I would miss a great many shots and the coverage of the convention would suffer. Therefore, nearly all that you see within these pages has been made possible by the generosity of the members listed below. They made the effort to get their photos to me as soon as possible at their own expense so that those who could not attend might have a better feel for what the event was like. If I miss anyone, please forgive me as I am trying to remember so many details that I might lose one or two. For their photos I thank: Dave Barth, Paul Bonner, Yuki Kawai, Bill Kraus, Hans Ploegmakers, Jimmy Purimahuwa, Erik van Straten, and Claus Walter. Thank you all!!! RJR.*







*Top...A final thank you to Danny for allowing us to view part of his collection. L-R...Richard de Stoutz, Peter Lownds, Danny, RJR, Bill Kraus. Danny, I cannot thank you enough for starting Friday off in such a grand way!!*

*After Danny's the bus took everyone to Antwerp to the Agfa factory for a tour and lunch. This plant produces the polyester film, which is coated at a different location. We then went on to the Provinciaal Museum voor Fotografie (who has been an exchange member with the NHS for 12 years!) and then onto the town of Breda. Members enjoying lunch at Agfa include, L-R, John Millham, Al Brody, Tony Hurst, Dirk Bergmann and Kjetil Moen.*







We all got back to the hotel at 6pm, had a great streak dinner at 7, then many went over to Peter's Museum for the remainder of the evening. His place is only 10 minutes from the Rotterdam hotel, so he had many visitors over the weekend! Top...only one of seven large walls of Nikon equipment that can be seen at Peter's place. Not only is there the requisite rangefinder gear, but much reflex, microscopes, vertexometers, Marshal Presses and even Bronicas with their great Nikkor lenses. There was something there for everyone! Bottom right..Xavier Cristau (France via Italy) had a chance to hold a true NASA Nikon! Not something one does everyday! Bottom left..Peter demonstrating a 250 shot US Navy Nikon F, a rare camera.



#### Member Feedback.....

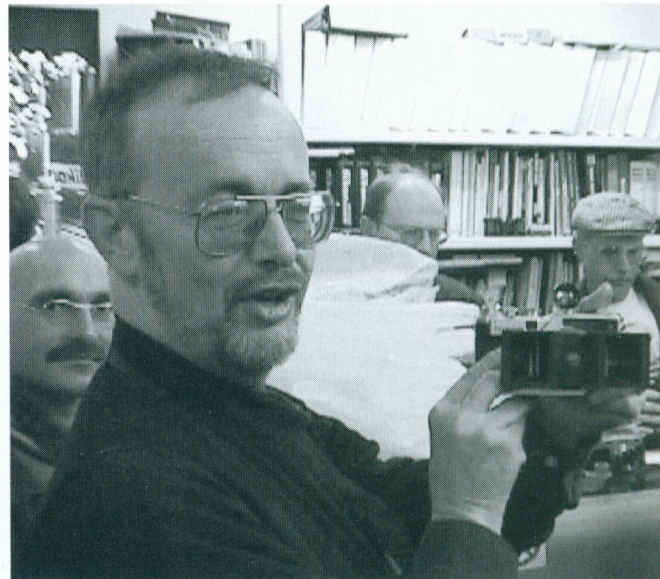
"I have put some of the photos from NHS-Con7 up on the Internet at [www.starattraction.com](http://www.starattraction.com) (Click the yellow NHS logo in the 4th row.) I'll leave them up there for at least a few months. The Tony Hurst backdrop was incredible. You and Peter went all-out to make this convention a "star attraction." Carol and I really enjoyed ourselves. Peter did a great job of organizing it. Your contribution and hard work was more behind the scenes, but we sure do appreciate your efforts, too! It wouldn't have happened without you. We were very impressed! It was a great convention. Carol and I are looking forward to NHS Con-8 in 2002! Tokyo? **Best regards, Dave Barth.**"







The evening at Peter's was most interesting. Everyone had a chance to see and handle all types of Nikon equipment, some of which they might never have had available to them before. All types of information was exchanged (Yes, I finally got all of Peter's serial numbers for my database! Can you believe it. I had to go all the way to Holland just to get his damned numbers! What a guy!) Anyway, Peter played the perfect host showing and explaining as many items as he could. We had all been going since 7am and it was already after 9pm, so we were tired, but who cares! Questions were asked, opinions and answers given, and fun was had by all. Left..Peter showing a Nikon I outfit to Mario Muraro and Ernesto Lucidi. Lower left..Peter with the rare Exacta mount 135/f4 Nikkor. Below..Tom Abrahamsson having a good time with a Stereo-Nikkor. Everyone wanted a turn holding and fondling this very rare item, including your editor, who is shown doing the same thing in the bottom photo. In my hands is the Stereo on an SP and behind that? Only a black S3M and a Nikon One! There were quite a few rare pieces on view over those 96 hours! By making his museum repeatedly accessible to the members, Peter helped in yet another way to make the weekend such a success. What he did for the meeting is in my Editorial and the article on the meeting. This is just one aspect of what he did for us.



While I have the room I want to thank the speakers who helped make the convention work. In no particular order:  
Jan Bos (Repair Tips)

Tony Hurst (Another masterful slide show)

Rod Stines (On shooting with Nikons)

John Millham (Nikon Microscopes)

Bill Kraus (MIOJ Zoom Finders)

Hans Braakhuis (Building a Nikon Database)

Gerald Davies (Nikon Cine cameras)

Uli Koch & Jimmy Purimahuwa (German Nikkor F)

I also want to use this spot to single out & thank those who worked behind the scenes & assisted Peter in getting things up & running correctly.

