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**ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**

*Editor/Publisher*

**THIS ISSUE**  
PAGE 1...A TALE OF TWO BLACK NIKON S3s  
PAGE 6..NIPPON KOGAKU LOGOS 1918-1945  
PAGE 12.UPDATED 'NHS' RED DOT F LIST  
PAGE 16.AUCTIONS..AUCTIONS..AUCTIONS!





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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](mailto:rotoloni@msn.com)

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## ~ CONTENTS ~

**INSIDE FRONT COVER:**  
**NHS-82 EDITORIAL.....By ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**

**PAGE 1.....A TALE OF TWO NIKONS.....**  
**TWIN BLACK NIKON S3s**  
**By ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**

**PAGE 6.....NIPPON KOGAKU LOGOS 1918-45**  
**By RICHARD LANE**

**PAGE 12.....THE 'F-SPOT!!'**  
**THE NHS RED DOT NIKON F LIST**

**PAGE 13.....WHERE DID ALL THE CLICKS GO?**  
**By BOB THOMPSON**

**PAGE 14.....NHS-CON9 INFO PAGE!!**

**PAGE 16.....THE AUCTION SCENE**

**PAGE 17.....WEB SITES TO SEE & LETTERS**

**PAGE 20.....CLASSIFIEDS**  
**NEW MEMBERS & ADDRESSES**

**INSIDE BACK COVER...KAME VINTAGE 1959 AD**

**NHS-83 DEADLINE!**  
 The deadline for the next issue of our *NIKON JOURNAL*, **NHS-83**, is **MARCH 1, 2004**. It will be our Convention Issue with complete coverage of the Tokyo meeting! **RJR.**

# EDITORIAL

This issue of **THE JOURNAL** is the last for 2003, but also the last before **NHS-Con9**, to be held in Tokyo the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. As I write this, the response has actually been quite good. I have over 35 members from the US and Europe who have committed, which is more than we had our last time in Tokyo in 1996. Believe me when I say that I know this is an expensive event (this will be my 5<sup>th</sup> time to Tokyo so I am aware of the costs), and anyone making the trip has to be willing to make the financial commitment. Therefore, I am very pleased to see so many are coming. Add those citizens of Japan who will be there and we could have as many as 75 people in attendance. Not bad for an agenda over 7000 miles distance! The show coordinators are working overtime to put this together for us. They will do their best to entertain us and also help us see some truly rare Nikons while we are there. Throw in the Matsuya Camera Show for dessert and I think everyone will fill their quota of Nikons for some time to come. Speaking of time... there is still some time left for you to join in. By the time you get this issue we will be about 6 weeks from the meeting! If you want to come just get your \$125 convention fee to me as soon as possible so I can get your info pack out to you quickly. Don't hesitate much longer, or **NHS-Con9** in Tokyo, the 'birthplace of the Nikon', will be history!

The lead article this issue is one I did comparing the original 'black Olympic S3' and the new black version of the S3 2000 Millennium Edition. Both cameras are beautiful to behold, but the Millennium model is about the only way one can experience the feeling of opening a brand new Nikon rangefinder box! That may be reason enough to buy one! After reading the article you will see that the new model is not really a duplicate of the original.

Rich Lane has come through with another interesting piece, this time using pre and wartime Nippon Kogaku production to trace the evolution of the famous N-K logo we are all so familiar with. I bet few of you knew it came in so many styles.

The 'F-Spot' this issue is simply the best and most comprehensive listing of Nikon F 'red dot' bodies yet to be published anywhere! I have received numbers from many of you, but members Richard de Stoutz and Harry Vershuren really sent me some numbers! Almost 200! See page 12 for the list.

Bob Thompson gives us a little story about some less than perfect Nikkors he has discovered. Good food for thought on page 13. Our e-mail list keeps growing as does the "websites to see" feature and this issue I had three major auctions to report on. Activity was really hectic in November! Many very rare and interesting Nikon items went under the hammer, and I mean rare! See page 16 for more information on what has to be the largest and most diverse selection of Nikons to go up for auction in some time.

The 'Odds' feature is a vintage "Kame" ad that appeared only in Japan. I hope to do more of these as Kame did a very large series for Japan that we have not seen here in the West. Kame, by the way, designed most of Nikons' literature and packaging during the RF and early F eras! You should see his book! Finally, I have had inquires about Tony's color cover & centerfold in #81. Yes, I had extras printed up. Both items are \$10 in the US, \$12 overseas. Frame them for your wall!!!



# A TALE OF TWO NIKONS

## .....OR THE STORY OF THE 'NOT EXACTLY IDENTICAL TWINS'

You may remember my less than enthusiastic response to the February 2000 announcement of the 'New S3 Millennium' in chrome finish. Not only had I hoped for an SP or maybe even an SP2, but I felt that it should have been available in black as well. Finally in mid 2002 Nikon saw the light and announced the all black version of the New S3. Now I felt they had a winner, and I still do. However, because both versions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century S3 come with the final version of the venerable f1.4 Nikkor found on the 1964 'Olympic S3', many people assume the new camera is a replica of that special run of late S3s, more so now that the black version is available. But is the 'New Black S3' really a twin of the original 'Black Olympic'? Not quite.

When Nikon decided to duplicate the original S3 they really went to great lengths to do just that. The camera appears to be designed and built from the chassis up just as it was done over 40 years ago. They even had to re-train the workers to assemble this beauty because Nikon has not made a camera this way for nearly 30 years, and the current workers were not around during the rangefinder era. So the New S3 is basically bench built to a degree that probably exceeds that used for the original version. The result is a camera that is about 99% identical to the original S3, but only about 95% identical to the Black Olympic model!

**BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**

For the chrome version the only differences are:

- Stainless steel strap lugs, not brass
- Film load reminder scale 24/36 and not 20/36
- Film speed reminder in 'ISO' and not 'ASA'
- All cameras are calibrated in meters, none in feet

For the black version you must **add** the following:

- Early self-timer lever, not the Olympic version
- Black paint more "F" like than "RF" like
- Cloth shutter curtains and not Titanium!

So for the chrome version it is a very accurate copy of the original, but for the black version it does not turn out to be a copy of the Olympic at all, despite its Olympic-type lens! It is obvious that Nikon would use a more modern technique for painting and they have. The New S3 paint looks like that found on the F and F2 models. And the fact that they chose to use the old style self-timer lever has to do with the fact that they were, with the chrome version, duplicating the original. But why they chose to use a cloth shutter no one seems to know!







Even on the chrome cameras it just doesn't make sense. Titanium was and is superior for many reasons, which is why Nikon chose to switch to titanium in 1959! Why revert to cloth in 2000??? It would still look just like an S3 and I think most owners would prefer the foil curtains. I know I would.

So our tale of two Nikons is really not about identical twins, but only siblings. The 'New Black S3' is not an Olympic but actually more closely aligned to the original black S3 made in small numbers BEFORE the Olympic version!

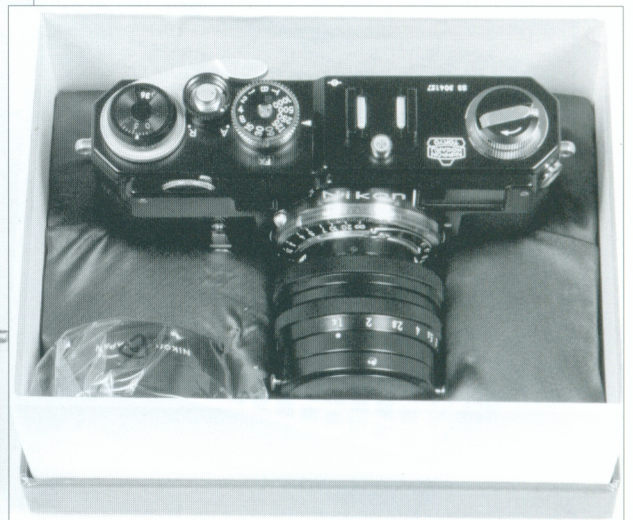
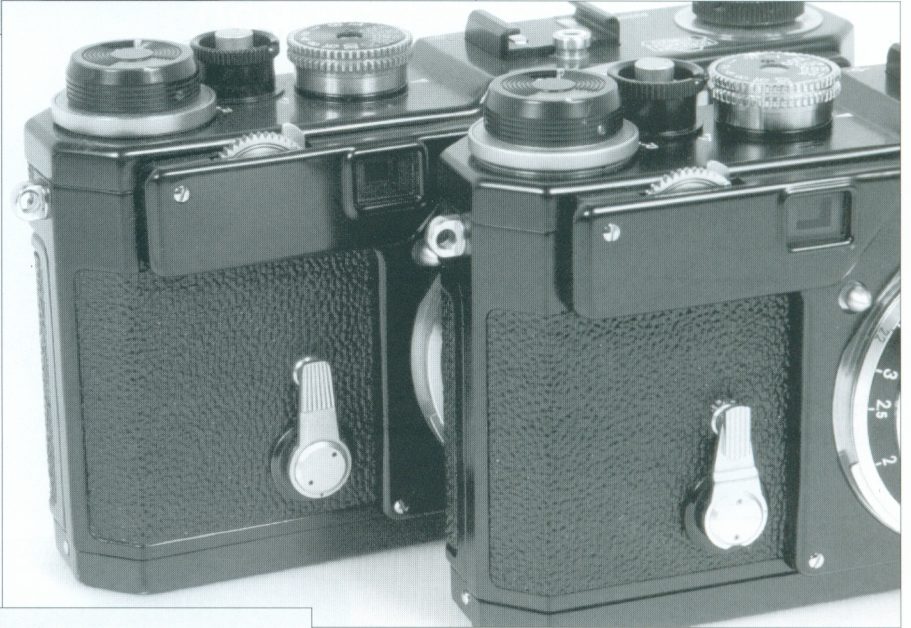
None of the above takes anything away from the New S3. Believe me, there is nothing like opening up a brand new Nikon rangefinder camera, especially for someone who never had the opportunity when they were in production over 40 years ago! RJR *On the bottom of pg. 1 & this page we have both versions of the Black S3 side-by-side, with the genuine 'Olympic' on the left in both shots. The quickest way to tell them apart is the selftimer levers and the strap lugs. Otherwise they're very very close!*







*On page one you can see the outer master carton that your new Nikon S3 arrives in. Within this large box are two smaller ones containing the camera and case separately. In the photo in the lower right corner you can see how the New S3 is packaged. It rests in a veeteen lined cradle, not encased in styrofoam like todays production. This is a bit more elegant I feel. The lens is mounted so no body cap is included (what a shame!) but the lens cap and shade are! Note that the shade is an exact duplicate of the snap-on shade made during the 1960s! Top and bottom photos are the New S3 while the center photo again shows the different selftimer levers used. The Olympic cameras came with the modern one-piece lever used on the concurrent Nikon F!*







*Look at these photos and one sees what is meant by "Black is Beautiful!" There is no doubt about it, the Nikon rangefinders definitely are visual knock outs in black. Maybe it's because we just see less of them but you know...even the black F & F2, which were made in very large numbers, always look 'sexier' in black. Now that almost all cameras resemble little black blobs of 'silly putty', elegantly styled classic cameras from the fifties and sixties just keep looking better! Here you have one of the very best.*



