

A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEC. 31, 2002

NHS-78



NIKON JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE
PAGE 1..THE NEW 'R2S' HAS ARRIVED!
PAGE 6..NEW 'R2S' USER REPORT
PAGE 12..COOK & PERKINS ADAPTER

ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



THE NIKON JOURNAL

VOLUME TWENTY - NUMBER ONE - DEC. 31, 2002.

THE NIKON JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR BY "RJR" PUBLISHING, INC., At P.O. Box 3213, Munster, Indiana 46321 U.S.A. © 2002 By "RJR" Publishing, Inc.

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

Our 24 Hour Fax Number is (219) 322-9977
Our Web Site is<http://www.nikonhs.org>
Our E-Mail Address is rotoloni@msn.com

ANNUAL SOCIETY DUES ARE		
U.S./CANADA	1 Year \$30	3 Years \$75
OVERSEAS	1 Year \$40	3 Years \$105
New Rates Effective March 31, 2001		

~ CONTENTS ~

INSIDE FRONT COVER:
NHS-78 Editorial.....By **ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**

PAGE 1**THE NEW VOIGTLANDER BESSA 'R2S' HAS ARRIVED!!**
by **STEPHEN GANDY**

PAGE 6.....**A BESSA 'R2S' USER REPORT**
by **TOM ABRAHAMSSON**

PAGE 10**NIPPON KOGAKU CIRCA 1951 RARE VINTAGE FACTORY PHOTOS!**
by **TONY HURST & CY MEYER**

PAGE 12**THE 'COOK & PERKINS' ADAPTER**
by **PAUL BONNER**

PAGE 14.....**THE 'NHS' MEMBER SURVEY PROJECT.....PART II**
by **DON DEDERA**

PAGE 20..... **CLASSIFIED ADS**
NEW MEMBERS & ADDRESSES

INSIDE BACK COVER**EARLY DUPE # NIKKOR**
by **TOM ABRAHAMSSON**

NHS-79 DEADLINE!
The deadline for the next issue of our **NIKON JOURNAL**, **NHS-79**, is **March 1, 2003**. Please, you must get all letters and contributions to me by that date! *Thanks! RJR.*

EDITORIAL

As we enter 2003, I hope that everyone had a healthy and happy holiday season and that the New Year brings prosperity and success to each and everyone of you.

The last year has been an eventful one for the Society and camera collecting in general. We had our 8th Convention in Scottsdale which was a great time for everyone and another successful meeting. The auction scene has proven to be quite healthy, thank you, as more first rate sales are being held than ever before, now on both sides of the Atlantic. Sales are brisk, prices for fine collectible Nikons are firm, and more people are entering this great hobby. Even though digital is undoubtedly detracting from sales of conventional photo gear, and will continue to do so, interest in fine quality classic equipment is very strong. Maybe the surge of digital and plastic is actually a good thing. Put a fine mechanical Nikon next to nearly anything coming off the assembly lines today by anybody and you can't help but appreciate how things used to be! It is up to us to preserve not only the hardware, but also the history of an era that may all to soon be completely gone.

The year also saw the introduction of the first new lenses for the Nikon RF mount in 40 years AND now, the first new body to possess that venerable mount. In this issue we have two lead articles on the just released (mid-November) Cosina Bessa R2S camera with a Nikon RF mount! Stephen Gandy from a review of features point of view, and Tom Abrahamsson from that of a user. I have one and I must say it makes you want to put one of your RF Nikkors on it and run out and shoot. It has the best finder, fastest shutter and only meter ever on a Nikon S mount camera. Try it, you might like it! And if you do you might be interested in supporting the possibility of a special one for the NHS. See page 16 for more info.

Also this issue is an article by Paul Bonner on yet another adapter to mount RF Nikkors on a Leica, this one made in England! Tony Hurst not only reproduced a vintage Nikon display stand (see back cover) but also has some unique photos of the Nikon factory from 1951 taken by an American serviceman stationed in Japan. The first time they have ever been published.

We also have the second, and final, installment of Don Dederer's member survey about how we as a group deal with our collections, and what plans we have for their collective futures. I want to thank Don for going through the work required to put this survey together, a very time consuming project.

And now I would like to announce that plans for NHS-Con9 have begun to fall into place. Some of you in Scottsdale were hoping that the next meeting might be in Tokyo. Well, it looks like it just might happen! I have recently heard from member Akito Tamla, who organized the 1996 meeting in Japan, that the Tokyo Nikon Club would like to host it again! It will 'probably' be near the end of February 2004, or just over one year from when you receive this issue. Exact dates will be published as soon as we can ascertain when the 2004 Matsuya Camera Show will be held (see pg 17). But start making your plans now. Those who came in 1996 had a great time and I know we will again. Japan is a fascinating and wonderful place to visit. New sights, new culture, new food, and more Nikons than you can imagine. There must be 30 camera stores in the Ginza alone! A window shoppers paradise for sure! So watch these pages for up to date facts and information, and set your sights on Tokyo in 2004!

RJR

CLASSIC NIKON RF MOUNT IS 'REBORN'!!

THE NEW COSINA "R2S" HAS ARRIVED!!

BY STEPHEN GANDY

At Photokina 2002, Cosina officially announced the new Voigtlander Bessa R2S and R2C bodies in classic Nikon and Contax rangefinder mounts. This is really BIG news for lovers of these grand old systems. These mounts were long considered dead relics of the past. These new Voigtlanders offer the first production metered cameras ever in these mounts, not to mention the brightest Range/viewfinders. Cosina also announced 3 new multicoated SC lenses: 28/3.5, 50/2.5 and 85/3.5 APO to go with the already available 21/4, 25/4 and 35/2.5 optics. In addition the new 12/5.6 and 15/4.5 super wide SL lenses in Nikon AI mount which fit the new Bessas via an adapter, the first wider than 21mm lenses ever offered to classic Nikon and Contax fans!

Had the R2S and R2C been introduced in the late 1950's, they would have been hailed as cameras of the 'future', the most technologically advanced rangefinders ever. As they cross the end of the production line a half century later, the new Bessas are ancient dinosaur throwbacks in a digital plastic world...but lovable dinosaurs all the same.

Here is a list of Nikon RF "firsts" for these new Bessas:

- 1st production TTL metering
- 1st 1/2000th second top speed
- 1st 1/125th second flash synch
- 1st factory made optional baseplate trigger winder
- 1st easy swing open back
- 1st film type confirmation window
- 1st regular production cameras with this mount in 40 years
- 1st regular production multi-coated Nikon RF fit lenses
- 1st with LED's in finder and a hot shoe

The R2C/S shutter and meter are the same as used in the other Bessa models. It is a modified Copal with vertical blades with an inner shutter and outer light tight shutter, which the meter reads from. It uses a silicon cell with a range of EV1 to 19 at ISO 100 (f1.4 at 1 sec. to f/16 at 1/2000th), and is powered by 2 easy

to find silver SR44 batteries (no hard to find lithiums like the M7). The film advance is ratcheted for single or multiple strokes. There is no self timer or provision for multiple exposures.

Cosina is the ONLY manufacturer EVER to produce ALL four major classic 35mm RF mounts—Leica screw, Leica M, Nikon RF and Contax RF. Cosina is the world's largest maker of interchangeable 35mm RF lenses in terms of 1) number of different

focal lengths and speeds offered and 2) the largest number of mounts (4). While some old timers complain that Cosina dares to use the venerable Voigtlander name, the fact remains that their classic rangefinder production over the last 4 years is, quite simply, remarkable and unprecedented. NEVER have so many different rangefinders been introduced so quickly, in so many mounts, with so many lenses and so many choices of finders: NEVER. Thank you, Mr. Kobayashi.

The R2S and R2C look very similar. The outward differences are the top plate inscriptions and the all chrome focusing helical of the R2C vs. the Nikon SP style black and chrome mount on the R2S. The addition of the metal front plate and focusing wheel make the cameras look more robust than their R2 M mount cousin, and a bit quieter because of the sound absorption. Initially only



black bodies will be available. The shutter release button is extended about 1/16" which makes the release a bit smoother than the R2, kind of like a built-in Mini Soft Release.

The meter readout has 3 red LED's at the bottom of the finder that are easily seen. You depress the release slightly to activate the meter. The LED's will stay on as long as you depress the release, and will turn off about 15 sec. after you let off on the pressure. The center LED is a red circle. On either side are red triangles with a + and -. Turn either the aperture scale or shutter speed dial in the direction indicated by the +/- LED to get the correct exposure. The meter is centerweighted, and reads off the outer shutter curtain.

The R2S/C viewfinder and RF patch are far and away the brightest and clearest ever in any Nikon or Contax camera. No other cameras in these mounts even come close. They are easily the most convenient shooters for Nikon and Contax RF lenses. If you are tired of making excuses why your Nikon finders don't compare well with the Leica M series, these new Bessas are for you. The 35,50 and 85 projected brightlines are manually selected from the top plate. Only ONE frame is visible at a time. Having a nice clean uncluttered finder is a very nice change, after dealing with the doubled up frameline pairs on the M6/M7. There are no 105 or 135 framelines. The effective base length of the Bessa R2 series is not long enough to CONSISTENTLY focus the likes of a 50/1.1, 85/2 or 1.5, 105/2.5 or 135/3.5 WIDE open and CLOSE UP. *However, focus those same lenses at 25ft and beyond, and you will probably do just fine.* If you decide to shoot a 105 or 135, you may be able to get by without an accessory finder by estimating a smaller portion of the 85 frameline. But really, even the current M7 works better with wides and normals, the accepted "forte" of the rangefinder 35.