Jaap Korten who helped with the credentialing  
Job Bakker who did all kinds of things such as helping with the slide shows and running the projectors and moving in 4 elevators full of audio visual gear!

Jimmy Purimahuwa for all the neat posters!

Hans Ploegmakers for Thursday night but also

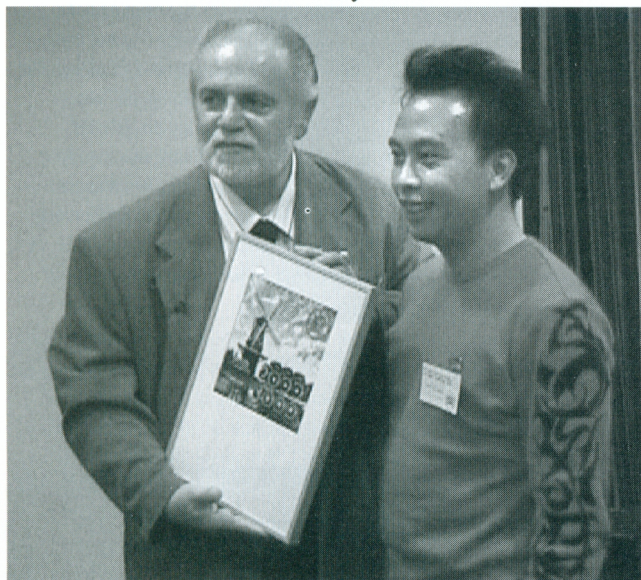
Delft on Thursday and making the Houten

show so easy and enjoyable for the NHS!!!





**SATURDAY!!** Finally the "big day" arrived! I could see Peter's face relax a little as things got underway and everything seemed to be working properly. The slide projectors, microphones, video projector, lights, photo display, and goody bags. Peter started things off with a short speech followed by an equally brief moment by your editor, and things got started. Below.. Jimmy Purimahuwa made an entire series of posters but also a special one for the meeting. See the inside rear cover for a nearly full-size rendition! It's really neat!!!



One really big surprise was something that Peter did that I did not even know about until it was unveiled. Somehow or other, he had convinced a local photo lab to produce a very special photo "backdrop" for NHS-Con7. Standing nearly 8 feet high and over 12 ft across, the "Wall of Hurst", as it was immediately christened, consisted of large (some 11x14) reproductions of most of what have now become nearly world famous NHS Journal rear covers done by our own master, Tony Hurst! I mean this thing was awesome! Everyone in the room was just floored by it, including Tony and his wife Joy, neither of whom knew anything about it either! You had to be there to really appreciate it, but believe me it was one amazing idea, even for Peter. In the photo below a still stunned and speechless Tony Hurst stands before his "Wall"!!!







*Above....Bill Kraus gave his usual entertaining talk. This time he concentrated on the little known MIOJ version of the Vari focal Zoom finder, of which only a handful have surfaced. He also threw in a slide of a much younger RJR that I doubt most people recognized at first. I don't know which is older now, me or my Nikons! **Below right**....Gerald Davies gave a talk on the Cine Nikons, a forgotten category. I found it very interesting and I still can't believe they made a black version of the Nikkorex 8!!! Amazing! **Lower left**...Job Bakker (L) and Jaap Korten had the thankless task of handling the door, giving out the badges and collecting the entry fee. So I'll thank them right now!!!!*



We then traveled to the Agfa factory in Antwerp to see the production of polyester film. These large rolls of base film are then shipped to another location where the light sensitive chemicals are applied. We also thank Agfa for a great lunch.

We then went on to visit the Provinciaal Museum voor Fotografie, then the historic town of Breda, where, while walking around we stumbled on a shop offering the 3rd manufactured 6mm/f2.8 Fisheye-Nikkor!.... #628003! We got back to the hotel at 6pm then had a great steak dinner at 7pm arranged by Peter Lownds. This saved us from trying to figure out dinner after such a long trip, and worked out fine. Later, some of us went off to Peter's Museum for yet another look.

Saturday was meeting day. Bob and Peter opened things up by unveiling the spectacular backdrop that Peter had made just for Con7! Imagine if you can a wall 10 feet across and 8 feet high packed with large reproductions of Tony Hurst's back cover shots!! No one knew about this, even Tony and Bob! What a way to start the day off! We then kicked things off with a 3-projector slide show produced by Tony, and, as always, it was a knockout! It was so good we re-ran it again in the afternoon session. Other talks followed by members Rod Stines, John Millham, Hans Braakhuis, Gerald Davies, Uli Koch, Jimmy Purimahuwa, Jon Bos, Yuki Kawai, myself, and last but not least, Bob Rotoloni. Lunch was provided in the next room so no one had to leave the building. Afterwards, we ate as a group in the hotel on a very good "Italian Buffet", which worked out very well. Again, many members proceeded to Peter's Museum to see more Nikons.

The Houten show on Sunday was, as usual, **one big show!** Nearly 400 tables and thousands through the doors! Our thanks to Hans Ploegmakers, who as head of the Dutch Camera Club, arranged for our early entry and also provided us with a selling table fee of charge. Nearly everyone found something with that many tables.

All in all, it was a great weekend, spent with some great old and new friends. We are not sure where the next meeting will be. Possibly back to somewhere in the U.S., or maybe Tokyo once again!"