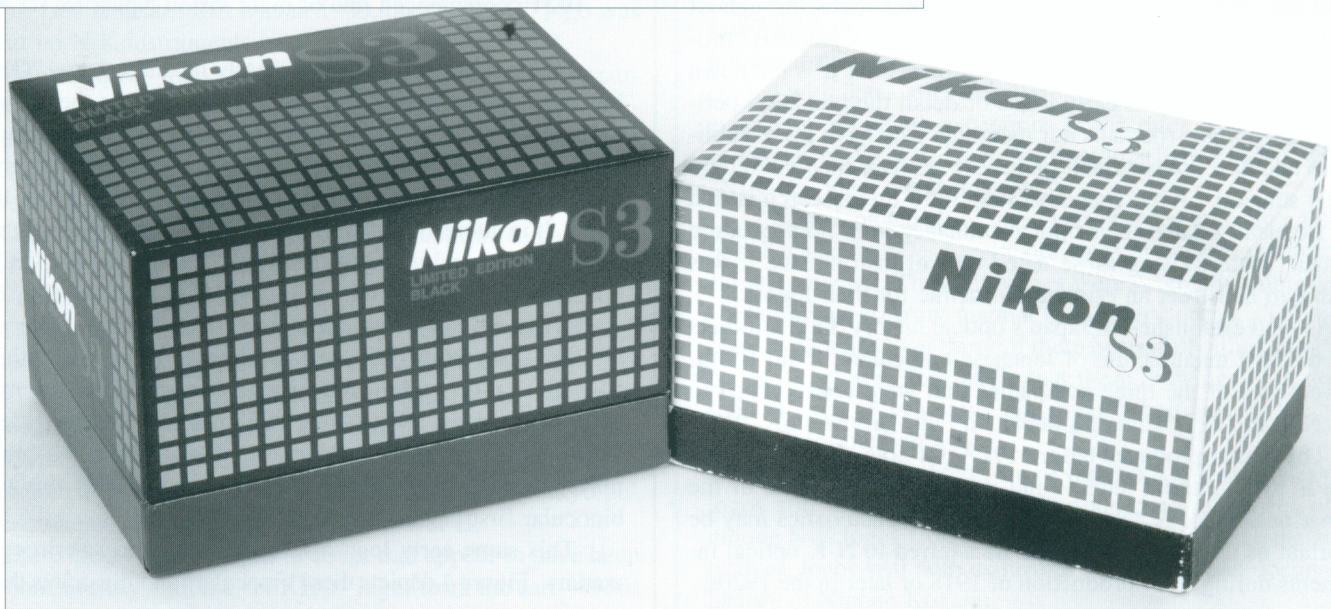




The newly produced 1.4 Nikkor appears to be identical to the original 'Olympic' version, which is a legend in itself. It looks to be a total redesign of the venerable 1.4 which dates back to 1950. Why Nikon went through the trouble to redesign and retool for a new lens meant for a small re-issue of the S3 is anyone's guess. But they did it and produced the perfect collectible in the process. The new version is identical except for?



Note that the engravings are 'nearly' identical. The front identifying ring uses the same font. However, there are some differences. The Olympic lens is on the left in all 3 photos. Note the slightly different size of the "Lens Made in Japan" line and also the additional "Nikon" found on the newer version! There also appears to be one external structural change. Note the newer type is slightly longer because the rear narrow part of the barrel is longer resulting in the rear element being slightly more recessed and protected. An definite improvement. RJR





# NIPPON KOGAKU LOGOS 1918-1945

COMPILED BY RICHARD LANE

Previous issues the "Nikon Journal" have depicted N-K logos from early production through the occupation years. Some early logos were shown in John Baird's landmark "NHS-31" article on Nikon binoculars. However, the transition periods between various logos and depictions of early designs were not covered in detail. This article will try to document these transition periods (where possible) and depict the earliest logos through the last design used at the end of World War II.

First, some important notes about this article; Although N-K was formed in 1917, their initial optical glass research and production first began in 1918 and this may have been the first time a logo was used on optical instruments. I have attempted to cover an estimated sequence of logos from 1918-1945. However, this effort is not intended to be an "end all" to the discovery and documentation of logos. As an example, all of the logos illustrated in this article were present on Japanese military optical instruments. I do not have references for early logos on civilian optical products. As a case in point, I have seen extracts from "Nippon Kogaku Annuals" (History of Forty Years, Fifty Years, etc.) indicating their early microscopes included a trademark/logo of "JOICO". I have not seen the "JOICO" trademark on any N-K military optical instrument and it is unclear if they ever used it on optical instruments other than microscopes. Additionally, I have been unable to document a binocular logo depicted in John Baird's article in "NHS-31" (marked "Nippon Tokyo", unusual triangle shape).

Researching this subject has been challenging. It was difficult to find publications that document N-K's logos throughout their history. It appears that the "Nippon Kogaku Annuals" provide information on early optical instruments but it is unknown if these annuals discuss early logos or detail the transition periods between logos (perhaps our members who have these publications and have translated the Japanese text can shed more light on this subject). What was most helpful to this research is that N-K frequently dated their optical ordnance with nomenclature or "data" plates. Using these dated optical instruments, it was possible to construct an estimated timeline for their logos.

As well established in Japan's optical history, Fujii Brothers were the first manufacture of Japanese binoculars. Fujii Brothers were one of the three companies that were consolidated to form N-K in 1917. Figure 1 depicts a Fujii Brothers 6X "VICTOR" binocular produced before 1917. Of note, the "VICTOR" name is in all capital letters (and quotes) and the style of the number designator is "N<sub>o</sub>". These subtle characteristics may be important as they may have been transferred to N-K optical instruments during early production of 1918 or later in the 1920s.

Attempting to document the first N-K logo has been difficult. The first logo probably appeared on their instruments when optical production began in 1918. I have been unable to find dated optical instruments from 1918 (or any of the early years of production). However, I believe there are a few likely candidates for the earliest logo.

One of the most unusual N-K optical instruments I have documented is a Japanese Navy 60 mm telescope with dual turret eyepieces. This telescope appears to be of a very early design. The telescope came with its original wood box but there is no data plate on the telescope or box. The logo on this telescope is quite unusual and is detailed in Figure 2 (triangle shape with a Japanese symbol for "light" in the center). Another unique characteristic of this logo is the use of the letters "N-K" by the serial number "No. 39". Could this be the first N-K logo? We cannot be sure but this logo does appear on a very early Japanese Navy telescope.

Another early logo design may have first appeared on early N-K binoculars. A "Nikon Corporation Binocular Brochure" (dated 1994.6.1) details the early trade names and dates for binocular production. A translation of this Japanese text includes the following information for these early production binoculars:

- 1918 - commenced sale of 24 types of prism binoculars
- 1922 - commenced sale of Micron 4x, Atom 6x and Lusker 6x binoculars
- 1923 - commenced sale of Orion 6x and 8x binoculars
- 1924 - commenced sale of night vision Novar 6x, 7x, 8x

Figure 3 (top left) depicts an early Japanese Army "ORION" binocular with an early N-K logo. This logo has the same outer triangle shape as the previously described logo but the Japanese symbol for "light" has been replaced with a different symbol and includes three small dashes at each inside edge of the triangle. It is interesting to note that the "ORION" trade name is in capital letters and in quotes (same as the Fujii Bros. "VICTOR" binoculars). Compare this early "ORION" lettering (6 x 24 binocular) to a later production 8 x 26 Orion binocular with a "NIKKO" logo (also depicted in Figure 3 (right side)...this later "NIKKO" military binocular probably dates from the mid/late 1930s). The later "NIKKO" 8 x 26 binocular has the trade name "Orion" in lower case lettering. The 6 x 24 "ORION" binocular may date from the early 1920s when the sale of this type of binocular first began.

This same early logo also appears on early periscope binoculars. Figure 4 depicts these binoculars and illustrates the char-



acters on the left and right side of the prism housings. These N-K periscope binoculars (designated “artillery telescope” by the Japanese Army) appear to be an exact copy of a Carl Zeiss design of 1899. The Zeiss periscope binoculars illustrated in Figure 5 came in a carrying case with Japanese Army markings. The Japanese Army may have used this Zeiss binocular prior to World War I. Figure 6 depicts a Japanese Army officer using this early periscope binocular in the horizontal position (service uniform appears to be from the Taisho era, 1912-1926). It is interesting to consider if N-K obtained the production rights (or license) from Zeiss to produce this “artillery telescope” in the early 1920s. As well documented in company’s history, they based many of its early optical engineering projects on German designs. Perhaps the German engineers who arrived in Japan in 1921 provided this Zeiss binocular design to N-K.

I have recorded two serial numbers for this “artillery telescope” with this early logo (S/Ns #2154 and #2409).

I have also recorded this same early logo on several Japanese Navy optical instruments. These include 15 x 80 mm binocular telescopes (S/N #98 and #182) and several 20 x 120 mm telescopes. Of these 20 x 120 mm telescopes, I have recorded “Model 2” versions with dates of 1929 (S/N #101) and Sep 1930 (S/N #112). Additionally, I have recorded a “Model 3” version of this telescope with a date of Feb 1931 (S/N #1). Figure 7 depicts this “Model 3” version with the early N-K logo. The Feb 1931 date is important as it provides insight for the transition to the next, more familiar, “NIKKO” logo.

The earliest optical instrument I have recorded with a “NIKKO” logo is a Japanese Navy 15 x 120 mm torpedo sighting binocular telescope. This binocular (S/N #158) came in a wood crate with a matching data plate dated Jan 1933 (see Figure 8). This indicates that by Jan 1933, the “NIKKO” logo was present on N-K instruments.

The “NIKKO” logo also first appeared on early artillery survey transits. I have recorded examples of transits with production dates of May 1933 (S/N #202, see Figure 9) and Aug 1934 (S/N #399). These early “NIKKO” marked transits are rare and I have only recorded one other instrument (S/N #153) with a “NIKKO” logo. Tokyo Kogaku (“TOKO”) appears to have produced this transit in much larger quantities in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

The early logo date of Feb 1931 and “NIKKO” logo date of Jan 1933, provide a window for when N-K may have changed logos. It provides an estimated transition date for the “NIKKO” logo of late 1931 or 1932. It is conceivable that “NIKKO” was trademarked at the same time “NIKKOR” was first used in 1932. N-K would continue to use this “NIKKO” logo on military optical instruments into the 1930s and World War II.

There are two other logos to cover that appear to have been used concurrently with the “NIKKO” logo (from the early 1930s to 1936). One of these logo variations appeared on 6 x 24 binocu-

lars and the Type 96 light machine gun sight. The use of this N-K logo on the Type 96 machine gun is helpful in dating this particular logo. The Type 96 machine gun was first manufactured in 1936 and only a few N-K sights are marked with this logo (top of Figure 10). Most of these sights I have recorded are marked with the “NIKKO” logo (with later serial numbers). It appears that only the early sights (produced in 1936) were marked with the logo depicted in Figure 10. It is difficult to determine when this same logo first appeared on a version of the Japanese Army 6 x 24 binocular. I have only recorded this logo (top of Figure 10) on Japanese Army 6 x 24 binoculars and the Type 96 light machine gun sight. It is possible that this logo made an appearance on the 6 x 24 binocular at the same time the Type 93 Galilean binocular was introduced in 1933.