These Cosina made mounts are beautifully machined and work smoothly, just as if they were products of the Nikon or Zeiss factories. Of course some diehards will huff and puff claiming this is impossible. Well, hold onto your pronouncements until you examine one of the new Bessas, otherwise you may end up with Voigtlander on your face. Mr. Kobayashi has quite simply done a wonderful job of reproducing these difficult to make classic lens mounts.

Why two mounts? Nikon chose back in 1946 to modify the Contax mount for a slightly different standard focal length normal lens, which resulted in compatibility problems. Thus Nikon had to produce normal and tele lenses in both Nikon and Contax configurations during the RF era. Nippon Kogaku's lens mount modification was such a monumental screw up that it's a wonder the fledgling camera company survived that choice.

What about lens compatibility? I tried Zeiss lenses from the 21mm Biogon to the pre-war 180 RF coupled lens for the Contax I, and Nikon RF lenses from the 25 to the 135. Most worked fine, with a few exceptions.

- 21/4.5 Biogon will mount and work fine, even providing TTL metering, IF you remove the rear element collar by simply removing 2 small screws. It is easy to re-mount it.
- 21/4 Nikkor will NOT mount
- 35/2.8 pre-war Biogon (and the Russian 35/2.8) will NOT mount at all, due to the larger rear element. The post war West German 35/2.8 Biogon will work fine.

- Collapsible 50's: the body has cutouts in the light chamber to prevent collapsible lenses going too far in and damaging the shutter, but SOME lenses might still make it through to the shutter. The pre war Zeiss 50/2 Sonnar that I tried could be collapsed completely into the body. The black Contax I 50/3.5 Tessar went about 1/2 of the way before meeting the cutouts. Even with the light chamber cutouts, remember to GENTLY collapse the lenses, otherwise you may end up with paint or metal shavings from the lens saying 'HI' to the camera body, which could jam the shutter.

The new "KILLER AP" (in computer lingo) is the BODY Cap. Mr. Kobayashi has invented by far the BEST body cap EVER for these cameras. Vintage Nikon or Contax body caps are not only hard to find and expensive due to collector interest, they fail to lock in place and are a bit flimsy. The new Voigtlander body cap locks nicely in place, and must be released like a lens to be removed. Considering the shortage of genuine Nikon caps, Cosina may have to build a new factory just to keep up with the body cap demand!

Cosina currently makes the largest range of accessory RF finders EVER made by any 35mm manufacturer, offering direct vision 12, 15, 21, 25, 28, 35, 50,75 and 90 finders (most are brightlines), as well as the unique low angle finder for the 12, 15, 21 and 25 wides. Personally I prefer single focal length finders due to their larger and brighter image, however you can use multi-finders, like the Nikon Varifocal with a 28 attachment.

The new Bessas mount the standard Bessa Trigger Winder. It amounts to a hand-operated motor drive, which never needs batteries. The winder is most useful if you shoot "left eyed", or if you need up to 3 fps to cover action. The winder's strap lugs also give you the option to carry the camera vertically. The winder will attach or remove without affecting the film, something not possible with the Leica M series motors, Leicavits, or RapidWinders. Incidentally, the Bessa winder is the ONLY production trigger ever made for any Nikon or Contax mount RF, so appreciate it. The very limited production SP trigger, NOT made by Nikon, is worth about \$4000 to collectors.

The new Bessa R2S and R2C are a godsend to owners of classic Nikon, Contax, or Kiev lenses. They are so superior in terms of overall shooting convenience, the older cameras are left drowning in their own hypo. Admittedly, however, the older cameras do have the advantage in terms of quality construction and finish.

The MOST AMAZING part of this story is that the new Bessa R2S and R2C were made at ALL! No one in their right mind would have predicted a few years ago that ANY new camera in these classic and long discontinued mounts would ever see the light at the end of the production line. It is ASTOUNDING to see such cameras, 4 decades after their original manufacturers discontinued them. Conventional wisdom was that such a market is too small to be profitable, that they would never sell. Yet Cosina's CEO, Mr. Kobayashi, enjoys going against conventional wisdom to give the classic rangefinder buffs what they want. He has achieved what NO RF maker EVER did in the glory days of the rangefinder 35: Cosina manufactures ALL FOUR classic rangefinder camera mounts. Thank you, Mr. Kobayashi!

(Text & Photos Copyright 2002 Stephen Gandy, all rights reserved.)



The R2S maintains the classic Nikon focusing wheel & lens lock controls. Cosina has faithfully duplicated the original dual lensmount, and it is a beautiful rendition with action as smooth as that on any SP, maybe smoother, but then it is brand new & benefits from modern technology & lubricants. The frame selector is top mounted & convenient to use. Unlike the SP, only one frame at a time is visible. The result; an uncluttered & clean viewfinder. The shutter release is slightly elevated making it easy to use & very smooth. A great improvement over the original Nikon RFs.





The original and the new baby. They each have their strong points. The 85/f2 Nikkor can be used on the R2S even wide open at 10-12 feet and beyond. Possibly at closer distances the RF might not be 100% accurate because of its shorter base. A few test rolls should tell you that either way, but the RF is so easy to focus to my old eyes. Given that the lens used is in excellent or better mechanical condition & focuses smoothly, the R2S should handle all Nikkors up to at least 105mm. The very well designed and manufactured body cap mentioned in the text. Beautifully done and such an obvious solution! Now why couldn't Nikon have made such an item? Far superior to the original. Cosina has also released an 85mm lens, this one an f3.5 APO that should prove to be very sharp. Slow for sure, but with enough light it should prove a very useful lens. But..... try out the f2 Nikkor first. It is one of the best lenses Nikon ever made for the rangefinders





The R2S takes the Cosine made Triggerwinder making it the first ever Nikon/Contax mount body to do so! Nippon Kogaku once had a trigger for the model S on the drawing boards but never made it because the S2 had a rapid wind lever. But a trigger has its uses and I can't wait to put one on my R2S. A nice R2S starter outfit: R2S with 50/f1.1 Nikkor, black SP with 25/f4 Nikkor, 21/f4 SC Voigtlander, 35/f1.8 Nikkor, 50/f3.5 Micro-Nikkor, Nikon SP with f2 Nikkor, black 85/f2 Nikkor and 105/f2.5 Nikkor. Now how is this for a shooting outfit?? (All photos (except R2S with 85/f3.5 APO) by Stephen Gandy.



BESSA "R2S" USER REPORT...

BY TOM ABRAHAMSSON

Back in the days when Tri-X was king and Leica M's feasted every press photographer (at least in Europe), now and then someone would show up with a Nikon RF, first the S2 and later the SP or an S3, and we all looked at these cameras and wondered what kind of beasts they were. The Contax copy rangefinder "wheel" brought out some derogatory remarks from the old-timers, but those lenses had us drooling. The 50/f1.1, the 35/f1.8, and the massive 85/f1.5 did create a certain "lens-envy" but there was really no serious distribution of Nikon RF's in Scandinavia, so we lusted in vain in most cases. Of course, once the Nikon F showed up we all lusted after those and even got them issued by the newspapers. The RF Nikons remained elusive and slightly "mystic" to us and we kept hammering away with our M2's, M3's and occasional MP's. I still remember borrowing an SP with S36 motor drive and being amazed at the range of framelines in the finder. It even had a 28 field! It was not a great 28 finder by any standards and the "stacking" of framelines

when you cranked your dial to 135 took some getting used to. It was not until we settled in Canada that I could begin to sate the Nikon RF lust. Even though not plentiful, they were available and I quickly got hold of some. Over the years my interest has waxed and waned, depending on what type of photography I was doing, but at any given time I usually had at least one or two Nikon S or S2's around, with some of my favorite pieces of Nikon glass, the 35/f1.8, the 50/f2 and the formidable 105/f2.5. Lately my desire for some Nikon RF has been filled with the benign help of Robert Rotoloni and I have even been to two NHS-Cons (and enjoyed them very much).

In February I went to the Scottsdale meeting and then on to PMA in Orlando. There we met with Mr. Kobayashi of Cosina and at a dinner, he proceeded to pull out some "new ideas" from his bag. This included a Bessa R2 with an S-C mount on it and a top plate looking somewhat like an SP. Now we have all heard about the SP2 and SPX of the 60's and most likely we have been thinking, "the S2 and SP are truly nice cameras, but if only we could get a meter in it and some brighter finders. Well, now it is

here! About a month ago I received a Bessa R2S and R2C from Cosina and as I already had the 21/f4, 25/f4 and 35/f2.5 Voigtlander lenses in SC mount (as well as a motley collection of Nikkor SC lenses (25/f4, 35/f3.5, 50/f1.4 and 105/f2.5) I proceeded to put these cameras to use and run them against my SP, S2 and S.