**Right...** Jimmy Purimahuwa and Uli Koch (middle) put together a great slide presentation on the German Nikkor F cameras and accessories made during the period when Zeiss was able to prevent Nikon from using their name because they felt it sounded too much like "Ikon". Anyway, the result is a series of equipment that has become a sub-category for collectors. They really put together a great show and I saw "Nikkor" engraved items it didn't know existed. So you see we do more than just have fun.....we also learn things at out conventions. **But we always leave room for the fun!**



**Left...** Looking at some neat items on display afterwards. L-R..Yuki Kawai, Jimmy Koh, RJR and Al Brody inspect the goods. Your editor is playing with yet another Stereo-Nikkor (you don't think I have a fixation on it do you?) as the others look on.

**Below...** Hans Ploegmakers, as organizer of the Dutch Camera Show at Houten on Sunday, was able to secure **FREE** early bird admissions for NHS members as well as having a table for us. Here we see Mark Thekan and Bill Kraus manning the NHS table at Houten. What a show! Almost 400 tables and about 4,000 admissions!!! **WOW!**



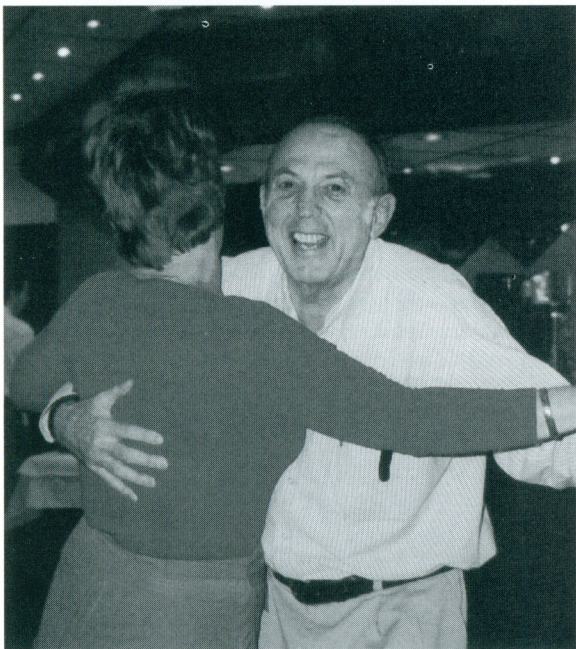
I now come to my final paragraph on NHS-Con7. Hopefully, you would have read my editorial by now, but if not you will get to it soon ,I am sure. In it I thank all those who helped and give credit where it is due. However, in all fairness I also bring out a few personal criticisms that some may find surprising. I am sure I will get all types of feedback from my editorial, but then that's what editorials are supposed to do! If you like or dislike what is there it should stimulate feedback, and I truly hope it will. The gist of my editorial is this; Our Conventions are meant to be a social gathering of our worldwide membership allowing the opportunity to see old friends, meet and make new ones, and see and hold Nikon items that you may not have ever had the chance to! Combine this with hours of camaraderie, good food and drink, exciting conversations with people from all over the world with the same interests, and the pure fun of being with people who enjoy and appreciate the same things you do! What more could one ask? I don't have as much in common with my relatives when we get together, as I do with you people! But..there is an awesome amount of work needed to put one together, and this one was the masterpiece of Peter Lownds. Who will be the next magician? Where will it be? If we continue to attract only 60 or so people, is all the work worth it? I have my own feelings about that, but for a longer discussing see my editorial!







*Left...This is purported to be the executive meeting room at the Peter Lownds' Camera Museum and Shop. At least this is what we were told. Note the Nikon decor!! However, those of us who were there know what it really is used for(clue..note the item on the extreme left!) Below...Two local Belgian candy makers tried to crash the convention! However, they turned out to be rather nice people, so we let them stay! Lower left... That's Al Brody tripping the light fantastic with a lovely lady. Boy, some guys just have all the luck! Bottom right...this item was found at the Houten show on Sunday!! Any thoughts on it would be interesting!! HmMMMM!!*



*The following signed our attendance sheets. I hope I have not missed anyone. Thanks to each and ever yone one of you for making the effort to support the Society by attending. See you next time?? RJR*

*Mr. & Mrs. Tom Abrahamsson; Job Bakker; Robert Bakker; Dave Barth; Dirk Bergmann; Paul & Mark Bonner; Jan Bos; Pat Bourseaux; Hans Braakhuis; Al Brody; Luigi Cane; J. Corver; Mr. & Mrs. Xavier Cristau; Gerald Davies; Mr. & Mrs. Don Deder; J. De Witte; Harvey Hansen; Mr. & Mrs. Tony Hurst; Rene Janssen; Jan Jonker; Yuki Kawai; Uli Koch; Jimmy Koh; Jan Kooman; Jaap Korten; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kraus; Per Kullenberg; Ernesto Lucidi; Mr. & Mrs. Jim Martin; Carol Mikes; John Millham; Kjetil Moen; Mario Muraro; Hans Ploegmakers; Jimmy Purimahuwa; Oliver Reddaway; Philippe Salomon; Gil Sandberg; Jan Schepel; Rod Stines; Richard de Stoutz; David & Roger Swan; Mark Theken; Danny Tuyelaars; Erik van Straten; Evert van Styn; Claus Walter; F. Withof.*





# 14

# THE "ORIGINAL"

# NIKON F MANUAL!!!

by **DON DEDERA & RICHARD deSTOUTZ**

From our professional perspectives (Dedera a career journalist and deStoutz a business executive) we deem the Nikon F Instruction Manual to be a technical and sales success rivaling the camera itself.