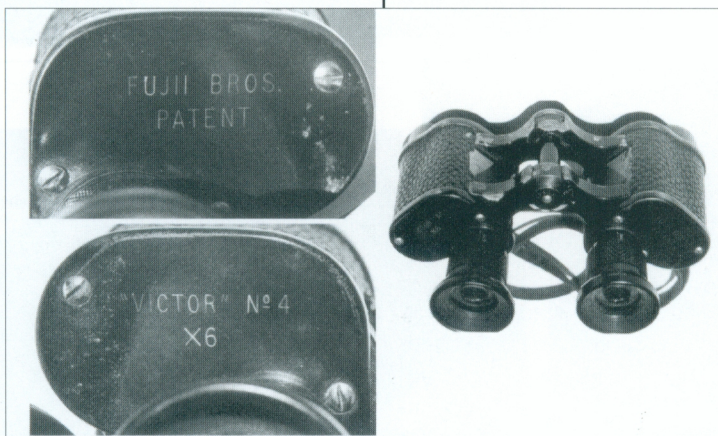
The Type 93 Galilean binocular was produced for infantry (or cavalry) and the logo was a small, embossed/outlined N-K logo. This smaller logo (vs. the “NIKKO” logo) may have been used because of the size constraints of 4 x 10 binocular. These binoculars were produced from 1933 to 1940. A depiction of this logo on a 4 x 10 binocular is shown at bottom of Figure 10.

The final logo to cover is the late war version. This late logo starts to appear after the Feb 1945 time frame. The key to dating this

last logo are the data plates on a 15 x 80 mm binocular and a 6 x 30 mm torpedo sight. This late logo is similar to the “NIKKO” logo but does not have the letters “NIKKO” in the triangle. Figure 11 depicts a 15 x 80 mm Japanese Navy binocular with a “NIKKO” logo and data plate (dated Feb 1945). Figure 12 (Bottom Left) depicts a late logo on torpedo sight and accompanying data plate (dated Mar 1945). These two dates (Feb 1945 and Mar 1945) provide a transition date to the late war logo of Mar 1945. Also in Figure 12 (top photo) is a comparison of an early and late war 7 x 50 mm “Nova” binocular (top binocular late war, bottom binocular pre-1945). A majority of N-K instruments I have recorded with dates after Feb 1945 have this late war logo. However, there are some exceptions to the rule. I have recorded a Japanese Navy 7 x 50 mm gunsight (S/N #1258) with the “NIKKO” logo, dated July 1945.

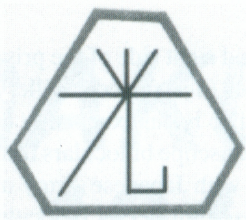
I have depicted all of these various N-K logos in an illustration that also includes several drawings of Japanese military optical instruments. These drawings were originally published in a 1930s Japanese Army manual on artillery optics. The original manual contains over thirty of these beautifully illustrated “onion paper” drawings. It is likely that these drawings have not been seen in over 65 years and are re-published here in the “Nikon Journal” for the first time.

There are undoubtedly more variations and examples of N-K logos still to discover. I would appreciate references of other unique N-K logos from “NHS” members. I believe the analysis of these logos will help us further understand and document the history of Nippon Kogaku.

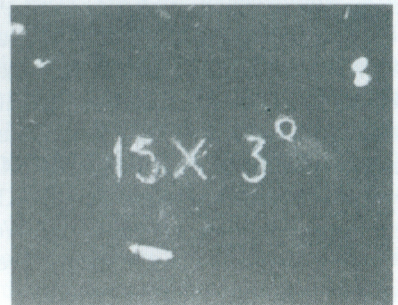
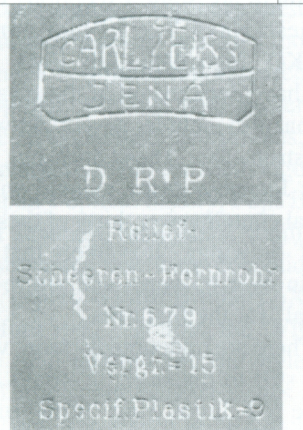
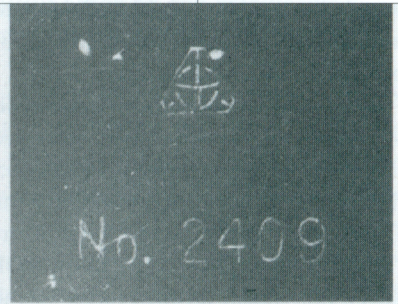
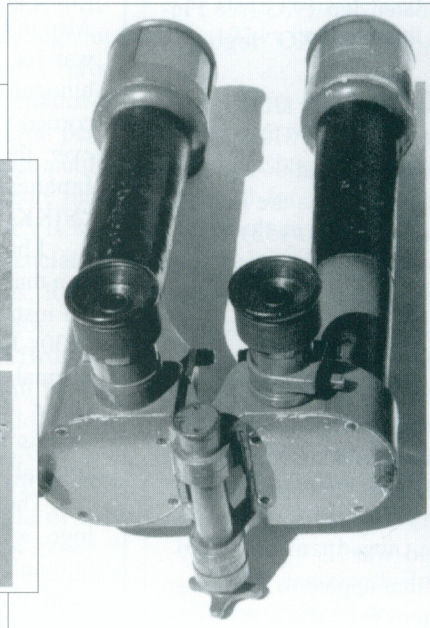
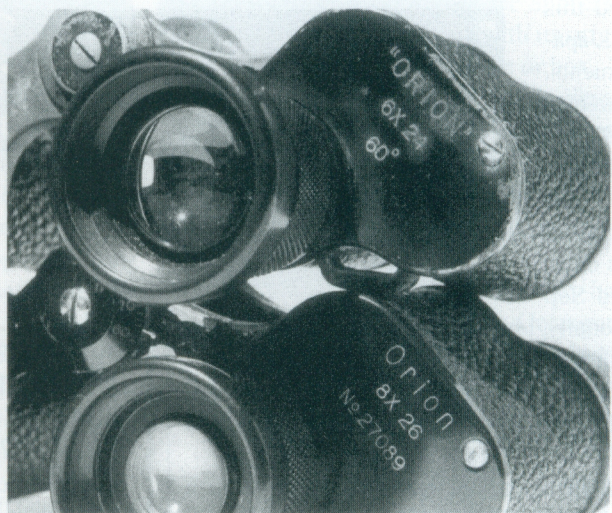
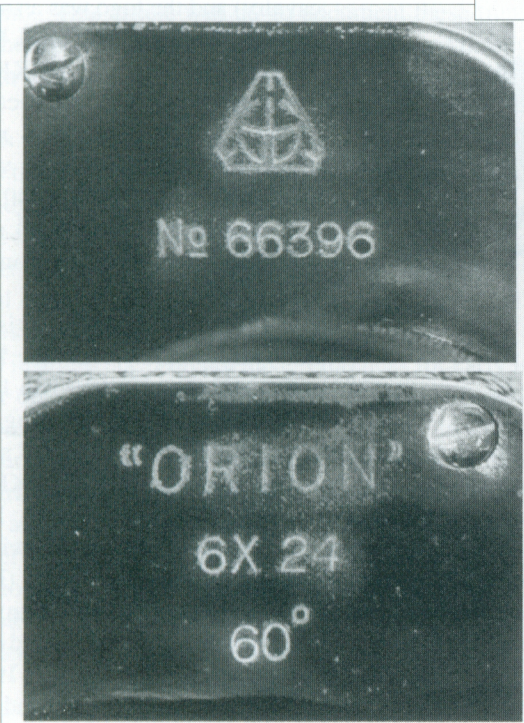
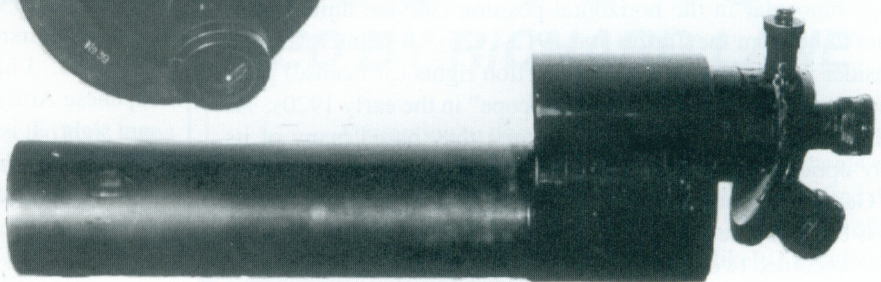




