

A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JUNE 30, 2010
NHS-108

NHS-CON12 COVERAGE INSIDE!!!
NIKON JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE
PG 1..EXTENSIVE COVERAGE
OF NHS-CON12!
PG 15..A STUDY OF KWANON!
PART 2

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By TONY HURST

NHS -109 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL,
NHS-109, is **September 1, 2010**. Please get all your corre-
spondence and photos to me on time so I can bring it out on
schedule. Thank you. **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

They always seem to come so quickly and then they are over. I’m speaking of our conventions. Two years of preparation with all the inherent problems and worries looks like a long time on paper, yet they seem to fly by. NHS-Con12 is history and I know that it went by much too quickly for my liking. I always have a great time at our meetings. They are hectic and tiring, but in the end a good time for sure. This edition was no exception. Even though the weather could have been better, it did not dampen our spirits. We still did all that was planned and nothing was cancelled. I have used 14 pages of this Journal for coverage of NHS-Con12. It was difficult as I had so many aspects of the week to cover and literally 100s of wonderful photos from members to go through and condense. I wish I could have used more but I ran out of space, but I did manage to use nearly 90! This issue is getting to you slightly later than usual. Not all of the photos got to me quickly, plus time seems to be getting harder to find lately. But I am only a week or so late.

On page 15 we have the second part of Dr. Nakai’s learned paper on the study of the Kwanon. I have enough material for a third installment that will appear in NHS-109. It is an extremely well researched and written paper that covers a time important to both Canon and Nikon, and one whose original participants are quickly disappearing and taking their personal knowledge and experiences with them. It is good that we try to preserve this type of information now while we still can. If we do not it will disappear forever.

Not only did Tony Hurst produce yet another great slide show for the Convention, he again designed the official poster. You will find it in Tony’s usual place of honor, our back cover. If you think it looks cool there, you should see it in its original color! Beautiful. Tony also did our Odds n’ Ends feature for this issue. When he told me about a Calypso Nikkor with the same three crowns found on the black Swedish Leica IIIf and IIIg cameras I couldn’t believe it. I have never had a hint that such an item existed. But, if Sweden needed some Leicas why not an underwater camera as well?

The collecting world lost a major player recently. Charles Barringer, a long time Zeiss collector and historian passed away on April 6th. I only met Chuck once personally, although we had corresponded on and off for years. It was at NHS-Con10 in Vienna four years ago. He was there for the Westlicht auction. Bill Kraus, who knew him well, supplied the following. ‘Charles M. Barringer Jr., 66, an international authority on Zeiss optics, photographic and related technical equipment, died of esophageal cancer. Charlie was co-founder of the Zeiss Historica Society in 1980 and served as its president through the 1990’s. He published extensively on the subject and was deeply involved in research on the history and technology. Charlie was instrumental in publishing the society’s newsletter, which grew into the current 24-page publication.’

Now that NHS-Con12 is history, talk begins on #13. I am thinking of a questionnaire to be inserted in a future issue. In the meantime I am open to suggestions and comments from the ‘entire’ membership. Let me hear from you. If you have a suggestion for the venue or want to volunteer your services, please contact me. Thank you.

RJR

NHS-CON12....5 DAYS IN BRUGES BELGIUM AT ITS BEST!

For the 12th convention of the NHS nearly 40 members and about 20 spouses met in the beautiful medieval city of Bruges, Belgium. In spite of the Iceland volcano (more on that later) and the troubled financial times, we had people show up from all over the world. Countries represented at NHS-Con12 included; Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, USA, & Wales. A fine turnout, which included many regulars such as Peter Lownds, the only member beside myself who has been to all 12 meetings. We also had a few first-timers, so new friendships were made and old ones refreshed. As you will see on these pages, our Conventions are much more than just cameras. It is a social event that we look forward to every two years so we can get together and enjoy some good food, drink & conversation, see some interesting sights (as we play camera toting tourists), and, yes, look at some Nikons. Our primary goal

Hans, his wife Arlette, and I arrived on Monday afternoon on a flawless sunny day. Would the weather be like this the entire week? Not quite, but such is life. We needed to get things together by 6pm so we could begin to greet and register members. We did this in the main lobby of the Novotel Hotel. Many people did arrive on Monday because our first day-trip was scheduled for Tuesday morning. So what did we do Monday evening? What we always do. Talked and had a few drinks and then marched off as a group to have dinner. Remember, we are supposed to have fun.

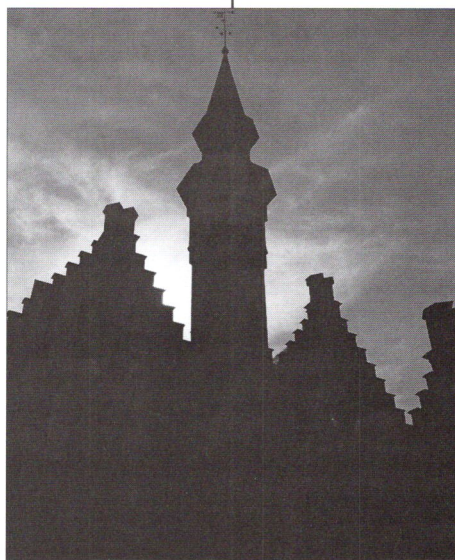
At 10am on Tuesday the bus was waiting to take us to nearby Ghent, Belgium, a town almost as charming as Bruges. We visited the Museum of Fine Art, had a nice lunch near one of the canals, Hans had arranged for a tour guide (great fellow who kept us all amused) and we saw all the sights, then took a boat trip down the canals of Ghent. It threatened rain all day but only drizzled although we did arrange for a covered boat.

Wednesday was a full day. The bus left at 8:30am for a nearly 2 hour ride to Brussels. Before getting into town we stopped at the 'Atomium', which was built for the 1958 World Exposition. Moving on into Brussels proper we stopped to visit a chocolate maker by the name of Zaabar, where we were shown how fine Belgian chocolate is made. (Belgium is justly famous for its fine lace, chocolate and beer, the last of which we taste tested extensively!) We had lunch at the 'Cave du Roy' near the Grand Palace, which is in a cellar with an actual curved brick ceiling. A truly interesting place to have a meal and quite historic I am told. We spent the afternoon



is to have a good time with people sharing the same interests. As in the past, NHS-Con12 filled the criteria perfectly.

Show Chairman Hans Ploegmakers did another superb job of organization (remember Vienna!) giving us four packed days of seeing the sights with everything coming off right on schedule. The buses were on time and all the meals were superb and we got to see all there was to see, and still get back to the hotel on time. We had two good hotels (the Novotel & the Ibis) only a few yards apart and centrally located with just a 10-minute walk to the marketplace. The room prices included a buffet breakfast each day, which is always convenient and cost effective and something we try to do each time. Hans' choice of hotels turned out to be a good one.



Main gate to the town of Bruges. (AB) The famous 'stepped gable' building style hundreds of years old. (RJR) The 'Atomium' from the 1958 Exposition. (AB)



shopping and walking central Brussels and checking out the beer. We didn't get back to the hotel till nearly 8pm. A full day but a good one. Again it threatened rain but we never needed umbrellas. But where did that nice sunny weather on Monday go? Would you believe that on Tuesday a new record was set in Belgium? It was the coldest May 11th on record! Only 5 degrees Celsius! (Real quick, what is that in Fahrenheit?) On Wednesday no record but only 2 degrees warmer.

Thursday was a little easier. We had a short 2-hour walking tour of central Bruges starting at 9am with another really good guide. I am sure we saw parts of Bruges we would not have seen on our own. And we took another boat trip, this time on the canals of Bruges where we saw even more. Still overcast and chilly, but no rain.