Consider the daunting challenges confronting Nikon's editors and writers. Forty years ago and 14 years after total national surrender, a re-incarnated global corporation began shipping a revolutionary new camera to domestic and foreign customers.

The product was not a box of chocolates or a bar of soap...something a buyer would know almost instinctively how to use. No, represented in every unit was the core of an extensive, sophisticated modular professional photographic system. Fashioned from nearly a thousand rugged mechanical parts, the basic camera body was a necessarily complicated, and consequently a vulnerable, precision instrument. Many features and functions were unique. Marvelous as were the lock-up mirror and titanium shutter, they could be wrecked and wrinkled by a wrong lens or wayward thumb. Yet few photographers on their day of purchase could be expected to know how to operate the camera and its accessories effectively and safely. Clear, concise, illustrated instructions were crucial to customer satisfaction and brand repute.

Adding to the task, Nippon Kogaku's advanced single lens reflex system underwent immediate and frequent change. Tomorrow's engineering sensation could render yesterday's instruction book obsolete. And in understandable managerial bias, the larger budget likely funded the inventors and fabricators, while creators of the all-important instruction manual made do with financial leftovers.

Yet from Day One, the Nikon F Instruction Manual somehow did the job. In fact (as with the original camera itself) the first edition manual served as the baseline for innovation over the next 15 years. Now quite scarce and priced like gold on the collector market, an inaugural 1959 Nikon F Instruction Manual can still serve as a "how-to" primer for the last eyelevel F issued in 1974.

For the purposes of this article, in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Nikon F, the authors examine only those manuals printed in the English language from 1959-1963, designated by a vertical format and white cover bearing a bold red stylish "F" and a black silhouette camera with a violet colored lens. A more complete analysis of versions written in other languages and devoted to later features will have to await discussion in a future article or the publication of deStoutz's comprehensive Nikon F Typology, currently in manuscript.

Now, about that first Instruction Manual, which provided a template for a dozen or so subsequent printings in English: a format 150mm tall and 105mm wide, 40 pages counting covers, black ink on solid red back cover, color capability (with various choices) on all pages. Alas, the mediocre paper stock was unforgiving of careless handling. The paper tended to discolor and become brittle with age, and in the fold the "saddle stitch" staples were prone to loosen and rust.

As many as 20 or more peculiarities distinguish the first edition. In keeping with a Nippon Kogaku tradition dating to the rangefinder era, the initial Nikon F manual has no "print code" inside or outside the back cover. On the front cover the words **FULL AUTOMATIC** occur along with a large crimson "F" logo whose outline is 1.5mm thick as compared to a 3mm thickness in later printings. Prominent in many illustrations are 5.0cm/f2.0 tic-mark Nikkor-S auto lenses seen in some views to be Nos. 520001, 520002, 520117 and 520120. The inside background color is pale violet throughout--no lime green. A "typo", or more properly a line

of disfigured type, blurs the first two letters in the headline "Double Exposure" on page 18. Numerous other little things distinguish the first printing, including but not limited to, illustration of a Type One selftimer, on page 22 a brief list of 10 interchangeable lenses making no mention of a finder for the 2.1cm/f4, and on page 26 a filter chart lacking any reference to a polarizer. On page 27 is shown an F-36 motor drive without an "F" on the front; the motor is rated at 1.8-3.6 frames per second. Available are only three focusing screens: A, B and C.

How many copies were in the first printing is anybody's guess. But there are a few clues. In the long-ago days of cheap paper, hot lead type, Benday line cuts and letter press printing, almost any sort of publication customarily would be ordered in even thousand lots. Given that Nikon apparently ran short, and had to reorder twice in 1959, and that a first edition was delivered with body #6400707 (the 706th made?) it is reasonable to assume that the first print order was for 1,000. Four decades later the authors were able to locate just three copies of this first edition, but surely more must exist. No recent sales among collectors are known to us, but a bottom price of \$300 would not be surprising.

Perhaps more rare is the 2nd edition. The words **FULL AUTOMATIC** again appear on the cover, but the "F" logo is bolder with its 3mm red outline. The most definite indicator is the first appearance of a "print code" on the outside of the back cover. It reads, "**F3001 (59.9.B)**". Despite every effort including a six month plea for help on the NHS web site and considerable e-mail consultation with collectors from Germany to Japan, the authors were unable to completely crack the Nikon print code. In this instance, the "59.9" obviously denotes a printing of September, 1959. But the exact meaning of "F3001, B," and the parentheses eludes us. The authors were able to document the existence of only two copies of the second edition.

Further identifying the second edition are: lime green instead of violet as the interior background color; on page 21 the word "lines" is missing from the intended phrase, "of the lens ..... up with the", and on page 37 the camera body is shown with the Model I clip-on meter.

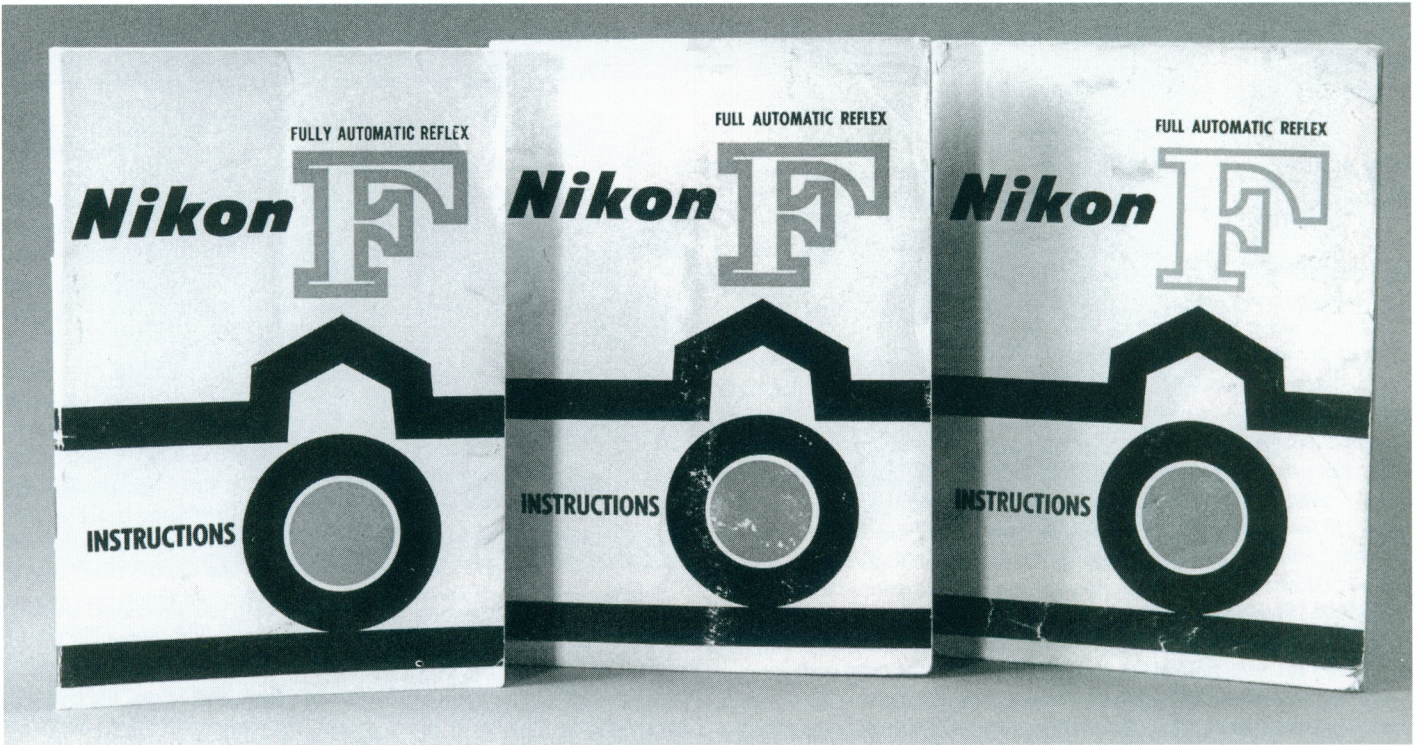
The rarity of the second edition may be explained by that word, **FULL**, on the front cover. Really only a minor grammatical error, but belatedly discovered, it may have so mortified the Nikon perfectionists that a third edition 2 months later was hurried off the press. Now the print code is on the inside of the back cover: "**F3002 (59.11.E)B**". A progression in the F3002 part of the code emerges, but what does the "E" stand for, and why is the "B" placed outside the parenthesis?

Other indicators of the third edition are: on page 21 the "lines" type is corrected; a polarizing filter is now listed; and on page 27 the motor rate is boosted to 2-4 fps. Once corrected, **FULLY AUTOMATIC** primly decorates the front covers of the next 6 editions of the white, black and red vertical format manual. Here are their print codes, with thumbnail descriptions of their type indicators.

"**F3003 (60.4.E)B**" is similar to the previous edition, but now most of the figures show the new 5.8cm/f1.4 lens #140175. In addition to the 5.8, the list of available lenses includes the 105/f4, 1000/f6.3 and 85-250/f4-4.5 zoom. A finder for the 2.1cm is now mentioned. On page 12 a different female model is demonstrating camera handling. On page 27 the motor drive now has an "F" on the front.

"**F3004 (60.8.E)B**" is the same as above, with the changed print code appearing in the lower right corner of the inside back cover.





Above is a family portrait of the first three versions of the "Original" Nikon F manual produced by Nippon Kogaku.. Starting on the right is the very first type; in the middle the second version; and on the left the third type where they corrected their grammar and changed "FULL" to "FULLY". See text for a detailed discussion of all known versions of the Nikon F manual. Below we have the evolution of Nikon's camera

manuals: clockwise from bottom left are books for the Nikon M, S, S2 early & late, S3, SP & Nikon F (2nd version). On the top of page 16 we have a photo of a collector's dream: Double boxed Nikon F #6402615 with correct 5.0cm/f2 tick marked lens, caps, guarantee and inspection tag, and "FULL" instruction manual!







**"F3005 (60.12.AO)B"** is the same as above, but the print code is now in the lower right corner of the outside back cover.

**"F3005 (61.9.AO)B"** is the same as above, but the print code is preceded by a black dot. The list of lenses makes first note of the 5.5cm/f3.5 preset micro, 200/f4, 500/f5 Reflex, 200-600/f9.5-10.5 zoom and the 35-80/f2.8-4 zoom!

As currently conceived, these seven editions logically comprise a Type One classification within the English language Nikon F Instruction Manual Typology.

Type Two has many similarities including the format and the cover color scheme. But the English language version is changed to 32 pages counting covers. A list of available accessories is given inside the back cover. Two versions of Type Two are:

**"F3006 (62.10.AO)B"** is the same as F3005 with a black dot before the print code. The figures now show a 5.0cm/f1.4 lens supplanting the 5.8cm in several places. The flag switch Photomic finder has a female threaded battery cap. The list of lenses makes first mention of the 50/f1.4, 135/f4 bellows, 35/f3.5 PC, 8/f8 Fisheye, and the 50/f2.8 EL-Nikkor. The 500/f5 is no longer listed. Available screens are: A, B, C, D and E. Newly shown or mentioned accessories include: Model III meter, F-250 motor, relay box, BC-6 flash, close-up filters, panorama head, eyepiece diopters, pistol grip, M-B tube, etc.

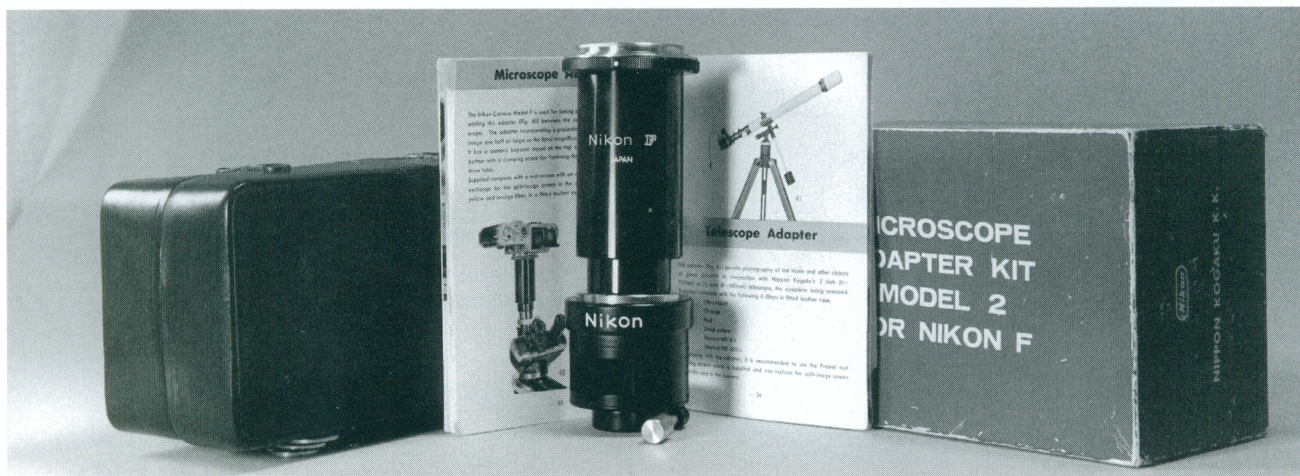
**"F3006 (63.8.F)B"** is identical to the preceding except that the M-B tube and the BC-3 bulb flash are no longer listed.

Type Three begins with the introduction of the horizontal format and gold cover that would become so familiar over the next decade. The English series begins with a size 125mm tall and 175mm wide; the gold sets off white and black lettering; inside the text is black, the background

color is lime, and the figures are enhanced with red directional arrows. For the standard inside page numbering the front cover is counted as the first page. The first example of a Type Three manual known to the authors is **"64.7.AO)B"**. In addition to changes in format and colors, the chapters are reordered. The list of lenses makes first mention of the 43-86/f3.5, & 200/f5.6 Medical. New accessories shown or mentioned are: waist level finder Type 2, button switch Photomic, certain hoods and filters, and a wireless control for the motor drive. No longer listed is the offset bracket for a flash unit.

Beyond the limits of this article, Nikon through 1963 and the many years thereafter, instituted almost uncountable changes as the Nikon F enjoyed unprecedented popularity throughout the world. Writers, editors and illustrators coped with expanded needs of instruction books, sheets and pamphlets to aid proper use of improved meter finders, close-up and microscope systems, specialty lenses and ever-changing accessories. Manuals for the Nikon F and numerous other products were printed in Japanese, English, German, French, Spanish, Swedish and Italian. In time entire libraries of Nikon publications came into being. Even after the Nikon F went out of production, it was possible for a second-hand user in the United States to order from Nikon, Inc. a brand new facsimile copy of the instruction manual, perhaps printed in utilitarian black & white, but just as important to customer satisfaction and brand repute, as that first edition put out in mid-1959.

*Inside Nikon F's first instruction manual: we see descriptions of the microscope and telescope adapters. Pictured here is the microscope unit with its original box and case! All photos by DON DEDERA.*





## A NEW NIKON RF?? FACT OR FICTION!?

Starting about 3 weeks before the Convention, rumors started to fly on the Internet about the impending release of a new **NIKON RF** to be called the "S5"! However, I had my first hint back in mid January from a source I cannot name. This was followed by a flurry of e-mails from members John Lee and Stephen Gandy. Hopefully by the time I return from the Convention (and maybe even in time for this issue) I will have some real facts for you. I have contacted the PR department at Nikon repeatedly to no avail but I have also contacted many of my Japanese sources, so we should know more soon. Until then, below are quotes from various e-mails I have received in the approximate order they came in.

**From Anonymous...** Robert, I thought I should pass on a piece of gossip to you. A friend of mine in Japan knows somebody at one of the small shops that make camera parts. In the past they used to make parts for the old rangefinder Nikons and to their great surprise, they got another order! The parts are similar to the SP/S4 and are items such as shutter speed dials, advance lever arm hold-down bezels and some other pieces. The volume was staggering...10,000 of each!! Another reason to suspect that Nikon is seriously looking at releasing a rangefinder camera again. Now all we need to find out is if someone is making a lensmount and in what style that would be. According to my friend, Nikon is stubborn enough to retain the old Contax mount and produce a dedicated series of lenses.

