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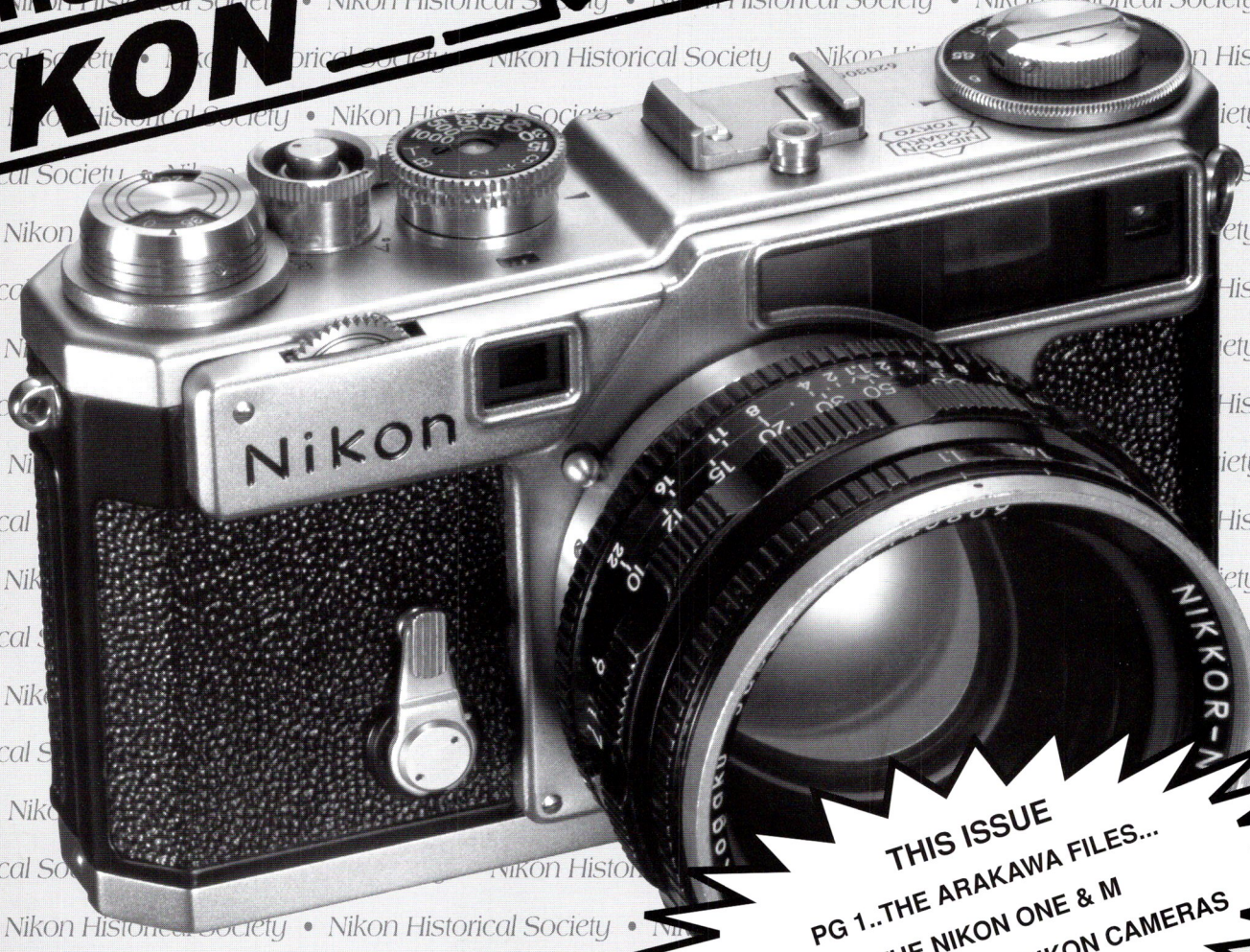

THIS ISSUE

PG 1..THE ARAKAWA FILES...
THE NIKON ONE & M
PG 10..THE EARLY NIKON CAMERAS

ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
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NHS -113 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our **NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-113,** is **September 1, 2011.** Please get all your correspondence and photos to me on time so I can bring it out on schedule. Thank you. **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

Almost exactly one year from now I will be putting the finishing touches on our Convention issue. I am writing this on June 12th, and by this date next year, NHS-Con13 will be history. We all know how the years can fly by, so if you have any thoughts of joining us in Paris next June, now is the time for you to start making your plans. Please consider attending. Our Conventions are a good time for all and this one will be tied in with the largest camera fair in the world. See page 15 for all the latest information.

In this, our 112th issue, we have a lead off article by Chris Sap dealing with some of the detailed information he acquired during his visits with the late Tatsuhiko Arakawa concerning the sometimes tortuous route taken by the first Nikons. Dates and serial numbers and production quantities are discussed. Some interesting reading. This is followed by another article from Dr. Manabu Nakai also dealing with the first Nikons and some of the problems that had to be overcome to get it to market. Dr. Nakai has access to material not normally available to researchers here in the West, including detailed translations of Arakawa's writings. He has some interesting thoughts about the early Nikons. See page 10.

Both articles discuss the writings of Arakawa-san, which brings me to where I need to announce the passing of member George Landon. Remember all the articles that we published in the past by Mr. Arakawa (refer to NHS-45, 46,47,49,57 & 61)? Well, they were all translated for us from the Japanese by George's wife, Kyoko Saegusa, who actually knew Arakawa personally. George recently passed after a long battle with illness. My sincere condolences to Kyoko.

I also need to announce that we have lost yet another long time member. I just learned of the passing of Michael Gaffney from his daughter. Mike attended a few conventions and I last saw him at the Tokyo meeting in 2006. He was big into Leicas but loved his Nikons as well.

Did you know that Nikon has just celebrated the production of its 60 millionth Nikkor interchangeable lens? And that 5 million were produced in just the last seven months? They must be doing well. That is one hell of a lot of glass!

On pages 16 & 17 you will see some of the results from the recent Westlicht Auction in Vienna. There were some really superb items in this sale and some surprising hammer prices, both high and low. It looks like there is still a tremendous interest and demand for our favorite marquee.

Also in this issue you will see that we are now on Facebook. Member Steve Koves felt that if other societies could do it why not us. So now we have both our own website and a Facebook site. Gotta' keep up with the times!

We have another book published by one of our members, some thoughts on the Japanese earthquake and Tsunami and the subject of a membership directory, all on page 18. By the way, as far as I can ascertain, none of our Japanese members were personally affected by the disaster (as to loss of life or property). I am sure all of us wish them and their country a swift and complete recovery from this twin disaster.

I have been hit with another postage increase, the 3rd since the last dues increase in 2007. I'll try to hold the line as long as possible, but postage is killing me

RJR

THE ARAKAWA FILES... THE NIKON ONE & M...

BY CHRISTOPHE SAP

During one of my visits to Arakawa-san (see "Who is Who"), he had given me a copy of his book, an inventory list, and written information from some 40 years ago. Many of these documents have a printed date: ie. N.K.K. 65-2 (February 1965), so I concluded that notes written on these documents were done at, or shortly after, that date.

Except for the numerical figures in these notes I could not read the handwritten words or the book, which are in Japanese. During a recent meeting with NHS member Yuki Kawai, I had the book and copies of the documents with me, and Yuki was so kind as to tell me the essence of the relevant information.

This article will relate what we found in the book and the notes. It is a bit technical, but I hope my explanations will shed some light on the evolution of this interesting camera.

FIG. 1

1/FROM ARAKAWA'S BOOK

The book (Fig.1) relates the history of the early cameras of Nikon, so this article will only cover those topics, which were not yet published in my earlier articles, NHS100-101-102, and the last one, "The last Episode" in NHS109.

Starting September 1946

- Design drawings were changed at least 12 times
- Many parts were discarded due to quality problems & a design change in June of 1947
- The original idea was to accommodate a film magazine in the take-up chamber, but it was changed to a 'removable spool without magazine' design
- For the second model or Type II, they planned for double magazines
- 6091 was only the top plate (Arakawa later gave it to Masahiko Fuketa)
- 60911 was the first one, tested on 11/20 for vibrations, on 11/21 for heat resistance, on 11/23 for low temperatures and on 11/27 for light leaks
- 6094 was used for shutter endurance, tested on 11/28 & 11/30 (tested 100 times at 1/8sec, 3000 times at 1 sec & 3000 times at 1/500sec)
- The 6094 shutter did not pass the endurance tests
- Four countermeasures were taken (mentioned), and 4 bodies were used: 6093, 60912, 60917 & 60921. 60921 was taken from the first production batch. (*Note: they used consecutive top plates, 60922 being the first one to be sold.)*
- From 12/24 to 12/29, test #3 took place. Again it was a shutter test after countermeasure D was taken. Bodies 6095, 6098, 60914 and 60920 were used. One failed due to poor material quality.
- For countermeasure D, they used a radial ball bearing. Application of an anti-friction bearing was covered by Japan patent #178669. (Fig. 2 is a photo of a radial ball bearing & for illustration purposes only. They are not camera parts.)

In summary, patent #178669 (Fig. 3) covers the ideas to eliminate causes of inaccuracy and instability of shutter speeds, particularly in the slow speed range, of a focal plane shutter. To achieve this, a radial ball bearing is used to support the main speed adjustment control mechanism shaft. (Courtesy of Yuki Kawai)

Some specifications are as follows:

a. Rangefinder base is 60mm
b. Finder magnification is 0.6
c. Single window viewing
d. Cloth focal plane shutter
e. Slow & high speed dials on one shaft. Big difference from Leica's two separate shutter dials
f. Removable camera back
g. Contax type lens bayonet
h. Body weight was 625 grams

The three most important features from the above list were:

1) Radial ball bearing
2) Long rangefinder base
3) All speeds on one shaft

2/FROM THE INVENTORY LIST (Fig. 4)

There were handwritten notes on the documents, which added significantly to the printed information, (except for the last line, I-M-S section, which are in my handwriting).

'6FT' means: the 'F' stands for camera, the 'T' for 'Trial'. The '6' might have different meanings, as on the top right it says Japanese era 2606, which is 1946, so the '09' may not mean September but might mean June (as in 2606) but I was told this was the 6th camera built. So the 609 prefix is still not clear. *(I was told by Fuketa and others that the '09' stood for September which is when the drawings were completed, and it is very probable that the 609 prefix stood for the 9th month of the year 2606 (1946). RJR)*

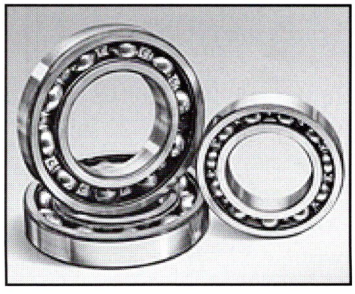


FIG.2

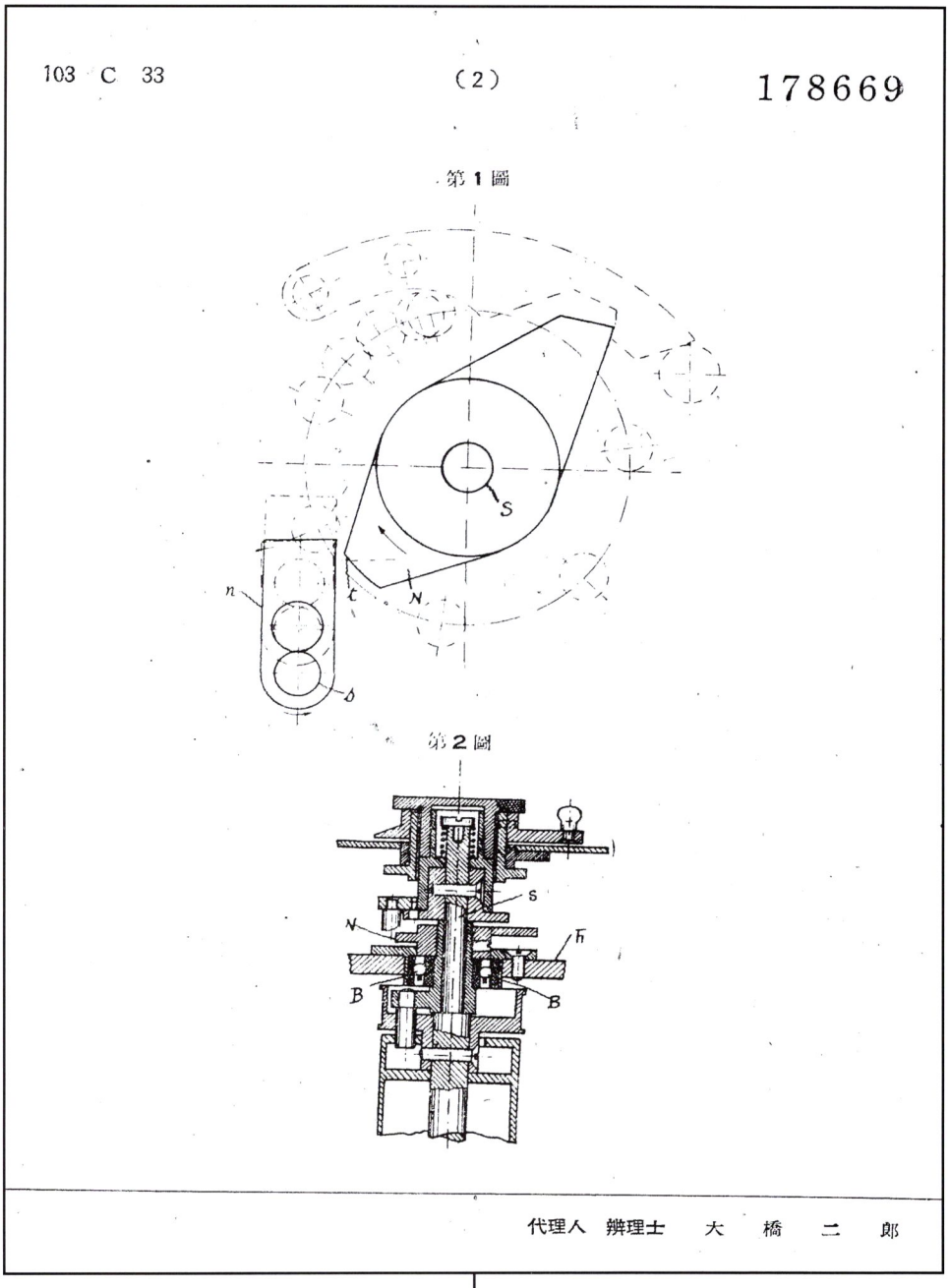


FIG. 3

代理人 辨理士 大 橋 二 郎

'6FB-1' means: 'B' stands for body and '1' stands for the first batch. At the left side it says 'Production order 1st lot'. 6FB-2 would be the second batch (here it says '2nd lot').

Next to '20' it says 'cameras', and top right it says 'only 4 cameras were completed', but later we still see that 'complete' doesn't mean 'fully complete'. Here he means 4 from the trial production together with the first one from the first production order, that being camera 60921.

In the middle right we read 'commercial products 299' which would be from 60922 up to 609320 (if they used top plates in consecutive order?). This might well be so, as for the extra test they took 60921, the first body from the initial commercial batch. Also annotated: '60922…60933…609320', and above 60933 is written '12'. If you count 60922 to 60933, the total is '12'.

In my article, "The Last Episode", I comment that the first known body we have with a serial number on the back door is 60971, which should have been the 51st produced, and those previous 50 (60921~60970) could be those 50 named in Rotoloni's book (The Complete Nikon Rangefinder System). The number '50' is also the highest internal number recorded, except for some yet unexplained higher number with an 'A' in front (A55).
There was no question of a Type II, an "M" type (?), as 6FB-2 ran up to 609920. This last one is an "M" body. As we know, 609759 is the last of what we now call the 'Nikon One'. For Nippon Kogaku, at that time, it was just 'The Nikon' (not One, M, or S). But at the last line on the chart we see the frame sizes for the Nikon One, M and S, and next to 24x36 it says 'Leica size'. So this chart was, obviously, prepared years later.

On the bottom right it says 'made by Arakawa'. Remember he was the accountant and kept the inventories.

TABLE OF PRODUCTION BY MONTH & BATCH

The title of the chart is seen at the left side of the table; then the month by month production (Fig. 5).

The first commercial body was produced in March of 1948 (Japanese Showa year '23'), and, as we know, the first camera was 60921. In April they made two (60922 & 60923?) and in May they made 33 bodies, then it slowed down.

On the first list (starting with 23)(Fig. 5) there are two very important notes:

—2 bodies of the last 'M', which is found under the year '24' & the 8th month next to the figure 34

—And above that #34 you find '44' and here it notes "the first 'M' included in this 44"

Well I made the additions and here is my explanation…

For the year 24 you see the '1' (January) & next to that is 40, meaning they made 40 bodies that month, then 10 next to it. This means 10 from batch 6FB-1 and the first 30 of batch 6FB-2. I am pretty sure they did not use the top plates that randomly, as generally thought.

- 60921 was the 1st commercial body & used for more tests
- 60933 is mentioned as being the 12th (see NHS-98. At that time its importance wasn't yet known)

FIG. 4

2600 = 1940 A.C.

ニコン初期製品ナンバー

Japanese Era 2606 = 1946 A.C.

only 5 cameras were completed

	オーダー符号	数量	番号
試作命令 Trial Product.	6FT Camera	20 & cameras	60901～60920，60921は試作品として転用された
製造命令-1 Production Order 1st Lot	6FB-1 batch	300	60921～60922……60933……609320 (Trial product. 11st) → commercial products 299
製造命令-2 2nd lot.	6FB-2	600	609321……609920
		画面サイズ frame size	1型 24×32 M型 24×34 S型 24×36 (ライカ判) Leica size

荒川龍彦調

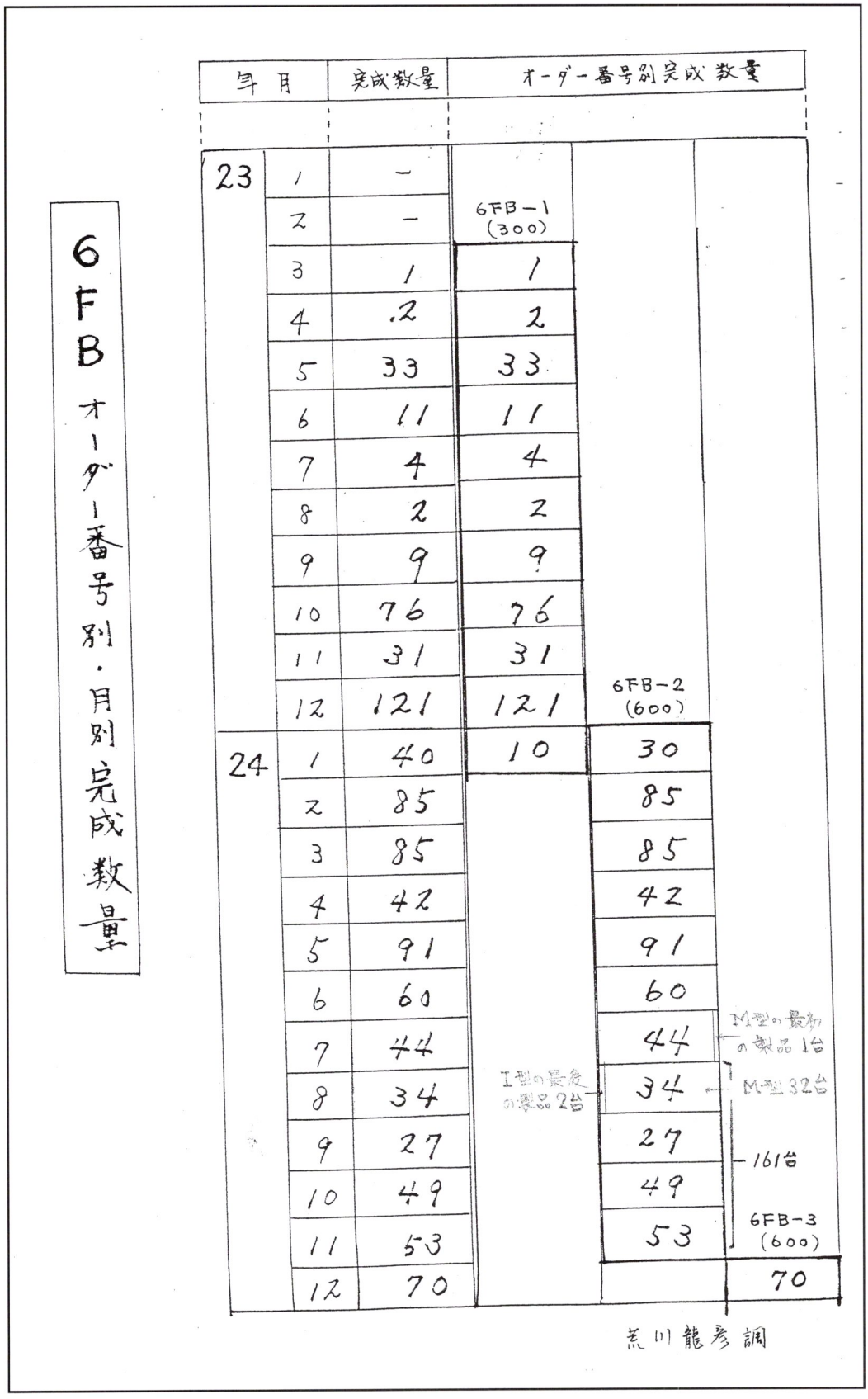


FIG. 5

- I think they were in need of cash, had no means & almost no materials so they would not order more top plates than the batch order. So for 6FB-1 I think they would have ordered only 300 tops from 60921~609320. Batch 6FB-2 would be from 609321~609920 & batch 6FB-3 from 609921~6091520.
- This means that Nikon One top plates converted to 'M' plates would be from 609760~609920, or 161 plates. So #609921, in my opinion, should be the first 'genuine' Nikon M body.
- If top plates were not used in order, shouldn't we find M bodies under 609759 or One bodies above 609759?
- In the info next to year 24 month 7, the figure 44 is MOST important, as it says that the first M is included in this group of 44, suggesting that there is a 'regular' Nikon One body converted to an M (Nikon One top plate?)

If I made a correct count, and if indeed they used top plates more or less in correct order, that would mean that this 'Nikon One/M' should be found between 609714~609757.

Under this note we find the number 34 again with a remark" "2 bodies of last One" meaning 609758 & 609759 were made in August 1949 together with 32 M bodies, which were converted One bodies. They might have the numbers 609760 up to 609791.

There is another important remark. Next to figures, 34, 27, 49, & 53, Arakawa has put the figure 161, which confirms my earlier remark. These are the 161 Nikon Ms made from converted Nikon Ones. As we know, these top plates are slightly different from normal M production top plates, as the letter 'M' has been engraved after the numbering of the plates that were meant for the Nikon One.

Let us now have a closer look at the second page of this production overview (Fig.6). This one is also a gem, but not that easy to explain, but let me try.

