

**A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**JUNE 30, 2008**

**NHS-100!**

**HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY NIKON ONE!!!**  
**NIKON ㄟㄟㄟ JOURNAL**



**ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**  
**EDITOR/PUBLISHER**

**THIS ISSUE**  
**OUR 100TH ISSUE!!!**  
**PG.1.. NHS-CON11 COVERAGE**  
**PG. 13..NIKON ONE AT 60!!!**



# THE NIKON JOURNAL ISSUE #100

VOLUME TWENTY FIVE - NUMBER THREE - JUNE 30, 2008

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A PAIR OF '60952' NIKON ITEMS!??

### NHS-101 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-101, is SEPT. 1, 2008. This will be our 25th Anniversary issue! Please get all correspondence to me on time so I can bring it out on schedule. Thank you. RJR.

## EDITORIAL

With this 100<sup>th</sup> issue of our Nikon Journal, we have reached a milestone that most any publication would be proud of. But it will be immediately followed by yet another plateau when we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with our very next issue, NHS-101 due out in September. Am I elated and happy? Of course. Can I believe I have now done this 100 times? At times I find it hard to absorb as those 25 years of putting The Journal together have really gone by quickly. Often I think to myself, 'where did all the time go to?' Recently I stood before the magazine section of my local Borders bookstore just checking out the many titles on display. The selection is mind boggling and one cannot help but wonder how they all stay in business. Well....actually many of them don't. While standing there I tried to pick out titles that my personal experience tells me have been around for 100 issues, or even 25 years. Once I got past magazines such as Time, Life, Newsweek, National Geo and a few others, I suddenly realized that about 90% of what I was looking at had not been around very long at all (and I doubt would be around much longer). So I guess we in the NHS can be rightfully proud of our longevity. But I wonder how many of you really thought it would still be here back in the eighties when it all started?

As is always the case, this post-convention issue is dominated by coverage of the Vancouver meeting. Since our semi-annual conventions are really a big part of what the Society is all about, I like to cover it in as much detail as possible, hoping that I can entice more of you to make the trip in two years. Have I succeeded?

But besides 12 pages of Convention coverage I am using NHS-100 to kick off a new series by Christophe Sap on the Nikon One, which celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008. Chris' research promises to bring a great deal of factual information on the Nikon One to our pages. And what a better time for it to happen? Here we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> issue, then our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and at the same time we honor the first Nikon on its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! Is this what is meant when they say 'the stars have come together in a special alignment'? Because of the convention coverage I only had room for four pages for Chris this issue but more space will be allotted in the next 2 issues (or more). Chris has cataloged all known One bodies in a way only a trained accountant could, plus he has interviewed Tatsuhiko Arakawa at his home in Tokyo where he has learned more historical knowledge. It should be a good series.

Also this issue some Auction coverage and the Internet news. On page 19 is a notice of an SP art poster available from a fellow in England. This brings up a point. At NHS-Con11 Tony Hurst had some posters for sale that he had produced. Now you know Tony's work! Would you not want some of those great shots from our back cover and my book on your wall? Why not contact Tony and ask him! Maybe we can start something here. A Tony Hurst full color shot on your wall would really dress up any collection, would it not? Give him some feedback at 'tonyhurst@eircom.net'. Have a really special collection display with some great shots on your wall!

**"THE RUMOR MILL"... Rumor has it that NK might introduce a 'digital rangefinder camera with Leica M mount'! Now wouldn't that be interesting.**

# NHS-CON11 IN BEAUTIFUL VANCOUVER THE NHS GOES 'NORTH OF THE BORDER'...

Almost exactly 20 years to the day since our very first Convention in Chicago in March 1988, members of our Society from around the world gathered together for NHS-Con11 in Vancouver, Canada. And what a lovely city it is, with snow capped mountains visible from many parts of town, the water only minutes from the hotel, beautiful well maintained parks and a very clean environment. A perfect setting for NHS-Con11.

Show chairman Mike Symons chose a really fine hotel in the Sheraton Wall Centre situated in the heart of the city. This is a really first rate hotel with fine accommodations but, more importantly, so well run and organized that every facet of the meeting came off flawlessly. Everything was where it was supposed to be when it was supposed to be there. There is always the worry that something will be forgotten or misunderstood, but nothing of the sort occurred and everything came off as planned.

I met with Tom Abrahamsson on Tuesday evening (Tom also picked me up at the airport earlier in the day and ended up waiting an extra hour as I spent some quality time with Canadian customs!) for a little get together where I met Terry Cioni. Tom had secured Terry's services for the Saturday meeting where he was in charge of the computer presentations, which came off flawlessly!

Mike and I began setting things up on Wednesday, meeting with the hotel staff as well as the cruise line for Saturday's dinner. All 11 boxes of necessary items we had pre-shipped to the hotel were there and we got those up to my room where hours would be

spent arranging everything. Members started coming in on Wednesday and, as always, we simply waited around in the hotel lobby spotting each new arrival. Before long we had a group of 18 and off we went to a local Asian restaurant for a great meal. Getting together with old friends, and meeting some new ones, is always the best part of our Conventions. This first of 4 such dinners was a great time for all. We would do it again on Thursday night, but this time it was Italian and we numbered 25! Funny how food brings people together.

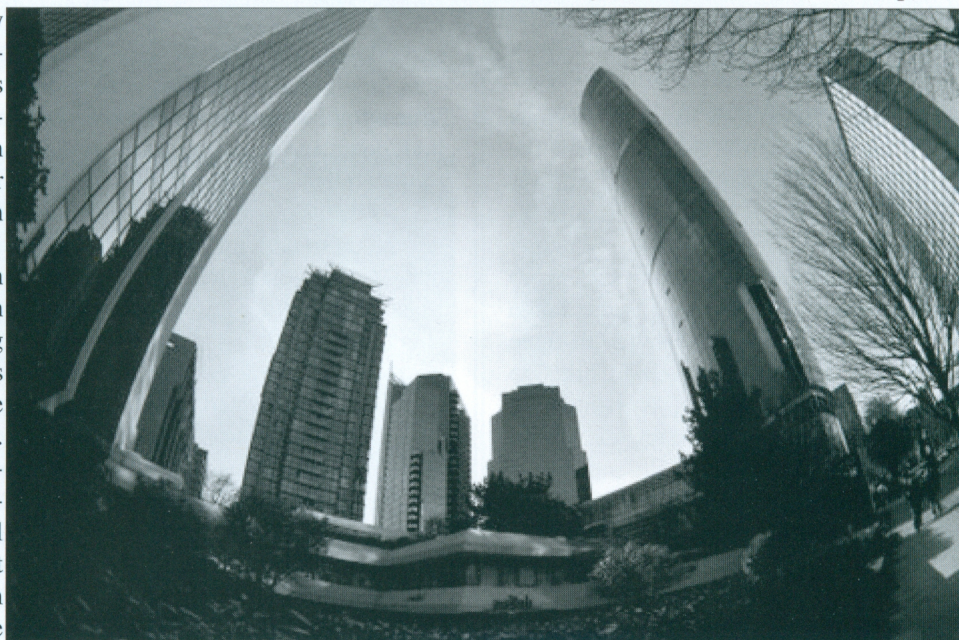
Earlier on Thursday Mike and I met Terry Cioni for lunch where we delivered all the CDs from the various speakers. Terry loaded them all to make sure they worked correctly (thank God they did!), then took them home to arrange all in the correct order and load them onto a hard drive. The result was a flawless series of presentations on Saturday, the first time for us. Computers being what they are we have had small glitches in the past but not this time! Thanks Terry.

Friday found nearly everyone had arrived by late afternoon but Mike and I (with help from Bob Rogen) spent most of the day getting ready for the evening registration and hospitality suite. The hotel had set aside space for us in the lobby with tables and signs and by 5pm we were up and running. Before long there must have been 50 members and many spouses present but everyone got registered and received their name tag and bag of goodies. Next up, the hospitality suite.

We weren't sure how many people



*Above photo Paul Bonner. Below the twin towers of the Sheraton Hotel (C. Sap)*



would show up at 8pm in the hospitality room. Some people who had arrived late needed to eat or rest. Surprise...nearly everyone came! We had a great room for the purpose and for over three hours it was full of good people enjoying good conversation (I had to run out and get more beer!). It went well and we all enjoyed standing by the windows watching it snow. Snow? That's right, snow in April and less than 24 hours before our scheduled cruise ship dinner. What, me worry?

I need to mention that while we were having fun on Friday night, Rich Lane, Jack Kelly, Peter Abrahams and Mike Symons were busy setting up the special 'Nikko' display in the meeting room. A really huge task, as you will soon see.

The meeting kicked off exactly at 8:30 Saturday morning with members coming in as early as 7:30. By start time 54 of us were gathered in a comfortable room and ready to go.

We had '11' scheduled presentations and all came off on

dedicated collectors Rich Lane, Jack Kelly, Steve Rahan and Mike Symons, there had to be literally a ton of equipment of all kinds on display. And by a ton I mean just that. Much of this material is 'heavy' and the work required to haul it to Vancouver, get it into the hotel and to set it up was mind boggling. Couldn't be flown in. These fellows had to drive it in! I wonder how they got through customs? Anyway, with help from Peter Abrahams they spent hours setting it up and had it ready in time for the meeting. Every item was properly labeled, many signs specific to our meeting. All were arranged beautifully and the result was a real showstopper. And that huge Japanese flag didn't hurt either! I have run many photos of the display in this issue that I hope will do it justice, although no photo can take in the size and scope of this display. An absolutely awesome (and back breaking) effort by all concerned and a real historical event (isn't that what we are, an historical society?) Truly worthy of a museum.



time. Subject matter and speakers have been listed in previous Journals but I wish to thank all who took the time and made the effort to fill our day with interesting information. Thanks to Hans Braakhuis, Nick Didlick, Yuki Kawai, Uli Koch, Bill Kraus, Richard Lane, Wes Loder, and Chris Sap. And, as always, to Tony Hurst for yet another awesome slide show that always seems to make our Nikons look better than we remember them. Some speakers did multiple duty. Bill Kraus was involved with three presentations while Hans Braakhuis, Yuki Kawai and Chris Sap in two each. Mike did a great job as MC and, as mentioned, Terry Cioni made sure all the high tech worked. Thank you gentlemen.

