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The NIKON ニコン Journal



By Robert Rotoloni

THE NIKON Journal

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THE NIKON JOURNAL IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WHICH IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE EDUCATION & BENEFIT OF ITS MEMBERS, AND IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: ROBERT ROTOLONI, PO BOX 3213, MUNSTER, INDIANA 46321

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MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS:

ANY CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS OF MANUSCRIPTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS CONCERNING THE NIKON RANGEFINDER SERIES ARE APPRECIATED AND EVERY ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO MAKE USE OF ALL SUBMITTALS AS SPACE ALLOWS. PLEASE TYPE ALL MANUSCRIPTS AND MAKE ALL B&W PHOTOS AT LEAST 3x5 GLOSSIES. A SEAMLESS BACKGROUND IS PREFERRED AND MAKE ALL PHOTOS HIGH CONTRAST. YOU WILL BE GIVEN A BY-LINE UNLESS ANONYMITY IS REQUESTED AND ENCLOSE AN SASE IF RETURN OF MATERIAL IS DESIRED

EDITORIAL

It is with a great deal of pleasure, and a fair amount of relief, that I present to you the first issue of the NIKON JOURNAL, which is the official publication of the NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. My plans call for this publication to appear quarterly and it will be distributed to all members of the SOCIETY whose dues support it. In essence this magazine is OUR magazine and its continued existence depends upon the participation of the members. By participation is meant not just the payment of dues but also contributions in the form of articles and photos to be used in forthcoming issues of the JOURNAL. I would like this to become a forum to be used by the members as a means of education, pleasure and communication. The key word here is communication for no other method exists for dedicated collectors of the NIKON "S" series to reach out to each other in an effort to learn more about their favorite camera system besides personal correspondence. Naturally those of you who already know each other on a personal basis will continue to exchange information, which I have enjoyed doing with many of you for, in some cases, many years. I have found many of you to be both knowledgeable and gracious in your willingness to share information about our mutual fascination with this fine series of classic cameras. For quite some time I have felt that, as the number of Nikon collectors increased almost daily, some method of communication that could bring together a significant portion of this growing group, was needed. After a great deal of soul searching I decided that the time to take the plunge had arrived and the result was my appeal to you to help me establish a society dedicated to the dissemination of information about the NIKON rangefinder series. At the time of publication we have 41 members, plus myself, all of whom are deeply committed to the NIKON "S" series and desire to learn more about it and to share what they know with the other members. I firmly believe that our numbers will grow as time passes, which will enhance the opportunity for all of us to learn more and derive greater enjoyment while collecting the NIKON rangefinder cameras. I cannot overstate the importance of participation by all of the members towards making this magazine a success. I do not wish to monopolize this publication, therefore, I ask that all of you feel free to submit articles, photos and ideas that you feel will be enjoyed by the membership. I would hope that each and everyone of you would enjoy the satisfaction of participating in OUR magazine. On the facing page is a paragraph explaining the requirements for proper reproduction which is really quite simple. Please use this as a guide when photographing items for the JOURNAL. I'm sure that all of us are looking forward to your future participation.

Space will be provided in future issues for letters to the JOURNAL as well as Buy and Sell ads. I would like to devote one page per issue for classified ads from the members so feel free to submit these in time for the next issue. Also space will be provided for questions that any of you may have that you feel a member may be able to answer for you. The approximate publication dates for succeeding issues will be December, March, June and September so the deadline for submitted material will be the first of each of those respective months. This will allow me about ten days to edit and plan the issue and get it to the printer in time for mailing by the end of that month.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy, and benefit from, the NIKON JOURNAL and I look forward to hearing from each of you in the months ahead. Now that you have suffered through this lengthy editorial please feel free to turn the page and enter the fascinating world of collecting the NIKON rangefinder series.

ROBERT ROTOLONI
Editor/Publisher

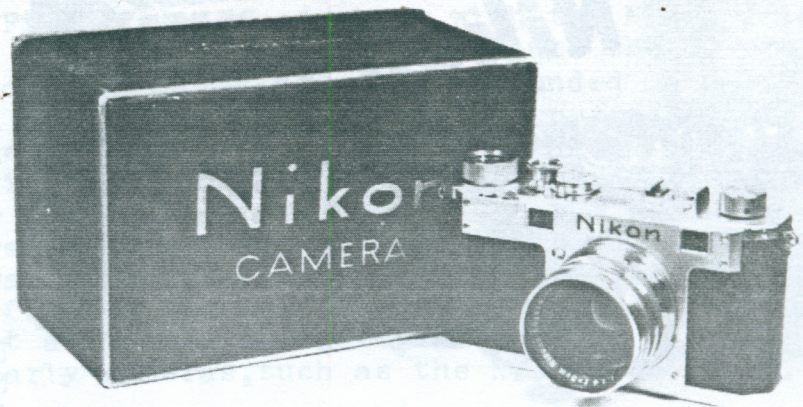
BOXED-LIKE NEW!

One of the more enjoyable aspects of collecting anything that has been out of production for a period of many years is the acquisition of an item that is like new and still in the original box or packing. Many of you probably possess at least one item that you have been able to unearth in this best of all conditions and are justly proud of it. This quest for mint equipment has led many of us to some fine discoveries over the years. Thinking back to all of the correspondence that I've had with other collectors reminds me of the many items that have been reported to me as being found in their boxes in like new condition. This has included items from as far back as the Occupation, such as the NIKON M and S cameras, finders and lenses, and as late as the black NIKON S3 Olympic cameras of 1964.

On the following two pages are photographs of most of the NIKON rangefinder camera models shown with their respective boxes as well as one that includes the additional shipping carton! Obviously any item found that retains it's box can be expected to be in fine cosmetic and mechanical condition and this holds true in the majority of cases. The original owners of these items took excellent care of their possessions to the benefit of future collectors like you and I. I've limited this article to just camera bodies but I hope to illustrate other items in future issues. If you possess anything that came to you with it's box don't hesitate to send me photographs that I can use in succeeding articles. At this time I know of many other examples of all types of Nikon equipment, including cameras, lenses and accessories, both large and small, that I can use in future issues. However, there are still some items for which I have no record of any found with their original box so feel free to submit whatever you may possess.

On the following two pages are shown, in chronological order, a NIKON S, S2, SP, S3 and S4 alongside their original boxes. The box for the NIKON S model is very similar to that used for the NIKON I and M cameras and has a deep blue velvet-like finish. The example shown has gold edging which is not always found on the earlier models. The S2 box is mostly gold colored while both the SP and S3 have a basically white box with some coloring. Finally the S4 box is mostly black with white lettering. As you can see Nippon Kogaku did vary their boxes to a great degree but the result was that each model had it's own distinctive box design. The same pattern holds true when you get to accessories where an even larger array of packaging was used, from a rather bland grey to multi-colored. More in future issues.