First and foremost, the R2S finder is a huge improvement over the Nikons. It is bright, contrasty and in 35 mode, pretty close to a 1:1 magnification. You can shoot with both eyes open, a major benefit. The only other finder in the Nikon line that comes close is the 50 in the S2. The meter is the same as in the

Bessa R and R2 (screw mount and M-bayonet respectively) and this is a great meter. It is fully as good as the Leica M6/M6TTL meter, but it does not have the same heavy drain on batteries as the M-meter has. I seem to get around 100-150 rolls with a set of SR-44/76's with the Bessa against 40-50 with the M6TTL (and a meager 25-30 with the M7). The die-cast body of the R2S/C



is quite hefty and feels solid. The shutter is noisier than the Leica M and Nikon SP/S3 but not disturbingly so. In most cases ambient noise will mask the shutter. I wish that the R2S had the 105 frame in it. It is possible to use the 85 frame and "mentally" crop, but a set of lines for the 105 would be nice. The 105/2.5 still remains one of the great lenses of all time and the top mounted auxiliary finder is a hassle. Oh, well I can live with it, but one can always hope. Another major benefit with the R2S/C is that you can use the Voigtlander Triggerwinder on it. I make a similar product for Leicas (and have been doing it for 15 years) and I frequently get asked "why don't you make a triggerwinder for the S2/SP?" Well, now you can get one and I don't have to do anything! If you are a left-eye shooter this is the only way to go.

In the process of putting together this article I went back over my negative files and pulled some stuff that I had been shooting with the S/S2 and SP (a well seasoned example that is exemplary smooth and certainly does not warrant "babying" in use) and the currently available Voigtlander SC lenses. Most photographers have "favorite" focal lengths that they use. Mine

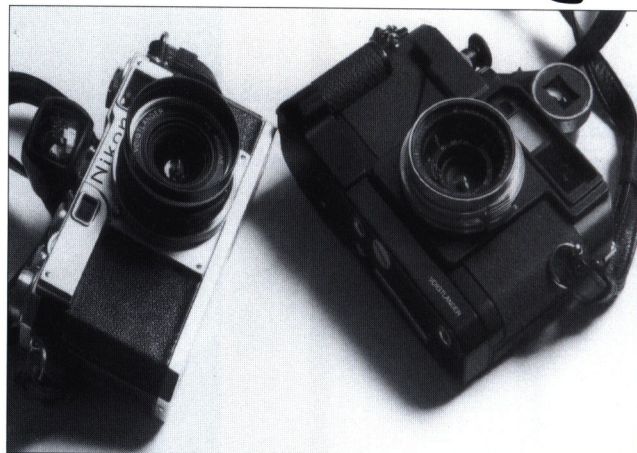
are the 35 and 21, but in 1999 I got one of Mr. Kobayashi's first lenses, a "Snap-Shot Skopar" in screw mount. It is a tiny lens, modest aperture f4 and 25mm focal length. It does not couple to the Leica rangefinder, but in most cases the depth of field covers up any mistakes. It soon became my 2nd choice for street shooting, partly because it's angle of view, which takes in a bit more than the 35, but with less distortion than the 21, and partly because it is an amazingly sharp and contrasty lens! Once I got my 25/f4 V-SC lens it has more or less been on my S2 all the time. The optical performance in the SC mount is just as good as the "Snap-Shot Skopar" in screw mount, but with the added feature of being coupled to the Nikon rangefinder. The original Nikkor 25/f4 is, apart from being rare and expensive, prone to flare and it has a truly weird aperture ring! It is interesting to see how much advancement has been made in lens-design since the mid-fifties. The 21 and 25 Nikkors were top-flight performers then and today, compared with the Voigtlander 21 and 25, they are barely adequate for pulling 11x14 and 16x20 prints.

The 35/f3.5 and f2.5 Nikkors suffered somewhat by being upstaged by the 35/f2 Summicron from Leica (a lens that even in its earliest configuration from 1958 is still a formidable piece of glass). The 35/f1.8 is rare and expensive and, truthfully, it is a 'wee bit' prone to flare. The 35/f2.5 Voigtlander is a step forward in this array. I have used it in Leica mount for several years and I would compare it to the 1980's Summicron in performance and in the SC mount it comes off just as well. I had the privilege to see Mr. Kobayashi's latest Leica mount lens at Photokina, a stunning 35/f1.2 with three aspherical surfaces! Talk about pushing the optical envelope again! Now, I wonder if that lens could be made to fit an SP or Bessa R2S!

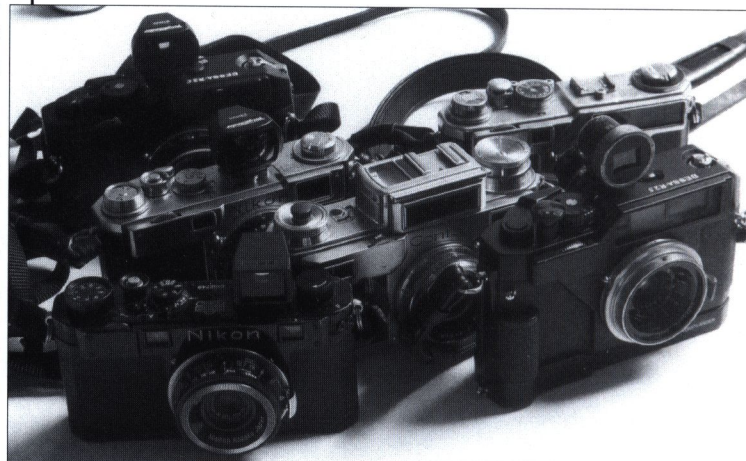
At Photokina I saw some new lenses for the R2S and R2C. The 28/f3.5 with external finder, a 50/f2.5 Color Skopar and the 85/f3.5 Apo-Lanthar as well as a 50/f1.5 Aspherical Nokton. I did not have a chance to use these lenses, but I have the same lenses in screw mount and they are as good as it gets in these focal lengths and speeds. In particular the 50/f2.5 and 28/f3.5 lenses have shown themselves to be very sharp and with nice contrast. There is another reason for getting the Voigtlander S-C lenses—they are all external mount and once the 50/f2.5 and/or the f1.5 are available, my 50/f1.4 Nikkor will be delegated to the lens drawer and only taken out and used when I want to remember how miserable that "infernal", sorry, internal mount is!

Most of what I have stated about the Bessa R2S is also valid for the R2C, with the caveat that lenses 50mm and beyond have a different helix and mixing and matching is only recommended for the wides. Suits me fine as the 25/f4 sits on the R2C and the 105/f2.5 on the R2S with the 50/f1.4 on the SP or S2 (while I am waiting for the external mount 50/f2.5 or 1.5).

So, unwrap all those old Nikkors and put them to use. Get an R2S for the meter, flash synch and top-speed, or just because it is much less than a mintish S2/S3 or SP and enjoy using that 35/f1.8 or 85/f2. Of course, if you also are a Contax fan, now you can actually release the shutter on your Bessa R2C without fear of the "rattle" that indicates that one of the bands has broken and the shutter curtain is now a small and oh so expensive little pile of brass "slats". Oh, by the way, the 50/f1.5 Sonnar is a great lens for contrasty scenes as it truly tames the brights, at least in black and white.



Opposite.. Convenient little package; SP & 35/2.5 VC lens & R2S with 1.4 Nikkor. This & a pocketful of Tri-X would take care of an afternoon walk. Top.. New & old combined; S2 & VC 25/f4 & finder & R2S with the venerable Nikkor 25/f4 & its rather dismal finder. The Voigtlander finders are superb, brighter & contrastier than any other you will find. Above.. The 'perfect' Nikon RF outfit: R2S & 105/f2.5 & a Leica finder, SP with 1.4 (at least until the 50/2.5 or 1.5 VC lenses are available) & an S2 with the 25/f4. This is a 90% outfit in my book. You can shoot almost everything with this. Below.. It is amazing how many Nikon & Contax mount bodies I have accumulated over the years. A quick search of the camera cabinet unearthed these & the two Bessas.



Large wood carving by native artist Bill Reid. Vancouver's Museum of Anthropology (a must see on any trip to Vancouver).

Nikon SP with 21mm/f4 Voigtlander SC lens.



British sport car meet in Vancouver. Classic E-type Jaguars (any crack about the hoods being up will be considered uncouth by the owners!)

The 25mm/f4 Voigtlander lens is superb. Taken with a Nikon SP.





One classic design (the Volkswagen Beetle) and another not so classic (Vancouver apartment building). Taken with a Cosina R2S and the Voigtlander 35mm/f2.5 SC lens.

