

A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

29TH

SEPT. 30, 2012

NHS-117

Anniversary
Issue

NHS-CON14?-YES!-SAN FRANCISCO!
NIKON JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE
PG 1..THE MODEL H MICROSCOPE.
PG 8..A TRIPOD OF YOUR DREAMS
PG. 11..A WWII 30CM/F2.3??

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**THE
NIKON
JOURNAL** **ISSUE
#117**

VOLUME TWENTY NINE – NUMBER FOUR – SEPT. 30, 2012

THE *NIKON JOURNAL* IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES
A YEAR BY "RJR" PUBLISHING, INC.,

At P.O. Box 3213, Munster, Indiana 46321 U.S.A.

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ANNUAL SOCIETY DUES ARE

U.S./CANADA	1 Year \$35	3 Years \$85
OVERSEAS	1 Year \$45	3 Years \$115
New Rates Effective Jan. 1, 2007		

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NHS -118 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our **NIKON JOURNAL**, **NHS-118**, is **November 15, 2012**. Please get all contributions to me by that date so I can get the next issue out on time during the hectic Holiday Season. Thank you. **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the **29th Anniversary issue** of your Nikon Journal! Many of you have been with me for decades now. Can you believe it? Do you feel that much older? I do but so what. We have a jammed packed Anniversary issue plus two very important announcements, one good, one not so good. So here goes.....

NHS-Con14 will take place in....SAN FRANCISCO! Probably in the fall of 2014 when we will time it with the San Jose show. Bob Rogen has 'volunteered' to be show chairman and already has two other members who have jumped in and offered their help. They are Mike Symons (who chaired the Vancouver meeting) and Steve Koves (who has experience setting up meetings). I am sure more will offer to help. So NHS- Con14 has been decided on and planning has begun, so start saving up your pennies!

Dues...dues...dues. I am sorry to say that after holding off for 6 long years I have to increase Society dues. I've held out as long as I can but the beleaguered postage system, printing increases and other costs have forced my hand. Please see page 19 for details and also see that this will not happen until January first, giving all of you ample time to increase your membership at the old price and save some money. Please see page 19. I don't want anyone to say they did not know of the increase.

Many good articles this issue. We start off with Uli Koch's very detailed account of the Nikon Model H microscope. Built and designed with the same high standards as their camera line, the Model H is a monument to precision and fantastic engineering. Check it out starting on page 1.

This is followed by Mike Symon's report on the nearly 'mythical' wood tripod made just for the 50cm/f5 Nikkor that till now existed only as a dim photo in Tydings book and a short mention in a Nikon catalog. We were never really sure it actually existed but we are now! See the first published detailed photos ever of this rarity beginning on page 8.

You know Nikon can make big, long and fast lenses. They are justly famous for some of the most awesome fast teles ever produced. Like the 1000/f6.3, the 500/f5, 180/f2.5, 200/f2, 300/f2.8, 400/f3.5, 600/f4 and on and on. But do you remember the \$25,000 Nikkor 300mm/f2 from the eighties? Truly awesome. Take a look at another super optic on page 11 where member Richard Lane covers the unknown 300mm/f2.3 Nikkor. Not as fast as the f2 you say? Maybe not but this baby was made during World War II! That's right, from the forties. **You just gotta see this.....**

Finally, starting on page 16, Wes Loder covers in detail the Model I Nikon leather carrying case often referred to the 'benser' type. Made from almost the very beginning of the RF era, they are difficult to find today and quite valuable. Do you have one? If so do you know what goes into each slot and cubbyhole? Well, you do now.

I have started a new feature this issue and would love your feedback for future installments. I call it 'Browsing Ebay' and the first column is on page 19. Check out my thoughts on it and give me yours and all the info you can. Thanks. **RJR**

PLEASE SEE PAGE 19 FOR THE NEW NHS DUES SCHEDULE TO BEGIN JANUARY 1!

I THE AWESOME NIKON MODEL 'H' FIELD MICROSCOPE

TEXT & ALL PHOTOS BY ULI KOCH

All NHS members are aware that one of the most interesting items in the collecting world of Nikon is the incredible Microscope Model H. This tiny microscope, which has fascinated me for decades, is a high quality product in a small Leica-like body casting and very beautifully designed. A friend of mine is an enthusiastic Carl Zeiss microscope collector and was amazed with the quality of the Microscope H (MH), and in particular, its small size. The history of these small microscopes begins in the 1930's by the incorporation of a U-shaped light path to reach the needed 160mm distance between ocular and objective. Therefore, the MH has a huge glass prism on the bottom of the casing. There were other companies producing such traveling microscopes, but it seems that those units were made after the introduction of the MH. By the way, Zeiss produced several "Reise-Mikroskope" (travel microscopes) but they were bigger and heavier than the N-K solution. In the mid 1980's I saw a TV production about the NASA efforts to find a place where no human life could be possible. They found a small lake in Spain where the water contained a high sulfur content where no life should be found, but they discovered a myriad of creatures. What was mounted on a tripod? The Nikon Microscope H for field investigation. The MH was also part of the NASA Skylab program.

Based on Dr. Kuno's book—Thank you Setsuko for translating this part for me—the MH was introduced in the 1958 August issue of "Camera Mainichi" and was offered at that time for 55,000 Yen. The MH was listed in price sheets until 1972—nearly the same period as the Nikon F.

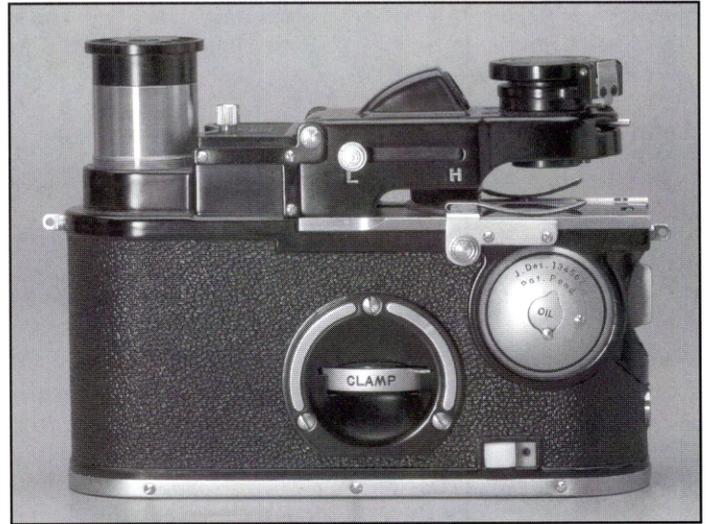
The earliest information on the MH that I found was in an N-K microscope brochure from October 1959. Here the MH was not only mentioned, but also given certain information about it. The MH pictured is #32712, the earliest I have yet recorded. The MH in the brochure looks exactly like the one shown in this article, which is #33003. This particular MH was bought by one of the

most famous German zoologists during a Japanese trip in 1960. The former owner never used it excessively, therefore it is in near mint condition. The other MH in this article was bought decades ago from a NHS member.