The annual 'Procession of the Holy Blood' was due to begin at 3pm so some of us made our way to the viewing stands where Hans had reserved some seats. This is a very big event in Bruges that draws thousands of people each year. The procession, which dates back to at least 1304, takes place on Ascension Day. Although there have been many changes over the centuries, the heart of the event is the reenactment of the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because Hans had thought ahead to reserve some seats we had a great view of the procession in spite of the crowds. Thanks, Hans.

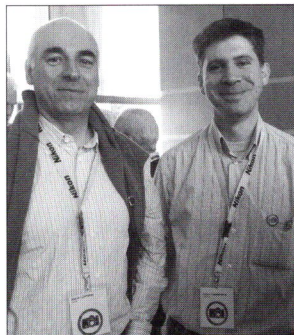
The rest of Thursday was free to enjoy. Of course we again ate and drank beer and enjoyed each other's company. We had to rest up. Friday was going to be a long day.

On Friday the bus left at 9am as we headed towards Ypres and Passchendaele, two towns that saw some of the worst fighting of World War I, and where many soldiers from both sides lie buried today. We would visit cemeteries, monuments, 3 museums & the 'Trench of Death', all of which are maintained in memory of the millions of lives lost on the WWI Western Front.

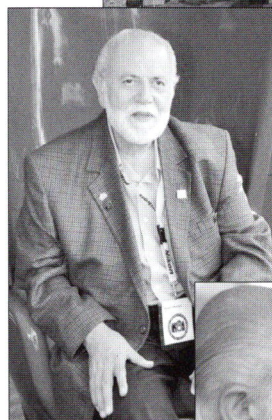
The first stop was the 'Trench of Death' which was the last remaining part of the Belgian front. From there we continued on to Langemark where thousands of German troops are buried. After that we stopped at the Tyne Cot cemetery near Passchendaele, where thousands of British & Irish troops are interned. By the way, all of these cemeteries, including that for the Germans, are immaculately maintained to this day. We then stopped for lunch at the Zonnebeke Memorial Museum near Passchendaele where we saw a fascinating display of WWI history relayed by yet another very qualified guide. We also had lunch at the fine restaurant just a few yards from the museum. We proceeded on to Ypres, where we would have dinner and participate in a special event.



Monday night registration was in the Novotel. Above left L-R, Ernesto Lucidi (Italy) & Hans Ploegmakers (Holland). (PB) Above right L-R, Xavier Cristau (France) and Arturo de la Fuente (Luxembourg). (BK)



Two scenes of Bruges. You saw photo ops at every turn. A beautiful city full of charm even on a gray day. (AB) Below, the NHS bunch at the entrance to the convent in Bruges. The date above the door reads 1776! (HP)



Left..In the Novotel lobby on Monday evening. Just getting started and somewhat relaxed and not yet tired. How long would that last? (PB) Below... Not to worry Hans, everything will be just fine. (PB)



Although much of Ypres appears to be hundreds of years old, it is not. Ypres was 'completely' destroyed during WWI. The devastation was nearly 100%. But they have rebuilt much of it using the original materials, drawings and plans so you now feel like you are standing in the actual town of 1914-18. We had yet another tour and visited the 'Flanders Fields Museum'. And would you believe the sun was out the entire day? No clouds. No rain. Great picture making weather. We shot up a storm. But we also found time before dinner to visit a few outdoor cafes and make sure the local beer was up to par. It was. At 6pm we had another fine dinner arranged beforehand by Hans on the town square, but we had to hurry. We had an appointment at 8pm.

Every night of the year the town of Ypres holds what is known as the 'Last Post Ceremony' in memory of all those who served and died in WWI, especially those who fought in the battles for Ypres. The ceremony is held at the 'Menengate', a large stone arch that was only a block from where we had our dinner. Each night wreaths are laid by various groups and individuals at the memorial. Hans Ploegmakers had arranged beforehand for Tony Hurst, Mike Symons and himself to be participants this night. And for good reason. Tony's father had served in WWI as a dispatcher and may have spent time near the Ypres front. Mike's grandfather, Capt. Wm. Symons, was born in Toronto, Canada & served in the Royal Canadian Artillery. He was killed by a grenade in 1915 in or near Ypres. Because of these connections, both Tony and Mike were allowed to lay wreaths during the ceremony. A great honor indeed.

We returned to Bruges about 9:30pm. Now we had to get ready for Saturday and NHS-Con12.

At 9am sharp on Saturday we started the meeting. We had 10 presentations slotted for the day that would, with lunch and coffee breaks, take us to at least 4pm. About 40 members were present for the talks given by Hans Braakhuis, Wim Blonk, Yuki Kawai, Uli Koch, Bill Kraus, Peter Lownds, Hans Ploegmakers and myself. As always Tony Hurst gave us a stunning slide show that makes you wonder how he comes up with all these ideas! This was supplemented by Wim Blonk's slides of his trip to Antarctica, which went over very well. Bill Kraus did triple duty again this time with an individual talk, and one with Yuki Kawai, plus he delivered Wes Loder's speech (Wes was unable to attend). Thank you to all the speakers, Uli for running the computer and Hans who did a marvelous job as MC.

Although there was no camera show or auction to tie in with NHS-Con12 there was a surprise waiting for everyone. I had put together a CD of my black Nikon S (NHS-97) and the SM prototype 'L11004' first seen at Christies in 2005. Seeing them on the screen was one thing but what no one knew was that both cameras were in the room! The lights came on and the cameras came out. Both the Black S and the SM Prototype, brought just for us by Lars Netopil, were present for all to see and photograph. But that was not all! Peter Coeln had some items with him that again would be a surprise. Peter came to the front and added to our little display table three things: Black Nikon One #609431 (see 'Auction Scene'), Nikon One #60924 (the earliest known production camera) and the Nikon S2E outfit complete with motor and boxes! Many members would later tell me that those cameras on that table made their trip worthwhile. I agree!

After some show n' tell and some swapping it was time for

the closing dinner. A short walk from the hotel brought us to the De Halve Maan brewery. Brewery you say? Yes I did. It is the oldest and only surviving brewery in Bruges and goes back to the 16th century. After a tour (only those who could handle the 200 steps required to take the tour did. My bad knees ruled it out for me) we sat down to a wonderful buffet dinner that I think caught everyone by surprise. Wonderful food, good service and great beer. Did we have a good time? We certainly did.

This brings me to the point where I need to close with some personal thoughts. Our conventions are social events. Yes we talk cameras and collectibles, but we all get out there and take pictures. We sit and make conversation and have a few drinks and, of course, we eat together. Talking & eating and drinking together with friends from all over the world. If you come to our conventions you come to enjoy yourself. Were we tourists? You bet. Bruges, Ghent, Brussels & Ypres represent Europe perfectly. We shot up a storm, took some great tours, saw some wonderful sights & learned a lot of historical facts. It was fun and it was good (despite the weather) and, for me, worth every penny! From what I could tell everyone else present felt the same.

Some personal thank you's:

To all those who made the effort and spent the money to attend
To all the speakers for sharing with us and entertaining us
To Tony Hurst for yet another superb slide show & Poster!
To Peter Coeln & Lars for bringing such rare items with them
To Peter Lownds for bringing the 'Hurst Wall' & Giant 'F'
To Uli Koch for helping Hans put it all together and for again designing and acquiring the special gift item.
And finally...

To Hans Ploegmakers, who spent a tremendous amount of time, countless phone calls, and a great deal of his own money to pull off NHS-Con12. He had everything organized to perfection. He even had drinks and cookies on the bus trips! Can you believe that? He had pins and brochures, signs and writing tablets specially printed up. The buses were clean and on time. The meals in the 5 towns we were in were all arranged beforehand and were wonderful. The only thing he could not control was the weather, but we had fun anyway. Hans, it would not have happened without you. My eternal gratitude.

