

A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SEPT. 30, 2002  
**NHS-77**

19<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!!!...1983-2002

# NIKON JOURNAL



**ROBERT ROTOLONI**  
**EDITOR/PUBLISHER**

**THIS ISSUE**  
PAGE 1..GARAGE SALE NIKON ONE!  
PAGE 11..NIKON WW2 STEREOSCOPE  
PAGE 13..'NHS' BLACK BODY LIST





# THE NIKON JOURNAL

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**NHS-78 DEADLINE!**  
The deadline for the next issue of our *NIKON JOURNAL*, NHS-78, is **Nov. 15, 2002**. Please, you must get all letters and contributions to me by that date! *Thanks! RJR.*

# EDITORIAL

It has been 19 years since I mailed out that first issue of the *NIKON JOURNAL* to less than 50 people! I was 35 and more than willing to take the chance that the idea of a historical society for Nikon collectors would actually work. All those years later I find myself enjoying the Journal more than ever and looking forward to improving it as I go along. Now that I have gone digital (which I am still learning, so things are not perfect yet) I hope to stay somewhere near the cutting edge so you can be proud of our Journal. I must admit that this high tech approach is much more fun than the previous method and I now realize I should have done it long ago. I hope you are satisfied, but I am always open to suggestions for improving things even more. And thank you for staying with me all these years!

Our lead off article this issue is another blockbuster (Peter Dechert's Canon article last issue was a real winner) provided by Stephen Gandy. How would you like to discover one of the earliest known Nikon Ones' at a garage sale? Well, it can, and did, happen, so keep the faith! Maybe you will be the next to do it. Stephen provided me with superb photos of this very rare and beautiful piece and I know you will enjoy it.

Many of you returned your questionnaires to Don Dederer for his survey concerning the question we all must answer for ourselves sooner or later: how do we plan for the ultimate dissolution of our collections. See his first installment this issue. And thanks to those of you who participated.

Tony Hurst has provided photos for our "F-Spot" section (uniquely engraved Nikon Fs) and our "Odds n' Ends" feature (an F4 sample camera) as well as his always superb back cover.

On page 11 Rich Lane, our resident Nikon military optical ordnance expert, has provided yet another article on an obscure and rare wartime item, this time a "Stereoscope" for examining reconnaissance photos. Undoubtedly a rare piece today.

As promised in NHS-76, I have chosen this anniversary issue to publish two important lists. The last time I included my complete list of black Nikon rangefinder bodies was in NHS-37, over 10 years ago. I have published newly reported numbers in every succeeding issue since (our "Black is Beautiful" segment) but I felt it was time to present the list in its entirety so the members would have a reference guide to what has become somewhat of a minefield of late. That is, the emergence of fake black bodies. Thus a second list is included in this issue and it may be even more important. I have compiled every "fake or replica" black Nikon that I have seen or have had reported to me in the last 30 plus years. Now that black bodies can sell for as much as 5 times their chrome counterparts, the temptation to "manufacture" modern black bodies is very strong. So I have started a "Fake Black List" as well and I hope that you will become involved in this project. Please contact me with additional numbers you may be aware of (for either list) so they can continue to grow. I will continue to publish new numbers in each issue as I have done and, hopefully, re-publish the entire list every year or so. This is an important project and one that the Society should be at the forefront since it is so important to us all.

I have no encouraging news to report about Uli Koch's Nikon F book. It was not printed in time for Photokina but hopefully will be soon. I will inform you as soon as it is ready.

You might find interesting that Shutterbug has finally gotten around to reviewing the Voigtlander lenses in Nikon RF mount! Right, over a year after we did. But better late than never.



A COLLECTOR'S FANTASY COME TRUE.....

# A GARAGE SALE

# NIKON ONE!!

BY STEPHEN GANDY



If you are not familiar with garage sales, they are an American tradition of having a weekend sale from your garage, driveway, or lawn, to sell unwanted items at low prices. Some garage sales are advertised in local papers, many have just a few hand made signs at local corners to advertise their existence. Local camera bugs usually visit garage sales first thing in the morning, hoping to find bargain priced cameras.

Towards the end of the afternoon at a garage sale in a sleepy small California town, two retired ladies asked if any watches were for sale. They got excited when offered a Rolex for \$100. The "Rolex" turned out to be a Seiko. Just about to leave, one of the ladies opened an old beaten up wooden wine case that had been sitting under a tree all day long, only to find inside five old cameras. The owner wanted \$100 for the lot because "one of the cameras is valuable". The ladies knew nothing about cameras, but they took the chance and bargained down to \$75. They left wondering if they had made a costly \$75 mistake.

The next morning the ladies called their camera buff friend, their own camera expert. They went through the box, describing each item as best they could over the phone. Disappointedly, the first 4 turned out to be junk. They gave the last camera's make and serial number, hoping

they could get back part of their \$75 investment. He fell off his chair having his morning coffee! The ladies had bought a Nikon One for \$15 (\$75 for 5 cameras)! It is one of the most sought after of all collectible cameras, worth tens of thousands of dollars. The ladies enlisted their friend to sell it for them. A week later I was introduced to the camera at a show. Imagine my surprise when he pulled #60952 from his waist band bag! Camera 60952 is the 31st production Nikon ever made.

Introduced in 1948, the Nikon One was Nippon Kogaku's first camera. Today, over a half century later, it is among the most sought after and rarest collectible cameras of any type, not just Nikon. The times were very different when this camera was made. In a heavily bombed and American occupied post war Japan, it was on this camera Nippon Kogaku bet the future of their company on, and won. Not knowing if their new camera would be a success or failure, the venerable optical firm of Nippon Kogaku called their new camera "the Nikon". As time went by, the firm was renamed to match their camera. Nikon rangefinder collecting is very popular, second only to Leica.

The Nikon One design is a curious mix of the best pre-war German 35mm cameras, Leica and Contax. Nippon Kogaku designers generally





combined the best of both systems. In practical terms, the Nikon One can be considered a Contax II with Leica style modifications. It has the Contax body shape, removable back, bayonet type lens mount with a modified focusing helical, and even the Contax style focusing wheel for normals and wides. But it has top mounted controls which differed from both Leica and Contax. It did have both the Leica style cloth horizontal running focal plane shutter instead of the overly complicated, fragile and expensive vertical Contax type, and the Leica style rangefinder mechanism, but with the combined RF/VF like the Contax.

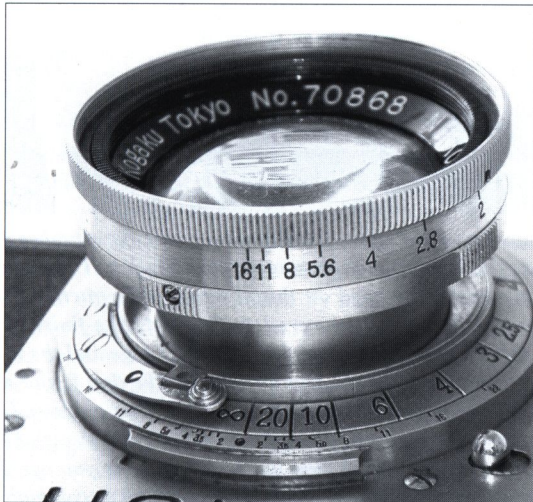
The Nikon One has a 24x32 format instead of the standard 24x36. This odd size led to the Nikon One's quick demise. The American occupation forces under Gen. MacArthur would not allow it to be exported to the US because the film would not fit 24x36 Kodak slide mounts. The One was discontinued in August 1949 and replaced by the very similar Nikon M with a larger 24x34 film format.

Nikon One serial numbers started at 6091 and went to about 609759. The first 21 cameras are believed to have been used for test purposes. By this accounting, #60952 would be the 31st production Nikon, made in May of 1948. Although the numbers would seem to indicate over 750 produced, it is actually much rarer according to Robert Rotoloni. He believes the number actually delivered is closer to 400, due to 90 Nikon One's not passing quality control, and about 200 unsold cameras being converted to the later Nikon M. The film format change was mandated to fit Kodachrome slides so Nikon cameras would be eligible for export to the US.