Robert Rotoloni



Like new Nikon S
No.6128515 with
original blue ve-
vet box with gold
trim. (J.Angle)



Nikon S2 with it's
original gold box.
Camera is number
6136682.
(R. Rotoloni)

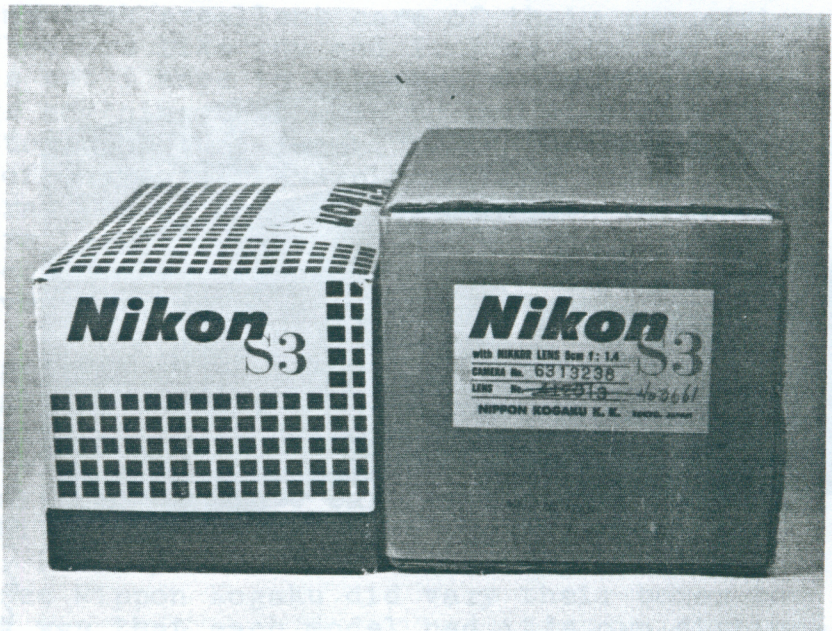


Black Nikon SP
No.6202526 and
it's original
white box with
very large let-
tering.

(R. Rotoloni)



Late Nikon S3
No. 6313238 and
it's highly pat-
terned box.
(J. Angle)



The above camera
also came with
the original outer
shipping box with
the matching serial
number! (J. Angle)



The Nikon S4 came
in it's own basic
black box. Camera
is No. 6500614.
(T. Konno)

THE NIKON VARIFRAME FINDER

One of the longest running accessory finders made for the Nikon RF system was the Variframe finder. First introduced along with the Nikon I in 1948, it remained in production until at least 1957, well into the S2 era. It's basic shape was similar to the Leitz Vidom, with a rounded main body, top mounted accessory shoe, and a tapered nosepiece, but it possessed the added feature of an erect image like the Leitz Viooh. A ring calibrated in focal lengths was positioned midway on the barrel and as it was rotated a diaphragm adjusted to show the exact area covered by a chosen focal length lens. It's basic mode of use was simplicity itself and it proved to be a very popular accessory. This was especially true in the early years before Nippon Kogaku made individual finders for specific lenses. An added benefit was that the Variframe, when set at 50mm., gave a better working image than the actual viewfinder of the early cameras, such as the Nikon I, M and S.

At the end of this article is a listing of all the types of Variframes that are known with specific characteristics, but first some general statements. All versions, save the last, had an accessory shoe mounted on the top of the finder. In the early years the construction consisted of heavy brass and chrome which was lightened as time passed and was eventually changed to black painted brass and aluminum in the final versions. The focal length calibrations coincided with those lenses that were available when the finder was produced. At first these were 35, 50, 85 and 135mm. but 105mm. was added after 1955. All those made for the Leica-type cameras possessed calibrations for lenses never made by Nikon, such as 73, 90 and 120mm. Early versions made for the Nikon possessed a separate eyepiece attached by a chain that slipped over the eyepiece of the camera and increased its magnification to life-size and allowed the user to adjust for diopters. Those made for the Leica did not have this. Those made during the Occupation were so marked on the base of the mounting shoe. The version made for the Nikon I was engraved 24x32 on the side of the main housing but later Nikon versions lacked this while all those made for the Leica were marked 24x36. Only the later versions had threads at the tip of the tapered nosepiece to allow use of the 28mm. attachment which came out rather late. Those versions made for the Nikon had the word "NIKON" in quotation marks around the eyepiece while the Leica-types lacked this. All versions were serial numbered and used one of two types of parallax adjustment.

At least nine known types exist which includes those for the Leica-type cameras. A quick way to determine if your examples are for the Nikon is to look for the "NIKON" engraving around the eyepiece, and later on the side, the focal length calibrations and, in the early years, the eyepiece and chain. Some early examples have lost this eyepiece but the mounting stud for the chain is still present on the side of the finder mounting shoe. The table on the next page will more concisely define the different types for easier identification and also lists serial numbers.

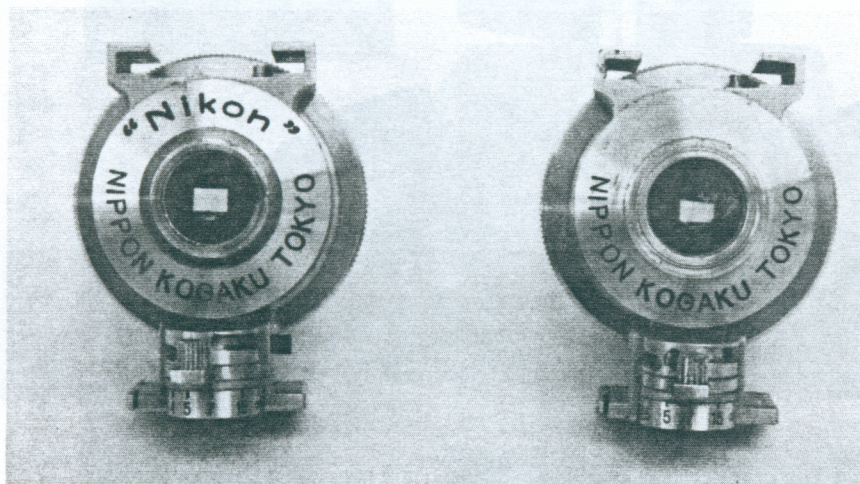
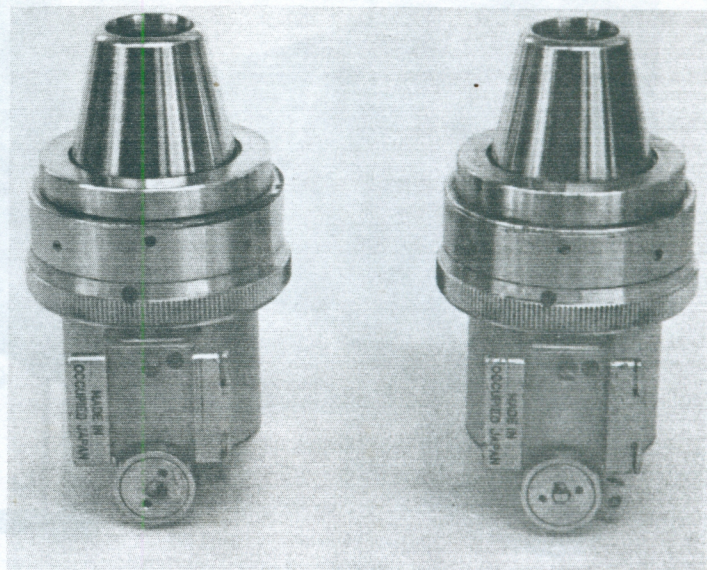
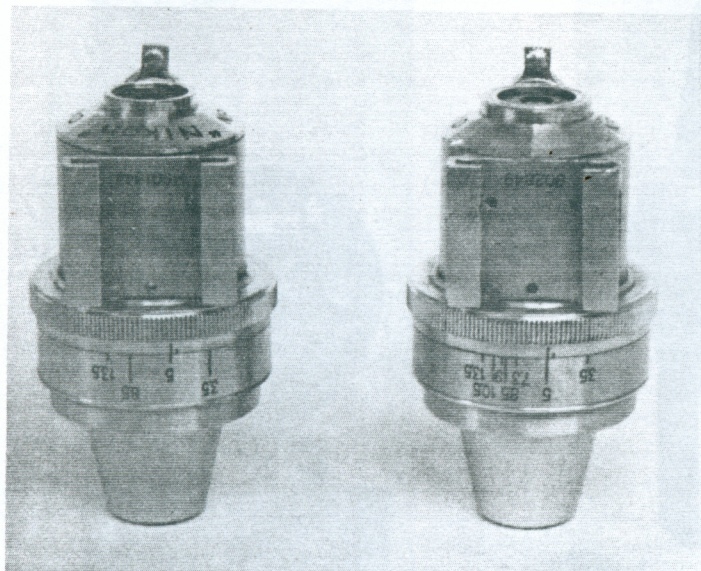
Robert Rotoloni