At the top right is written: "first confirmed number of 'MS' (flash synch added). This body is M6092366. However, this does not mean that all the following numbers are synchronized. See the photo of M6092374, which is NOT synched (Figs. 7a & b). Note that the first synchronizations were not done by Nikon in Japan but, according to Bill Kraus, they were done by the US importer in California, so there are cameras with earlier numbers that are found with the two-prong synch connectors.

Left of that remark you can read: trials 20 (without 60921), Ones 738 and together this makes 758. As we know, one body between 6091 and 609759 is an M body, and Nikon made 1643 M's, so he continues 'the last M is M6092401' meaning the first Nikon MS should be M6092402. But we guessed the last numbered M as M6092401, so this will be unclear forever.

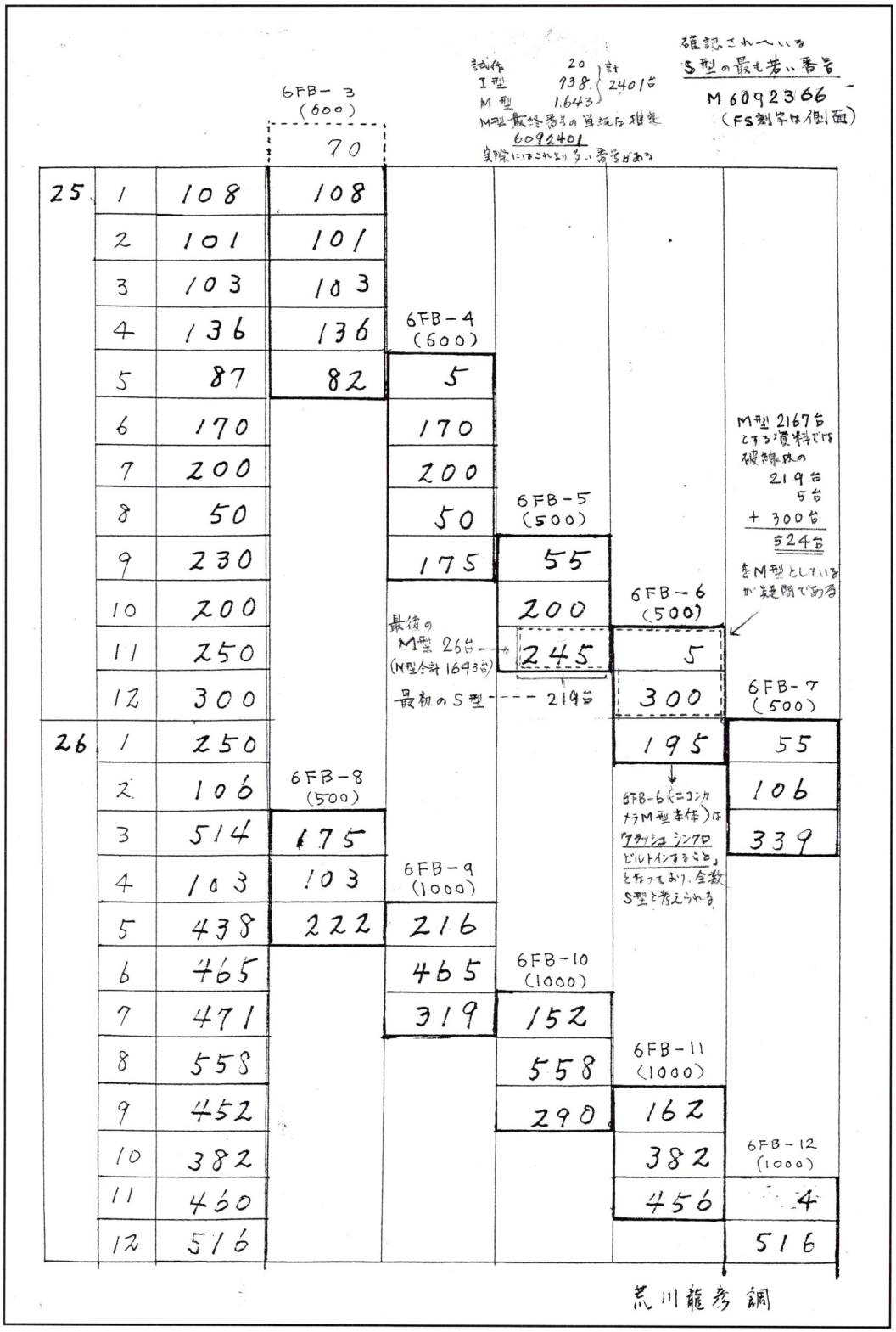


FIG. 6

- As some M's are seen with synch before M6092366 we can only guess that this was not officially done, either by Nikon or the US importer, but by some repairman (just as we saw some Ones were also synched, (see "The Last Episode").
- Under the number 2401 he remarks "Arithmetically M6092401 should be the highest M without synch. However, there are M's with higher numbers". This means that if 2402 was the first official MS, there are non-synched M bodies above this number.
- They were aware of the fact that numbers earlier than 6092366 exist, as they say " no earlier MS should have been made in the USA".
- As told it will be unclear as, next to the year 26, month 1 to the right you find the figure 195. Here under the remark: 6FB-6 says flash synch to be built in, starting 6092621. So we may suppose this is the official start of the MS. Further, we will learn they already planned to name this the 'Nikon S'.
- My count: year 25 month 9, when I made the addition up to and including the 175, I arrived at 2120, and to be added: 55 & 200 & 26 out of the last 245 of batch 6FB-5 makes a total of 2401, and here he remarks: "219+5+300 some say they are "S", in fact they are "MS".
- Batch 6FB-8 ended in May 1951, and the last number should have been 6094120.
- As there are no remarks here, batch 6FB-9 could have been the start of the S body serial numbers, meaning the first would have been #6094121.

3/THE FUKETA JOURNAL

The following are excerpts from Fuketa-san's journal:

A/general information without a date

- 20 prototypes of small size camera will be built
- Only 5 have been fully assembled

B/specific and dated information

- 21-7 (July 1946)-design completion of drawings 2 & 3
- 21-9 (Sept. 1946)-design completion of drawing
- 22-6 (June 1947)-drawings were made in 3 groups *(note: could this be the separate drawings for each internal numbered part assembly?)*
- 22-12-9 (Dec. 9, 1947)-3rd committee meeting, test results reported by Fuketa on 6094, 60917, 60921. Koakimoto (3) reported general test & overall observation. Kobayashi (4) reported about 5 improvements of the product.
- 23-3-7 (March 3, 1948)-60921 is made, not prototype (only 20), as testing body
- 23-5-17 (May 17, 1948)-reunion of manufacturing committee. Of trial 6FT, 5 were completed

Both those last notes are bizarre to me, as one would think that those 5 prototypes would have been made before the (regular) production of 60921. Or should we assume that the last note is only a statement of a fact? And that the mentioned date is only the date on which they discussed those 5 and might have decided to stop assembling the other 15 (of which some were already partially tested and disassembled as bad)?

FIG. 7A

FIG. 7B

And what about 22-12-9 & 23-3-7? Should 60921 have been made in two steps? First a partial assembly & test body, and only a couple months later the final completion?

4/THE ARAKAWA RESUME

On this document (Fig.8), which is named "6FB I-M", I found a lot of notes and dates. Most of them had no meaning to us, and some we could not decipher. (Note: *the figures & notes that follow in brackets () were inserted by the author)*

(1947) 22-12-9 of batch 6FT-1 (small camera prototype), out of 20 numbers 6094, 60917, 60921 (very odd, as 60921 is mentioned several times as being a production camera, but here it is mentioned with the test cameras). He gives the total 20 (with 5 completed). The meaning of this 20 is for his addition together with the following 6FB batches.

(1948) 23-5-17 as above, mention of 5 that were completed and as a sub note he mentions 23-3-7 #60921.

6FB-1 finished (1949) 24-1-29, total batch 300 is 1+299 (his 1 must be 60921)

6FB-2 finished (1949) 24-11-30, the total of batch is 600. Improvements started with 609321 until end of production (so 609321 must be the first one of the second batch).

And now it gets even more important as he continues: 439 of them were Nikon One, finished 24-8-4. The rest of this batch, 161, were converted to M. (Therefore, M started April 4, 1949 and might have been M609760)

(1954) 29-6-9 Fuketa confirms that last One was built in July 1949, and that first M started the same day.

6FB-3 finished (1950) 25-5-31, total 600

6FB-4 finished (1950) 25-9-30, total 600

6FB-5 finished (1950) 25-11-30, total 281 (total batch is 500)

If now we do the addition:
20+1+299+600+600+600+281 we get 2401

Arakawa's list reads as follows:
One = 758 (738 as 6FB + 20 as 6FT)
M= 1643 (161 converted One's and 1482 regular M's)

If we take to total of all batches together with 6FT we get 2620 bodies.

And then he remarks: "2621 is start of "S"

So for them it was clear. They regarded the "MS" as "S" and referred to them as "S". I believe that, since they already had top plates engraved with the 'M', they just continued using them.

Further on that list is a strange row of figures which I could not understand. It might have something to do with batch 6FB-1, which was the only one with 300 bodies. This row of figures is as follows:

(No.1) 5, (No.2) 20, (No.3) 20, (No.4) 42, (No.5) 50, (No.6) 58, (No.7) 55, (No.8) 50….after which he makes an addition, 300 and continues…(No.9) 55…but this 55 is not directly under the other 8 entries, but to the right and under it we find (No.10) 122.

No further explanation, and it stops there.

5/THE INVENTORY LISTS (FIG. 9)

Nippon Kogaku of course kept inventory. The accountant was Arakawa. He gave me copies of pages of the production inventory starting with batch 6FT-1 and continuing with batch 6FB-1 up to about 146 numbers in batch 6FB-2. This batch was 600 units.

These pages give production, month by month. The first page is extremely important. On this list (Fig. 9) is the production date of all 20 prototypes. Only 5 were tested. These prototypes were good for testing, but the other 15 were not and are not even identified on the list by number and were not tested. All 20 were dismantled. (The year 22 is 1947, 23 is 1948)

On top of the second page there is a more interesting item. As we know, 60921, which came from the regular production batch, was meant to be sold. However, it was removed and used for tests. Here the note says: Mitsumaki-san (5), who was the manager, is not sure if this one was given to General Headquarters before or after testing.

The number 60921 was finished 23-3-9, which confirms that the regular batch already started during the test period, as, at that time, only 12 of the 20 prototypes had been made (see list).

The next 2 production cameras were built the same day as the last 2 prototypes, 23-4-30. These could be cameras 60922 and 60923.

Indeed, if you refer to the first scan (Fig. 4), you will see: 60921….60933…609320, which I could interpret as follows:

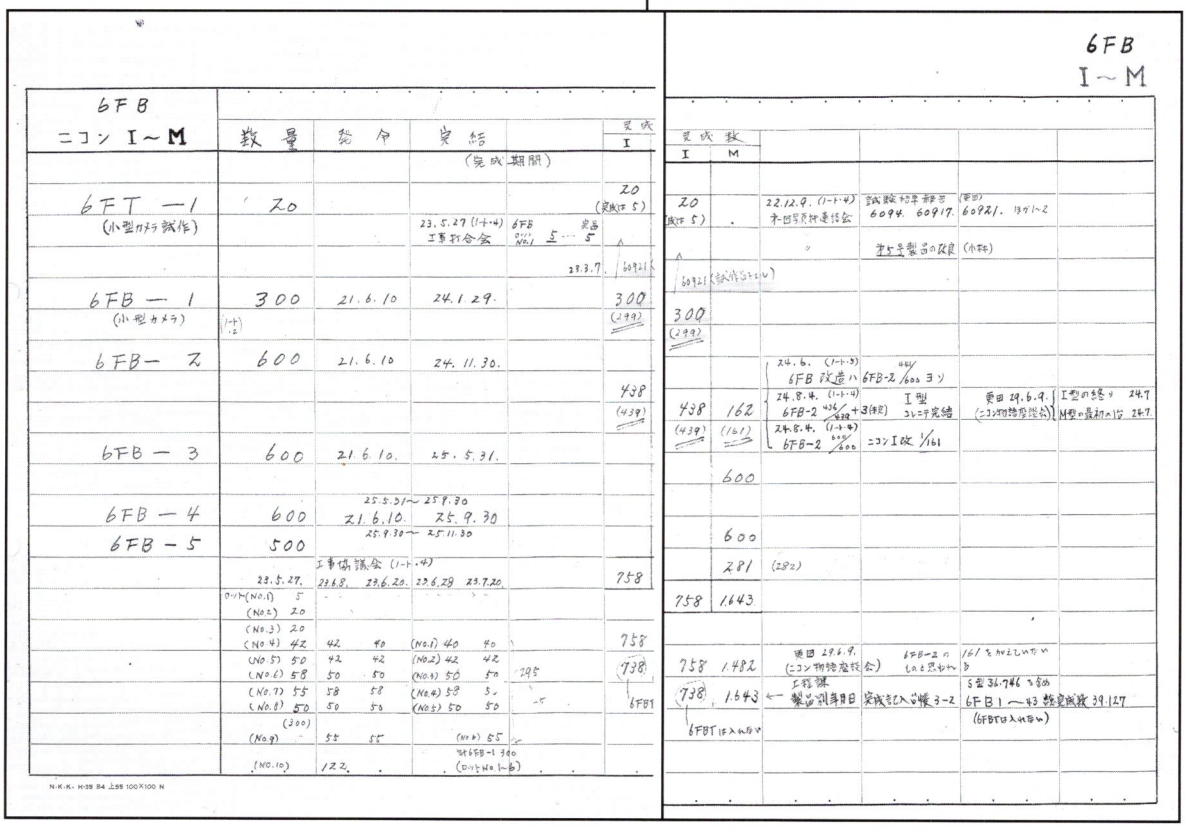
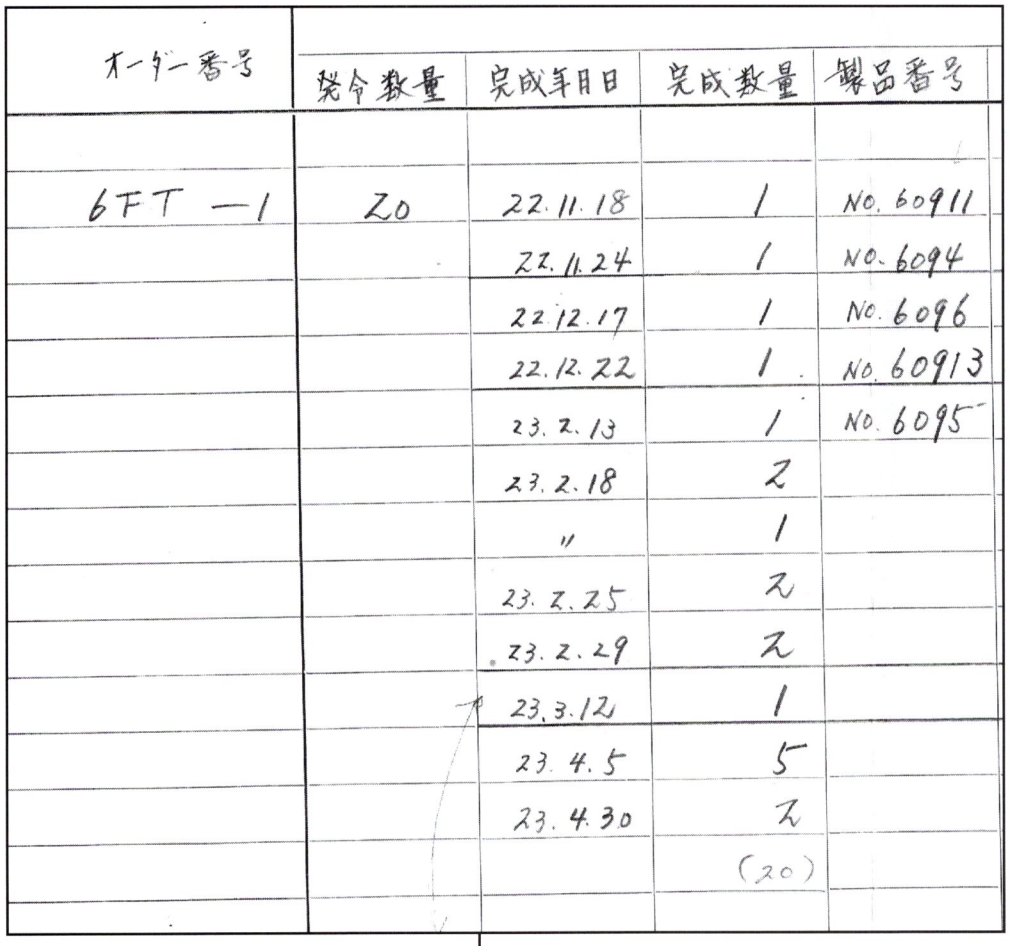


FIG. 8



オーダー番号	発令数量	完成年月日	完成数量	製品番号
6FT −1	20	22.11.18	1	No. 60911
		22.11.24	1	No. 6094
		22.12.17	1	No. 6096
		22.12.22	1	No. 60913
		23.2.13	1	No. 6095
		23.2.18	2	
		〃	1	
		23.2.25	2	
		23.2.29	2	
		23.3.12	1	
		23.4.5	5	
		23.4.30	2	
			(20)	

FIG. 9

First 60921, followed by 60922 up to 60933, and finally up to 609320, which is the end of both 6FT-1 and 6FB-1. If so then the production dates up to 60933 are as follows:

- 23-4-30…bodies 60922 and 60923
- 23-5-4…..body 60924
- 23-5-5…..body 60925
- 23-5-6…..body 60926
  (So first they made 2, then 1 a day then stopped for a full week)
- 23-5-13…body 60927 (here they stopped for 2 weeks!)
- 23-5-27…bodies 60928 up to 60933
- 23-5-31…bodies 60934 and up.

This day they made an amazing 22 cameras. Only 2 times was this amount surpassed; 23-10-19 they made 30, and 23-12-29 they made an incredible 118 cameras! Then they stopped for a full month and after that only a few were made and not even on a daily basis.

The story is not complete. There are still unanswered questions. I plan to continue with this research, so any and all help will be welcome. But, I can't thank enough Arakawa-san and the Nikon staff members. I would also hope that there are others interested in this history and would be willing to correspond with me to help with the unsolved items.

6/RE-DISCOVERED CORRESPONDENCE

Just as I was finishing this article, I came across a letter from Arakawa-san, where he replied to more of my questions. The letter was written by his son in 2008, as Arakawa does not speak or write English. I take pleasure in sharing the following information:

"Nikon One was the first camera released to the consumer market. The 6 in 6FT is derived from the Era of Old Japanese style. The year 1946 equals to year 2606 of the Japanese Era in those days and '6' in '609' is the '6' in 2606. It was only one year after WWII, and the people of Nippon Kogaku still used the old systems that were familiar among Japanese people. Japanese in those days believed that the first emperor of Japan founded his nation 2606 years before. Based on the order 6FB, three types of cameras were produced; Nikon One, Nikon M and Nikon S.

S2 was the improved version of Nikon S; roll up lever was attached and so on. Prior to the inspection of the tax office, Nikon One's with bugs and unworthy as market products were scrapped to parts in order to evade taxation. He (Arakawa) kept the top plate of camera 6091 as a memory and later he gave it to Mr. Fuketa when he was promoted to the director of Nippon Kogaku. This was a long time before the Nikon Convention in 1996. He (Arakawa) guesses that Mr. Fuketa must have re-assembled the Nikon One, using the top plate of 6091 and other parts."

WHO IS WHO (Courtesy of Nikon Ohi)

(1) **Tatsuhiko Arakawa** (May 4, 1916~Dec. 18, 2010) was there at the very beginning of the Nikon One. He was an accountant, so he kept all figures and inventories. I was very pleased to visit him, the first time in 2008. When I revisited him I was received as a family member. I can never forget this. These visits were the start of my 'in depth research' on Nikon One (Fig.10). (Also see 'The Complete Nikon Rangefinder System')

(2) **Masahiko Fuketa** (Fig. 11) might be the most well-known name to Nikon collectors. He was in the design department and in April 1948 moved to camera assembly as production manager and supervisor of camera production. He passed away in 2001.
(3) **Takateru Koakimoto** (Fig. 12) was general manager of the inspection department and later became president of Nikon in 1979. He passed away in 2004.
(4) **Toshizo Kobayashi** was a chief of the assembly department.
(5) **Ichiro Mitsumaki** was general manager of the design department.

ADDENDUM

In NHS-102 (Dec. 2008) we published a list of known Nikon One cameras and normal lenses. I am happy to give you an update, as some members have generously sent additional information and pictures to add to the list. Thank you to those who have contributed.

1/new found bodies to be added:

609171 w/3.5#7052207
609223 w/2.0#8111340
609231 w/2.0#70891
609255 no lens
609259 w/2.0#708376
609301 w/2.0#708222
609503 w/2.0#708148
609598 w/Zeiss Sonnar lens?
609698 w/2.0#811172

2/lenses

For some bodies I had no lens number previously-to update:

609190 now has 7087
609352 now has 8117
609431 now has 7051107
609456 now has 708184
609497 now has 708341
609599 now has 708415
609633 now has 708375

3/changes

609223 no longer has 8111340 but now has 7052636
609503 no longer has 708148 but now has 806507
609524 no longer has 708582 but now has 7052559
609604 is synchronized

4/to erase

Unfortunately body 609635 has to be deleted from the list. I had the opportunity to examine it and it is only the top plate that was left as all the rest of the body is Nikon S vintage!

5/table of lenses

6 bodies with lenses with the 609 prefix
24 bodies with lenses with the prefix 705
55 bodies with lenses with the prefix 708
21 bodies with lenses with the prefix 811
21 bodies and 2 trials with no confirmed lens
A total of 129 Nikon Ones

Please keep me updated with new numbers of bodies and/or lenses. You can contact me at: **csap@skynet.be**
For pictures I will be most happy to mail you examples of the kind of photos/details I would like to receive, since this will make it easier for study and comparison. Thank You.

Not to forget, a big hug to Bill Kraus for the technical review and editing.

FIG. 10

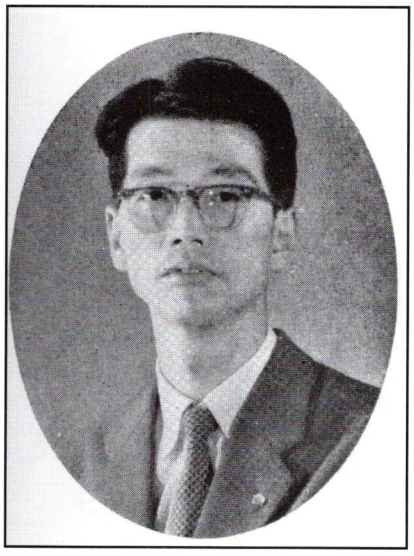


FIG. 11

FIG.12

10 A CONSIDERATION OF THE EARLY NIKON CAMERAS

BY DR. MANABU NAKAI

INTRODUCTION

Early rangefinder cameras developed by Nippon Kogaku Kogyo K.K. are a cultural heritage, which showcase the history that triggered the advance of the Japanese camera industry into the global market. Since Nippon Kogaku Kogyo K.K. renamed itself to Nikon Corporation in 1988, both names will be referred to as 'Nikon' in this article. The Nikon One was the first consumer camera developed by Nikon and was placed on sale in March 1948, and the Nikon M released in October 1949 was an improvement on the first model. Today, about 115 Nikon Ones are known to exist [1], and about 30 of these are believed to be still in Japan, according to one estimate. Though sales of digital cameras are currently booming on the market, these did not just spring into existence by themselves, but in fact evolved from film cameras.

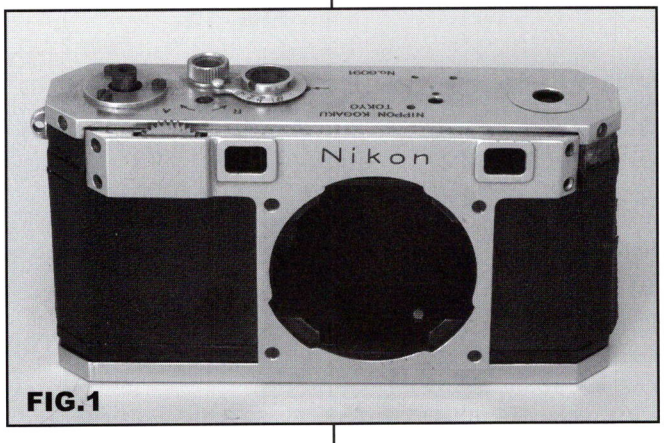


FIG.1

The Nikon Historical Society has accumulated a wealth of resource information on these early Nikon cameras over the period between NHS-1 and NHS-111 while Robert Rotoloni has been the editor in chief. This article examines a variety of literature written primarily in Japanese concerning the evolution from the prototype 6091 to the production Nikon One and further to the Nikon M, as well as their mechanical structures as observed from dismantled cameras.

JUDGEMENTS ON THE PROTOTYPE 6091

The prototype 6091 **(Fig.1-photo provided by Nikon)** is what might be called the mother of all consumer cameras that Nikon has manufactured. It embodies much interesting information concerning the creation of the Nikon One. Camera 6091 was designed by a team of mechanical & optical engineers including Minoru Takahashi & led by Masahiko Fuketa. Fuketa was born in 1913 & studied engineering at the Imperial University of Tokyo before entering Nikon in 1937, where he successively served as chief of the 4th Planning Unit, Mechanical Design Section, Design Dept. from November 1945; manager of 3rd Design Section, Engineering Dept. from February 1947; and, finally, vice-president & representative director from 1973.

Camera 6091 was discovered on a cold & early winter day in 1997 inside an archive room in Building 119, where it had been left in a cardboard box together with other prototypes including 6094. Camera 6091 had been missing for many years when information about it first appeared in 1973 in a camera magazine article [2] written by a former Nikon employee named Tatsuhiko Arakawa. The article mentioned that Arakawa still had 6091 and was willing to present it to Fuketa on the forthcoming celebration of the 50th anniversary of Nikon's founding. The 50th ceremony, however, had been held at the Ohi plant on July 25, 1967, six years prior to the article. Later, around 1995, a Nikon employee named Mikio Ito saw Fuketa and asked if he had 6091. Fuketa replied "I wouldn't know about that."

After making a thorough examination of Arakawa's magazine article on the process of developing the Nikon One, we learned that the first prototype began to take shape in March 1947, but a light leak was discovered. However, a book [3] written by Arakawa states two prototypes were completed in November 1946. This description contradicts the date mentioned in his magazine article. Was one of those prototypes completed in November 1946 camera 6091? The magazine article says that a light shield plate was added to prevent the light leak and that the prototype Arakawa picked up, which was dismantled and thrown away, had a light shield plate exposed. On a visit to the Ohi plant on October 22, 2010 for research, this author was allowed to handle 6091 and investigate a few points along with Mr. Ito, an archivist in the PR Section. This author examined 6091 and found a copper alloy plate near the A-R lever shaft or apparently what Arakawa called the light shield plate. But this plate was a strange size so this author could not really guess which part it was supposed to shield from light. The plate was also unnecessarily thick, with no painting or blackening by chemical conversion. Was it possible that the design team planned for nearly a year through the improvement process, leaving this peculiar plate in 6091? It appears likely that this plate was attached later by someone other than the engineers. There certainly was a light leak problem [4], but such a leak is so occasional in the early prototyping stage that it is unlikely to be mentioned in a magazine article title.

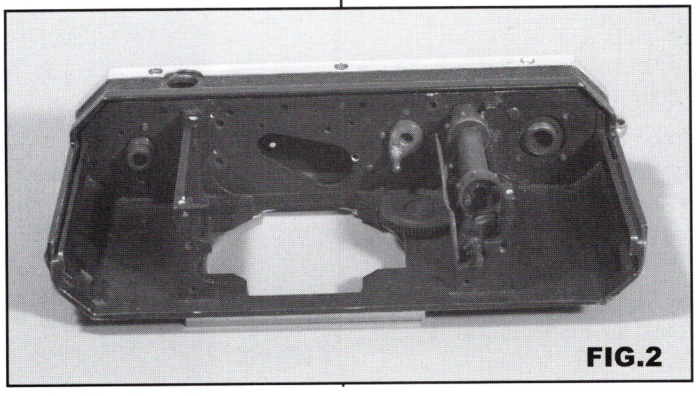


FIG.2

This author took notice of the position of a groove cut into the side-wall of the supply-side chamber of 6091 for positioning the film magazine. Arakawa's magazine article describes that it was decided at the 2nd all-round picture liaison conference in the company held on June 26, 1947 to change the winding system from a double magazine forward system to a reversed spool system, though his words on the subject are unclear. If 6091 was one of those prototypes that began to take shape in March 1947, then the groove position in the supply-side spool chamber should be similar to that in the Contax II, which had a forward winding system. In 6091, however, the groove was positioned so as to correspond to that used in the Nikon One **(Fig. 2-photo provided by Nikon)**. Clearly, this groove position contradicts the explanation in Arakawa's magazine article. This groove was rather short, unlike that in the Nikon One which was made by a milling cutter to a size longer than necessary. A more detailed description of the second all-around picture liaison conference is

FIG. 3

found on pages 158-159 of the 'Nikon Story' by Arakawa where he explains the double magazine system of 6091 as one similar to that of the Contax II. But we can now consider this explanation is mistaken and that the double magazine system of 6091 was in fact developing an original design.

This author went on to examine the upper wall of the winding spool chamber in 6091 from the lower side. If the initial design of 6091 had a double magazine forward winding system as described in Arakawa's article, then the rotational direction of the spool shaft should be opposite that of the winding knob shaft, requiring another gear train which left some gear set-screw marks. The positions and diameters of holes made on the upper wall differed slightly from those in the Nikon One but did not provide any definite answer to this question.

It was also noted that while the surface of the top cover on prototype 6094 was finished relatively similar to that of the Nikon One, the same part on 6091 appeared remarkably different. Namely, it appeared to have been machine finished to a high flatness with no brushing or blasting. The edges also seemed to have been rounded to radiuses different from those on the Nikon One. We can infer from these observations that the Nikon engineers decided to discard 6091 because it had initial characteristics much different from the Nikon One, while the other prototypes were completed with designs close to the Nikon One. In 6091, the mark 'A' on the top cover was engraved at a point near the winding knob, since it was made to the design similar to the Leica IIIc. However, a forefinger came in contact with the A-R lever because the diameter of the winding knob was much larger than that on the Leica IIIc. So on 6094 the mark 'A' was transferred to the point near the shutter dial. Camera 6091 would therefore be the initial prototype!

WEAKNESSES OF THE EARLY NIKON ONE

The Nikon One **(camera #609524-Fig. 3)** was a camera hastily developed in the days after WWII when many goods and resources were in short supply. Since the design team had no experience with cameras, this model may itself be considered a study. The series, however, never ceased its progress advancing one after another to the Nikon S2, SP and Nikon F to reach the peak in the world of 35mm cameras at the time, and which proved Nikon's technological superiority.

Major problems in the early Nikon One included occasional film scratches and accidental film feed failures which Masao Nagoaka, who was president of Nikon at the time, later admitted to in a camera magazine [5]. This confession may have been his response to the pointing out concerning the Nikon One by Jun Miki [6], a photographer who greatly contributed to the spread of Nikkor lenses and who was also well known as being a leading figure in the Nikkor Club [7]. Fuketa [8] later discovered that the film scratches were caused by impurities in the aluminum alloy ingots which were used to produce the pressured plate. The hard impurities probably protruded outwards when the pressure plate surface was buffed.

The cause of accidental film feed failures may be assumed as follows. Namely, observation of the sprocket in the Nikon One reveals that the root circle face is considerably lower than the guide rail face compared with those in the Leica IIIc and Contax II. Also, the Nikon One's sprocket has 7 teeth instead of 8 and the frictional

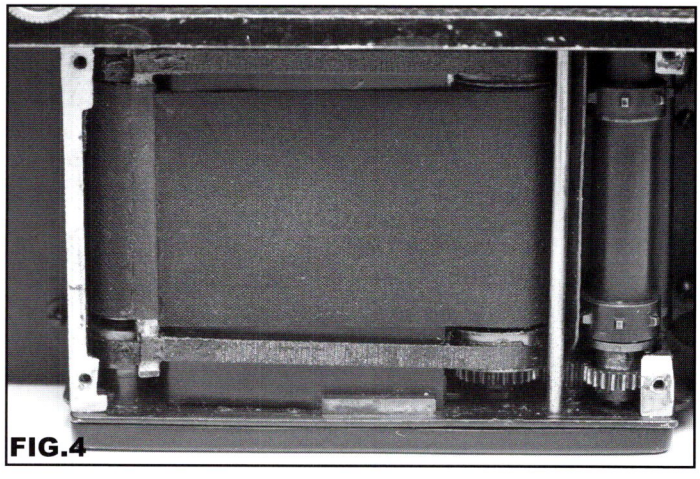


FIG.4

resistance for rotation on the rewinding knob is much smaller than that in recent film cameras. Due to all these conditions, if the film has been advanced even a little, then the contact ratio between sprocket teeth and film perforations may be minimum enough to cause film feed failures when the curled part of the film came onto the sprocket. By the way, although the teeth of the sprocket in the Contax II are the same 7 as the Nikon One, 8 teeth actually advance per one winding.

This author tried removing the film gate in the Nikon One, and the first thing that came to my mind was the difficulties engineers must have confronted in designing this camera **(609524-Fig. 4)**.

FIG. 5

One reason for these difficulties lies in that they tried to fuse together two design concepts alien to each other, namely the Leica and Contax systems under conditions allowing little freedom of design. The Nikon One may sometimes look like a Contax copy, but the truth is that the shutter mechanism resembles that of the Leica. To the contrary, the design team attempted to incorporate a high level of unique design ideas that were different either from the Leica or Contax in many aspects. Therefore, afterward the Nikon One was able to evolve into a sophisticated high-end model called the SP. Most Japanese 35mm rangefinder cameras released between the latter half of the 1930s and the first half of the 1950s have had few problems in planning, because they mostly just copied the Leica system. This author tried to find a way to bring the root circle face of the sprocket closer to the guide rail face in the Nikon One, only to learn how difficult this task was. Fuketa must have wished he had more time and freedom of design.

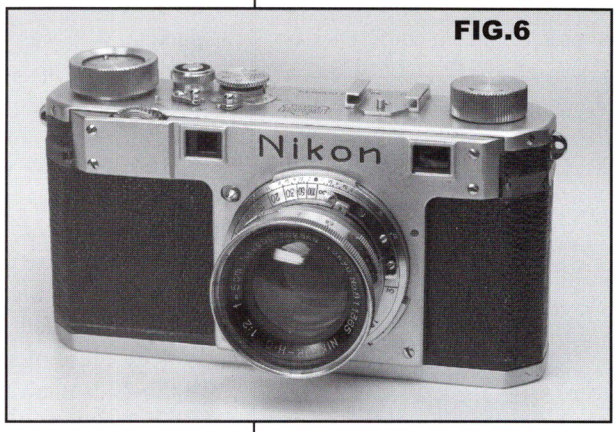


FIG.6

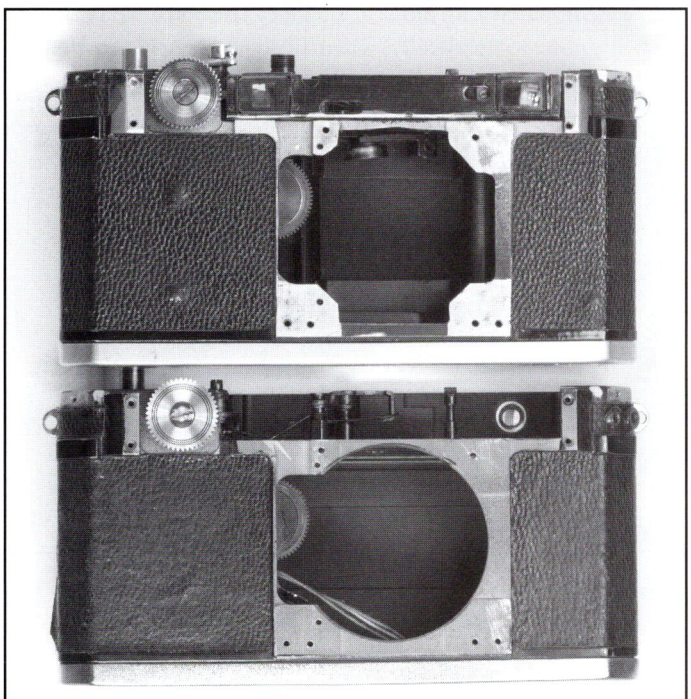


FIG. 7

According to a Nikon technical document [9], the width of 6FB cameras was 0.2mm larger or, in other words, the external distance between the wind and rewind knob shafts was 0.2mm larger than the Leica IIIc , despite the fact that the distance between the wind and rewind knob shafts was 4.5mm shorter than in the Contax II. What is the reason for those differences? In the Contax II, maybe the following design feature was intended to minimize the camera width. Here the joint lines between the camera body and back are not on a plane connecting the centers of the wind and rewind knob shafts, so that the sidewalls of the camera require only the thickness of the camera back. But in the Nikon One this method could not be used since the joint line of the back and body would interfere with the groove for the film magazine in the winding spool chamber. This groove is unnecessary but is left in all Nikon Ones as a reminder of Nikon's insistence upon the double magazine system.

MODIFYING THE NIKON M

The Nikon One takes 40 frames per roll measuring 24x32mm, which did not fit automatic film cutters for making color slides popular in the USA at that time. So export of the model was not allowed by the GHQ. This prompted Nikon to decide to change the frame size to 24x36mm, the same as the Leica. However, due to financial difficulties the company was facing at the time, the management directed the engineering team to minimize changes to equipment and tools. To follow this direction they created the Nikon M **(camera M6092442-Fig. 5)** by modifying the Nikon One.

Major modifications included adopting a 24x34mm frame size, because the distance between the drum shaft and the rear spring tube shaft was 2.7mm smaller that the Leica IIIc [9] and enlarging it to the full 24x36mm was difficult. The number of sprocket teeth was also increased from 7 to 8 to obtain 38mm of film feed, just as in the Leica to make it compatible with the automatic film cutters. The frame size in the Nikon M was made 6.25% larger in width compared with that in the Nikon One, but was the viewfinder frame also changed?

According to the book authored by Robert J. Rotoloni [10], Fuketa mentioned that they had at least 200 Nikon Ones in stock at the time and they converted them to the Nikon M. Some early Nikon M **(camera M609844-Fig. 6)** bodies have the same accessory shoe and rewinding knob as the Nikon One, so were these cameras converted Nikon Ones? Generally Nikon Ms of this vintage also have a body similar to the Nikon One. You can see this feature by looking into the lower side of the helicoid from the film gate after opening the shutter curtain using the 'bulb' setting **(M609998 (top) & M6093953 (bottom) Fig. 7)**. Fuketa [10] told us briefly that they replaced a sprocket and a film gate plate in the conversion. But that was not all. The outer diameter of the drum in the Nikon M, for example, is larger than that in the Nikon One, which meant replacement of a considerable number of parts. A Nikon web page [11] mentions that this placed a heavy load on the design and manufacturing teams, which seems quite understandable.

Incidentally, a schematic drawing of a Nikon camera drafted by Takahashi appears on page 190 of the 'Nikon Story'. This is dated

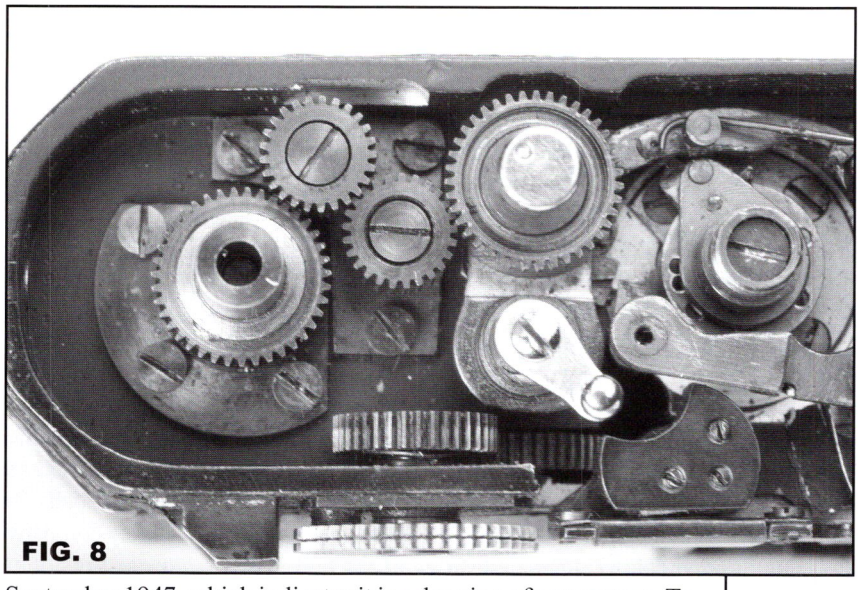


FIG. 8

September 1947, which indicates it is a drawing of a prototype. To whom does the copyright of this drawing belong; Takahashi, Nikon or Arakawa? And in what way was this drawing made available? A thorough examination of the drawing reveals an interesting mechanism in the gear train for winding. Namely there are two similar gears on the winding spool shaft, which engage with the first idle gear having a long face width. Why did they use such a design? This author dismantled Nikon M #609998 and investigated its gear train **(Fig. 8)**, and found that it conformed to the drawing of the prototype. So the author figured out the number of teeth on these two gears respectively. The result on the upper gear was 40, and on the lower gear, 39. Therefore, these gears were a mechanism for the film counter. The gear train designs in 6091 and 6094 are of interest to us as well. What impressed this author in the gear train of the 6FB cameras was that the winding spool rotation could be reversed by disconnecting the lower gear from the first idle and adding a new gear train. Another point was that the gear train was placed closer to the rear side of the camera to leave some space on the front side.

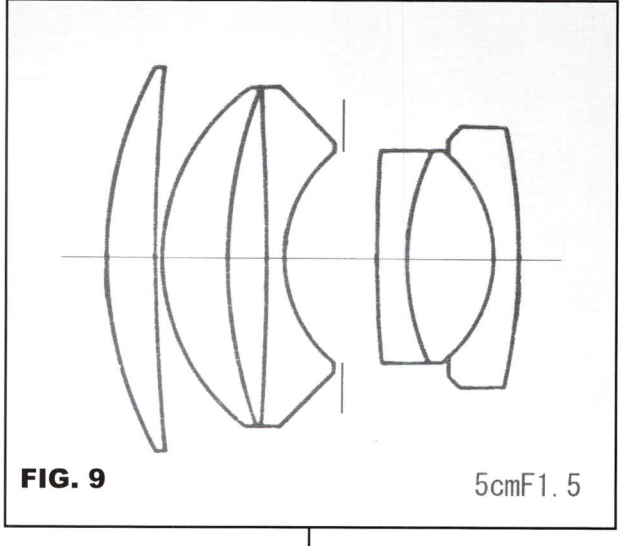


FIG. 9

Improvements were also made to prevent the film feed failures and film scratches. For the former, the number of teeth on the sprocket was increased from 7 to 8, so contact ratio with film perforations was increased and a root circle radius was enlarged by about 0.76mm. Therefore, the film feed stability was improved significantly. Additionally, the pressure plate was enlarged to cover the area near the sprocket to improve film feed stability. Since occasionally the pressure plate contacted with the gear teeth on the sprocket when the camera back was being attached to the body, protrusions were added to both sides of the camera back to prevent this. Due to a new step provided on the pressure plate, more space was needed between the pressure plate and the camera back, so a rectangular overhang was provided on the camera back. As for the latter, the pressure plate material was changed to a copper alloy less likely to have hard impurities which, however, resulted in a much heavier plate. This simple piece called a pressure plate has plagued camera manufacturers for many years. The final solution provided by Nikon engineers was the pressure plate in the Nikon SP Limited Edition, which was made of aluminum alloy and was anodized after precision grinding in the direction perpendicular to the film movement. This direction of precision grinding should lower the resistance while the film is running. Just for your reference, the curtain travel velocity in the 6FB cameras is 18ms for 32mm, the long side of the film gate. While the Nikon One, M and S have a common curtain velocity, that for the S2 is 16ms, and 14.5ms in the Nikon SP and F, and 10ms in the F2.

In the period in which the Nikon M was sold, the sharpness of Nikkor lenses was discovered by LIFE photographer David Douglas Duncan. About a week after the Korean War broke out, his first report in LIFE magazine was accompanied by photos he took mostly with a 5cm f1.5 Nikkor mounted on his Leica IIIc. Duncan hastily crossed the sea from Japan to Korea when war broke out. What were his motivations on deciding to use Nikkors instead of Leica lenses he was more familiar with in a war situation where re-shooting was impossible? Since he made it a custom to meticulously test the lenses from every aspect [12], he must have been confident that his Nikkor f1.5 would be a great performer. **Figure 9** shows the optical formula of this lens provided by Nikon. Were the Leica IIIc and this Nikkor lens that Duncan used a good match that was free of problems? This author tried to verify this about a Nikkor 5cm f1.5 mounted on a Luftwaffen Leica IIIc, which he happened to own **(Fig. 10)**. Except for the fact that the direction of the aperture scale on this lens is opposite that of the early Summarit f1.5, there seemed to be no major problems with the match. Mounted on a Leica the Nikkor f1.5

FIG. 10

imparted a sense of precision, while the slightly heavy weight of the lens acted to emphasize its presence.

The high performance of the Nikon camera was proved by a Nikon S prototype based on the Nikon M which a LIFE photographer, Hank Walker, used for reporting the Korean War in November 1950. The company history entitled "50 nen no ayumi [13]" states "In severe cold in December in North Korea, when all others froze and would not work, only the Nikon camera performed reliably without any problems. Consequently, the harshness of the war was reported with pictures that appeared in LIFE magazine." Nikon technicians had applied a squalane boundary film ($C_{30}H_{62}$) for a lubricant in Walker's Nikon camera [14]. The incident mentioned in the company history is a historical fact which took place during a period of several days from November 21, 1950 in the suburbs of Hyesan near the Yalu River where the Nikon camera was used at –25 degrees C. Nikon's tribological technology for low temperature conditions was the product of studies made over many years for military applications. This technology was further improved by Shigeo Ono and others, leading to the successful use of different Nikon models under extremely low


FIG. 11

temperature conditions. Namely, the Nikon SP and F were used by a number of research expedition teams such as the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition and the preliminary expedition to Dhaulagiri II Himalayas. Ono entered Nikon in 1954 and later became the president.

REPORTAGE FROM NISHI-OI

To get to the Ohi plant of Nikon in the old days one would get off a train at Oimachi Station on the JR Kehintohoku line and then walk a street named Kogaku-dori. Today you can take the JR Yokosuka line train from the underground in Tokyo Station and reach Nishi-Oi Station after 13 minutes. This line was originally used only for freight trains. At Nishi-Oi Station the Tokaido Shinkansen bullet trains run alongside the JR Yokosuka line. Leaving the station and walking eastward, you will soon see the Ohi West Building of Ohi Plant, which now houses the company development and design departments. In front of the site is Nishi-Oi Hiroba Park with plenty of greenery on grounds formerly owned by Nikon. In **Fig. 11**, on the right is the Ohi West building and on the left is Nishi-Oi Hiroba Park and at the back is the 101 Building. Some time ago, 102, 103 and 104 buildings once stood to the northeast of the Ohi West Building, but they were demolished in 2008 and you now see flower beds there instead. The five story building shown in **Fig. 12** is 101 Building, which once housed assembly rooms on the fifth floor where cameras like the Nikon One and SP were assembled. The building itself is a solid structure that was completed in 1933. The street in front of the Ohi West Building is Kogaku-dori, which runs toward Oi-machi Station. How will the landscape at Ohi Plant change in future years?

On the way back, this author found an old advertisement with the prior street name of "Oi-Morimae-cho", on an electric pole on a road on the west side of Nishi-Oi Station, which aroused some nostalgia, for that was the street's name when Nikon rangefinders were manufactured there. On the way from Ohi Plant to Nishi-Oi Station is Photo Koubou Kiitos Co., Ltd., a repair service company specializing in Nikon cameras and Nikkor lenses. President Takeshi Kunii originally worked at the Tokyo Service Center of Nikon on its repair staff. It is heartening to us that the list of models on their web site, which they service, still includes the Nikon One, M, S, S2, S3, S4, S3M and SP!

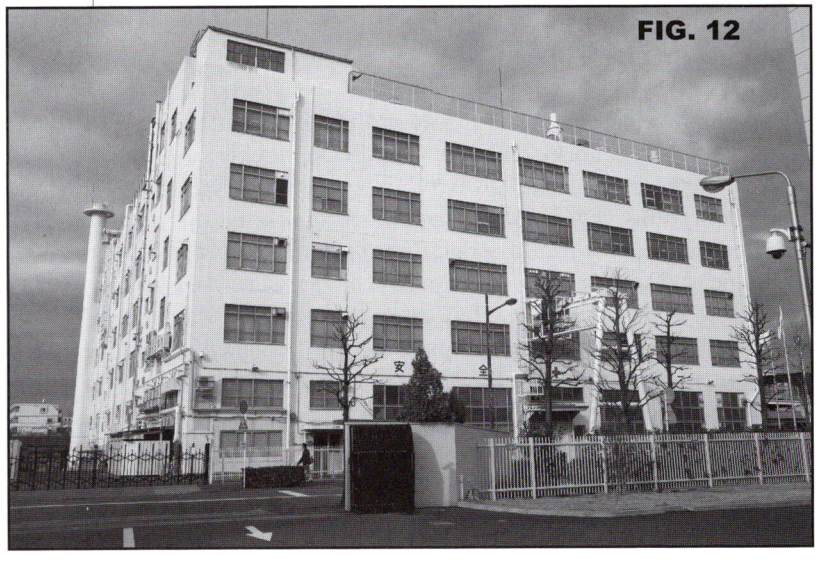


FIG. 12

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[14] Manabu Nakai, Photographic Industries, 64-683 (2006-3), pp. 64-78.

NHS-CON13 IN PARIS JUNE 2012!!

Approximately 11 months from when you receive this Journal we will be meeting in Paris for NHS-Con13. The committee members on both sides of the Atlantic have been hard at work searching out hotels and trying to get the best rates we can for you. Paris is the most expensive city on the Continent so this is a daunting task. Chris Sap and Patrick Rouillard spent an entire day visiting hotels in central Paris, checking out their meeting rooms and accommodations and getting prices. Putting these conventions together is a lot of work and cannot happen without such efforts by the chairmen. Not only is Paris expensive, but the Bievres show that we are tying in with usually occurs the same week as the French Tennis Open. So….. the hotels are normally booked and not too cooperative when it comes to dealing. Here is what has been determined so far.

I have more facts for you this issue with more coming in #113. The hotel will be the **Holiday Inn Bastille located at 11, rue De Lyon**, which is very near the major train station, the **'Gare de Lyon'**. This station is served by the subway, trains and Air France shuttle buses from Charles DeGaulle airport. So we are centrally located and easy to get to and, therefore, within walking distance of many sites, restaurants and shops. Room rates are still being negotiated at this time but should be known by #113. We are also looking at two smaller, less expensive, hotels close by for those on a tight budget. We want to make this as affordable as possible, thus the secondary hotels. More info in #113.

We are 95% sure that the dates will be as follows:

Tuesday, 5/29/2012..Registration in the Holiday Inn lobby
Wednesday, 5/30/2012..Sightseeing, shopping, whatever!
Thursday, 5/31/2012..Versailles and other sights
Friday, 6/1/2012..Our Convention followed by a dinner (dinner arrangements still to be made)
Sat/Sun..6/2 & 6/3/2012..Bievres for those who wish to go.

"IF" the dates for Bievres get changed they would probably be one week 'later'. If this happens you will be notified but we should know for sure by #113.

There is still a lot of negotiating to be done but the biggest point, the hotel, has been determined. As more things fall into place you will learn of it on this page…but…. for more timely information make sure you keep checking our websites for the latest news.

http://web.me.com/magicworldofimaging/NHS-CON-13
http://www.nipponkogakuklub.com

Every effort is being made to maintain the same convention fee as in the past, but since Paris is so expensive, a few things may be different, but nothing drastic. Right now what we need is to hear from you! **WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK ASAP**. Why? We need to have an idea of numbers since this is vital when talking to the hotel and setting up the dinner. Please get back to us if you intend on coming, or even just seriously thinking about it as this time. I know 11 months sounds like a lot of time, but it really is not. The Convention will be here before you know it.

If you have questions, thoughts or suggestions do not hesitate contacting anyone on the committee. We need your input now!

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Yuki Kawai ..... **kawai-tp@nifty.com**
Bill Kraus ..... **bildot@comcast.net**
Myself..... **rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net**

You will notice the 'Official NHS-Con13' logo on this page. It was designed by Thierry Ravassod and Patrick Rouillard. This is the first time we have done this and it will be used on all our websites, etc. What do you think? **I LIKE IT!**

Please consider joining us in Paris next June. It is a beautiful city, a great time of the year to be there, and a chance to meet up with fellow members and have a good time. RJR

THE AUCTION SCENE

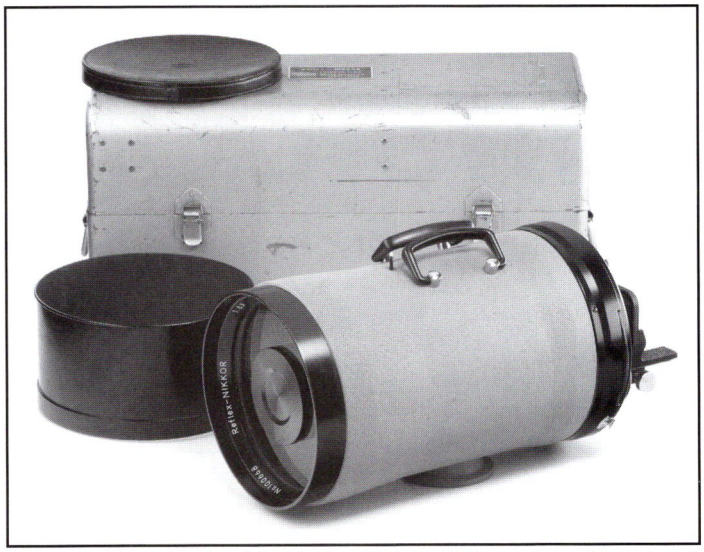
May 28th marked the 19th Westlicht auction in Vienna. Peter Coeln put together yet another fabulous sale with an array of rare Leicas (as always), but also more than enough superb Nikon items to keep us happy. On these 2 pages are some of the highlights of the sale. Prices shown are in dollars & include the buyer's premium. All photos courtesy of Peter Coeln.

There were some incredible prices in both directions. A few real deals, an unsold item that would have been a deal, & some SM lens prices that are simply mind-boggling! The pictured items have their prices, plus the following are some additional extraordinary hammer prices.

A beautiful boxed chrome SP set, **$6,300**; F2 collap. #708270, **$2,800**; external f1.1, **$5,200**; UW Housing, **$25,000**; F2 Titan, **$5,000**; F3 NASA set, **$38,000**; 2000mm Reflex-Nikkor (the 1st serial #), **$95,700!** Wow, some prices.

But for me the biggest surprise was what a group of SM Nikkors went for. Check out these simply awesome prices. 35mm/f1.8, **$3,800**; 25mm/f4.0 set, **$13,900**; 28mm/f3.5, **$1,550**; 35mm/f2.5 boxed set, **$4,500**; 50mm/f1.4 Tokyo mis-engraved, **$2,100**; 50mm/f3.5 Rigid, **$2,400**; 50mm/f3.5 collap., **$1,750**; 85mm/f1.5 set, **$4,900**; 85mm/f2.0, 2nd series, $**15,600**!

Can you believe these prices? I have bought, sold & still own most of these SM Nikkors. I wish I could get these prices!



1000mm/f6.3 for RF #100668....$31,350? Less than the F lens!

Nikon M #6091304 w/Hybrid F2 #8112108....$5,575.

NIKON ONE #60924 W/F2 #70811. The earliest known surviving production Nikon in the world!....$157,000.

Black S2 #6170927 w/all black f1.4#361546..DID NOT SELL!

Black SP #6202658 w/f1.4....$5,225...A bargain!

STEREO-NIKKOR OUFIT...COMPLETE....$52,000.

SP #6200091 w/all black f1.4 #365223... $2,600?....THE LENS IS WORTH THAT!

135/f4 #61195 from the earliest known batch..RARE...But only $1,500..CHEAP!

Very rare PS 300mm/f2.8 ED Nikkor. About 100 of these lenses were made & heavily used. This one is mint...$4,900.

F3 NASA outfit w/5 lenses & accessories...DID NOT SELL!

1000mm Reflex-Nikkor in Nikon 'F' mount...$33,000?

Aluminum f1.4 #358230..$2,300

F3H High-Speed Set Complete...$5,600.

500mm/f5 SM Nikkor set..RARE...$11,300.

left..F3 NASA set...$26,000...right..Nikkor FTn..DID NOT SELL!

THE NHS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!!

Member Steve Koves has set up our very own page on **FACEBOOK** that is up and running right now. From your Facebook page simply type in **'Nikon Historical Society'** under search, or use this route:

http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Nikon-Historical-Society/1936194773

Steve is coordinating with Fred Krughoff who runs our website, so now we are on both forms of communication. Please check it out and get involved. Looks really good to me!