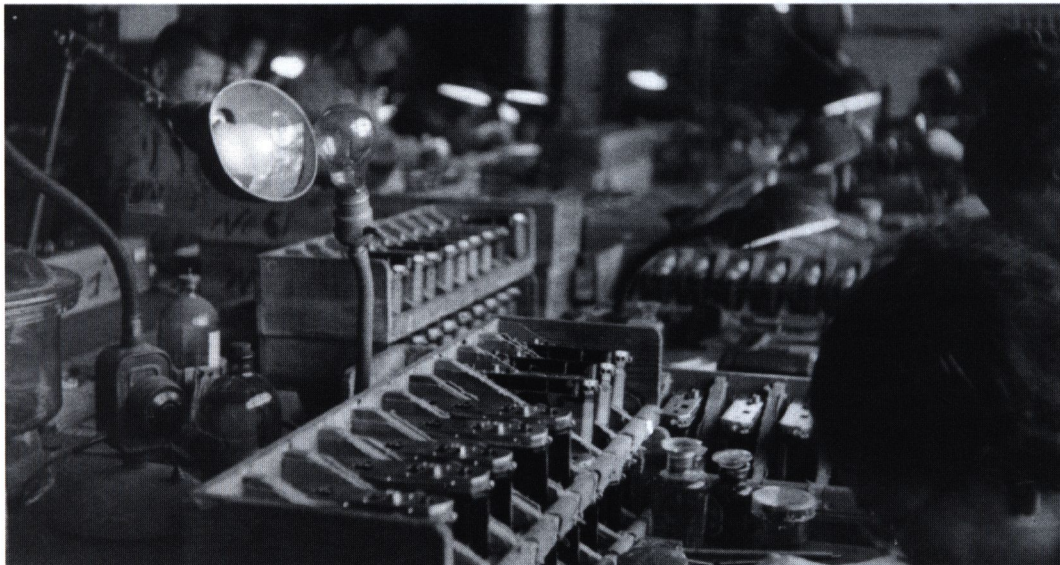
Mr. Kobayashi and Mr. Kato from Cosina at Photokina. In the foreground the 35mm/f1.2 in Leica M-mount, surrounded by a variety of SC mounts. There are 21's, 25's, a 28/f3.5, a 35/f2.5, 50/f2.5 and 1.5 as well as a 85/f3.5 APO-Lanthar. Also a Nikon F with the 12/f5.6 on it & at the far left, a Bessa R2 with a 12/f5.6 Nikon F lens and the adapter. It is amazing what I can find each time I meet with Mr. Kobayashi! (Text and photos by Tom Abrahamsson)



10

NIPPON KOGAKU

CIRCA 1951



BY TONY HURST WITH CY MEYER & DANNY HUSTA

The year was 1951, and Danny Husta went to pick up the latest camera from the Nikon factory in Ohi, Shinagawa. While there he befriended a Nippon Kogaku employee and we are fortunate that this meeting led to the opportunity for Mr. Husta to take some informal and unposed photographs of the production line for the Nikon S and its Nikkor lenses.

These are not the normal corporate public relations type handouts that would have been well organized, tidy, and the workers white coated. Instead we see actual production scenes, "warts and all", giving the appearance of chaos, but to be charitable, organized chaos. Compare these photos against a 1950s Zeiss public relation photo which is so precise, neat, spotless and regimentated.

Also included here is a reproduction of a letter from General Headquarters: Economic and Scientific Section, which makes a point of acknowledging Nippon Kogaku's fine products. Japanese companies were really up against a wall back then. Unlike Germany, they received no "Marshall Plan" aid from the allies. They had to struggle against a shortage of quality raw materials, a lack of proper finances, and most of all, the West's wrongly held view that Japanese products were shoddy copies. The Korean War changed everything, and the rest is history.

Cy and myself would like to express our appreciation to Danny Husta for the use of his personal photographs.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Economic and Scientific Section

6 January 1951


Dear Mr. Hageoka,

It was with extreme interest that I read the article in the New York Times of December 10, 1950 on the superior quality of the Nikon camera and the Nikkor lenses. It is gratifying to note that your company has been accorded world recognition in a most difficult field which demands extensive scientific knowledge and exceptional mechanical skill.

It has been my contention that Japanese export industry should adjust itself to compete in the world markets on a basis of quality. It has been a firm conviction that Japanese industry is capable of doing this successfully and consequently it was most satisfying to learn that your company has justified this opinion.

I wish to extend to you and your fellow workers my congratulations on your accomplishments and am sure that you will reap the benefits in an expansion of sales and even greater world acclaim of your product. The employees of Nippon Kogaku may take pride in making a substantial contribution toward the rebuilding of the economy of their country.

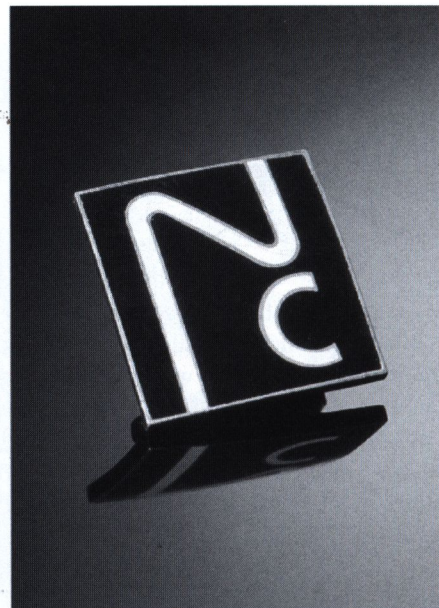
Most cordially,


W. F. MARQUAT
Major General, U. S. Army
Chief, Economic and Scientific Section

Mr. Masao Hageoka, President
Nippon Kogaku K. K.
5447, Oi-Morinicho
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo

Top photo..The final assembly area for the Nikon S. Note the lack of any "assembly line". The process visible here is what is known as "bench built", a time honored method once prevalent in the industry, but no longer economically feasible.

Above..A letter to the President of Nippon Kogaku from W.F. Marquat, Major General, U.S. Army Chief. Economic and Scientific Section dated Jan. 6, 1951.



*Above, left..Zeiss production optical glass being graded.
Center..Danny Husta showing his new Nikon S aboard ship
at Yokosuka Naval Base. Right..“Nikon Club” pin thought
to be from 1951. If so, it may be the earliest such version
known.*

*Below center..A perfect example of “bench built” as lens
mounts are fitted to Nikon S bodies, one-at-a-time! Bottom,
left..Camera body sub-assembly. Notice in the mid-foreground
a very young boy apprentice. Bottom, right..Lens coating with
Magnesium Flouride using bell jars!*



THE 'COOK & PERKINS ADAPTER'

BY PAUL BONNER

NHS members who can reach back in their memories to NHS-Con4 in Holland in 1994 will recall their surprise when Dietmar Machold produced a Leica with a Nikkor attached. The surprise was not that a Nikkor could be attached to the German marque—the Japanese Orion Lens Coupler had been described by Robert Rotoloni in the previous edition of the Journal (NHS-42). The surprise was this particular lens adapter. Dietmar's was made by Cook & Perkins of London.

We Brits were rather ashamed that we knew so little about this company, Cook & Perkins. Since 1994 I have acquired a C&P adapter and used it to attach (via a 36M screw-to-bayonet converter) a 5cm f1.4 Nikkor to my M6 (see pictures). The C&P turns out to be truly a coupler, in that the M6 focusing mechanism works accurately with the Nikkor—as the picture of the lilies and the infinity shot of the windmill show. Close scrutiny of the latter reveals the Nikkor's slight loss of quality at the edges at f16!).

More astonishing perhaps is the fact that the TTL metering on the M6 performs entirely accurately as well. The only difficulty arises with the viewfinder frame.

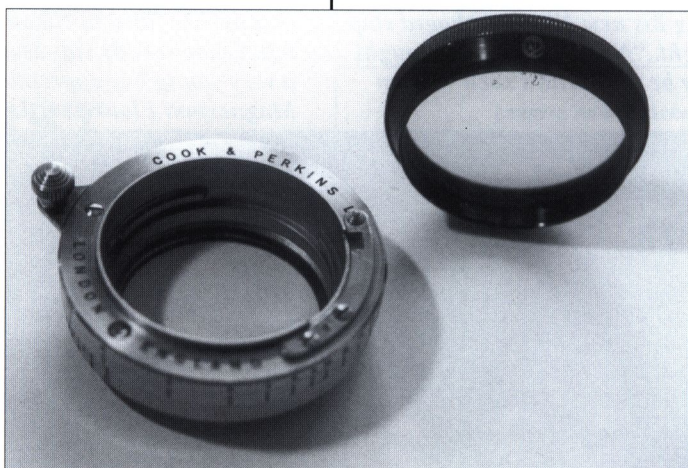
The C&P adapter throws up the frame for the 90mm lens. However, on the M6 there is a frame selector lever and the 50mm frame can be held in manually for shooting.

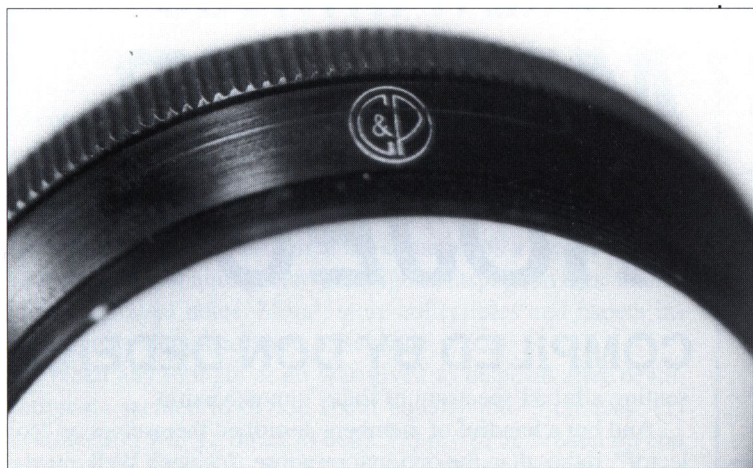
I am now researching the background to the adapter. It appears to have been produced for a British government contract (or at least with government encouragement) to allow a greater interchange of lenses between Leicas (and the British Leica copy, the Reid) and Contaxes. This was necessary because during World War II there was an acute shortage of precision 35mm cameras (a type that was key to battlefield and documentary coverage) in the UK, a shortage which lasted for some time after Germany was defeated.

