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**NHS-CON12~BRUGES~MAY 10~16, 2010**  
**NIKON TV JOURNAL**



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

**THIS ISSUE**  
**PG 2..THE 'TV' NIKKORS!**  
**PG 10..THE 'NIKKOR' F250**  
**PG 12..A STUDY OF KWANON!**





# THE NIKON JOURNAL

## ISSUE #107

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### NHS -108 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our **NIKON JOURNAL**,  
**NHS-108**, is **JUNE 1, 2010**. Please get all your correspondence  
and photos to me on time so I can bring it out on schedule.  
Thank you. **RJR.**

## EDITORIAL

This is the final issue of The Journal before NHS-Con12 in Bruges, Belgium. A great deal of work has gone into this event and I hope as many members as possible are able to attend. Hans Ploegmakers has put together a varied itinerary in spite of the fact that his wife, Arlette, has been ill, making this task even harder for him. (Arlette, we are all looking forward to seeing you there!) Speakers have been arranged and all is ready to go. Now it is up to you. If you are coming let us know. Also, please send in your convention fee (to either Hans or myself) soon so we can begin to pay our meeting bills. I hope to see many of you in Bruges in May. A beautiful place to be.

We have many articles this issue starting off with six pages of text & photos on the weird and wonderful 'TV-Nikkors', an item many of you may not have heard of. Uli Koch & Mike Symons combined their knowledge for this story.

Tony Hurst did our rear cover as usual but also see pages 8 & 9 for more photos of his Mamiya-6. You may ask why such a camera would be within these pages. Well, look & see.

Uli Koch again contributes our F-Spot feature on page 10 with help from Dutch member Jimmy Purimahuwa. Both possess a rare version of the F250 motor drive but the real story here is how they both found them under similar circumstances. It will give you some incentive to keep up the search.

On page 12 we have Part One of a series by Dr. Manabu Nakai who has produced a research paper on the birth of the 'Kwanon' camera, later to become the 'Hansa Canon'. Dr. Nakai has leaned new information about this famous and significant camera that should interest all Nikon collectors. Without the help and input from Nippon Kogaku it is doubtful the Hansa would ever have seen the light of day. Dr. Nakai has actually interviewed some of the survivors from that period and sheds some new light on what it was like back then. Part Two will appear in NHS-108.

Did you ever take a look at the depth of field scales on your RF Nikons? At those tiny little numbers radiating out from the central index dot? You probably never gave them much thought, but did you know it can be used to date the RF bodies, especially the early ones? You see, not all depth of field scales are created equal. Look on page 17 where Dutch members Nico van Dijk and Jan Prinsen give you what you need to know.

Those of you who attended NHS-Con11 in Vancouver will fondly remember the great camera show we attended on Sunday. We were surprised by its size and scope and how well it was organized. The fellow in charge, Siggi Rohde, has been doing it for years and knows how to do a show. He sent me info on this year's event which is being held in the same place on April 25<sup>th</sup>. For more info contact Siggi at 604-941-0300 and if you can make it, do it. A great show and a great time.

Some final words on the convention. Our meetings have always been more a social event than a rigid and structured series of lectures. We come together every two years to renew friendships and make new ones and to just have fun. We all have a common interest yet we come from all over the world and from all walks of life. But you know, when we get together and start talking Nikons, we are one! Join us and see what I mean.

RJR



# NHS-CON12--WILL BE IN BRUGES, BELGIUM MAY 10~16, 2010

**This is the last issue of The Journal before NHS-Con12 in Bruges, Belgium. I truly hope that all members planning on attending have booked their hotel rooms. It may be too late at this point as the town fills up quickly because of the festival on Thursday.**

I have already published the details about the two hotels that we are using, namely the Novotel and the Ibis. The costs previously quoted are correct and many of you have already made your reservations.

Below is the 'final' agenda of events. This is off our website and dated March 7th (I am writing this on March 21st).....

**Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>...**Welcome/registration 6~8pm in the Novotel lobby  
**Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup>...**AM & lunch at leisure. 1:30PM our bus leaves for Ghent for a visit to the historic city. 6PM the bus leaves for Bruges.

**Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>...**Bus leaves for Brussels at 9AM. Visit to the historic city with different walking tours. 6PM the bus leaves for Bruges. On the way back we can stop for dinner...this is an option.

**Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup>...**Am & lunch at leisure. The Holy Blood Procession begins at 3PM so the town will be full that day. Estimated end of the procession is 4:30PM. Dinner time at our leisure. Eat & drink!!

**Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>...**Bus leaves for Ypres at 10AM where we will visit 'The Flanders Fields Museum' & battlefields of the Great War. 8PM is the 'Last Post Ceremony' to commemorate victims of WWI.

(As you can see Wednesday & Friday are long days but there will be time for lunch & dinner as long as we are ready in time for the bus)

**Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>...**Convention begins in Novotel at 9AM....SHARP!! The program is in progress but some info follows. We will have a closing dinner Saturday evening but a place has yet to be determined (Hans has some ideas already) (There will a 'ladies program' as well)

For Saturday we already have speakers lined up including..

Uli Koch....Undewater Housings made for the Nikon F

Bill Kraus & Yuki Kawai...Subject to be announced.

Bill Kraus....Simon Nathan and the Fawcett Book Series

Mike Symons...The Nikkorex

Tony Hurst...Another awesome Tony slide show!

Hans Ploegmakers...Nikon viewfinders.

Wes Loder...Subject to be announced.

Hans Braakhuis...Rare Nikon F3s

Peter Lownds...Subject to be announced

Robert Rotoloni...Some shots of a Prototype Nikon that will be in the room that day!!

*At this time I would like to remind all presenters to please contact Hans or myself ASAP. All presentations should be in Microsoft Powerpoint format. Please send a CD to both Hans and I 'BEFORE' the meeting (at least a few weeks) so we can be sure everything works properly!! This is important!!!*

Hans and I had to come up with a fee that would cover as much as possible yet not be too high. We have come to a figure, which is based on the following costs: the meeting room, audio, projector & screen, coffee breaks (2) and lunch Saturday. Also the gifts for the speakers as well as the gift for each attendee. Besides these costs we have to cover the registra-

tion on Monday. We still need to determine the costs of the various bus side trips as well as the closing dinner to see what will be needed above the convention fee. At this time we have decided on the convention fee as follows. This fee will cover all activities on Saturday save the dinner plus any excess will be used to offset some travel costs if possible.

**Single person attending Saturday meeting.....\$150 (110 Euro)**

**Spouse/friend attending with you...\$200 (140 Euro)..for both!**

Fee payment can be made to either Hans or myself. We assume those of you in N. America will pay me while members in Europe will pay Hans. Those paying me can use Paypal ([rotoloni@msn.com](mailto:rotoloni@msn.com)) or send me a check or money order. **DO IT ASAP!!!!!!**

If you have any questions or concerns at all, **PLEASE** do not hesitate to contact Hans or myself with your concerns!!

**Hans Ploegmakers**

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**Bob Rotoloni** [rotoloni@msn.com](mailto:rotoloni@msn.com) [r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net)

## **KEEPING UP TO DATE IS NOW EASIER!**

We now have a web site specific to our Convention and it is completely up and running at this time! I have tried it and it works. It is the **BEST** place to go to for updates and info. Much more 'real time' than the Journal can be. Go to either of these links....

[nhsconvention2010bruges.tk](http://nhsconvention2010bruges.tk)

[www.nhsconvention2010bruges.tk/](http://www.nhsconvention2010bruges.tk/)

**Make sure to visit often if you have any intentions of coming. All info on hotels & trip dates are there. Also, as we learn more about what the various day trips will run (transportation costs, food) they will be posted here. Get on the mailing list! Contact us!**

**PLEASE VISIT THE SITE OFTEN FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION & DETAILS**  
Since no photo show is available to us for this meeting, let's make our own. We have the room on Saturday till 5PM so following the speakers we can have our own swap meet. Bring what you can to sell or just to show off! We can make it a show n' tell!  
**BRING SOMETHING YOU ARE PROUD OF! WE ALL WANT TO SEE IT!! RJR**



# THE 'TV-NIKKORS'!!

by **ULI KOCH & MIKE SYMONS**

In the world of today we have TV information all around us, more than is probably necessary. In the late 1950's this was very different. Only about 2 million TV receivers were existent worldwide, with only a few broadcast companies that were able to produce programs. The main broadcast technologies came either from the USA or Germany including TV cameras & optical systems. In 1959 Nippon Kogaku surfaced in this small TV world and offered several Nikkor lenses modified for TV use.

There is nearly no information on these TV-Nikkor lenses available and it is not known if N-K manufactured TV lenses before the ones you'll find in this article, but it seems this isn't the case. Why? To develop lenses only for TV use at a time when the market was so small meant the costs of development in comparison to the small quantity to be sold would be much too high. It also seems that the TV cameras at that time needed an image aperture that was comparable with the ones for 35mm film. Therefore, N-K didn't have to develop new lenses, but could use existing rangefinder optics as well as new lenses for the Nikon F camera with some modifications. These lenses were manufactured either for Japanese broadcast companies and/or for the US market. As some of the lenses show up in the USA they were obviously produced for the US market.

Already since 1938 NK was working in the cine market. They produced a 12.5mm f/2.8 Nikkor lens for 8mm cine cameras and a 25mm f/2.0 for the 16mm format. In 1949 NK reintroduced the Cine-Nikkors and was offering in 1962 six lenses for 16mm cine cameras and TV-cameras.

The TV-Nikkors we are aware of today are:

**TV-NIKKOR-H.C 1:2 f=5cm**

**TV-NIKKOR-Q.C 1:3.5 f=13.5cm**

**TV-NIKKOR Telephoto-Zoom 1:4 f=8.5cm ~ 1:4.5 f=25cm**

## STANDARD & TELEPHOTO LENSES

The standard and telephoto TV-Nikkors are rather unique as both lenses date from the rangefinder era. Each is in its own metal tin exactly like the TV-Zoom Nikkor lens described later. They are as follows:

**A) 5cm/f2.0 Nikkor-H.C, serial #733254 in RCA mount**

**B) 13.5cm/f3.5 Nikkor-Q.C, serial #269711 with proper shade & cap in RCA mount**

The identification tag on the outer front of the tin is a bit unusual as in each case it describes the lens as being an "F" mount item. As can be clearly seen these lenses began their lives as rangefinder optics. Interesting to note that the description tags for the 2 rangefinder lenses are different and appear earlier than the tag for the TV-Zoom Nikkor described below.

About the only reference I can find for these lenses is in a color magazine published by N-K in 1962 entitled "The Home

of Nikon". On one of the last pages it has a small section on the 'TV-Nikkors'. There is but one picture, that showing 6 lenses... including 2 very long lenses, the 85-250mm/f4.5 Zoom featured in this article and 3 shorter focal length lenses. The shorter optics definitely look like 'F' lenses and not the earlier RF type. The picture description is as follows:

*"TV camera telephoto zoom lenses with PYE or RCA mount adapter for a television camera, being featured with the same superior quality & sharpness of image as the Auto-Nikkor lenses originally designed for the Nikon F camera." & "Already since 1938 NK was working with the Cine sector. They produced a 12.5mm f2.8 Nikkor lens for 8mm cine cameras and a 25mm/f2.0 lens for 16mm cine cameras. In 1949 NK continued the production of Cine-Nikkor lenses and is offering today (in 1962) 6 lenses for 16mm cine cameras and TV-cameras."*

Looking at the mounts on both RF lenses, there is a substantial thick black painted plate with screw retaining hooks at each end. This is the mount for a PYE TV camera. These 'hooks' also attach the lens inside the tin can with two provided chrome plated screws. Ahead of the heavy black plate is a double chrome ring with serrated teeth. The teeth of this ring mesh with another ring on the actual TV camera and is adjusted by the camera operator. There are no focusing rings on these lenses. The 2 single focal length TV-Nikkors are described below:

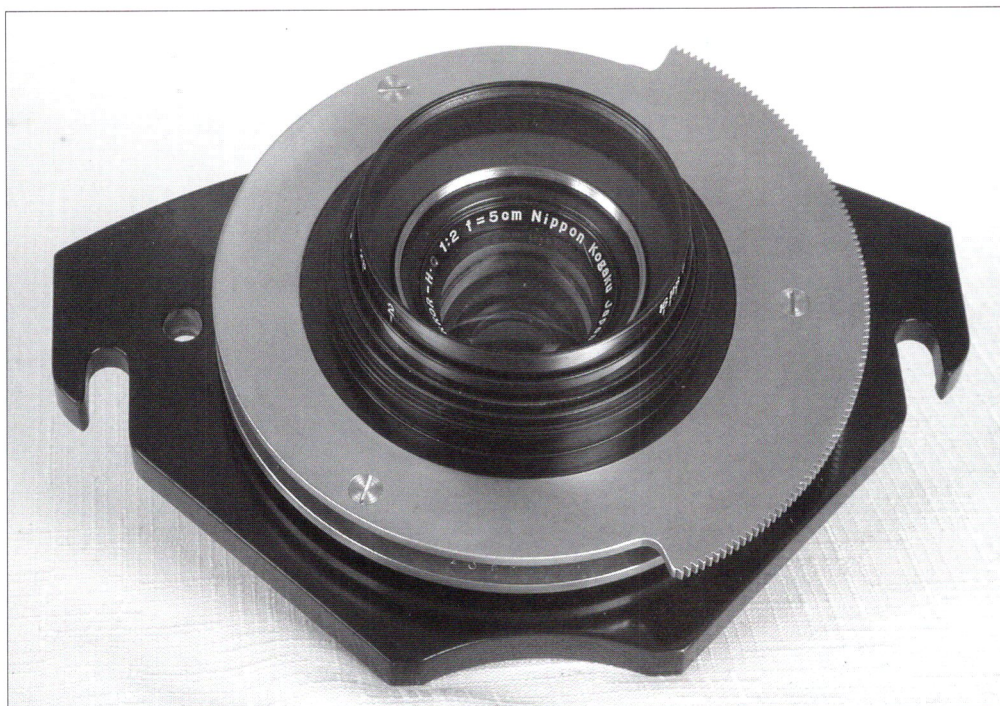
### 5cm/f2,0 Nikkor-H.C, #733254

- Definitely a rangefinder era optic
- As the photos show, the large chrome double ring with serrated teeth regulates the aperture. The aperture regulating pin on the inside of the lens mates with a groove on the mounting sleeve
- The aperture ring on the exterior of the lens is part of the housing, not the actual lens, and has large white-painted numbers from f2.0 to f16
- There is no focusing ring on this unit, which suggests that focusing was done by the TV-camera itself.

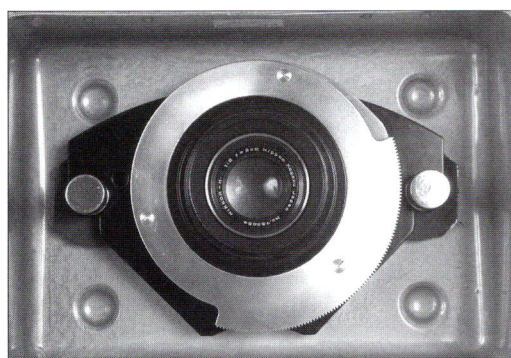
### 13.5cm/f3.5 Nikkor-Q.C, #269711

- This is an actual rangefinder era optic
- The outer black sleeve of the lens has been removed before it was inserted into the mount
- The tube is black painted and is 2" long up to the aperture ring
- The double chrome serrated ring adjusts the aperture as in the 5cm/f2.0 lens
- Like the 5cm optic there is no focusing ring present
- Interesting to note (as per photo) that on the outer identification tag, it appears that the "1" was added later to the "f=3.5cm", indicating that perhaps there was a 3.5cm/f3.5 TV-Nikkor made. This will give Nikon collectors something to look for.

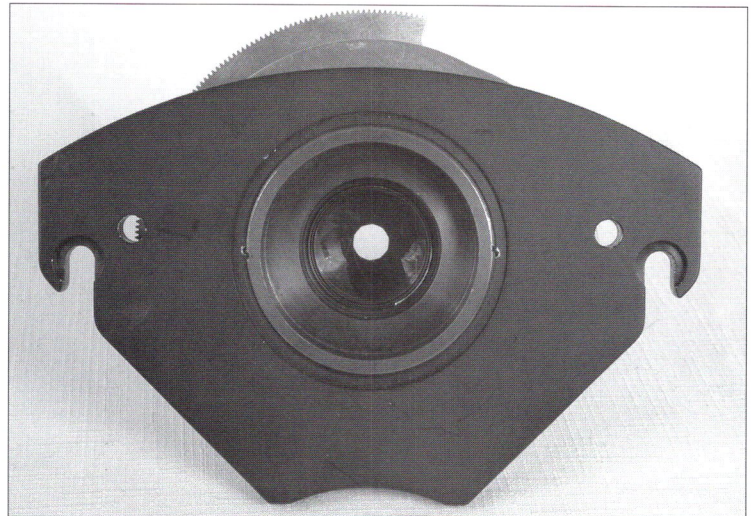
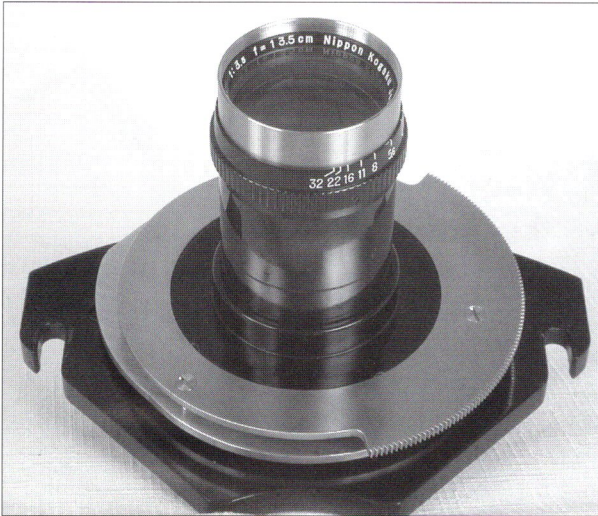




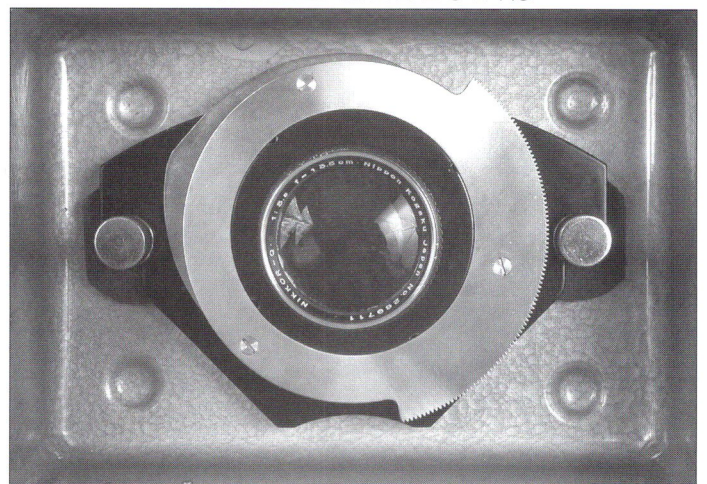
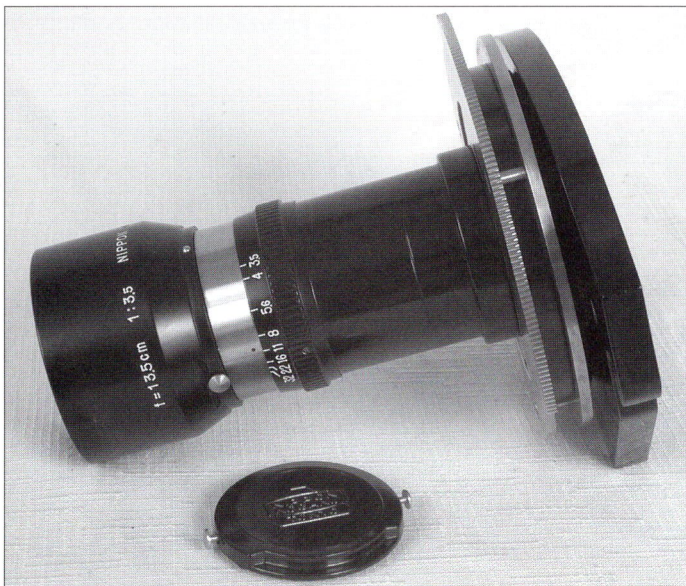
***THE 5CM/F2.0 TV-NIKKOR  
#733254 MENTIONED IN  
THE TEXT. PHOTOS  
BY MIKE SYMONS***







**THE 13.5CMF/3.5 TV-NIKKOR  
#269711 MENTIONED IN THE  
TEXT. PHOTOS  
BY MIKE SYMONS**





## TELEPHOTO-ZOOM LENS

This is a very impressive and unusual lens. Here the first version of the Nikkor Zoom lens for the Nikon F was used, which itself was only offered for a short period of time from mid 1959 to early 1960. Two TV-Nikkor Zoom lenses are known today. Both do not have the original TV lens mount and were rebuilt for Nikon F mount or for use with 35mm Cine cameras (perhaps for a Mitchell 35mm). Why was this modification made? After the TV camera was discontinued, the lens was still usable with such a modification.

The differences between the TV-Nikkor and the standard Nikon F Zoom lens are:

### Black Housing

The main modification is the small black box on the bottom of the lens, which contains several studs and gearwheels for transmission of distance and zooming between camera and lens. There are 3 functions for the knob and studs on the rear end of this black box.....

- The black knob with diamond shaped grip ring...with this knob one can lock the position of the studs vertically. It seems that this was needed, as the lens could be mounted on several TV cameras and the connections could vary on different camera models.
- The long small stud with a larger brass end...this stud can be moved back and forth. This will change the focal length of the lens from 85mm to 250mm.
- The small stud with a larger diameter end in chrome...this stud can be turned and will move the distance scale from infinity to the nearest distance on the lens.

It contains two studs, one for zooming and one for focusing. The mount for the large distance stud can be seen on the outer rear side of the black housing above the engraving "PAT. PEND." and under the 'LENS MADE IN JAPAN'.

### Front Ring

The front ring of the TV-Zoom is black while those made for the Nikon F mount are chrome. Engraving is as 'TV-NIKKOR Telephoto-Zoom 1:4 f=8.5cm ~ f=25cm Nippon Kogaku Japan No. 257xxx'.

The serial number starts with a '2' while the F mount version starts with a '1'. The next digits are the same and it seems that the first produced TV-Nikkor was '257901' while the F mount lens starts at '157901'. The highest number known to date is '257973' with a suggested production of maybe 100 lenses. Not a large quantity. On one of the pictures in the literature there is a TV-Nikkor lens '257936' shown next to a standard Zoom '157934'!

Interesting about the Auto-Nikkor Zoom and the TV-Nikkor Zoom lens is that there was a third version made in Leica SM! (See NHS-29) It is the same lens as the Auto-Nikkor version with the exception of the mount and yet a different serial number again. These SRM mount lenses start with a '3'!

### Aperture

Milled black aperture ring with engraved and white-filled (not color-filled as the Nikon F mount original lens) "4 - 16".

### Zoom Ring

Same as standard lens with identical engravings on the barrel. Difference? No engraved and color-filled curved lines for depth-of-field markings on Zoom ring.

### Distance Scale

Missing distance scale, but round (ring) housing with an inner gear wheel for connection to the rear chrome stud.

### Rear Barrel

The tube between the aperture ring and the camera mount is smaller as on the Nikon F mount lens.

### Lens Shade

The lens shade is the same as the standard Nikon version. The only difference is that there is an inner part, which can be unscrewed. This inner part has steps to be more effective for keeping out stray light. The only question is why did NK not produce such a shade for the Nikon F mount lenses? Possible answers: too heavy and too expensive.

### Special Tube

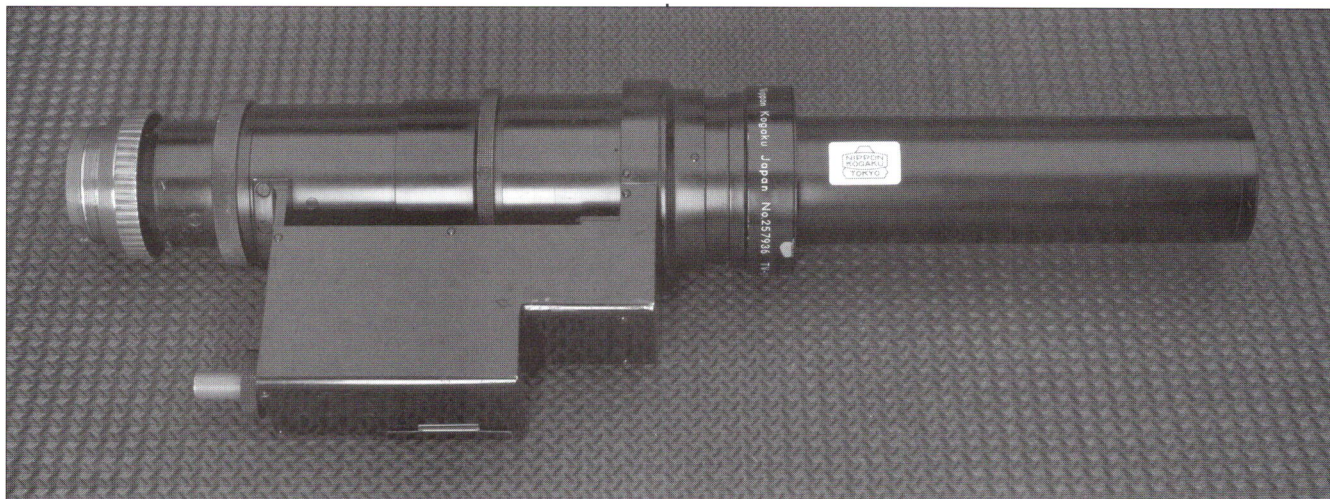
Together with the lens came an unusual long tube for an unknown reason. There is a huge mystery about this special tube. It is only a tube with two lens elements, one on the rear side (with optical power) and one on the front side. This front element shows some sectors and has no optical power. The main question is: why was this tube made? If one screws the tube into a Nikon F version lens and mounts it on an F body, it shows only the sectors on the front glass sharp at infinity. One is unable to get a sharp or nearly sharp picture through this tube no matter the distance or focal length. So why was this solid and high quality tube needed? The only purpose that I can envision is that the cathode ray tube of the TV camera has to be centered or adapted in a special case. Perhaps someone in our NHS community is able to tell us the purpose of this tube?

### Metal Case

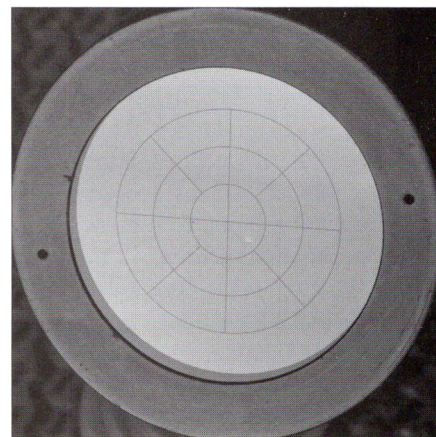
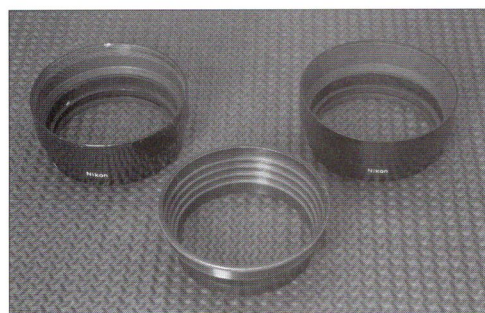
The complete outfit came in a huge grey-green colored metal tin similar to that of the 1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor. There is space for the lens with shade, the mysterious long tube, and two filters. Unusual is the large box in the upper lid made of perforated metal to hold silica gel!

The mystery of the TV-Nikkor lenses could be solved one day if more information becomes available, especially about the unusual Telephoto-Zoom Nikkor. Later in the 1960's and currently, Nippon Kogaku produce more TV-Nikkor lenses, but those were not modified Nikon F or RF lenses, but rather developed for their own specific function.

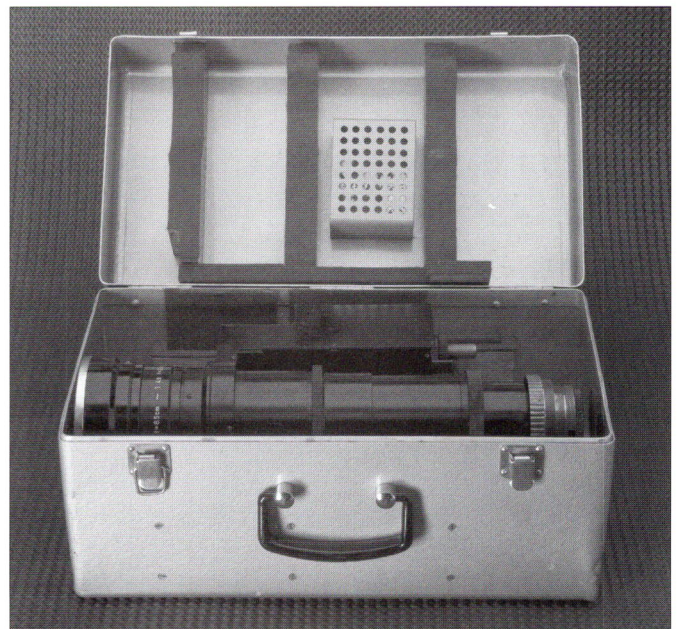
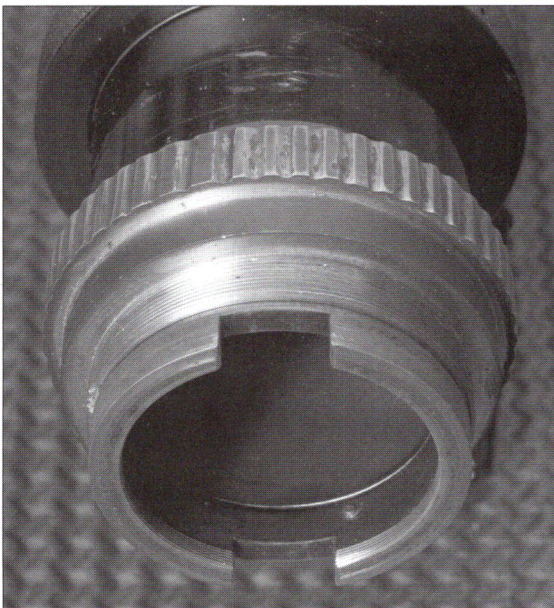
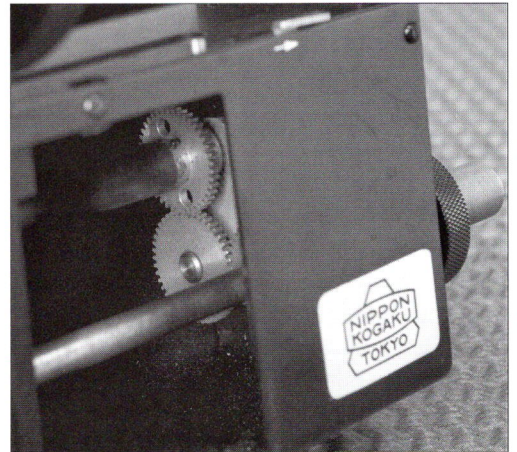
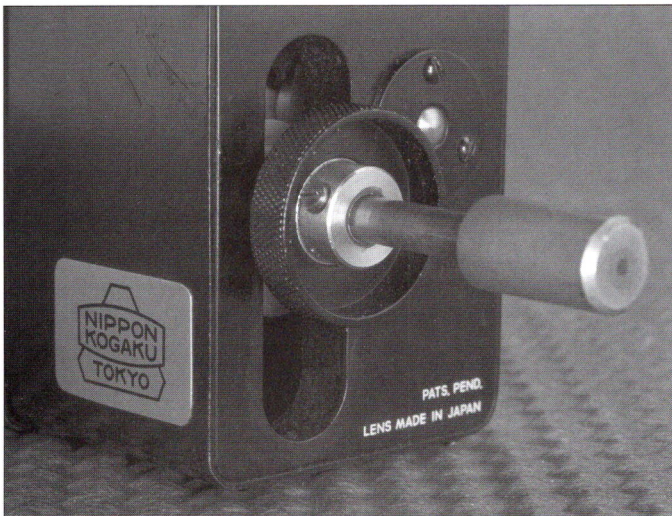
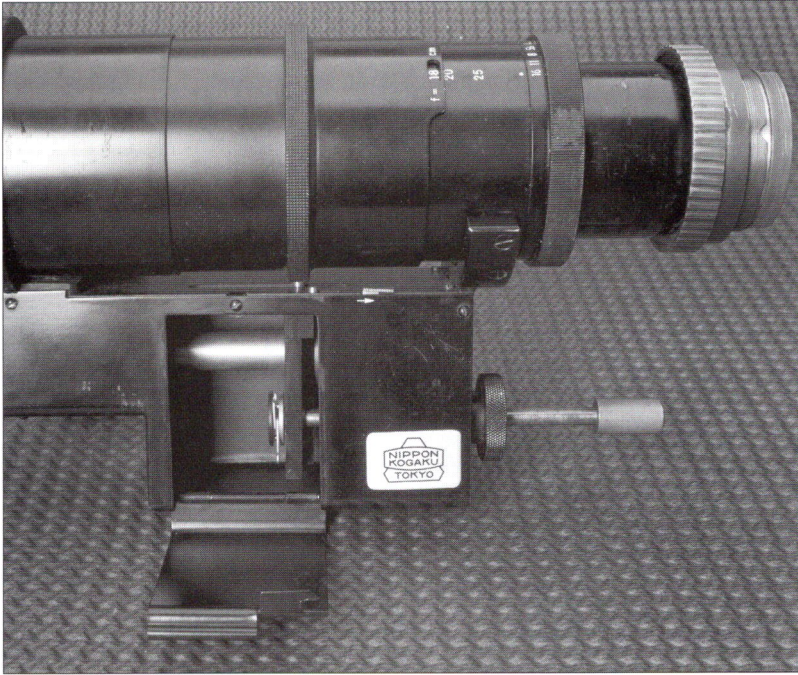




**THE 8.5CM~25CM  
TELEPHOTO-ZOOM  
TV-NIKKOR. PHOTOS  
BY ULI KOCH.**



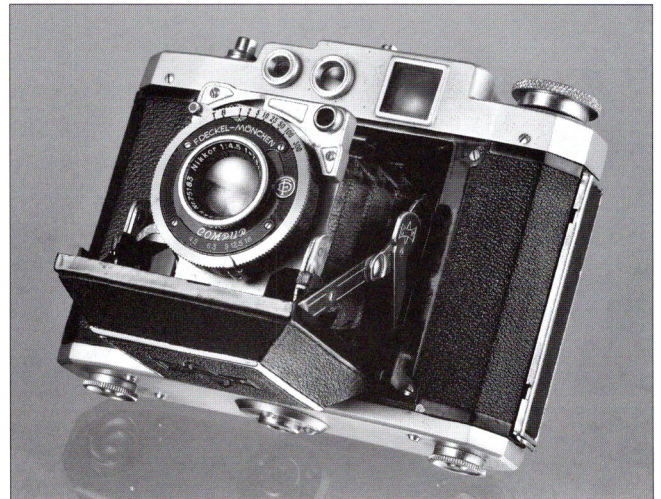
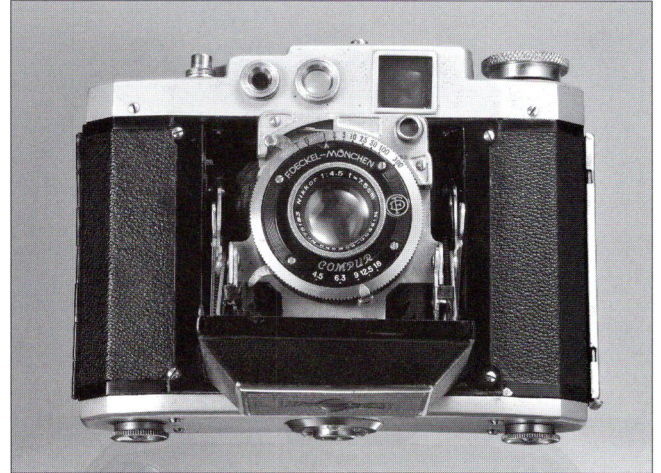
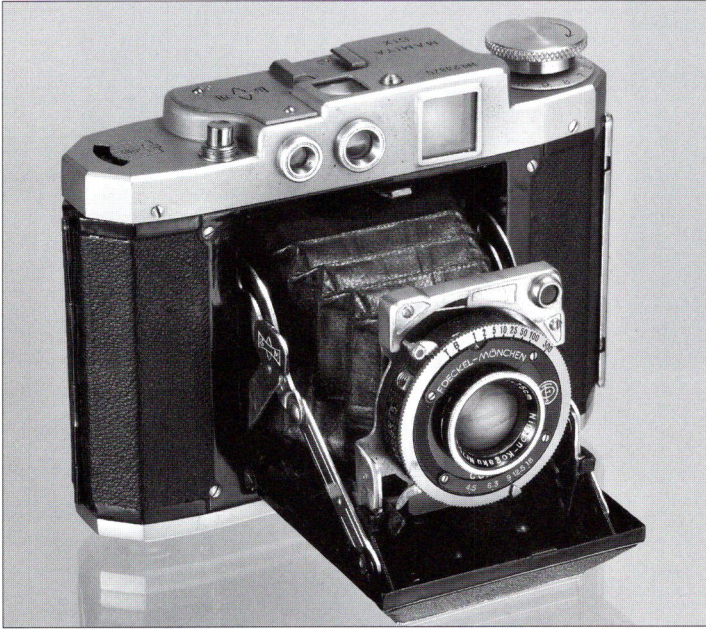




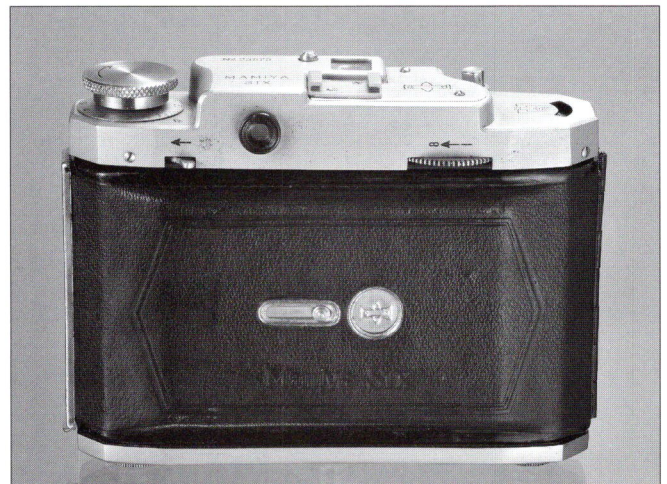


# THE 'RARE' MAMIYA-6

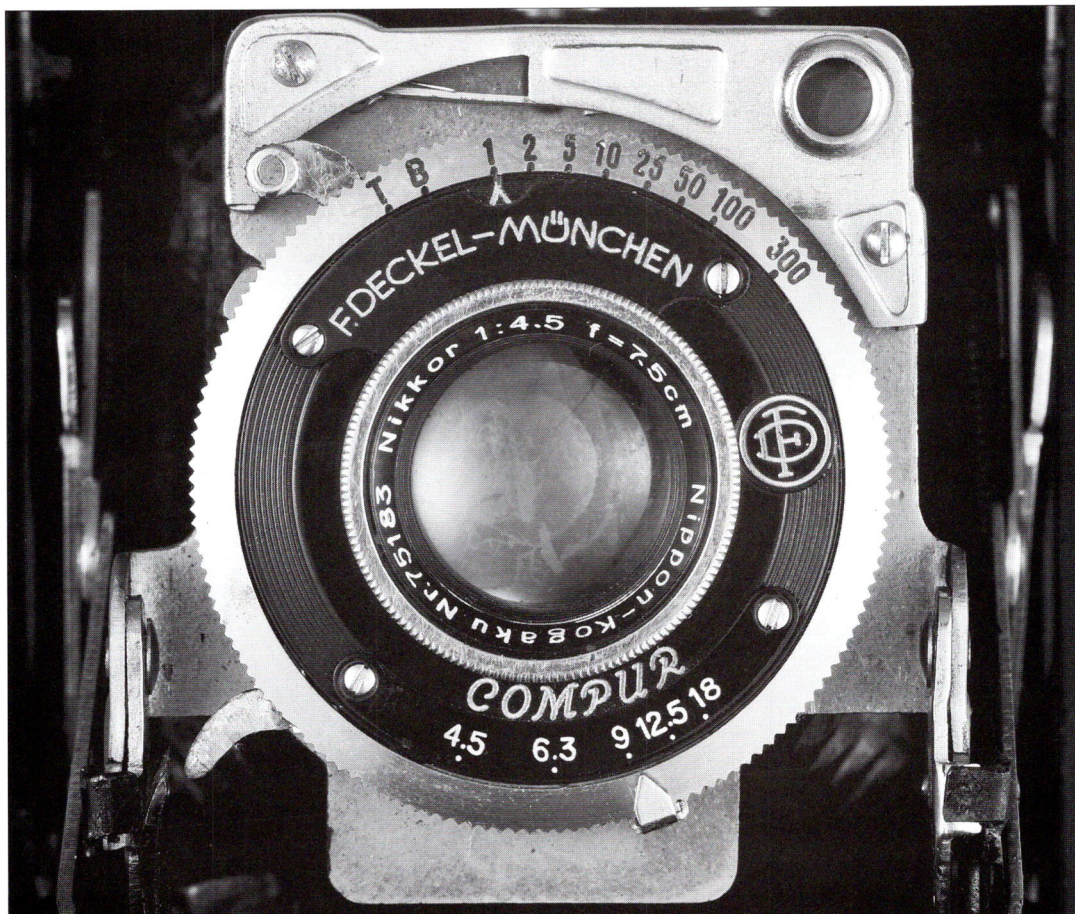
BY TONY HURST



About the best folding 120 camera to come out of post-war Japan was the Mamiya-6 line. Actually dating to 1940, they were able to reenter the market as soon as 1946, and the series, at least 12 models, was made until about 1957. Well made in good numbers, they are not rare. So why the title on this page? Take a good look at these superb Tony Hurst photos (and our back cover as well) and you will see the reason. This model is equipped with a 7.5cm/f4.5 NIKKOR lens! One of the very few non-Nikon cameras ever to mount a Nikkor (others include the Aires/Tower TLRs, Marshall Press and the Makina 67 from the 80s). This is the only Mamiya-6 so equipped. How many were made? Who really knows but could it have been a 100? I would be surprised if it were that many. RJR









# 10

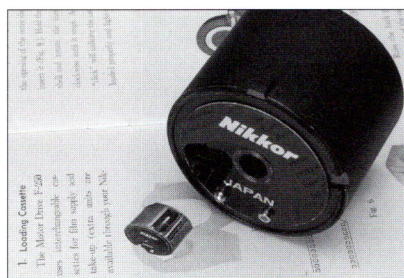
# THE F--SPOT!

## THE VERY RARE 'NIKKOR' F250 REVISITED.....

BY ULI KOCH & JIMMY PURIMAHUWA

Back in NHS-97, Uli Koch told the story of finding a very rare 'NIKKOR' F250 motor in a camera shop with the word 'Nikon' anodized on a metal plate glued where the name would normally be engraved. And yes, under that plate was the engraved word 'NIKKOR'! The serial number is \*102606 with a white dot before it. I was with Uli when he purchased this item but he did not remove the plate till later. What a find! But now it has happened again!

At the last Houten show in the Netherlands member Jimmy Purimahuwa showed me an F250 he had just bought. It too had the word 'Nikon' added but this time it was more like a sticker and not a plate. Jimmy didn't take it off till he got home. Upon peeling the sticker the word 'NIKKOR' was there! And this one is \*102613 with the white dot! (Motor 102609 is also known) He has sent me a series of photos as he removed the sticker. Make sure you check out every F250 you see. You never know what you will find. RJR







*PHOTOS ON  
THIS PAGE BY  
JIMMY  
PURIMAHUWA*





# A STUDY OF THE 'KWANON'

BY DR. MANABU NAKAI

## PART ONE

*(This is Part 1 of a research paper recently completed by Dr. Manabu Nakai of Japan. It is a most learned article that contains much in the way of new information on the birth of the "Kwanon" that eventually became the Hansa Canon. We all know how the Canon came about with the help of Nippon Kogaku. This paper details this historic event. Dr. Nakai is Professor Emeritus of Toyama University, Dr. Eng. More next issue. RJR)*

### INTRODUCTION

The first camera manufactured by Nippon Kogaku K.K. for consumer use, the Nikon One, was released to the public in 1948. This camera was accompanied by either a 5cm F2 or F3.5 lens. However, the first Nikkor lens for use on a 35mm camera had already released to the public approximately thirteen years earlier, in October 1935, as a component of the Hansa Canon (Fig. 1). While the Hansa Canon had been manufactured by Seiki Kogaku Kenkyusho and released by Omiya Photo Supply Co., Ltd., in addition to the lens itself, the camera's lens mount, rangefinder and interlocking coupling mechanism were designed and manufactured by Nippon Kogaku, K.K. Given that at the time Nippon Kogaku supplied the Japanese military with some of the nation's most prominent optical technology as a defense contractor, the use of the Nikkor lens on the Hansa Canon was an important feature of that camera.

The design of the Hansa Canon commenced under the product name "Kwanon", and the use of Nikkor lenses would play a significant role in advances in its development process. While production of the Kwanon reached the prototype stage, even today, an actual prototype has never seen the light of day. As such, an unending string of speculations surrounds this camera. This paper shall discuss the results of extensive research surrounding the Kwanon and information about Nikkor lenses as utilized on Canon cameras. The reason why the Kwanon is currently the subject of so much attention likely lies in the growth of Canon Inc. into a gigantic worldwide corporation with 168,000 employees. It should be noted that cameras and related products currently account for approximately 29.4% of Canon's net sales.

Seiki Kogaku Kenkyusho has undergone successive name changes, becoming Nippon Seiki Kogaku Kenkyusho in 1936, Seiki Kogaku Kogyo K.K. in 1937, Canon Camera Co. Ltd. in 1947 and, finally, Canon Inc. in 1969. Nippon Kogaku, K.K., which was established in 1917, changed the company name to Nikon Corporation in 1988.

### PHOTOGRAPHS CONCERNING EARLIER NIKKOR LENSES

Figure 2 shows a photo taken in the design room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Seiki Kogaku to commemorate the completion of the Hansa Canon. When this photo was taken, Seiki Kogaku had leased most of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and one room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Takekawaya Building (Fig. 3), located in the Roppongi area of Azabu Ward in Tokyo as its business premise. Figure 2 was supplied by Kimio Yamada, who had been an employee of Seiki Kogaku since October 1935; the photograph itself, however, was taken before he entered the company. The author had the opportunity to talk with Yamada at his Tokyo residence in November 2009, when he explained that the individual to the left in the photo was the works manager, Tomitaro Kaneko, and the individual to the right was a designer, Ichiro Inoue. Yamada elaborated that Kaneko was a machine processing specialist that had come over from Nippon Kogaku, and that he was of



equal rank to the then person-in-charge of general affairs, Takeo Maeda, who would go on to be the company's second president. In Kaneko's hands in the photo, as Yamada explains, is the Hansa Canon in its earliest stages, fitted with a prototype Nikkor 5cm F3.5 lens. Despite the initial production run of standard Nikkor lenses having a black name ring, the one in the photo is, in fact, white. Mikio Awano and Hayato Ueyama, both of whom are engaged in researching Canon cameras, point out to the author that the single sheet affixed to the wall represents a chart for measuring resolution. A similar photo appears on page 525 of the publication "A Forty-Year History of Nippon Kogaku, K.K.". Also of particular note is the drafting desk visible in the background. This photo was taken using a Nikkor lens on a different pre-release Hansa Canon. As such, despite the uncertainty regarding the actual sales start-up data of the Hansa Canon, it is clear that several units had already been completed by September.



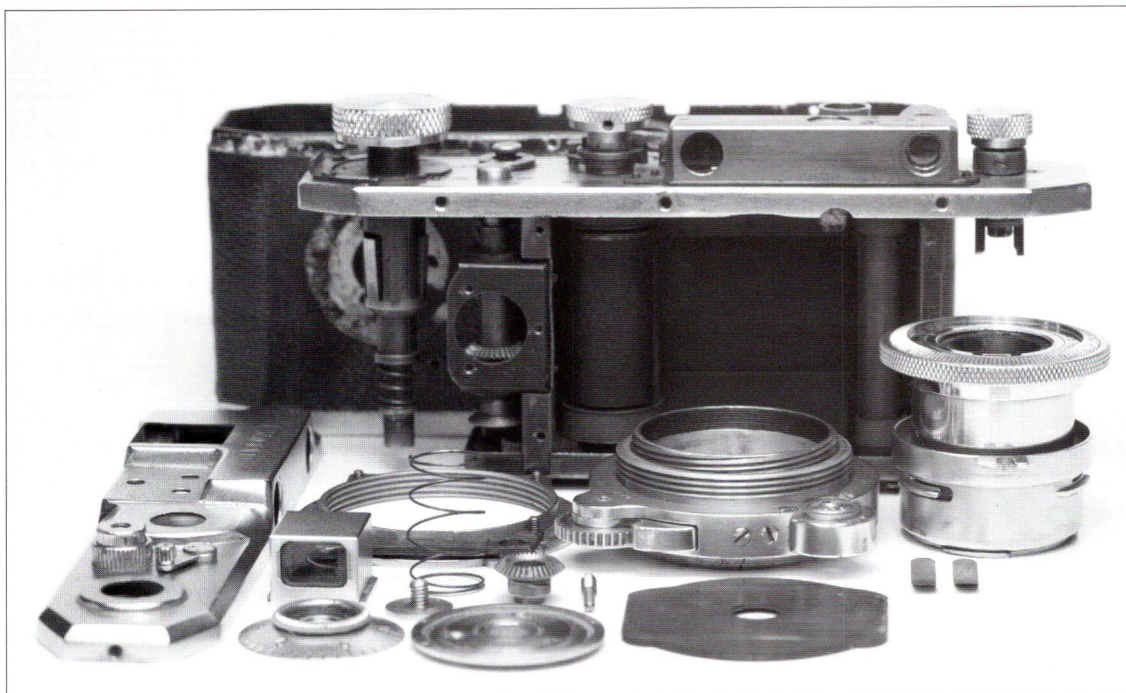


FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



Figure 4 shows another photo provided by Yamada that was taken to commemorate the completion of the Hansa Canon. It was taken in the clothes drying area located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Yamada explained that the individuals in the back row, starting in the left-hand corner, were finisher Shigetsugu Imagawa, senior finisher Oshida, machinist Asano, and assembly supervisor Tamotsu Fukazawa. Fukazawa, a graduate of a horology school, had been a previous employee of the Citizen Watch Co. Ltd. He joined Seiki Kogaku in the spring of 1935, and made significant contributions to its technical department. The man on the far right is likely to be Shigeharu Yamamoto, who, at the time, was the sales head of Nippon Kogaku. Yamamoto was engaged in conducting sales of Nikkor lenses to Seiki Kogaku. On the far left of the front row is Ryoichi Uzuki, a designer. As an overseer of design works, Inoue was ahead of Uzuki in rank. On Uzuki's right is machinist Teiji Amano, and to his right is finisher Iijima. The photo in Fig. 5 shows another angle of Kaneko and provides a glimpse into the nature of Seiki Kogaku Kenkyusho. Two body cases and a camera case for the Hansa Canon are visible on the desktop. Figure 6 is another photo of Oshida.

At the time that Yamada entered Seiki Kogaku, full-fledged assembly processes had not yet commenced, and preparations were still underway to mass-produce the camera. Stove burners that lined the hallway of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor were used by Yamada to chemically treat camera parts, which he placed in large numbers along with the chemicals in containers on top of the burners for heating. The small-scale compressor was also used by Yamada to spray paint the outer side of mounting plates and inner surfaces of base plates. A few machine tools, such as a bench lathe, milling machine and drill, were located in the eastern most room, as well as an adjoining room, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. However, these tools were not used with any real frequency. It is believed that all camera parts were manufactured externally though outside sources.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF SEIKI KOGAKU KENKYUSHO AND DESIGNING OF KWANON

With the intention of developing Japan's first high-end 35mm focal plane shutter camera, a visionary pioneer by the name of Goro Yoshida combined forces with an entrepreneur by the name of Saburo Uchida to establish Seiki Kogaku Kenkyusho in November 1933. Up until then, the professional focus of the 33 year-old Yoshida was the import and repair of foreign-made

projectors. He had visited the global trade hub of Shanghai approximately 20 times by that point, and was highly knowledgeable about the build and disassembly of high-end focal plane cameras made in Germany. Saburo Uchida, who was 34 at the time, was a graduate of the prestigious Department of Law at the Imperial University of Tokyo, and had taken charge of out-of-store sales for a security corporation.

The camera that these two would go on to manufacture was dubbed "Kwanon" by Yoshida, who was a believer in the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy. A look at a Japanese-English dictionary reveals that "Kwanon" as Yoshida wrote it, is typically spelled "Kwanon" or "Kannon". Although Yoshida would leave Seiki Kogaku in October 1934, up until that point, the design of the Kwanon was almost entirely conducted by him and him alone. Following Yoshida's resignation, the name of the camera was changed to "Canon" by Saburo Uchida, with the release model dubbed "Hansa Canon" due to the 'Hansa' trademark held by Omiya Photo Supply Co., Ltd., the camera's distributor.

Yoshida devoted himself to design and prototype development for the film feeder, shutter and other components for the Kwanon. However, the design of optical components, such as the



lens, rangefinder and related coupling mechanism did not progress as smoothly. This fact was not lost on Uchida, who sought help on the matter from his older brother and soldier Ryonosuke Uchida, who had ties with Nippon Kogaku. Under his brother's advice, Saburo Uchida accompanied Maeda in late summer 1934 to Nippon Kogaku to request the supply of the necessary parts. Accepting Uchida's request on the Nippon Kogaku side were Kakuya Sunayama, general manager of the design department, Yamamoto, the sales

head and Noboru Hamashima, the chief overseeing civilian goods. Subsequently, Yoshida slowly withdrew his presence from Seiki Kogaku, eventually resigning in October 1934. This is why the Kwanon never saw the light of day on the market, and only made it to the incomplete prototype phase. It is believed, however, that several unfinished prototypes were undoubtedly created. One of these was brought to Nippon Kogaku by Saburo Uchida and Maeda upon Uchida's request for assistance with components.

Yoshida lived a long life until his passing in 1993. Prior to that, a number of Kwanon researchers visited him to inquire about the mythical camera; however, Yoshida was reticent.





FIG. 5



FIG. 6



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

*There is always something going on in the world of Nikon.  
Here are some current items of interest.....*

I mentioned in NHS-106 that Norwegian member Jarle Aasland had some high quality artwork T-shirts, bags & mugs featuring our favorite cameras. Here are some small samples of what he has. Please go to his website for a complete listing and prices..

<http://www.cafepress.com/nikonf>

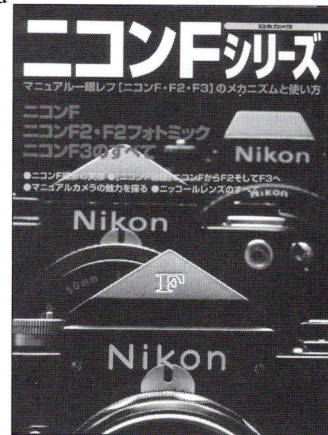


Recently there has been an influx of 'NASA' Nikon items on eBay. Now we have featured some really fine and genuine NASA Nikons within these pages over the years, but some of these 'current' items are questionable. One such item was a 180mm/f2.5 Nikkor with NF tube. There was a tag on the NF and a card in the box attributing the lens to NASA. For what purpose no one knows. NASA may have owned it at one time but it does not mean it ever was used for any space flight. There were also a few 'F3 NASA' cameras on eBay with asking prices as high as \$35,000! Chris Sap checked with his contacts at Nikon Japan (including the people who designed the F3!) and got this response: "This is not an original F3 NASA. F3 NASA has no selftimer knob & the shape of the memory lock button is different". However, it seems that the battery packs and the data backs are original. But they keep telling me that this camera could have been made from junk

parts. Indeed they tell me that parts for the F3 NASA had been stolen! So be aware of F3 NASA cameras on eBay!

And now for some real NASA Nikons. In a recent press release Nikon announced that NASA has placed an order for 11 Nikonm D3S cameras and 7 AF-S Nikkor 14-24mm/f2.8 G ED lenses. They will be carried on the space shuttle and used to photograph activities on the International Space Station. Nikon's durability, reliability and capability to stand up to the harshest environments is legendary, and NASA has captured more than 700,000 images using Nikon equipment!

British member Ian Shephard



British member Ian Shephard is a real literature collector. He seems to come up with all kinds of obscure items and his emails are always interesting. Recently he purchased some books from Hong Kong that are all about Nikons including some info on the rangefinders. However, they mostly cover the reflex system from the F to the F3. Ian tells me 'just got these from Hong Kong. They are great with never before seen detailed pics of stripped down F3/F3P (I've only studied the F3 book so far). It is a shame they are so small (about 6x3) but the quality is first class but the text is only in Japanese. But there is a lot of useful info about the NASA specials, prototypes and pics I have never seen before. I noticed a strange MD4 with a handgrip in total rubber diamond cut! I see also detailed blueprints of the Nikon S3 as well as a diagram showing the differences in the negative sizes for the Nikon I, M/S and S2-SP. I thought our members might be interested. On the web at [www.ei-publishing.co.jp](http://www.ei-publishing.co.jp).



# DATING VARIATIONS OF THE NIKON 'DOF' SCALES...OR...DID YOU KNOW THEY VARIED?

by Nico Van Dijk & Jan Prinsen

We have never been able to catch Nikon Corporation at bragging, have we?

The very first rangefinder cameras were fitted and sold with a standard Nikkor 5cm lens with the maximum aperture of f2 (a few were sold with the f3.5). So, all aperture rings on the lens mount have at their top a black dot with on both sides a row of apertures to indicate the depth of field (DOF), starting at '2'. Even when the first Nikkor 5cm/f1.4 was introduced in mid 1950, the lens mount engravings did not change.

All Nikon I and M cameras have a mount with, on both sides of the black dot, a row starting with '2'. Save for a black Nikon M seen in Bob's RF bible on page 79 and an early Nikon S on page 249, which have a ring with on one side the row of apertures starting at '1.4'! Later models and also the early Nikon S cameras, up to the eight-digit version, were not fitted with the '1.4' ring. Would that indicate that the black Nikon M and the S were modified later? Who knows?

As you may learn from the pictures on this page, on some Nikon S cameras with the rare eight-digit serial numbers, the '1.4' ring appears. Two eight-digit cameras (produced in spring 1952) with consecutive serial numbers (shown here) have a '2' ring and a '1.4' ring! All later Nikon S cameras (with eight-digit numbers and numbered 610xxxx and higher) do have the '1.4' ring. Why did Nippon

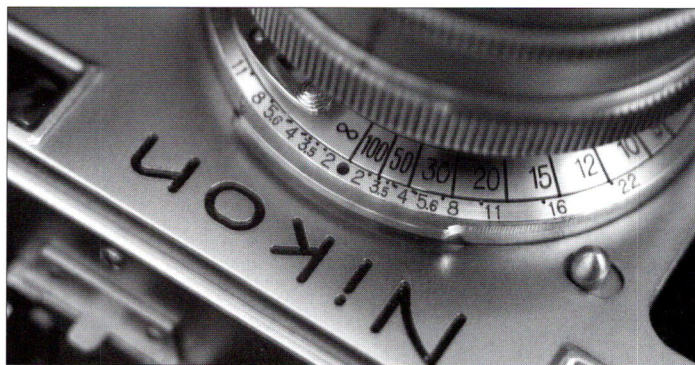
Kogaku change that ring 2 years after introducing the 5cm/f1.4 Nikkor? And why did the ring have a row starting with '1.4' on just one side?

Also the Nikon S2 cameras have a similar ring starting with '2' on one side and '1.4' on the other. However, after the '2' the numbers continue with '2.8' instead of '3.5' which you will find on older cameras (Nikon S, etc.).

We all know that Nippon Kogaku produced the legendary 5cm/f1.1 Nikkor, but they never gave an indication for it on the DOF ring. In any case it would be useless when using the super fast Nikkor in the external mount, which covers the DOF ring.

Nippon Kogaku introduced a new ring on the Nikon SP that has the '1.4' on BOTH sides of the black dot. All later cameras were fitted with the same ring.

Maybe this unpretentious research may be of help to you to examine or verify the period of production of your camera and whether it was restored or not. Nico van Dijk & Jan Prinsen



*Above...an eight-digit Nikon S with the number '2' on both sides of the black dot. Note the second number is '3.5'.*

*Below...Another eight-digit with a consecutive serial number but this one has the '1.4' to the left of the black dot. Note the '3.5' is gone & replaced with '2.8'.*



*The final version of the DOF scale appeared on the SP. Now '1.4' flanks both sides of the black dot followed by '2.8'.*



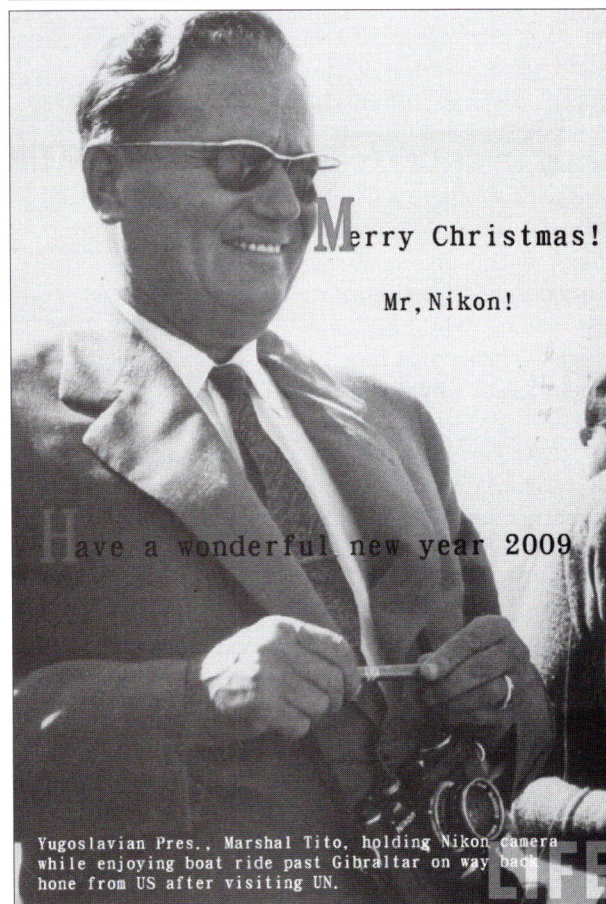
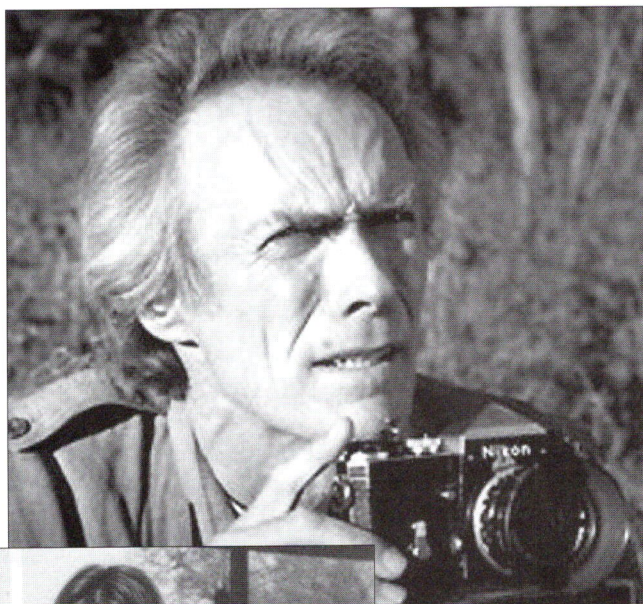


# NIKONS IN THE HANDS OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS...



*Above..possibly the most famous Nikon user of all, David Douglas Duncan. DDD is credited with discovering the Nikon in early postwar Japan. Right..David Hemmings in "Blow Up" which has to be the most visible use of Nikons in a movie. I saw it 4 times in the theaters and loved it.*

Again this issue we look at some famous people using Nikons in either the real world or, in three cases here, sharing the 'big screen' with a famous actor. Most of these examples were well known to me but I must admit the shot of 'Tito' and a black SP really caught me off guard. Now the politically correct camera for him would have been a Kiev, or Praktica or Pentacon or.....but a Nikon SP? I never saw this shot before.



*Above...Clint Eastwood in 'The Bridges of Madison County'. Another time when Nikons played a major role. Left..Peter Fonda in a movie I do not recall. Do you? Right..Marshal Tito, the dictator of the former Yugoslavia. I guess politics has it perks even in a Communist setting.*

Yugoslavian Pres., Marshal Tito, holding Nikon camera while enjoying boat ride past Gibraltar on way back home from US after visiting UN.

LIFE



## 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!

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6320648	6320775	6320837	6321282	6321776	
6321806	6321834	6322108	6322131		
	6322187	6600042			

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6595272	6595348	6595869	6595970	6596885
6598146	6598392	6599927	6599968	6600650
6601233	6602260	6602757	6602819	

## LETTERS..FEEDBACK AND BOOK UPDATES.

Two of our members recently returned from Tokyo where they met many of our fellow Japanese collectors and also had the opportunity to attend the annual Matsuya camera show, the biggest collector show in Japan. Here is a report of some of the things they saw and other bits of interesting information.....

From Bill Kraus....

Some interesting items turned up at Matsuya: 90yen/\$

Nikon One 609470 w/708304	3,780,000 yen
Nikon One 609604 w/708343	3,990,000 yen
Nikon M609844 w/811365 (very early!)	1,100,000 yen
Nikon M6091512 w/f1.5	724,000 yen
Nikon M6091747 w/f1.5	714,000 yen
Nikon S3M 6600076 w/S36 #94777	5,250,000 yen
Nikkor 21mm #621114 w/finder	520,000 yen

While visiting the JCII Museum we were able to inspect Nikon One 609387 & 609310. We also saw Nikon M9061815, one of the unusual '906' cameras.

And as always we had a great time with our Japanese NHS members.

From Chris Sap...

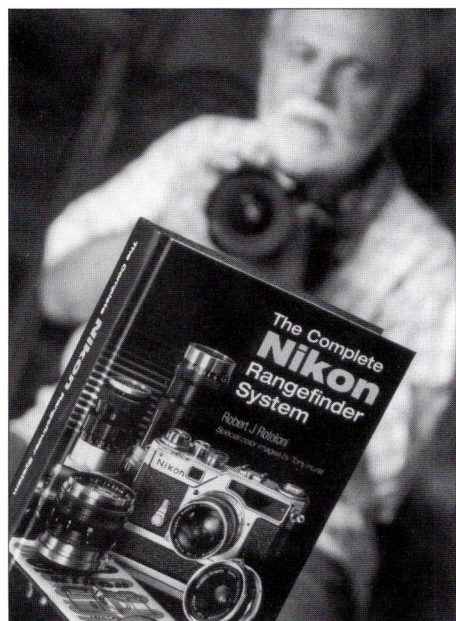
Besides the above items Chris also reports the following:

A Box only for the Nikon S4 94,500 yen  
He also sent along a list of black bodies (see the list to the left) and tells me that 3 of them came with Olympic 1.4s and were priced at about 179,000 yen and in very nice shape. He also reports the following:

I saw a new high number for the Microflex Type IV (32328. I also saw two S72 motors for the S3M, numbers 95130 & 95153. I have also found a numbered 28mm finder (mentioned in your book) which is #408505 and have seen #408312 in a Japanese book. The numbered finders are marked 'Nikon' while the unnumbered type are marked 'Nippon Kogaku'.

Finally, I must report that I saw some fake items! Fake boxes are easily recognizable (not that well made) while the fake 'mini-35' finders are too different from the real thing to pass inspection. I also saw fake cases (too shiny and lighter weight) and fake instruction manuals. The fake black bodies have been something we have tracked for years, but now we are seeing these new items turning up as fakes. What's next?

## 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 2008, I have been shipping within 48 hours of receiving payment.

I am happy to announce that I have sold over 240 copies myself with at least 125 of those going to NHS members. That still leaves quite a few members who have not ordered as yet (although many overseas are buying locally), and remember that I do sign and label those copies ordered through me.

Those of you who wish to obtain a signed copy from me need only to contact me and it will be done. I did not mention previously that, besides signing the book, I have also had made up labels stating to the fact that 'this copy has been purchased directly from the author'. Prices are as follow and include postage:

United States	\$100 including Priority shipping.
Canada	\$115 including Int. Priority shipping.
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## CLASSIFIED ADS

**WANTED...**I am looking for a Nikon MF-1 with the following numbers inside: **B7850536 & M785462**. I will buy or trade or exchange. Please contact me **Christophe Sap csap@skynet.be**

**WANTED...**Nikkor S-C 5cm/f1.4 #316492....**Robert, 416-960-5700, bobr.skunklabs@sympatico.ca**

**WANTED...**Numbered back #6094164 for Nikon S. I have back #6094221 for trade or will buy outright....**Robert, 416-960-5700, bobr.skunklabs@sympatico.ca**

**FOR SALE...**Nikon, Mamiya, Bolex, Contax/Kiev, Bessa literature, books, brochures, test reports, manuals, promo items, etc. Also Sunpak flash items, Lowepro bags, Manfrotto items, backdrops & reflectors. Possibly trade for Nikon items. **Ian DC Shephard, email me at dcian@fastemail.us**

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# odds 'n ends



Yuki Kawai recently sent me this photo of a 'Junk Box' he saw at a recent camera show. That's right.....\$1.00 EACH!! This is a goldmine of parts. I count at least 4 Nikon F bodies as well as 15 various Photomic finders! But look at the real gem peeking out from some of those finders.

Do you see it? The Sportsframe Finder for the RFs!! For \$1.00!!

**Yuki...TELL ME YOU BOUGHT THE ENTIRE BOX!!! YOU DID...RIGHT!?**



*Created For The "NHS" By Jay Hunt*