Where will NHS-Con13 be held? No idea at this time. We did hand out a questionnaire at the meeting looking for feedback. More on that in future issues. Any thoughts or ideas will be appreciated.

I have run as many photos as I could fit! It wasn't easy deciding what to include (and exclude), out of 100s I received. I wanted to entertain as well as document what went on. The photos are mostly by others and I have included a guide to who supplied what. Thanks to all who sent photos. I hope that what you see here will entice you to join us in the future.

(One last note. Everything went off as planned except...I returned to Amsterdam on Sunday evening to catch a Monday morning flight. However, as I arrived the first thing I heard on the PA was...."due to the Iceland volcano ash cloud there will be no flights in or out of Schiphol today." Can you believe it? It was an absolutely perfect day in Holland. Not a cloud in the sky.....and not an airplane either! But, Peter Lownds saved the day. He picked me up and I got to spend an extra day in my favorite European country with a real friend. The hell with the volcano!)



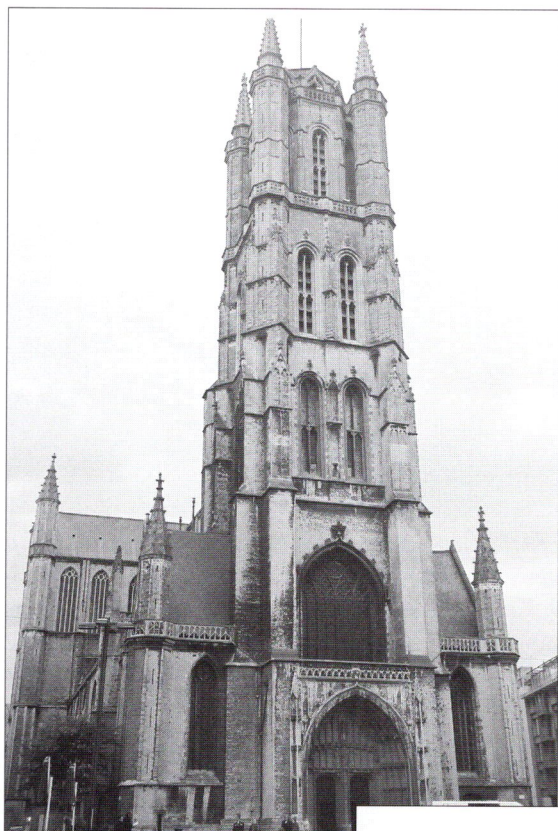
Our first day trip was on Tuesday to Ghent, a charming city with canals and old-world architecture everywhere. Above left..waiting for the boat. (HP) Above..getting ready for the guided tour. (RJR) Because of the threat of rain Hans arranged for a covered boat. It didn't rain but it kept out some of the record breaking cold that day. At left..our rain proof boat. (RJR) Below..with its large glass areas we could view and shoot the sights easily. Veli & Denise Miettinen (Finland) are in the front seat. (RJR)

Right..Reinhard Kuttner from Vienna did his shooting with his 40 year old Nikon FTn that caught everyone's eye and a lot of praise. Good for you Reinhard! (BK) By the way, Arturo de la Fuente was shooting with a Nikon S4 and the new Millenium f1.4 lens! Below..Mark and Zoe Bonner (England) enjoying our visit to the Museum of Fine Art. Mark's parents, Paul & Jennie also made the trip. (HP)



Right..L-R..Hans Braakhuis (NL) and Al Brody (US). 'I tell you Hans, there is no way we could lose 40 people! You keep thinking where they could be and I'll keep looking and I am sure we will find them. They have to be somewhere around here'. (HP)





Sherna Brody, Bill & Dorothy Kraus (US) and Jan Bos (NL) staying out of the rain. Picture possibilities would have been much better had the sun been out, but we still enjoyed ourselves and kept on shooting. For many, this was their first time in Brussels. (HP)



Brussels, like Bruges & Ghent, is a treasure house of things to shoot. Upper left. (RJR) Above..another group shot braving the rain. (HP) We visited the Zaabar Chocolate Co. where we saw it being made, then shopped there. Left by (AB). Below (RJR).



Below..the 'Cave du Roy' for lunch. (We eat a lot!) Note the curved brick ceiling. An interesting experience and the food and beer was great. (HP) At left is our fearless leader shooting with a.... Canon?! You gotta' be kidding! Ok, Hans, at least you are smiling. (BK)





Upper left..Getting ready to head out again as a group to explore Bruges. (BK) Above..Our lady guide for Bruges on Thursday morning was great. I am sure we saw things we would have missed ourselves. By the way, she would be a participant in the 'Blood Procession' that afternoon. (BK)



As in Ghent, we took a boat ride on the canals of Bruges and saw a lot we would have missed. No cover but it didn't rain. Above by (AB). At right we have Ernesto Lucidi (Italy) and Yutaka Ohtsu (Japan) in front with John Millham (Eng) & Rod Stines (US) at the back. (BK) Left..The Comons (US).



Lower left..Bruges is a photographer's paradise, even on an overcast day. I took a 100 shots of just the town & received many 100s more from members. You couldn't help yourself. The camera just came up to your eye all by itself! (RJR) Below.. OK, Rod & John, Bruges is a small place. I know we can find them. Just listen for Al Brody's WOW! (BK)





The 'Blood Procession' started at 3PM on Thursday and proceeded though much of the town. Its destination was the central marketplace where large grandstand seats had been constructed. Hans had acquired a number of tickets for those who wished to watch. It lasted for well over an hour. I have been told that upwards of 50,000 people attend each year! Above left (HP), top right (AB), right (HP).



Friday was a long day that started with a visit to the 'Trench of Death', the site of some really horrible fighting, and then stops at the WWI cemeteries mentioned in the text. We had lunch near Passchendaele before proceeding on to Ypres. Trench of Death (RJR). Right..Who is that? (RJR) Below center..The two who traveled the furthest! Phil Ramsden (Australia) & Yutaka Ohtsu (Japan). (HP) Below..The furthest & the closest!..Ohtsu-san with new member Leo Welkenhuysen who is from Belgium. (HP)

Above..Ohtsu-san shooting at the Canadian Monument. Many men from Canada served & died in WWI, including the grandfather of one of our members! (LW)



Dinner in Ypres was on the town square and scheduled for 6PM. We needed to finish by 7:30 so we could get to the 'Last Post Ceremony' that starts at 8pm. Right..Our restaurant is the floor just above the glassed in addition near the center of the photo. (RJR). Below..So who is that in the restaurant window? (LW)



The ceremony takes place at the 'Menengate' in the photo at left, which was a short 5min. walk from the restaurant. (LW) Above..There were marching bands (their coats are a bright red) and buglers. (LW) Below..Mike, Tony & Hans waiting their turn to lay the wreath at the memorial. There were all types of military uniforms present including an Australian contingent. Phil Ramsden recognized a politician from his country present which probably accounts for them. (LW)



Those laying wreaths had to walk about 40 feet in plain view of all present. Thanks to Hans' planning, Mike and Tony were honored that night and I am sure it meant a great deal to them.(LW)



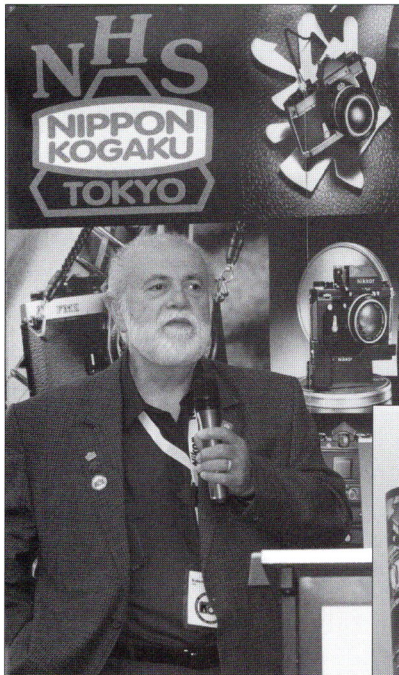
A WILD AND CRAZY BUNCH!