Production appears to have taken place in small hand-made batches from around 1944 until perhaps the mid-1950s. The number of mounts produced is unverifiable at this time. One informant hazards a guess of around 800 but points out that the rate of battlefield and general military and journalistic attrition of this accessory is likely to mean there are many less surviving mounts than the total.

Interestingly my coupler does work equally well with Contax and Nikkor lenses—overcoming the minor differences in the two companies' mounts. This would point to mine being a very late version (it is un-numbered), made after the first Nikon lenses had appeared in the UK. The Orion Coupler also achieved this complex engineering feat. However, the Orion does have one key advantage over the C&P. It can take external mount Nikkors while the C&P cannot do so.

The Cook & Perkins optical company appears to have gone out of business sometime in the 1960s. Recently I discovered that the company had made other Leica fitting attachments, like the yellow filter shown here, with its distinctive logo and its remarkable genuine crocodile skin case! It was intended for Summitar and similar lenses. If any member knows about more C&P products, has any documents relating to the company or, best of all, knows anybody who actually worked there, please let me know personally at bonnerpaul@compuserve.com.





Page 12..The coupler with a C&P filter alongside and the unusual crocodile skin case for the filter. This page..The distinctive C&P logo on the filter. Standard Bonner shots of lilies & Ranger's house & windmill on Wimbledon Common, both with a 5cm/f1.4 Nikkor on a Leica M6. Shot on ISO 100 film with focusing and exposure carried out as usual using the camera's rangefinder & TTL meter. Photos-Paul Bonner.



THE 'NHS' MEMBER SURVEY PROJECT

INSTALLMENT II...

Forget the Golden Rule. Suspend those Ten Commandments. Repeal Kelly's Law. Here is the premium Fundamental Human Constant that governs war, marriage, work, travel, investing.....and collecting old Nikon stuff:

"Everything in this world is easier to get into than out of."

In the previous installment published September 30, 2002, preliminary results of our Journal membership survey suggested that despite the fate that awaits us all, we are not quite ready to go. The situation brings to mind the interview, conducted by the Los Angeles Times with the great Armenian-American author, William Saroyan a few days before his death, in which he was quoted, "Deep down I accept mankind's universal inevitable mortality, but in my case, I was hoping that Providence would make an exception."

In briefest summary our 2002 survey would conclude that the Nikon Historical Society is made up of mostly men, in aggregate growing older, conserving collections of camera nostalgia ranging in value from a few hundred US dollars to several million. Surprisingly (to the author) NHS members in general say they keep accurate, current inventories of their photographic treasure troves. Yet in apparent contradiction, in the main they have not fully informed their potential heirs of what is at stake. And perhaps most troubling: numerous members have made no provision for a final disposition.

But first consider the final tallies of the survey. We enjoyed a questionnaire return of about 15%. While I am not thrilled with the minority response, I am told in direct mail marketing a 2% reaction is thought to be good. A triple obstacle was imposed upon our participants. In this day of free, popular, instantaneous email, to take part in our survey members were required (1) to fill out a hard copy form,(2) supply and address a snail mail envelope and (3) affix at their own expense domestic or international postage. These obstacles alone may have skewed findings. In all honesty, too, your coordinator is not professionally trained in surveying organizational attitudes. All that said, it wouldn't take a George Gallup to perceive some glaring findings:

100% of returns....all of them....were from men.

All but 3 of the guys specified their ages as "50 years plus."

All but 5 responders reside in North America.

Not so emphatic is the profile of NHS membership tenure. On a quarter century time line representing the Society's existence, the ratio between new and old members was almost exactly 50-50. So it might be inferred that our survey drew responses repre-

COMPILED BY DON DEDERA

senting a broad spectrum of today's membership.

And but a handful of members described themselves as "collector", rather than the optional response, "dealer." Well, maybe. We all know dealers who are collectors, and vice versa. But the strong "collector" response says something meaningful about the self-image of the NHS. We are more a society of hobbyists than of commercialists. Faulting your interrogator, several NHS members thought that a 3rd category should have been offered...that is "user". Fair enough. We have some of those, too.

As to what we collect, predictably nearly all favor Nikon rangefinder and/or reflex, plus associated gear. Survey participants expressed interest also in collecting some two dozen other camera brands, ranging from Agfa to Zeiss. But statistically the clear runner-up among Nikon nuts is Leica, seriously sought by a solid one-third of the members. Oddly, only 3 confessed a fascination for the Contax, considered the design inspiration for the very first Nikons!

Here's another fascinating finding about appraised values of NHS collections. Exactly one-half estimated collection worth at less than US\$ 100,000; and the other half at more. A more pertinent disclosure, perhaps, is that for one-third, their collections represent from 20 -70% of their total net worth. While recognizing that falsehoods can be classified into *lies, damned lies and statistics*, a conclusion is all but obvious: many an NHS member will leave an estate including a camera collection of great worth.

Commendable bookkeepers, we generally maintain realistic up-to-date inventories of our collections. A weakness here, most of us rely upon our own knowledge and judgement in making appraisals of our collections. Why is it, then, that two-thirds confess that no provision by will or other testament has been made for final disposal? Moreover, most responders say they have not informed their potential beneficiaries of the money value of their camera collection. For some reason spouses and other likely heirs are kept in the dark.

Two other issues arose in informal discussions with NHS members. Nearly unanimously, informants admitted to a woeful lack of physical and electronic security against crime and calamity. It is true that a few shelters are equipped with expensive, state-of-art electronic safeguards in domicile and locker. Others rely on home alarm systems that, often as not, are routinely disabled (by the resident, not the burglar). My sense is that at least half of member collections enjoy zero protection beyond standard locks on windows and doors. The insurance picture is just as bleak. Most members hope they can count on some coverage

under their homeowner's policy. If indeed some day they suffer a loss to fire or theft, they will discover that the agent who sold the contract will be replaced by a third party adjuster dedicated to discounting and disqualifying claims. For starters, old cameras are assumed to be worthless. Establishing the true global value of a mint unsynched Nikon M might prove to be a daunting, even, impossible task when the camera lies a melted glob in a nest of ashes remaining from the original inspection tags, manuals and appraisal notes. Moral: store collectibles and papers including price documentation in separate places.

When any thought at all was given to disposal after death, sentiments seemed to divide about equally into 3 choices: (1) the collection will go intact to heirs, (2) it will be broken up and sold in pieces by family and friends, and (3) it will be liquidated by a dealer. In the latter instance, camera collectors emphatically voted for a dealer commission limited to 10-20% of the retail value. Of questionnaires completed only 4 pegged a proper dealer discount to be higher than 20%.

And what did our dealers say? Actually, about the same. In the beginning I had thought to quote some of them by name. I visited with acquaintances like Mike Otto, Al Nelson, Matt Duran, Bob Rotoloni, Emery Fletcher, Robert Warwick, Paul Garrett, Mike Symons, Bill Kraus, Bill Adams and Richard de Stoutz. Duran and Otto are prominent, international, fulltime dealers. Others dabble in selling and trading, through their own websites or at local camera shows. Their responses were so altogether similar, I chose to accept blame for over-simplification, and combine their advice into a thumbnail strategy:

If You Can't Take It With You, Then What?

In a card file, account book or computer, keep an inventory with solid data to support realistic values. If anything, be conservative. Inflating expected sales prices may make a collector feel good today, but it will cause heirs headaches tomorrow.

Every receipt and proof of purchase retained will become pure gold if and when the liquidation of a collection attracts the attention of the tax collector.

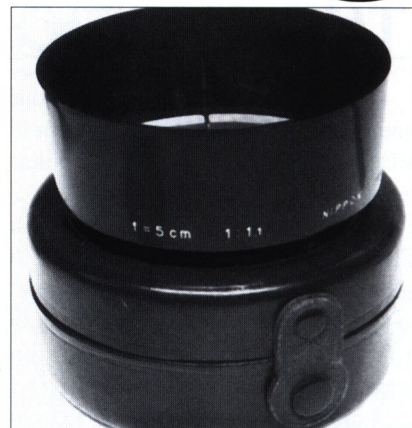
Lucky is the collector who can bequeath *in toto* his collection to heirs who are camera buffs. This neatly passes the problem off to somebody else.

Relying upon relatives and/or friends to profitably dispose of a complex, extensive collection piece by piece is potentially a blueprint for disaster. Typically nobody else knows a collection so intimately as the collector. Advertising, auctioning and peddling rare photographica is not without costs. These projects take time, lots of time, and probably travel. How is the Good Samaritan to be compensated for labors and expenses, it at all?