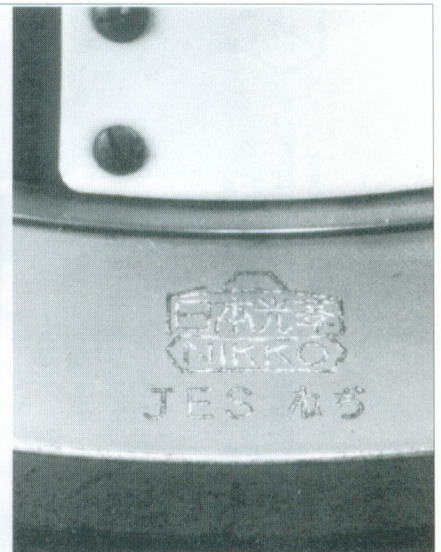
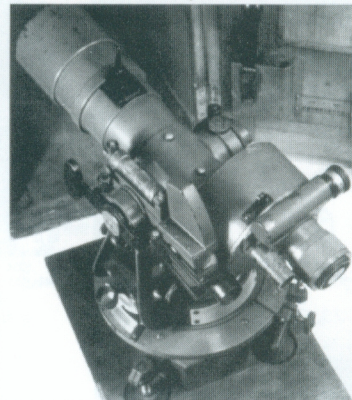
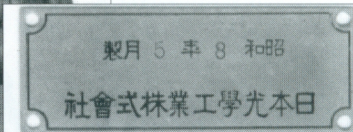
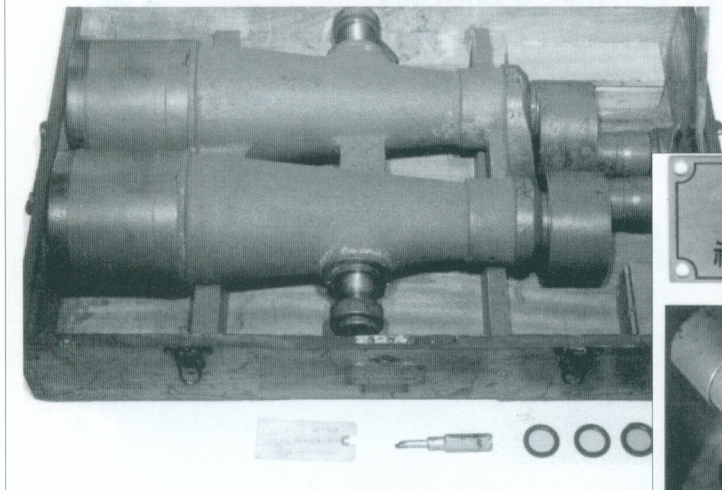
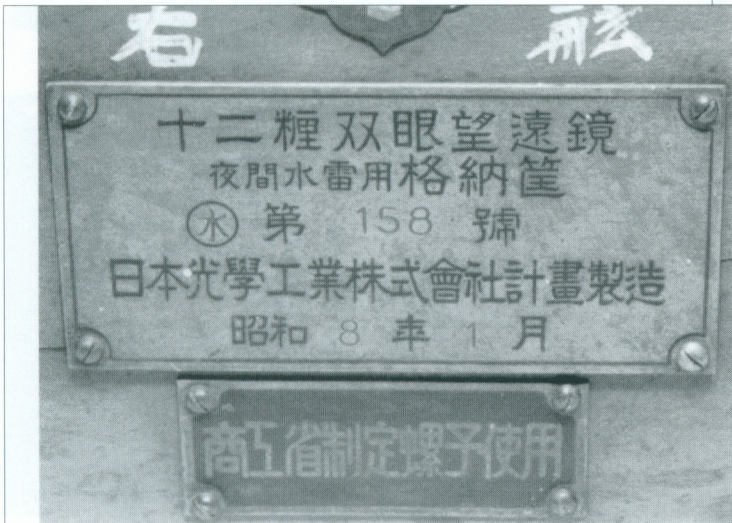
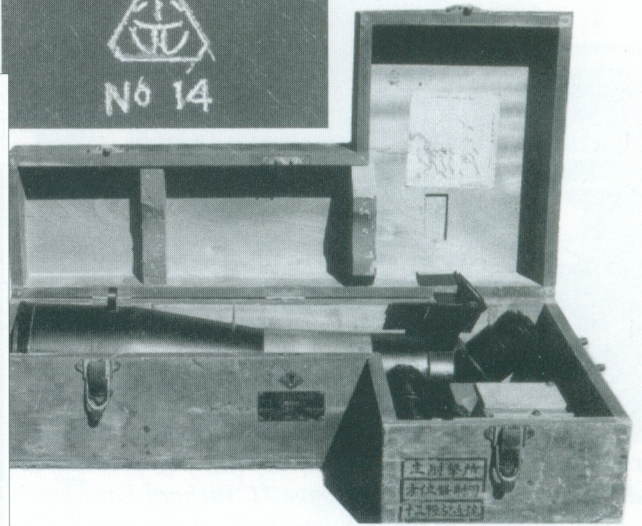
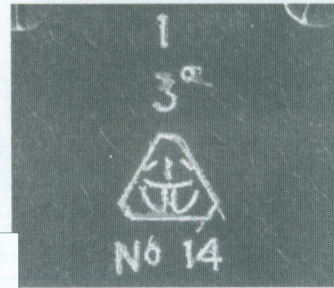
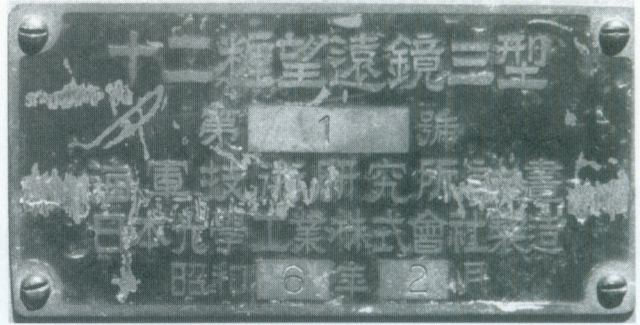
From the text the figure numbers are as follows. On page 7 is Fig. 1. On this page we have Fig. 2 (top), Fig. 3 (middle), Fig. 4 (bottom right) and Fig. 5 (bottom left). On page 8 are the following illustrations mentioned in the text. Fig. 6 (top left), Fig. 7 (top right), Fig. 8 (middle left) and Fig. 9 (bottom right).



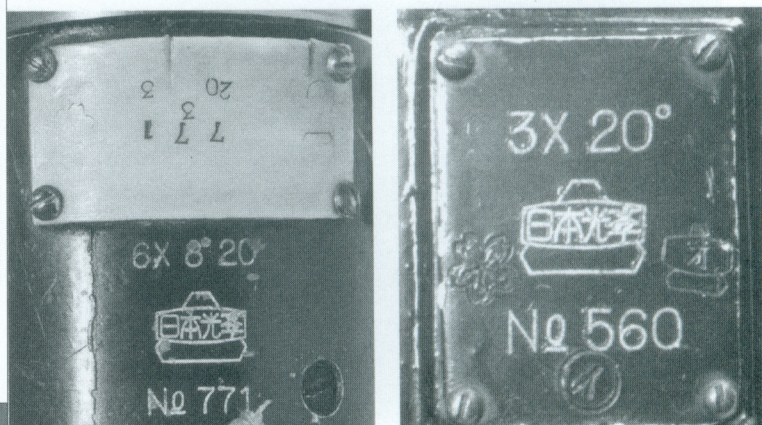
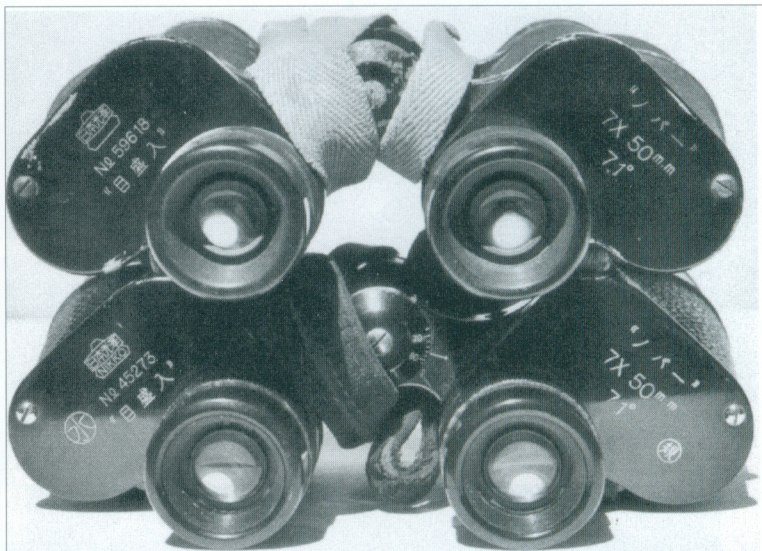
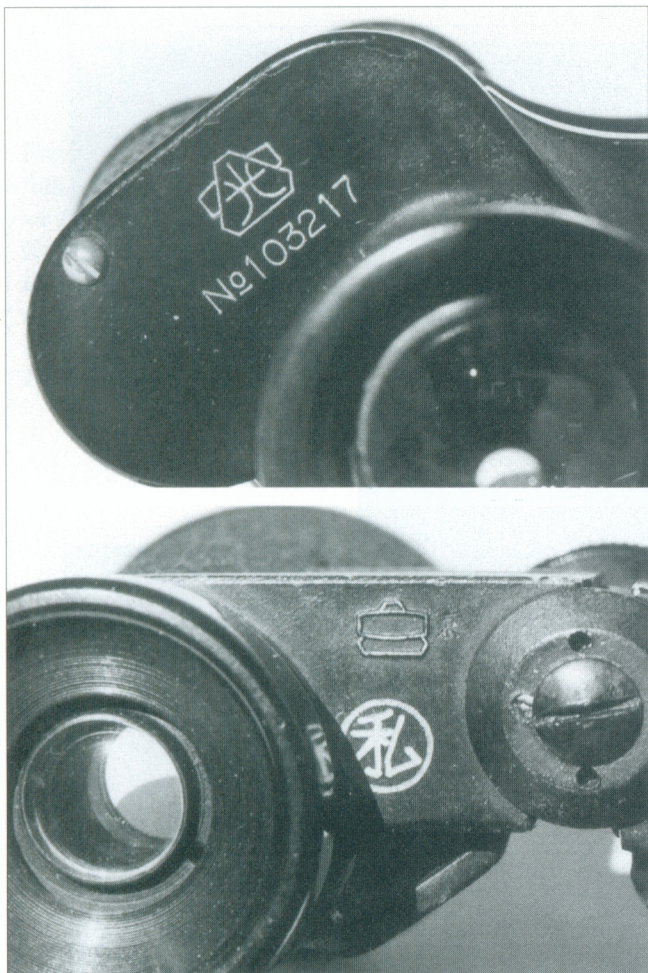
N.K. No 39



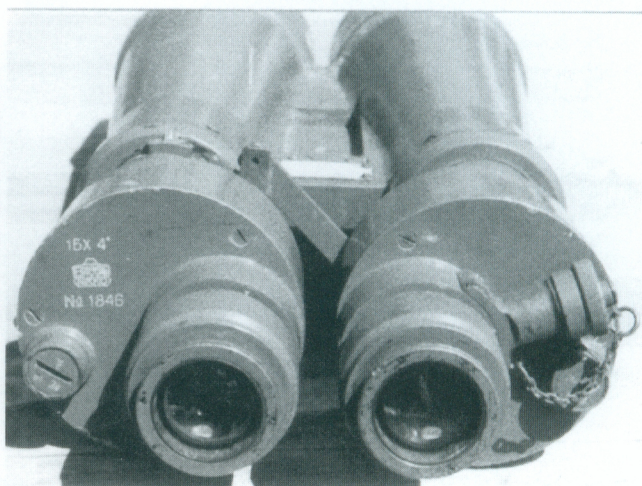








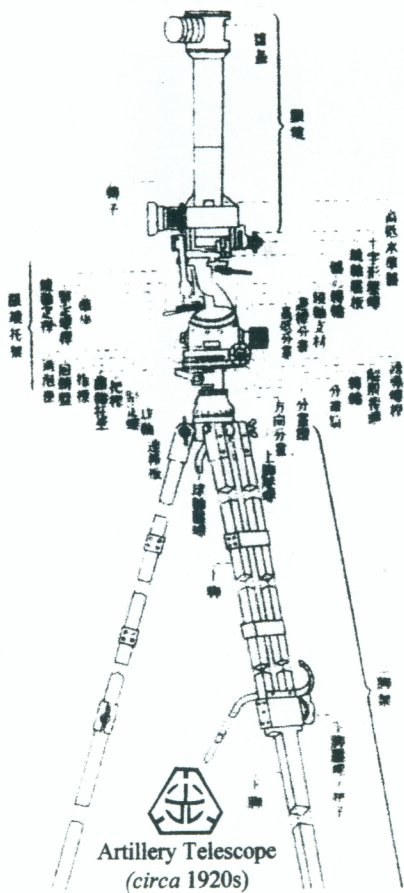
On this page we have Fig. 10 (above left), Fig 11 (bottom) and Fig. 12 (above right). On page 11, Richard Lane has created a montage of the N-K logo through the years!





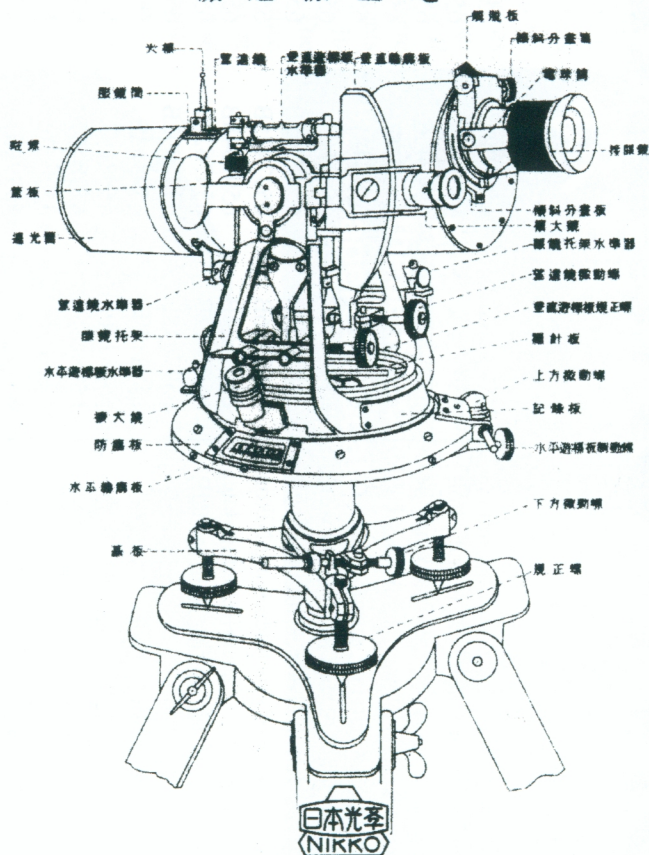
# Nippon Kogaku Logos 1918-1945

鏡隊砲式七三



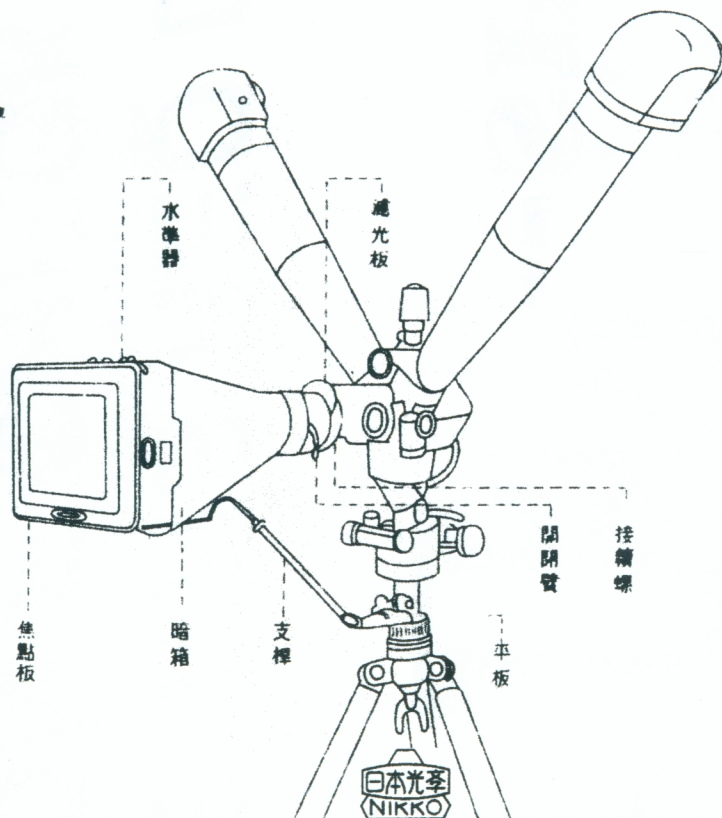
Artillery Telescope  
(circa 1920s)

機定標上地



Artillery Transit  
(circa 1930s)

機真寫鏡隊砲



Artillery Telescope Camera  
Type 96 (1936)

Artillery Telescope  
Type 93 (1933)

Optical Instrument  
Drawings From a 1930s  
Japanese Army Manual On  
Artillery Optics



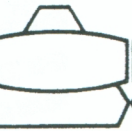
1920s-1932



1930s-1936



1932-1945 (Feb)



1933-1940



1945 (Mar-Aug)

Created For The "NHS"  
by Richard Lane



**THE F--SPOT!****THE 'NHS RED DOT'  
NIKON F CHECKLIST**

I have had a massive infusion of 'red dot' Nikon F numbers for this issue! Besides those who sent the numbers in their collections, two of our members have actually been tracking the 'red dot' cameras for some time. I received long lists from Swiss member Richard de Stoutz and Austrian member Harry Verschuren! Some entries overlap for sure, but nearly 200 were unique and we can now safely say that the NHS, with this issue, has published the most extensive listing of this interesting Nikon F variation yet seen! Thanks to all who have contributed to date, but a special thanks to Richard & Harry for sharing with us. RJR

6575857B	6581357	6582900	6583061
6583470	6583622	6584584	6585000
6585030	6585392	6585408	6585632
6585640	6585813	6586013	6586014
6586084	6586163	6587137	6587415
6587791	6587863	6588473	6588859
6588996	6589030	6589116	6589257
6589495	6589536	6589614	6589753
6589979	6590122	6590212	6590383
6590424	6590704	6590895	6591025
6591109	6591237	6591267	6591308
6591309	6591338	6591464	6591472
6591537	6591695	6592025B	6592481
6592527	6592673	6593070	6593288
6593499	6593647	6593698	6593766
6593777	6593782	6593852	6594045
6594294	6594303	6594594	6594631
6594687	6594749	6594773	6594812
6594832	6594871	6594888	6594897

6594974	6595024	6595054	6595074
6595118	6595149	6595206	6595317
6595403	6595426	6595570	6595640
6595821	6595917B	6596004	6596283
6596460	6596481	6596568	6596775
6596949	6597102	6597159	6597183
6597267B	6597295B	6597308B	6597340B
6597396B	6597425B	6597448B	6597475B
6597524B	6597548B	6597558B	6597580B
6597612B	6597628B	6597653B	6597718B
6597818B	6597892B	6597918	6597920
6598119	6598121	6598141	6598142
6598170	6598183	6598264	6598397
6598445	6598467	6598772	6598953
6599026	6599222	6599264	6599292
6599452	6599463	6599945	6599960
6600021	6600057	6600187	6600283
6600341	6600429	6600455	6600516
6600595	6600664	6600724	6600738
6600765	6600879	6600962	6600975
6601027	6601150	6601152	6601339
6601351	6601362	6601395	6601424
6601425	6601489	6601503	6601586
6601687	6601688	6601693	6601740
6601753	6601772	6601776	6601833
6601861	6601932	6602011	6602090
6602206	6602288	6602322	6602374
6602428	6602497	6602580	6602620
6602847			



# WHERE DID ALL THE 'CLICKS' GO??

BY BOB THOMPSON

I recently acquired a chrome 35mm f/2.5 Nikkor that interested me primarily because of its 'duplicate' serial number (#253499:). I remembered your mentioning that duplicate serial numbers were seen much less frequently amongst the wide angles than the telephotos, and since this was the only one of that type I'd ever seen, I decided to go for it. I was put off a bit by the seller's description of a problem with the aperture ring not engaging the f/stop click detents properly, but decided to take the chance anyway. Here's what I found:

This is a normal looking early chrome f2.5, with the only obvious visible difference being the serial number. But here's where things get curious: although the aperture ring and engraved f/stops appear standard, the click stop detents inside the lens don't necessarily match up with the f/stop engravings as you rotate the aperture ring. The lens has the standard 8 f/stops (f/2.5 – f/22), but there are only 6 click stop detents on this lens (which I have illustrated in the photo). The movement of the aperture ring & blades feels smooth & proper, so I don't believe there's an internal malfunction. It's just that several of the detents fall in the wrong places. There is no evidence that the lens has ever been disassembled or tampered with, which leaves me to wonder if this might be a simple case of an error made during manufacture.

On the other hand, I also wondered if this might be a matter of the wrong 'detent ring' (i.e., one designed for a different lens) being placed in this lens by mistake. Since I'm not familiar with the lens' internal construction, I had to assume this might be a possibility. But I haven't found another Nikkor wide angle with only 6 click stops, so that didn't seem to

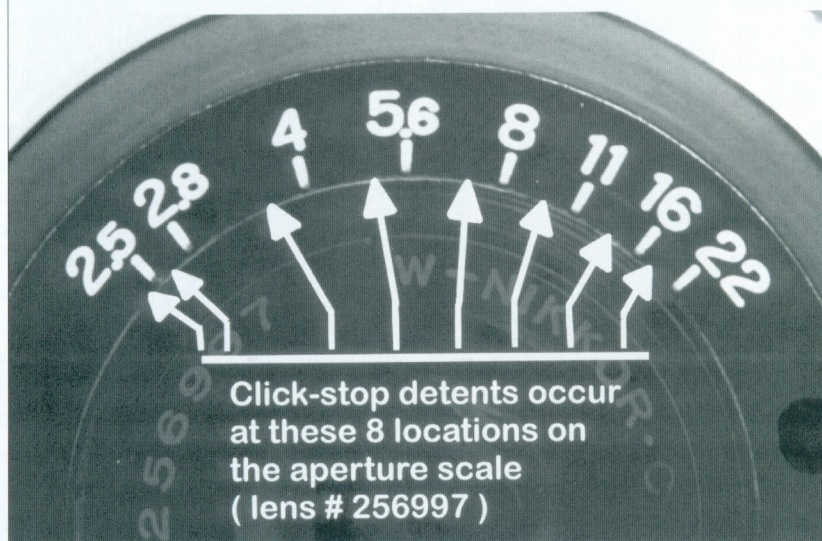
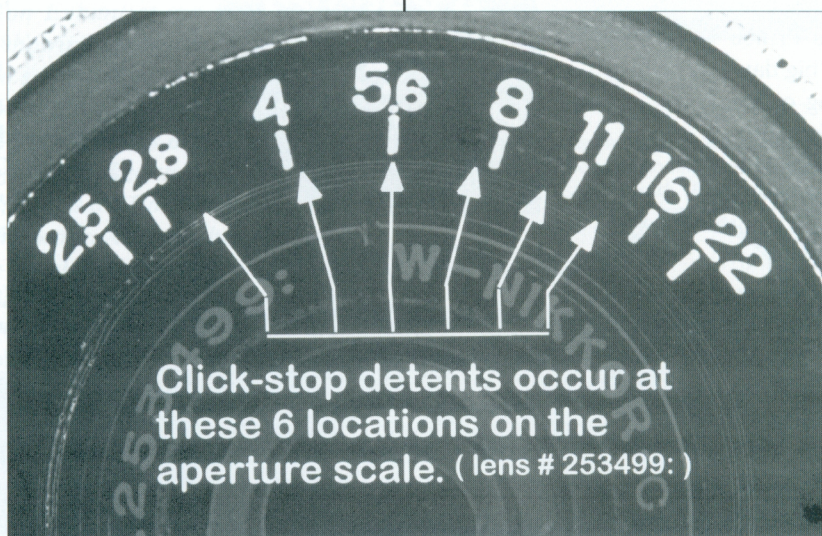
be probable. With my curiosity getting the better of me, I decided to look at my other wides to see if there might be a clue amongst them.

And that's when the situation got 'curiouser & curiouser': I found a second chrome f2.5 (#256997) having a similar 'click stop detents in the wrong places' problem! And while this second lens does have the correct 8 click stops, all of them are located between the engraved f/stops, rather than coincident with them. Again, movement of the aperture ring & blades feels smooth, with no hint of a mechanical malfunction to explain the situation.

I am certainly at a loss to understand this oddity. The only explanation that seems reasonable to me is 'manufacturing error'. But to find 2 similar lenses just in my small collection exhibiting the same kind of mistake makes me wonder if Nikon's assembly line "click stop ring maker" person may have sometimes hit the sack a little too hard. If you have any insights into this situation, or suggestions for exploring it further, I'd certainly welcome your input. If any of you are already familiar with this oddity and think it might be an interesting manufacturing error, rather than just a malfunction, would you please report it to me. I would be happy to accept any data from the membership, collate it and write a future report if needed. Please send your data to me at:

[puntabob@earthlink.net](mailto:puntabob@earthlink.net)

or my mailing address: Bob Thompson, 232 Corumba St., Punta Gorda, FL 33983.





# “JOURNEY TO NIKON’S BIRTHPLACE” NHS-CON9... TOKYO 2004!

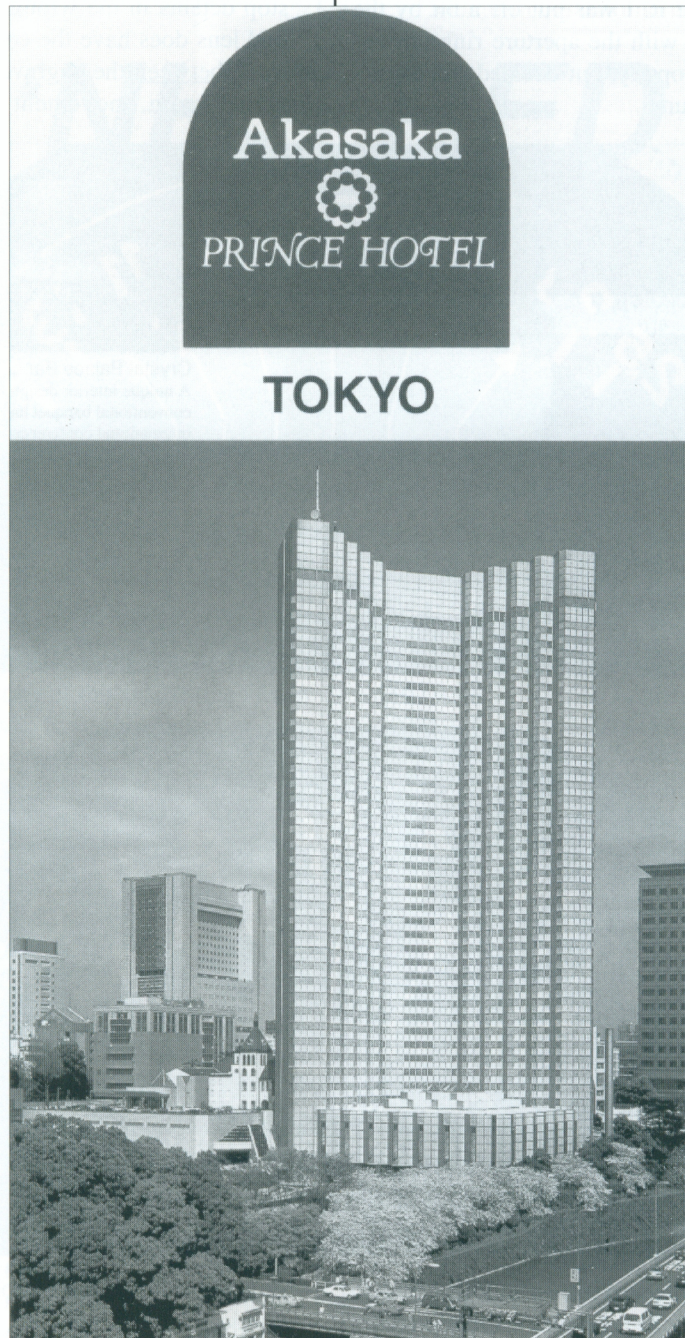
**FEBRUARY 22-25, 2004**

By the time you read this we will be only 6 weeks from NHS-Con9! Those of you who have contacted me have already received your information packets and are getting ready to spend some time with fellow members from all over the world in Tokyo, where the Nikon was born. Things will start happening on Sunday evening, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Akasaka Prince Hotel. Monday will be the ‘big day’ including a private showing of the very special exhibit of Nikon Prototypes being held at the JCI Museum. Showcased are prototypes from the Nikon I through the F4 and F5, including the SP2 and SPX models. They have extended this show just for us and the Museum is closed on Mondays, so we will have it all to ourselves! You don’t want to miss this! We have speakers planned for the day and possibly a swap meet for the evening, and I am sure we will all have a good time. Tuesday we plan a visit to the Oi factory in the Shinagawa section of Tokyo where it all took place starting with the Nikon I prototypes in 1946-47 all the way through the development of the Nikon F. This is where Masahiko Fuketa and his team did their work and produced all that we so fervently search for today. Following this we plan some sightseeing around Tokyo as well as visits to some camera stores. You won’t believe how many camera stores are in Tokyo! And each has an inventory that boggles the mind. Wednesday will be the opening day of the Matsuya Camera show, something you just have to see. Those who wish can go down that morning together as a group or visit it at their own leisure. The show lasts for 3 days and it is like no other show

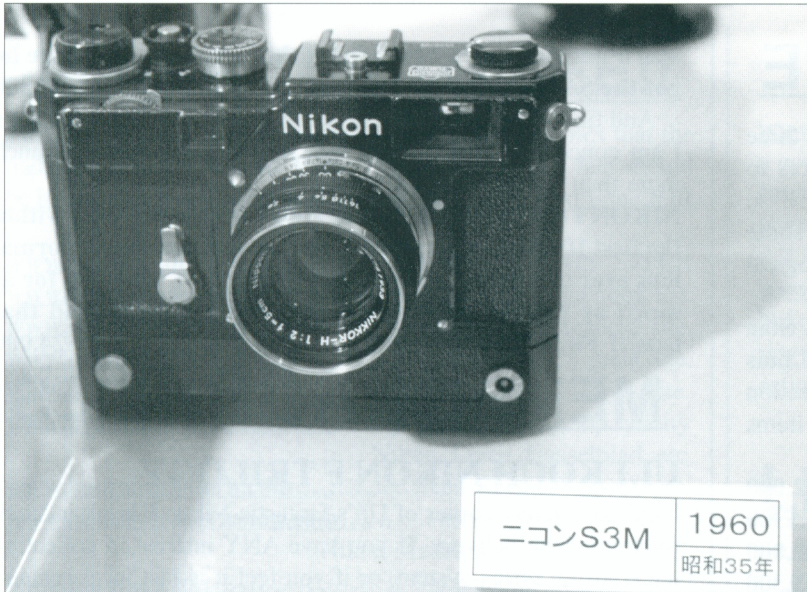
anywhere. The Matsuya Department store is right in the middle of the Ginza, so you can easily combine the show and shopping. Of course the Ginza is unique in all the world and the shopping is something special. At night the light show is simply awesome. Try to see it during the day and the evening. Wednesday evening a farewell dinner is planned at the hotel and information on that will be sent to attendees. The dinner will officially close the Convention but I am sure many will remain a few more days to see the sights.

**Please visit our web-site ([www.nikonhs.org](http://www.nikonhs.org)) where our webmaster, Fred Krughoff, has loaded over 200 photos of both last years’ Matsuya Show, and the Museum Exhibit at the JCI that we will see. These photos were sent to us by the principal show organizer, Mr. Akihiko Suzuki, for our benefit. From these photos you will get an idea of what is in store for us during NHS-Con9!**

There is still time for those of you who have not committed as yet. Get your \$125 convention fee to me as soon as possible and we can still get you in. Once I receive your payment I will send you the info pack so you can make your room reservation and have info about getting from the airport to the hotel. The hotel has reversed itself and will now take individual reservations only, so you do not go through me for this. **But you must act now! Time is quickly running out for what could be the closest you will ever get to the ‘Nikon’s Birthplace’!**





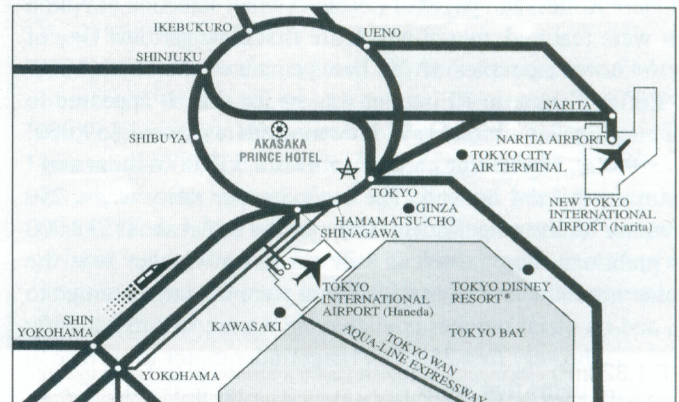


Above are 2 examples of the 80 plus photos you can see on our website from the special Nikon Exhibit at the JCII Museum where we will have a private showing on Monday (Nikon S3M & the Nikon L). You will also see a link with over 100 photos from last years' Matsuya show just to give you a feel for what it is like. Please visit our site at [www.nikonhs.org](http://www.nikonhs.org) and see where our webmaster, Fred Krughoff, has linked these 2 albums that were sent to us by Mr. Suzuki, who is the Convention chairman and the man doing most of the work. Also on these pages are photos of the Akasaka Prince Hotel where we will be staying. It is one of the better Tokyo hotels and close to everything! Will we see you there?

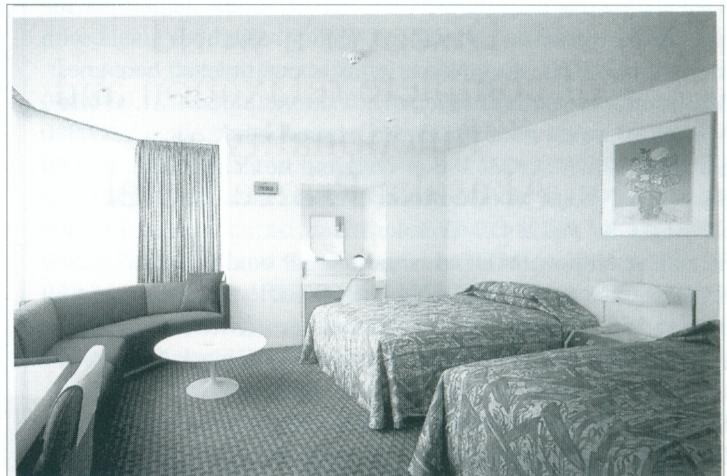


#### Transportation:

100 minutes by car from New Tokyo International Airport (Narita).  
 30 minutes by car from Tokyo International Airport (Haneda). 40 minutes by car from Tokyo Disney Resort\*. 10 minutes by car from Tokyo JR station.



**Akasaka**  **PRINCE HOTEL**



Twin Room



## THE AUCTION SCENE

Between October 24 & November 22, 2003 there were three major auctions held. It was a banner 4 weeks for collectors to add some really rare and choice items to their holdings if so inclined. Here is a summary of what was available and some hammer prices (not including buyer's premium). In chronological order we have:

**Tamarkin Photographica, 10/24/03.** As he often does, Stan Tamarkin held his fall auction to coincide with the St. Louis meeting of the Leica Historical Society. He had a good selection of Nikon RF, some of it rare. Not all sold, but some nice items were featured, including:

<b>Hansa Canon w/black face Nikkor.....</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Nikon Voltage Meter.....</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Reflex Housing Type II complete.....</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>2.5cm/f4.0 Nikkor in Leica SM.....</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>
<b>3.5cm/f.18 Nikkor in Leica SM.....</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>
<b>50mm/f1.1 Nikkor in Leica SM!!!.....</b>	<b>\$5,200</b>

Three items that did not sell were two S36 Motor Drives in EX to EX+ condition and a black Nikon SP in EX++ shape! Auctions can be so unpredictable.

**Christies, 11/18/03.** This auction featured a large variety of equipment from very early Magic Lanterns and Cine cameras, to modern Rolleis and pages of Leicas. A small selection of Nikon items were featured, two of which are first class rarities! One of only 4 known examples of the first version of the black 1000/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor in RF mount was up for sale. It appeared to be in very fine condition but did not meet its reserve of \$59,000! Yes, \$59,000. My feelings are that this is a \$50,000+ item and I am surprised it did not sell. The second super rarity was a 250 shot motor for the rangefinders. This one did sell at about \$32,000 plus premium. The verdict is still out as to whether it is the genuine item (the photos in the catalog were not large enough to tell), and no serial number is visible, so we are still researching it. But it is the very first 250 shot rangefinder motor to surface to date. Other items that sold:

<b>Nikon S2 w/1.4 in original box.....</b>	<b>\$2,200</b>
<b>Nikon S w/1.4.....</b>	<b>\$700</b>

**Westlicht Photographica, 11/22/03.** This second auction from Vienna, Austria held more Nikon RF & reflex items than the above two combined. Actually, I cannot remember a sale with more rare & interesting Nikon items at one time, so here goes:

<b>M6091683 w/f2 #8111432.....</b>	<b>\$4,150</b>
<b>M6092057 w/1.4 #50050233 &amp; Original box!.....</b>	<b>\$9,800</b>
<b>S #6111427 w/1.4 #336386 &amp; Original box!.....</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>
<b>SP w/f1.1 Nikkor &amp; S36 Motor Drive!.....</b>	<b>\$11,500</b>
<b>SP BLACK #6221477 W/1.4.....</b>	<b>\$17,800</b>
<b>SP w/f1.1 Nikkor, METAL shade &amp; SP box!.....</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>
<b>S3 BLACK Olympic DOUBLE BOXED!!.....</b>	<b>\$8,150</b>
<b>35MM Mini-Finder.....</b>	<b>\$2,250</b>

In addition to the above there were two FAKE black Nikons, one obvious, one not so obvious. But they sold.

**S2 FAKE BLACK #6161509 w/1.4 All-black (also not original). Body listed as 'restored'.....**

**\$3,700**  
**S4 FAKE BLACK w/f1.1 Nikkor.. Body listed at (paint is not orig.). Good, because the S4 was never made in black but this**

**was a neat looking piece! I think the buyer did well since he got the S4 free with the lens!.....**

**\$5,300**  
 And finally the one item that was the star of the show as far as I am concerned. A real rarity that should have gone for much more than it did!

**NIKON I #60997 W/F2 Nikkor #6099 & cap! Not only within the first 100 Nikons ever made, but the earliest known normal lens ever to surface! I would have thought it would go for as much as \$35,000 because its condition is superb, and that lens!!! Final hammer price.....**

## MEMBER ACTIVITIES

### ULI KOCH NIKON F TRILOGY...

I still have a few copies of Uli's fantastic Nikon F book in stock for immediate delivery. If you have ANY interest in collecting the Nikon F reflex system, or if you feel it is just too large and daunting to get into, this is your book. No matter how much you think you already know, you will learn something within its pages. And no matter how little you know, read this trilogy and you will find yourself one of the more knowledgeable of Nikon F collectors the next time you go to a show or get on eBay. In the world of collecting, knowledge is money! And the larger the system the more knowledge the better. The Nikon F system is huge by comparison with the RF system, and is a real task to master. This book may be all you ever need to make yourself a knowledgeable reflex collector.

United States.....(FIRST CLASS).....	\$164.00
(PARCEL POST).....	\$160.00
(BOOK RATE).....	\$157.00
Canada.....(AIRMAIL ONLY).....	\$173.00

### OUR 'NHS' WEBSITE...IT'S GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME....

Our webmaster, Fred Krughoff, continues to improve and upgrade our official website. Most of you probably do not know that Fred does this free of charge as a service to the Society, putting in many hours at the keyboard keeping things up to date and maintaining servers so our site is always up and running. He tells me that our 'message board' has received thousands of hits and is constantly growing. Recently he was able to put up links to over 200 images of last years' Matsuya Camera Show and the JCII Museum Nikon Prototype Show that is being held over for our Convention. Please check out our site to see these shots and use our message board. It's fun!

### BINOCULARS ARE HIS THING!

Member Steve Stayton recently presented a paper for a meeting of binocular collectors in San Diego, of which he sent me a copy. Steve specializes in binoculars and even though Nikon is only one of many players in this arena, his studies invariably touch on the pre and post-war Japanese optical industry, of which Nikon was a major part. This particular paper deals with the high quality Bushnell Rangemaster series made between 1951-81. I am sure Steve has his share of early Nikon glasses in his collection. Steve if you haven't done so as yet, you should contact fellow members Jeff Felton and Richard Lane (with another great article in this issue!). I am sure you would have much to talk about.



## 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](http://www.nikonhs.org)..... **THE OFFICIAL 'NHS' SITE!!**  
[www.camerabooks.com](http://www.camerabooks.com)..... Petra Kellers very large book list.  
[www.cameraguild.jp/nekosan](http://www.cameraguild.jp/nekosan)... A very good Japanese site.  
[www.cameraquest.com](http://www.cameraquest.com)..... Stephen Gandy's great site.  
[www.tonyhurstnikon.com](http://www.tonyhurstnikon.com)... Our own back cover Tony's site.  
[www.jonathanharris.co.uk](http://www.jonathanharris.co.uk)... English site selling top quality Nikon, Leica, Hasselblad, etc.  
[www.kenmarcamera.com](http://www.kenmarcamera.com)..... Ken Reisher's great site.  
[www.qualitycamerashop.com](http://www.qualitycamerashop.com)..... Peter Lownds' site for his Nikon Museum and Camera Shop!  
[www.nikon.co.jp](http://www.nikon.co.jp)..... Nikon Japan's official site!  
[www.nikon.co.jp/main/eng/d-archives/index.htm](http://www.nikon.co.jp/main/eng/d-archives/index.htm)... A section of Nikon's site dealing with the historical archives!  
[www.nikonlinks.com](http://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](http://www.nikkor-club.de)..... Site for German club maintained by none other than Peter Braczo! German language.  
[www.nikkor-foto.de](http://www.nikkor-foto.de)..... Site of Herbert Blaum with links to a Nikon user forum and classified ads. German language!  
[www.nikon-f.de](http://www.nikon-f.de).. Uli Koch's site for the latest info on his book!  
[www.zoom-net.com](http://www.zoom-net.com)... New site for the International collector's magazine "Classic Camera".  
[www.yoshino.ne.jp/kato/english.htm](http://www.yoshino.ne.jp/kato/english.htm)... A commercial and information site worth looking at.  
[www.fieldgrassandgale.com](http://www.fieldgrassandgale.com)... They update their selling list every day and have many Nikon items!  
[www.pacificrimcamera.com](http://www.pacificrimcamera.com).. Items for sale but also see their "photographic pages" for information on Nikon RFs!  
[www.graysofwestminster.co.uk](http://www.graysofwestminster.co.uk).. Official site for Gray's "Nikon Only" shop in London!  
[www.nikonownersclub.com](http://www.nikonownersclub.com).... See the latest in offers for club members and upcoming events & promotions.  
[www.woodcam.com](http://www.woodcam.com).. Richard Tillis' "Woodmere Camera" site.  
[www.mirandacamera.com](http://www.mirandacamera.com).. Tom Surovek's great Miranda site!  
[www.keh.com](http://www.keh.com).... Probably the largest used camera dealer in the world! Keep track of their ever changing inventory.  
[www.leicashop.com](http://www.leicashop.com).... Not just Leica! They carry a massive selection including many rare Nikon RFs. Check it out!  
[www.usedcamera.com](http://www.usedcamera.com)... Bruce Sirovich's site for buying, selling and repairing Nikon equipment. Check out their services!  
[www.geh.org](http://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](http://www.geh.org/fm/nikon/htmlsrc/nikon_sld00001.html)  
[www.katocamera.com](http://www.katocamera.com)... website for Toshikazu Kato's store in Nara Japan. A selection of new & used Nikon equipment to see.  
<http://homepage2.nifty.com/akiyanroom/redbook-e>.. If you have any interest in the really weird & oddball lenses made by Nikon, such as APO, Com, Fax, Ultra-Micros, Macros, etc, then you have to see this site! Run by Michio Akiyama, it is full of photos & info on all types of wonderful & practically unknown Nikkors! Really interesting stuff!!

[www.cosina.co.jp/r2sc/index.html](http://www.cosina.co.jp/r2sc/index.html).. Official site for Cosina and a good way to keep up to date on what may be coming out in the future for the R2S camera line.

[www.ritzcam.com](http://www.ritzcam.com).. Site for Ritz Collectible Cameras in Phoenix, AZ. They always have interesting Nikons in stock!!

[www.stonemills.net](http://www.stonemills.net).. Bob Simpsons new site which features Nikon cameras as well as a large selection of microscope gear!!

[www.nikonrare.com](http://www.nikonrare.com).. New Italian site featuring rare & interesting Nikons by Federico Bongiorno.

## LETTERS...LETTERS..

From Jim Leathem....

Congratulations on the superb NHS-81. Beautiful color shots! Maybe you could have just the cover in color from now on? I think you should have more Nikon Ones for under \$7500. What a deal! (*Jim. Color would be nice but the costs are just too much. #81 ran an extra \$750 for just the color so unless I double the dues I can't repeat the color plates until our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which will probably be here faster than we think.*)

\*\*\*\*\*

From Ted Pappas....

Congratulations on a great 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue. I was very impressed with both the covers and the center fold. Tony has been a great find. His work has been superb and he has added a great deal to the publication. Is there any chance of getting copies of the color plates? Keep up the good work for another 20 years! (*Ted. I had extra copies of the covers and center fold printed up for those who wish to have copies that they might want to frame. The set is \$10.00 postpaid (\$12.00 overseas).*)

\*\*\*\*\*

From Alan Blake....

I was very pleasantly surprised on withdrawing the colored Journal from the envelope. Another excellent issue made even better! On this occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NHS, sincerest thanks are to you for your great effort and dedication in producing the Journal for 20 years and continuing to improve it. I imagine that for the majority of members such as myself, the Journal is the sole reason for membership and their continuing support is the best tribute to its quality and interest value.

I was very interested by Stephen Gandy's "Voightlander's Dynamic Duo" and previous articles about their "retro" products. I have seen no mention in dealer's ads of any of the Voigtlander Nikon compatible gear on this side of the pond. Only the Leica version of the R2 and its lenses. I must make a positive effort to get an F-S ring. Even if it does not permit most Nikon F auto diaphragm lenses to be mounted on an RF body, I could experiment with mounting my 21/f4 mirror lock-up Nikkor (and make believe I have the RF version) or try connecting my reflex housing to an F bellows unit.

Here's looking forward to the next 20 years of the Journal, though I doubt that I will be around to read it!



# 'NHS' e-mail LIST!!

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

As a service to my members I will run an updated list each issue of the NIKON JOURNAL, so keep me informed. Any addresses added or changed since the last issue are in bold italics! This listing has been updated as of Dec. 31, 2003.

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

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

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

GREG ANTHONY.....greganthony2000@yahoo.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

**JAY BERNSTEIN.....jaybernstein@earthlink.net**

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.....brunner@heag.ch

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

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

DANILO CAPUANI.....dorti13@hotmail.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

RICHARD CREUTZ.....richard.creutz@yle.fi

XAVIER CRISTAU.....cristau@tin.it

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

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

GERALD DAVIES.....gerald.davies6@bopenworld.com

JEFF DEAN.....jeff.dean@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@gmx.net

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

STEVE FISCHER.....steveandcatefisher@comcast.net

**WILLIAM FISCHER.....ssp2434@aol.com**

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

STEPHEN GANDY.....leicanikon@earthlink.net  
Web site.....www.cameraquest.com

PAUL GARRETT.....sinuoso@aol.com

ALAN GEORGE.....alangeorge68@aol.com

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

**DON GRESOCK.....CVNLI@stic.net**

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

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

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

JOHN HARRIS.....ex120@yahoo.com

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

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

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

LIONEL HOUDE.....lionelhoude@aol.com

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

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

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

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

**ARTURO JAUREGUI.....artifoto@earthlink.net**

GEORGE JENKIN ..... jsuzgeo@aol.com

DON JONES .....dajones@fseid.freeserve.co.uk

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

TOSHIKAZU KATO .....tosy3@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@lkoenig.com

**TOM KOSTYK.....tkostyk@rochester.rr.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 .....jeldgl@safeaccess.com

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

GRAY LEVETT .....info@graysofwestminster.co.uk

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

MICHAEL W. LODER .....mw12@psu.edu

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 .....kfotog@juno.com

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

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

JOSEF MAYRHOFFER .....fotomayrhofer@fotomayrhofer.com  
Website...fotomayrhofer.com

ENZO MAZZEO .....enzomazzeo@tin.it

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

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

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

JOHN MILLHAM .....johnnamillham@aol.com

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

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

**RAYMOND NASON.....rnsnoph@comcast.net**

AL NELSON .....nelson5248@aol.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PHILIP RAMSDEN .....philipramsdn@telstra.com

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

THIERRY RAVASSOD .....magic.world@wanadoo.fr

OLIVER REDDWAY .....oliverreddaway@alpha.net.au

KEN REISHER .....cameraken@aol.com

IGOR REZNIK .....igorcamera@adelphia.net

**SANDY RITZ (RITZ COLLECTIBLE CAMERAS).....scott@ritzcam.com**  
Website...www.ritzcam.com

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

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

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

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

CHRISTOPHER SAP .....christophe.sap@belgacom.net

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

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



## 'NHS' e-mail LIST (cont)

RUDOLF SCHENKER.....ruedischenker@freesurf.ch  
 PAUL SCHLOEGEL.....pschloegel@cox.net  
 STEVEN SCHWARTZ.....camerarts@msn.com  
 LES SEELIGSON.....lrs@sdhldlaw.com  
 BOB SIMPSON.....bob@stonemills.net  
 PETER SMITH.....nikonsmith@aol.com  
 STEVEN T. SMITH.....stscam@centurytel.net  
 STEVE STAYTON.....sstayton@earthlink.net  
 GARY STONE.....stonehouse@thegrid.net  
 TOM SUROVEK.....tomsurovek@aol.com  
 ROGER SWAN.....swanfoto@iafrica.com  
 HENRY SWIECA.....henrys@hemny.com  
 MIKESYMONS.....msymons6456@telus.net  
 AKITO TAMLA.....atam@fine.ocn.ne.jp  
 RUTGER TEUSCHER.....rteuscher@surfeu.de  
 TOM THOMSON.....tthomson53@mediaone.net  
 ROBERT TRUPELL.....trudellr@lv.rmci.net  
 G.H. TSURUOKA.....gtroka@aol.com  
 JOHN UTTERSON.....utter@specent.com  
 GREG VANNASSE.....gregbuys@adelphia.net  
 PAUL-HENRY vanHASBROECK.....hasbroeck@aol.com  
 KENNETH WAGNER.....kenwagz@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.....alexankovic@juno.com  
 DALE ZICARELLI.....info@actioncamera.com  
 DANIEL ZIRINSKY.....camrbug@aol.com

## THE 'RUMOR MILL'

Hopefully this is nothing more than a groundless rumor that we will all chuckle at someday. It seems that there have been some published reports hinting that Nikon is considering discontinuing production of film-based cameras in favor of the digital type. An article appeared in the November 13<sup>th</sup> issue of the Tokyo-based 'Nihon Keizai Shimbun'—Japan's equivalent of the Wall Street Journal or Financial Times—the meat of which reads:

Nikon Corp. intends to get out of the film camera business and focus on digital cameras from now on.

The paper stated the story came from company sources. Though the company said no decision has been made yet, the newspaper said production is being halted and shipments to stores will stop in a few months. Meanwhile, <http://www.nikon.co.jp/main/jpn/whatsnew/2003/1113.htm> (in Japanese) denies reports that Nikon will get out of the 'compact film camera business' in Japan, let alone anywhere else.

Well, what is meant by 'compact film cameras' is not quite clear. Nikon only makes 35mm cameras, nothing larger and nothing smaller. Why word it this way? Do they mean the lowly amateur point-n-shoot type cameras, on which few companies have ever made a dime? Or are they talking about the F5?? It all seems a bit murky to me! RJR

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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 Compars. 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 IIg 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.



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

Nicholson Yard

Hinton St. Mary, Dorset DT10 1NF

PHONE: 01258 471717 FAX: 01258 471718

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



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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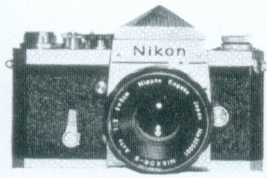
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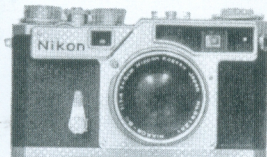
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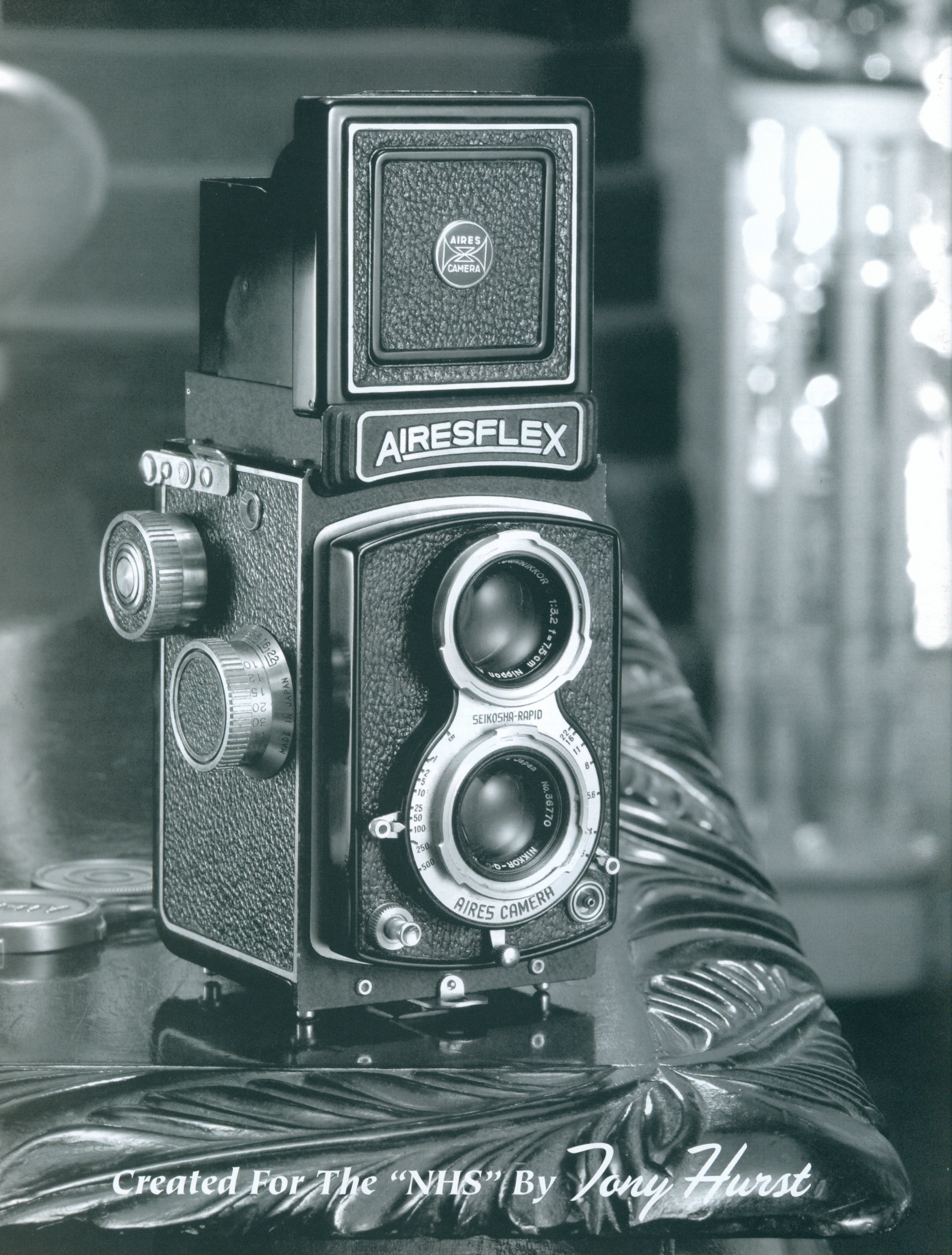
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