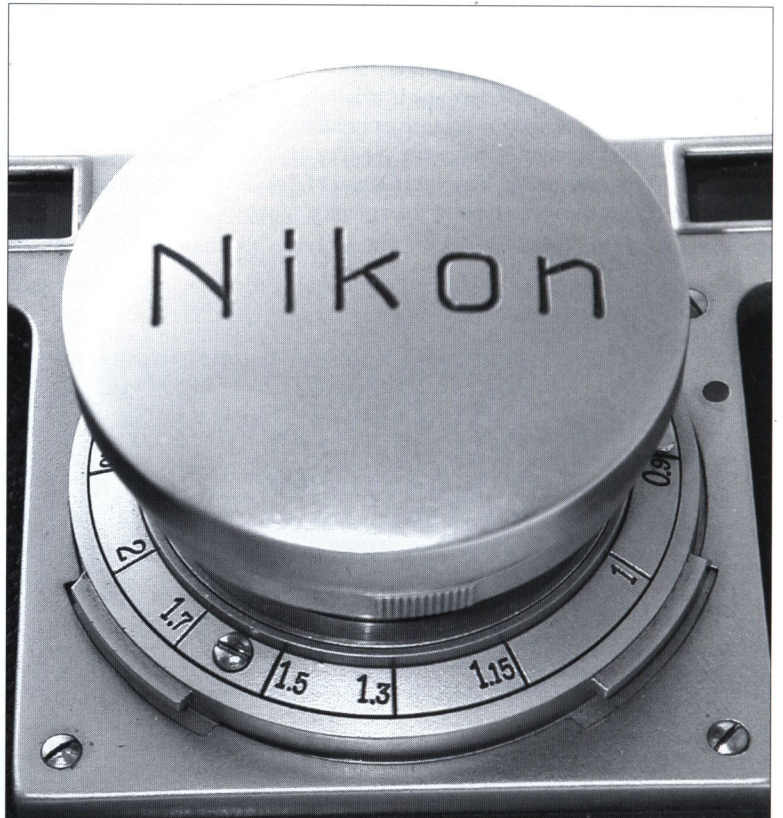
Many Nikon fans believe all Nikon One's, M's and S's have matching serial numbers engraved on the top plate and stamped into the detachable film back. Surprisingly, this is **NOT TRUE!** More research needs to be done, but at least cameras 60952 and 60926 do **NOT** have the top plate serial number stamped into the camera back. Apparently



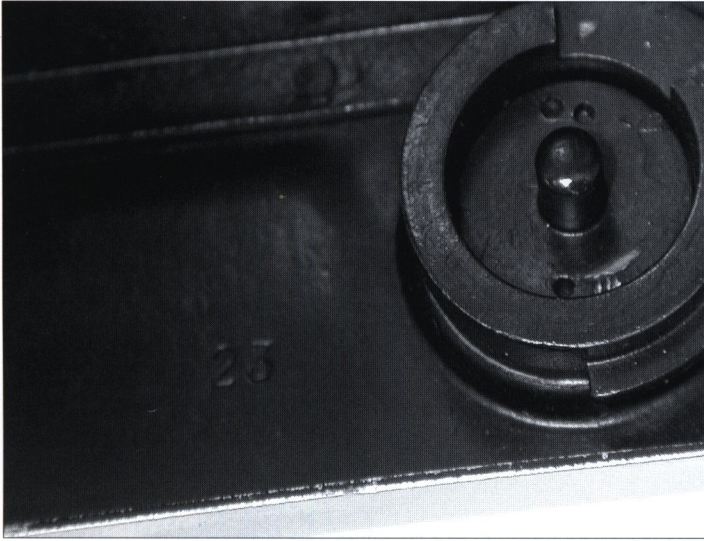




*On these pages are beautiful shots of a beautiful piece! Note the superb all around condition of this camera. Nikkor 50/2 #60921 is seen on camera #60941; lens #60969 on camera #609111; and lens #60990 is on camera #60926. Shown here on camera #60952 is lens #70868, the 69th lens from the second numerical sequence for this lens type. This seemingly random intermixing of '609' & '708' lenses over only 111 cameras suggests both lens batches may have been completed very early in Nikon One production, then mounted randomly to whatever body was ready for delivery. The very early 'dome' lens cap is extremely difficult to find, & much rarer than the camera as many were lost over the years! (All photos in this article by Stephen Gandy & copyrighted.)*



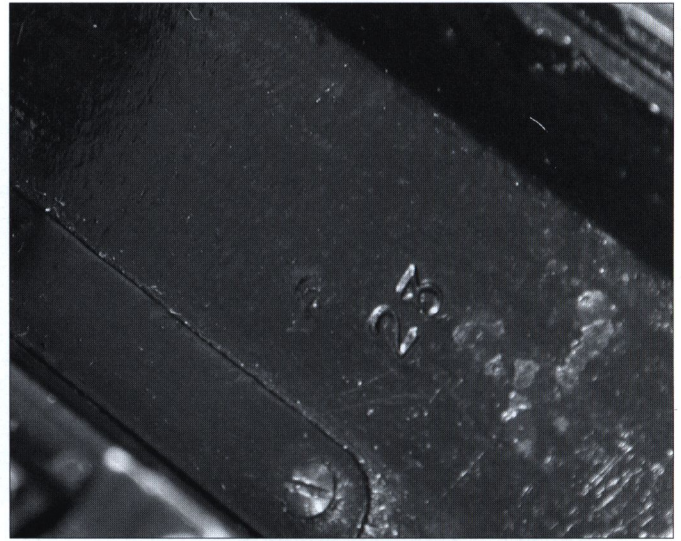




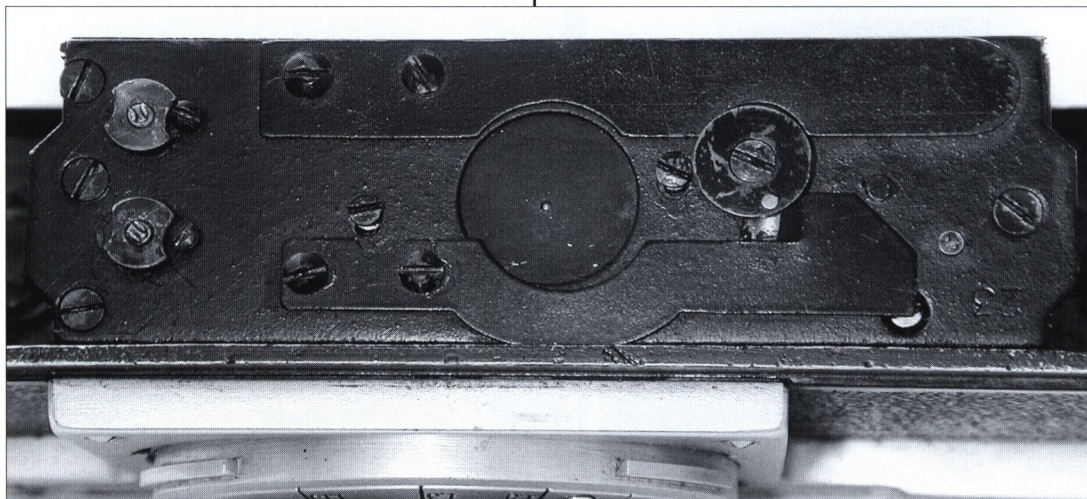
an unknown number of very early One's were produced before Nippon Kogaku decided to standardize numbering with matching top plate and back numbers.

Instead of '60952' on the back, the number '23' is stamped in at least 3 locations: the camera back, inside the film chamber, and the bottom of the crudely finished shutter assembly. Curiously, camera 60926 has similar markings with the number '2' at the same locations. What does this mean? Without detailed factory documentation of these very early Nikons, collectors are left pondering the many possibilities.