Which leaves a third choice...call upon the services of a reputable dealer. Here is what a collector may expect, as summed up in the words of a career dealer and co-owner of one of America's larger photographic mail order firms:

"Sure, there are a few bad apples, but we're not all crooks. Finding and acquiring quality collectibles is a major aspect of our business....we can't just fill out a wholesale order form and have a central warehouse next week send us a batch of Nikon Ones. Our reputation for fair dealing is about all we have going for us, and we won't last long by ripping people off.

The shade for the 50/1.1 Nikkor was less than a \$20 bill when new. Now they go for 100 times as much! A complete SP meter outfit like this one is now worth at least 20 times its original list! It is amazing how accessories for the RF Nikons have outstripped even the rarer bodies and lenses in today's market!



"Conversely, we can't operate on a 10 or 20% commission, not when the appraised value of a collection is exaggerated to begin with. Thirty percent and maybe more allows for errors, market fluctuations and hidden equipment damage that has to be fixed. Maybe you have a special camera, and you know one like it sold for \$5,000. That does not mean you can assume that yours is worth as much; in such a specialized market everything depends on the time and circumstance. For that moment, maybe there was only one customer willing to buy at that price, and another one won't appear for a year!

"As a rule regional and national dealers will travel any time, any place, to assess and bid on an important collection. It doesn't bother me that a client may be calling in several prospective buyers, but I'd like the courtesy of knowing the rules of the game. Frankly, I welcome a report of an independent, professional appraiser with some knowledge of cameras.

"A neophyte liquidating an estate probably shouldn't consider placing things on consignment. Those deals can drag on, and often turn messy and rancorous. A serious dealer should be ready to write a check for the whole collection. Then all parties can get on with their lives.

"If I had to boil down my best advice into a few sentences, I'd say, 'Assess the value of your collection the way a farmer looks at a field of hay. No blue sky. Then sit down with your loved ones and honestly discuss the true value and the best final plan. Cultivate the friendship of an honest, reliable dealer, and establish a working relationship. A written contract is neither necessary nor desirable. There are still some of us who operate by old fashioned standards of honesty and fairness.'

Given, you can't take it with you. But you can leave it in good hands.
Don Dedera

THE AUCTION SCENE

As mentioned in NHS-77, the month of November was a busy one for photographic auctions, with three major sales scheduled, all with something of interest to Nikon collectors. Here are those results that pertain to Nikons....

First up was Stan Tamarkin's sale held on November 3rd in Connecticut, which had 56 lots of Nikon RF equipment! The selection ranged from items as 'minor' as a chrome 135mm finder to the very rare 21mm Nikkor! In between were four SPs (1 with a f1.1 Nikkor), five S2s, one S3, three Ss and two Ms! As for lenses the aforementioned 21 & f1.1 were joined by 28s, 35s including the f1.8, 85s, 105s, 135s and the rare Micro. For accessories you could bid on meters, cases, finders, close-up attachments, varifocals, the 28mm attachment and the sports finder. Some of the hammer prices were...

85mm bright-line finder.....	\$600.00
Nikon Sportsfinder.....	\$600.00
35mm/f1.8 Nikkor.....	\$1,100.00
28mm/f3.5 chrome Nikkor (late).....	\$700.00
105mm/f4.0 Nikkor in RF mount.....	\$1,300.00
Nikon S with original box & case.....	\$1,000.00
Nikon S2 w/1.4 Nikkor.....	\$710.00
Nikon M w/35f3.5 MIOJ Nikkor.....	\$2,050.00
Nikon S3 w/2.0 Nikkor.....	\$2,010.00
Nikon SP w/1.4 Nikkor...2 lots.....	\$2,050.00 & \$2,150.00
Nikon SP w/f1.1 Nikkor & case.....	\$5,600.00
Micro-Nikkor f3.5 (no collar).....	\$3,300.00
21mm/f4 Nikkor w/caps & a Zeiss finder!.....	\$5,500.00

Christie's held their auction on November 19th, and although they only had seven Nikon RF lots, the sale was showcased by a very early Nikon One with an extremely early Nikkor lens! Also included were an S, three S2s and an S3. Results were...

Nikon I #609190 w/f2 Nikkor #7087.....	\$13,150.00
Boxed Nikon S w/4 Nikkor lenses.....	\$1,880.00
Nikon S2 w/f1.4 Nikkor.....	\$600.00
Nikon S2 w/3 Nikkor lenses.....	\$1,600.00
Nikon S3 w/f1.4 Nikkor.....	\$2,440.00

I think the winner of the Nikon One got a bargain!

Then there was the new auction held on November 15th at the Westlight Museum in Vienna, Austria. I mentioned in the last Journal that there was to be a **boxed black Nikon S3M** up for bids. It included the proper S72 motor and battery pack. It is one of the rarest of Nikon RF collectibles and the first S3M I've seen for sale in some time. Well, it did sell! Hold onto your chair....**The hammer price was \$60,500.00!!** However, this auction had a 25% buyer's premium so the final figure was **\$75,625.00!** All I can say is....**WOW!**

I know of no scheduled sales containing Nikons over the holiday period. If you know of any auctions or sales other than what I have covered here please let me know. I like to keep everyone informed as to what is going on out there. We can all watch eBay to keep abreast of current selling prices, but often times items of greater rarity turn up at the major auction houses, so keeping in touch with those prices is also very important. Whatever occurs before the next Journal will be covered in these pages so let me know.

RJR

<http://www.geh.org>

The website address above is that of The George Eastman House Museum (who by the way subscribe to our Journal for inclusion in their literature collection, the largest in the world!). Curator Todd Gustavson recently emailed me to mention that they had just added a selection of Nikon cameras to their site. Nikons such as Model One #609194, the very same camera used decades ago in the Marjoram Report reproduced in these pages, is part of a site with over **124,000 pages!** Anybody interested in nearly any aspect of the history of photography should take a look at this massive site.

KOCH BOOK UPDATE

The latest news from Uli Koch is that it appears the problems encountered with financing his book may have been solved in November. A new backer has been found and he hopes that the order to print the book will be given right after the first of the year. If it can be printed then it could be available by late March or so. As previously promised, I will keep you informed about the progress of his trilogy in these pages.

A SPECIAL 'NHS-R2S'

Most of us are familiar with the seemingly endless string of special Leica models (currently the long-lived M6) produced to commemorate various events, people and organizations. One of the best and most tasteful incarnations of the M6, I feel, is the one produced for the Leica Historical Society of America (LHSA). A beautiful black M6 with special markings and lens.

Over the years members have asked me if there could ever be a specially marked Nikon item for the NHS. My answer has been, probably not. Nikon has never approached me nor have I ever made contact with anyone within the company who could persuade them to do such a thing. Alas, we do not enjoy the close cooperative relationship the LHSA has with the Leica Company. The most recent item suggested was the S3 2000, but the retail price of that item seemed, to me at least, to place it out of reach of most interested parties. Any other suggestions?

Actually there is. Stephen Gandy and I are currently investigating the possibility of producing a special Bessa R2S with NHS markings, paperwork and serial number. This is still in the talking stage and it may not be exclusive to the NHS members but also the general public, such as the LHSA item. However, since the R2S is the first new camera in over 40 years that will allow Nikon collectors to use their vintage optics on a modern body (something Leica users have always been able to do), as well as the newer Voigtlander lenses, we feel that the NHS should participate with this "new" Nikon mount camera.

If any of you have a comment about our idea please let me know as soon as possible. As with the LHSA, any profits from this project would be used to support the society & improve the Journal as well as hold down dues costs. So please, let me know your thoughts. By the way, I just got my R2S and it is really a neat camera! Put your 35/1.8 Nikkor on it and you have a beautiful RF spot, fast shutter speeds, trigger wind and a meter! Finally a modern camera for our vintage lenses! RJR

JOIN ME IN THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE NIKON

NHS-CON9.. TOKYO 2004

I would like to announce that plans call for the next convention of the Nikon Historical Society, **NHS-Con9**, to be held in **Tokyo, Japan** in February/March 2004!! I have just heard from my old friend, Akito Tamla, that the Nikon Club Tokyo (Nikon Kenkyuukai), has agreed to again host our meeting in the Land of Nikon. This will be our second convention to be held there, the previous being NHS-Con5 in 1996. Tamla-san was also the organizer of that meeting and I am sure he will do yet another great job.

We do not have the exact dates as yet because we will want to schedule the convention to correspond with the annual Matsuya Camera Show, held at that large department store on the Ginza. Normally, the Matsuya show falls in the last 10 days of February but it might vary a little, so we need to wait to hear the exact dates from the organizers of that famous, and very large, camera show. As soon as we have the actual dates it will be announced in the Journal. Those of you who wish to attend can at least have a target window to plan for.

Many who attended the Scottsdale meeting expressed interest in going to Tokyo. Well, it looks like it is going to happen. At this time I have no answers to the many questions that are probably going through your minds right now, but I promise to publish as much factual information as possible in these pages as it comes to me. So, please, do not ask me yet for I know very little, only that they have agreed to take on the task of putting together NHS-Con9. February 2004, is just a few months past the 20th anniversary of the founding of this Society, and I think it is appropriate that we meet where the Nikon was born. I truly hope that as many as possible attend. Those of you who were there with me in 1996 can attest to the wonderful time we had. Japan is a marvelous and exciting place to visit. For many of you it will be your first time there but we will all be tourists for a week or so and enjoy one of the great cities of the world. I know I will!