I don't know where this hat came from but it showed up at the brewery on Saturday night. Once it got started it couldn't be stopped! Now would any 'normal' person have their picture taken in one of these? Maybe it was all the beer that made it happen. But it was fun and that's what we want. The NHS knows how to have a good time. All 'hat' photos courtesy Hans. Clockwise from upper left: Mark & Zoe Bonner (Eng), Rod Stines (US), Hans, Dirk & Ellen Bergmann (Ger), John Millham (Eng).



Above..Al Brody & Tony Hurst. 'Listen Tony, if you try just a little harder I am sure you can make those rear covers even better!' (LW)

Above..Peter Lownds & Al Brody. 'I can't take it anymore Al. That was one too many WOWS! Enough is enough! Please, someone stop me before I strangle him!' (HP)



NHS-Con12 started off on time at 9am Saturday. After a short welcome from me, MC Hans Ploegmakers (right) took over. We had 10 presentations to get through plus a few gifts to hand out and a surprise ending. Peter Lownds again carried over his 'Tony Hurst' wall (how many times is it now, Peter?) as well as a giant Nikon F (rumored to take large format 11x14 sheet film?) which became a centerpiece for many shots that day. Left & right (ART). Below (PC).



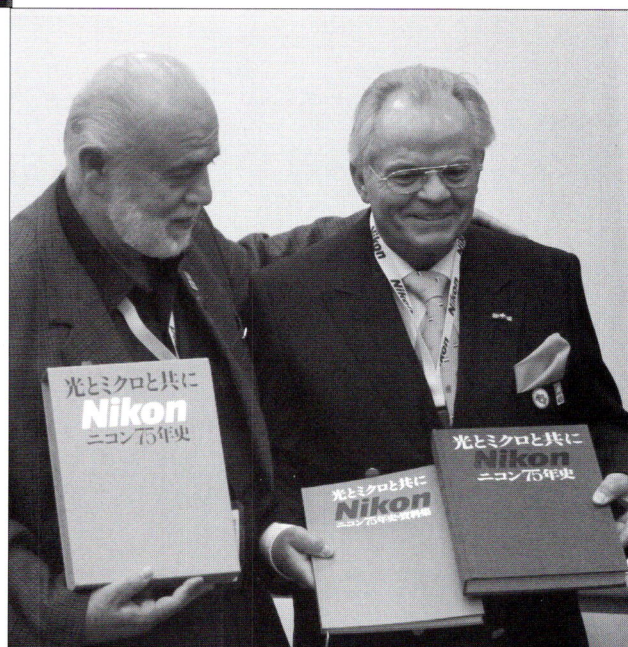
Some, but not all, speakers are shown here. Below is Hans Braakhuis (NL) with one of the unusual Nikon F3s in his talk. (ART) To the far right is Uli Koch in the midst of his very detailed talk on underwater housings. (LW) At bottom left are Bill Kraus and Yuki Kawai during their fine presentation. (HP)



The speakers & presenters line up. L-R..Gerald Davies (Wales), Hans Braakhuis (NL), Tony Hurst (Ire), Uli Koch (Ger), RJR, Bill Kraus (US), Peter Lownds (NL), Yuki Kawai (US), Lars Netopil (GER), Al Brody (US), Peter Coeln (Aus), & Hans. Not pictured is Wim Blonk (NL). Thanks to all of you. (PC)



It seemed like everyone wanted a picture with Peter's giant Nikon F, but I only have room for a few. Above, Bill Kraus & myself. (BK) Upper right we have Hans & Hans (sounds like a stage act doesn't it?). (BK)

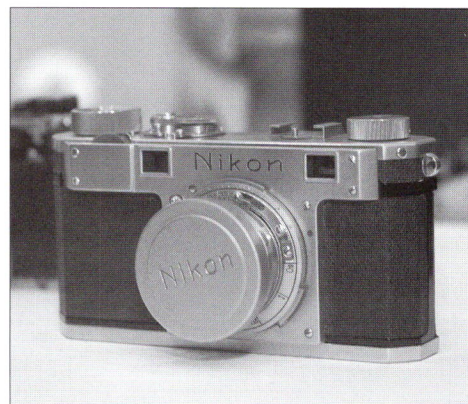


Above..As a token of my appreciation I presented Hans with a copy of the 75th Anniversary History set produced by Nikon. It wasn't easy to find one but he was worth the effort. (PC) Above left..Can you believe this? Is that Al Brody with a sportcoat and a tie! WOW! Al is holding the gift presented to the speakers. (LW)

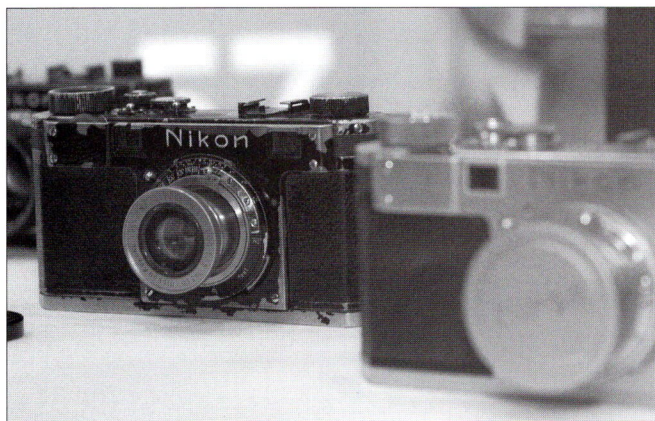


Left..Xavier Cristau (FR) looking over the massive literature display brought by Hans Braakhuis (NL). (PC) Right..What are Uli and Hans holding? None other than the gift for all those who attended NHS-Con12. Do you remember the gift at Vienna? See page 14 for photos of this one. (AB)

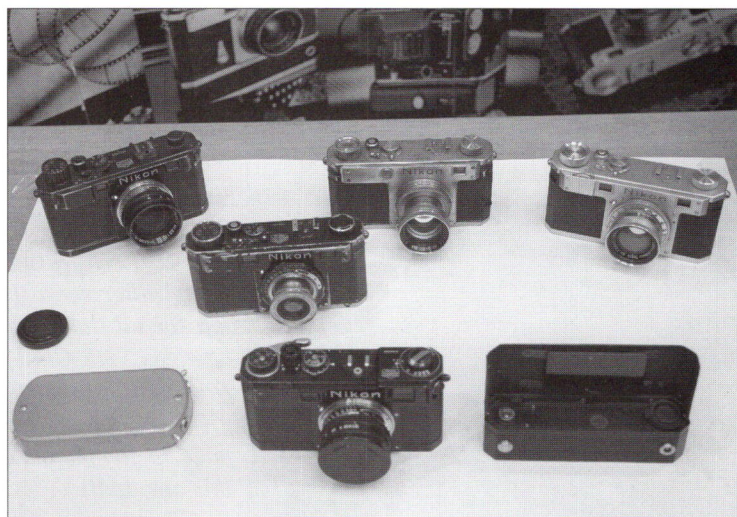


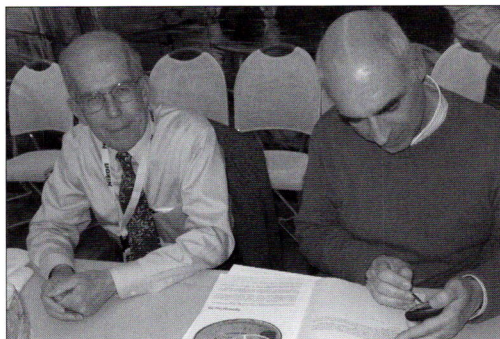


Photos in clockwise order beginning at upper left provided by HP, ART, ART, PC, ART, LW.