'NHS' MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY?

There has been significant interest in our producing some sort of membership list or directory. I do not know what shape this might finally take but we need to start somewhere. So this is the 'first call' for those who wish to be included. I will **ONLY** list those members who respond directly to me either by mail or email, since not everyone wants their information out there. I will await your response to this project. A format is needed and suggested below:

NAME
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS
EMAIL(S) AND/OR FAX# AND/OR PHONE #
MAIN COLLECTING INTERESTS (RF/REFLEX, OTHERS)

Let me hear from you if you wish to participate. RJR

LETTERS....LETTERS....

From Bud Presgrove (3/29/11)...I grieve for the people of Japan and their disaster. I was going to make a donation to the Red Cross or similar organization. I am proposing that we could better serve the efforts of the NHS, and help the people of Japan simultaneously, by giving as a group. I will be glad to donate the first $50 for the relief fund from the NHS. The NHS would collect the money and donate as one effort by the members....

5/23/11....I have an idea. By the time the next Journal will be sent out (July) the Japanese people will still be struggling with great problems as a result of the quake and tsunami. Their needs will still be there. If you feel this would not harm your membership, we could provide a way for anyone to voluntarily contribute money in any amount to be forwarded to a relief agency in the name of the NHS. (I have been thinking about Bud's letters and wondering how something like this can be done. I know of no charities that will allow money to be specifically channeled to Japan. Do you? Does anyone have knowledge of how we could do this? Also, because we are only a quarterly publication, I would think our website and new Facebook site might work better. All I can say is get your thoughts to me and get on the sites. If we can find an agency to channel the funds I would be willing to collect them. But again let me remind everyone. Checks can only be made payable to myself but better to **RJR PUBLISHING, NOT TO THE NHS!** Let me know! RJR)

NEW PAUL COMON BOOK

NHS member Paul Comon has just released another book. This one is titled "Fundamentals of Photo Composition". Published by Lark Photo Books, this full size 8.5x11in softcover book is 160 pages and is illustrated in both color and B&W. Since it deals with basic composition, it is not limited to just the current digital 'wunderkins", but is also usable for those of us who still use film from Minox size up to 8x10! In other words, everything. It deals with all aspects of composition and explains in great detail the history of the "Fibonacci Numbers" and theory of the 'golden rectangle', and how it all contributes to well balanced and composed photos. Odds are most of you use these methods and don't even know it. Chapters also cover formats (both film and paper), geometric frames, shapes, colors, balance and on and on. You may already produce well-composed photos, but you can still learn from this book. I read it through in a few days and leaned a great deal. The ISBN number is 978-1-60059-703-9 and for more information contact Paul at email address **pr.sr@verizon.net.**

SOME BOOK UPDATES...

Besides the featured items from Westlicht on page 16/17 here are a few updates to my book, and a correction.

50mm/f2.0 Hybrid Nikkor #8112387 on M6092149.
50mm/f2.0 **'ALL BLACK'** Nikkor #748621 (now we have 7!)
Stereo-Nikkor set #241854 was in the Westlicht auction
21mm/f4 Nikkor #621214 in **METERS!** Only the 2nd reported!
35mm/f1.8 Nikkor #351830 **WITH BLACK FRONT RIM!**
DUMMY SP with a **DUMMY F1.1 Nikkor** has been reported. I have known about the SPs but this is the first Dummy F1.1 ever reported to me. Sorry, no numbers available on this item.
CORRECTION: In the last issue I mentioned a Nikon S2E that sold at the Matsuya show. I listed it at '1 million yen'. The actual selling price was '11 million yen'! Dropped a '1'. WOW!

FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT

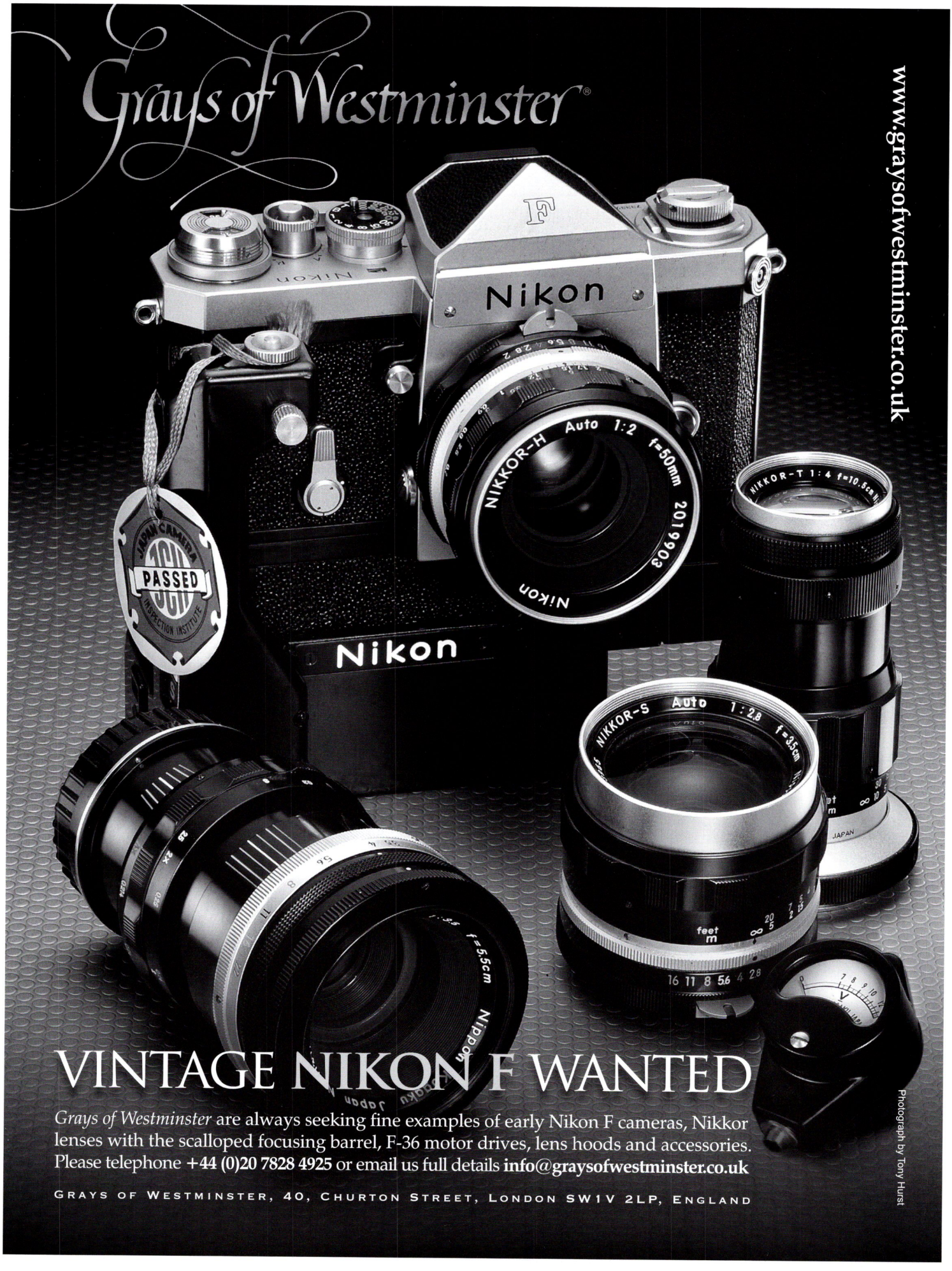
I am pleased to announce that the US inventory of my book is in place and all orders can be processed for immediate shipment. Since it became available the beginning of March 2008, I have been shipping within 48 hours of receiving payment.

Those of you who wish to obtain a signed copy from me need only to contact me and it will be done. Besides personally 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 all shipping and postage costs:

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
(PLEASE, NOT TO THE SOCIETY!).
THANK YOU.....RJR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CLASSIFIED ADS

SELL LIST... My latest sell list is available to whomever wishes to see it. Many Nikon RF items. I can send it via email or regular mail. Just contact me anytime. **Robert Rotoloni rotoloni@msn.com**

FOR SALE...Transparent Nikon F90, mint in box, one of only 26 made, 950 euro; **Nikon F2 High Speed**, mint-, 4500 euro; **Nikon FM2 'Half Frame',** only 34 were made for the Norwegian police, mint-, 5000 euro; **Nikon S3M black body #6600207,** 27,000 euro; **Nikon Model One #609319 w/f2 #708723,** 15,000 euro. Please call or email me for photos. **Peter Lownds, tel. 0031 654694193(Holland) qcs-man@gmail.com**

WANTED... Looking for MF-1 with inside numbers; B7850536 & M 785462. Please email me at csap@skynet.be. **Christophe Sap**

FOR SALE...Nikion F3 accessories; CF-20 Burgandy cs, 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor w/caps & shade, SB-17 flash cs & IB, DE-2 Non-HP finder, MC-10 remote cord, AC-4 flash coupler w/box, DK-12 eyecup w/box, (2) Nikon E screens w/box, K screeen w/box, D screen w/box, finder eyepiece w/box, body cap. Entire group of items for **$400** or contact me for individual prices. **James Leathem. email to jeldgl@aol.com Thank you.**

WANTED... Ultra-Micro Nikkors, APO EL Nikkors, Nikkor-O 55mm/f1.2 in screwmount, 50mm/f2 collapsible Nikkor ser #609xx batch, 50mm/f3.5 Nikkor collapsible in Nikon mount, W.A. Apo-Nikkors f9, Vivitar 135mm/f1.5, Nikkor 180mm/f2.5 mint in box, Nippon Kogaku Seiki camera, Ihagee Nachtkamera, Nachtreflex 4.5x6cm & 6.5x9cm. **Biagio Guerra. Tel (702) 683-7338 or guerrabn@aol.com**

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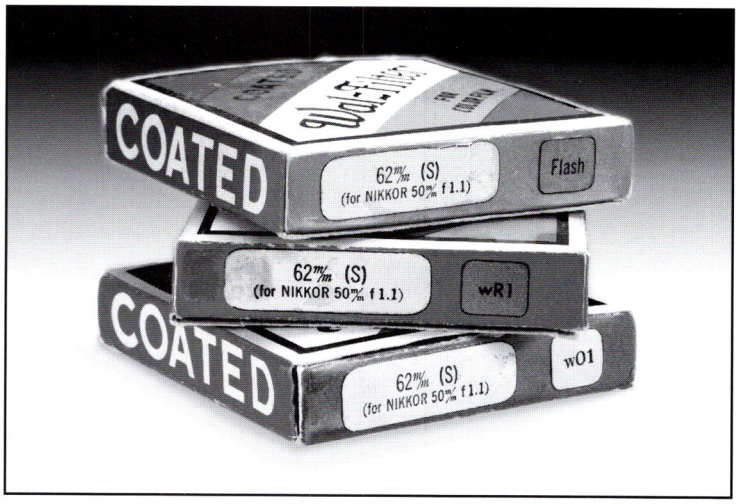
odds 'n ends

WALZ FILTERS FOR THE F1.1 NIKKOR?

PHOTOS BY TONY HURST



During the rangefinder era, Walz, a small independent Japanese accessory maker, made some items to fit the Nikons. They included variframe-type finders, flash units, shades and filters. Their filters for the 50f2 (40.5mm) and f1.4 (43mm) Nikkors are actually quite common. However, I never knew that they also made 62mm filters for the f1.1 Nikkor! The chrome-rimmed Nikon made items are very hard to find today since the f1.1 was never made in any big numbers. That Walz would have ventured into this area is a surprise to me. Tony Hurst sent these superb photos of this prize item. Now it looks like I have something else to look for.