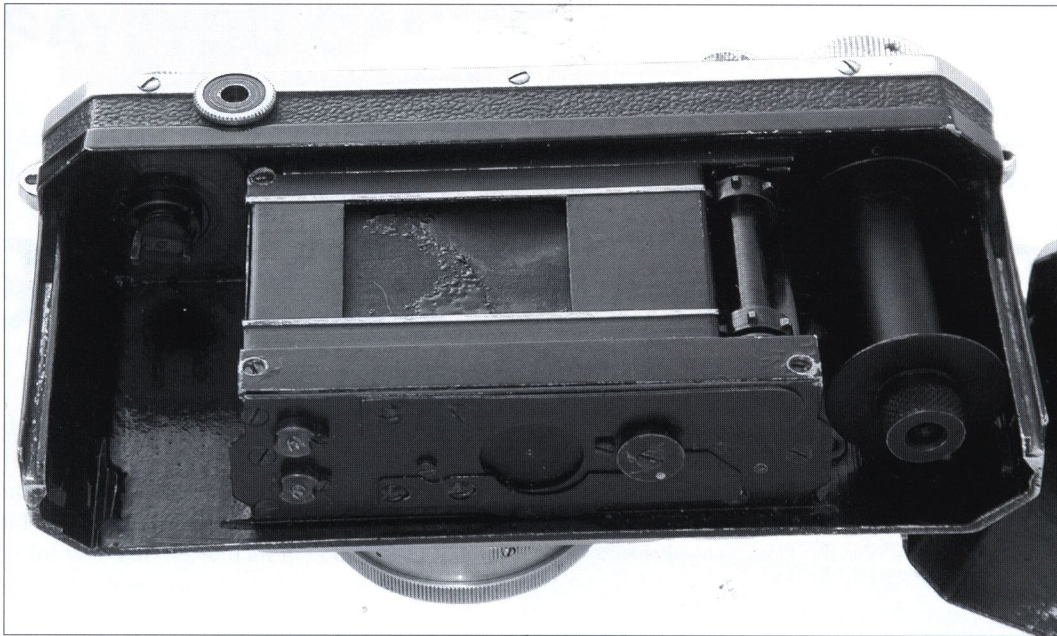
According to Robert Rotoloni's hard to find "Nippon Kogaku and the Nikon Camera" published by Historical Camera Publications in 1989, about 90 of the first 300 Nikon One's were scrapped after failing to pass quality control. Presumably the highest rejection rates were at the start of production. Because of this the survival rate amongst the very early Nikon One's is low as well as spotty. We need to be able to examine more specimens to determine if matching serial numbers were the norm during this period, or if more examples exist with only these secondary numbers present. More research with early Nikon One's needs to be done. My thanks to Mr. Yasuyuki Ochiai of Tokyo, for reminding me that 60926 has the same type of unexplained numbers as 60952.



*Photos pg. 4 & 5...The 2 top photos show the number '23' stamped inside the camera baseplate and film chamber. There is no matching serial number stamped on this example. The interior film chambers of early Nikon One's are crudely finished. The finish is uneven and appears to be hand painted. Note on this page and the next that there is no cover plate for the shutter chassis like that found on later cameras. Camera #60952 has only one set of film guide rails unlike later cameras with two sets. The film sprockets are also smaller and on a smaller diameter spool than later examples. As you can see, the shutter material is in rather bad shape. Not an uncommon problem on early Nikons. The yellow instruction book is VERY rare today., even though an unknown number of Nikon One books were supplied with very early unsynched M's! So far as I am aware, there is only one known version of the Nikon One instruction book in English.*







The **MADE IN OCCUPIED JAPAN** engraving indicated the American post war occupation of Japan, which ended in September of 1951. The rather large MIOJ present on this early Nikon One was switched to a much smaller baseplate engraving quite early, possibly within the first 100 cameras. Eventually during Nikon M production, the MIOJ was removed from the baseplate and changed from an engraving to an imprint on the back leather, where it is much harder to locate.

Nikon One's are about five times rarer today due to the American occupying forces not liking the 24x32 film format. Without the change of format, the Nikon One and unsynched Nikon M would merge into one camera with a production of over 2000 cameras, instead of about 400 Nikon One's and 1640 unsynched Nikon M's. Ironically Nikon seems to have gotten into film format problems by copying Minolta's first 35mm camera, the 1947 Original Minolta A, which had the 24x32 format and a Leica screw mount. Minolta's founder, Mr. Tashima, is generally credited with inventing the 24x32mm "Nippon Size" format. Minolta's screw mount rangefinders proved far more popular than Nikon rangefinders during the American occupation. Approximately 4000 Nikon rangefinders were "Made in Occupied Japan" (Nikon One, unsynched and synched M, very early S). Over 20,000 MIOJ Minolta rangefinders were produced (Minolta A, B, C, D, E and some F's). About the first 3,000 Minolta A's and B's used Mr. Tashima's 24x32 format.

#### THE PAWN SHOP NIKON ONE

Nikon One stories end happily or sadly, depending upon which end of the Nikon One you end up on. Not all Nikon One's are found at garage sales. In 1974 I was just getting interested in collecting Nikons, and Robert Rotoloni's book had not yet been published. Nikon rangefinder information at that time was hard to find, and often conflicting. I visited a pawn shop in the old downtown section of Torrance California, a suburb of Los Angeles. There was a strange looking old Nikon there that I did not recognize, other than knowing it was a rangefinder. What grabbed my attention was that it looked NEW! It absolutely sparkled. The man behind the counter wanted \$100.00 for it. I offered him \$75.00, planning to put it on my recently acquired VISA card with a zero balance. He held out for the \$100.00. I decided to be cheap, and passed. A few days later I changed my mind and went back, BUT IT HAD BEEN SOLD! I do not remember much about the camera, other than the knob film advance, a funny looking 50mm lens, and the letters **MADE IN OCCUPIED JAPAN IN VERY LARGE LETTERS ON THE BASEPLATE!** Imagine my feelings a few years later, when I learned ONLY very early Nikon One's had the MIOJ in such large letters!!! On the other hand, somewhere out there is a guy who likes to tell of the time he bought a like new Nikon One in a pawn shop for \$100.00.....argh.....

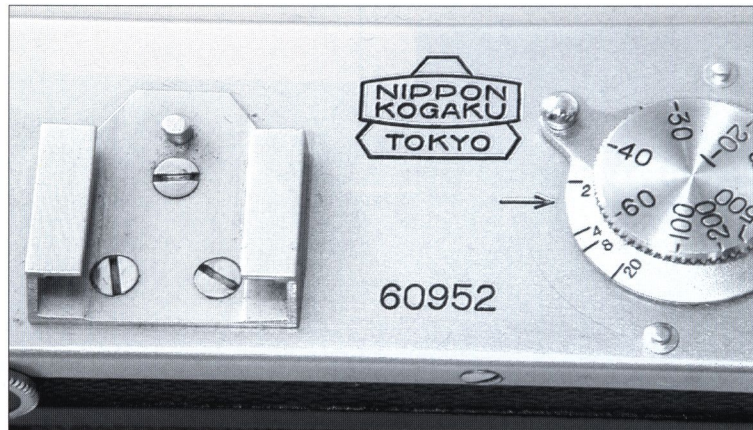
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JAPAN OPTICAL CO., LTD.

INSTRUCTIONS  
TO USE  
The "Nikon"  
CAMERA





*The top photo illustrates the serial number on this very early camera. Center...The un-numbered back on this example and the removable take-up spool (this feature is found only on some*

*Nikon One's, not all) and the uncovered shutter chassis plate mentioned in the text. Bottom...The Omega and Alpha of the Nikon Rangefinder system.... the new black S3 2000 and the Nikon One of 1948!*





# THEY SAY 'YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU' ...

# THE 'NHS' MEMBER

# SURVEY PROJECT

COMPILED BY DON DEDERA

When somebody told the original American comedian/miser he couldn't take it with him, Jack Benny thought for a long moment, and declared, "I won't go!"

Well, yes he did. And when he did...he didn't.

And so it will be for you and me, and all the other avid Nikon collectors. Oh, I suppose there may be a Nikon enthusiast so pathologically possessive that he or she will arrange for the grave to be filled with S-36 Motor Drives, Fish-Eye Nikkors and Rangefinder Reflex Housings, in the manner of the Texas oil tycoon who was buried (smiling eternally) at the wheel of his Cadillac.

But most of us more standard personalities probably will go quietly, leaving it to somebody else as best they can to dispose of our cherished Nikoniana.

This topic inspired several informal discussions among attendees at the most recent Nikon Historical Society Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, in February 2002.

Especially senior members, counting several founders, expressed their concerns in quotes such as:

- "When we started collecting 20 or 30 years ago we were in our 40s and 50s at the peak of our earning power, and we thought we were immortal. Now we're in our 60s and 70s and we don't dare buy green bananas. And I worry, what's going to happen to all my stuff?"
- "I started in the 1970s with two rangefinder bodies and five lenses, and the whole kit fit into a little corner of a shelf. Now my collection fills three rooms and takes two months to dust. Any my poor wife doesn't know a Kogaku from a Kodak. My kids...they positively **hate** old cameras."
- "A few hundred bucks got me into it. Now it represents a major portion of my estate, and my lawyer and accountant tell me there is **no way** I can hide it from the tax man."