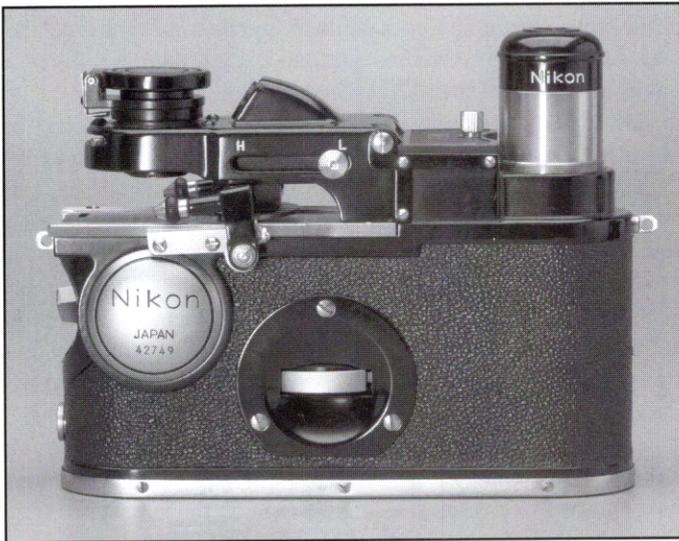
It seems that the MH was produced in two serial number blocks, one starting with #327xx (estimation) going up to about #334xx, with the second block probably starting with #387xx and going up to about #452xx. These serial numbers are based on reported MH microscopes. The second block was intermixed with the Microscope H-3, the phase contrast version of this design. The photos show the first (Type A) and the second version (Type B) and if one closely examines both versions and their cases in a detailed way, he'll find many differences. I found no less than 23 differences on the microscopes themselves, and 11 with the cases. The easiest to find are the N-K logo instead of the later "Nikon" name and the shape of the ocular as well as the apron of the locking clamp. Other differences include the color of the on/off switch, the slide holder, different patent engravings and the position of the tripod socket. The earlier case is smaller and has different leather facing as well as an N-K logo, while the "Nikon" name is on the later version. Even the tiny plastic cap for the 4th lens is different: one with an N-K logo the later one with "Nikon". You'll find MH units starting with #33xxx up to the #39xxx block where the units show intermixed features of the two different types (transition types).

One variation that fascinates me is not easy to realize. The rail for the metal cover of the lens turret has one track on the early type and two tracks (each on both sides) on the later type. Why? On the earlier version the small plastic cover has a beveled side and an oval hole whereas the later type has a flat side and a round hole. So it appears that N-K added a second pair of tracks that made it easier to slip on the plastic cover!

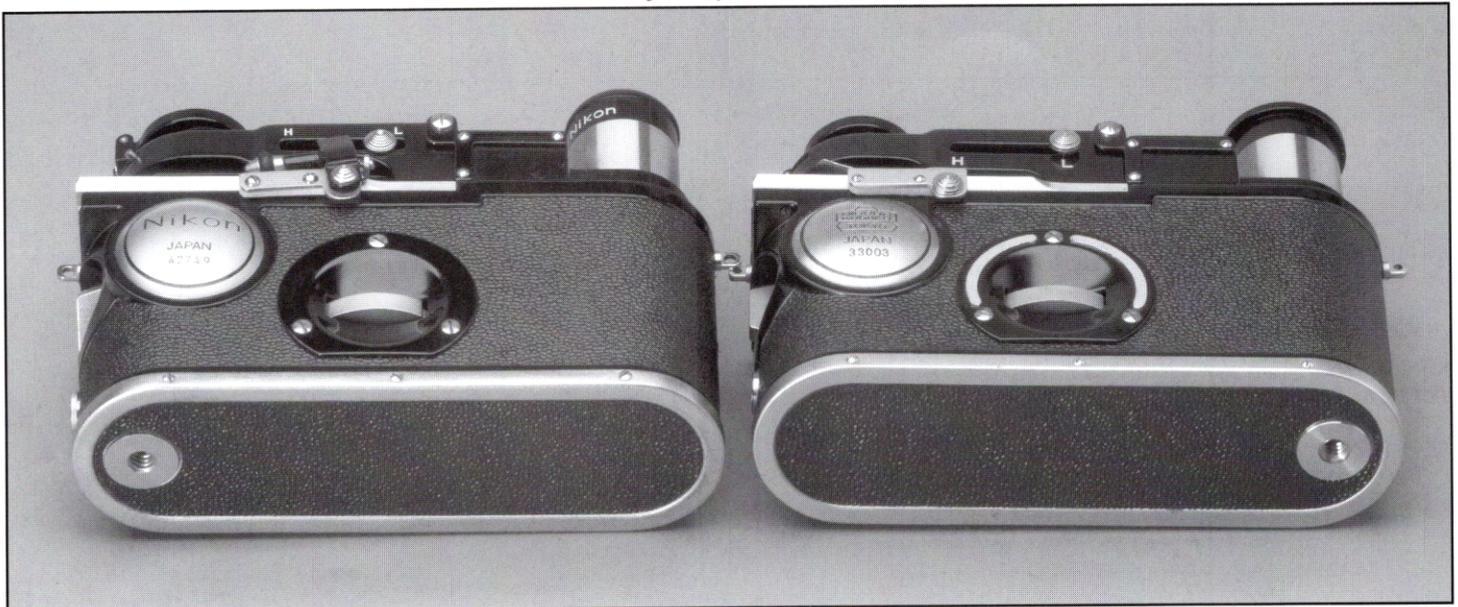




Above photos... The early type Model H Microscope from the front (left) and rear aspects. Note the early N-K logo on the front. Below are identical photos of the later type Model H. Note that the N-K logo has been replaced by the word 'Nikon', which is still in the style seen during the rangefinder era. Also note the different configurations of the vertical ocular on these two versions.

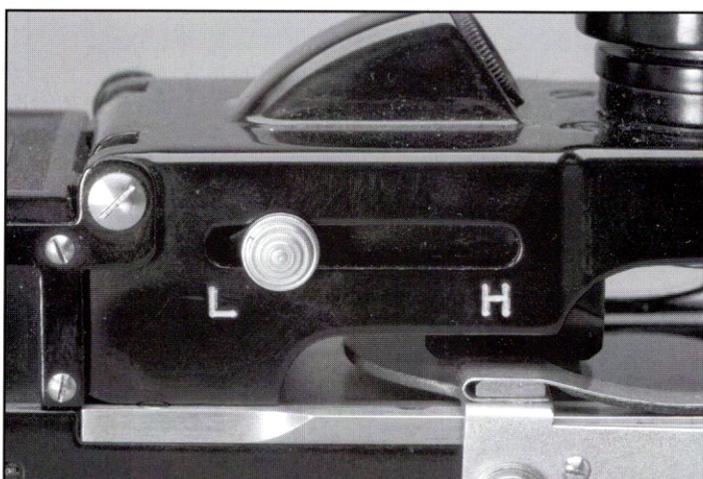
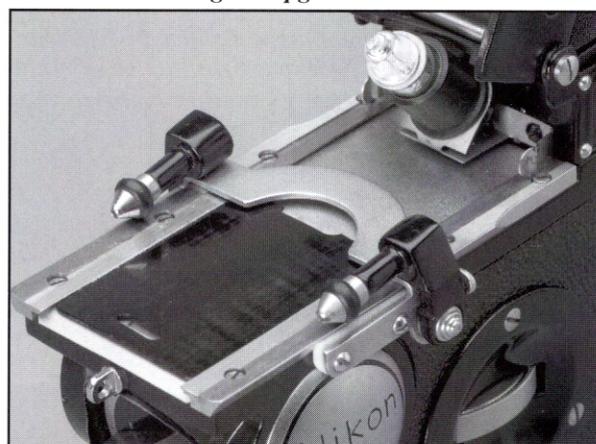


For some reason, known only to Nikon, the location of the tripod socket was reversed from one type to the other. In this photo the newer version is on the left. Why it was done is anyone's guess.





Above two photos..On the early version (left) the fixing clamp has a chrome surround while on the later version it is all black.
Below two photos..The early version (left) has no moving parts on the slide holder to assist in positioning the slide. On the later version (right) N-K added small wheel assemblies to make precise movements of the slide much easier. A good upgrade.



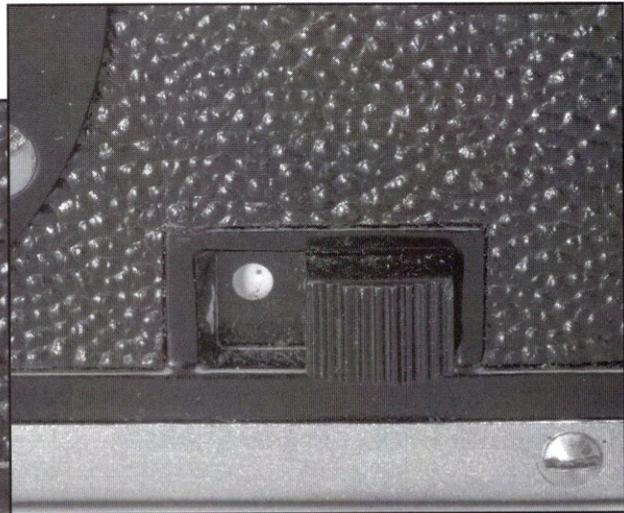
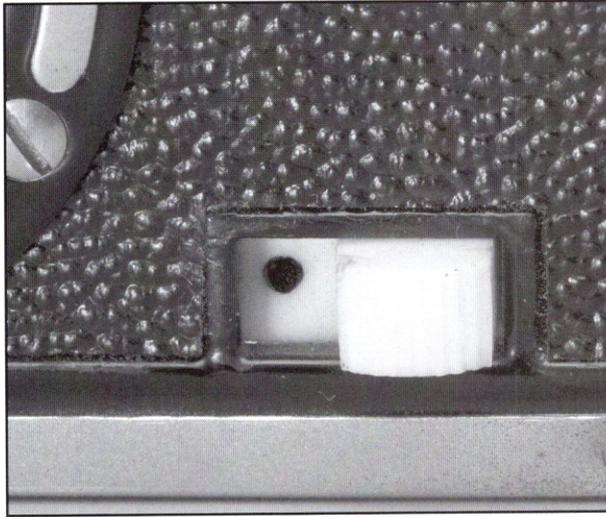
Above two photos..The position of the L & H was changed from below the rail to above the rail, possibly for better visibility.
Bottom photos..The shape of the ocular also changed with time. On the early version (left) it has a flat top surface with the N-K logo engraved. On the later version it has obtained a more comfortable rounded shape and the engravings have been moved to the side. Also the word 'Nikon' has replaced the earlier N-K logo.



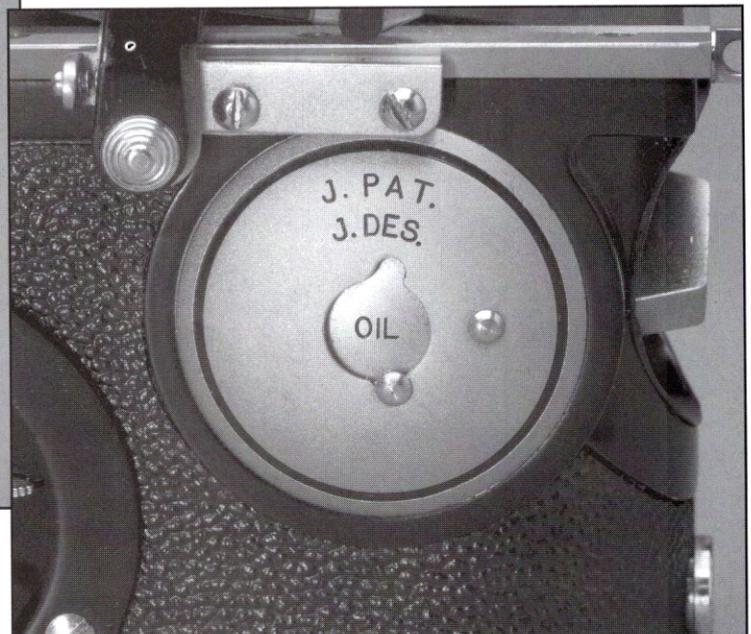
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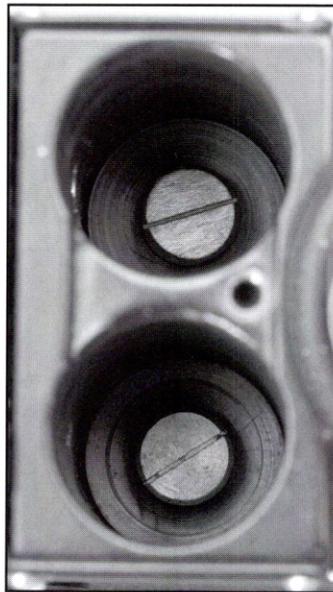
Above two photos illustrate the most visible difference between the two Model H types. Early ones had the N-K logo which was changed to 'Nikon'. Note to two distinct serial number types.



On the early units the the On-Off switch was white with a red index dot while on later units it was black with a white index dot.



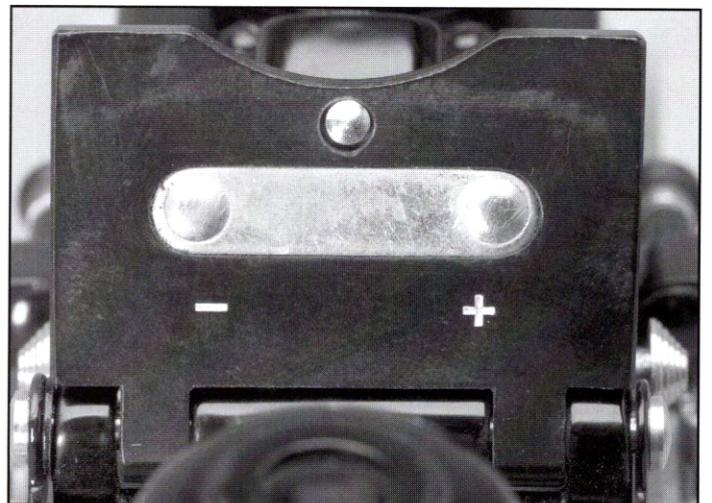
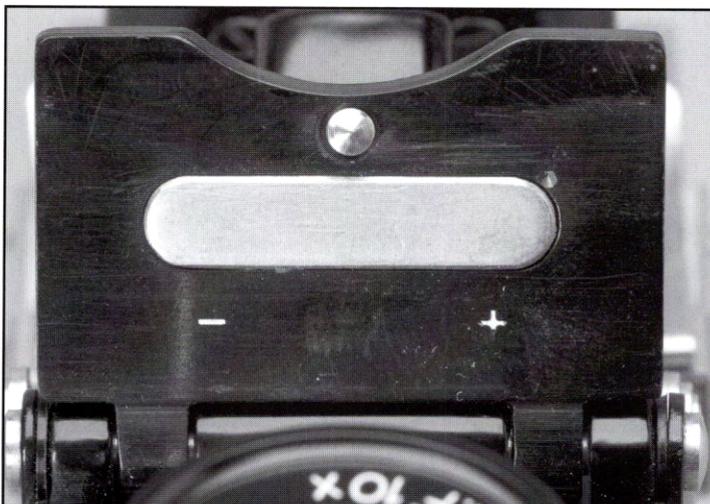
On the earlier units the cover plate for the oil port was engraved as above. The later version had a slightly different engraving as seen to the right.



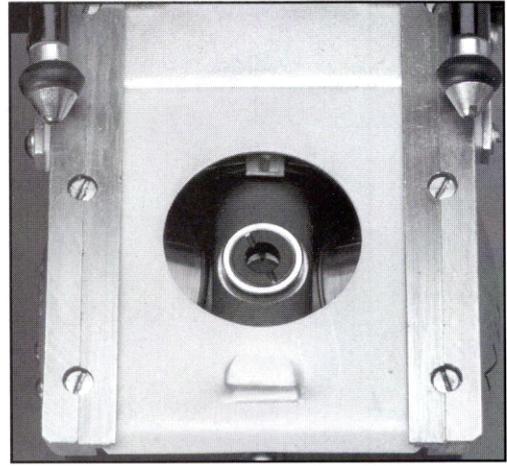
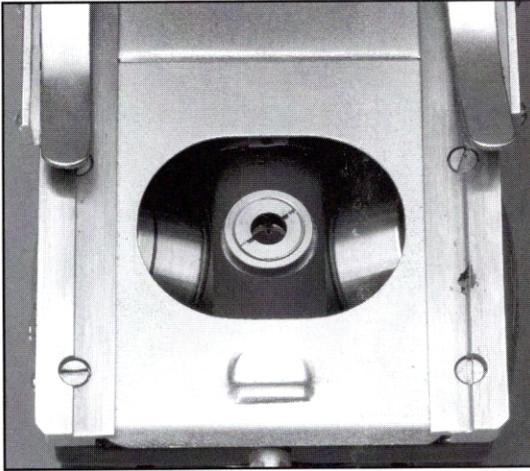
Above two photos show the power plug (which is identical to those used on Nikon camera bodies from the S2 thru the F). Note the slight difference in the body contours. The later type (right) has a molded separator bar between the leather sections.

At left are detailed views of the battery chamber. On the early type (left) the contact pins are much smaller than the later version. Was this done to improve battery function?

Below are two photos of the battery chamber cover or lid. Again the later type (right) has a slight improvement with an embossed contact plate. Did it also improve battery function? Also note that the + & - engravings have been enlarged for better visibility.



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Above two photos..The protector plates for the objectives changed with time. Earlier units had a oval port while later ones were equipped with a round port. At right are the two versions of the plastic cover for the housing of the 4th lens. They also differed with vintage. Early (right) with the N-K logo and later with just Nikon, but still in the early type font.



The fitted cases supplied with the Model H also varied with time. There are differences in the texture of the leather facing, the strap and size. The early type is shallower by 1cm and has the N-K logo embossed while the later type has only 'Nikon'. Interior construction also varied with vintage. See Uli's chart on page 7 that lists all the many differences between these two versions of the rather uncommon Nikon Model H Microscope.



ALL PHOTOS BY ULI KOCH.

Part	Variation Type A	Variation Type B
Leather Case		
1. Depth	6 cm	7 cm
2. Strap	3 parts, 100 cm	2 parts, 30 cm
3. Eyelet of strap	larger	smaller
4. Leather facing	More napless	With more structure
5. Brandname embossed	NKT Logo with lettering	"Nikon"
6. "JAPAN" embossed on bottom	yes	no
7. Seam of zipper	Small stitches	Larger stitches
8. Zipper protection inside	Large leather protection	No protection
9. Cloth pocket inside	With slightly nested elastic strap	With flat elastic strap
10. Inside construction	none	Foam for distance of microscope (moving slide)
11. Brand name of objective bubble	NKT logo with lettering	"Nikon"
Microscope		
12. Round plate with brand name	Chrome, NKT logo with lettering + "JAPAN" + SN	Chrome, "Nikon" + JAPAN + SN
13. Apron of clamp fixing part	With chrome section	No chrome section
14. On-Off switch	White, black / red marking	Black, white / red marking
15. L - H engraving	Larger font, beneath groove	Smaller font, up-on groove

16. Groove pusher	Stepped and pointed (6 steps)	Stepped and not so pointed (3 ½ steps)
17. Slide holder	Chrome, no side movement possible	Chrome, slide movement by tiny wheels
18. Round plate with hole for oil	Chrome, "J.Des 134567" + "Pat. Pend." + "OIL"	Chrome, "J. PAT." + "J. DES." + "OIL"
19. Eyelets for metal chain	Smaller, dull chrome	Larger, shiny chrome
20. Position of Power plug	Upon middle between revolver and bottom	In middle between revolver and bottom
21. Tripod socket	Beneath ocular side	Beneath objective side
22. Shape of Ocular	Shaped top	Rounded top
23. Engraving of Ocular	NKT logo, no lettering + "W.F 10x", on top	"Nikon" + "10 H.K.", around side
24. Battery pin inside	Small screw heads	Large screw heads
25. Battery cover	Flat power contact, smaller font for "+" and "-"	Embossed power contact, larger font for "+" and "-"
26. Objective protection	Oval hole	Round hole
27. Rails for metal and plastic protection	One rail	Two rails
28. Objective protection, plastic	Beveled side	Flat side
29. Screws inside condensor head	Three black + one chrome	Three black + one black
30. Screws next to light outlet	Embossed	Flat
31. Surface of small objective	chrome	Chrome / black
32. Light	Brighter	Not so bright

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AFTER 40 YEARS ONE HAS BEEN FOUND!

A THREE-LEGGED MYSTERY IS FINALLY SOLVED!

While cruising eBay earlier this year I stumbled upon an incredible offering...a 2 lens outfit consisting of the rare and massive 50cm/f5.0 Nikkor-T in its wooden box and a 25cm/f4.0 Nikkor-Q (manual version) s/n 272280 in its matching numbered cardboard box. Both lenses had N-F tubes attached, indicating that the previous owner was using them on Nikon SLR cameras. As if this wasn't enough to grab my interest...the outfit also included a wooden tripod for the 50cm/f5.0 Nikkor-T. I was astounded, at first thinking it was just a wooden tripod converted to accept the huge Nikkor-T lens. I sent the California seller a message asking for more images of the tripod, in particular, the head that attaches to the lens' tripod mount. He gracefully obliged and sent a series of photos of the 50cm lens sitting on the tripod...firmly attached. Only then did I realize that I had found a Nikon RF item that not many had seen. Incidentally, I won the auction and at a price far more reasonable than I had anticipated. The Gods were truly smiling down on me! Although I had to be content with the fact that the 50cm/f5.0 lens was missing its shade, I was interested in buying this rather exotic outfit regardless. The cosmetic condition (for such a massive lens) was fantastic...with just a few 'use' marks on the barrel. The front element shows some very minor cleaning marks but otherwise looks clean.

It was during a recent Seattle camera show that I was able to take delivery of the outfit. I was excited, not only to see this 50cm/f5.0 Nikkor-T, a lens that has eluded me for 25 years, but the almost mythical tripod. Could this be the genuine article...never before seen? When I returned home I checked the only source I

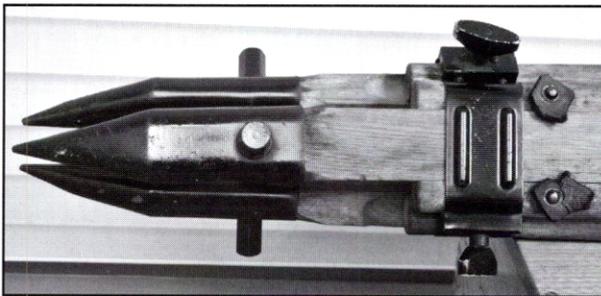
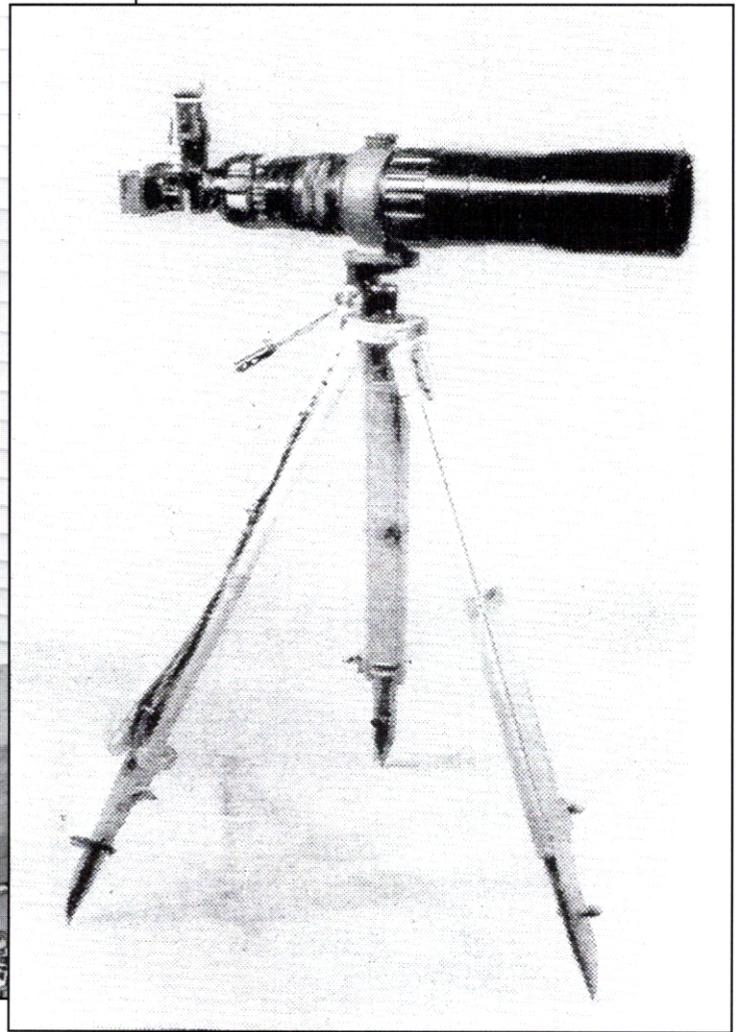
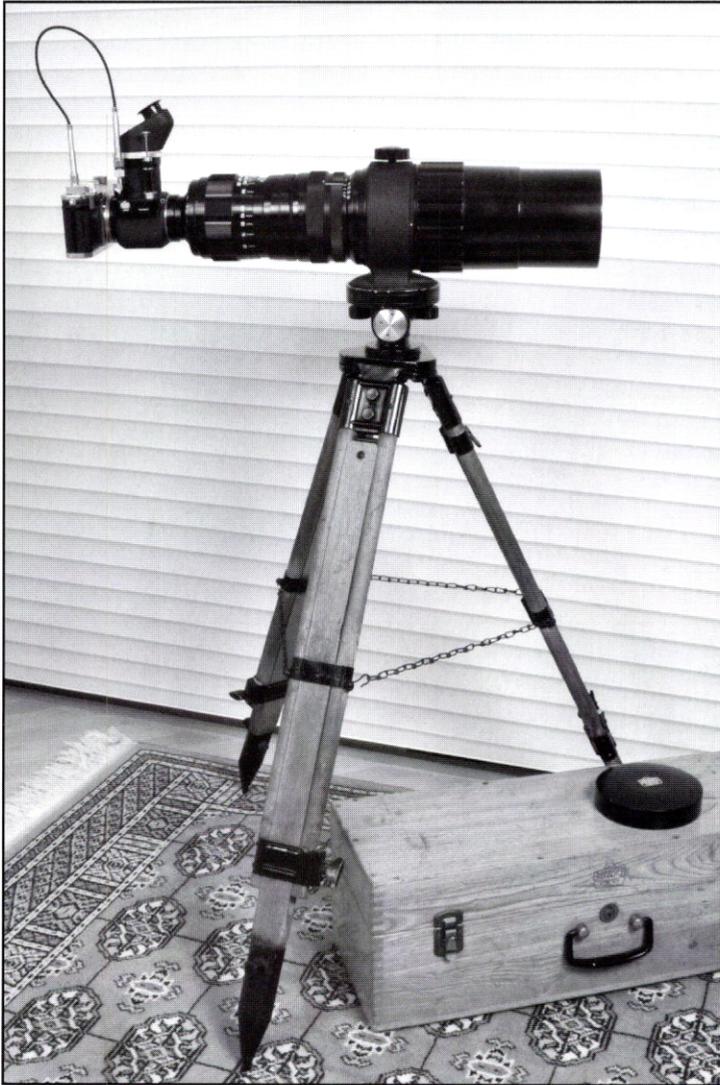
BY MIKE SYMONS

could remember seeing a picture of this lens on its tripod: "Nikon Guide" (1956) by Kenneth Tydings. There it was, pictured on page 96. It appeared then that I had found the correct tripod...similar to the one pictured.

The main difference between the 'Tydings' tripod and mine is that the adjusting lever was missing, and the carrying strap, which had broken off sometime during its life. Mine still has the torn pieces of leather stubs where the strap used to be. A scan of the Kenneth Tydings photo is included in this article. The determining factor was the tripod mounting plate...a round base with two large screws (bolts) which corresponded exactly to the two holes on the round tripod base of the lens. Voila! An exact fit...no doubt about it! The tripod was rather dirty from sitting in a garage for years, but some elbow grease, WD-40 and furniture polish brought it back to life. It now looks fantastic!

The series of images that I've included with this article show the 50cm/f5.0 Nikkor-T (s/n 647084) with attached Reflex Housing Type II (s/n 471473) with 45 degree prism (s/n 67423). The Nikon "S" mounted is s/n 6120579. All the above referenced equipment is securely attached to the tripod and sits in a place of prominence in my upstairs "Nikon Room". I feel very fortunate that another "treasure" from Nippon Kogaku's past has been unearthed. Now if any of the members has a spare shade for my 50cm/f5.0 Nikkor-T lens that they'd be willing to sell/trade, perhaps we can talk!



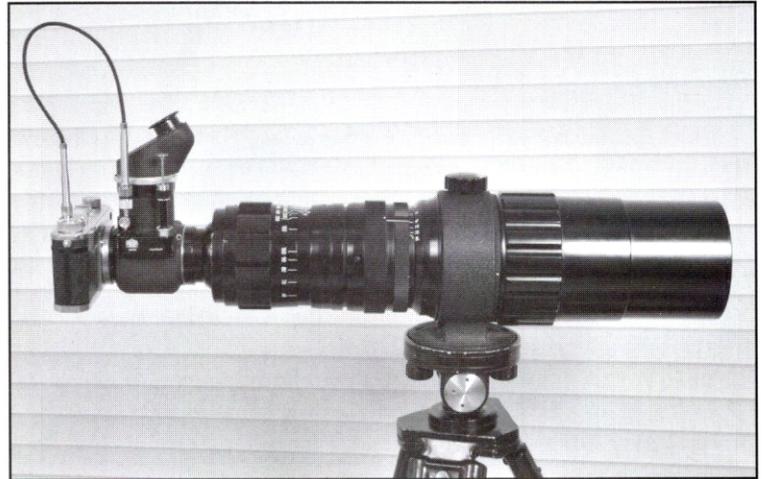


Above left is Mike's new found gem. Above right is the photo from the Tydings book, which has been our only photo source for this item for the last 40 years! We have been looking and looking for the wood tripod made specifically for the 50cm/f5 Nikkor and now we have one. It was only an optional item and either very few were ever ordered or, after all these years, this wooden object has simply not survived well. Have you ever seen another? I haven't & I've looked!





The 'clincher' that really identifies this tripod as the one designed & meant for only the 50cm/f5 Nikkor is the mount. It fits EXACTLY the shape & size of the tripod mount on the lens with the mounting screws right where they belong. Congratulations, Mike. You have the real thing! Finally!



CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS LENS?

A WARTIME 30CM/F2.3 INFRARED NIKKOR!!

BY RICHARD LANE

Night vision devices were invented during World War II and were used by American, British, Soviet and German military forces. The very first night vision devices were used by German soldiers in 1939. What is lesser known is the night vision equipment developed by the Japanese, and the subject of this article – a 30cm f/2.3 infrared Nikkor lens!

When I first saw this lens I was intrigued and my initial impression was that it was a Japanese Army camera lens. A few months after I purchased the lens, I found a report on Japanese infrared devices published in 1946 under the U.S. Naval Technical Mission to Japan. In the report, a figure has a photograph of two of these lenses and identifies them as infrared objective lenses with f2.3 aperture used by the Japanese Army for comparison experiments between transmission and reflecting type telescopes. According to the report, two of these lenses were shipped from Japan to the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

The lens measures 19 inches long by 7 inches tall and weighs 13 pounds. The body is made of aluminum with a rear focus mount and shade made of steel. The lens is painted a tan color that is typical for Japanese WWII Army optical equipment. The lens shade has a bayonet mount with a locking tab and when removed, provides access to the 130mm diameter front glass element. The lens is engraved "Nippon-Kogaku, Nr. 30002A, Nikkor, 1:2.3, f=30cm." The first two numbers of the serial number represent the focal length (30cm) with the remainder the actual serial number (002A). With a serial number of "002A", this lens is likely one of two prototypes made by Nippon Kogaku for the Japanese Army infrared testing mentioned in the report.

The lens has a 7-inch diameter focusing wheel attached to the focusing collar with four steel rods. This type of focusing wheel may have been copied from the German WWII Astro-Berlin 1000mm lens. The focusing collar scale is marked in increments from 5 meters to 200 meters and infinity. The lens is equipped with a bayonet mount rear eyepiece that has a cross-hair reticle. The eyepiece can be removed by moving a locking lever and then rotating it counter-clockwise from the bayonet mount.

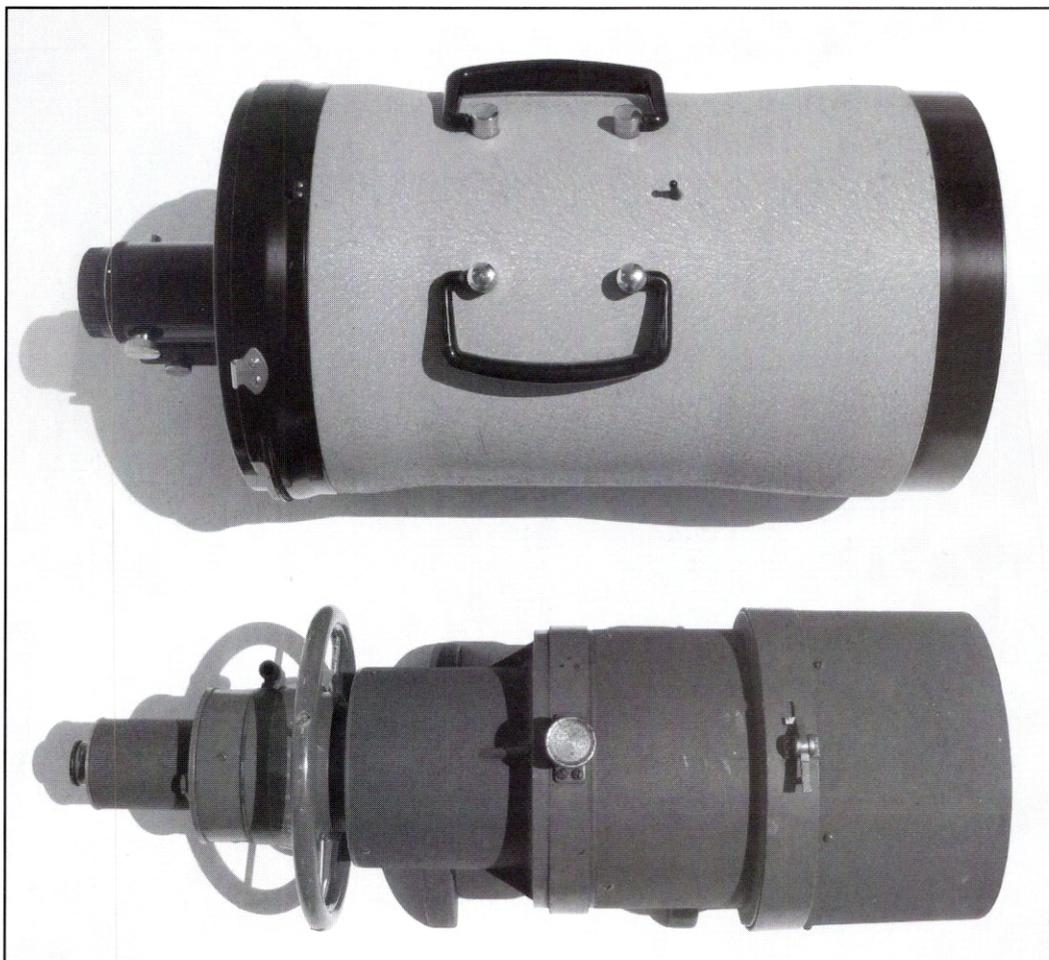
The uncoated optics consists of three large glass elements with excellent flat-black painted internal baffling. According to the report, the lens was designed for night vision television equipment (known as "noctovision" during WWII). The eyepiece may have been used to quickly sight a test target and then could be quickly removed when the lens was attached to the noctovision equipment.

Although the report does not identify the lens serial number, I believe this example was one of the two lenses described and photographed in the report. This lens may be a sole survivor unless the additional lens (Nr. 30001A) still exists today. I believe the 30cm f/2.3 Nikkor may have been the largest aperture non-mirror optic produced by Nippon Kogaku until the legendary 300mm f/2 lens was released in 1983.



On these pages we have some photos from Rich that compare this lens to other known objects to give you a feeling of size. It is shown with both the 1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor, the largest optic Nikon made until the release of the 2000mm/f11, and a Nikon F2 Photomic with 50mm/f1.4 Nikkor. Truly awesome and look at the photos of that front element. And this is from the 1940s? Almost impossible to believe.





As soon as I saw these photos I could not help but compare this 30cm(300mm) f2.3 Nikkor to the 1980s vintage 300mm/f2.0 Nikkor I once owned. The general shape of the barrel as well as the removable shade were so very similar I thought I would compare the two lenses physically.

The f2.3 weighs 5900g or 13 pounds, while the f2.0 weighs 7100g, or about 15.5 pounds. The f2.3 is 475mm long while the f2.0 is 339mm, or about 5.5 inches shorter. The f2.3 has a diameter of 175mm and the f2.0 is 195mm, which is very close.

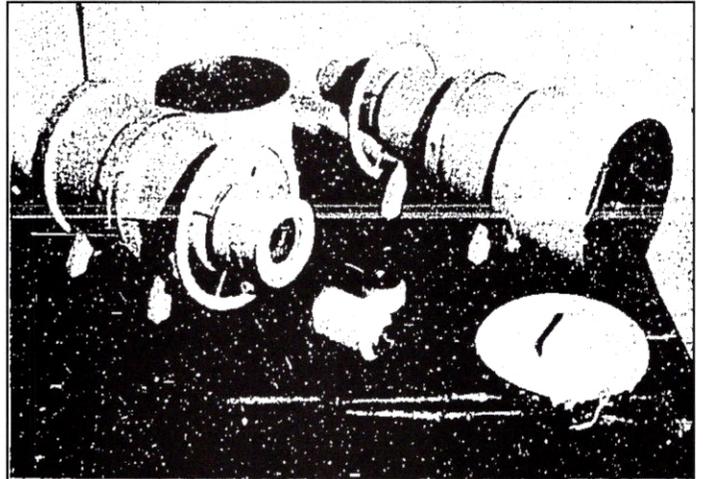
So now you see why it reminded me so much of that awesome \$25,000 Nikkor from the 80s. Was this pure coincidence? RJR





The special focusing mount with its wheel is a truly massive item. Unlike the lens, which is mostly aluminum, this mount is made of heavy steel. The entire lens is made to the strict military standards of the day that typifies so much of the optical ordnance that Nippon Kogaku produced.

At right is a scan of the page from the report mentioned in the text showing the two lenses that were shipped back to the US. It is quite probable that this example, #2, was one of them.



d. Objective Lenses, F 2.3



THE NIKON 'ALL LEATHER CARRYING CASE MODEL ONE'

BY MICHAEL WESCOTT LODER

"Fitted Leather carrying case (Model I). Pre-formed rigid construction, with provision for Nikon Camera, Nikkor accessory lenses, lens hood, filters and exposure meter. Lock and adjustable padded shoulder strap that can be taken up to use as carrying handle. Beautifully lined." Nikon Incorporated guide to "Nikon Accessories" (Feb. 1954).

Mike Symons first wrote about Nikon's Model I compartment case in NHS-12. At that time, only a few of these cases had surfaced and Mike was able to provide only a physical description. Little has been written since in the Journal or elsewhere. And neither Rotoloni in his books, nor Uli Koch in his book on the Nikon F chose or were able to cover the many different cases Nikon has offered over the years.

This is unfortunate. These cases, while not optical, can be of historical interest, reflecting the tastes and attitudes toward the transportation and protection of camera equipment that prevailed during a particular period. Often cases went through model changes faster than the lenses and cameras they held and offer dating clues when the lenses or other accessories they contain do not. And, when in good condition, they can continue to transport and guard the equipment they were designed for. The Model I case is such an example.

It first appeared on Nikon, Inc.'s May 1st, 1953 price list with a hefty cost of \$56.40US. It did not appear on the first 1955 price list, indicating an availability in the US of less than two years. The larger Model II case also appears on the 1953 list with a price less than \$2.00 higher. However, that case would continue to be available throughout the Nikon RF era.

The Model I is a compartment or accessory case designed to hold a single Nikon with a normal lens plus all the then current Nikkor lenses (35mm, 85mm & 135mm), a close-up device in its case, a hand-held light meter, a Variframe finder and a bevy of series 7 filters. In other words, it will hold a pretty complete 'kit'.

The Benser-style construction provides a specific fitted location for each of these items. The maroon plush lining and dark brown leather trim closely follow the color scheme that N-K was starting to use for all its leather cases. As befitting the stiff price, construction is robust with several exceptions. Three versions exist which we will cover here.

The heavy leather exterior forms a stiff box some 11.5 inches (29cm) long by 7.5 inches (19cm) wide by 5 inches (12cm) high. The fitted lid has a leather hinge at the back on the short dimension and secures at the front with a chromed-brass clasp that seems a bit flimsy but does the job. Sometimes the key for this latch is still with the case, nestled in its little leather fob. The camera fits in at the back. The cavity for it is more than large enough to hold a Nikon with a normal lens. However, there is also a space to the front left of the camera cavity that will hold a normal by itself, back down, with an elastic and leather strap to hold it—or a Nikon film cassette. Forward and left is the place for a 135mm

Nikkor. The lens will fit either with or without its screw-on lens shade in reversed stored position. Another space lies to the front. Although it, too, has a securing strap, its function is not obvious. Immediately front center of the camera cavity is a small hole into which a Variframe finder fits exactly. Since by the time Nikon Inc. brought this case out, it was no longer marketing the Variframe finder in the US, advertising literature usually shows a Varifocal finder here instead. Next comes a slot into which a contemporary light meter, such as a Weston, will fit. To the right is the place for an 85mm/f2 Nikkor, then a place for the 35mm/f3.5 Nikkor—although a 28mm Nikkor will fit as well. At the very front, spanning the center and right is a slot, which will nicely hold the "S" close-up device in its case. This is the only slot without a leather-and-elastic hold down strap. Finally, opposite the place for the stored normal lens, is a small, rectangular slot with strap that will accommodate a self-timer.

The lid offers six leather slots behind a drop-down cover for filters. Series Seven filters, then the Nikon standard, will fit if without a case. The 43mm filters will fit as well. At the top is a snap-lidded pouch to hold instructions, a cable release and that essential flash cord needed to synch a Nikon MS/S to a flashgun. Unfortunately, keeping glass filters next to leather does not seem to do them much good in the long run. The series filters that came with one of my cases were all badly fogged.

Despite the heavy leather construction, the corners of the lid tend to break, perhaps because so many people either sat on them, or dumped a heavy weight on top. Both of the examples I own have had to be repaired do to breakage. The velvet or velveteen pouch and filter pouch in the lid sit on a velvet-covered board glued to the exterior leather. The glue tends to fail. In almost all cases, this requires re-gluing. Often this board with its pouches is missing, leaving an ugly, raw lid interior.

The elastic side of the straps has always failed. What can one expect after nearly 60 years? The tiny metal clasps that hold the leather-and-elastic straps together seem a bit flimsy, but they are the same ones found on the Model II case.

VERSIONS:

The earliest version would appear to be the type Mike described. The small slot to the left front has no strap, and the place for the close-up device has a metal accessory shoe mounted on the inside wall, function unknown. Leather straps support both sides of the lid. In addition, nowhere does it indicate Nikon manufacture.

The second, and by far the most common, is almost exactly the same, but the accessory shoe is gone, the interior strap in front of the 135 cavity has been added, and it now has "Nikon" embossed on the lid with the arched "N" so familiar to owners of the early Nikons. The lid straps have been reduced from two to one, but the rivet remains where the left-hand strap would have been secured.

The final version (if it is the final) answers a question: if everything else that fits into the case has a strap to secure it, why does not the camera? In pictures of this version, seen only in late Nikon S literature, a leather apron shows that would wrap over the camera and snap in place, holding it in its cavity.

All versions include a heavy leather shoulder strap. Like many European accessory cases from the 1950s, this strap can be wrapped around the case and then rebuckled to form a handle. A nice convenience. In many cases, however, the strap leather has begun to deteriorate, so one must be careful.

NOW TO THE QUESTIONS:

Who made this case?

Despite the Nikon name on the lid, it is virtually certain this case and the Model II were manufactured under contract to NK by a Japanese leather goods company. On the lock, in Latin letters, "YAMA KAMI" appears within a diamond to the left and right of the outline of what might be a goat or deer or dog. "Kami" is a nature spirit or force in the Shinto faith and "Yama" might refer to a spirit associated with the mountains or agriculture. A patent number is stamped on the latch. Is this the name of the case manufacturer, or just the latch mechanism?

The Model II case uses the same elastic straps and flimsy clips. The clasp at the end of the zipper closure of the Model II is embossed with the letters "YKK". The latch has just the letter "K", and the lock is stamped "HINOMOTO No30" and a patent number. Same manufacturer? Certainly the leatherwork and velveteen appear to be the same workmanship and construction.

Finally, why did manufacture, or the importation, of the Model I cease, while that of the Model II continue? While the design of the camera holder clearly indicates that the Nikon S is what the manufacturer had in mind, all the other RF Nikons fit just fine. Perhaps it was a poor seller or priced too high. The Model II with its larger capacity and greater flexibility might have held more appeal. Americans liked big, zippered bags more than the Benser styles that many Europeans preferred. So perhaps it came down to a matter of taste.

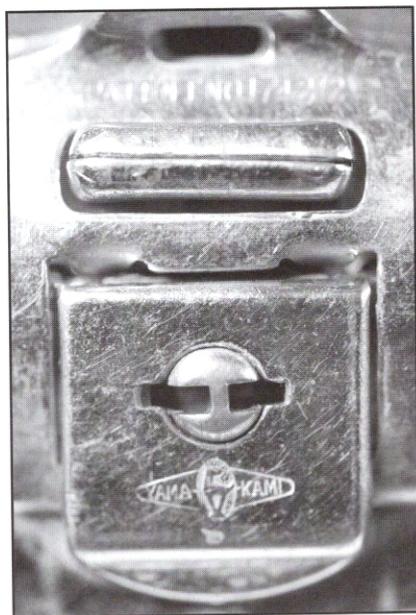
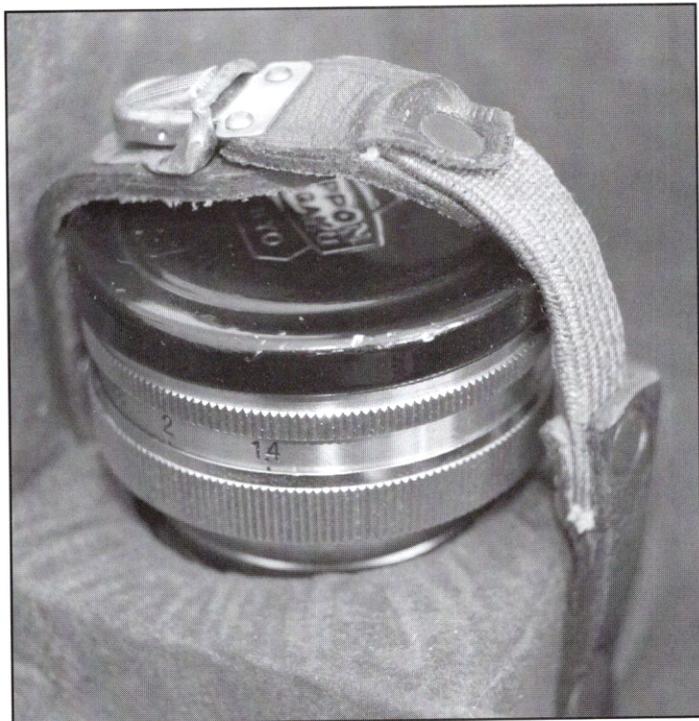
So keep an eye out for these cases. They do show up on ebay time-to-time, maybe once or twice a year. The challenge is to find one in decent condition.



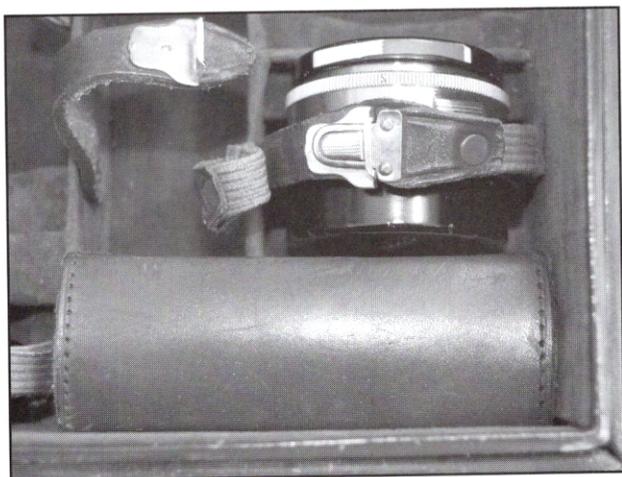
Above...Two examples of the Nikon Model I Accessory Leather Case, open and closed.

Below...The case interior with a full Nikon M vintage outfit load. The Weston meter in the middle is a contemporary model.





Above left...The small hole to the left of the camera slot holds a normal lens perfectly. Above right...Advertisement for Nikon cases, both Models I & II. Note the leather flap for securing a camera. The zoom finder is a Varifocal, even though the slot fits a Variframe finder better. Strap has been shortened for use as a handle. Left...The case latch with the embossed logo of the manufacturer. Bottom left...The close-up device for the Nikon M/S fits into the front slot.



SOME BOOK UPDATES

Another of the 300 or so 21mm RF lenses has surfaced #621175
 Also another internal mount f1.1 Nikkor was reported. #119693
 One of the '49' SM 180/f2.5 lenses has also been seen. #473800
 I have 3 Micro-Nikkors to add. #523182, 523201 (SM), 523393
 Of the possible 250 All-Black f1.4s in group 4 is lens. #365369
 An additional 35mm/f2.5 in a 1.8 type barrel is #270490
 An additional 135mm/f3.5 in Exacta mount is #260747
 Two rare 135/f4 Nikkors just seen are #s 90425 (SM) & 904580
 And finally, I have not one but FIVE S36 motors to add to our list.
 They are #s 94026, 94183, 94401, 94772 & 94808 (ch/ch).

FEEDBACK ON THE '358s'

My article in #116 on the wild bunch of f1.4 Nikkors in the '358' batch has some interesting additions.....

#358113: is a chrome lens with the colon! A duplicate item.
 #358135: is a chrome lens with the colon! A duplicate item.
 #358222 is an Aluminum lens with no colon!
 #358236: is a chrome lens with the colon! A duplicate item.

Speaking of colons...I have recorded two other lenses so marked while browsing Ebay. They are:

135mm/f3.5 #254200: and 135mm/f3.5 #255245: with this second lens engraved 'Tokyo' and not Japan.

BROWSING EBAY....

Without a doubt the largest source of information today, including serial numbers and prices, is to be found on Ebay. For years I culled a very large part of my serial number database by looking over what was for sale on the tables at countless camera fairs and stores. Well, those days are gone my friend. The shows are fewer and smaller with less to see and many of the stores are gone or no longer carry vintage used equipment. So where do we go to find what is for sale? It's Ebay, like it or not.

So I thought I would start a new section in the Journal to list various interesting items that I and others have seen on Ebay. Many of the numbers in the above two sections came to me that way, so we might as well continue with it. I feel it will turn out to be a good way to track what is showing up and you can already see in this small sampling that there is a lot of information out there to learn from. So here goes....

28mm/f3.5 black Nikkor #717666 is in METERS!

105mm/f2.5 Nikkor #825061 is also in METERS!

Black Nikon SP #6218864 is in METERS! Very uncommon.

Nikon F #6600006 was for sale. Could not see a red dot!

AND FINALLY.....Nikon One #609156 w/50mm/f3.5 Nikkor #7051654 sold for \$15,980.00 on Ebay! Can you believe it?

I really think we are going to see some even more interesting items pop up on our monitors so we might as well track them. Let me know what you find as I can't see everything!

On another note I have an important sale to inform you of that was not on Ebay. One of the few 6mm/f2.8 Fisheye-Nikkors from the 70's was recently sold by Grays of Westminster in London. It was significant enough to make the pages of Amateur Photographer Magazine. Why? Because it sold for the awesome price of 100,000 British pounds! That's why.
 RJR

THE NEW 'NHS' DUES...

It is definitely not to my liking to have to inform my membership of an increase in Society dues. But it has become absolutely necessary that they increase at this time. If you look at our masthead you will see that our last increase was.....

JANUARY 1, 2007!!

What has happened the last 6 years? Well, in that time period I have had 'three' postage increases for both domestic and international mailings. The Journal costs me over \$750 per issue just to mail! Also in that same time period I have had 'two' increases from my printer because of increases in his cost of doing business. Everything goes up including what I am now paying for items such as envelopes (1200+ per year), labels (4000+ per year) and lesser things such as tape. In addition, my postage meter supplier (Pitney Bowes) has raised both its lease rates and postage fees twice in the last 5 years. And let's not even talk software, printer ink and the two printers I wore out the last 6 years. I just cannot absorb it anymore. I do not have the Society or the Journal to make money. As a matter of fact, RJR Publishing Inc. has not shown any profit in over 25 years! I make up the difference. But now I need your help.

The new rates are as follows:

U.S./CANADA	1 YEAR \$40	3 YEARS \$100
OVERSEAS	1 YEAR \$50	3 YEARS \$130

However, I am not dropping this on you without any warning. These new rates come into effect at 12:01AM on January 1, 2013 so they do not take effect until the mailing of NHS-118 in early January. This will give all of you the opportunity to renew, or extend, your membership at the old rate, which is still on our masthead for this issue! Please take advantage of this 'window' to rejoin or extend your membership and save some money. I feel this is fair to all involved but I must start charging the higher rate on January 1st. I have no choice. I truly hope you all feel this is a fair increase and that the Journal is worth the price. Thank you for your understanding.
 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.

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... I will still try to put together at least two sell lists per year and will email those when they are done. **HOWEVER...I am now on EBAY on a regular basis!** Now that I have time. You might want to make me a preferred seller so you can keep track of what I have currently listed. Since July 1st I have had 80 auctions (not all Nikon). My call letters are '6091'! My latest sell list has grown to **11 pages** and is now ready. Many Nikon RF & Reflex 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! Remember my ebay seller ID is '6091'.**

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 NIKKOR, 120 FISHEYE SKYNIKKOR, 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**

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, MC-10 remote cord, 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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6140807 6157527 6212158 6218864

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NONE TO REPORT

**NEW SOCIETY DUES
EFFECTIVE JAN. 1ST!
PLEASE SEE PG. 19!!!**

odds 'n ends

NIPPON KOGAKU LENS ASSEMBLY CIRCA 1952



I recently acquired the 'original' 6x7 B&W of this Associated Press Photo that ran the last time in the August 10, 1972 issue of the Chicago Daily News. However, the original date of the photo appears to be December 1951. There is also a third date of February 24, 1962. This information is all printed or stamped on the back of the photo, along with copyright info. What's with the 3 dates? From what I can determine it was shot at the Nippon Kogaku Factory on or about December 1951 which is supported by the photo itself. He is assembling 50mm/f1.4 SM Nikkors which were out of production before 1962. The two later dates coincide with '2' different captions glued to the back as it appears they used this same photo twice; 1962 & 1972. The earlier caption reads "The younger sons of many Japanese families have gone to the cities to work in factories making cameras, watches or transistors." (Nippon Kogaku is not named) The second, later caption, reads "A lens is inspected at Tokyo's Nikon camera plant. The Nikkor lenses are among the finest made in Japan." It is a fine example of what the factory looked like in the fifties. And it is not a set-up promo shot made for some brochure or ad. It is a candid example of the simple techniques used by N-K in those very early years. Everything was done by hand using what is called "bench assembly". No conveyor belts, no mass production. Just attention to detail. Those were the days. RJR



CREATED FOR THE "NHS" BY *Jenny Hewitt*