So start thinking about it and setting the time and money aside. We will have hotel information for you but you will need to arrange your own air travel. See you there! 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

South Kensington

85 Old Brompton Road
London SW7 3LD

www.christies.com

'NHS' e-mail LIST!!

ROBERT ROTOLONI...rotoloni@msn.com

PETER ABRAHAMS.....telscope@europa.com
 Website...europa.com/~telscope/binotele.htm

TOM ABRAHAMSSON.....ttabrahams@aol.com

BILL ADAMS.....badams6456@aol.com

TED BACHO.....tedbacho@aol.com

DOUG BAKER.....dbaker9128@aol.com

JOB BAKKER.....visual.art@planet.nl

ROBERT BAKKER.....rscbakker@planet.nl

DAVE BARTH.....dvbarth@aol.com
 Website...starattraction.com

HARVEY BENNETT.....hbb1121@aol.com

SCOTT BILOTTA.....scott@vintagephoto.tv
 web site.....www.vintagephoto.tv

ALAN BLAKE.....arbel@btinternet.com

HANS BRAAKHUIS.....braak117@wxs.nl

CHRIS BRENT.....chris.brent@kingschool.uk.com

ALAN BRODY.....alancbrody@aol.com

PETER BRUNNER.....peter.bwreal@mighty.net

URS BRUNNER.....brunneru@heag.ch

JOSE MIGUEL CABARRUS.....miguel@philwebinc.com

LUIGI CANE.....snapshot@micronet.it

DANILO CAPUANI.....cadani@katamail.com

MARV CHAIT.....marv5555@aol.com

JOSEPH CHARLES.....jdcharles@alltel.net

SAM CLARK.....sclark@methodist.edu

ROBERT COOLIDGE.....rcoolidg@mindspring.com

BRUCE COWAN.....bruce.cowan@shaw.ca

LARS DACHNIO.....l.dachnio@cityweb.de

ALVIN DATTNER.....a.l.datt@nis4u.com

JEFF DEAN.....jeff.dean@att.net

PETER DECHERT.....pdek@att.net

DON DEDERA.....dondedera@aol.com

RICHARD deSTOUTZ.....destoutz@swissonline.ch

DONALD DINARO.....dondi@ptd.net

PAUL EICHENBERGER.....peichenberger@spalding.edu

UWE FLAMMER.....uweflammer@aol.com

JEFF FELTON.....jrfelton@earthlink.net
 Jfelton@westernu.edu

STEVE FISCHER.....steveandcatefisher@attbi.com

MILE GALOS.....mikegalos@msn.com

JOHN GOMPFE, JR......gompfer@ptdprolog.net

DON GRESOCK.....gresockdw@stic.net

PIERRE GOUTET.....pierre.goutet@wanadoo.fr

HARVEY HANSEN.....harvey@post8.tele.dk

MICHAL HANUSCAK.....mh@stonline.sk

JONATHAN HARRIS.....jon@jonathanharris.co.uk

HARRY HARPS.....hharps@lycos.com

RUDI HILLEBRAND.....hillebrand@photodeal.ne.uunet.de

LIONEL HOUDE.....lionelhoud@aol.com

TONY HURST.....tonyhurst@eircom.net
 Website...tonyhurstnikon.com

ED IANNI.....efi1153@aol.com

BILL JACKSON.....william.jackson@uchsc.edu

NICK JANNES.....jannes6@mchsi.com

RENE JANSSEN.....rene@renejanssen.com

GEORGE JENKINS.....jsuzgeo@aol.com

DON JONES.....dajones@fseild.freereserve.co.uk

JAN JONKER.....janj@nl.packardbell.org

TOSHIKAZU KATO.....tosy@attglobal.net

YUKI KAWAI.....kawai-tp@nifty.com

TONY KEKALOS.....tonyk@gtii.com

PETRA KELLERS.....Pkell1014@aol.com
 Website...camerabooks.com

ROBERT KNOWLES.....rknowles@syv.com

ULRICH KOCH.....uli_koch@t-online.de

LOTHAR KOENIG.....nhs@ikoenig.com

ERNIE KRALICK.....nikonsan@msn.com

BILL KRAUS.....william.kraus@atofina.com

FRED KRUGHOFF.....webmaster@romdog.com

WOLFGANG KUSTER.....w.a.kuester@gmx.de

REINHARD KUTTNER.....r.kuttner@chello.at

ROB LAFFER.....nikonf@aol.com

JERRY LADERBERG.....misterjelly22207@yahoo.com

RICHARD LANE.....carrlane@aol.com

JIM LEATHEM.....djleathem@flaglink.com

JOHN LEE.....jwlee01@alumni.poly.edu

GRAY LEVETT.....info@graysowestminster.co.uk

MATTHEW LIN.....matlin@netvigator.com

EBERHARD LOEFFLER.....eberhard.loeffler@balcab.ch

CHRIS LONN.....clonn1@san.rr.com

RONALD LoPINTO.....ronlopinto@prodigy.net

PETER LOWNDS.....nikon@qualitycamerashop.com
 Website...qualitycamerashop.com

ERNESTO LUCIDI.....e.luci@tiscalinet.it

KARL MANTYLA.....kftog@juno.com

JAMES MARTIN.....shatanaka@aol.com

MARK MASSARI.....mmassari@ucsd.edu

JOSEF MAYRHOEFER.....fotomayrhofer@fotomayrhofer.com
 Website...fotomayrhofer.com

'CY' MEYER.....cymeyer@theriver.com

VELI MIETTINEN.....veli.miettinen@hindu.pp.fi

CAROL MIKESH.....bjmikesh@aol.com

JOHN MILLHAM.....johnamillham@aol.com

BRIAN MUGALIAN.....bmugalian@sandc.com

DOUGLAS NAPIER.....douglas@dugwerks.com

WARREN NORRELL.....warren@minn.net

YASUYUKI OCHIAI.....sp5@ma2.justnet.ne.jp
 Website...www5.justnet.ne.jp/~sp2000/

MIKE OTTO.....pacrim@teleport.com

CHRIS OZDOBA.....chrisozdoba@netscape.net

TED PAPPAS.....tpappas999@aol.com
 Website...TedPappas.com

RICH PINTO.....photovilla@aol.com

BUD PRES GROVE.....budbudwatch@aol.com

RICHARD PURDIE.....rwpurdie@aol.com

ARTHUR QUINLAN.....aquinlan@quinlansomerville.com

DAN RANDAL.....danran3@aol.com

OLIVER REDDAWAY.....oliverreddaway@alpha.net.au

IGOR REZNIK.....igorcamera@aol.com

BOB ROGEN.....teamrogen@msn.com

JERRY ROLD.....jlrold@worldnet.att.net

PHILIPPE SALOMON.....psalomon@bluewin.ch

JOHN SANDERS.....sandersjm@aol.com

CHRISTOPHER SAP.....chris_sap2000@yahoo.com

SERGIO SASSO.....saxser@tin.it

AL SATTERWHITE.....avsfilm@earthlink.net
 Website...alsatterwhite.com

RUDOLF SCHENKER.....ruedischenker@freesurf.ch

PAUL SCHLOEGEL.....pschloegel@home.com

KEN SCHWARTZ.....kasedesign1@aol.com

STEVEN SCHWARTZ.....camerarts@msn.com

BOB SIMPSON.....bob@stonemills.net

PETER SMITH.....nikonsmith@aol.com

GARY STONE.....stonehouse@thegrid.net

TOM SUROVEK.....tomsurovek@aol.com

ROGER SWAN.....swanfoto@iafrica.com

MIKE SYMONS.....msymons6456@telus.net

AKITO TAMLA.....atam@fine.ocn.ne.jp

TOM THOMSON.....tthomson53@mediaone.net

ROBERT TRUDELL.....trudell@lv.rmci.net

G.H. TSURUOKA.....gtroka@aol.com

JEAN-PIERRE VERGINE.....jpvergine@compuserve.coml

PAUL-HENRY vanHASBROECK.....hasbroeck@aol.com

KENNETH WAGNER.....kenwag@aol.com

PETER WALNES.....p.walnes@fieldgrassandgale.com

ROBERT WARWICK.....triton.london@btinternet.com

MEL WILNER.....dplmd@nyc.rr.com

BRIAN WOLFE.....cameras@bpwld.com

RAY YOUNG.....alexnyankovic@juno.com

DALE ZICARELLI.....info@actioncamera.com

DANIEL ZIRINSKY.....camrbug@aol.com

NHS BACK ISSUE & REPRINT SERVICE!

AVAILABLE "ORIGINAL" BACKISSUES OF THE "NIKON JOURNAL" INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:

32, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76 & 77.

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

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

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

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL!!

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NIKON RF BLACK BODY SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR UPDATED & REVISED "NHS BLACK LIST" PUBLISHED IN NHS-77!

6180627 6206885 6321807

LETTERS..LETTERS...

From Dave Barth....