How serious are these issues for how many NHS members? Who are we, and what do we have, anyway? When the time comes to pass down or break up our collections, what are the realistic options? Will we (as we hope) enrich a beloved beneficiary or (as we fear) impoverish an unaware victim?

To answer these questions to some degree this summer the Society canvassed its entire membership with a *NHS Journal* questionnaire. The survey asked about member nationality, age, and photographic interest. Data were sought regarding collection value, insurance against theft and loss, and estate planning. Completed questionnaires are still being returned, but here are some preliminary thumbnails of feedback:

**Can this be?** One hundred percent—every one—of the responses

at press time are from males. All but a few of these responders are "50 years old or older." The dominant geographical representation is North America.

- As to be expected, nearly all NHS members collect Nikons, and their interests divide about equally between Nikon RF and F Reflex. But Nikon guys also collect a spectrum of other makes, from Russian medium formats through Leica copies to American subminiatures. Most likely to be sharing space in Nikon collections are Canon, Rollei, Bronica, and Zeiss. Other familiar types appealing to Nikon fans are Argus C-3, Ciro-Flex, Agfa, Olympus, Polaroid, Graflex, Diax, Hasselblad, Minolta, and generic kinds of military, law enforcement, three-dimensional and novelty cameras. However, a few NHS members profess to "collect everything."
- Impossible to infer precisely from such an informal, unscientific survey, but it would appear that substantial values are indeed tied up in NHS collections. Eleven NHS members appraised their collections in the \$10,000 to \$99,000 range, and fourteen evaluated their hoards between \$100,000 and \$1 million (US dollars). Two collections were pegged at a Half million dollars, and one at more than one million dollars!
- For a few mildly involved (or well-off) members, their collections comprise only 1-2% of the total value of their estates. Three members report that Nikons, (not stocks, bonds, beachfront properties or pork bellies) amount to a whopping 60-70% of their total wealth. But more to the norm, about half of the returned questionnaires calculate collections to represent from 5-25% of members' net worth.

For a few, perhaps, our survey served as a wake-up call. Out in the thinly populated Nikonland called Arizona, USA, a pal of mine who has been an NHS member since the mid-1980s penned an insightful note on his completed questionnaire, "Hope this helps us all to begin thinking of the future. It's amazing that my modest collection is worth so much. Never thought so till I started adding up all the accessories and small items. Our collections keep changing as we acquire new items, and sell/trade others."

As the chief instigator of the survey and principal compiler of the results, I must confess an early, and as it turns out, faulty, presumption. I thought that probably not many of my fellow NHS members kept very good records on their stuff. Yet fully three-fourths assert that they maintain an accurate and current inventory, either as a print or computer file. They may document description, serial number, condition, purchase price, provenance,



special features, and current retail value. They mostly rely on their own knowledge in deriving the realistic retail value, but about 40% of the responders assert that they have enlisted the aid of a professional appraiser—maybe a local expert or camera show regular. More likely, says a member: I look in the big ads in *Shutterbug* to see at what price things are selling for.” (At this moment I can almost hear some cynical readers hooting, “That’s’ certain to tell you at what price things are **not selling for**”).”

Then consider the poignant plight of one Nikon rangefinder collector who should be in an ideal position to appraise his own treasures. Yet, “As a camera store owner of 19 years I have to keep up with the never-ending changes in the industry. Over the years also I have been collecting older cameras, lenses and anything that I thought was unique. So my collection has become quite large and unruly re: inventory and value. I do maintain a complete list of the Nikon RF equipment, but not on anything else. When someone wants to buy anything from me I cannot name a figure off the top of my head. Then wherever I look the posted price on the same equipment vary greatly from one seller to another. Nobody, but nobody, can really tell what a thing is worth until somebody actually **buys** it. And I worry, if I, who is supposed to be an expert, and am so confused, what is my poor wife going to do if she has to figure it out all alone?”

While pleasantly surprised by the widespread inventorying efforts of NHS members, I was a bit shocked by another revelation: Fully two-thirds of responders state that they have made utterly no provision, by will or other testament, for the ultimate disposal of their collections. Half of NHS survey participants say that they and their prime heir(s) have not even discussed collection values and options for liquidation.

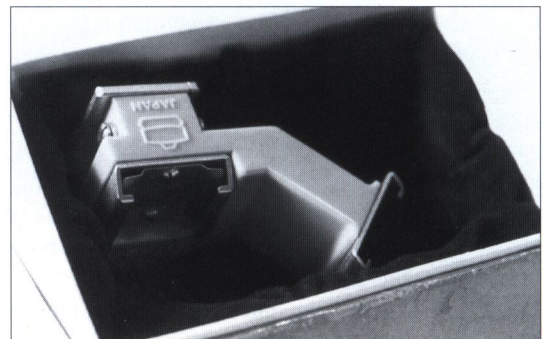
So to sum up survey results so far: as a Society, we indeed appear to be growing older. Many of us by wise investment and good fortune have amassed substantial wealth in Nikon and other photographic collectibles. Yet typically we have not adopted a semblance of strategy for conserving the character or protecting the value of our collections. What to do? Drawing upon interviews with photographic dealers (who are also NHS members), savvy collectors, and professional estate planners, our final installment will try to answer the inevitable dilemma: if you can't take it with you, what **can** you do?

.....  
To all NS members who have not yet returned our strictly confidential questionnaire—it's not too late. Please complete and mail to Don Dederer, 6001 El Le Marche, Scottsdale, AZ 85254, USA. Your data will be included in the second installment in this series to be published in NHS-78, in December, 2002. If you've misplaced your questionnaire and need another, let me know by mail or at [dondedera@aol.com](mailto:dondedera@aol.com).



To illustrate the dramatic appreciation of values across four decades, one needs only to look at the official Nikon price list dated August 1, 1960. Product Code AC590, rangefinder body cap, listed for US \$1.25. Recently boxed examples have sold for \$250.00! Product FLP360, the plastic offset flash bracket, listed for \$3.95. Now in New York mail order ads it is offered for as much as \$250.00! Product MR75, a plastic gadget called the Meter Retainer, was priced at 60 cents. Now super rare, this item has sold at recent auctions for \$385.00! Product FEL20, the Field Illuminator designed to enhance the bright lines in the SP viewfinder, originally sold for \$18.75, including leather case. Today in mint condition with that same case, the price may be as high as \$1500.00! And what about that flimsy price list I have been quoting? When it was current it was distributed for free. Currently at auctions such lists go for \$75.00 and more!

SOME FEEDBACK...Dirk Bergmann sent this email after receiving his survey.....”I'm just reading Don's questionnaire--yes I think these are thoughts which are normally set aside by most collectors. I have several customers who often tell me that their relatives are not interested in their collection at all and, in most cases even their wives hate them for their hobby. So they don't know what to do. They do not want their family to get it because they won't have any idea what to do with it. On the other hand, they can't get themselves to sell it (and then ask small, poor dealers like me for prices nobody can ever pay--just to be sure that they can keep their collections!). One can understand this. Depending on their health, there are many things they cannot do anymore when getting older, but one hardly gets too old to collect cameras and enjoy them. So why sell one of the last things that brings joy to life? So they set these thoughts aside and time goes on. Then one day I get a call: “My husband has passed away and there are all these cameras and lenses and....please come around and tell me what to do with it! This happens often. I feel it is a good idea to start this discussion. Every collector is concerned. It will help to protect our old treasures from being ruined or lost. This will be an important function of the NHS!”





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# THE **F**--SPOT!

## *SPECIAL NIKON F ENGRAVINGS*

*A SELECTION OF SELDOM SEEN SPECIALLY  
MARKED NIKONS FROM SCANDINAVIA*

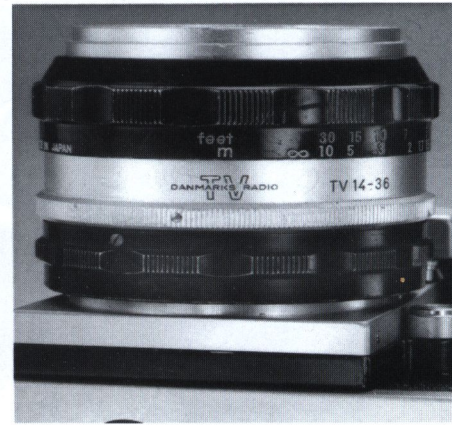
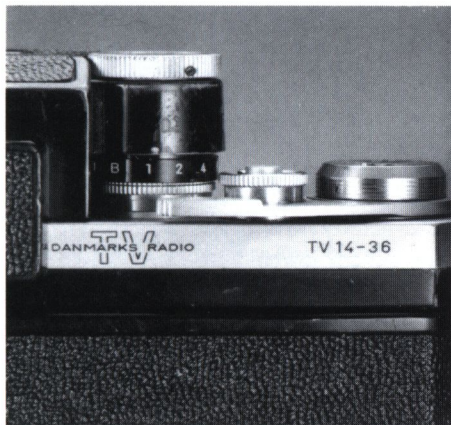
PHOTOS BY TONY HURST





Illustrated below is a set of rather obscure Nikon F cameras from Scandinavia with special engravings. They include cameras belonging to the SWEDISH RADIO, DANISH RADIO/TELEVISION and the almost unknown FINISH POST/TELEGRAPH (PLL). These cameras (also shown on page 9) are all standard mechanically "unmodified" Nikon Fs. Even the Finish example was not physically altered in any way.

Engravings are a real minefield, a skilled fakers paradise. With factory engravings always check the font, characteristics of cut, depth and line of engraving. However, these cameras were not engraved at the factory, but by the institutions they represent. The only recourse is to trust the source. With so many scare stories coming out of eBay it is increasingly important to be familiar with your contacts. **TONY HURST**





# NIPPON KOGAKU WW2 STEREOSCOPE

“The Nikon stereo viewer is very compact measuring 5 x 1 x 1 inches. Nikon’s high quality optical system uses two rhomboid prisms for optimum performance. The stereo viewer is adjustable making it usable for various eye widths. This light-weight, compact viewer comes in a custom fitted wood carrying case.”

Does this look like a Nikon catalog description for the rangefinder stereo viewer? Well...not exactly. In fact, it describes a Nippon Kogaku WW2 stereoscope of a completely different design made long before the rangefinder stereo lens.

Les Seeligson’s detailed article in NHS-54 described another version of a WW2 Nikon stereoscope. This version was designated a “Type 97 Mirror Stereoscope”. The Type 97 was a folding “mirror type” with detachable, four power monoculars. Production began in 1937 and examples in the article were dated from 1943/1944.

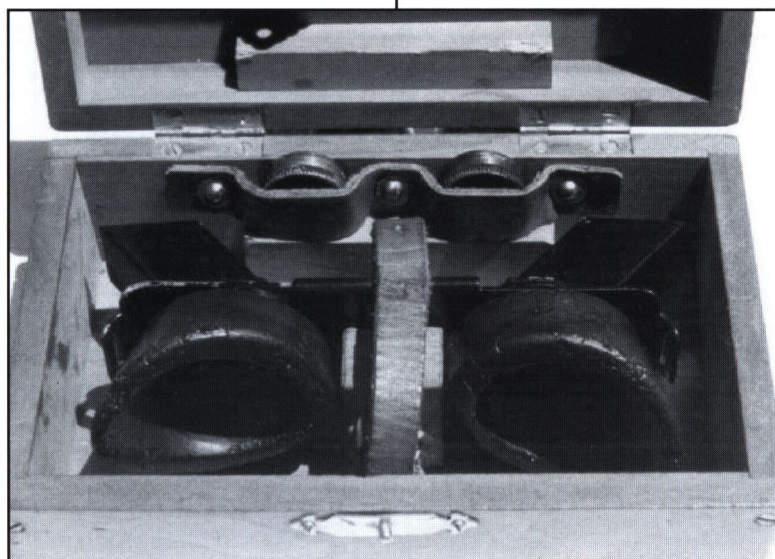
The version illustrated in this article was designated a “Type 98” indicating production began in 1938. Unfortunately, there is no actual production date present on the instrument or box. This stereoscope is much smaller than the Type 97 in NHS-54. It is slightly larger than a pair of MIOJ 6 x 15 Mikron binoculars (and actually weighs less than Mikrons—stereoscope 125 grams, Mikrons 170 grams). Unlike the rangefinder stereo viewer, this WW2 version was designed for use with photographic prints and not slides. It can be used to view a wide range of stereo prints from 3 x 5 inches to 8 x 10 inches.

## PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY RICHARD LANE

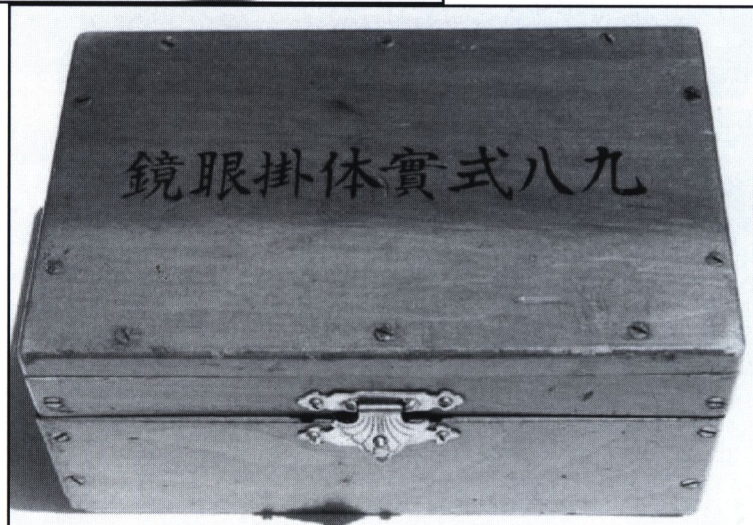
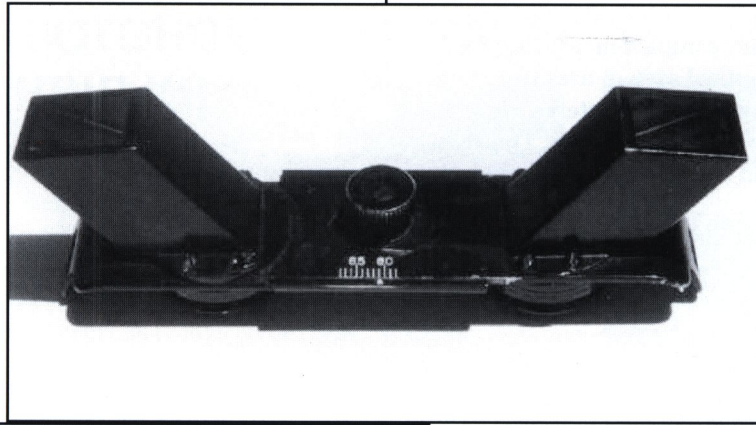
The stereoscope is made of brass with black enamel paint. There is a thumbscrew on the button used to “lock in” the adjustable interocular distance (58-68mm). There are eyelet slots on each side of the viewer for a neck strap (one was not included). Additionally, two detachable rubber eyecups were used to minimize stray light. The stereoscope has two prisms but does not have any optical elements for increased magnification. However, two removable brass diopter lenses came with the stereoscope (they fit into the back of the wood box when not in use). It is unclear what these lenses were used for, as they do not appear to provide an increase in magnification. The box top has Japanese writing that roughly translates to “Type 98 Stereo Viewer Scope”.

With the serial number of “978” it is possible Nippon Kogaku made 1,000 or more of these units, but I doubt the serial number indicates the actual number produced. I have seen this same stereoscope design in a US or German WW2 version. Adding to the mystery is the fact that this unit is not stamped with Japanese Navy or Army markings.

There you have it, another example of Nippon Kogaku’s diverse optical production capability. One can not help but wonder what other photographic products were made before the 35mm rangefinder era.









## THE OFFICIAL NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# “BLACK BODY LIST”

COMPILED BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

The only time I have ever published my entire database of black Nikon rangefinder body serial numbers was in NHS-37! Since then I have listed newly reported numbers in each issue of the Journal in an effort to keep the list updated and accurate. For this, our 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue, I thought I would again publish the list in its entirety, as a service to my members. What you see on the following pages represents over 30 years of locating and cataloging black body numbers that I have either seen personally, or had reported to me from countless sources, including many of you. This current listing totals ‘540’ bodies that research has substantiated as original and correct. You will note that Nippon Kogaku obviously made their black cameras in batches, some large, others quite small. This is similar to what Leitz did and makes sense as this was an era where black bodies were a definite option, and one not often used by the public. Yes, starting with the “F” Nikon produced a significant number of black cameras, but during the rangefinder era this was not the case. Thus, black RF Nikons are rare today and much more valuable than their chrome counterparts (save for the S3M), making this listing quite important.