This is "H" type finder
No. M901123 which still re-
serves its eyepiece and
chain. (R. Rotoloni)

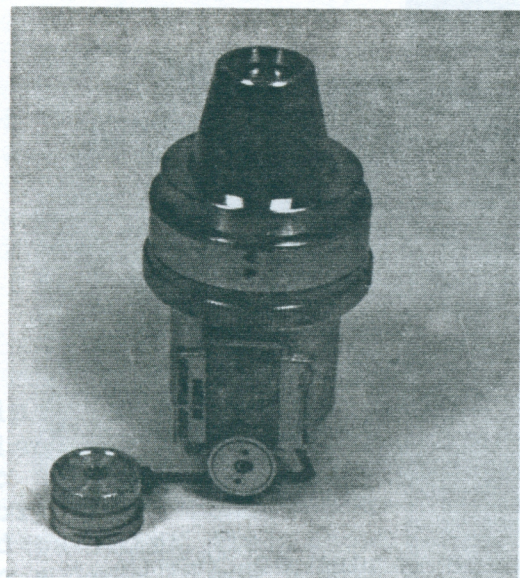
Finder No. M901123 mounted
on Nikon F No. 6091975 with
35mm. f1.5 Nikkor lens No.
207239. (R. Rotoloni)

VARIFRAME FINDER VARIATIONS

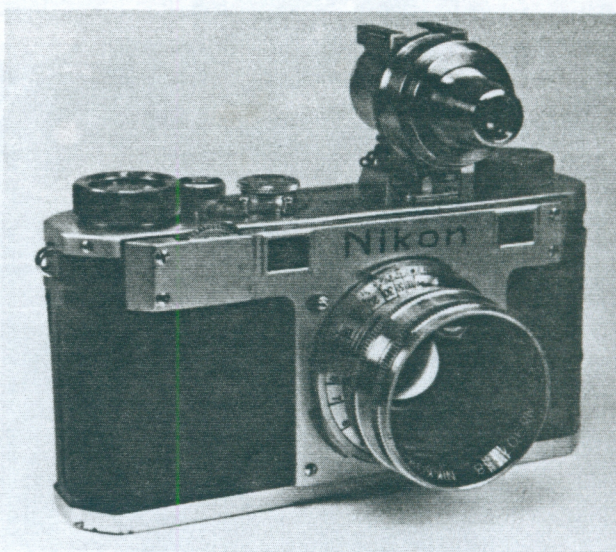
- TYPE ONE: Heavy chrome on brass construction; 24x32 engraved on side; base mounted parralax lever; has eyepiece and chain; MIOJ on base of mounting shoe; no threads; calibrated for 35, 50, 85 and 135mm.; "NIKON" around eyepiece; serial numbers begin at No. 70500; made for Nikon I.
- TYPE TWO: Similar to Type One except it lacks the eyepiece and chain; 24x36 engraved on side; base mounted parralax lever; MIOJ on base of mounting shoe; no threads; additional calibrations for 73 and 90mm.; serial numbers begin at No. 71200; made for Leica-type cameras.
- TYPE THREE: Similar to Type One; no framesize engraved; base mounted parralax lever; MIOJ on base of mounting shoe; no threads; calibrated for 35, 50, 85 and 135mm.; "NIKON" around eyepiece; serial numbers begin at No. M901100; made for "M".
- TYPE FOUR: Similar to type Three; 24x36 engraved on side; base mounted parralax lever; lacks eyepiece and chain; MIOJ on base of mounting shoe; no threads; additional calibrations for 73, 90 and 105mm.; no "NIKON" engraving; serial numbers begin at No. 90200; made for Leica-type cameras.
- TYPE FIVE: Similar to Type Four; 24x36 engraved on side; base mounted parralax lever; lacks eyepiece and chain; NOT MIOJ!; some may have threads; additional calibrations for 73, 90 and 105mm.; no "NIKON" engraving; serial numbers begin at No. 313000; made for Leica-type cameras.
- TYPE SIX: Similar to Type Three; no framesize engraved; base mounted parralax lever; has eyepiece and chain; marked MIOJ up to at least No. 364160; has threads; calibrated for 35, 50, 85, 105 and 135mm.; "NIKON" around eyepiece; serial numbers begin at No. 364000; made for early Nikon S.
- TYPE SEVEN: Chrome replaced by black paint; no framesize engraved; base mounted parralax lever; lacks eyepiece and chain; none MIOJ!; has threads; calibrated for 35, 50, 85, 105 and 135mm.; "NIKON" on side of housing; serial numbers begin at No. 543600; made for Nikon S2.
- TYPE EIGHT: Identical to Type Seven except has additional calibrations for 73 and 90mm.; serial numbers intermixed with Type Seven; 24x36 on side of housing; made for Leica-type cameras.
- TYPE NINE: New style black housing; top mounted accessory shoe deleted; parralax dial at rear; has threads; calibrated for 35, 50, 85, 105 and 135mm.; serial numbers begin at No. 562000; made for late Nikon S2.



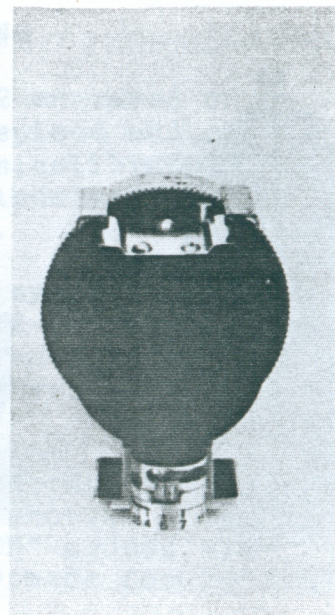
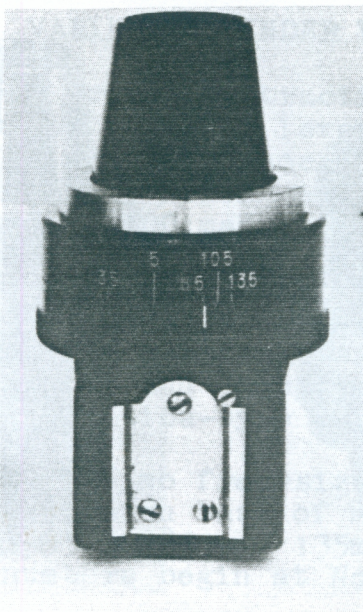
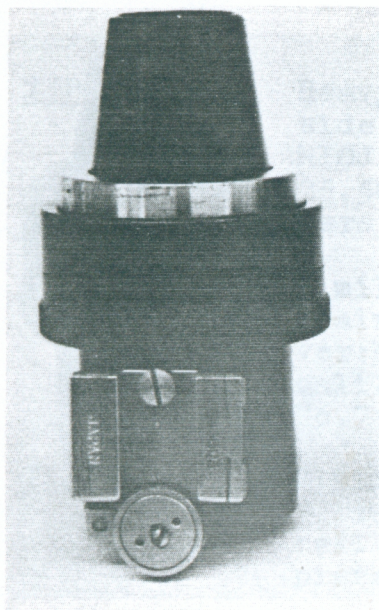
Top, bottom and rear aspects of two early MIOJ Variframe finders. On the left is No. M901344 for Nikon and on the right is No. 902849 which is for the Leica-type cameras. Note the lens calibrations and the "NIKON" engraving. (T. Konno)



This is "M" type finder No. M901123 which still possesses its eyepiece and chain. (R. Rotoloni)



Finder No. M901123 mounted on Nikon M No. 6091975 with 50mm. f1.5 Nikkor lens No. 907238. (R. Rotoloni)

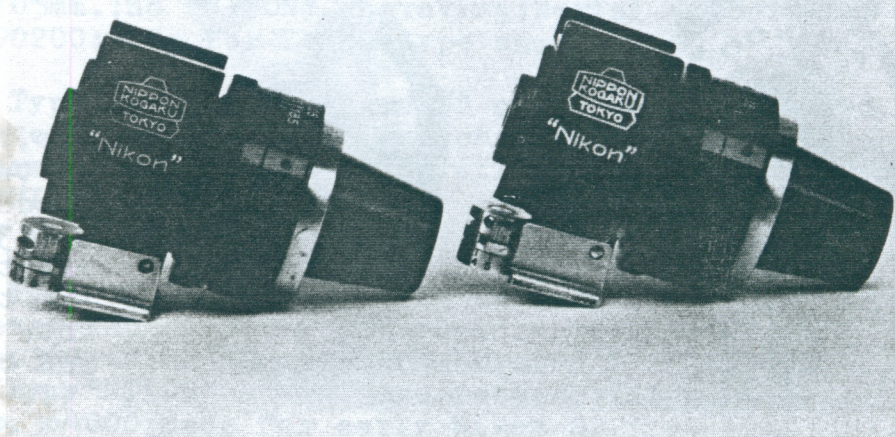


TYPE FOUR:

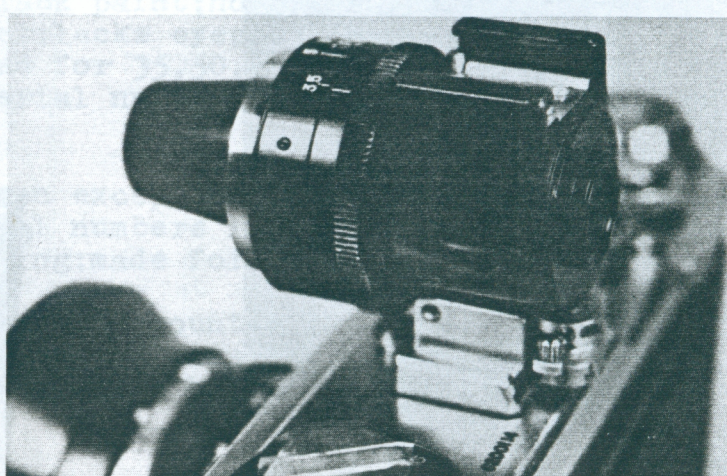
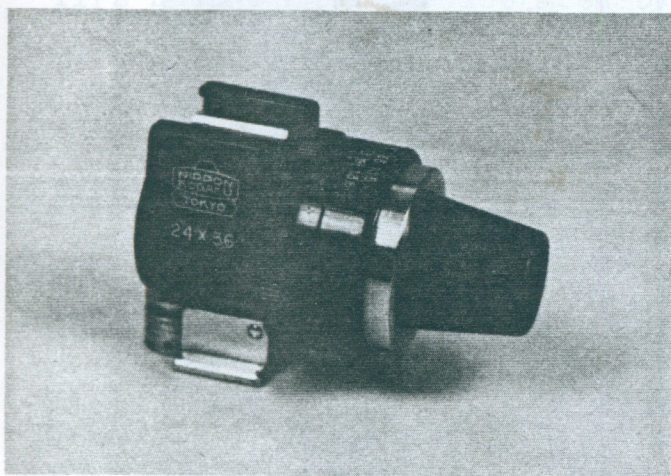
Similar to type Three; 24x36 engraved on side; base mounted on parallel lever; lacks eyepiece and chain; P10J on base

TYPE FIVE:

Similar to Type Four



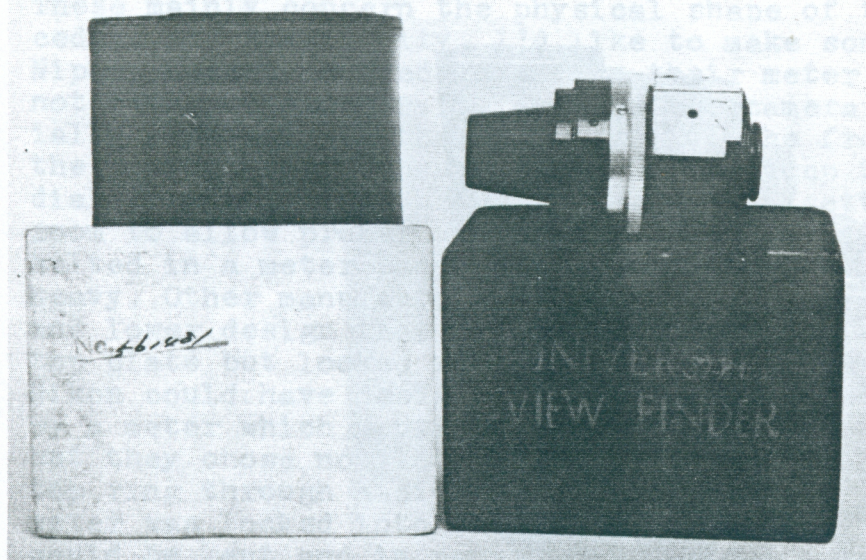
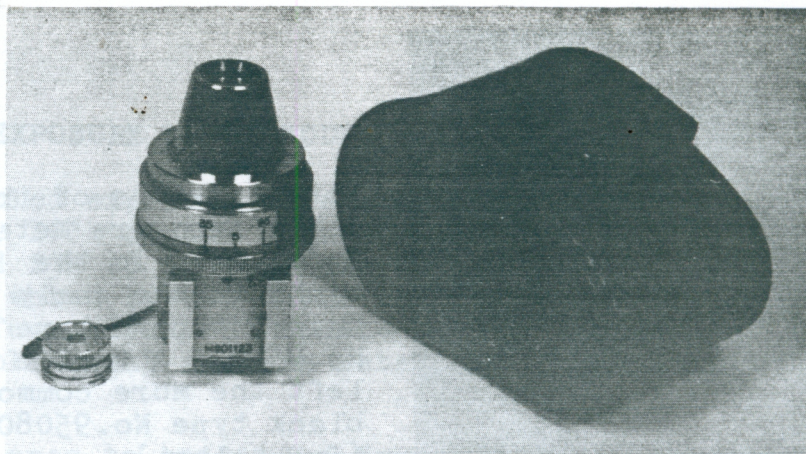
Four views of the black Variframe finder for the Nikon. Note the lens calibrations and "NIKON" engraved on the side under the Nippon Kogaku logo. Finders No. 543603 and No. 544672. (T. Konno)



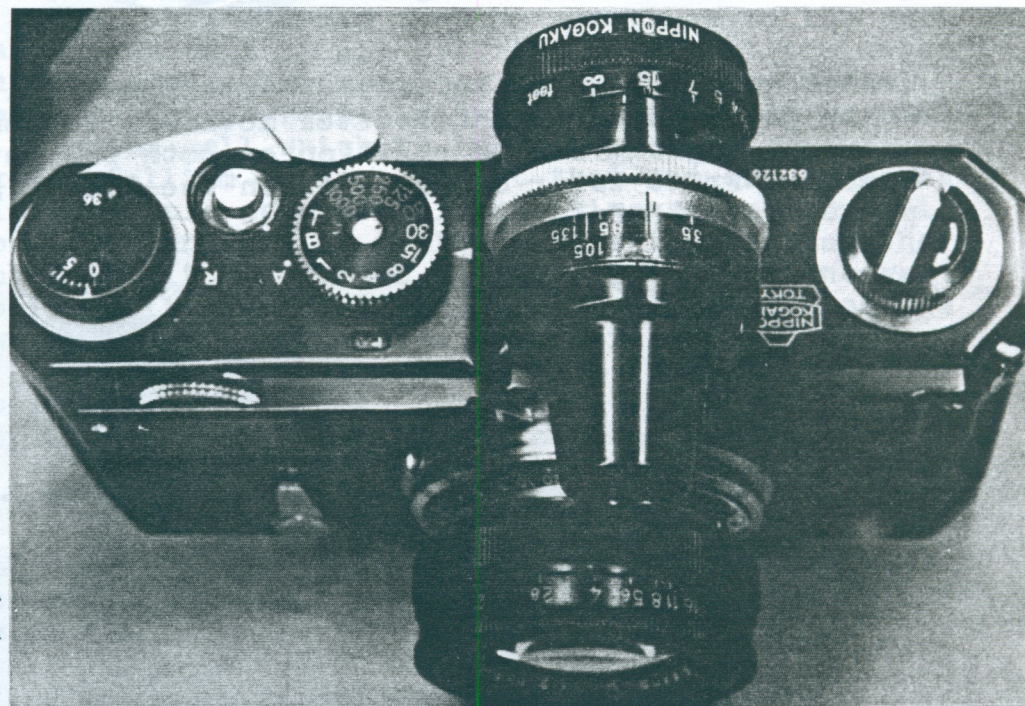
Black Variframe finder for the Leica-type cameras has 24x36 engraved where the "NIKON" would be. Has calibrations for 73 and 90mm. Finder No. 545270. (J. Angle)

Leica-type finder No. 545270 mounted on chrome Nikon SP No. 6200114. (J. Angle)

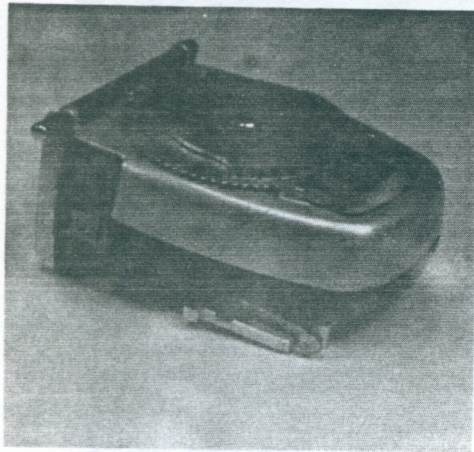
MIOJ Variframe finder for the Nikon No.M901123 with eyepiece and chain and the leather case. (R. Rotoloni)



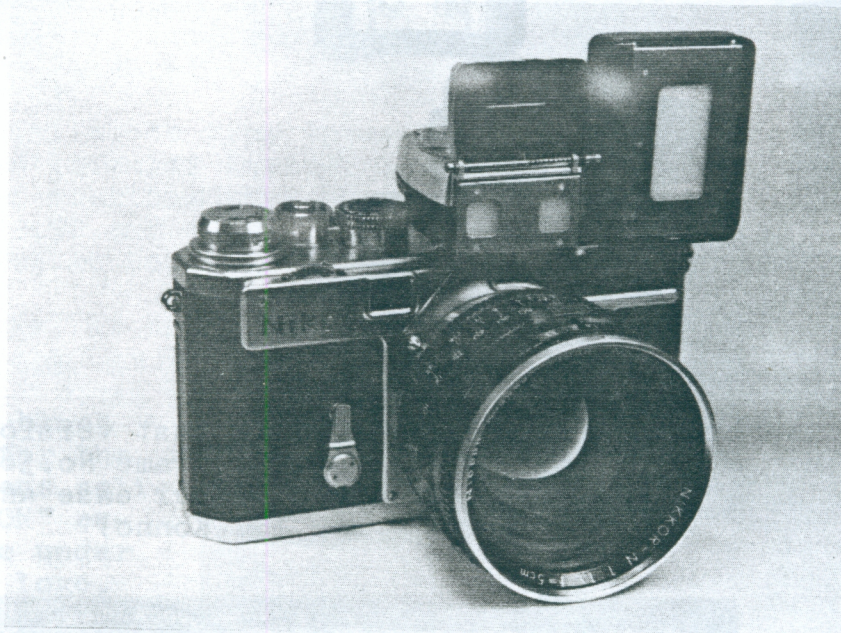
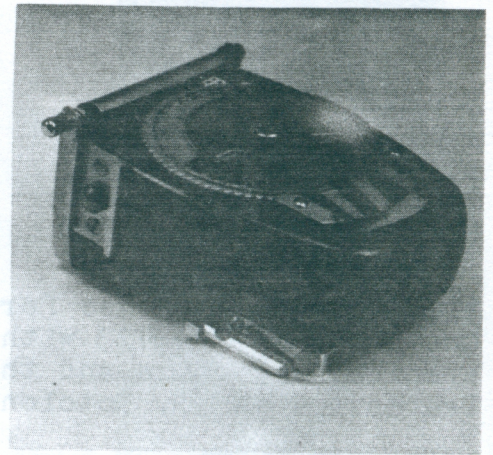
The last version of the black Variframe No.561481 with it's leather case and original box. (T. Konno)



Final version of the black Variframe had no top-mounted accessory and a rear-mounted parralax dial. Shown on a late black Nikon S3 Olympic. (A. Tamla)



Both versions of the Nikon Exposure Meter Model One. To the right is the early "grey" topped type No.950095 & to the left the more common black type No.950809. (R. Rotoloni)



Two views of Nikon SP No.6201707 with 50mm. f1.1 Nikkor No.141560 with meter and booster mounted. Top photo shows incident light grids in position on both the meter and the booster. Front cover of meter is in the "low light" opened position. (R. Rotoloni)



NIKON EXPOSURE METER MODEL ONE

Nikon's first, and only, coupled exposure meter was introduced along with the model SP in late 1957. It's design allowed it to be used on the succeeding models S3, S4 and S3M so it remained basically unchanged throughout it's production run which lasted until at least 1961. This was possible because the last four NIKON "S" models had identical accessory shoe and shutter dial placement and the meter could mount and couple properly on all.

The design of the meter is open to criticism from a user point of view and I have heard some negative comments about it over the years. These mainly concern the physical shape of the meter, it's coupling procedure, and sensitivity. I'd like to make some observations at this time. Nippon Kogaku decided to design their meter in such a way that it did not cover, or obscure, too much of the camera top plate. This was especially necessary on the SP which had the frameline selector dial under the rewind lever. They also needed to keep the top face of the shutter dial free to allow the user to read the settings, and in addition needed room to allow proper use of the swing-out rewind lever. All of this resulted in a meter body that was narrow but at the same time rather top heavy. Other manufacturers, such as Leitz and Canon, used a much longer and lower design that did tend to take up a great deal of the camera top plate but looked more balanced and integrated. Needless to say that Nikon could have designed a shutter dial to allow its use when covered by a meter which would have resulted in a better looking final design, but they chose not to. The meter coupled to the shutter dial's serrated top ring through a side mounted gear on the meter housing. However, the meter was locked into the accessory shoe by a thin metal lever which could be bent and in many cases allowed some play, or wobble, to occur. This made the actual coupling of the meter gear to the shutter dial gear a more or less "iffy" proposition and did require some care on the part of the user. Keep in mind that this is all hindsight and that the meter did couple properly in most cases when used correctly, and I've never heard of one falling off! As far as sensitivity goes this meter was made during the era of the selenium cell which is inherently less sensitive than today's CDS and exotic Gallium cells. I doubt that any camera-mounted meter from the period was more accurate or sensitive since they all used the same technology. One underlying fault of selenium is that the cell can "die", at which point it would need to be replaced. No one was able to produce a selenium cell that could last for ever yet all of the Nikon meters that I own are still working and one is 25 years old!

Two basic versions exist. The earliest meters, which account for less than 800 units, are only calibrated up to ASA 800 and have a black lower body and a "grey" top. All meters that followed were finished completely in black, except the front plate, and calibrated up to ASA 1600.

At least one example of the meter should be in every Nikon collection for the sake of completeness. A sample of both types, especially the grey topped version, is most desirable.

Robert Rotoloni

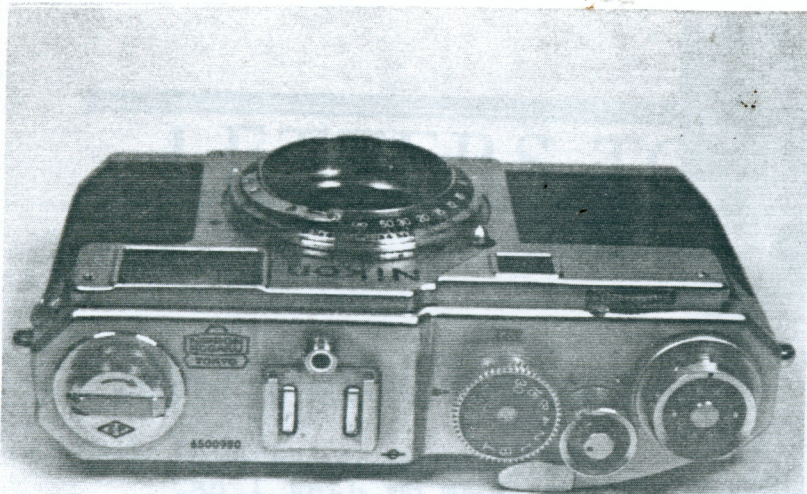
THE NIKON S4

Even though it cannot be considered rare, with nearly 6000 produced, the Nikon S4 still occupies a unique place in the Nikon rangefinder series. It was the only model that Joe Ehrenreich could have imported but chose not to, and it was the only time that Nippon Kogaku produced a new model by removing, or stripping, features from an existing camera. The S4 was not a new or improved design in any way but simply a modified Nikon S3 with a few features missing. Since it was never officially imported into the United States it is much easier to find in Japan, although it appears that a significant number did make it to these shores, probably purchased by American military personnel and then brought home. All of this makes the Nikon S4 an interesting item to search for and they still are a challenge to acquire.

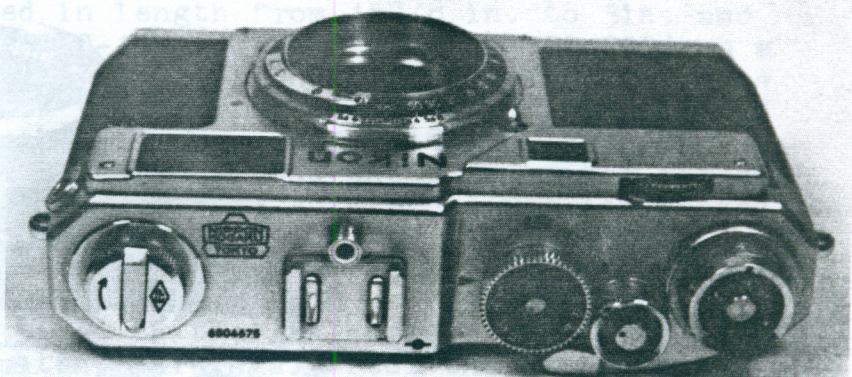
It differed from the S3 in the following ways. The selftimer was removed, as well as the auto-resetting frame counter, the motor drive connecting lug and the 35mm. frame-line in the finder. Absolutely everything else was identical to the Nikon S3 right down to the strap lugs. The removal of the auto-resetting frame counter made the S4 a little less convenient to use, but this was a small sacrifice as was the selftimer, which is a seldomly used feature anyway. The two features that really set it apart from the S3 were the missing 35mm. frame-line and the motor drive lug. Only the 50mm. and 105mm. lenses could be used on the S4 without resorting to accessory finders, which really was a design deficiency in 1959 when compared to other cameras of the era. You would have to go back to the Nikon S2 of 1954 to find a Nikon camera with less framelines. The removal of the motor drive lug is a mystery of sorts. The lug itself could not have cost very much to produce so why leave it off? It appears even less logical when you realize that the shutter, and its gearing, are identical to that of the SP and S3 and could withstand the rigors of motorized use. The late version of the motor drive instruction book even states that the motor could be used on the S4 and this was accomplished by simply adding the connecting lug under the take-up spool. The result was that the Nikon S4 could not be used to its fullest capability, and it is doubtful that many were ever modified for the motor since the S3 was available and had the 35mm. frame-line.

The Nikon S4 began at No. 6500001 and have been recorded as high as No. 6505899. There are also a few cameras out there that begin with the numbers "630" like the S3. It is not known why this was done but it can be confusing. Since the top plates for the S3 and S4 are identical, and can easily be interchanged, these were once thought to be errors by the factory or replacement tops. However, it now appears that the "630" type S4s do exist in small numbers that are dispersed throughout the S3 number batch. Examples of these cameras are Nos. 6304327, 6307278, 6307475, 6308879, 6309055 and 6322712. What is interesting is that all of these cameras are calibrated in meters instead of feet, which means they were not intended for the American market. This corresponds with the fact that most of the "650" types S4s are also in meters and leads one to believe that these cameras are true S4s and were meant for the Japanese market. More examples of the "630" type S4s are needed and if any of our members know of others please send me a note and we will see if distinct batches exist.

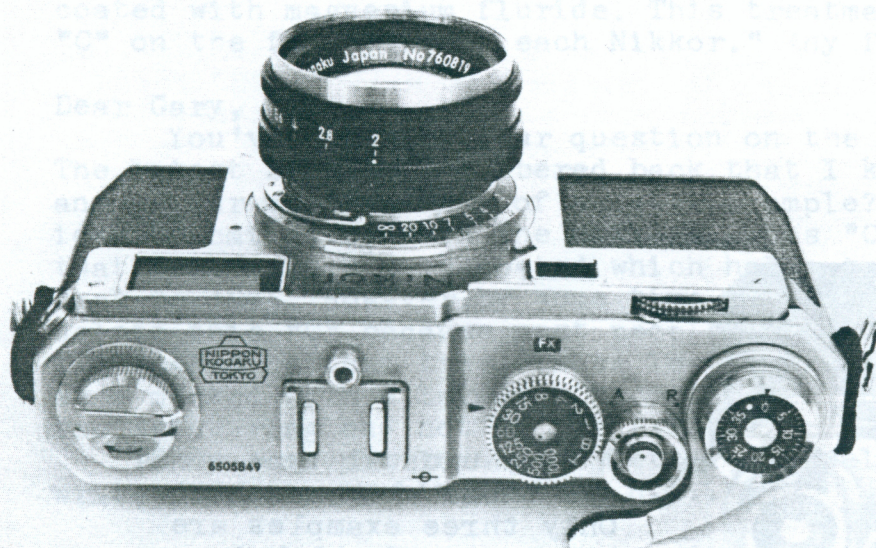
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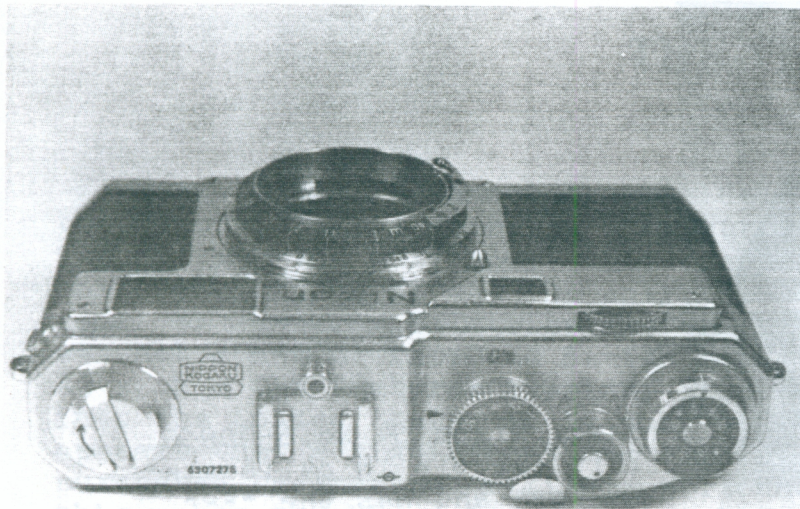
Early Nikon S4 No.6500950.
This example is calibrated
in feet and has the "EP"
engraving on the rewind
knob. (R. Rotoloni)



Later version of the S4 is
camera No.6504675 which is
also in feet and has the
"EP" engraving.
(R. Rotoloni)



Even later example of the
S4 is camera No.6505849.
This camera lacks the "EP"
engraving and is calibrated
in meters! (T. Konno)



An early example of the "630" type S4 is camera No.6307278. Note that it is calibrated in meters and does not have the "EP".
(R. Rotoloni)



The latest known "630" type S4 is camera No.6322712. Its number would even be very late for an S3. In meters but no "EP" engraving.



A very unusual type of S4 are those with a selftimer. Only three examples are known one of which is camera No.6504341 which is in meters and lacks the "EP".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A LETTER TO N.H.S. FROM GARY STONE, 29 MONTE VISTA, WOODLAND, CA. 95695

Dear Robert,

Can I tell if my camera back is original to the camera? Backs have gone through an interesting series of changes over the years. Backs have been numbered to the camera bodies from at least the early "M" series (Gary, actually from the very first Nikon I) through the mid S2 series, so up to this point it is easy to check for the proper back. My last back with a serial number is S2 #6147703 but camera #6158442 is not numbered, nor are later S2, SP, S3 or S4 bodies that I have observed. Also some time after #6158442 and before #6195460 the pressure plate was increased in length from $1\frac{7}{8}$ in. to 3 in. and the ASA dial speeds from Red (10-12-16) & Black (25-50-100-200) on a chrome background to Red (10-16-25-32) & White (50-100-200-400) on a black background. My guess is that this occurred about the time of the introduction of the SP, that is around S2 #6180000. Also during the early S2s there was one P.T. number and one U.M. number marked inside the backs. About the time the pressure plate was lengthened they increased the P.T. numbers to 4 and the U.M. numbers to 2.

In summary, up to the mid S2 production the backs were numbered to the camera bodies. Between this point and the introduction of the SP the backs could be identified by the ASA numbers and color, length of the pressure plate and patent markings. After the introduction of the SP all backs are similar.

One more item. Why do some lenses have a red "C" on the front rim and others don't? Some say that the "C" identifies those Nikkors intended for the Contax cameras but on page 95 of George Wright's book is the statement "All current Nikkors are internally surface coated with magnesium fluoride. This treatment is indicated by the "C" on the front rim of each Nikkor." Any further information?

Dear Gary,

You've answered your question on the camera backs quite well! The latest S2 with a numbered back that I know of is #6149999. Do any of our members know of a later example? About the red "C" on the identification ring on the Nikkors. This "C" does stand for the fact that the Nikkors were coated which holds true for all Nikkors dating back to 1945. However, by some time in 1959 NIPPON KOGAKU decided to delete this "C" because most people assumed that all lenses were being coated by that time. Those lenses intended for the Contax cameras were marked with a larger "C" on the rear half of the barrel near the focussing ring and not on the front rim.

Any comments to Gary's letter are welcome and you may either write directly to him or to N.H.S..

Classified

WANTED TO BUY OR SELL

WANTED: Serious collector will pay the following prices for Nikon RF equipment. Nikon I-top dollar-, Black S3, \$500-\$600; Black S2, \$600-\$700; Motor Drives, \$250-\$400; Copy outfits, \$200-\$350; 500mm lens, \$600-\$750; 1000mm. Mirror lens, Big Bucks! Condition of above items should be at least VG+. Write to:

John Angle
1360 E. Angle Rd.
Dakota, Ill. 61018
815-563-4754 after 8PM.

WANTED: Beginning collector would like Nikon RF meter in good working order and mint or near mint condition. Also interested in the Nikon Close Focusing Device for the SP with 1.4 lens plus copies or originals of articles, advertisements, brochures, etc. on Nikon RF series. Especially interested in the Nikon articles in the Feb. & March, 1951 issues of Popular Photography and the June, 1951 issue of Modern Photography. Also would like Robert Rotoloni's first book on the history of the Nikon RF series. Please write, including descriptions and prices to:

Bill Adams
23255- 27th. Ave. So.
Kent, WA 98032

SPECIAL OFFER

I have a personal announcement for the members of THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The publication of my new, and enlarged, book on the Nikon RF series will arrive around October first. My first book covered just the cameras and was 80 pages with 60 illustrations and softbound. This new book will not only cover the cameras but also all of the lenses and the majority of the accessories made for the system. It will be 200 pages with nearly 350 illustrations, hardbound with a color dust jacket. It will sell in stores for \$22.95 but I've made arrangements with the distributor to purchase some for myself. I can offer it to the membership for \$20.00 postpaid and signed. If interested please send your check to:

ROBERT ROTOLONI
PO BOX 3213
MUNSTER, IND. 46321

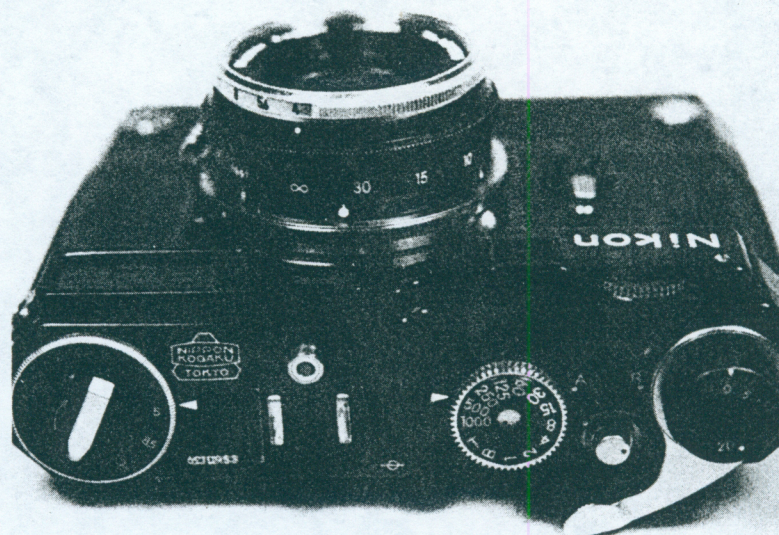
THANK YOU

NEXT ISSUE

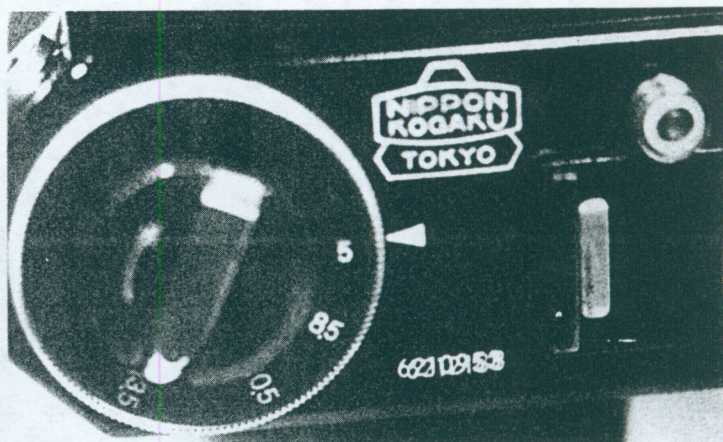
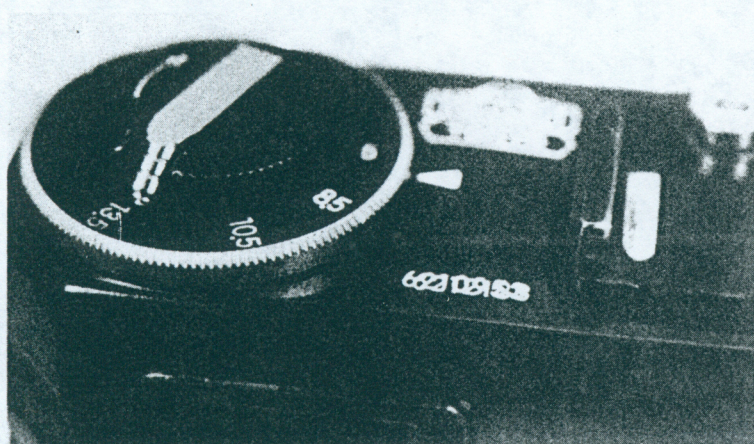
The deadline for contributions for the next issue of the N.H.S. Journal will be December 1, 1983. As you can see I try to have at least four subjects per issue so send along anything you feel will be of interest to the membership. Subject matter is wide open at this time but please get it to me by Dec. 1. Remember, this is our magazine and I would like everyone to share in it's contents.

odds 'n ends

THIS PAGE WILL BE RESERVED IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NIKON JOURNAL FOR THE RARE, THE UNUSUAL OR OFFBEAT, OR JUST THE PLAIN OUT OF THE ORDINARY. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT YOU FEEL IS DIFFERENT OR UNUSUAL PLEASE SEND ME AT LEAST TWO VARIED VIEWS OF YOUR ODDITY.



This black Nikon SP appears to be like any other until given a second look. Notice the serial number! Below are two close-ups of what is the only double serial numbered Nikon item that I am aware of! This camera has TWO SERIAL NUMBERS that have been stamped slightly out of register! On close examination the numbers can be read. They are No. 6210953 and No. 6212188. Does anyone have a similar item? Does anyone have an explanation?





from sand to lenses...

From molten glass to finished lens, each exacting step in the process that brings you the famous Nikkor lenses is precisely controlled — a control made possible because Nippon Kogaku, manufacturer of the Nikon camera and Nikkor lenses, is one of the few camera manufacturers in the world today who produce their own optical glass. From their own foundries come the basic castings to be formed into the rugged bodies that house the accurate, dependable mechanism of the Nikon camera. From sand to lenses, from raw metal to camera, only the finest in material and craftsmanship meet the standard of Nikon quality.

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