Taking up the entire back wall of the room was the 'Nikko' display. You really had to be there to appreciate what was present but one thing is for sure. This had to be the single largest display of pre-war, wartime and post-war 'Nikko' marked Nippon Kogaku optical ordnance ever assembled in one room! Spearheaded by

When you look at the photos keep in mind that they had to take it all down and pack it up at the end of the day. And still make it to the cruise dinner.

We had a short show-n-tell and then a swap meet following the presentations while many spent their time at the 'Nikko' display, but we all had to get down to the lobby by 6pm for the final event of the day. Our Harbour Dinner Cruise. But what about the snow?'

The bus was on time and 62 of us made it to the dock in time to board the Harbour Princess for our two and a half-hour cruise. And no snow! Actually, the sun was out and the sky was clear ensuring that we would have a beautiful sunset. You leave the dock and sail towards the setting sun then circle back to view the lighted Vancouver skyline all aglow. Some beautiful sights and many members braved the cold wind to go up top and do some shooting. The food was great (beef and salmon and all the trimmings) as was the drink and the dessert table. Everyone had

a great time on this, our third get together over food.

Although the cruise marked the official end of NHS-Con11, there was still one more event for those members who wished to attend. We arranged for another bus to take us to the Vancouver Camera Show Sunday morning. And what a show it was. According to the promoter, Siggie Rohde, over 100 tables were sold with close to 1000 through the door. This figure included about 100 early birds, of which 40 or so were NHS members. It was a really good show with a large selection of all types of equipment. There was even a Nikon One in the room (camera 60971 was also at the meeting on Saturday and collected a large number of lookers whenever it surfaced). I enjoyed it and I am sure everyone else did as well. For me it was a great final act of the weekend and allowed most of us to see each other once more before people started to leave town.

But we weren't quite done. Many members did not leave until Monday or later, so on Sunday evening we again put together a large group for yet another dinner. Some went Italian, others Japanese, and it was a good way to end the week.

I want to thank all who took the time and spent the money to come to Vancouver for a few days and make NHS-Con11 a success. Besides the USA and Canada, we had members from England, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Finland, Norway, Mexico, Japan and Australia! Truly an international group.

I also want to again thank all the speakers and those involved with the 'Nikko' display. Tom Abrahamsson put us together with Terry Cioni, which relieved us of any worries about the computers working properly. He also led us to Nick Didlick, whose presentation about the future of digital photography was a hit. Nick is a very busy pro and took the time to give us a talk. By the way, he will be in charge of all the Canadian photographers covering the upcoming Winter Olympics! Tom also was instrumental in our acquiring signed copies of Fred Herzog's photographic book on Vancouver that was given to each member as the Convention gift. Mr. Herzog could not be present as he had a one-man show overseas at the time. Thank you Tom!

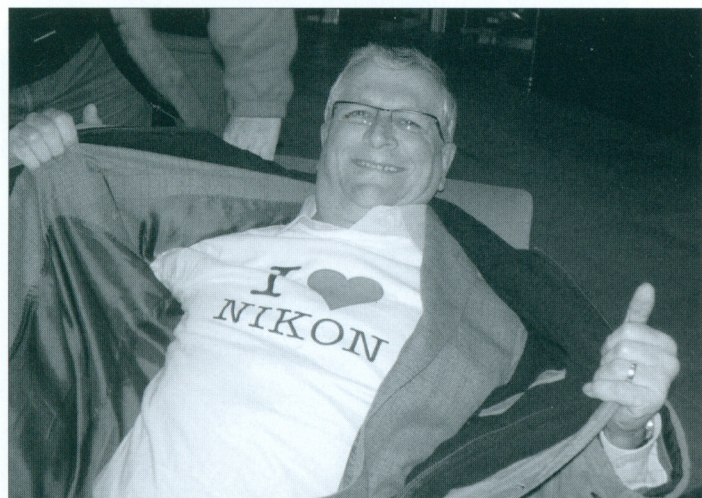
Finally, I need to acknowledge Mike Symons. Only those who have been involved with previous meetings can have a true picture of just how much work is required to put together our Conventions. Countless phone calls and emails along with multiple trips to Vancouver for face to face meetings with the hotel

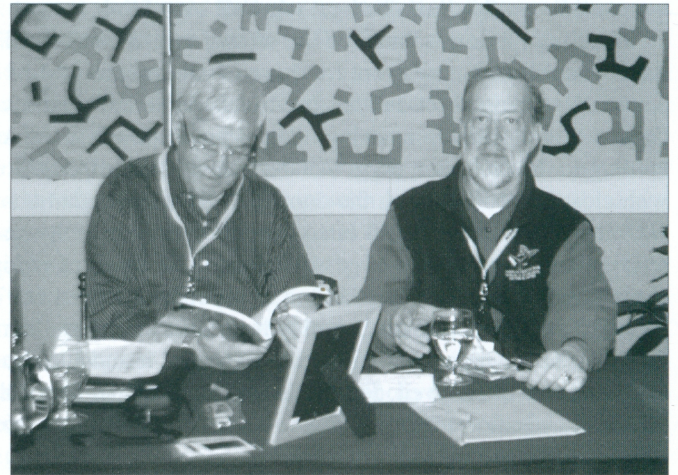
and cruise line were required. He also came up with the cruise idea for our closing dinner and pushed for the 'Nikko' display as well. A lot of hard work and worry goes along with the job. And keep in mind: our Conventions would never occur without volunteers to do the work, especially since none have been near my home in Chicago since 1990! All of you who have attended this or previous meetings owe your good times to those who organized it. I can't thank Mike enough.

**What about NHS-Con12? Chris Sap and Hans Ploegmakers are putting their efforts together for our next Convention. Where? See you in Brussels, Belgium in 2010!!**



*Page 2..Our 'semi-official group shot. (B.Kraus) Above-clockwise..doing some sightseeing around Vancouver. (C. Sap, C. Mikesh, B. Kraus) Below left..Chris Sap declaring his love of Nikons. (T. Ravassod) Right..Dinner for 18! (B. Kraus)*





Working the registration table Friday night. Upper left..L~R..Mike Symons, Jack Kelly (paging thru the Herzog book) & Tom Abrahamsson. (D.Barth) Above..Mike with Wes Loder, who had a supply of his new book with him. (B. Kraus) Left..That's Edgardo Molina from Mexico signing up with Mike and I. (B. Kraus)

Below..Yutaka Ohtsu, the only one to make the trip from Japan, with Hans Ploegmakers from the Netherlands. (B. Kraus) Right..That's Uli Koch, author of the Nikon F Trilogy, & Bob Rogen. (B. Kraus)



Bottom right..Two from California.. on the left is Paul Comon, author of various books on photography including 'Nikon Data', and Stephen Gandy who many of you know from his famous 'Cameraquest' website and those wonderful Cosina Voigtlander R2S cameras, two of which were present that day. (B.Kraus) Below...Peter Lownds from the Netherlands explaining to Wes Loder, "Wes, now listen to me. This is the way it's done!" (D. Barth)





Above..Dave Barth (l) and Dr. Bill Jackson. It turns out they live only a few miles apart in Colorado but had never met. Con11 brought them together. (B.Kraus) Right..Jim and Setsuko Martin from Michigan have been to nearly every Convention including Tokyo, where we followed Setsuko and her red flag around town. (D. Barth) Below..And the prize for coming the greatest distance goes to....Oliver Reddaway and Diane, who came all the way from Australia! That's dedication! (B. Kraus)



Middle right..Uli Koch and Bill Adams. (D. Barth) Bottom right... Yutaka Ohtsu and Paul Comon enjoying the hospitality suite Friday night. (P. Comon) Below...Here's that big guy from the Netherlands again with Bill Kraus. 'Bill, now listen to me when I tell you this is the way it must be done!' (P. Bonner)

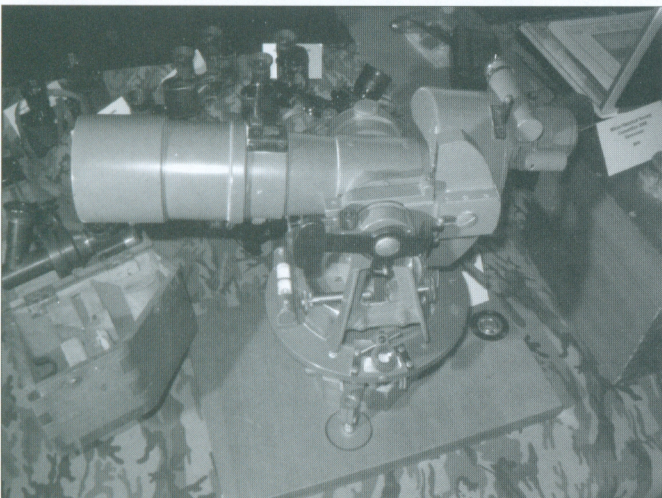




## THE 'NIKKO' DISPLAY!!



*The massive 'NIKKO' display is very difficult to illustrate adequately. I received photos from many members. Those seen on these two pages were supplied by Paul Bonner, Dave Barth, & Richard Lane. As mentioned in the text, you really had to be there to get a feel for just how much equipment was on display. Just an amazing sight!*

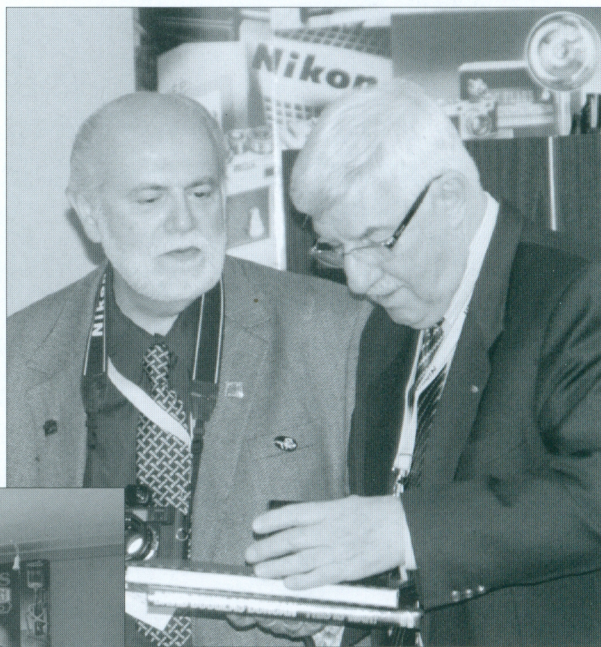








Left..Mike Symons did a great job of organization leading up to the meeting & served as MC that day. (D. Barth) Right..I gave Mike a few gifts of appreciation including some genuine Nikon jewelry & some new books for his library. (D. Barth) Again Peter Lownds brought the 'Tony Hurst Wall' with him from Europe! Yes, he carried it over with help from Ernst Thiel. What a guy! (D. Barth)



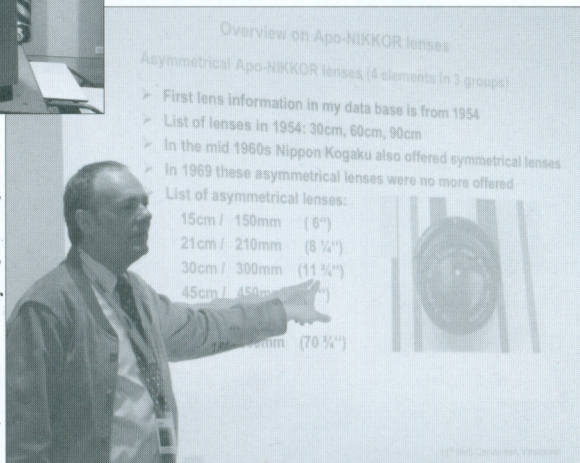
Below..Wes Loder presenting his scholarly talk on the Nikon Novar and Opera Glasses from the early post war era. (D. Barth)

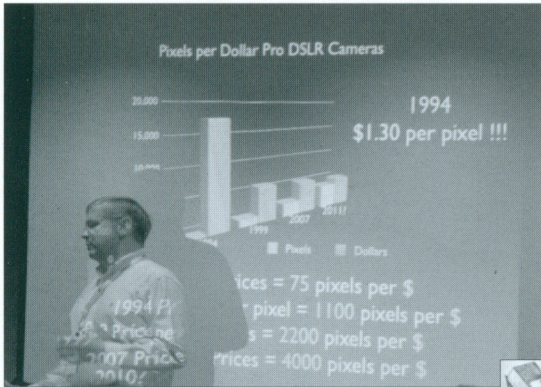


Below..Uli Koch came from Germany to speak on the impressive, but little known, 'Apo-Nikkor' lens system. (P. Bonner)



Below..Hans Braakhuys presenting Yuki Kawai, Bill Kraus, RJR and Mike Symons with a 'piece' of the original Ohi factory, part of which is being demolished. Within a photo cube are 3 photos plus a piece of the building! (C. Mikesh)

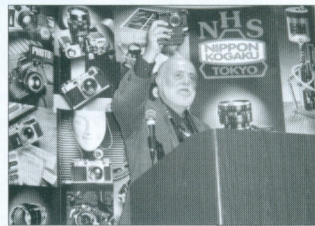
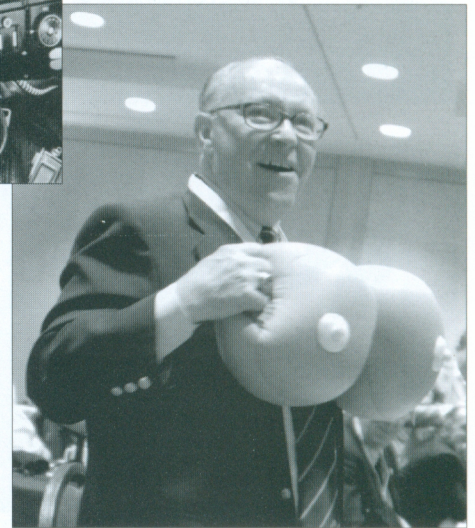




A total of 9 members volunteered their time to present talks on various subjects. Above, Nick Didlick & at right Rich Lane who gave a talk in addition to the 'Nikko' display. Below, all the speakers lined up to receive their gift of a signed copy of Wes Loder's new book (I gave Wes something else of course). L~R, RJR, Mike Symons, Chris Sap, Uli Koch, Rich Lane, Tony Hurst, Bill Kraus, Hans Braakhuis, Yuki Kawai, & Wes Loder.



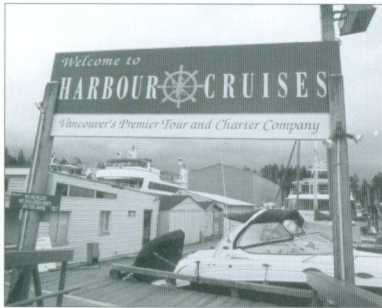
Were there any Nikons in the room? Of course! How about this one. It is Nikon I #60971! Very early indeed. (B. Kraus) Below..Bill Kraus finally received his 'booby prize' courtesy Chris Sap. Believe me, it's a long story. (D. Barth)



Boris Jamchtchik taking a closer look at an item I brought for show n' tell. (T. Ravassod) At far right..Stephen Gandy brought is Voigtlander 35mm/f1.2 SC, one of only 3 ever made as prototypes only! And what is that chrome thingamabob on the base of the SP? Hmmm.. (A. Nakajima)



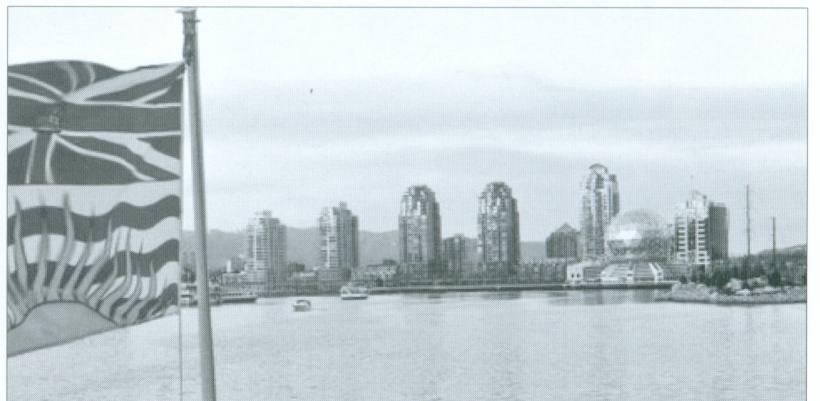
Following the meeting we took a bus over to 'Harbour Cruises' to board the ship that would serve as the sight for the closing dinner. We had an entire deck to ourselves for our party on what turned out to be a large and comfortable cruise ship. Right..many of us ventured out to shoot the sunset and Vancouver skyline on a cold, but beautiful evening. (T. Ravassod)

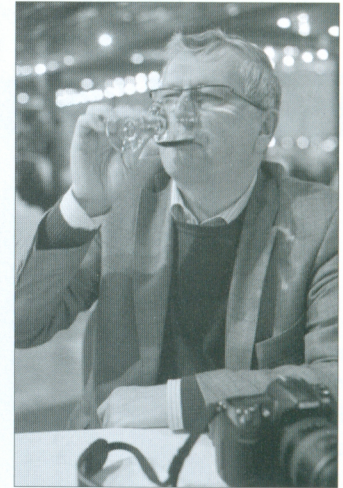


Uli Koch on the aft deck with the Vancouver skyline (RJR)



Above..Veli and Denise Miettinen beside the Harbour Princess. They made it from Finland but their luggage didn't. They were victims of the infamous Terminal Five at Heathrow in London! But, they still had a good time. (B. Kraus) Left..Veli and Jim Martin outside shooting. The sunset and skyline could not be passed up by a bunch of people with cameras. (B. Kraus) Below...Part of the Vancouver skyline. Although it snowed less than 24 hours before, we had beautiful light to shoot with. (C. Sap)





*The water front Vancouver skyline at sunset really makes this an interesting city. (RJR)*



*Above...Just some of the 60 plus who attended. (P. Comon)  
Right..Doug Napier and I teamed up for a special gift for Mike Symons. A full size table cover in green sporting the Nikon F logo. (P. Comon)*



*The final act, so to speak, was the camera show on Sunday. Again a bus was employed to get many of us to the show on Sunday morning. Above...Some of the gang waiting to get in the building on a beautiful sunny day. (P. Bonner) Left..We entered with 'early bird' passes. Show chairman Sigge tells me there were over 100 and we were at least 40 ourselves. (P. Bonner) Bottom left...Tony Hurst and Uli Koch checking out the merchandise. There were 100 tables and tons of equipment on sale. A good show. (B. Kraus) Bottom right....It's all over! Eleven Conventions under our belts and now it's time to sit and think about #12. Talks were already in the works in Vancouver for NHS-Con12 to be held in Brussels, Belgium. With a few surprises we hope. I hope to see many of you there. (B. Kraus)*



# THE NIKON ONE (1948~2008)

## HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY!

BY CHRISTOPHE SAP

In December 2007, member Hans Ploegmakers asked me if I would go with him to the Tokyo Matsuya Ginza camera show in February. I had to disappoint him, as the answer was no, since I had no special reason to go. Of course the company of Hans would have been reason enough, and there are always interesting things to see and buy, but in fact I had not that much time at that point. And then....

Thanks to some luck I found and bought a very early Nikon I, #60933, in better than average condition, with the matching lens. When I took a close look I noticed several differences with later Nikon Is. As I had only read that Nikon Is can show differences, but never read which differences, I started to look more closely and what I found was rather interesting.

So I got the idea of trying to learn more about the Nikon I, and where could that be better done than at the Nikon's birthplace, Tokyo? I started mailing all over the world and thanks to my friend Miura-san from Nikon Sendai I got a personal invitation to visit Tatsuhiko Arakawa at his home. The man was now 92 and is in rather good health, only his eyesight is less, but his memory...I took an option!! Miura-san also arranged a visit to the Nikon Ohi factory, where it was planned to visit the 'delivery room' so to say!

Emails went back and forth, and the program was fixed. In the meantime I knew of some friends who would be in Tokyo, and I made contact with Hans, but unfortunately he now had other obligations and could not go. I really felt guilty, sorry Hans.

Those friends of course were all interested, so I mailed back to Miura-san asking for some friends to come along. The answer that came back was good and not so good. Not good was the visit to the 'delivery room', the place where the Nikon Is were assembled, was cancelled, but good in that 5 friends could join for the visit. And real good was that Nikons 6091 and 6094 would be present for us to view in private!

At Arakawa's home only Miura-san, myself and my eternal Japanese guide Shusaku-san were allowed, due to the limited room in his home. Those who are familiar with Japanese housing will understand.

In the meantime Akiyama-san from the Kenkyukai had

mailed me that they would postpone their early February meeting until the Saturday after the Matsuya opening, and invited me to join with them. I, of course, agreed and told him about my Nikon I ideas. He mailed back that they would set up a special Nikon I program! Well, at that time things were exciting. Schedules were set. I would leave on Monday, arrive Tuesday noon, check in at the hotel and then go immediately to a repairman as my Nikon I needed some fixing. On Wednesday there would be the Matsuya Ginza show followed by a 'meet and greet' on the rooftop, always enjoyable. On Thursday the real things would start!

Our meeting with Arakawa-san was for Thursday morning from 10 to 12 at his home, far from the bustling metropolis, but still in Tokyo. My friend Patrick Rouillard from Paris was with me, so I had to be impolite again, asking if he could join us. So we did the ride with 4 instead of 3, and upon our arrival we were welcomed by Arakawa-san and his wife, together with their son. One more was no problem, if we set closer together. Of course we would.

Miura-san had informed me that Arakawa-san loved Belgian chocolates. Now I have told you my secret! I had not forgotten. I had lots of chocolates, real Belgian chocolates, not only for Arakawa-san, but for others as well. Besides that, also some Belgian beer plus 7 copies of

Bob's new book for friends of his, each weighing over 2 kg (5 lbs.). Together 34kg not counting the weight of the suitcase. I said to Patrick, who traveled with me from Brussels, that this would be a problem at check-in, but he said not to worry, our 'natural charm' would do the thing. And yes, no problem at check-in. 'See' he said, but I think it was because we were early and no one was in front of us.

I have divided my presentation into 6 sections (that will appear over the next few Journals) as follows:

- 1) The meeting with the repairman
- 2) The Arakawa story
- 3) The meeting with 6091 and 6094
- 4) The Kenkyukai meeting
- 5) What did Nippon Kogaku say? What did the manuals say?
- 6) Addendum with references and records.



## Nikon I #60933 Needs Some Repair

Upon our arrival in Tokyo on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of February after a long flight, we did a quick check-in at the hotel, then up to Shinjuku station and we were on the road to the repairman's house. Indeed, in 2007 he had repaired an M and an S body for me, both of which were not working properly. He cleaned them, re-oiled them, adjusted the speeds and curtains, and now they work like new. So when I remarked that 60933 was missing some outside screws (who knows what was missing inside), and it didn't fire properly and the curtain didn't open, I decided to have it repaired, but I wanted to be there.

After a long train ride we (Patrick, Shusaku and myself) arrived at his typical very small and very old Tokyo house. Only one room to live in, cook in and sleep in, and a minuscule bathroom, only 2 chairs, no table except for a small work bench, a small cabinet, and that is it. But he has the skill and the materials to repair Nikon rangefinders, having almost all screws and some parts.

After examining 60933 from the outside with many 'hums and ahs', he opened it, tried the shutter and just said 'oh'. And then the most exciting repair of my life started. I was a little scared, indeed, opening up such an old camera. What would we find? Would he be able to repair it? Would it be possible to reassemble without having parts left over? I can tell you this, it took 4 and half-hours and he did it! Six screws were missing but he had 5 of them, but the 6<sup>th</sup>, a tiny screw, no stock. Okay, so be it. But he didn't agree. 'I make screw'! And so he did. You should have seen this. And best of all, it fit! Then he disassembled it again, cleaned it and tried the shutter and curtain. The shutter fired the same at all speeds and the curtain did not

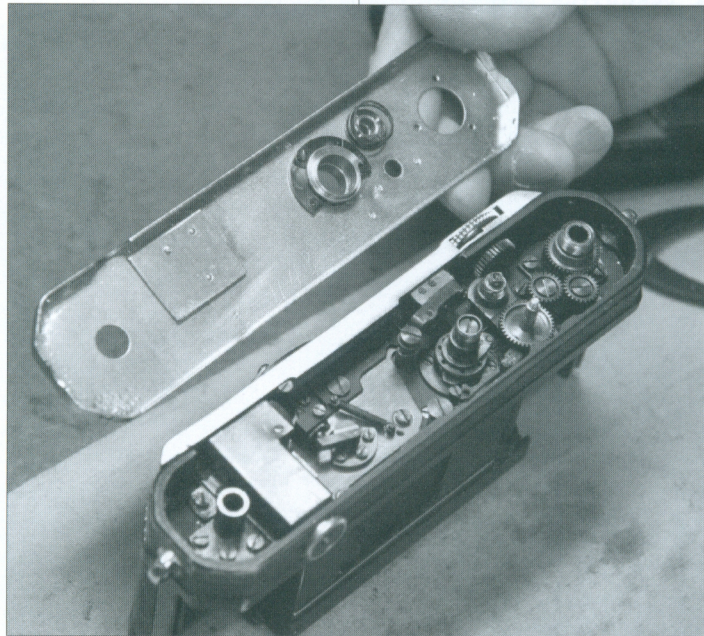
open. "Humm...I see'.

But even as he saw it, it took over an hour to find and repair. Indeed, the curtain was easy, but the shutter speeds wouldn't work, and when the shutter speeds were okay, the curtain didn't work! Then he decided to open up an S body. Amazing that the interior under the top plate of an S is exactly the same at this Nikon I, except for the synch, but this is only a couple of wires. He saw immediately that a spring had been replaced but it was not done correctly (I didn't see it at all until he showed me). He took the spring out of the S and put it in 60933. It worked! But then he told me he had no such spring. Again I said okay, it doesn't matter. Again he said 'I make spring'! He looked for some steel wire of the same thickness cut and plied until it had the desired form. First he put his spring back into the S, then the newly made spring into 60933. Not good enough. Again some rework, back, not good enough, rework again and finally it was done! He then carefully oiled where necessary and reassembled the body. No pieces were left over.

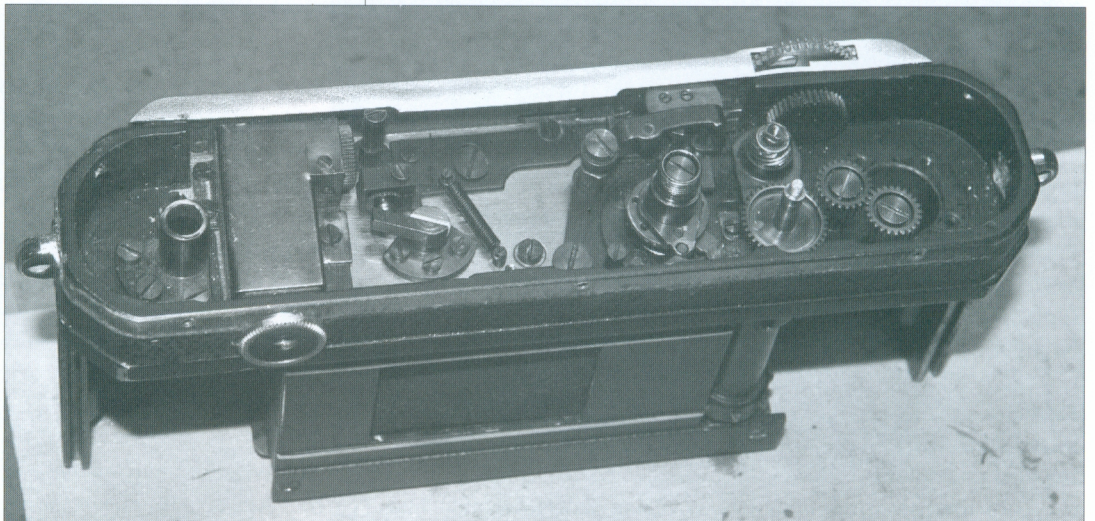
One more interesting comment. When the top plate came off we saw that the inside corners had been hammered. He said this is normal, as each top plate also had to be adjusted to mate with the body casting. Interesting!

Enomoto-san didn't succeed in making all shutter speeds work, and he was terribly sorry for that. Can you believe it! Afterwards I learned from a US report that no shutter fired at indicated speeds above 1/200. But I thank you again for your efforts, Enomoto-san.

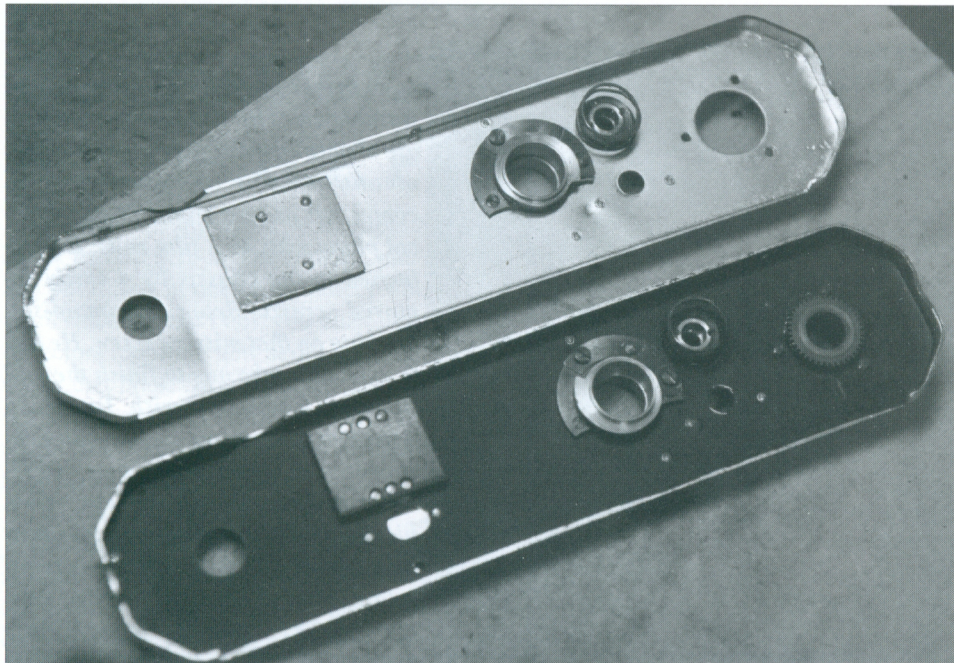
In the next installment I will cover the meeting with Arakawa-san and all that I learned from him about the long hard time of the birth of the Nikon I.



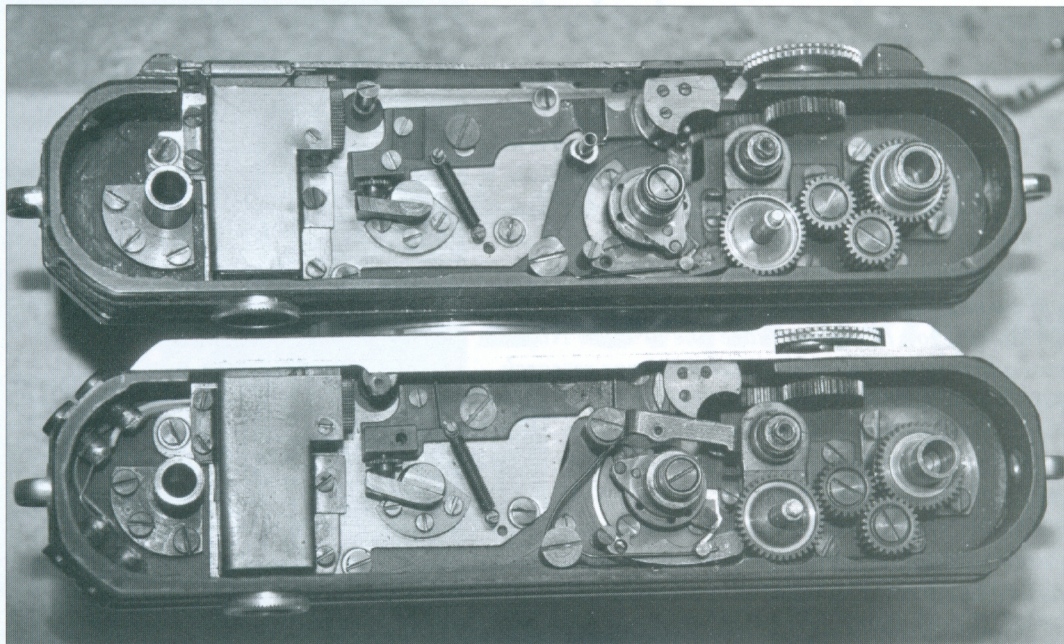
*Our first view under the top plate of camera 60933, probably one of the first 15 production Nikons to have been assembled (more on this dating in later Journals). It does not appear to be overly complicated, does it? The initial 6FB Nikon design (I, M, S) is very straight forward. Note the abundant space under the top plate. It would all fill up quickly in future models. But for a better view than these photos can provide, take a look under one of your Nikon M or S bodies. They are nearly identical. (RJR)*



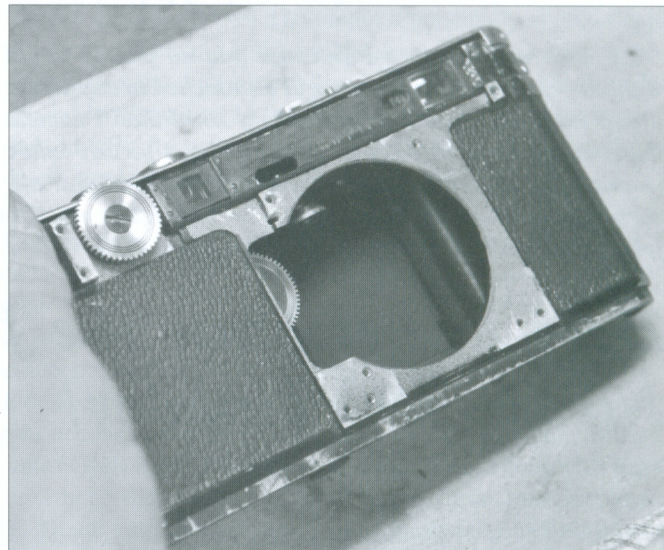
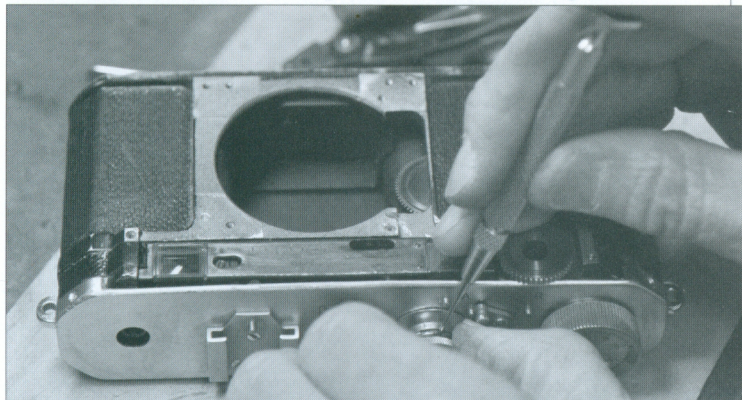


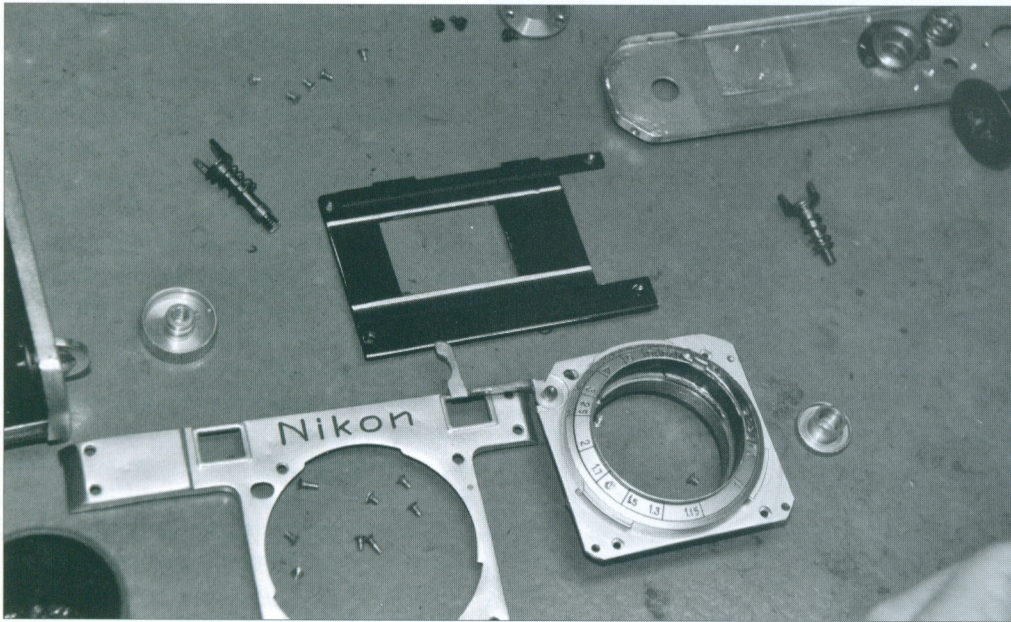


As mentioned in the text, the repairman needed to open up a Nikon S body to determine the design of a needed part to repair 60933. At left we see the underside view of both top plates, with that from 60933 at the top. Note that they are 'almost' identical. Differences that can be seen here are the blackened interior on the S plate; the more elegant rectangular plate that forms the underside of the accessory shoe mount; and the extra hole below that plate used for access to the RF for adjustments. What cannot be seen here is that the corners of the Nikon I plate have been hammered to 'fit' the casting. Later on this was not necessary. Below..both cameras open to view, with 60933 the upper camera. Again 'almost' identical. The only real differences are the synch wires and flash outlets visible at the left end of the S body. (RJR)



Opening up 60933. Once the front plate is removed the entire lens mount/focusing wheel assembly comes out as one group leaving the shutter curtains and RF cam accessible. For the most part, the RF Nikons (and even the Nikon F), are not that difficult to open up if you have the right tools and knowledge. (RJR)





Left..Pieces of 60933 laid out on the workbench. The top and front plates are visible as well as the complete lens mount/focusing mechanism which comes out as one group. Note the focal plane with its 2 film rails. It is attached to the chassis by 4 easily removed screws. Below...Enomoto-san working on that missing screw. He had to actually make one to finish the job! Bottom...Chris Sap with Tatsuhiko Arakawa at his home in Tokyo in February 2008. Chris is holding 60933. What is Arakawa-san holding? Why, his black Nikon S of course! The next installment will deal with the mass of info that Arakawa-san supplied concerning the Nikon I prototypes & early production. (All photos by Chris Sap)

## Chris Sap needs your help!

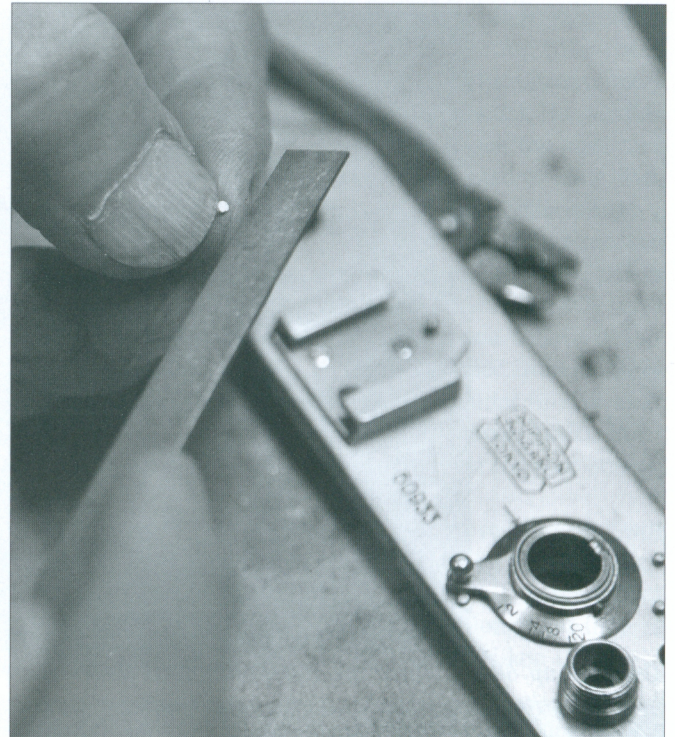
This article, the first of at least 3 installments, is the result of a research project that Chris got involved with after obtaining a very early Nikon I, 60933. It led to a presentation at NHS-Con11 in Vancouver and will again be touched on at NHS-Con12 in Brussels. This is an on-going project that I would hope those of you who possess a Nikon I can join in. This year marks the 60th birthday of the first Nikon and how better to honor it than to put within these pages as much factual and current information as possible. So we are asking for your help. What can you do? If you have one or more Nikon Is Chris needs photos and information to continue this huge research project, which is far from finished. Photos needed are..

- 1) Full top plate
- 2) Full front
- 3) Full bottom plate
- 4) Details of top plate (acc. shoe, serial #, shutter button/guard)
- 5) Details of interior (# on back, any #s inside take-up chamber or on bottom of chassis, fixed spool or not, 2 or 4 film rails, chassis cover or not.
- 6) Any other info such as original lens, any papers, etc.

'ALL' info will be kept confidential and no photos would be used without permission. No names will be attached to any serial numbers unless allowed. Chris & I have nearly 200 Nikon I cameras on our lists but the more info we have the better a picture can be drawn showing the development of the camera that started it all. You can correspond with us via hard copies, CDs or jpegs by email, but please join in. Let's see just how much we can learn. RJR

## Help us celebrate the first Nikon's 60th birthday!

csap@skynet.be  
rotoloni@msn.com  
r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net



## BOOK UPDATES AND FEEDBACK FORUM...

It has been suggested by multiple NHS members that I start a new feature here in The Journal, and I agree with them. Chris Sap put it best in one of his letters when he wrote, 'over the 25 years since the last book you must have had many updates from collectors reporting new serial numbers and variations that were not in that book. Would not the same thing happen again? Why not start a regular feature in the Journal where members can report new serial numbers and variations to you and we can all keep up with the new knowledge?'

Why not!

Starting right now I will reserve space each issue for any new info sent in by members and other collectors adding to what is in the book. This way it will remain an ongoing project that can only benefit us all. So if you have items whose numbers are beyond any stated range, or variations not pictured, just let me know. I can keep your name out of it if you wish. You can also send photos, although their eventual use will be determined by available space. Let's start off with some new numbers from Chris Sap..

- 1) You mention that you have only 6 'Hermes' lenses recorded. I have one more to add and it is #55358 and boxed.
- 2) For the Mini-35 finder you list an upper number of #160188. I have #160189, just 1 digit higher!
- 3) For the close-up devices I can add the following new info:

Model A (f2) you list the earliest reported as #21351. I have #21221 so we have a new range.

Model B (f1.4) lowest reported as #42627. I have #42596.

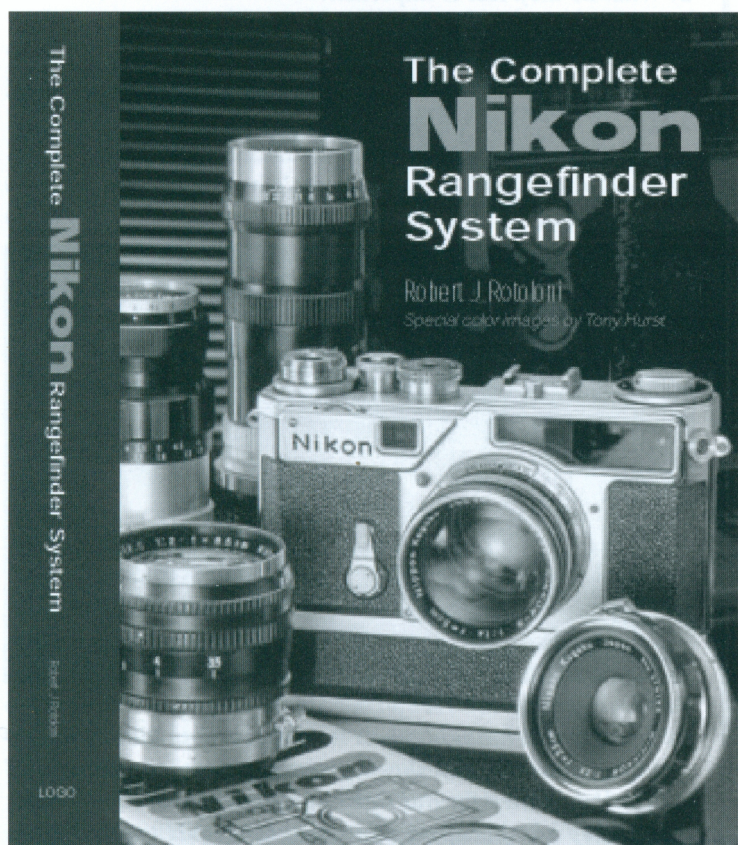
Model C (f1.4) highest # in book is #51128. I have #51547.

- 4) For the Microflex Type II you have the highest number reported to you as #30339. I have #30374!
- 5) For the early all-black 1.4 you have #331050 as the earliest one reported to date. I have lens #331044!
- 6) For the Variframe Type 7 you list the last seen as #544800. I have #544912, slightly later.

Jan Prinsen reports that he has a Type II Microflex Unit with the number 30631. This seems a bit high but his unit has only the 1/200 shutter. Interesting!

Keep it coming. We can all share our knowledge and learn from each other. I hope to have more each issue! RJR

# NOW AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT



I am pleased to announce that the US inventory of my book is in place and all orders can be processed for immediate shipment. Since it became available the beginning of March, I have been shipping within 48 hours of receiving payment.

We are still working on getting Shutterbug to give us a review but I am happy to announce that 'Photographica World', the official publication of the collectors club of Great Britain, ran an extremely positive review in their February issue. You can never have enough publicity.

Those of you who wish to obtain a personally signed copy need only to contact me and it will be done. As I have mentioned previously, besides just signing the book, I have also had made up special labels stating to the fact that 'this copy has been purchased directly from the author'. Prices are as follow and include all postage and handling:

United States	\$100 including Priority shipping.
Canada	\$115 including Int. Priority shipping.
Europe	\$125 including Int. Priority shipping.
Japan/Australia	\$130 including Int. Priority shipping.

I can accept checks (US/Canada only), money orders, bank wires, cash or PAYPAL. My email address (rotoloni@msn.com) is my Paypal account number. Please make all checks/money orders payable to RJR PUBLISHING or myself (NOT THE SOCIETY!)

I hope that you enjoy it and find it to be informative as well. Thank you for your support and patience. RJR

## THE AUCTION SCENE

I have two important and interesting auctions to report on this issue. One completed just in time to make my deadline, the other a little too late, but I will discuss its content and report on prices in NHS-101.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Westlicht Auction was held in Vienna on June 7<sup>th</sup> and, as always, there were some major Nikon items, nearly all of which sold. And the prices were a bit surprising in both directions.

There were two Nikon Ones, multiple SPs, an S3M, an S36 motor, a 'Sardine' battery pack, some scarce hoods and accessories, and some rare lenses, including a complete Stereo-Nikkor outfit and a Stereo viewer! The prices listed include the buyer's premium and are converted from Euros to dollars.

<b>Nikon One #609199 w/F2#708183</b>	<b>EX</b>	<b>\$22,500!!</b>
<b>Nikon One #609500 w/F2#708649</b>	<b>VG</b>	<b>\$8,600</b>
<b>SP #6220546 w/F1.4</b>	<b>FOIL EX+</b>	<b>\$2,880</b>
<b>SP #6230528 Body only</b>	<b>DOUBLE BOXED!</b>	<b>\$6,800</b>
<b>S3M #6600143 W/F2 chrome</b>	<b>EX++</b>	<b>\$70,000!!</b>
<b>Micro-Nikkor #523973 in SM!</b>	<b>EX++</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>50MM/F1.1 #142068</b>	<b>Cleaning marks!</b>	<b>\$5,400</b>
<b>50mm/f1.1 ZUNOW CAPS &amp; SHADE!</b>	<b>EX+</b>	<b>\$8,200!!</b>
<b>STEREO-NIKKOR OUTFIT</b>	<b>MINT-</b>	<b>\$70,000!!</b>
<b>S36 MOTOR #94162 w/Pack</b>	<b>EX+</b>	<b>\$8,200!!</b>
<b>HOOD for 50MM/F1.1 PLASTIC/BOXED!</b>		<b>\$3,200!!</b>
<b>CLEAR ALL-WEATHER CASE</b>	<b>RARE</b>	<b>\$1,080!!</b>

Some really big prices but not unexpected except for that Zunow and the All-weather plastic case. But there were two real surprises, at least from my experience.

<b>SARDINE BATTERY PACK/CABLE</b>	<b>EX+</b>	<b>\$9,000!!</b>
<b>STEREO VIEWER W/BOX</b>	<b>MINT-</b>	<b>\$28,000!!</b>

Your eyes do not deceive you. That's \$9,000 for the 'Sardine' (I have seen them go for 6K or more) and \$28,000 for the Viewer! And I thought I was doing well when I sold one a few years ago for \$5,000. Such is life. One thing is for sure. The Nikon RF market is still going strong.

Stan Tamarkin will hold his 23<sup>rd</sup> Rare Camera Sale on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and I will list prices in the next Journal. Here are some of the Nikon highlights.

**NIKON S2 #6170997 w/F1.4 in EX+ shape and it is BLACK**  
**NIKON SP #6202636 w/F1.4 in good shape but it is BLACK**  
**NIKON SP #6202562 w/F1.4 in EX shape and it is BLACK**  
**NIKON SP #6202687 w/F1.4 in EX++ shape & it is BLACK**

That's right...a total of 4 BLACK Nikon bodies will be up for auction as well as S, S2, S3 and other SP bodies, lenses and accessories. I am looking forward to seeing what happens with this sale and will report on it next time.

I will continue to keep you informed of auction results as much as I can. Although some of the items, & their prices, are rarified, it is a way to keep in touch with current values. RJR

## LETTERS...LETTERS...

From Robert Bakker...

A long time ago, in NHS-73 (September 2001) Don Dederer wrote an article on the Nikkormat/Nikommat slide projector. In his article he mentioned some serial numbers and asked for suggestions of readers on a typology. I do not know if anyone reacted, but maybe I can make a contribution by the following (sorry for the delay);

Known to me are:

Nikkormat GC-1 #10112  
 Nikkormat GC-2 #6323 and #24027

Nikommat GC-1 #1576, #5141 and #6307

Also I know of the existence of Nikomat GC-1 #1176

So some interesting low numbers I think and still some questions. For example, numbers 6323 and 6307. They are so close to each other, yet they are different types! Any reactions?

.....  
 From Kjetil Moen...

We all want the conventions to be successful and we wouldn't mind still more people to attend.

The American way (you learned us quite a lot concerning marketing and salesmanship), would be to have a kind of feedback forum from the members who attended and use that information when planning future meetings.

Topics for discussion could be....

- 1) What are their expectations?
- 2) What do they feel is important?
- 3) What facilities do they expect..hotel, etc?
- 4) What price level is acceptable?
- 5) And of course, how did the Vancouver convention stand up. The good and the not so good parts.....

I have some thoughts and ideas.

**(A good idea, Kjetil. OK people, let's hear from you. Time to start planning for #12 so give us your feedback! Please! RJR)**



*Besides carrying the 'Tony Hurst' wall over from Europe, Peter Lownds also brought these! As a gift to your editor a pair of genuine Dutch 'wooden shoes' to commemorate our 100th NHS Journal! And they fit. But stairs can be a little tricky. Thanks, Peter. They now occupy a prime spot in my NHS office! RJR*

## ON THE INTERNET

Member Bruce Sirovich has a most interesting site of interest to our Society. It is called 'camerarepair.com' but it is much more than just repairs, as you will see. In the repair business since 1994 they can work on Canon, Minolta, Leica and other makes, but of course Nikon is what interests us. They also work on digital, medium and large format equipment. As for Nikon, they can handle the reflexes but are more than happy to work on your beloved rangefinders, something not everyone is willing to do. Check out his site for prices and policies.

When you do you will also see that he has a store as well carrying all types of equipment in addition to Nikon. As I write this I see 3 RF bodies and 10 lenses listed. I suggest that you contact Bruce for more information. As the number of repairmen willing to work on mechanical cameras, to say nothing of classic RFs, continues to decline, we need to seek out those who can still do the work. Even if all you need is a CLA, it's worth it.

(I have also heard from another member who is contemplating getting into the repair business specializing in Nikon RF and reflex. As I learn more I will let you know. Also keep in mind member Pete Smith in Florida who has been repairing Nikon RFs for years. You can contact him at 'nikonsmith@aol.com')

If I hear of any other repair possibilities I will let you know as it is something I am sure we are all interested in.

There is an Italian site devoted to the GaMi-16 subminiature camera that is very well done. Now why would such a site be of interest to us? Well, the GaMi is really a superb camera and a great collectible on its own, but Gianni Giovannini was so enthused by my coverage of the Nikon-16 in my book that he asked if he could add it to his site. From his main page just click on 'Curiosity' towards the bottom. It will bring up all three times we have covered the Nikon-16 (NHS-8, and both my books) and compares it to the GaMi, which it does resemble. This is great publicity for the Society. Check it out.

## AN 'SP' ART POSTER

I recently received a sample of a Nikon SP art poster you may be interested in. They are done by Kridon Panteli in London and I quote his letter. "I am an illustrator and photographer and have produced a number of

ClassicCamera illustrations including 2 versions of the Nikon SP. The original illustrations have been produced by hand using conventional drawing techniques, i.e.



airbrush, pencil & paints on paper. Each will be printed as a series of 200 signed & numbered prints & retail for 75 pounds each (\$150), plus P&H, which I think is a very reasonable price considering the limited number. They are 13X19 inches on matt archival quality acid free paper. For further info see my web site at 'www.illustration.panteli.net' and see 'Limited Edition'.

## BLACK & BEAUTIFUL!

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NIKON RF BLACK BODY SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR UPDATED AND REVISED 'NHS BLACK LIST' LAST PUBLISHED IN NHS-90!

6170929 6170952 6170997 6202636 6202687  
6206476 6320410 6320542 6600175

## 'NHS' RED DOT F LIST

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NIKON F RED DOT BODY SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR COMPLETE LIST PUBLISHED IN NHS-82.....

6578939 6583239 6587163 6590442 6592530 6596229  
6597694-BL 6598137 6598853 6599082 6602356 6602385

(Please see the website of NHS member Matthew Lin. He keeps a running list of Red Dot Fs on his site and updates it regularly. Look to his site for the most complete and accurate Red Dot List. [www.matthewlin.com](http://www.matthewlin.com))

## NEW ADDRESSES

JOSE CABARRUS  
2283 PASONG TAMO EXTENSION  
MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA 1231, PHILIPPINES

CHRISTOPHER ENGELER  
790 NORTH ARM DRIVE  
ORONO, MN 55364

AKIRA NAKAJIMA  
3773 ST. ANDREWS AVE.  
NORTH VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA V7M 2B9

IMRE de POZSGAY  
2320 EVA ADAMS DRIVE  
RENO, NV 89502

JAMES SCHAAF  
1739 BERRYWOOD DRIVE  
CONCORD, CA 94521-2142

## NHS e-MAIL UPDATES

I haven't had room to run our emtire NHS e-mail list lately but I do have some new addresses for you. So in an effort to keep the list as up to date as possible (hard to do as emails tend to change frequently) here are some recent updates:

HERMAN FRANSSEN.....herman.franssen@gmail.com  
GREG HARRIS.....ggharris@sprynet.com  
DR. JEROME ROBINSON.....jcrx1@cableone.net  
CHRISTOPHE SAP.....csap@skynet.be  
NICO VAN DIJK.....nicholasvandijk@gmail.com

(If you have sent me an update the last 6 months or so and it is not here please resend it and I will try to get it in the next issue. Thanks. RJR)

# 20 CLASSIFIED ADS

**WANTED...**Nikon RF Nikkors: 21/f4.0 w/fdr, 50/f2 collapsible #609xx, 50/f3.5 collapsible in Nikon BM, 35/f1.8/Black Front Rim!, 50/f1.5 #907xx & #905xx, Variframe fdr #705xx or #712xx, Nikon I five digits serial number, Nikon M six digit serial number, 'Sardine' type battery pack for S36, Varifocal 'Zoom' finder 'MIOJ', Nikon Periscope Attachment, **Contact Biagio Guerra/Fax....702-492-6269 email guerrabn@aol.com**

**FOR SALE OR TRADE...** Nikon S #6099875 body only, EX-condition, working. Photos avail. Has uncommon (larger) variant of mount for film take-up spool. See Rotoloni (2008) top of pg. 90, photo 1. Variant known in 8-digits but this camera is only 7 digits. I do not know what it is worth. Best offer? Jeffrey Felton, (909) 622-6726, email me jfelton@westernu.edu

**FOR TRADE...**Black Olympic S3 w/Olympic I.4..body is in the rarer 'feet' scale! I need the 'metric' version for my collection. If you have no lens then body for body in like condition is fine!  
**Contact Chris Sap at.... csap@skynet.be. Thank you!**

## NEW MEMBERS

STEPHEN ACAI  
2634 LAKEVIEW DRIVE  
RALEIGH, NC 27609

JOHN AKER  
2607 FLAGSTONE COURT  
CORALVILLE, IOWA 52241

RICHARD BAILEY  
660 ADAMS STREET, #4  
FAIRBORN, OH 45324

MICHAEL BAINTER  
60 SEVENTEEN MILE DRIVE  
PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950-2132

ZAZA BAKAURI  
209 LEWIS STREET  
GENEVA, NY 14456

MICHAEL BLACHE  
553 NASSAU COURT  
ORANGE PARK, FL 32003

MARC BOYER  
12426 1/2 GLADSTONE AVE.  
SYLMAR, CA 91342

IRA BOURSTEIN  
5501 80TH. ST. NORTH, UNIT 501  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33709

DON BRENNAN  
1080 W. MAIN ST., APT. 810  
HENDERSONVILLE, TN 37075

TONY CAMPOS  
1905 MARKETVIEW DRIVE  
YORKVILLE, IL 60560-1896

JOHN CARSON  
1088 BARDEAUX AVE.  
YUMA, AZ 85364

ROBERT CHAN  
2302 ST. JOHNS STREET  
PORT MOODY, B.C. CANADA V3H 2A9

STEFANO CUOZZO  
LA BOTTEGA DELL'ERBORISTA, VIA GARIBALDI 212,  
57122 LIVORNO, ITALY

ROLF EIPPER  
2050 E. 4TH. AVE.  
VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA V5N 1K4

ERIC LAI  
1603-B, PRIMA 16, JALAN 16/18, PETALING JAYA  
SELANGOR 46350, MALAYSIA

KENNETH LUK  
6242 N. MUSCATEL AVE.  
SAN GABRIEL, CA 91775

ROBERT MORTON  
15306 - 74TH. AVE.  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA T5R 2Y3

THOMAS REAGAN  
10649 SLAYTON ROAD  
PORT BYRON, NY 13140

CARLO RIVOLTI  
VIA BIANCHI 2  
42100 REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY

DAVID SCHORER  
630 FIRST AVE., APT. 11F  
NEW YORK, NY 10016

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1818 FIRST STREET  
MONOMINEE, MI 49858

MIGUEL TEIXEIRA  
URB. QUINTALAO LT8 2ESQ  
2070-153 CARTAXO, PORTUGAL

VINCENT TETRON  
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92400 COURBEVOIE, FRANCE

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JOHANNESBURG, 2193 SOUTH AFRICA

## **NHS BACK ISSUE & REPRINT SERVICE!**

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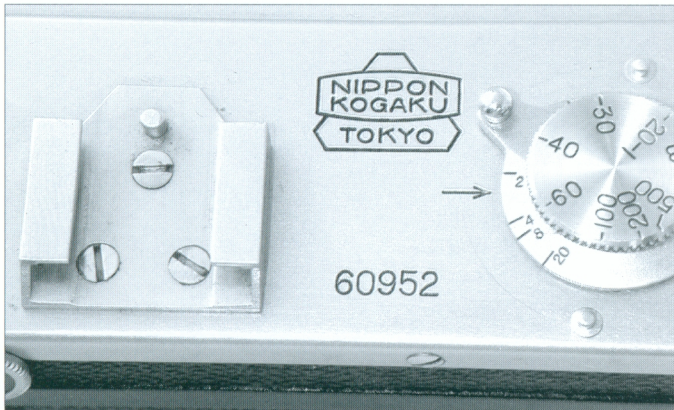
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# odds 'n ends

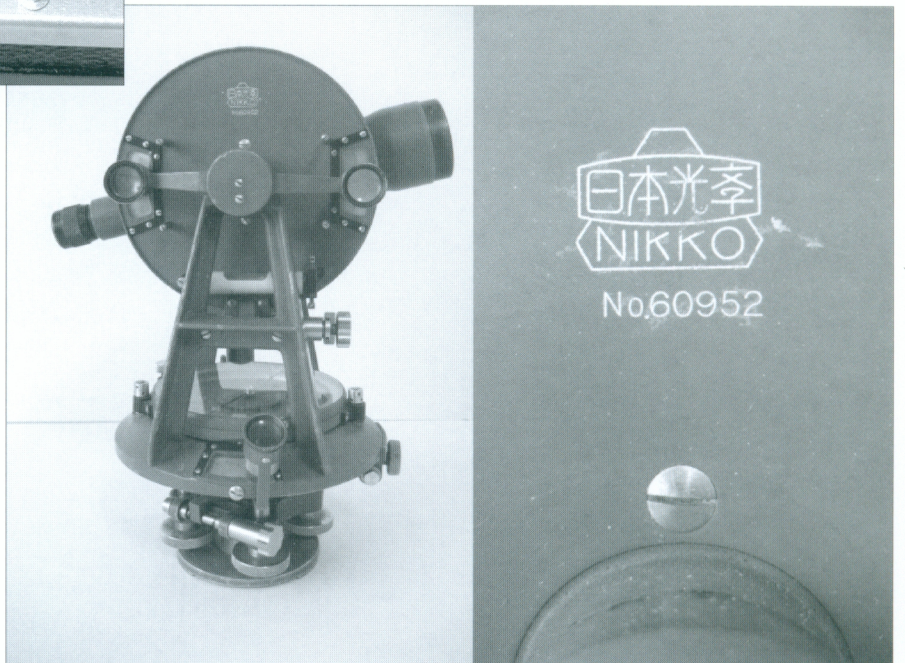
## A VERY INTERESTING PAIR.....

Unlike the later reflex era, where the magnitude of serial numbered products was simply immense and maintaining 'unique' number sequences for every product was a struggle, Nippon Kogaku, for the most part, was able to give each item in the RF system its own unique number type. This they did for all the bodies, with no overlap, as well as the lens line save for just a few instances where numbers were reused. But I doubt they ever saw this one coming or were even aware of it after the fact. It is the first such example I have encountered these last 40 years.

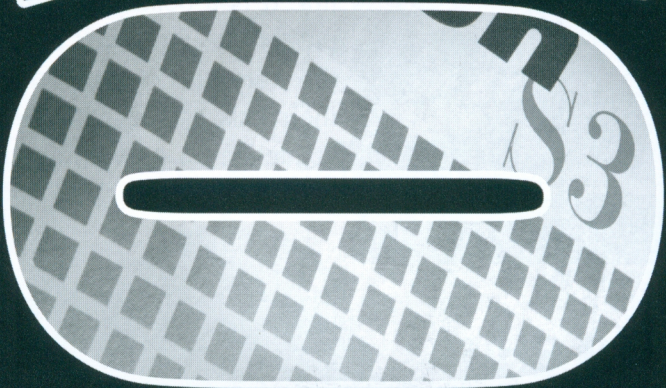
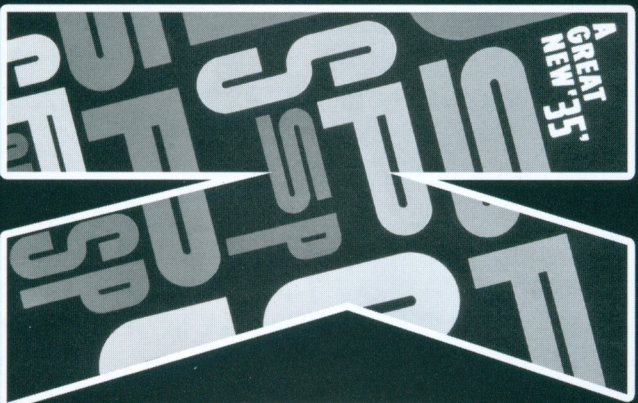
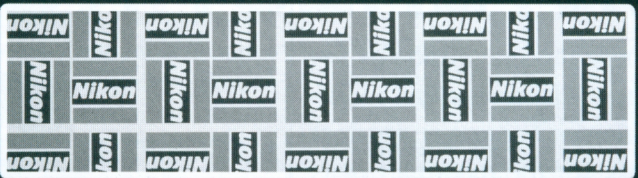


I am sure you all remember the great story about this Nikon One back in NHS-77. Stephen Gandy told the tale of how this very early camera was found at a yard sale in California. It is a beautiful example of an early Nikon One with proper lens and bears the serial number 60952. We all know the story of how Nippon Kogaku chose the '609' prefix for their first camera. But did you know they used that same sequence for something else?

Not too long after the Vancouver meeting, Rich Lane sent me a photo of his 60952! Was it a Nikon One with a duplicate serial number? No.....something even more strange. It is a 'Transit Model G' surveying instrument that was marketed in 1947! That's right..barely a year before body 60952 saw the light of day! And both like numbered items have survived these last 60 years to come together in these pages. Who said Nikon collecting wasn't fun?



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