In the last Journal, you explain the reason for compiling a list of black Nikon RF cameras. Very interesting. I know that some Leica cameras have been faked, but I didn't know that Nikons were. I wonder how consistent the factory's black batches were and if they painted 1 or 2 bodies from time to time. As an adjunct to your black list, I suppose that a "red dot" F list could be created too. This might be of interest to the members as well.

From Robert Warwick...

I have been checking through the rangefinder bits and pieces bought some time ago from a London shop going out of business. Better not mention which one. Among the wheels, screws and front plates are two top plates in disrepair. One is an SP with black on top and chrome underneath, #6213858. The other is an S3, a rather piebald effect with patches of black paint on white metal, #6300226. Both these numbers appear on your "Fake Blacks" list in NHS-77! They are definitely out of circulation!

From Christopher Sap...

I would like to add a serial number to your list of "Fake Black" Nikon RF bodies published in NHS-77. Please add Nikon SP #6211497, a camera that has been very well done and almost impossible to tell as a fake!

(Robert and Christopher, thank you for the feedback. This is exactly the type of interaction I am looking for. In only this way can we improve our knowledge of this subject and keep our NHS lists accurate and up to date! I would hope that the members continue to report both legitimate and fake black body serial numbers to me. RJR)

FIELDGRASS & GALE

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



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

FIELDGRASS & GALE

Nicholsons Yard

Hinton St. Mary, Dorset DT101NF

PHONE: 01258471717 FAX: 01258471718

Email: p.walnes@fieldgrassandgale.com • www.fieldgrassandgale.com

BUYING ★ SELLING ★ TRADING

LEICA NIKON CONTAREX

Also Leica copies (Leotax, Hansa, Kardon, etc)
SINGLE ITEMS OR COMPLETE COLLECTIONS

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

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

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

Leica 0 (null series) no.126, Leica I Anastigmat no.221 (illustrated p.126 'Leica Collection', Shinichi Nakamura), dialset and rimset Compars. Leica II 'Luxus' (illustrated p.34 'Leica in Colour' van Hasbroeck). Leica 7Z, (Canadian, German and prototypes). 250 'Reporter' both FF and GG, black IIIf and IIIg (Swedish army), pre-production Ig and IIg bodies (some illustrated in Lager vol.1), 33/3.5 Stenar 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 point. Also Leicaflex mk.1 and mk.2 bodies in black point finish. Early Leica copies including several Hansas, Canon J, Canon JS, Canon S, Leotax Specials (various models, all with correct and original Letona 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.

20

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 Thanks!

NEW MEMBERS

GLENN BRADY
P.O. BOX 512
COLUMBUS, NC 28722

WILLIAM G. FISCHER, JR., M.D.
215 N. MADISON ST.
HINSDALE, IL 60521

JAY HIDY
13531 OLD OAK WAY
SARATOGA, CA 95070

WILLIAM HUNTER
1502 PINE SHADOWS DR.
MEMPHIS, TN 38120

ENZO MAZZEO
VIA BONITO, TRAV. PRIV. 11
NAPOLI, ITALY 80129

RAYMOND NASON
47 FLORA ROAD
ATTLEBORO, MA 02703

NEW ADDRESSES

PATRICK BOURSEAUX
b+b a.g/s.a ATC CENTER, WERTHPLATZ 4-8,
B-4700 EUPEN, BELGIUM

ALVIN L. DATTNER
10109 E. MORNING STAR DR.
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255

PAUL W. EICHENBERGER
7718 PEAR VIEW LN.
LOUISVILLE, KY 40218-4760

NOB HATSUSHIBA
MIDORI-KU, OYUMINO 4-6-1
CHIBA CITY 266-0031, JAPAN

TAKAYUKI KAWAI
438 SALINE RIVER DRIVE
SALINE, MI 48176-1181

BRIAN WOLFE
10870 WEST WASHINGTON BLVD.
CULVER CITY, CA 90232

WEB SITES TO SEE!!

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 Braczkowski! 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" 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 own 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 Leica! They carry a massive selection including many rare Nikon RFs. Check it out!
www.usedcamera.com... Bruce Sirovich's site for buying, selling and repairing Nikon equipment. Check out their services!
www.geh.org... Site for George Eastman House Collection with over 124,000 pages!! For Nikon, & the One from the "Marjoram Report"..www.geh.org/fm/nikon/htmlsrc/nikon_sld00001.html
www.katocamera.com... website for Toshikazu Kato's store in Nara Japan. A selection of new & used Nikon equipment to see

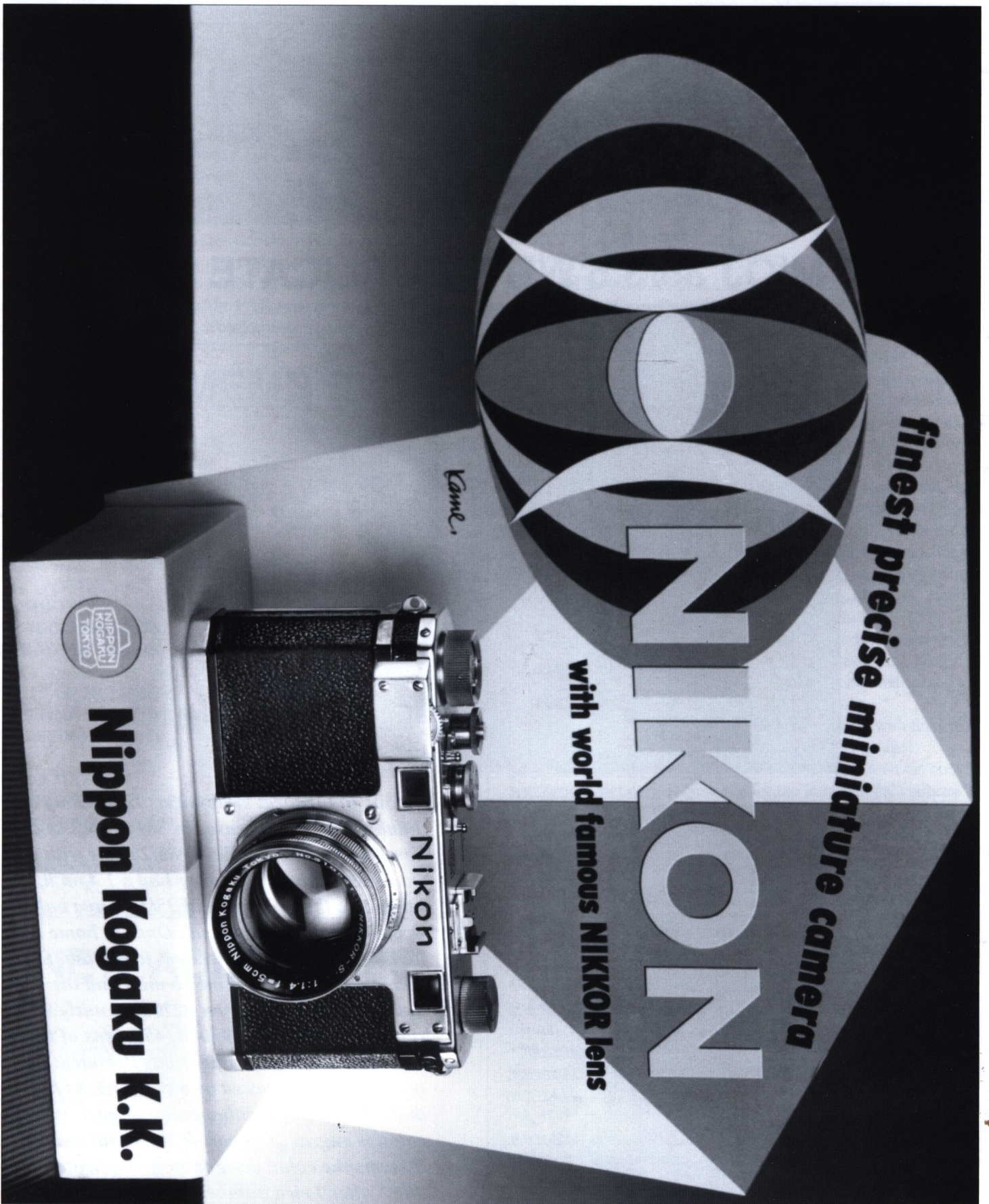
odds 'n ends

EARLY MIOJ 35/3.5 WITH DUPLICATE NUMBER



*At one of the local swap-meets I picked up a handful of Nikkor lenses in SM as well as a Tower body. The 135/3.5 & 85/2 came with caps cases & hoods & the Tower had a 1.4 on it. The seller also threw in an "old 35/3.5" in a bubble wrap bag to clinch the deal. Once at home I looked at the various pieces & found that the 135, 85 and 50 were mint- to mint and the 35 had a strange number on it. It is an early version of the 2nd run, #91046 (45th lens of that run according to our illustrious President) and the number is followed by a colon (:). At first I thought it was a 1 with missing paint, but the colon is engraved as part of the serial number. It seems the colon designates a 'duplicate' like the * after Leica numbers. The Tower went to a friend who likes them & I now have a nice set of SM Nikkors to play with. And let it be said that they have a build quality second to none!*

Tom Abrahamsson



Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST