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JUNE 30, 2012

NHS-116



NHS-CON13-COMPLETE COVERAGE
NIKON JOURNAL





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NHS -117 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-117, is September 1, 2012. Please get all contributions to me by that date so I can get the next issue out on time. Thank you. RJR.

EDITORIAL

NHS-Con13 is now history and I am happy to say that our meeting in Paris was successful. We had 45 members in the room on Friday who enjoyed a full day of presentations, coffee & pastries, a fine lunch, and a chance to see some interesting equipment and just talk Nikons. I have included 12 pages of coverage starting on the facing page with over 80 photos to give everyone an idea of how you can have a good time with your fellow Nikon collectors. The meeting itself was just one day but most of us were there for 5-7 days and filled that time sightseeing, going to museums, shopping, shooting the beauty of Paris, and spending a lot of time together surrounded by good food and drink and great conversation. Maybe we will see you at #14, wherever that may be.

For even more photos, and in color, go to our website where Fred Krughoff has a link to them or to Thierry Ravassod's site listed in NHS115's convention info page.

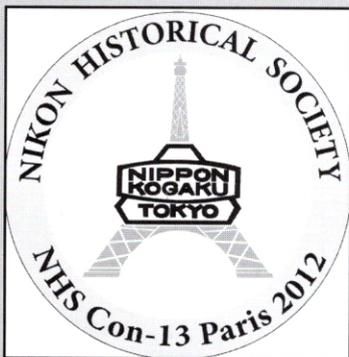
Wes Loder, an expert on such things as early Nikon binocular history, has an article on page 13 about how N-K was able to produce on a massive scale and at an affordable price, glasses for nearly every NCO in the Japanese military during WWII. It is an interesting and little known story and an insight into the awesome capabilities of N-K in those early years. I have seen articles from after the War written by US military writers about the surprising quality of the optical ordnance used by Japan. Believe me, they were impressed.

The auction world saw two large sales in April and May. You can see 3 pages of coverage with photos and hammer prices starting on page 15. These sales are very important in that they not only can be used as a guide to current real value but also serve to maintain and increase interest in all things photographic. Therefore, they serve a purpose, which is why I feel it is necessary that I cover them in detail. Besides I find them to be interesting as I hope you do.

On page 18 I have an article I have wanted to do for some time. Very early on in my research, which began in 1971, I realized there was great fun in accumulating and cataloging serial numbers. Much could be learned by just looking at the numbers, including when they became a little confusing or just simply strange. One example has always been the '358' batch of 5cm/f1.4 Nikkors. Although made in huge numbers, there was this small batch of 'misfits' that needed a closer look. I did cover them in my book but I have updated my information for this issue. A wild and interesting group of lenses.

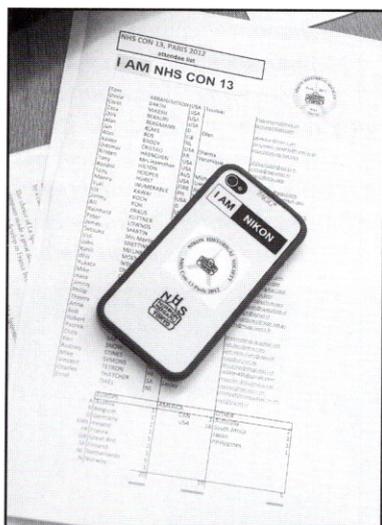
Member and professional photographer Al Satterwhite has published yet another book in his long career, entitled, 'The Racers'. Here is the announcement: The 1960s & 70s was a magical era of innovation and endurance at Sebring and Daytona racetracks. Photographer Al Satterwhite was there covering them for major magazines and as a fan. Today his unprecedented collection of images of the races, the cars, the drivers and behind-the-scenes poignant moments are available in his latest fine art collector edition book, "The Racers". Please go to Al's websitt for more information and page excerpts....al@alsatterwhite.com

Postage increases are killing me. The last dues increase was January of 2007, almost 6 years ago. I have to take a close look at things and may have to increase dues a bit to cover these increases. Let me know your thoughts. RJR



NHS-CON13 7 DAYS IN PARIS

NHS-Con13 came off nearly perfect as 70 people (members & spouses) descended on Paris during a week of perfectly cloudless skies and temperatures in the high 70s. We saw rain only once and it was just a short shower. But how do you get so many people together from all over the world in a faraway city and have everything in place so that it runs well? There is only one way to do it and that is to have the right people on the ground to make all the arrangements. As always the committee did all the work and I need to thank them personally.



Bill Kraus & Yuki Kawai helped on the US end with organization & Bill was in charge of the gifts (the button with our logo, the engraved lens caps & the presentation plaques for the speakers & the committee). In Europe there was Chris Sap who took care of all the money, since he is an accountant, as well as helped set up the hotel & dinner. My two Frenchmen on the scene were Thierry Ravassod and Patrick Rouillard. Patrick did much to arrange for the hotel but also was able to

come up with the boat for our dinner cruise after the Eiffel tower cancelled on us with only 2 weeks to go! Finally, Thierry ran all the AV for the meeting, produced our banners & nametags & promoted the Society at his booth in Bievres. Thank you to all for it never would have happened without you.



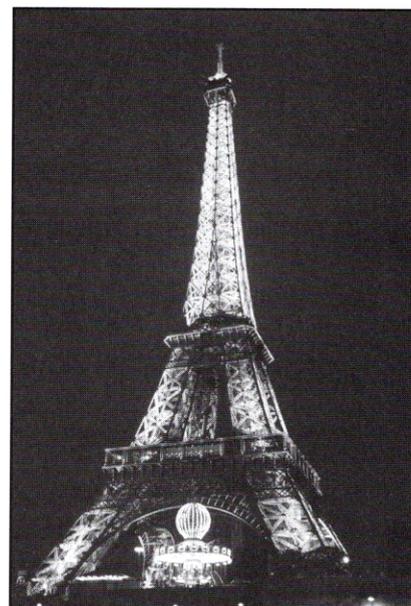
JP

Our speakers filled the day with their presentations. Yuki Kawai on the S2X; Bill Kraus on the almost mythical 30mm Fisheye Nikkor for the Bronica; Thierry & Bob Rogen for covering the entire Nikonos line; Uli Koch for his extensive talk on the German "Nikkor F" era; Chris Sap for all those engraving errors & the 2 bound books on his Nikon One research project & lists such as the Red Dots, black bodies, auctions & updates (which he did at his own expense!) & Tony Hurst for yet another fabulous Nikon slide show.

But I must also thank all who attended, as each had to spend the money & devote the time to supporting the Society. Many came very long distances such as Australia, South Africa, the Philippines & Japan. Others from the States & Canada but also many European countries such as Finland, Norway, Sweden, Ireland, England, Belgium, Holland, Germany &, of course, France.

I have said it before & I will say it again. Our conventions are social events. Yes we have a day of meetings but it is surrounded by days of talking, eating & drinking with fellow members as well as sightseeing & shopping. It was a 7-day party & we did everything together. I hope the photos on these 12 pages will give all a good idea of what we do & the fun we have. Maybe we will see some of you who couldn't make Paris at NHS-Con14. I hope so. We get new people every time as well as our 'core' of dedicated convention goers who get to see each other every two years.

It was a good time with good food & drink, good weather & good people in a great city. We talked Nikons & learned some new things but we also enjoyed ourselves. I think the photos are self-explanatory. Join us and have a good time. I know I did. RJR



BK



BK.

Above..Some went to the rather posh restaurant in the Gare deLyon train station near the hotel. The Kraus' & the Miettinen. Below..We had to eat on Wednesday too! We tend to take over restaurants when we walk in with 20 or more people! Scares the hell out of the chef!



BK.

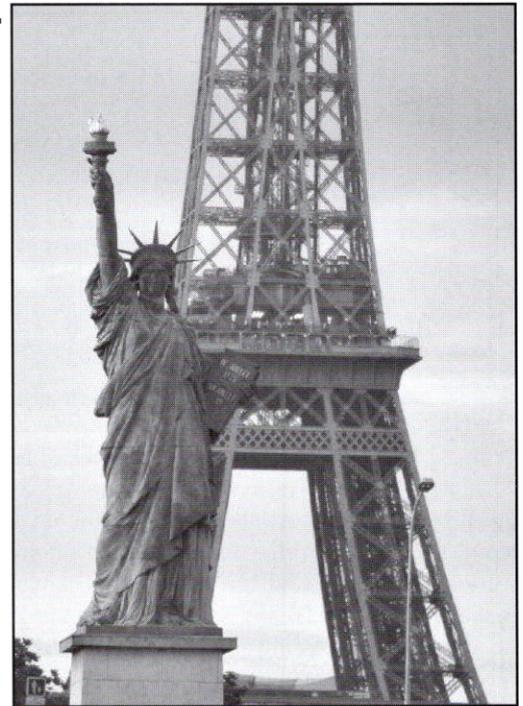
As is always the case I need photos to put this issue out. I don't have time myself to shoot everything so I depend on others. I have received photos from many & in order to credit each photo correctly I will use initials to save space. Here is the key to who took what. DB-Dave Barth; AB-Alan Blake; ZB-Zaza Bekauri; DH-Dietmar Haenchen; YK-Yuki Kawai; BK-Bill Kraus; KM-Kjetil Moen; JP-Jimmy Purimahuwa; CS-Chris Sap; TR/A-Terry Ravassod/Anna; RR-yours truly; KS-Ken Snow;RS-Rod Stines.

We had members from all over the world attend. Below are Manny & Nini Inumerable from the Philippines.Right..Yuki Kawai (US) with Dietmar & Kristen Haenchen (US) doing what else but eating out. Below right...L-R..Praba Kawai, Denise Miettinen (Finland) & Dorothy Kraus (US) sharing a table. Denise has a Nikon RF in her hand! Even the wives get into it!

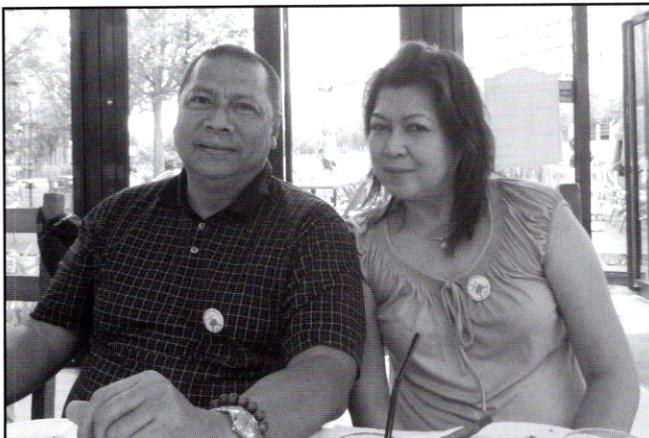
DH.



CS.



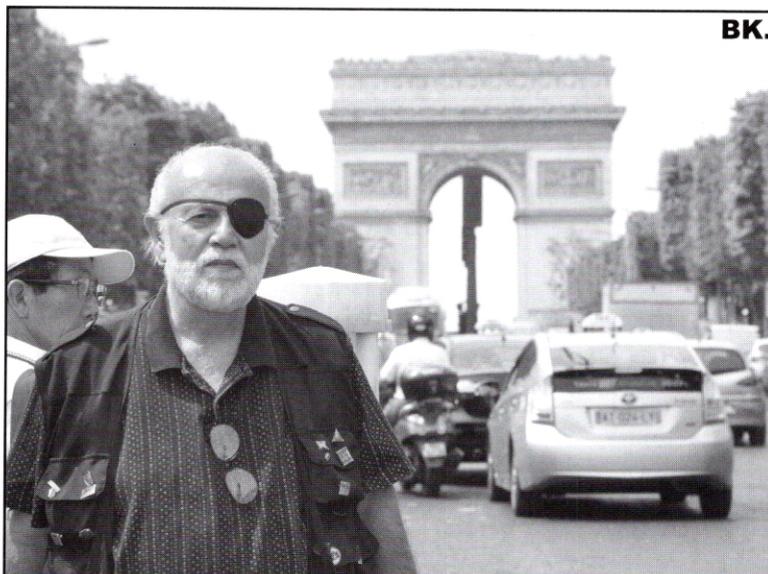
I have always said that our meetings are social events & not just some lectures. What do we do before & after the meeting? We enjoy each other's company, make new friends & spend time with old ones. What we do most is....eat! As you can see we spent a lot of time around tables of food & wine talking & getting to know each other. Did we talk Nikons? Some of the time.



YK.



YK.



BK.



BK.

We have to walk off all that food & wine with some sightseeing. And there is a lot to see in Paris. Above..Yuki Kawai with Jim & Setsuko Martin (US) get ready to roll. Above left..We had to take this shot without getting run over, but it was worth the effort.



YK.

Of course after all that walking you need to replenish so to the restaurants we go. Above..Front, Kjetil Moen & Tove (Norway) share a table with Al & Sherna Brody (US) rear. Right..Old 'One Eye' with Yuki Kawai & John Millham (Eng). Below..No smoking in the hotel but they had a very large front walkway. Three who took advantage are L-R, Zaza Bekauri (US), Yutaka Ohtsu (Japan) & Tom Abrahamsson (Canada). Tom is world famous for his Rapid Trigger Winder for the Leica M cameras.



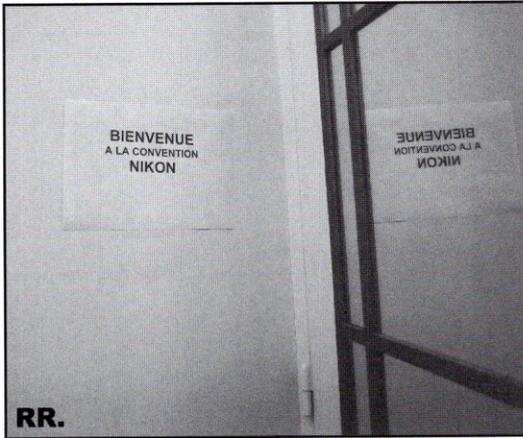
BK.

DB.



KM.

Above..L~R..Tove Moen with Al & Sherna Brody in the gardens at Versailles, which is so large that renting a golf cart to view it made a lot of sense.



RR.

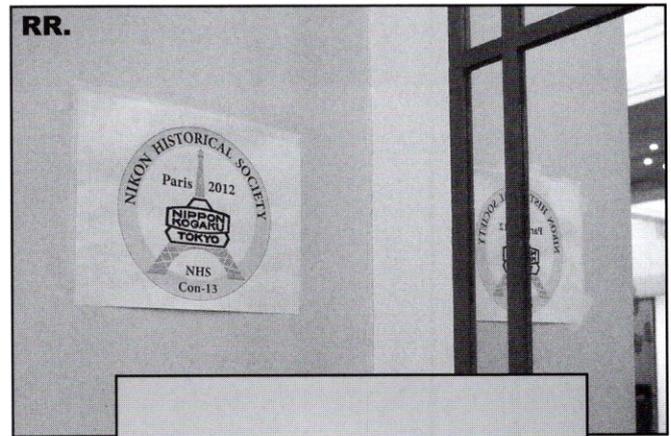
The meeting room was superb. Lots of room & a high ceiling with a large skylight (which we would eventually make use of). We managed to fill the room with 45 attendees. I decided that I liked our logo sign better than theirs. What do you think?



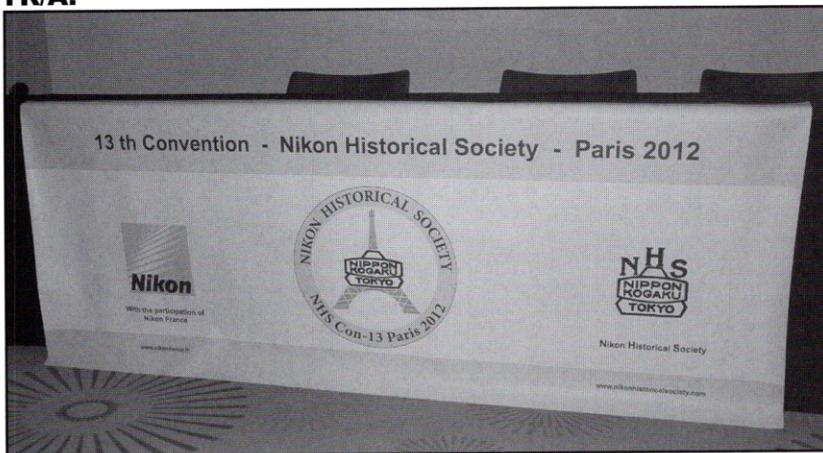
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TR/A.



RR.



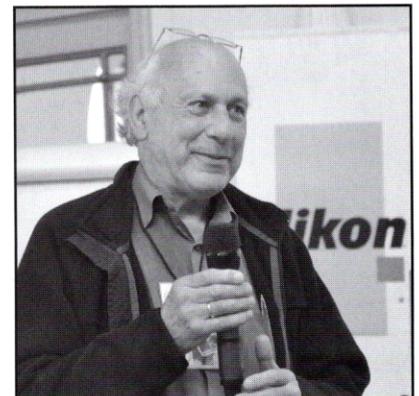
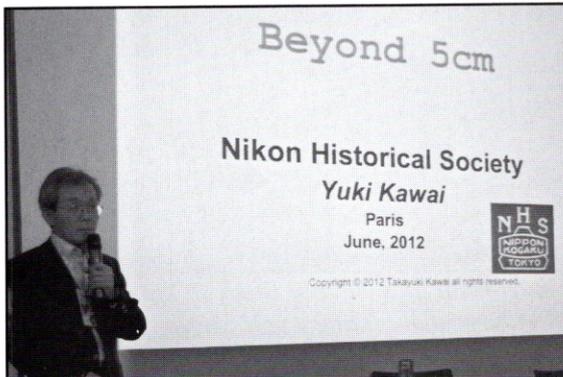
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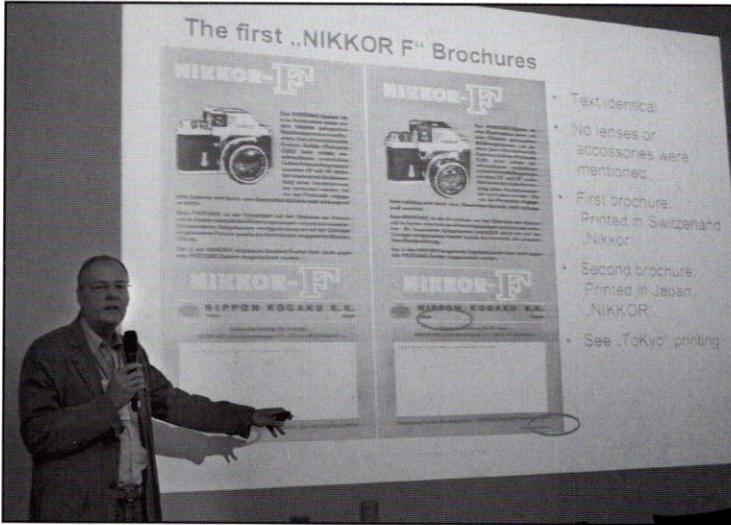
BK.

Terry Ravassod made this marvelous banner measuring eight ft. across. It would also be present on the boat Friday night & at his booth in Bievres on Saturday. Thank you, Terry. Left.. Yuki Kawai had a great presentation on the virtually unknown Nikon S2X experimental camera. It came with a special finder that showed the fields for 50, 85, 105 and 135mm lenses! Only 2 are known to have been made. Right.. As always, master photographer Tony Hurst produced a fabulous slide show. He also designed our official poster on the back cover!

DH.



BK.



DH.



DH.

Above..Other speakers included Uli Koch who covered in great detail the story of the German 'Nikkor F' products. Did you know they had serial numbered straight prisms? Neither did I! Terry (right) & Bob Rogen (bottom left) covered the entire Nikonos line from the French Calypso to the RS.



TR/A.

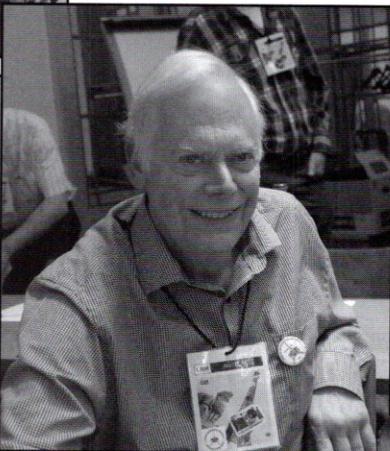


BK.

Left..Chris Sap (BE) handing out his great books. Above..Patrick Rouillard (R) (FR) & Hans Ploegmakers (NL). Hans chaired Vienna & Bruges & Patrick did much for this meeting.



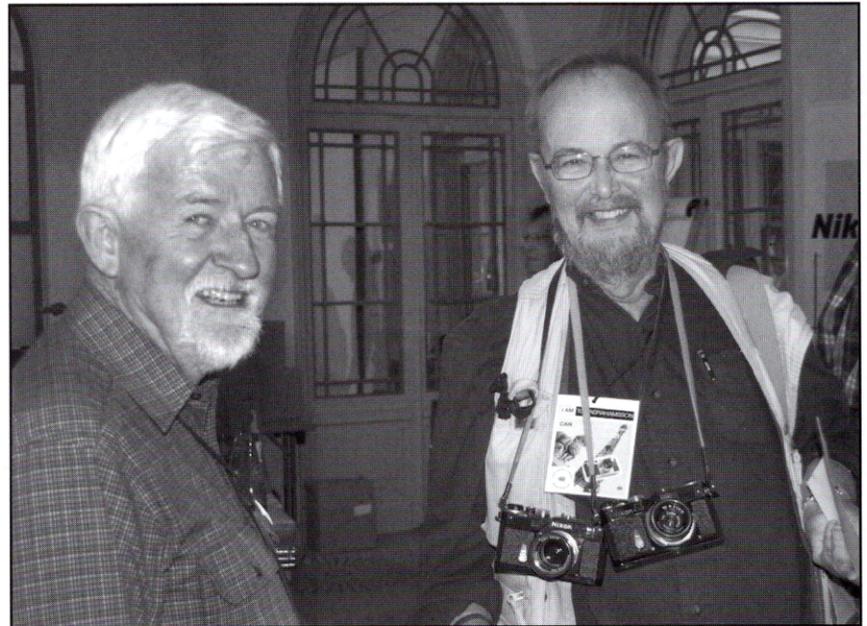
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TR/A.

DB.

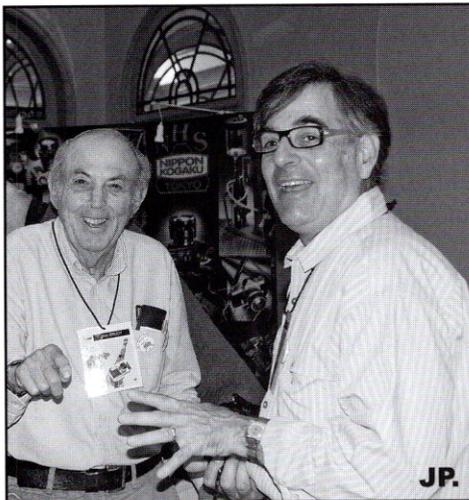
Left..Alan Blake (ENG) is the man who does the great job of maintaining our index on our website. Above..Wils Nieuwhof (L) & Ernst Thiel (both NL) kindly trucked over 250 pounds of my books & the Hurst Wall from Holland! Fantastic!



DH.

BK.

JP.



We left enough time between talks for some socializing. Coffee and pastries were in the room all day & we had 2 such breaks besides lunch. A good chance to just get to know each other. Top left..Terry with the awesome Nikonos RS. Top right...Phil Ramsden(L) (AUS) and Tom Abrahamsson (CAN) are old friends! Left..Two from the US. Al Brody (L) and Bob Rogen, who gave the Nikonos talk with Terry. Right.. Bill Kraus came up with the gift idea. Metal lens caps laser etched with our NHS-Con13 logo, which was designed by Terry. A great job.

JP.



Bottom left...L~R..John Millham (ENG), Tony Hurst (IRE) & Mike Symons (CAN) checking out something on a table during the swap meet. Bottom right..The French contingent..Vincent Tetron (L) and Patrick Rouillard, one of the organizers.



BK.



DB.

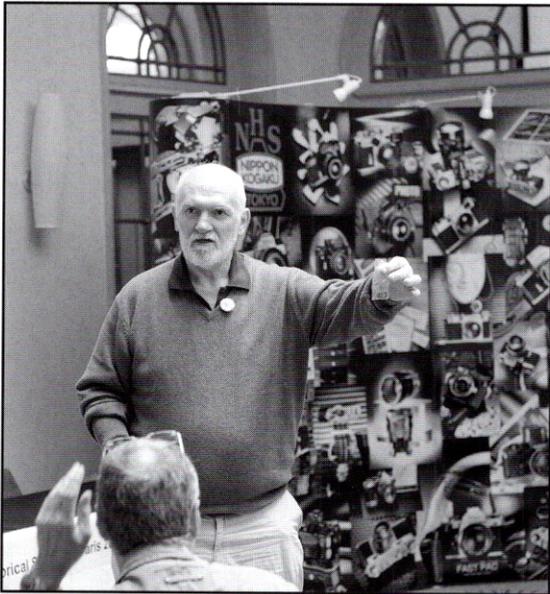


We had time for a nice Show n' Tell session that brought out some interesting items. Left & Below right...Terry Ravassod (FR) brought his very rare Nikkor J in black, one of only two so far collected! A beautiful piece. Below left & right...Peter Lownds (NL) holding up a little plastic bag. What is it? How about an eyepiece correction lens for the SP! Ever seen one? And a nice Nikon F with the rare Mikami Rapid Winder attached! I have only seen one other in 40 years. Bottom right..Peter's table for the swap meet. Peter is the only member besides myself to have attended all 13 Conventions! The Hurst wall is also his creation.

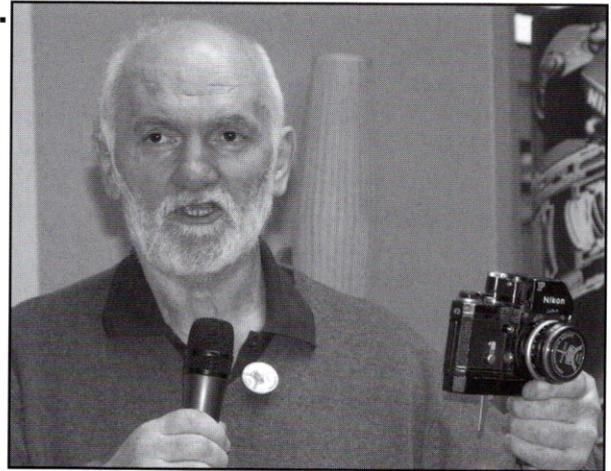
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TR/A.

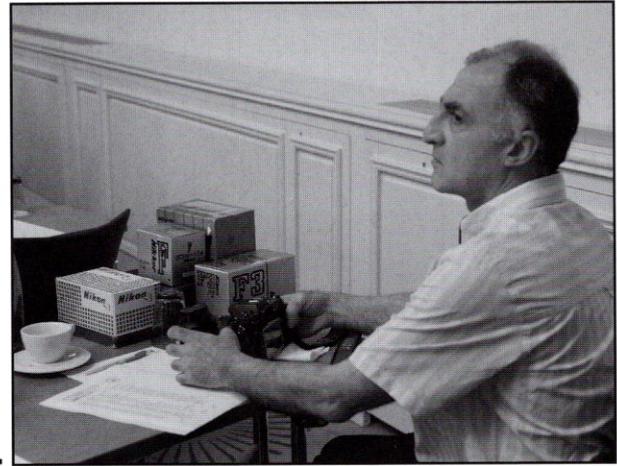


TR/A.

Am I tired? No, it just looks that way. I had a 5:30am wake up call so it was a long day. But a good one!



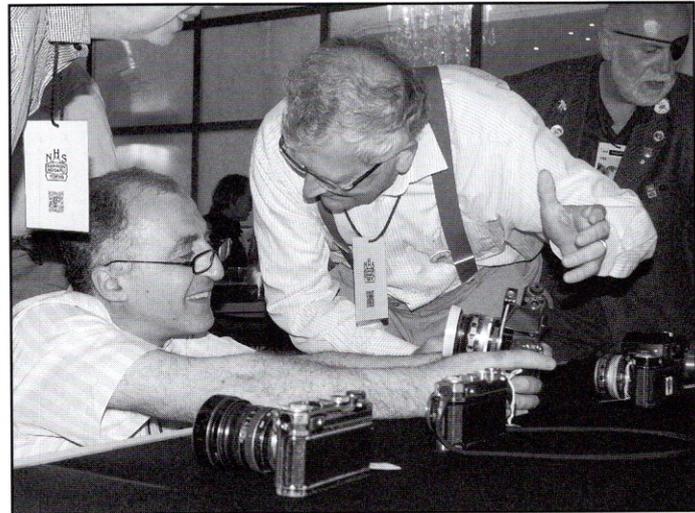
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TR/A.



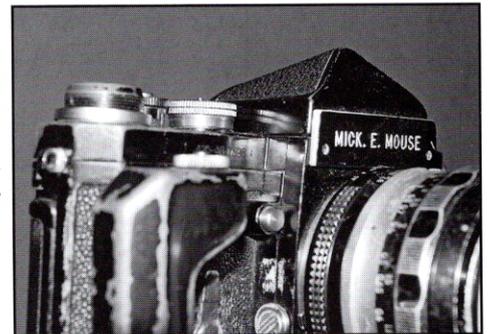
DH.



JP.

Top left..Dave Barth (US) & right.. Zaza Bekauri (US) working their tables during the swap meet. Left.. Chris Sap (BE), Xavier Cristau (FR) & Jan Bos (NL) looking over entires in the 'worst' Nikon in the room. Above right..Chris & Zaza also checking them out before voting. And the winner is...To the right is 'MICK E. MOUSE', ugly but cute!
Submitted for voting by Chris Sap.

JP.



What is Mike Otto (US) looking at? Is it a bird?..is it a plane?



OK, so what are all of these people looking at? It's not a bird or a plane. Is it Superman? No actually it's Anna. See our Odds n' Ends page for the answer. All 3 by Anna.





DH.



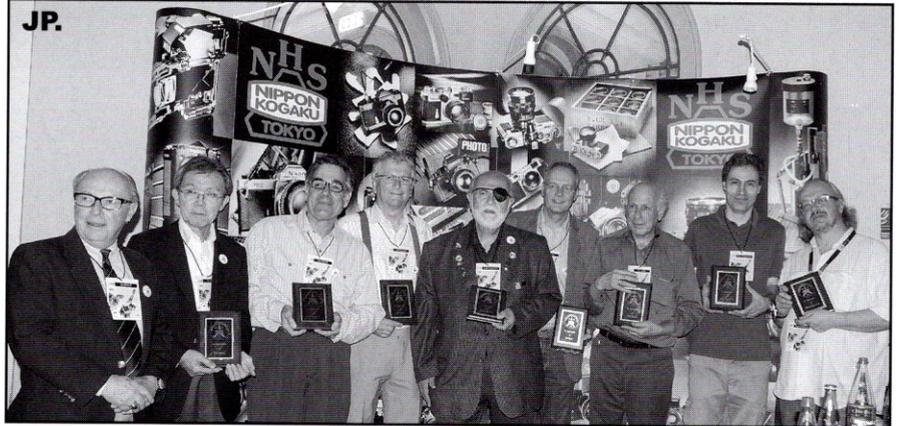
My Convention committee without which NHS-Con13 would never have been. L~R..Terry Ravassod, Bill Kraus, RJR, Chris Sap, Patrick Rouillard, Yuki Kawai. Thank you, one and all. All who were there owe them their gratitude.

Each speaker & committee member received a special plaque . Here Yuki Kawai is honored.

DB.



BK.

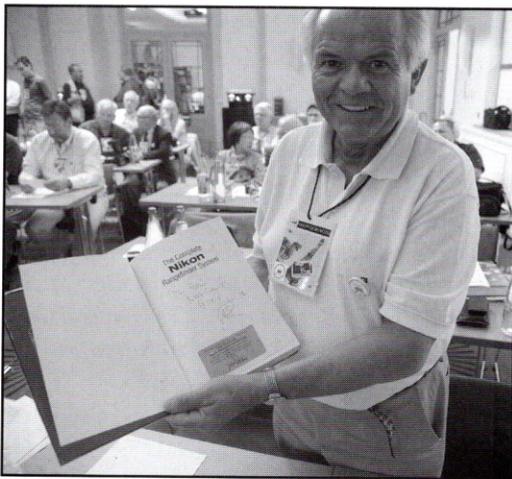


JP.

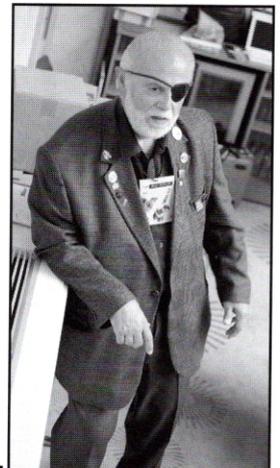
Left..We had a reunion ceremony. I own M6091948 w/back #1924. Zaza Bekauri owns M6091924 w/ back #1948. We found this out by chance thanks to Chris Sap & decided to bring them together in Paris. Now both cameras are correct. Above right..All the speakers with their plaques. Lunch time! Left..Hans Ploegmakers (NL) & right, Anna Ischenko & Xavier Cristau (FR). Bottom left..Bob Rogen (L) & Tony Hurst. Bottom middle, Jimmy Purimahuwa (NL). Every table had a NIKON sign. I think they all disappeared. I wonder where they went? It was the best lunch by far in all 13 meetings! But we were in Paris.



TR/A.



TR/A.



TR/A.

Am I tired? Do I look tired?



JP.



TR/A.



TR/A.

CS.



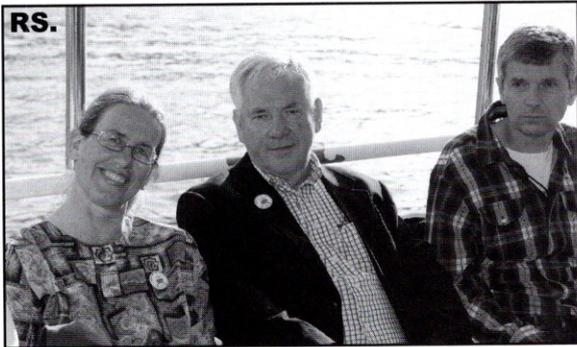
TR/A.

Top right...There's our banner once more! Top left... Getting ready to leave the dock. The restaurant is on the lower level. Right...We spent more than an hour on the open deck enjoying wine and fine weather. Above...Uli & Ursula Koch (GER) enjoying some champagne. It was a beautiful night indeed.



JP.

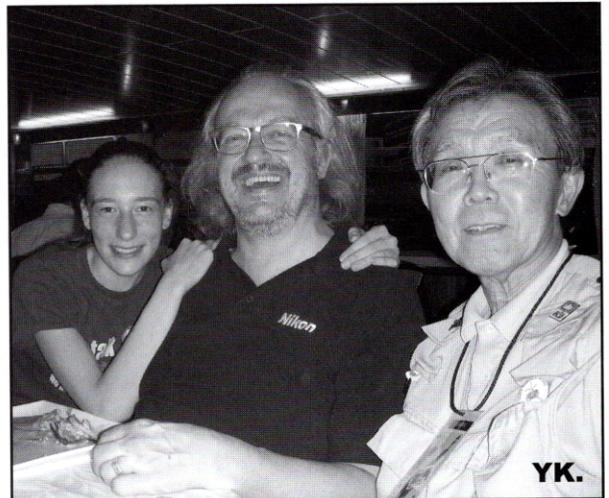
Left...Tove and Kjetil Moen (L) (Nor) with Jan Bos (NL). We spent the time before dinner enjoying the sunshine, taking some photos and just relaxing after the long meeting. Bottom left...The 'bar' line could get a little long. Wine and champagne for everyone. L~R...Zaza Bekauri(US), Dietmar Haenchen (US), Dirk Bergmann (GER), Yutaka Ohtsu (Japan) & Ken Snow (US). Bottom right...Yuki Kawai with Terry Ravassod and Anna. Because Terry was busy during the meeting running the AV & speaking, Anna took many of the photos marked TR/A..



RS.



TR/A.



YK.



JP.
Above..Caroline & Chris Sap drinking their share of the wine. Above right..Kristen & Dietmar Haenchen (L) & Ken Snow. All from the US & the first convention for all as well. Right...Charles & Lesley Thatcher (L) & Hans Ploegmakers (NL). It was also the first time for the Thatchers, who came all the way from South Africa! Others came from afar as well, including Australia, Japan & the Philippines.

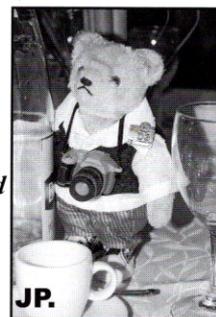


DB.

Left...Tom & Tuulikki Abrahamsson (CAN) flanking Kjetil Moen. Bottom left...Dave Barth and Carol Mikesh(US) enjoying the cool breeze up top. Note that 'little tower' in the background. On the return trip we would see it all lit up (see pg. 1).



Bottom right....By pure chance it was also the 30th wedding Anniversary for Bob and Louise Rogen, so we had a little cake and light show for them. Right...An unidentified fellow passenger was seen. Anyone know who it might be?



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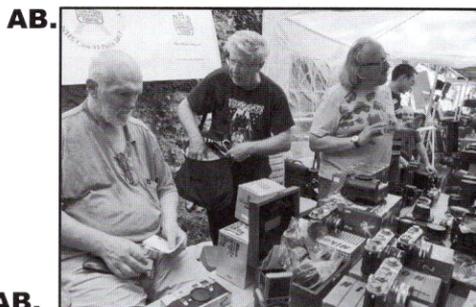


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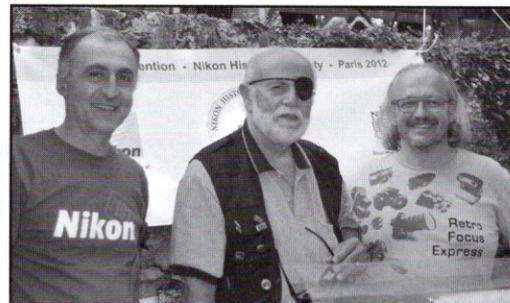


Top 3.. Terry Ravassod used his booth at Bievre to promote the NHS. Peter Lownds helped as well as Zaza Bekauri. Tony Hilton (AUS) center below stopped by. Note the two banners made by Terry!

ZB.



AB.



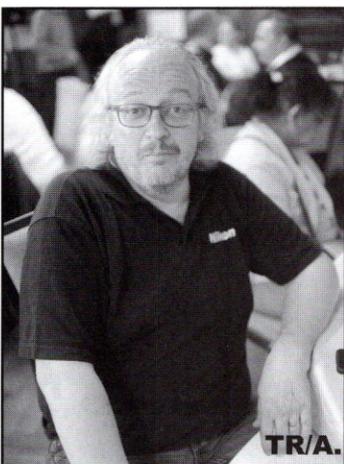
BK.



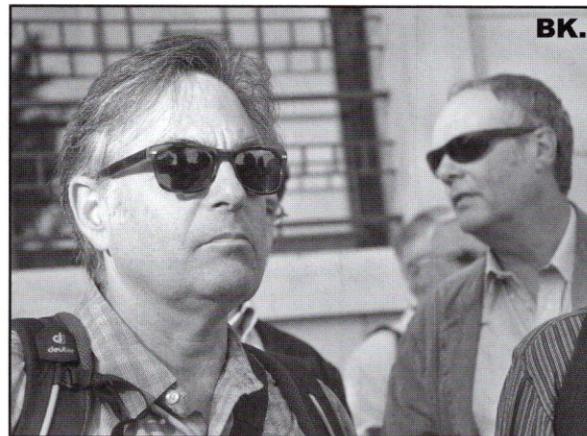
Bievre was awesome! I have been to many shows but nothing like this. I don't know how many miles I walked. I have never seen so much photographica in one place before.



KS.



TR/A.



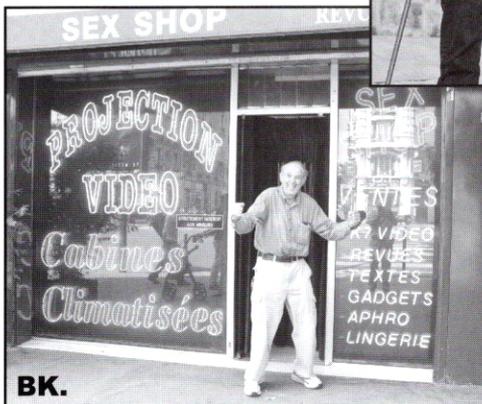
BK.

Above...(Terry Ravassod) What me worry? I told you it would all work didn't I? Right...Bob, I know you're tired & have only one eye, but it works better with the lenscap removed!



JP.

Above right..We caught the shooting of a new movie on the streets of Paris: MIB-NHS! (Bob Rogen & Uli Koch) Right..The show committee thought of everything. Just in case anyone got bored our hotel was next door to some entertainment. I tried to see if someone used it and all I got was this guy in the left photo. All I could hear him saying was, WOW!



BK.



RR.

THE OBJECTIVE AT HAND: TYPE 93 NCO FIELD BINOCULARS

By MICHAEL WESCOTT LODER

Four-power field glasses for non-commissioned officers in the Japanese Imperial Army.

Background:

As the war in China intensified, the Japanese armed forces continued to increase their use of optics as critical components of their technical arms. In 1933 the Imperial Army decided that all non-commissioned officers should receive a pair of binoculars. This proved to be a challenge. The army already expected all commissioned officers to have binoculars but these were not issued. Instead the officers had to buy their own (these were usually the Nippon Kogaku-made 6x24 Orions, or equivalent for company grade officers). Such prismatic units would be prohibitively expensive for issue to every sergeant or corporal, for even the cheapest prismatic units then cost at least 80 yen. Expected and willing to increase its government contracts, NK came up with a unique solution: four-power non-prismatic field glasses that could be produced for only 30 yen—or a little over eight 1930s US dollars.

To quote from two web sources:

“The result was the Imperial Army NCO field binocular Type 93, a Galilean with a reticle for estimating distance. Reticles are not normally used in Galilean binoculars because there is no internal focal plane, but in the NK design a scale was etched on the inner surface of the objective, and a convex lens was glued to the upper half of the [right] ocular, to focus on the scale. This design is unique among mass produced binoculars and quite effective.”

Outline of Japanese binocular production, by Peter Abrahams, telscope@europa.com

“In the early ‘30s, Imperial Army maneuvered in Manchuria and found they needed all NCOs to have a pair of binoculars to spot the potential enemy (then the USSR). But prismatic binos then cost 80 yen a pair. That was too much of a budget. So they ordered Nippon Kogaku to make them at 30 yen a pair. Nippon Kogaku designed a pair in Galilean design and in mass production they could reduce the cost. They also added a distance scale in an ingenious way so far impossible in Galilean design. The scale was etched [on the] inside surface of the objective lens and focused through a convex lens glued to the upper half of the ocular lens.”

[<http://www.cameraguild.jp/nekosan/ww2.html>]

This extra half-lens appears as a horizontal line across the right-hand ocular (see illustration). Many owners and sellers not understanding how the reticle works, have decided that this line is an indication that the back lens is either cracked or scratched! AND, please note that the Type 93 field binocular was NOT for commissioned officers. It was issued to enlisted NCOs.

Description:

The housings are mostly cast aluminum with brass screws and fittings and with bakelite used for the focusing knob and the eyecups—which can unscrew. The glasses use a simple, center-focusing knob which moves the rear objectives to set focus, the same as found on almost all opera glasses, field glasses and many modern binoculars. Rotating the focus wheel out until a notch appears on top brings the focus out to infinity. The center section hinges to allow matching the oculars to the eye separation of the user. The bodies are covered with a rough, baked-on covering made from paint, glue and cork or sawdust. It has the feel of leather, but is more durable. The exposed metal is painted a glossy black.

The use of leather was an issue for roughly-used equipment since many of the troops were soon fighting in tropical and island settings where even high-quality leather soon rots. As a result, most of the 4X cases the author has seen are made of stiff, molded and coated, canvas duck. Leather straps riveted to the sides hold a removable cotton canvas, adjustable strap. The case secures with a leather strap that fastens over a brass tang. In most examples, as here, this heavily-used fastener is broken or missing.

The back of the field glass focus bracket carries raised marks and lettering that are part of the aluminum bracket’s casting. To the top left is the outline (without lettering) of the familiar NK-Nikko logo consisting of the horizontal lens over a three-sided prism. This is the only indication that this is an NK product. Below this are the letters “JES”, followed by two *hiragana* characters. Since this is the only lettering found anywhere on the glasses many owners refer to these as “JES” binoculars. In fact, the “JES” stands for “Japanese Engineering Standards”, a series of manufacturing standards first applied to grading steel in 1921, then expanded to cover a wide range of metals manufacture, particularly products designed for military use. Why on an optical product? The two *hiragana* characters give the answer. They stand for “ne-ji” which translates as “screw”. In this case, it means that these optics use screw threads that meet the JES standard. This JES mark appears on other military optical equipment, such as gun sights, transits and telescopes. Below the JES mark is a tiny stamp that is the military inspection and approval mark. On this particular glass it looks like it was stamped on through the paint and resembles a capital B.

The “JES” mark is not found on Type 93s after serial number 87XXX. We do not know why.

In the center, wrapping around the central screw is the unit’s serial number. This is cut into the black paint and white-filled. In at least one picture, a serial number is not apparent. Did it wear off? Or do not all Type 93s have numbers? In one other sample, the serial number appears to be stamped in the casting where the NK mark would be.

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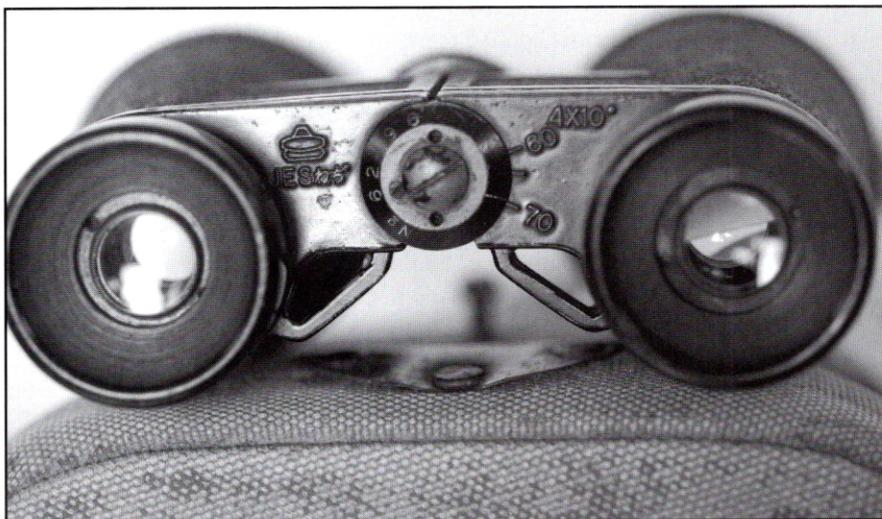
To the right, again in cast lettering, is the mark 4X 10'. The four refers to the amount of magnification. The ten to the angle of view—not the objective size! The size of the objective is not given but measures approximately 40mm. This is quite large for such a small magnification and contributes to the bright image despite the lack of any optical coatings. Raised marks at 60 and 70 indicate the angle setting for the exit pupil separation adjustment.

Unlike NK's post-war opera glasses, there is provision for a narrow, leather neck strap, which, in the sample shown, is missing.

NK must have produced tens of thousands of these little optical gems. Serial numbers the author has been able to record range from a low of 1,912 to a high of 130,142. Virtually all of the Type 93s that currently show up on ebay come from the estates of American soldiers and Marines. Many of these are in poor condition, evidence that what we are seeing were souvenirs taken from Japanese NCOs in the Pacific Island battles.

NK abandoned the 4X field design after the war, although I have seen reports of a "4X Shiki" that apparently never reached production. Instead, NK turned to 3.5X opera glasses for sale to the Occupation forces. The NK-made SPICAs would go into production in November 1945, less than a month after the resumption of the manufacture of the 7X NOVARs. Most of the SPICAs probably used glass already on hand that had been intended for use in the tiny field glasses that every Japanese sergeant once carried.

However, a good design can prove to be hard to put down. Here is a pair of MIOJ opera glasses using the name "LUPINON". In every detail they are exact replicas of the Type 93 field glasses, even down to the placement of the marks and the provision for the neck strap. No reticle, of course. They do offer one improvement: the optics are coated. The view through them is excellent, proof of a good design and its potential.



THE AUCTION SCENE...

I have two major auctions to report on this issue, one on each side of the 'pond'. I will start off with Stan Tamarkin's sale (now called Tamarkin & Bertoldi Vintage Auctions) which was held on April 29th. Always strong in Leica, Stan moved a beautiful black Leica MP #126 for \$156,000 including the premium! That is real money. But getting back down to earth lets look at what the Nikons did.

Some items sold and others did not but there were, as always, some nice prices realized telling me that camera collecting is still going strong for the right items. Starting with some reflex pieces bidders paid the following (premium incl.):

58mm/f1.2 Noct-Nikkor AIS version\$2700.
Nikon F black straight prism EX++ (2 sold for the same) \$420ea
Nikon FTn black w/f1.8..near mint.....\$780.
Nikon FTn black w/micro..like new!.....\$900.

A GOLD Nikon FA with matching f1.4 in wood box did not sell nor did a reflex 21mm/f4 lens set. But those were really good prices for the black Nikon F bodies. Now the RF items:

50mm/f1.1 Nikkor External..EX++\$3600.
85mm/f2.0 Nikkor in black w/hood..near mint.....\$660.
Nikon S w/f1.4 Nikkor...near mint \$1250!
Nikon S2 w/f1.4 with a factory modified finder \$1200!
Nikon S3 BLACK (1st batch w/cloth shutter)..VG\$4800.
Nikon SP ch w/f2 and original box..EX++ \$3600!

Some surprises here. The f1.1 is a little low but that S at \$1250 is over the top! Wow! The modified S2 might be correct if it can be verified while the black S3 is about right. But \$3600 for a nice boxed chrome SP is a little much. But what did not sell was that SP with the Japanese Navy markings. Its minimum was only \$400 more than the other SP yet no takers. Strange.

Stan's next auction is set for October 28th. Check out his website at info@tbvintage.com.

On May 12th Peter Coeln held his 21st Westlicht auction in Vienna. Peter always has a large selection of Nikons to go along with all those Leicas. Here are some prices converted to dollars and including the buyers premium:

Nikon One w/f2 Nikkor completely original.....\$23,400.
Nikon M w/very early 4 digit f1.5 Nikkor\$3750.
Nikon S4 w/f2 Nikkor...EX+++.....\$2000.
Nikon SP outfit w/4 lenses including a 28mm, 35mm, f1.4 & the rare 105/f4 Nikkor! Plus a black Variframe finder & the very rare 28 attachment!..the entire outfit \$2800!
35mm/f1.8 Nikkor..went for \$1250 & another one sold for ...\$800
A SM 35/f1.8 Nikkor, boxed and mint went for \$1500!
25mm/f4 SM Nikkor outfit with finder & shade!!..... \$2350!
Aluminum f1.4 Nikkor #358230...mint-\$2000.

50/f1.4 Nikkor #358101!..chrome colon lens!!!! \$750!
(That price makes me feel good. I have 5 of them!)

50mm/f1.5 Nikkor in SM with metal can..... \$3000!
Abrahamsson Rapid Winder for Nikon..... \$8600!

And last but not least.....

Nikon S2E #6194011 w/f1.4 in really nice shape\$53,000!!

So what have we? Well, the One was a little low; the M & S4 about right; the SP outfit was a steal!!; the SM 25mm had that rare shade so I feel the price is right; the Aluminum went a little low while the colon lens proved very interesting. It looks like collectors are starting to see their significance. Maybe the article in this issue will give them a boost; that SM f1.5 was a little high but the can is rare; Tom's Rapid Winder I think surprised everyone as it went for 9x the estimate!; as for the S2E, it probably went a bit low, believe it or not. It should have reached at least \$60,000! But who am I to say.

Now for the reflex items;

Nikon F #6400518 & 4 matching 'tick mark' lenses\$5900.
Nikon F #6404884 in BLACK w/f2.....\$3750.
Nikon F, 21mm lens & Mikami Rapid Winder.....\$4000.
Nikon F KS-80A US NAVY outfit\$10,000!
Nikon FEA underwater housing camera.....\$6250.
Boxed Nikon Tn..\$1550 while a boxed FTn also went for...\$1550
Nikon F3 HP NASA SET with special motor & flash ..\$11,000!

From this sale it is obvious that mint boxed Nikon F and F2 equipment is going for some very handsome prices. Now is the time to buy such items if they are on your list since such pristine examples can still be found. Ten years from now could be a different story.

Two really interesting sales. Camera collecting is alive and well. Remember that both these gentlemen donated money to NHS-Con13 so please try to support their efforts and keep these auctions going!



This 50mm/f1.1 Nikkor in external mount sold for \$3600 despite not having either a correct front or rear cap. (Tamarkin)



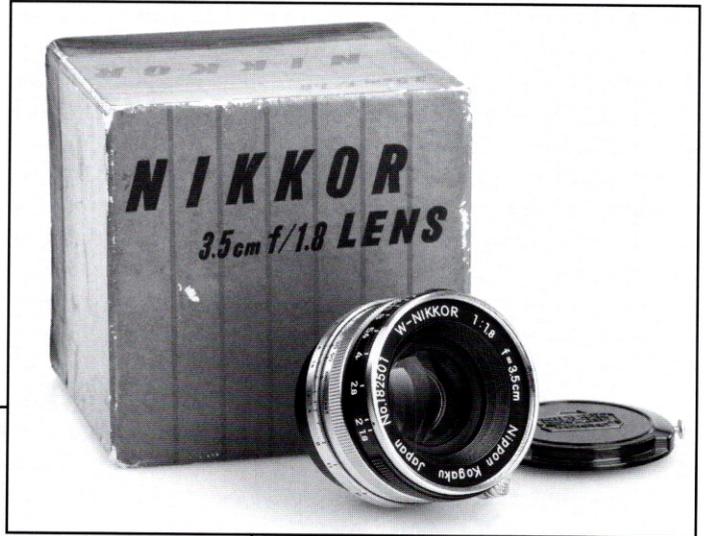
The boxed Nikon SP at the top did not sell even though its estimate began at \$1800, which is the going rate for a chrome boxed SP body. In contrast, the boxed SP to the right, which differed only in that it had a lens and was rated at the same EX++ level, sold for \$3600! Was there that much of a difference between these two SPs? I guess you had to be there. The two black SPs in the sale did not sell either, which I find surprising.

The black S3 from the first batch did sell for \$4800. Not bad for its condition but it is a rather rare item. The extremely rare Japanese Navy Nikon SP (above) also did not sell. Such cameras are very rare indeed and I have never seen another RF Nikon so marked. (I have seen a Nikon F with this mark) All Tamarkin.





The Aluminum f1.4 (upper left) sold for \$2000 which is a little low. However, the colon marked lens (above) from the same '358' batch sold for \$750, nearly 5 times what a regular chrome f1.4 should go for. See the article in this issue about what makes it special. (Westlicht Auction)



Above..A beautiful SM 35/f1.8 Nikkor in its original box sold for \$1500, much more than the BM version! Above left... A Nikon F w/21mm lens and the very rare Mikami trigger rapid winder went for \$4000! This may sound high but that winder makes it worth the price. I have only handled 2 of these in 40 years! Left..A truly beautiful and complete SM 25mm/f4 Nikkor set sold for \$2350, which is more than an equivalent BM lens set would go for. That little black shade is really the rare part but still I am amazed at how much SM Nikkors are selling for. (Westlicht Auction)

THOSE WIERD, WACKY AND WONDERFUL '358s'!

By **ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**

Without a doubt, the most fascinating, confusing and interesting group of serial numbers are those that pertain to the first 300~400 examples of the block of 5cm/f1.4 Nikkors beginning with 358001. Why do I call them 'Weird, Wacky & Wonderful'? Because within this small sampling can be found: (1) The second batch of the 'all black' f1.4s numbering only around 50 units. (2) The unique 'experimental' batch of 'Aluminum' lenses that may only amount to about 300 units. (3) More 'colon' (:) marked lenses than seen anywhere else during the entire RF production era. (4) Standard chrome lenses intermixed within both the special 'all-blacks' and 'Aluminums'! (5) Two lenses with the same serial number but different construction. See what I mean. Now let's see if we can make some sense of all of this so that we know what may be out there and what to look for.

Searching for lenses within this group can be exciting and rewarding, but also frustrating. Exciting because by simply looking at every f1.4 starting with '358' fills you with the hope that you will uncover a real gem unknown to the seller (you have to admit that that is one of the more exciting parts of collecting; one man's junk is another's treasure!) Rewarding in that you may find an Aluminum or colon marked lens on a garden variety S2 that no one is paying much attention to (All of the '358s' were originally sold on S2 bodies.) But frustrating because you may think you have one thing coming in the post, but receive another (Years back I thought I had an Aluminum coming but it turned out to be a chrome lens with the colon. Live and learn!)

Within this small sampling of 300 or so pieces (out of a production of over 100,000 5cm/f1.4 lenses!) can be found:

- A) The 'all-black' lenses of type II without a colon
- B) The 'all-black' lenses of type II with a colon (:)...none yet!
- C) Aluminum lens without a colon
- D) Aluminum lens with a colon
- E) Chrome lens without a colon
- F) Chrome lens with a colon
- G) Lens sets with actual duplicate numbers collected!

A lot of variations and permutations to look for. What follows is my list of all the numbers I am currently aware of that fall within this marvelous group, along with their individual characteristics and a few comments here and there. Let's look.

- 358001 all black barrel...no colon
- 358002: chrome dupe lens!...is there a dupe black or alum?
- 358003 chrome barrel!...no colon! (see next entry!)**
- 358003 all black barrel!...no colon?...is there a dupe alum?**
- 358004 all black barrel...no colon
- 358009 all black barrel...no colon
- 358024 all black barrel...no colon
- 358026 all black barrel...no colon (see book 2 pg. 109)**
- 358026: chrome dupe!.....is there also an alum?**
- 358029 all black barrel...no colon (see book 3 pg. 256)
- 358033: chrome dupe lens!...is there a dupe black or alum?
- 358040: chrome dupe lens!...is there a dupe black or alum?
- 358047 all black barrel...no colon
- 358055 1st. VERIFIED ALUMINUM LENS TO DATE!**
- 358079: chrome dupe lens!...must be an alum. somewhere
- 358082: **ALUM** dupe lens!...must be a chrome somewhere
- 358086 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358092 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358093 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358097 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358101: chrome dupe lens!...must be an alum. somewhere
- 358103 aluminum lens...no colon (see next entry!)**
- 358103: chrome dupe lens to above aluminum lens! (see book 3 pg. 263 for both lenses!)**
- 358109 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358125: chrome dupe lens!...must be an alum. somewhere
- 358129 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358142 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358148 aluminum lens...no colon...BUT..see next entry!**
- 358148 all black barrel!...no colon...is there a chrome?? (see book 3 pg. 259 for both lenses!)**
- 358158 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358162 aluminum lens...no colon

- 358163 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358181 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358185 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358190 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358192 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358199 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358229 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358230 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358231 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358232 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358239 aluminum lens...no colon



Above lenses #358029 & 358256 from our list. Below is lens #358026: with the colon, which also exists as an all black 1.4 seen on page 109 in my second book! Wish I had it!

- 358255: chrome dupe lens!...must be an alum. somewhere
- 358256 aluminum lens...no colon (Cards dated 7/26/55!!)
(see book 3 pg. 263 for above two lenses!)

358259 aluminum lens...no colon

- 358261: chrome dupe lens!...must be an alum. somewhere
- 358262 aluminum lens...no colon
(see book 3 pg. 263 for above two lenses!)

- 358267 chrome lens...**no colon!**...is there a dupe alum.??
- 358294: chrome dupe lens!...must be an alum. somewhere
- 358301: chrome dupe lens!...must be an alum. somewhere
- 358304: **ALUM** dupe lens!...must be a chrome somewhere
- 358311 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358336: chrome dupe lens!...must be an alum. somewhere
- 358338 aluminum lens...no colon
- 358341 LAST VERIFIED ALUMINUM LENS!**

358476 Verified standard chrome lens. No aluminums have been recorded to date after this lens nor later than 358341.

The above is my latest recorded information. If you have any lenses (black, chrome or aluminum) that would fill in any of the gaps in this list please let me know. Whether your lens has a colon or not is very important as well. Remember that the colon (:) after a lens serial number denotes a duplicate use of that number. To date the colon has only been seen on lenses as no bodies or accessories have ever been found so marked. And not all lense types have been discovered with the colon. I know of 2.5cm, 3.5cm/f3.5, 3.5cm/f2.5, 5cm/f2, 8.5cm/f2, 10.5cm/f2.5 & 13.5cm/f3.5 lenses so marked. What have you seen?

Let us know what you know. We can all benefit from it. RJR

SOME BOOK UPDATES

A few new items in METERS have been reported. They are a black SP #6212160, a 135mm black briteline finder #135473 & a chrome 135/f3.5 #254715. Another rare Hermes enlarging lens has been discovered. It is #55200. Also recently seen is a very early SM 85/f2 Nikkor #9035 in the odd 'parallel' focusing mount. Three more Exacta mt. 135s are reported: 256519, 256558 & 261475, all chrome.

Two new 'First numbers' have been reported to me. We now have a new early 25cm/f4 preset lens #277205 as well as a Type C close up attachment with the number 30018. Lastly, a new 'high' number for the Type IV Microflex is collected: #33092. RJR



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. There has been a significant increase in Priority shipping costs but I will hold these prices as long as possible.

- 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 has grown to **11 pages** and is now ready. Many Nikon RF, Reflex & Bronica items. I can send it via email or regular mail to anyone who wishes to be on my mailing list. Just contact me anytime to add your name. **Robert Rotoloni** rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net **Thank you!**

WANTED...NIKON F 'RED DOT' BLACK BODY; exposure meter for Nikon F model 1-type 1 (Uli Koch pg. 20-The Accessories) possibly with incident light plate & booster; telescope adapter for Nikon F in case with its filters & screen in plastic bags. **Carlo Rivolti, Italy.** please email to rivolti@libero.it

WANTED... 8mm/f2.8 **FISH EYE NIKKOR**, 13mm/f5.6 **NIK-KOR**, **120 FISH EYE SKY NIKKOR**, experimental NIKON cameras and/or lenses/accessories, even if broken. **NIKON S2 & SP (BLACK)**, **ALUMINUM 5cm F1.4 NIKKOR**. **PH Van Hasbroeck**, 56 Albert Court, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BE. tel: 0044 (0) 20 7584 0077. Fax: 0044 (0) 20 7591 3848. email address: HASBROECK@AOL.COM

FOR SALE...REFLEX-NIKKOR 1000MM/F6.3 in the Nikon F reflex mount #631042. A rare lens and #41 out of a probable 50 ever made. Item is complete with both caps, shade & original metal carrying case. Optics are clean & clear. External cosmetics are in EX condition. Price is \$18,000 with shipping costs to be determined with buyer. **Contact Ian at...** ianb@conservancy.org.

WANTED... 1940/50's American amateur cine cameras. Contact: **Tony Hurst (Dublin)** at email nippon54@hotmail.com or telephone me at (353) 1288- 4896. **Thank You.**

FOR SALE... 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) qcsman@gmail.com

FOR SALE... Nikon 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 screen w/box, D screen w/box, finder eyepiece w/box, body cap. Entire group of items for **\$350** or contact me for individual prices. **James Leathem.** email to jeldgl@aol.com **Thank you.**

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BLACK & BEAUTIFUL!

EVEN THOUGH OUR COMPLETE NIKON RF BLACK BODY LIST IS UPDATED IN THIS ISSUE, THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS ARE NEW SINCE NHS-112, & MOST ARE NOT YET ON THE LIST, SO PLEASE CONSIDER THEM ADDITIONS.

6202633 6206418 6312138 6321021

THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS ARE THOSE OF FAKES!
6303626

'NHS' RED DOT F LIST

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

6570022 6573678 6582415 6588023 6589897 6590937
6598921 6601071 6601301 6601502 6602271 6602417
6602736 6602768

Please see the website of NHS member Matthew Lin. He keeps a running list of Red Dot Fs on his site and updates it regularly. Look to his site for the most complete & accurate listing.)

www.matthewlin.com

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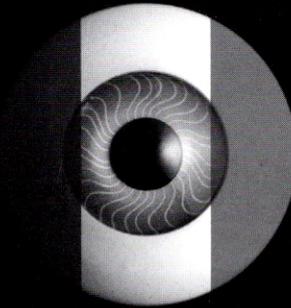
www.nikonhistoricalsociety.com



So what was it we were all looking up at? Why it was Anna looking down on us from the skylight so she could make our official group shot. Some wanted to do it in front of the sex shop next door but we decided against it. I like this idea.

TH

NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PARIS
CON 13 - 2012



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CREATED FOR THE "NHS" BY *Tony Howard*