I hope to continue to add more numbers with each issue of the Journal and I am sure everyone would appreciate any new numbers you can add. As always, confidentiality will be maintained!

Following this list is a special supplement of all the **Fake Black Nikons** that have been reported to me! This second list could be even more important in the long run. RJR

**NIKON ONE:**

609431

**NIKON M:**

M6092934

**NIKON S:**

6105936            6108685            6112580

**NIKON S2:**

6137647	6140804	6140818	6140822
6140823	6140825	6140834	6140838
6140841	6140848	6141623	6144454
6144489	6144496	6144531	6144574
6144662	6144666	6144669	6144677
6144682	6144766	6145922	6146101
6157502	6157503	6157511	6157524
6157525	6157552	6157555	6157557
6157565	6157569	6157571	6157572
6157576	6157587	6157588	6170901

6170902	6170906	6170913	6170916
6170921	6170924	6170927	6170933
6170934	6170938	6170941	6170944
6170953	6170954	6170960	6170961
6170962	6170967	6170974	6170991
6170995	6180604	6180623	6180643
6180659	6180661	6180663	6180666
6180683	6180701	6180734	6180754
6180758	6180773	6180776	6180784
6180793	6180805	6180816	6180827
6180866	6180886	6180910	6180915
6180923	6180937	6180947	6181654
6181707	6185735	6194007	6194009
6194013	6194051	6194052	6194068
6194072	6194082	6194109	6194115
6194116	6194126	6194142	6194146
6194148	6194204	6194208	6194297

**NIKON SP:**

6200035	6200041	6200043	6200045
6200048	6200050	6200065	6200068
6200080	6200082	6200083	6200084
6202453	6202459	6202469	6202480
6202482	6202508	6202511	6202513
6202515	6202516	6202525	6202526
6202547	6202551	6202552	6202557
6202562	6202577	6202580	6202585
6202589	6202590	6202594	6202595
6202599	6202611	6202613	6202618
6202619	6202628	6202630	6202632
6202646	6202653	6202658	6202660
6202663	6202672	6202678	6202681
6202688	6202694	6202698	6204288
6206332	6206405	6206413	6206414
6206415	6206419	6206422	6206423
6206434	6206441	6206448	6206451
6206452	6206453	6206456	6206463
6206471	6206472	6206473	6206480
6206489	6206818	6206819	6206823
6206825	6206835	6206837	6206847
6206848	6206863	6206874	6206876
6206878	6206881	6206884	6206888
6206890	6206893	6206899	6208291
6208401	6208403	6208406	6208416
6208422	6208423	6208424	6208427
6208430	6208436	6208462	6208473
6208484	6208487	6208488	6208499
6208788	6209523	6209602	6209605



6209615	6209624	6209627	6209633
6209635	6209642	6209652	6209660
6209663	6209679	6209688	6210502
6210515	6210518	6210532	6210542
6210543	6210546	6210549	6210550
6210561	6210570	6210571	6210595
6210597	6210598	6210953	6212101
6212109	6212126	6212129	6212147
6212150	6212178	6212188	6212190
6212192	6212200	6214197	6214590
6215304	6215311	6215314	6215330
6215336	6215363	6215374	6215376
6215379	6215384	6215397	6215402
6215412	6215417	6215422	6215430
6215437	6215442	6215612	6215689
6215884	6216502	6218836	6218859
6218940	6218942	6218944	6218961
6218988	6218991	6218993	6218994
6218997	6219018	6219024	6219041
6219049	6219164	6219179	6219374
6219451	6219971	6220710	6220713
6220720	6220721	6220731	6221531
6221534	6223116	6223610	6231591
6232101	6232137	6232141	6232150

### NIKON S3:

6302636	6306046	6307453	6307454
6307561	6307467	6307475	6307481
6307482	6307483	6307489	6307508
6307576	6312108	6312121	6312123
6312129	6312140	6312145	6312156
6312157	6312187	6312214	6312215
6312218	6312220	6312235	6312245
6312247	6312256	6312259	6312273
6312278	6320015	6320016	6320054
6320059	6320078	6320103	6320143
6320150	6320174	6320203	6320220
6320221	6320243	6320248	6320284
6320310	6320312	6320314	6320340
6320355	6320365	6320366	6320381
6320411	6320415	6320463	6320480
6320481	6320504	6320522	6320529
6320531	6320539	6320540	6320556
6320580	6320590	6320636	6320671
6320674	6320684	6320694	6320699
6320705	6320719	6320773	6320814
6320826	6320880	6320911	6320920
6320938	6320939	6320961	6320983
6320992	6321015	6321021	6321054
6321069	6321119	6321129	6321133
6321136	6321147	6321152	6321162
6321184	6321187	6321211	6321260
6321270	6321283	6321304	6321312
6321350	6321376	6321378	6321379
6321387	6321400	6321424	6321466
6321529	6321535	6321545	6321553
6321563	6321640	6321712	6321750
6321764	6321780	6321874	6321879

6321886	6321894	6321899	6321923
6321924	6321929	6321986	6321988
6321989	6322019	6322026	6322029
6322032	6322047	6322062	6322083
6322085	6322121	6322125	6322127
6322129	6322166	6322176	6322201
6322202	6322204	6322217	6322251
6322274	6322275	6322282	6322286
6322291	6322304	6322327	6322331
6322348	6322368	6322386	6322392
6322394	6322395	6322405	6322441
6322456	6322465	6322472	6322473
6322501	6322503	6322517	6322525
6322533	6322544	6322550	6322552
6322558	6322561	6322579	

### NIKON S3M:

6600006	6600015	6600031	6600035
6600041	6600046	6600048	6600051
6600056	6600064	6600086	6600090
6600092	6600099	6600100	6600113
6600115	6600134	6600135	6600174
6600193	6600198	6600199	6600207
6600215	6600221	6600222	6600223

## AND THE FAKE ONES ARE.....

The following list of Nikon rangefinder body serial numbers consists of those cameras currently reported to me as "fakes" or, in some cases "replicas", and represents over 30 years of research. In some cases I have actually examined the camera personally, while others have been reported to me by collectors from all over the world. The quest for black Nikon rangefinders has always been a very competitive and expensive endeavor. Because the word went out years ago that I was tracking the serial numbers in an attempt to put together a list of legitimate black RF Nikons, many collectors have contacted me hoping to verify if their latest acquisition was "real" or not. As more and more numbers came my way, a pattern became apparent suggesting that Nippon Kogaku produced black bodies in batches, and that these batches could be identified as more and more numbers became available. Keep in mind that 20 years ago there were very little, if any, fakes being produced to bilk the buyer since Nikon rangefinders had not become the extremely expensive gems they are today. There just wasn't that much incentive to fake Nikons back then and we did not have to deal with such problems until the last decade or so. However, there are fakes out there, and more are showing up now that black Nikons have reached the upper levels of value, more often than not, pricing out higher than their Leica counterparts. The incentive is there and greed is a very strong human emotion. There is also the gray area called "replicas" which have been around since at least 1980 or so. What is a replica? Well, there have been collectors who have experimented with the painting process, sometimes in an effort to become proficient at refurbishing original black cameras. Of-



## THE AUCTION SCENE

ten they do their experimenting on chrome bodies so as not to damage an original black one. They are honest and up front with other collectors and state that it is not a real one, but a replica. The problem has always been what would prevent a seller 2 or 3 transactions down the road from representing it as a real black camera? The answer is, not much! So I have always grouped known replicas as fakes and they appear in this list as such. I have made no distinction between "fake" and "replica" in this list. The numbers compiled here are those cameras that we are either 100% positive to be fake or are questionable enough to cause great doubt as to their authenticity.

Now no one and no list is perfect. If by chance you own or know of any camera on this list and feel that it is genuine please contact me. Descriptions, photographs and serial numbers can help make a determination. In other words, this list is not written in stone! I want to be accurate and if a camera needs to be removed I will do just that and note it for all to see. On the other side of the coin, if you are aware of a fake that is not on this list please contact me with the details. Additions to the list will be published as they come in. As has always been the case, putting together a list such as this is a group effort. And we as a group of knowledgeable Nikon collectors should be the ones to do it! So please, talk to me and let me know what you know so we all can learn from it and hopefully prevent honest collectors from being cheated in the real world. RJR

### NIKON S:

6095212	6097328	6098005	6109549
6120155	6122291	6126308	

### NIKON S2:

6135424	6144262	6145694	6146295
6147301	6158900	6160051	6161145
6162631	6165004	6176259	6176396
6180021	6182930	6192296	6195592

### NIKON SP:

6201701	6202226	6203605	6204269
6206766	6208973	6211413	6212974
6213770	6213786	6213858	6217218
6217677	6219858		

### NIKON S3:

6300226	6300393	6302365	6302963
6306509	6306569	6311578	

### NIKON S4:

6501417	6505891		
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As of the publication of this issue of the Journal, NHS-77, we have 46 examples on our list of "ignoble Nikons". Granted, this is not a large number unless you were unfortunate to have paid market price for a less than genuine article. Then just one fake is one too many.

Do not hesitate to give me feedback on this project for I intend to make it a running feature and I need your input. We can only benefit from such knowledge and that is my goal. RJR

There is currently a lot of activity in the auction scene. So here goes.

As mentioned in NHS-76, Christie's had their auction on June 11<sup>th</sup>, and there was a very large selection of Nikon RF items included, with over 8 pages of the catalog consumed. And all sold! Every item went, with nothing held back or withdrawn! Approximate US dollar hammer prices (including the buyer's premium of 17.5%) for the more interesting pieces were:

<b>Nikon M6093445 w/red synch sockets.....</b>	<b>\$4935.00</b>
<b>Nikon S #60910190 with eight digits.....</b>	<b>\$1585.00</b>
<b>Nikon S #60911069 with eight digits.....</b>	<b>\$3172.00</b>
<b>Nikon S4 #6503391.....</b>	<b>\$3525.00</b>
<b>Nikon SP #6201701..black repaint (replica).....</b>	<b>\$4405.00</b>
<b>Nikon SP chrome (two bodies).....</b>	<b>\$2467.00 &amp; \$2820.00</b>
<b>Nikkor 85/2 MIOJ in meters.....</b>	<b>\$1762.00</b>
<b>Nikkor 50mm/f1.5 in Nikon mount.....</b>	<b>\$3172.00</b>
<b>Nikkor 25mm/f4 in black w/finder and shade!.....</b>	<b>\$4405.00</b>
<b>Nikkor 25mm/f4 in chrome (no finder).....</b>	<b>\$1410.00</b>

Michael Pritchard has just informed me that there will be a Nikon One in their upcoming November 19<sup>th</sup> auction so you might want to get your hands on their catalog. Contact them for more information at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com).

Stan Tamarkin's next auction will be November 3<sup>rd</sup>. I have no listing as yet of what will be included but you will recall from NHS-76 that some really choice RF items (including a boxed Illuminator and a boxed S36 motor) sold in his last sale in June, and he always has something interesting for Nikon collectors in each sale. Contact him at [auctions@tamarkin.com](mailto:auctions@tamarkin.com).

Auction Team Koln (Germany) will have a sale on September 28<sup>th</sup>, before you receive this. Theirs is the largest auction based solely on the number of items up for sale. Their very well illustrated catalog just goes on and on! Unless you specialize it would take hours to go through it. There are not many Nikon RF items this time around but you still should subscribe to their catalog. Try [www.breker.com](http://www.breker.com) or email to [auction@breker.com](mailto:auction@breker.com).

And now the final item of interest. There is a **NEW** auction starting up with their first sale set for November 15<sup>th</sup>. By my count that makes 3 sales in the month of November! A new camera auction house will offer a large variety of collectible cameras with reasonable starting prices and no reserves. The first sale will be at the Westlight Museum in Vienna, Austria. Their full color hardbound catalog in English, German and Japanese is available. If you are excited about bidding on a large selection of cameras from Leicas to a **black Nikon S3M in its original box**, you will want the catalog. The first catalog should be ready by the time you get this Journal. Contact them now at [auction@westlicht.com](mailto:auction@westlicht.com). In the US you can get the English catalog for \$45 postpaid from NHS member Jim McKeown. Contact him at [mckeown@camera-net.com](mailto:mckeown@camera-net.com). A dedicated website for the auction itself will be online from about mid-September at [www.westlight-auction.com](http://www.westlight-auction.com).

Personally, I am very pleased to see so much activity in collectible cameras and I feel it is to our advantage to support such efforts. So check out those websites and get your catalogs. Even if you don't bid, it's still valuable information!



## CANON 'S' UPDATE

Since I wrote the evaluation of Al Brody's Naval Canon S #113, another similar camera has turned up in an eBay auction. Its serial is 167, whereas the previous highest known number was 126. Camera 167 has a Nikkor 5cm/f2 #50207, which is entirely within the usual range for the Navy camera (Al's is 50217). The markings on the top are entirely correct and, from the photo published on eBay, seem to be authentic. The Imperial Navy markings on the baseplate have been scratched off, and the lensmount serial number was not illustrated or stated in the sale material. As with Al's camera, there is an added synch contact on the front of the body, but this one is an early PC-post type probably dating from a few years after WW2 and originating in the US.

The seller was disposing of an estate and had no knowledge of this Canon's past history. The purchaser is unknown to me; if he happens to read this, or is a friend of someone in the NHS, I'll be very grateful to have him contact me so that we can discuss the camera in more detail.

The immediate problem, however, is what happened to all the bodies between the previous high 126 and this new 167? Did they even exist? As I pointed out in my article, we can presume that most were issued to vessels that were sunk, complete with their Canons, during the war. But Mr. Ueyama has actually spoken with the Seiki Kogaku employee who, in the early 1940s, delivered the cameras to the Naval procurement agency, and this employee was definite that there were not very many. Surely he would have noticed the difference between a couple of dozen, a package weighing maybe 50-55 pounds, and about 75 or even 100 bodies weighing two to three hundred pounds!

It is worth noting, however, that 3 of the remaining cameras (111, 121, & 126) are in Japanese collections and have apparently never left Japan. It isn't unreasonable to guess that they were issued to high-ranking officers who seldom went to sea, and thus the cameras survived intact and in original condition. Al's #113, as I suggested, may have gone to Germany during the war with a U-boat commander and had remained ashore there for some time after the war ended. All 4 of these cameras have early serial numbers, again suggesting that they may have been specially issued, and quite possibly were only briefly at sea, if indeed the 3 still in Japan ever left a dock.

Someone has suggested that many lost cameras were issued to submarines, but they would have been of limited use in that environment and, with only a 5cm lens, would not even have been useful to photograph sinking ships in order to prove the sub commander's attack had worked. Most Japanese surface vessels were sunk too: we don't need an exclusively submarine scenario to envisage the loss of 60 or more naval cameras. It is also certainly possible that the old-time Seiki Kogaku employee may simply have delivered the first of what turned out to be several batches of the Navy S cameras.

The new #167, then, may be the only Canon Naval S model so far known to have become a wartime souvenir acquired by a member of the allied forces and (unlike the other 4) having its Imperial Navy markings defaced by the occupation authorities before its new owner was allowed to bring it home. This happened all the time in Germany, as we know, but seems to have been a much rarer event with Japanese war booty; the rules, however, were the same in both places. Perhaps, then #167 is the only Canon S Naval model that went to sea with the Japanese Navy & survived. A fascinating mystery! Regards, Peter Dechert.

## WALL STREET GONE!

As you receive this issue it appears that Wall Street Camera, a NY tradition dating back at least to WW2, is gone! On Friday August 16th, the bankruptcy court locked them out! They were doing business through Thursday as this editor can testify. I, and many others I am sure, sent them money for items only to learn of their demise too late. If anyone has any helpful information to share with us, please contact me!! RJR

## MORE NIKON GEEKS

From Harry Hurst...

You're a Nikon Geek if you bought your first "F" after seeing the film "Z" in the early 70s and still use a thin metal camera strap like the photographer in the film used.

From Wolfgang Kuster...

You're a Nikon Geek if;

- a) You own at least 3 AR-2 cable releases for your F and F2 cameras to insure a lifetime supply of this specialized item.
- b) You know the photodo rating of every Nikon lens.
- c) You have either an AH-3 tripod adapter and an MR-3 release or an MK-1 frequency selector on each of your MD-4 motors.
- d) Of course you have an AR-1 on every F & F2-even if it is awkward to remove if you need to mount a cable release.
- e) You always have 2 sets of Lithium AA cells in stock for your battery eating Nikon F5.
- f) You get crazy regarding the fact that for almost every camera system an adapter for M42 Pentax screw mount lenses exist- but not for Nikon with its large lens flange and film distance.
- g) Besides knowing the difference between a Nikon Photomic, Photomic T, Photomic TN and Photomic FTn, you also know the difference between a Nikon Photomic Type One and Type Two meter!