Although my presentation started off covering just the black Nikon S and Lars Netopil's SM Prototype, it grew to include 3 additional items brought by Peter Coeln. They were the black Nikon One, very early Nikon #60924 and the S2E outfit, all of which are in my book. However, those in the room had no idea they would see these 5 very rare items sitting on a table for all to view and photograph! Was it a surprise? You bet it was! Since the black Nikon One sold shortly afterwards for nearly \$150,000, you can imagine what this table is worth. Many told me that this display alone was worth the trip. I agree.





The closing dinner at the brewery was a great way to finish the week. Good food & drink and a good time for all. Left..Yuki & Praba Kawai (US) in line.(HP) Above..Jim Martin (US) & Xavier Cristau (France). (HP) Right.. Kjetil Moen & Tove Laupstad (Norway). (HP)

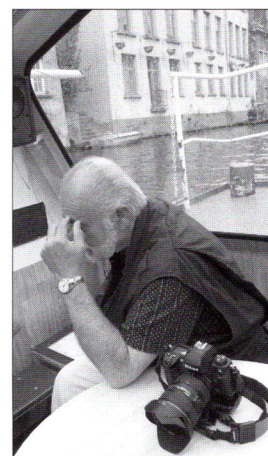


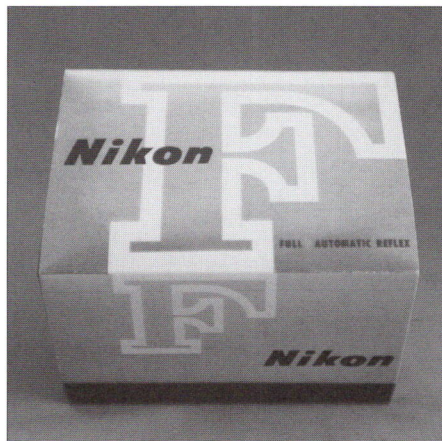
Above..Hans presented me with an original sculpture as a gift representing people coming together, as we did for NHS-Con12. Thank you, Hans. (PC) Above right..Liz & Phil Ramsden (Australia) & Gerald Davies (Wales). (HP) Right..Tony Hurst & Ernst Thiel (NL) having a talk. (HP) Below..Rod Stines (US) and Hans enjoying themselves. (HP) Left..That's Hans on Peter Coeln's lap. One too many beers? (HP)



Right..Is he tired or just thinking? Probably a little of both. Maybe he's thinking about where #13 will be held. Stay tuned for further details. (HP)

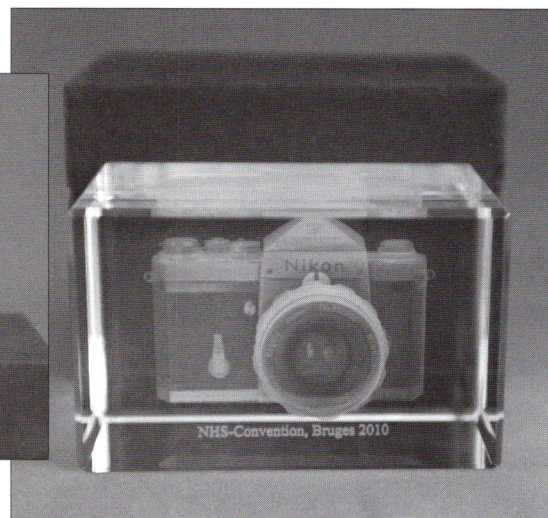
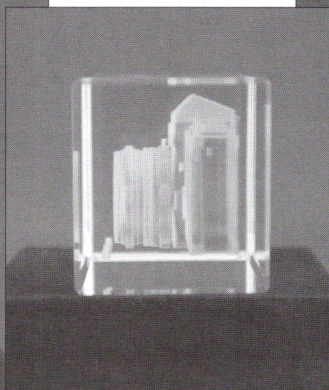
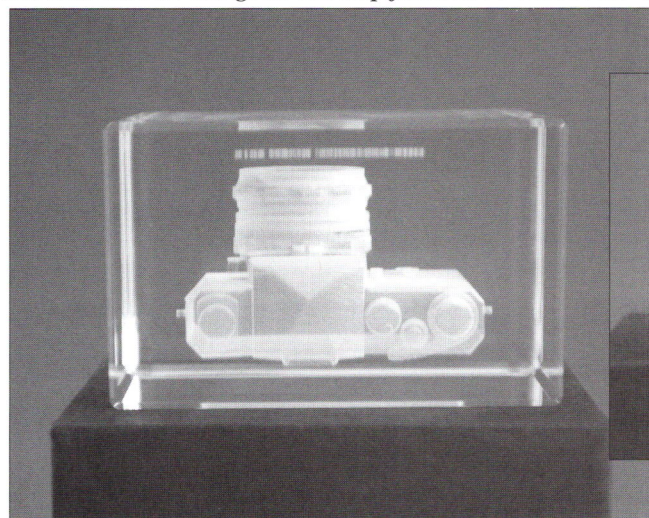
The initials after most of the photos denote their source for this issue. Thank you to the following members:
(ART)-Arturo de la Fuente,
(AB)-Alan Blake, BK-Bill Kraus,
(HP)-Hans Ploegmakers,
(LW)-Leo Welkenhuysen,
(PB)-Paul Bonner, (PC)-Paul Comon,
(RK)-Reinhard Kuttner





I am sure you all remember the gift that was given to all those who attended NHS-Con10 in Vienna in 2006. It was a glass block about 2x2x3 inches that had an image of an actual Nikon One laser etched within in three dimensions along with the date and location of the meeting engraved on the front. Well.. Uli Koch was the man who secured that gift, which was a real hit. This time he has gone one step further. To commemorate

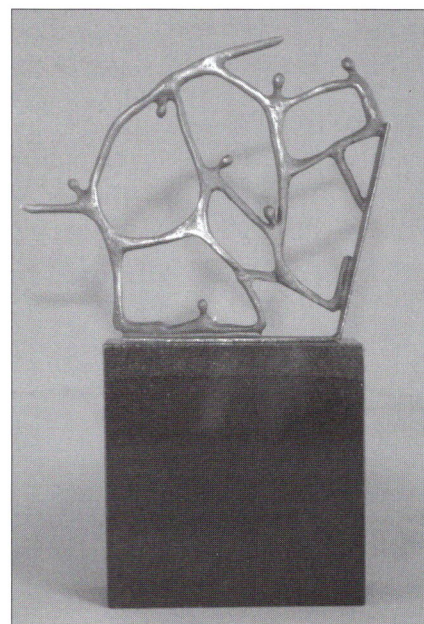
our year of the Nikon F this version has an early straight 'F' laser engraved in three dimensions and boxed like before. But this time there is no sticker on the box. Why? Because he had made a perfect facsimile of the very early 'Full Automatic' Nikon F box designed as a slip cover! A truly awesome memory of NHS-Con12! When assembled it looks just like an early boxed 'F', but in miniature. A fabulous idea! Thank you Uli and Hans.



Hans also had made for all the attendees, two special pins to remember the meeting by. At right it is the upper rectangular pin, and further right, it is the circular pin. Both feature the Nikon F and are very colorful. For those members who are interested in the pins, Hans has many left. As for the glass block, he still has a few remaining. They are available for the following prices from Hans. The glass block is 50 Euro plus shipping. One pin is 5 euro plus shipping while both pins would be 10 euro including shipping. Please contact Hans directly at ploegmakers@talensfoto.nl. You can't go wrong and I am sure the block will delight you.



In the photo at bottom right is the gift that each speaker received. An original & unique sculpture acquired by Hans!



A STUDY OF THE 'KWANON'

BY DR. MANABU NAKAI

PART TWO

EXAMINING ASSEMBLY DRAWING OF THE KWANON CAMERA

Traces of the Kwanon's existence can be found in camera magazine advertisements and a catalog put together by Yoshida himself. These advertisements consecutively ran in the issues of camera magazines dated between June and September 1934. An example of these advertisements is illustrated in Fig. 7 [2]. Note the body case, which was rendered in the same octagonal shape as that of subsequent high-end rangefinder camera by Canon, as well as the folding viewfinder. Originally, Kwanon had planned to incorporate a finder similar to that of the Leica. However, the viewfinder eventually used was a modified version after it was discovered that installing a viewfinder between the rangefinder's two object windows would infringe on a utility model devised by Ernst Leitz GmbH.

Figure 8 represents the front and back covers of the aforementioned catalog. Printed faintly on the back cover is a seated figure of the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy. Out of the 14 pages that make up the catalog, page 13 contains the Kwanon camera assembly drawing shown in Fig. 9. The meaning of this assembly drawing is immeasurable in examining the concept behind the mechanism of the Kwanon and the process of its development. However, the projectional drawing method lacks consistency. It may be due to a printing process error.

Upon examining this assembly drawing, one will first notice that although a double-magazine system partially similar to that of the Contax has been employed, the film-winding system present mimics the Leica. Despite this, the two positioning grooves on the body case are drawn in the same position as the Contax. As such, if the same magazines as those incorporated in the Contax system should be used in the winding and film-feeding mechanisms, the edge of the outer case of the winding-side magazine would cause the film to be damaged. This would suggest that the drawing checking process did not progress to that point at Seiki Kogaku Kenkyusho.

The second thing one would notice upon examining the assembly drawing is the empty area between the rangefinder cover and cover plate on the upper part of the winding-side magazine. As a comparatively small mounting plate is installed to this part, the presence of this empty area is no accident. It appears from its flat construction that the empty area was made for something to be attached to it. Fukazawa has disclosed that Yoshida conceived of attaching a self-timer based on the Foth Derby (Fig. 10) to this

area [3]. Furthermore, it is detailed in the catalog that the Kwanon is equipped with a self-timer. Figure 11 indicates the mechanism of the shutter control unit of the Foth Derby. The left side of this figure when facing it represents the shutter speed control unit, and the relatively large and flat unit located in the central area of the figure is the self-timer. The relative positioning of the shutter speed control unit and the self-timer in the Foth Derby resembles that of the shutter speed dial and the empty area indicated in the assembly drawing of the Kwanon. It is also interesting to note that both the Foth Derby and the Kwanon incorporate the similar focal-plane shutter system. Therefore, it is suggested that Yoshida had the Foth Derby's self-timer in mind when making the Kwanon.

On the Foth Derby, the release knob is located on the front surface of the camera, and is pressed towards its backside. Additionally, the shutter control unit, including the self-timer, is designed as a single system. Therefore, the direction of the release knob when pressed was determined in line

with this methodology. Figure 12 shows the main body interior of the Leica M3 after its system was newly designed in its entirety. Upon pressing the release knob, the release shaft on the left-hand side moves downward and presses the end of a flat spring, thereby releasing the shutter. The self-timer in this camera is positioned in the most ideal spot within the system. When this is activated, a self-timer link located in the position adjacent to the bottom edge of the release shaft pushes the flat spring.



In the Nikon rangefinder camera series, the earliest self-timer was presented on the SP model. Figure 13 shows the back side of the self-timer holding plate and the connector link adjoining to the release shaft in the Nikon SP. Upon activating the self-timer, a lever in the figure falls slowly and presses a pin on the connector link, causing the shutter to release. The location of the self-timer in the Nikon SP is also that judged to be the most appropriate from a designer's perspective. In the case of the Kwanon, since the direction of the force exerted by the self-timer and the direction of movement of the release shaft differ, one would assume that Yoshida's devised method of incorporating a self-timer ended in failure.

In the Kwanon catalog it is written that the use of a steel ball at the contact point between the rangefinder and the lens serves to prevent abrasion. From the perspective of tribological technology, one cannot say if this steel ball would actually spin or not. In the Kwanon camera assembly drawing, the steel ball is drawn directly on the lever of the rangefinder, and distance is present between the steel ball and the lens cam. This represents a considerable design error on the part of Yoshida, who had lost the height of the roller.

In looking at the Kasyapa lens featured in the advertisement shown in Fig. 7, one will find that there is no finger pin to attach the lens to the body, nor are there any graduations for distance. Since knurling has been executed on the focus adjustment ring, the Kasyapa looks like a unique focusing unit construction at a glance. However, in principle, it is similar to an Elmar lens in fact.

Generally, assembly drawings are prepared in accordance with part drawings. In the case of the Kwanon, it appears that not all part drawings were in order prior to making of the assembly drawing. The Kwanon camera assembly drawing is complete, and comes

across as being peppered with problems. However, its existence is indicative of there being a draftsman among the small team at Seiki Kogaku Kenkyusho from an early stage. It is assumed that the number of team members as of 1934 was approximately fewer than 10. The question is: exactly who made the original draft of the assembly drawing?

ESTIMATING THE DIMENSIONS OF THE KWANON

Available information regarding the Kwanon is indeed scarce. However, a close look at the Kwanon camera assembly drawing reveals an image of 35mm film. Based on the width of the film, it is possible to estimate the approximate dimensions of the Kwanon. Unfortunately, the degree of precision of the drawing is not what one would describe as good. Using this method yields a camera height of 69mm at the finder area, which is the same as the official figure for the Hansa Canon, and a depth of 30.5mm, which is identical to the actual measurement for the base plate of the Hansa Canon. Additionally, the width of the Kwanon comes to be 137.7mm, 1.2mm greater than the actual value for the Hansa Canon.

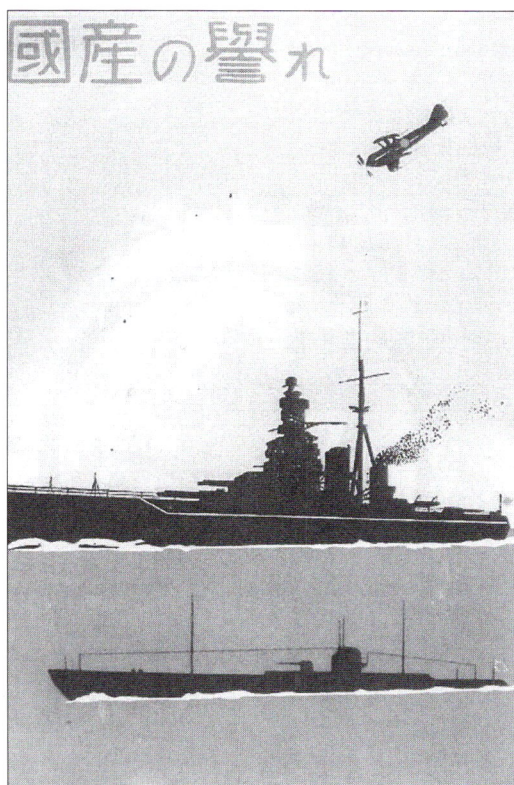
The outside diameter of the screw mount used on the Kasyapa lens is identical to the 39mm of the Leica lens. However, its flange-focal distance is slightly shorter than the 28.8mm of the Leica. The outside diameter of the Kasyapa's retractable lens barrel is approximately 28.6mm, 1.6mm greater than that of the Elmar lens. Field stop dimensions for the Kwanon are maintained, albeit barely. These dimensions are simply those measured on paper and cannot be said to be accurate; as such, they should only be used for reference purposes.

PART III WILL APPEAR IN NHS-109

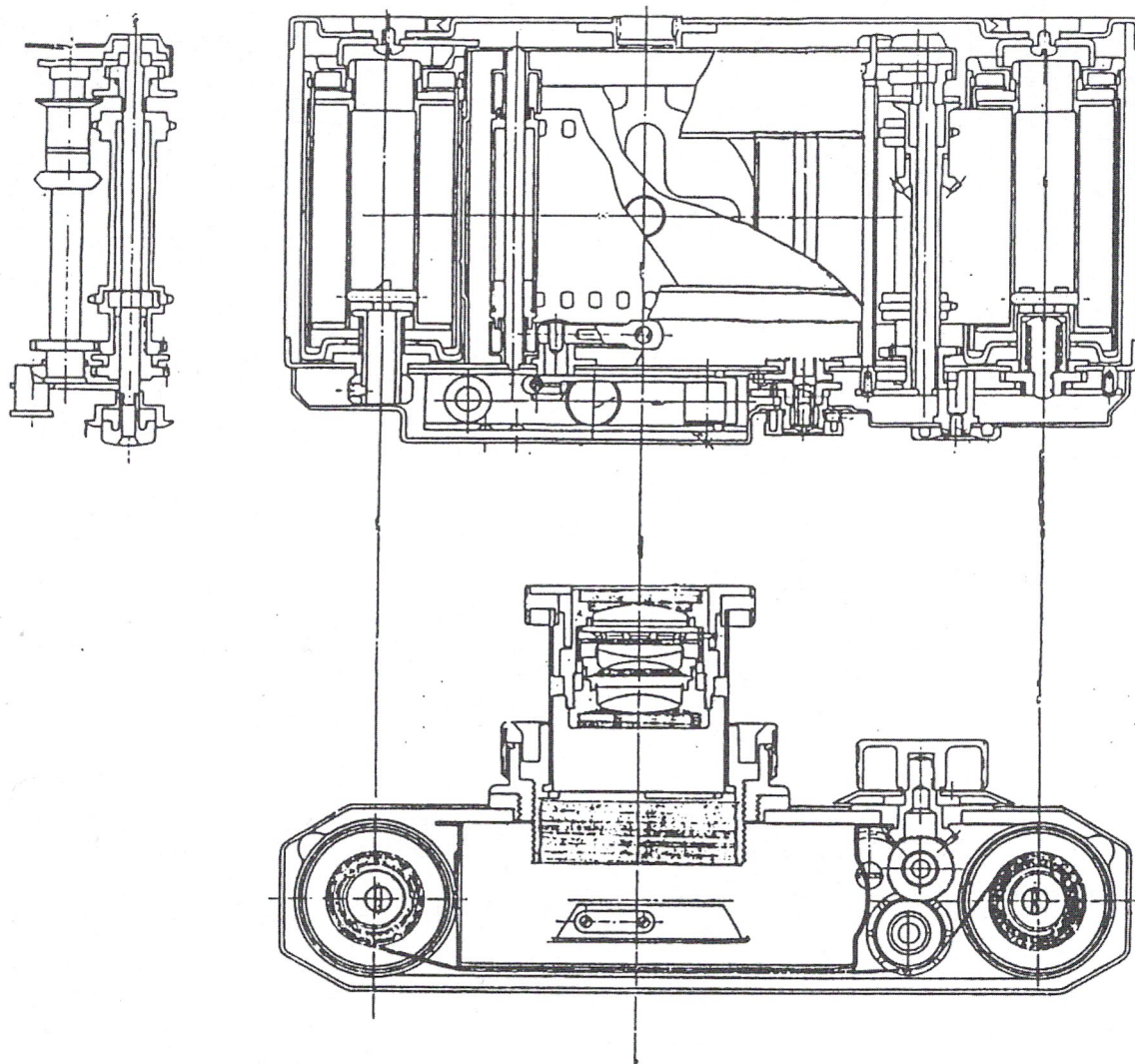
FIG. 8>>>



<<<FIG. 7
(PREVIOUS
PAGE)



カンノン・カメラ組立圖



寫真機及部分品輸入額

昭和七年	960,000.00
昭和八年	762,000.00
昭和九年四月迄	276,000.00

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振替口座東京二一四五一番



FIG. 10

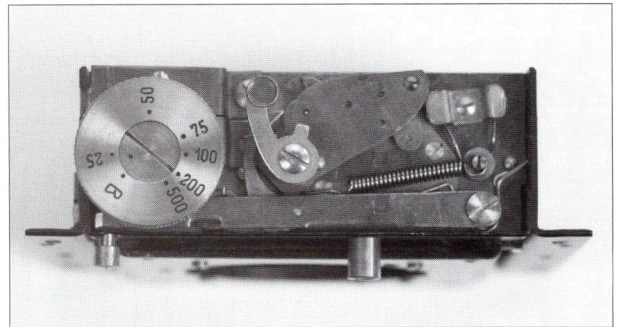


FIG. 11

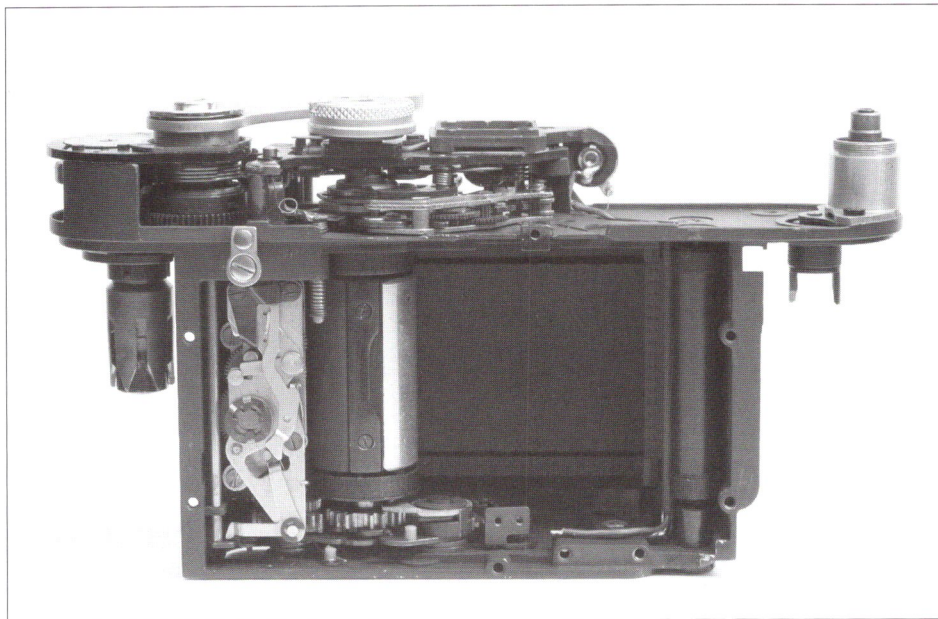


FIG. 12

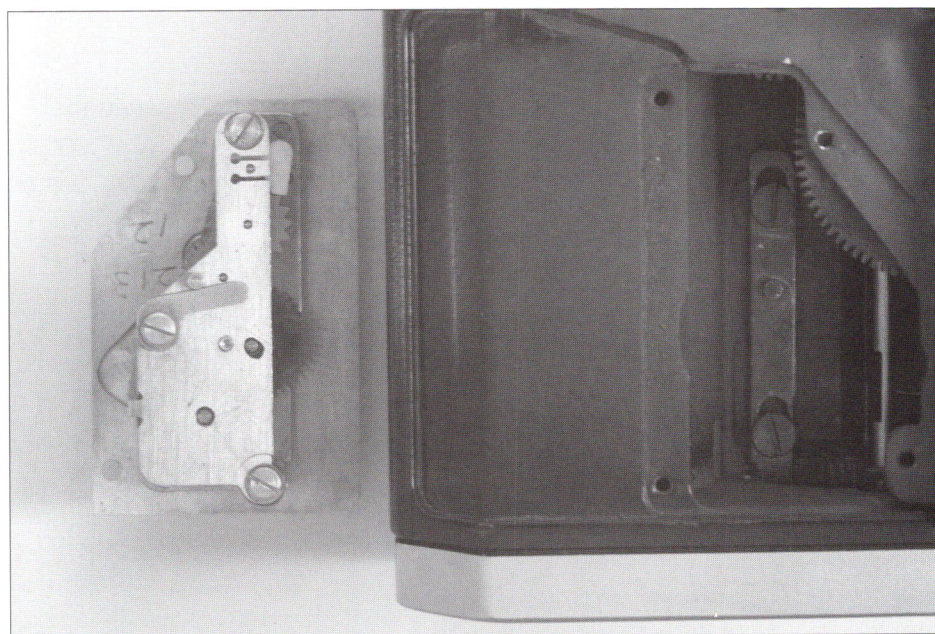


FIG. 13

THE AUCTION SCENE

Peter Coeln held his 17th auction at Westlicht in Vienna on May 29th. Besides setting a new world record for a single camera (an Original 'Giroux' Daguerrotype camera sold for a little over \$951,000!), he had his usual selection of worthwhile Nikons including the black Nikon One he brought to the Convention. Here are the results including the premium and converted to dollars. A few surprises, as is always the case with auctions.

.....
Nikon One 'BLACK' #609431 w/f3.5 Nikkor.....\$148,000!!
(As far as I know this is a record price for a single Nikon item sold at a public auction! We saw & held this item at NHS-Con12 courtesy of Peter Coeln. RJR)

Nikon MS w/f1.4 Nikkor...nice..."sold high" \$4,700!
 Nikon S w/1.4 Nikkor...boxed w/papers..."sold high" \$1,700!
Nikon S2 'BLACK' #6157557...some wear... DID NOT SELL!
 Nikon SP 'GOLD' w/Reptile leather!**\$5,000?**
 Nikon SP ch w/S36 motor (ch) & grey pack...nice!\$10,100
Nikon SP 'BLACK' #6212190 w/f1.4 Nikkor\$5,600
Nikon SP 'BLACK' body..foil curtains..."sold low"\$3,750?
Nikon S3 'BLACK ORIGINAL' #6312121 w/S36 bl...\$8,600?
Nikon S3 'BLACK OLYMPIC' #6321111 w/OLY 1.4..\$3,700?
 50/2.0 #811186..early lens made for Nikon M\$1,300
 50/1.4 #331186 'ALL BLACK'...rare lens!.....\$3,400
 50/1.4 #358043 'ALL BLACK'...even rarer!\$3,100
1000/f6.3 Nikkor..'BLACK'!...very rare lens!..... \$53,000!
 'Sardine' battery pack for S36 motor w/cable\$4,400!!
Nikon S leather case..NEVER USED & BOXED!\$860!!
 ORION 'NIKON' coupler...rare item \$1,000!
DOUBLE BOXED Nikon F w/5.8cmf1.4.....\$3,000

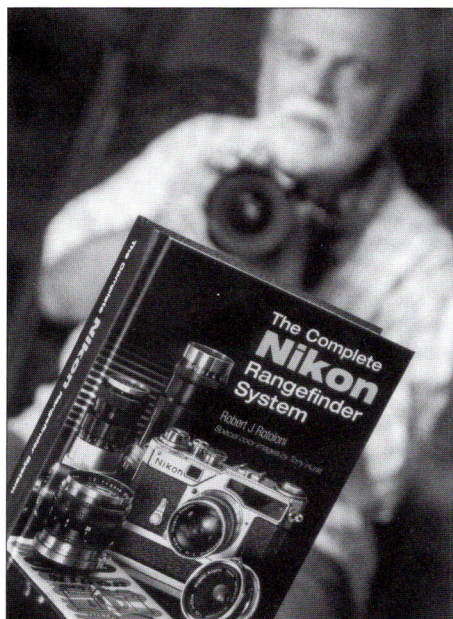
Nikon F 'HIGH PRECISION' (see NHS-106 pg6)\$3,900
 Nikon F 'HIGH SPEED' 7fps set (see NHS-106 pg1)\$15,600
 And finally.....
Nikon F3 'NASA' w/UV Nikkor 55/f2..very rare! \$80,000!

As you can see some items went for very reasonable numbers (both black SPs and S3s especially those with the motors) while others went at levels that seem to be about right (the all black 1.4s, the black 1000, the Orion coupler, the sardine pack, & even the Nikon F High Speed). As for the black Nikon One I was not sure what it would sell for but it went for just about what the auctioneers thought it would. The double boxed Nikon F sounds right to me as does the 'High Precision' Nikon F, the High Speed Nikon F and the early collapsible f2 Nikkor. But were there any real surprises? You bet there were!

Would you pay \$1,000 for a brand-new Nikon S case? Hmmm.. That MS and S went for big bucks considering they are not difficult to obtain. And somebody must really like gold cameras, since the SP went for about twice what I thought it would. That Nikon F 'NASA' really caught me off balance. I wasn't aware they went for such high numbers.

But the real surprise was an item not listed above. Lot #404 was the Nikon F used by actor Clint Eastwood in the movie "The Bridges of Madison County". A black F with a straight chrome prism (?), an f1.4 and an F36 motor with the Powercon cordless pack. A nice conversation piece for sure, but \$8,600 seems a bit high to me. Now if you could find the actual Nikon F used by David Hemmings in the movie 'Blow Up' give me a call! Or maybe the Fs used by Dennis Hopper in 'Apocalypse Now'! To me those would be very interesting items indeed. 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 2008, I have been shipping within 48 hours of receiving payment.

I am happy to announce that I have sold over 300 copies myself with at least 150 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.
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 addresses (rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net) are my Paypal account numbers. Please make all checks/money orders payable to RJR PUBLISHING or myself (NOT THE SOCIETY!)

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CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED... I am looking for Nikon One back #609598. Will purchase outright, or trade for my back #6114402, plus some cash in your direction. **Paul Comon..... pr.sr@verizon.net**

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

A SWEDISH '3 CROWN' NIKONOS?

PHOTOS by TONY HURST



Nearly every camera collector is familiar with the special black Leica IIIf and IIIg cameras made for the Swedish government and engraved with three crowns. But did you know that there is a Calypso-Nikkor with the same engraving? Neither did I. But there is and Tony had it with him in Bruges. We don't know how many were made but it has to be one rare piece.



2010

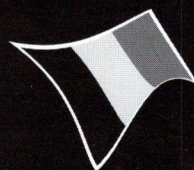
Nikon Historical Society



Created For The "NHS" By Jay Furst

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