**From John Lee...**

From the Leica Users Group (LUG).

(1) There is an internal, unofficial policy at Nikon to keep supporting its top-of-the-line cameras until parts deplete completely. Nikon have been known to do a run of replacement parts to keep these bodies alive. Most recently, Nikon produced several hundred **rangefinder prisms** for its SP and S3 bodies. Also, enough parts are interchangeable from the S2 to the F2, that you could end up with an S2 with F2 titanium shutter curtains!

(2) More news about Nikon's RF camera. But get this, the first camera they introduce will be a reproduction of the S3 from the fifties! How more retro can you get? A more modern RF will follow. The body will cost 600,000 Yen, or roughly \$5,500! Obviously targeted at collectors, the production will be limited to 2,000. Also to be introduced are a 35/f2.5, 50/f1.4, 85/f2.0 and 105/f2.5 all based on recent Nikonos and SLR lens designs. Announcement is expected to take place at a show in Japan.

(3) Several fellow Leicaphiles in Tokyo told me that the **Nikon S5** is not a rumor. It will be a revival model of an S3 and not an SP. More info will be available by the end of February.

(4) I have been told by a very reliable source that Nikon just announced the **Nikon S5** rangefinder camera! There will be 3 accessory lenses: 35, 85 and 105...only 500 pieces each. Price is \$4,000, I am not sure with or without lenses, but I think with. Available this spring!

**From Stephen Gandy.....**

**Nikon S5** rangefinder is expected to be introduced February 24th! It is modeled after the S3, with TTL metering. A collector's camera much like the Leica M6 Millennium, available in black or chrome and limited to 2,000 cameras with the traditional "S" bayonet mount! Later on a more modern RF is expected. Price is said to be 400,000 yen.

Who would have ever believed it after all these years!!

(Now where does this leave us? As I write this (Feb 20th) this is all the info I have. Until I receive an answer from the 3 e-mails I have sent to Mr. Itoh at the Nikon PR department in Tokyo, I doubt if I can get more facts unless something breaks in the press. However, we are meeting in about 2 weeks following the announcement so we may be the first to have something concrete to report and show. If by chance I do get a fact sheet and photos between now and the Convention, or if they are waiting for me on my return to America on March 7th, you can bet the bank there will something squeezed into this issue!!! Keep the faith and keep your fingers

crossed for two reasons: #1...that Nikon has finally decided to get back into the RF field! #2...that we here in the NHS and our Journal will again scoop the world press with the real factual info!!!!!!RJR(JUST DAYS BEFORE LEAVING FOR HOLLAND THE "S3 2000" WAS RE-LEASED! SEE PAGE 18 FOR DETAILS!!!!!!RJR)

## LETTERS..LETTERS

**From Peter Brunner...**

Last fall I had the opportunity to buy a very used black F with a cordless F-36. It was owned by a gentleman who reeked of beer and insisted on blasting acid rock all the while he was digging through boxes of sadly abused camera equipment. He had no batteries to test the motor, though he insisted that it worked perfectly. Much of the camera was taped over with black gaffer's tape (the owner claimed to have been a pro in Chicago during better days), but the parts which were visible were scratched, brassed, and dented. I thought long and hard about purchasing this camera, but finally decided against it, partly because of the poor condition, but mainly because it had a strange box mounted on the front of the cordless pack, which the owner claimed allowed it to be fired at a higher speed! I even called a well known repairman who specialized in Nikons to see if he had ever seen one of these, and he hadn't! We both assumed that it was an amateur conversion. After reading Bob Rotoloni's article on the F-36 in NHS-66, which refers to the "Tribune" power pack, I'm kicking myself for not buying the camera for the \$350 asked! Who knows what other surprises were under that gaffer's tape! (Don't feel bad, Peter. Remember I originally owned "6" of these units and now I am down to just "1". Do I kick myself? Daily!!...RJR)

**From Mike Symons...**

We have recently returned from a glorious 2 week vacation in Kona, Hawaii. On our last full day, I went into a fairly large antique store just outside Kona. When I asked the usual question "Do you have any older cameras?" the guy behind the register looked up and pointed to a few old Brownies in the corner. I handed him my Nikon business card (the one with the Mint S3 sporting an 85mm/f1.5 with proper finder (Thanks Tony!), and the guy raised his eyebrows and turned to me. Here is his story in his words:

"In the mid-70's my dad and I ran the largest camera store in downtown Honolulu. In about 1975 he took in trade a mint black Nikon half-frame (S3M) camera, complete with the S72 motor drive, proper battery pack, a fitted 250 exposure back, plus side grip handles(?). It also came with some spare 250 magazines. The neat thing about this outfit was that it came in a huge wooden presentation case with the owner's name engraved! It had belonged to a pilot who had special ordered it from Nippon Kogaku to shoot aerials of the Hawaiian Islands in the mid-60's for a book. He operated the camera outfit himself as he flew the plane..... Anyway, in 1975 he was moving back to the mainland, so we agreed to allow him to trade it in for some contemporary Nikon gear. I think dad offered him \$2,000 for it in trade, a lot of money in 1975! We put a price tag of \$2,500 on it, and it sat in a huge display case for about 2 years! We just couldn't sell it...we could hardly give it away! Finally one afternoon in late 1977, a guy started showing interest in the outfit, but my dad almost had to twist his arm to buy it for \$2,500....maybe less, I forget. Finally he purchased the outfit and carted it away in its wooden presentation case...never to be seen again!

Not a week later an official from EPOI literally ran into the store looking for the outfit! We had to give him the bad news that it had been sold a week earlier! He was a bit upset to say the least. He told us how very rare the outfit was, and that Nikon USA wanted to buy it to place in their museum in New York City."

As I stood there listening to the guy, I was mentally placing a value on this outfit on today's market. I think I stopped at about \$125-150,000! We laughed and I just went back into the Kona sunshine just shaking my head in utter disbelief!



# THE NIKON S3/2000

## IS IT JUST A COMMEMORATIVE??

On February 23rd, Nippon Kogaku announced the release of their "latest" rangefinder model, the "NIKON S3/2000"! According to the "official" news release, it is to commemorate the year 2000 and is referred to as the "NIKON S3 2000 Memorial Edition". Others are calling it the "NIKON S3 Millennium", but these long monikers seem a little ridiculous to me so I've taken some editorial liberty and dubbed it the "NIKON S3/2000". It just seems a little less cumbersome and why attach such a long name to such a simple camera! Simple? What the hell is Rotoloni talking about? How can a new Nikon S3 be called "simple"? Well, let me explain, which is another way of saying, let me give you my personal opinion.

There have been rumors about a new Nikon rangefinder model for the last 2-3 years. Just see some of the tidbits of information on page 17. So a new RF model was something that many have been expecting, or at least hoping for. Now wouldn't the year 2000 be a perfect time to get back to their roots and put together one killer RF camera? Sure it would! Just think of what they could have done. Remember that we have discussed the two SP2 prototypes with their Variframe/Varifocal type viewfinders in these pages before. Also, your editor held and fired the SPX prototype body in Tokyo with a working TTL meter!!! These were early to mid 60s' designs! Nikon was really at the forefront of RF technology just when

they decided to throw in the towel and cease production in favor of the "F"! So what could they do 30 years later? A lot! How about a body with built-in motorized wind and rewind; TTL metering with spot capability; a varifocal viewfinder automatically keyed to the lens mounted; a 1/8000 sec. shutter with electronic accuracy down to 8 sec.; a Nikon F bayonet with that beautiful wide throat that would allow for some really great lenses; and speaking of lenses...with today's technology I can see a set consisting of a 28mm/f1.4, 35mm/f1.4, 50mm/f1.0, 85mm/f1.4 and a 105mm/f1.8!; automatic flash; even a modified AF system to help with focusing; and a range/viewfinder like the Leica M3/4!! All of this is possible (and may actually happen someday!). So what did we get? How about a brand spanking new Nikon S3 with a cloth shutter! And it's only going to cost you about five grand! But you do get a re-issued Olympic model 50mm/f1.4!! Neat, hah? (The above represents the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Society, but if you believe that I have some swamp land in Florida I can sell you real cheap! You may not agree with me but I would be happy to publish any member feedback on the "new" Nikon S3. If you do go out and buy one let me know what you think of it. Does it feel like an S3, or better? How is the finder? And after putting out nearly \$5,000, did you really go out and shoot a roll of film with it? But then that's only my opinion! (RJR)





## 'NHS' e-mail LIST!!

The following is an **updated listing** of e-mail addresses for members of the Society who asked to be included in this directory. Those of you familiar with the Internet are very much aware of how easy and useful communications via e-mail can be. You can't beat it for speed and ease, so if you want to be included on our list just let me know.

ROBERT ROTOLONI.....rotoloni@msn.com

(Please check this list each issue as new addresses are added and others may change! This list revised 2/20/2000)

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

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 JEWELS WE HAVE SOLD RECENTLY:

Black paint M2/M3/M4, grey enamel M2, olive green M1 and M3 bodies, M3 Betribsk #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, Betribsk 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), dialset 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 IIIf 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. Mooly 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 Letana 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.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

**WANTED...** Focussing mount for the interchangeable Nikkor lens heads 400mm, 600mm, 800mm and 1200mm in **Bronica** mount. This allows these lenses to be used directly on the older Bronica S series cameras. Job Bakker, Straatdijk 13, 3247 BX Dirksland, Holland/Netherlands. Fax..31-187-603643. E-mail..visual.art.productions@wxs.nl

**FOR SALE...** Nikkor 50/1.4 #50051xxx, front cap,\$1250; Nikkor 50/1.4 #354xxx: (colon) duplicate lens, both caps,\$1100; Nikon offset bracket boxed,\$350; early ch. 8.5cm finder "TOKYO", w/cs.\$370. Interested in buying: metal shade for f1.1, shade for 21mm RF, Sardine battery pack for S36, telescope adapter for RF Nikons. Biagio Guerra, tel 702-897-0046, fax 702-897-6231....e-mail: guerrabn@aol.com

**SELLING/TRADE LIST...** Many Nikon RF and reflex items for sale or trade as well as quality products from other makers such as **Bronica, Canon, Minolta, Pentax, Rollei, Mamiya, Kodak, Zeiss** and others. You can be added to my mailing list by simply letting me know! If you have a list make sure to send me a copy. I am always open to trades. **Robert Rotoloni, PO Box 3213, Munster, IN 46321. My 24hr fax line is 708-895-9663.....rotoloni@msn.com.....Thank you.**

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