## GANDY IN THE SKIES!

The next time you fly "US AIRWAYS" see if they still have a copy of their August 2002 in-flight magazine, Attache. If so check out page 22 and the column called "Mind's Eye". Its author talks about the re-emerging 35mm RF camera scene. And whom do you think he quotes as his information source? None other than our own Stephen Gandy and his cameraquest.com web site. Congratulations, Stephen! By the way, did they give you any free miles?? (Thanks to Bill Krause for this info!)

## SHUTTERBUG..YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT LATE!!

Going through my August issue of "shutterbug" (which arrived in late July), I noticed an item pictured on the cover that caught my attention. It was very familiar to me so I had to check out the table of contents. And there it was on page 76.....**NEW VOIGTLANDER LENSES** by Roger Hicks. I couldn't wait to turn to page 76 and see just what they had to say about these "NEW" lenses. A full 2 pages are devoted to the Voightlanders including 6 illustrations, 3 of which are actual photos taken with the lenses. All in all, I found Mr. Hicks to be very informed and quite fair in his writing. However, because he is writing for a much larger audience, he spends a lot of time talking about the Contax and Kiev cameras, and not the Nikons specifically. It seems he did not have a Nikon for testing and used the other makes for his evaluation. He is accurate when talking about Nikons save for the statement that the SP had a 25mm finder built in?? Well, no one is perfect! **However, what I find humorous about all of this is that an international publication has finally gotten around to testing a "NEW" series of lenses that we covered in our little Nikon Journal over a year earlier (NHS-71 & 72-March & June, 2001)!!** Oh well, I'm glad they did get around to it. However, they are really too late, since the worldwide supply of these lenses is said to be completely sold out! So their readers really are going to have a difficult time finding these lenses just reviewed in their latest issue of "shutterbug". RJR



## WEB SITES TO SEE!!

This list will appear in each issue and will contain sites that the members may find useful. If you discover a site you feel should be included, please let me know and I will add it next issue. RJR

**www.nikonhs.org..... THE OFFICIAL 'NHS' SITE!!**

**www.camerabooks.com.....** Petra Kellers very large book list.

**www.cameraguild.co.jp/nekosan...** A very good Japanese site.

**www.cameraquest.com.....** Stephen Gandy's great site.

**www.tonyhurstnikon.com...** Our own back cover Tony's site.

**www.jonathanharris.co.uk...** English site selling top quality Nikon, Leica, Hasselblad, etc.

**www.kenmarcamera.com.....** Ken Reisher's great site.

**www.qualitycamerashop.com....** Peter Lownds' site for his Nikon Museum and Camera Shop!

**www.nikon.co.jp.....** Nikon Japan's official site!

**www.nikon.co.jp/main/eng/d-archives/index.htm...** A section of Nikon's site dealing with the historical archives!

**www.nikonlinks.com.....** Very good site that tries to maintain a list of links to ALL Nikon resources on the Web!

**www.nikkor-club.de.....** Site for German club maintained by none other than Peter Braczko! German language.

**www.nikkor-foto.de.....** Site of Herbert Blaum with links to a Nikon user forum and classified ads. German language!

**www.nikon-f.de..** Uli Koch's site for the latest info on his book!

**www.zoom-net.com...** New site for the International collector's magazine "Classic Camera".

**www.yoshino.ne.jp/kato/english.htm...** A commercial and information site worth looking at.

**www.fieldgrassandgale.com...** They update their selling list every day and have many Nikon items!

**www.pacificrimcamera.com.....** Items for sale but also see their "photographic pages" for information on Nikon RFs!

**www.graysofwestminster.co.uk.....** Official site for Gray's "Nikon Only" camera shop in London!

**www.nikonownersclub.com.....** See the latest in offers for club members and upcoming events & promotions.

**www.woodcam.com..** Richard Tillis' Woodmere Camera site.

**www.mirandacamera.com.** Tom Surovek's Official Miranda site!

**www.keh.com.....** Probably the largest used camera dealer in the world! Keep track of their ever changing inventory.

**www.leicashop.com....** Not just Leicas! They carry a massive selection including many rare Nikon RFs. Check it out!

## PAYPAL AVAILABLE

Many of my foreign members (fully one-third of the entire membership!), as well as those stateside, have often requested a simpler way to pay their Society dues since I sold my pharmacy & can no longer take credit cards. Well, I can now accept payment through **PAYPAL** from anyone and it is fast and easy. My account number is [rotoloni@msn.com](mailto:rotoloni@msn.com). **WHY NOT TRY IT!!!! RJR**



A black Nikon S3 camera

Sold at Christie's South Kensington, June 12, 2001 for £9,400 (\$13,348)

## CHRISTIE'S

### An Invitation to Consign

We are currently accepting property for our regularly scheduled auctions of Nikon rangefinder and Nikon F cameras, lenses and accessories.

#### Inquiries

Michael Pritchard  
+44 (0)20 7321 3279

#### Catalogues

800 395 6300

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As a service to the members I will run an updated list each & every issue of the Nikon Journal, so keep me informed. Any addresses added or changed since the last issue are in bold italics! This listing was revised as of Sept. 30, 2002.

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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.



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## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SELLING/TRADE LIST...** Those of you who would like to receive my list with each issue of **The Journal** need only tell me so and it shall be done. I try to add items with each edition & always include a large amount of **Nikon RF & Reflex** items. Also included are products from other quality makers such as **Bronica, Canon, Pentax, etc.** Consignment items are always welcome! If you have a list make sure to send me a copy! I am always open to trades of all kinds! **Robert Rotoloni, P.O. Box 3213, Munster, IN 46321. My FAX number is 219-322-9977 or you can e-mail me at.....rotoloni@msn.com.**

**FOR SALE...** 2 inch Nikon RF era refractor telescope as shown in early manuals. In my 4 years on eBay I've seen 2 of these & bought both. Now surplus, this one is #2313. My keeper is #5112 & inspection sticker is dated August, 1957. Scope for sale is EX++ w/solar array, wood box, 3 eyepieces, no camera adapter. Original massive tripod needs minor restoration. Price, \$2,200, what I paid for it, **plus shipping. Don Dedera, 1-480-951-0932.**

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## BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL!!

I LEARNED OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS AFTER THE BLACK BODY LIST IN THIS ISSUE WAS COMPLETED. IN AN EFFORT TO REMAIN ACCURATE AND UP TO DATE PLEASE ADD THESE TWO TO OUR OFFICIAL BLACK LIST.

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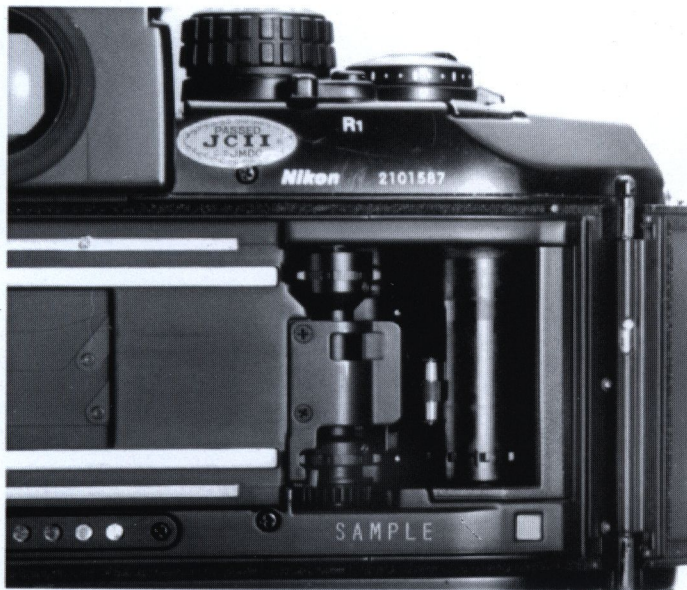
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# odds 'n ends

## A NIKON F4 SAMPLE!

BY TONY HURST



### ***THIS IS ONE THAT DIDN'T GO HOME.....***

*Nikon F4 samples were specified to be returned to the factory. However, the sports photographer using this one kept making excuses about its return, and as time went by the importer finally relented. SAMPLE is engraved both on the underside of the prism head and, interestingly, inside the body just below the film gate. At a casual glance the engraving is well hidden unlike any other Nikons I have seen. So it is always worth checking any low serial numbered F4, for it too might be a SAMPLE that did not go home to mother Nikon.*







**Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST**