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THIS ISSUE
PG 1..THE N-K NOVAR BINOCULARS
PG 5..THE 55MM/F1.2 AUTO NIKKOR
PG. 10..THE 'AMAN' NIKONS-EPILOGUE

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~ CONTENTS ~

INSIDE FRONT COVER:

NHS-120 EDITORIAL By ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

PAGE 1.....THE POST-WAR NIKON NOVARS
By MICHAEL WESCOTT LODER

PAGE 5.....THE NIKKOR AUTO 55MM/F1.2..PART 2
By NICO VAN DIJK

PAGE 9.....THE 58MM/F1.0 'CRT' NIKKOR LENS!
By ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

PAGE 10.. THE LEMIX & ANAM NIKONS....EPILOGUE
By CHRISTOPHE SAP

PAGE 14..... THOSE WILD 358'S....MORE FEEDBACK!

PAGE 15....NIKON MODEL H...ITS INNER WORKINGS
By ULI KOCH

PAGE 16.....NHS-CON 14 INFORMATION PAGE

PAGE 17.....HE 23RD WESTLICHT AUCTION

PAGE 20.....CLASSIFIEDS
BACKISSUE SERVICE
BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL
NEW MEMBERS/ADDRESSES

INSIDE BACK COVER.....'ODDS N' ENDS'
JUST ANOTHER 135MM NIKKOR?? NOT ON YOUR LIFE!!

NHS -121 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-121, OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY, is SEPTEMBER 1, 2013. Please get all contributions and photos to me by that date so I can get the next issue out on time. Thank you. **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

Welcome to NHS-120. I have yet another jammed packed issue with enough material in the pipeline to fill at least two future issues! I have never had so many member contributions of both articles and ideas for future stories since I started the Journal nearly 30 years ago. There are some really well written and interesting articles coming up covering all types of subjects. All I can say is 'keep it coming'! I love it!

By the way...above I mentioned nearly 30 years. The next issue, NHS-121, will be our 30th Anniversary Issue! As the song goes 'When I wore a younger man's clothes' back then. Where did three decades go?

We start off #120 with the complete story of the 'Novar' series of binoculars, an early post-war product that saved N-K from oblivion so they could eventually make their camera. Wes Loder knows his stuff. See page 1.

On page 5 Dutch member Nico van Dijk continues his coverage of the primary 'speed' lens during the Nikon F era, the 55mm/f1.2 Nikkor-Auto. In part two he covers the prototypes and all known versions of the optic that was even good enough for use by NASA!

On page 9 I have a short one-pager on a Nikkor you may not have heard or seen photos of before. I speak of the 58mm/f1.0 CRT-Nikkor. That's right, f1.0! What a piece of glass it is.

Belgian member Chris Sap completes his saga of the almost unknown series of Nikon cameras & lenses made in South Korea under the 'Anam' & 'Lemix' names. Sold only in the Far East, they are seldom if ever seen in the West and make for some interesting conversation pieces. I'll make sure to keep my eyes open on ebay! See page 10.

Because of some really nice feedback from the membership, I have an update on that wacky and wonderful batch of 50/f1.4s starting with the numbers '358'. See page 14. I have received photos of additional examples including two of the very earliest known. I recently picked up another one myself on an S2 off of ebay, so they are out there. Just keep your eyes open.

Due to many requests, German member Uli Koch has submitted a second follow-up article on the Nikon Model H microscope. Many of you wanted information on the internal workings of this marvelous and unique Nikon product. See page 15 for an inside look.

Our NHS-Con 14 Info page debuts this issue on page 16. Check there for all the latest info on our San Francisco meeting scheduled to take place on October 3, 2014. It will come fast!

Peter Coeln's Westlicht Auction house had another important sale on May 25th, featuring many superb Nikon items. On page 17 I list a sampling along with photos of some of the more interesting pieces. Hammer prices are also listed. We all need to keep in touch with what is happening out there as far as value is concerned. Auctions and ebay are the best way to do this.

On page 19 Wes Loder has written the obituary for Hans Liholm, the man behind OFITRA. Along with Adolph Gasser, whom Hans recruited to help him, the very first officially imported Nikon equipment entered North America! Hans was the man who negotiated the original import agreement with N-K. He and Adolph started it all! We had hoped to have him for Con-14 in San Francisco, where OFITRA was located and it all started, but sadly it was not to be.

RJR

THE NOVARS.....N.K.'S MOST IMPORTANT POST-WAR PRODUCT

By MICHAEL WESTCOTT LODER

This article covers the NOVAR branded binoculars that Nippon Kogaku manufactured during World War II and into the 1950s. It should serve as a guide for collectors and users trying to date their particular set of Novars. Until approximately 1950, NK used a different name for each of its binocular products. The 'Novar' name pertained only to 7X 50 binoculars.

The 7-magnification binocular with a 50mm objective was the standard nautical binocular throughout the 20th Century. It combined moderate weight, a wide field of view, sufficient magnification for most naval use and a lot of light gathering capability for low light work—a major consideration when on open water before the coating of optics became commonplace.

Originally a Zeiss design, the same pattern would be used by all major navies throughout WWII. Japanese optical companies, primarily Nippon Kogaku (NK), manufactured thousands throughout the war. Every naval officer below the rank of captain had a pair (higher ranks used 10X 70s).

The NK-made 7x 50 was a top quality binocular and was recognized as such by the Allied sailors who 'liberated' as many as they could get their hands on. These Novars now show up on eBay as part of veterans' estates. Early production war-time Novars had leather coverings. Later war-time units came with a faux-leather finish made from a combination of sawdust or cork and glue. This finish actually looks better than it sounds like it would and in most cases has proved to be quite durable. It certainly would have held up better than leather in the salt-water and tropical climate conditions where many of these units saw use. NK applied this same covering to other NK optics—such as the Type 93 field glasses.

We do not know the full range of war-time Novar serial numbers but the five-digit numbers we have recorded run from a low of 42406 to a high of 59713, indicating a manufacture of at least 15,000 units. NK undoubtedly made far more. Engravings on the back plates include the 'Nikko' mark, the word 'Novar' in Japanese and usually a naval or military mark. The right-hand eyepiece includes a reticle for determining distance.

Early cases were leather, later ones were made using stiffened canvas duck with leather fittings. Naval canvas cases were a grey-blue. The rarer army issued Novar cases came in a pale olive green. Cases usually included holders in the lid for contrast filters that fit over the eyepieces. Any NK Novars with Kanji characters on the back plates would date from the war period.

NK closed all its factories in August 1945. In October it received permission from SCAP to resume business making optical equipment for a civilian market. The Ohi factory reopened in mid-fall and 1600 employees were brought back. Sensing a ready market for its naval binoculars, NK immediately had its workers begin assembling new Novars using left-over optics and bodies but minus the now-banned reticles. The first units might have made it out of the factory as early as the last week of October 1945.

Until recently we believed that post-war production started with the six-digit serial number 570001. However, one pair recently showed up on ebay with the number 460076. This pair was obtained by a US serviceman in 1945 and, while they show most of the characteristics of the post-war Novars, they lack the 'Tokyo' location mark that all other post-war NK products include.

Initial production post-war Novars share the following characteristics.

- 1) A beautiful finish, comparable to any German or American branded binoculars of this period except for the continued use of the faux-leather coverings. Bodies are cast aluminum with brass fittings and aluminum end pieces, all painted a high-gloss black.
- 2) All feature individual eyepiece focusing. Optics are not coated.
- 3) The left-hand back plate carries the 'Nikko' mark with the word 'Tokyo' below. Below that is a six-digit serial number preceded by 'No'.
- 4) The right-hand back plate states that these are 'Novar' and '7X 49mm 7.1'. Measuring the front glass shows that the 49mm designation is correct, although there does not appear to be any optical changes from the war-time units that claimed 50mm.

The significance of the 57 prefix in the number is not apparent except that it might have been just a way to get away from the short-lived 46 series. The post-war NK-made 6X Orions also start their series with the 57 prefix, although they did not go into production until 1946.

In February 1947, following the publication of a directive from SCAP, Novars began to carry the "Made in Occupied Japan" mark, white engraved on the right front plate. This would continue until late 1950, or even into early 1951.

Whatever the significance of the 57, NK continued its use through the change from a '7X 49' designation to '7X 50' in mid-to-late 1947. It does not appear that NK changed the optics, so it might have been a marketing decision to lie a little to keep ahead of its competition, such as the Tokyo Optical 'Magma's' that had always claimed to be 7X 50s. About this same time, the sawdust-based finish was replaced by a better appearing leather-like material.

57 also continued through the change from the 'Nikko' mark to the NKT logo in early 1948. At the same time, NK simplified its markings, dropping the 'No' before the serial number, the 'mm' after the objective size and the degree mark. However, within months, NK would add the word 'Coated' (but not consistently) to the right-hand back plate.

Numbers go as high as 5733900 before the initial '5' is dropped. Perhaps this happened when NK went with a slightly wider angle of view. Later Novars without the initial '5' start to carry the label '7.3' degrees. The highest number we have seen in this series is 834037.

In mid-1947, NK had been producing just over 1000 binoculars per month, mostly Novars. Two years later it was making over 3000 per month and production would continue to climb. It would therefore appear that NK manufactured over 14,000 Novar-labeled binoculars during the Occupation. (Note that a few Novars have shown up that do not fit into this numbering. We do not know why.)

One should not underestimate how critical the sale of that many Novars was to NK during the late 1940s. It had little market for its optical instruments, its other binoculars sold in smaller numbers and its microscopes did not find a market until 1950. As for its 'Nikon' camera, we all know that was a loss-leader until 1950 when the military exchanges began selling the camera and its lenses in decent numbers. Novars were the cash generator that kept the company alive and able to devote time and resources to developing new products such as their 35mm camera.

Other Notes....

Until 1951, NK had limited the 'Mikron' mark to its small, chromed, reverse-prismed glasses. In that year, NK introduced a new series of standard design binoculars to cover its expanding market. These included new 6X and 8X units. These also carried the 'Mikron' label. Finally, circa 1954, NK dropped the 'Novar' name, and the 7X 50s received the 'Mikron' label as well.

While the Novars of the post-war period and the Nikon 'Featherweight' 7X 50s of the 1960s have similar specifications, there are differences. Most of the later 7X 50s are center focus and they are noticeably lighter than the earlier Individual Focus units. Earlier 7X 50s have a larger exit pupil and no screw cutting inside the front cell. The later 7X 50s are also taller. As a result, early Novars will fit into later cases, but not vice-versa.

Except for label changes I have described above, the post-war Novars show almost no variation. A Novar from 1945 and one from 1950 look almost the same, although some internal changes must have occurred to allow the switch from a 7.1 degree view to a 7.3. Cases, on the other hand, show considerable variation. Unfortunately, many of the older cases have not survived, but when they have, they offer greater evidence of post-war NK's poverty

and supply problems than the binoculars themselves. Most of the immediate post-war Novars came in cloth naval cases that NK obviously still had around in large numbers. Some of these even have the straps in their lids for night-use filters. Others came in flimsy, paper-lined cardboard cases covered with leather-appearing paper. The snap fastener on early leather cases had a stretch-elastic portion. Later cases do not. Novars that date from 1948 and later came in high-quality, stiff, leather-covered cases with velvet linings. The color of these linings varies considerably, with plum, green, blue, yellow and red all being seen. While most leather cases were brown, at least one black case has been seen. Their carry straps wrap around the cases and are secured with riveted loops.

Several companies sold Novars in the US prior to when the Overseas Finance and Trading Company (OFITRA) took over importation of all NK products in 1950. This may partly account for the wide range of case lining colors we have seen. The best known was 'Opplem'. Others were 'Evans and Brownscope'. The Opplem Company, with headquarters on 4th Avenue in New York City, was an importer and service agency for scientific, engineering and optical equipment. They sold microscopes under the name 'Galileo', as well as opera glasses made by Kito. The Novars sold by Opplem show that company's label and mark on the right-hand plate and use a separate serial number sequence. These may have come into the US after OFITRA gained its contract and the OPPLEM label may have been a means of dodging OFITRA's rights to the Novar name. Recorded Opplem serial numbers run from a low of 711155 to a high of 7111800, suggesting fewer than a thousand units imported.

Both war-time and post-war Novars appear regularly on the used market and ebay, a reflection of the enormous number brought back by American sailors and soldiers and the large numbers imported and sold directly in the US. Many show signs of hard use and are not particularly 'collectible' but if the optics are still in alignment, they can be excellent users. My own worst looking pair are still in perfect alignment and are excellent glasses for use in the field.



Three pairs of post-war Novar binoculars, all from 1945-46. the author still uses the pair on the far right.



Above..The earliest pair, number 570051, may date from November or December 1945. Note the high-quality finish, even in the immediate post-war period. It is much higher than the first production Nikon camera bodies.

Right..Number 570051 from the front. Note that it does not have the "MADE IN OCCUPIED JAPAN" engraving. This was not required prior to February 1947.

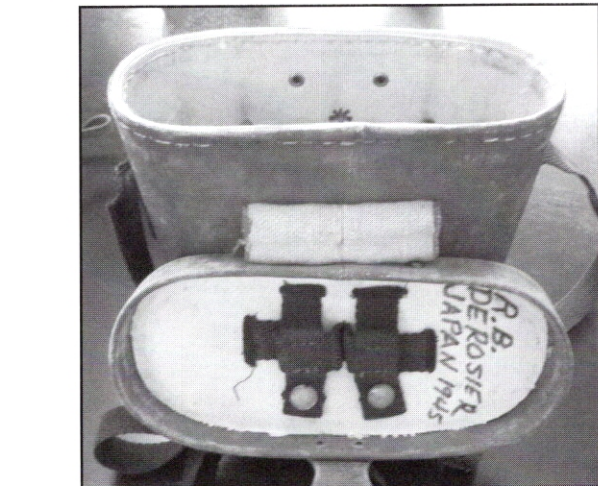
Below..Comparing 1946 and 1948 models. Note the change to the Nippon Kogaku Tokyo logo and the simpler markings of the later binocular. Coated optics would soon follow.





Above..The “MADE IN OCCUPIED JAPAN” engraving on the right, front plate of the 1948 Novars.

Below..The full leather case with modern snap fastener for Novar # 5719475 (1948)



Left and below..The engravings on the 1945 Novars. Note the much earlier version of the famous N-K logo. At this stage it is in Japanese characters and the word ‘NIKKO’ is used. Note the lack of ‘Tokyo’, the low serial number and the narrower, more tentative engravings. Otherwise it is the same as the later Novars.



Below..The fake leather over cardboard case for Novar #570051 (1945).

Bottom left..The inside of #460075’s case. it is the Naval standard grey-blue case interior and even has the straps for holding the filters inside the lid.



NIKONS FIRST REFLEX 'SPEED' LENS...

THE NIKKOR-S AUTO 55MM/F1.2

PART TWO

By *NICO VAN DIJK*

In the previous Journal I introduced to you the amazing Nikkor-S Auto 1.2/55mm lens. In this second 'episode' I'll discuss the various versions of this lens, including a rather rare prototype.

PROTOTYPE:

Lens #970103 in my first article isn't a prototype, as no one knows whether the lens exists or not. A prototype that does exist is the 'black-coated-Nikkor' (see photo) #125503. That serial number gives me the assumption that there are more lenses of that type. The question is: where?

The pictured lens came from a photographer working for an international magazine who used it since 1965. The term 'black-coated' hasn't (yet) been seen on other Nikon lenses by me. The black coating does not refer to a coating on the lens elements but on the interior body of the lens, as black coating was/is a coating with extremely high absorbency and low reflectance. In fast lenses internal reflections may 'kill' images. Nikon may have tested that internal black coating together with the multi-layer coating on all glass-to-air surfaces of this lens: being the first Nikkor ever with that particular lens coating. The lens barrel matches the barrel of the final product, as you will see from the other photos.

VERSION 1:

The first production lens was introduced in December 1965 and sales started in early 1966. Serial numbers are known from 970111 up into the 985xxx range. The all black painted metal barrel has a scalloped distance and aperture ring (carrying a triangular fork) with in between a chrome ring of 6mm width. The lens is assembled with flat (slot) screws with three in the back plate. The aperture ring can be removed by screwing it counter clockwise after removing a small screw and by lifting the back plate. Because the aperture ring has to be screwed off, it cannot be exchanged by a later introduced AI-conversion ring. Therefore, many users milled a part of the ring to use it on later Nikon AI bodies. The first 2,000 lenses have no groove in the aperture ring (between the scallops and the fork) and the ribs in the ring are a bit larger (13 ribs instead of 11); all later lenses have a scalloped ring with a groove. Lens inscription in white letters on the front of the barrel outside the black (52mm) filter ring read: NIKKOR-S Auto 1:1.2 f=55mm Nippon Kogaku Japan No.xxxxxx. Distance indications: feet in yellow, meters in white. Aperture range: 16(blue), 11(yellow), 8(pink), 5.6 – 2.8 – 2 and 1.2 in white. The lens weighs in at 421 grams (without caps). This version was succeeded in November 1967 by Version 2. Total production in 2 years was some 15,400 lenses. When bought new it came in a plastic bubble with the N-K logo and 'Nikkor' on top. That container was placed in a two-piece box as shown in the photos. A small guarantee card was added but no lens chart or instruction sheet.

VERSION 2:

Introduced in November 1967, there are no important visible changes, though the aperture ring can be lifted off after releasing a set screw at the side of the ring and lifting the back plate. This implies that from now on all later versions can be adapted to AI. Nikon provided interchangeable rings to repairmen. Another change is the chrome ring, which is now only 5mm wide. All letters on the barrel are a bit tinier and all were assembled with slot screws. Please do not ask why, but serial numbers for this version start with (an incomprehensible)—184711. In the 193xxx range (August 1968) the back plate is mounted with 5 slot screws instead of 3. During its production, which terminated mid-1972, Nikon changed the text on the identification ring. No lenses have been found from 216000 up to 219999. The last lens known with the 'Nippon Kogaku Japan' legend is 215731. Somewhere in the 213xxx range the triangular fork was replaced with the rounded type. Important changes were introduced on all lenses over 220001 (produced from August 1971). The optical formula was altered to improve performance at close focus. The new lenses now bear the inscription 'Nikon' and 'No.' before the serial number disappears. Last known serial number (confirmed by the factory) is 240533. All lenses in the 220001-240533 range also received a rounded fork. Early lenses in the 19xxxx range came with a box identical to Version 1. Later lenses came with a new folding box with a polystyrene foam insert.

VERSION 3:

Production of Type 3 began in October 1972. The lens looks like version 2 but now bears the inscription 'Nikkor S.C.' where the 'C' stands for a multi-layer coating. This lens has, indeed, an amber coating. On the name ring one can find 'Nikon' and the serial number without the preceding 'No.'. The chrome ring is 6mm wide. The entire lens has been assembled with slot screws, although lenses from 260001 (production started in June 1973) have been assembled with cross screws (AKA phillips), also 5 in the back plate. Serial numbers start with 250001 and the latest recorded and factory confirmed number is 300556. The boxes that came with the Nikkor S.C. lenses have an additional 'C' printed on them.

VERSION 4:

This version came into production in April 1976. The entire lens barrel was redesigned. The scalloped rings were replaced by a black painted barrel with rubber focusing grip and a flat aperture ring. The closest focusing distance is 50cm. mainly as a result of a minor change of the optical formula. The coating of this version was introduced as 'Super Integrated Coating'. Its weight is 415 grams. The inscription now reads: NIKKOR 55mm 1:1.2 xxxxxx Nikon, with all letters in white and the same size. The lens diameter

6

is 72mm. and the overall length is 61mm. Serial numbers start with 350011, which might imply that a few prototypes may exist. Last serial number is within the 386xxx range. Many examples of this version were sold with the common aperture ring, although some lenses could be ordered with the AI ring so it could be used on the AI cameras introduced in July 1977. On one of the lens sheets supplied with the new lens one can see that 350011 has an AI ring! This type was sold in a silver box with a foam insert and came with a lens info sheet.

VERSION5:

This version is like type 4 but was adjusted in July 1977 for the AI coupling system. The new diaphragm ring has a double row of aperture numbers. Those for the aperture direct readout are all of the same size and in white. The fork is an open type improving the readability of the aperture in the viewfinder of most Nikon SLR bodies. On all lenses mentioned hereto on the side of the barrel is the inscription 'lens made in Japan' in white letters. On the last batch of version 5 lenses this inscription is replaced by a black 'made in Japan'. This last batch also has a protective ridge at the back flange. The production of this remarkable lens terminated in April 1978. Serial numbers start with 400001. The last number known to the author is within the 425xxx range. This version came in a gold box, similar to version 4 and with a lens info sheet and guarantee card.

The total production of all versions (over 12.5 years) will be somewhere around 172,250 lenses, which is quite a lot for such a fast and relatively expensive lens. This production number is surpassed by the (successor) Nikkor 1.2/50mm. (over 220,000 lenses-but in 30 years!). AI/S versions of the Nikkor 55mm lens do not exist as the AI/S mount was introduced in September 1981.

For more info on this special lens and other Nikon gear please visit my website www.nicovandijk.net.

Text: Nico van Dijk; photos Nico van Dijk & Xichlo.



Above..Two photos of the unusual 'black-coated' Nikkor Auto #125503 mentioned in the text. Note no 'S' engraving following the work 'Nikkor' like all other early lenses. Left..This is Version 1 (#970111~985xxx) with original box and cards. This is lens #971966.



Left..Is Version #2 (#184711~240533) with original box. This example is lens #228123.



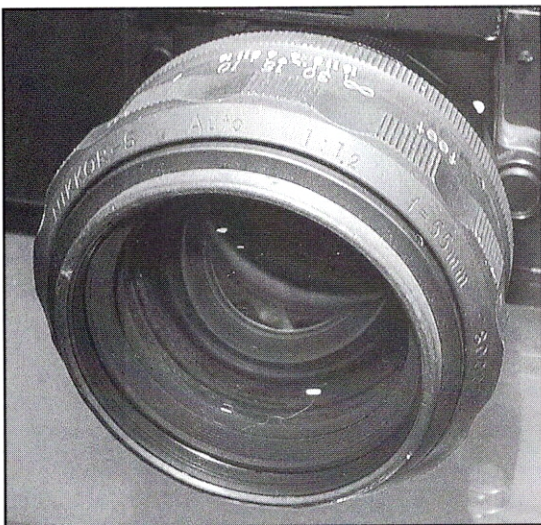
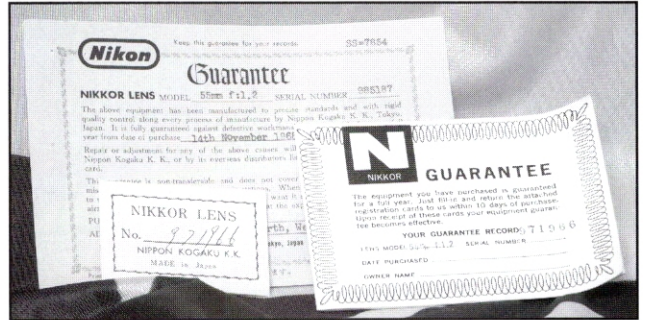
Right..Is Version 3 (#250001~300556) with original box. This example is lens #300051.



Left.. This is Version 4 (#350011~386.xxx) with its original box. This example is lens #353924. Version 5 (#400001~425000) has an identical but gold colored box.



Above..All versions pictured. From top left we have Version 1, 2, 2, 3, 4 and 5.
 Below left..Samples of the lens info sheets that came packed with Versions 4 and 5.
 Below right..The type of guarantee cards that came with the #9xxxxx range of Version 1 lenses.
 Bottom left..A NASA version of the 55mm/f1.2 Nikkor-S. This special lens is based on the second version (as described in the text). Serial numbers for this NASA version begin at #8000001 (7 digits instead of 6). Bottom right..A later NASA lens which may be based on version 3, although it has a rubber grip, which was introduced in 1977 on the AI-lenses. I do not know their serial number type.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS LENS BEFORE? THE 58MM/F1.0 CRT-NIKKOR!

By ROBERT J. ROTOLONI



This is an example of the 58mm/f1.0 CRT-Nikkor. As its name implies, it is for use in recording the images on the CRT screen for scientific purposes. The lens does have a diaphragm with stops down to f16 with no meter coupling but it is engraved as 'Auto' so I assume there is an auto diaphragm mechanism. It is in a standard Nikon F mount! Very interesting and probably very uncommon. And expensive! Note photo in lower right corner of one recently seen for sale in Tokyo. Nice price!



THE 'LEMIX' AND 'ANAM' NIKONS...PART 3

EPILOGUE..... By CHRISTOPHE SAP

While planning for a new visit to Tokyo, I decided to make a stopover in Seoul, So. Korea. So on the 18th of February 2013 the hunt for more Aman/Lemix equipment & information began.

There are two major camera districts in 'downtown' Seoul. One is 'Chungmuro', where you will find several camera shops, mostly classic (no rangefinders). The other is the 'Nandaemon' market where you find classic and digital.

We stayed at the Grand Ambassador Hotel. Chungmuro was a 20min walk (or 5min by taxi) while Nandaemon was 10min further.

I had written down what I wanted and the hotel kindly translated it into Korean for me. So in every shop I simply 'presented' my wishes.

In Chungmuro we did about 15 shops, and found only a few that still had one type, the FM2 Anam. In compacts we found a couple of shops that had one type which was not yet listed in this study. It was the Zoom 600 QD Panorama. Two shops asked 120,000 Won (85 euro, \$115) brand new, but I did not buy at that price. And then, bingo. In a small shop, after reading my note, the owner shook his head, meaning no. But...his wife said something to him and he motioned for us to wait. He sent a boy from the shop out and he soon came back with 3 boxed Anam cases: CF27, CF39L and CF47. Price 35,000 Won. I took them without discussion (25

euro, \$33 for all 3!). So there are at least 4 different CF47 cases: one is Anam; 3 are Lemix; one on the bottom reads Korea; the other 2 say Lemix-Nikon; but the Nikon Lemix sign on the front is different.

He also had one new lens still in the sealed Anam-Nikon box. I was happy to buy it, even if the price was more than I expected, and even though I was not allowed to open the box unless I bought it. It was a Zoom 28-70 Macro Anam.

In Nandaemon we did at least 20 shops, almost one next to the other. Very easy. Here I found another Zoom 600 QD Panorama, new in box for half the previous price. It was 60,000 Won. I also found a new 35-70 Zoom, all of them Anam.

So in total we found no Lemix items and just a few Anam; a compact Zoom 600, two zoom lenses and three cases.

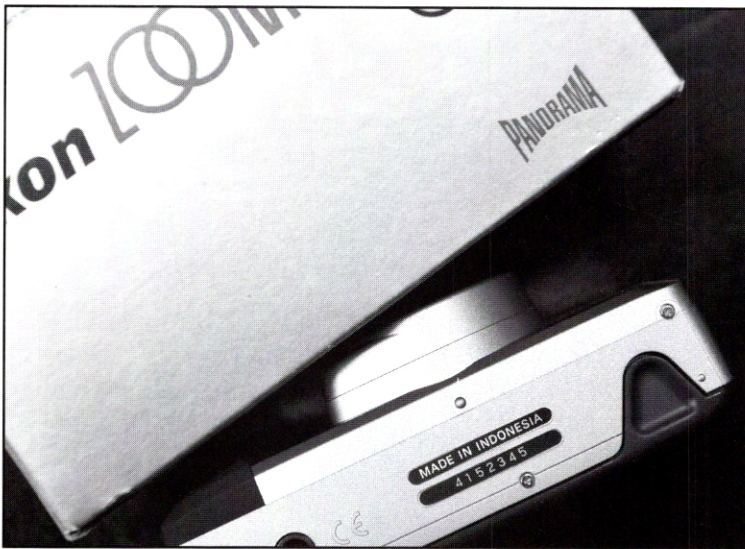
On the boxes and cases the name Anam is proudly present, except on the compact! This was made in Indonesia, and only had a Korean seal so you could not open the box before buying. In the box was the regular unmarked Zoom camera, but in a dedicated Anam case! The documents are Anam, except for the warranty, which is Nikon. A very strange point here is that there is also a list with worldwide Nikon Service facilities (as of January 1999) but NO service address in Korea!



Left..The 'New in the Box' Zoom-Nikkor AF-D 28~70mmf/3.5~4.5 engraved 'Anam'. Above..Note that the foam package inserts are also identified as such. This is not a common practice and seldom seen on 'regular' production Nikkors. It may be unique to the Korean manufactured lenses.



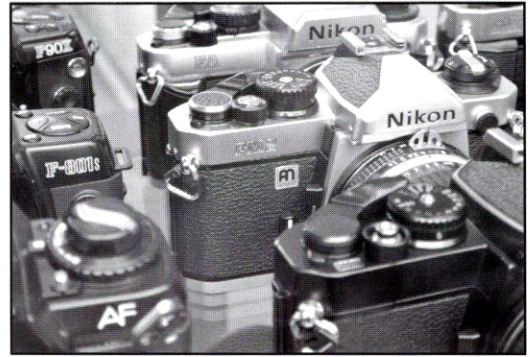
Above..left & right..Closer view of the Anam marked Nikkor zoom lens and its embossed foam identifying insert.



Above & right..The 'Anam' Zoom 600 QD Panorama camera and its correct carry case. Of interest here is that neither the box nor camera are marked as "Anam" but the case is? Camera produced in Indonesia, not Korea.



Above and right..Three of the four known types of 'Anam' marked leather cases. They are types CF-27, CF30L and CF-47. The boxes are so marked as well as the cases themselves. These were purchased new in the box.



The type of camera store seldom seen in the West these days. Note the selection, the modern displays and the many stores. I wish we still had such emporiums here in the US. But we don't. Two floors of just camera gear! About 5,000 sq meters per floor!



Left..This "FAKE" Gold finished Anam FM2 was not for sale, just display. Chris tells me it was not very well done but would make an interesting conversation piece. The same shop had a gold F3 for sale at about 200 euro (\$260) but it was also badly done.

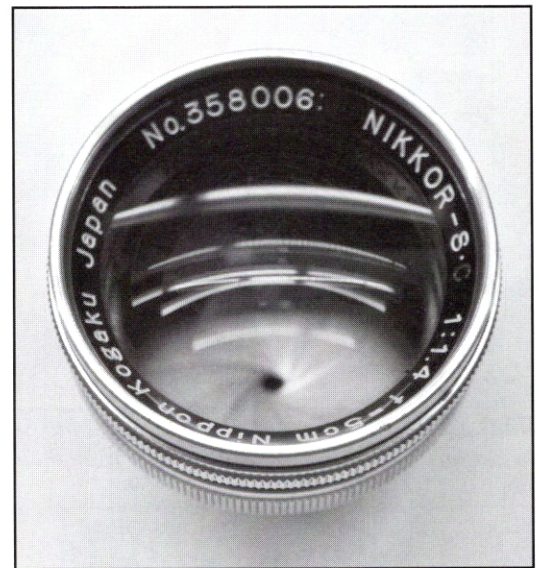
14

THOSE WONDERFUL '358s'...

I continue to receive feedback from my members concerning that strange & wonderful batch of 50mm/f1.4s beginning with '358'. A batch that contains the 2nd type ALL BLACKS, THE ALUMINUMS, & standard CHROME lenses intermixed with many duplicate numbers & lenses with the colon (:). A group of lenses that encompass probably less than 400 serial numbers! Yet there are more colons found in this small sampling than in the entire RF lens production of all types! I mentioned in NHS-118 the existence of lenses #s 4 & 6 in the series and a promise of photos. Both lenses are illustrated here. Also lens #299 is pictured and should be added to our list published in NHS-116. Also please add #358086: to our list (not pictured) which is a chrome lens that came to me on an S2. Its Aluminum twin is already in our list! Keep those numbers coming!

RJR

PART 2



Above & top right..Lens #358004, which is a chrome lens for which we know of the All Black version with the same number! And neither have a colon!? In the photo above it is shown with another addition to our list, #358299:, which is a chrome lens with the colon, so a duplicate Aluminum barrel is out there somewhere. Middle Right & below...Lens #358006:, which is also a chrome lens that does have a colon! So a duplicate exists for it as well and should be an All Black barrel. Also shown are lenses 335079: in chrome and #358097 which is an Aluminum lens. Another recent find not illustrated is chrome lens #358086: for which we know of its Aluminum twin!



THE NIKON MODEL H...PART II ITS INNER WORKINGS....

By ULI KOCH

A few NHS members asked for more information about the method of operation of the Nikon Microscope H. As shown in the drawing, the light path starts when the illumination hits the mirror, goes through the condenser and is deflected to the subject on the glass slide. From there the 'projection' heads into one of the three objectives and from there to the huge glass prism on the bottom of the microscope. Finally, the projection goes upward into the ocular and is visible to the user.

The turret with three objectives was used by Nippon Kogaku since 1954 when they announced the Stereo Microscope SM. This has a comparable system with a horizontal rotateable objective turret, but with objective pairs. The turret, as well as the objectives, are smaller for the Microscope H, which was announced in 1958. As shown in the other drawing, the light path goes through the objective and 'crosses' the light path of the two other objectives in the middle of the turret. The objective contains two parts; one is on the top of the turret, the other at the bottom. Shown on the drawing are the cutaways of the objectives: '100x' (7 elements in 5 groups); '10x' (6 elements in 4 groups); '4x' (4 elements in 3 groups).

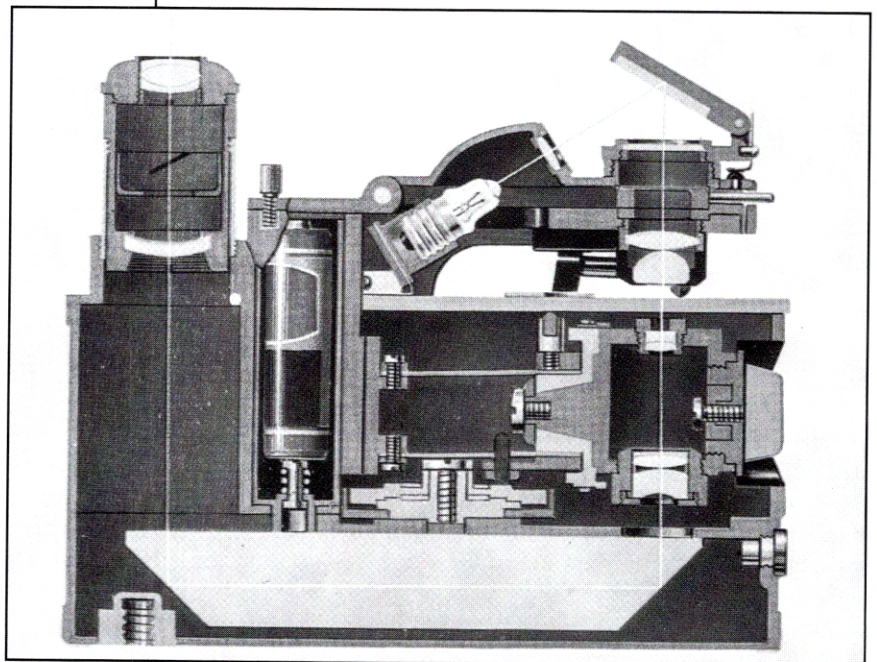
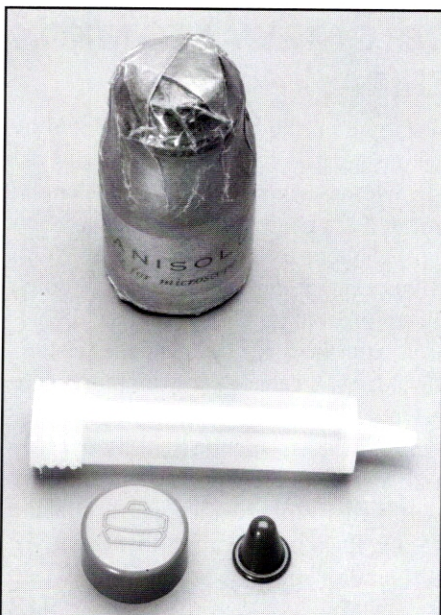
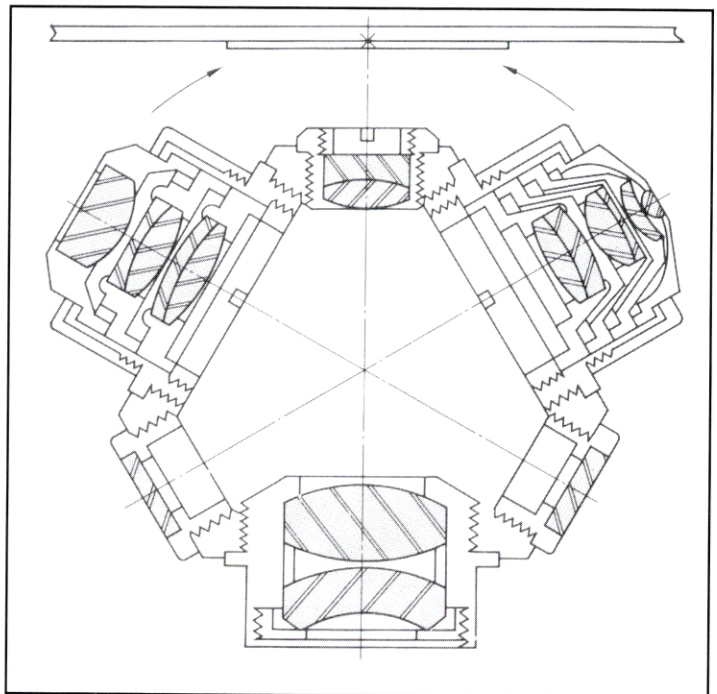
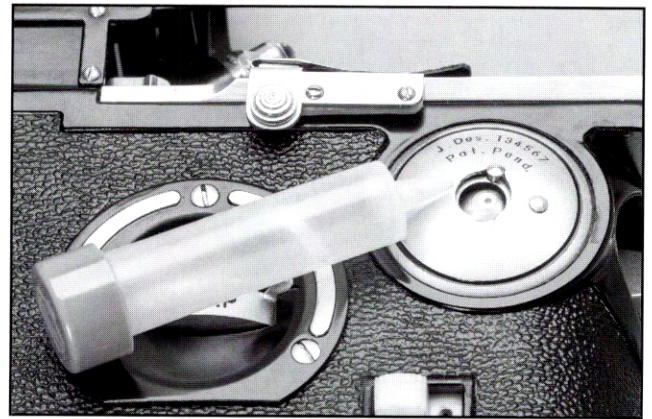
A very nice and interesting piece is the oiler on the first version. Made of plastic it has a tiny red cap for the top and a green rear cap with the NK logo! You'll see on one of the pictures the oiler next to the hole used to apply a drop of oil onto the top of the '100x' objective. One has to turn the '100x' then under the glass slide to have better illumination on the high magnification subject.

Top right..The oiler next to the hole for oiling.

Right middle..A detailed drawing of the lens turret.

Right bottom..The Nikon Model H field microscope cut-a way view.

Below..Close in photo of the oiler and its NK logo marked plastic cap mentioned in the text.



NHS-CON14 WILL BE IN SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 3, 2014

NHS-CON14 NEWS!! THE LATEST AS OF 6/21... SAN FRANCISCO: THE GATEWAY TO NIKON IN N. AMERICA

Even though NHS-Con14 is 15 months away the committee, headed by Bob Rogen, is already hard at work putting things together and doing some groundwork. Unless you have been part of the planning of one of our Conventions, it is difficult to convey to you just how much work is involved. In plain English... A LOT! We have a great many things to do but the most important element is the meeting hotel. Bob and I have been going over this for weeks. The amount of paperwork involved with setting up these big city hotels is daunting. I have printed out almost 40 pages of info from the hotel alone, 30 pages of which is just their catering menu! But... we are talking of one nice hotel. How nice? Well nice enough for the Leica Historical Society of America to use... twice!

We are currently negotiating guestroom rates, dates, the meeting room itself with catering, and the closing dinner to be held right in the hotel. We have minimums to satisfy but more on that in future issues. This time around I just want to give you a general picture of what is still in the planning stage with more 'facts' in future issues. THE HOTEL IS 'The Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel' located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco right off of Union Square. Please visit their website to get a better idea of what the hotel has to offer.

www.marineclub.com

I can tell you that it is an excellent location not far from street car and BART facilities. It has some beautiful Old World charm & décor. Our room rates will include; **hot breakfast buffet and a two-hour complimentary happy hour everyday!** The meeting room will fit our needs perfectly and coffee/tea etc. will be provided both morning and mid afternoon plus a fine buffet lunch as well, all covered by the Convention fee. The closing dinner will be right across the hall in the Crystal Ballroom with excellent food at a reasonable price. (San Francisco is known for the quality of its cuisine.) Once we get prices down I will let you know on this age. Also refer to our official Convention website run by our French

pro, Thierry Ravassod. Check it out often as we will keep you up to date on any changes as well as post info for getting to and from the airport, parking, public transportation, etc.

<http://nipponkogakuklub.com/NHSCON14>

As was the case in Paris, we will have to have our meeting on Friday, not Saturday. This is because we have tied our meeting to the famous San Jose camera show (now located in Newark, not San Jose), which is held on Saturday, not Sunday. Members Ken Morton and Petra Kellers are the organizers of this show (one of the largest left in the US!) and will be working with us. We hope to have our own NHS table that day. More later. Therefore, our meeting will be Friday October 3, 2014 and the show is on the 4th.

The theme for NHS-Con14 will be:

SAN FRANCISCO: GATEWAY TO NIKON IN NORTH AMERICA

And it was! We will concentrate on the history of OFITRA the very first importer of Nikons long before Ehrenreich and the Adolph Gasser connection. We have covered this company and its manager, Hans Liholm, in these pages as well as Mr. Gasser. So you all know that the first Nikons officially shipped to North America by Nippon Kogaku came through OFITRA and Adolph Gasser! What a perfect place for a Nikon Convention!

So look to this page each issue for more facts and info as they come along but also go to Thierry's website for even more up to information as well. Check out the hotel website too.

Start getting ready because those 15 months will fly by! I do hope to see many of you there. Please keep in mind that we have to guarantee the hotel so many rooms in order to get the rates and satisfy the contract. Therefore, the more members that attend the better. It's a great city and I am looking forward to it.

RJR

THE AUCTION SCENE

Peter Coeln held his 23rd Westlicht Auction in Vienna on May 25th. As always a great many Nikon items were offered up and most sold. I only had room for 8 photos of some of the more interesting items but I have also listed others of possibly equal interest but for which I did not have space for photos. All prices quoted include the buyer's premium and have been converted to US dollars.

- Nikon M6092033 w/f2 Nikkor #50080295.....\$3,400
- Black Nikon S2 #6180694 w/f1.4 Nikkor.....\$4,375
- Nikon SP boxed w/f1.4 Nikkor & motor drilled!.....\$8,600
- Nikkor 50/f3.5 Rigid LTM for early Niccas.....\$3,100
- Nikon S3 black Olympic & proper f1.4.....\$4,700
- Nikon S4 w/f1.4 Nikkor\$1,325
- Black Nikon SP #6202658 w/f1.4 Nikkor\$5,300
- Nikon F2 Photomic DUMMY camera.....\$860
- Nikon F2 25th Anniversary NEW IN BOX.....\$2,200

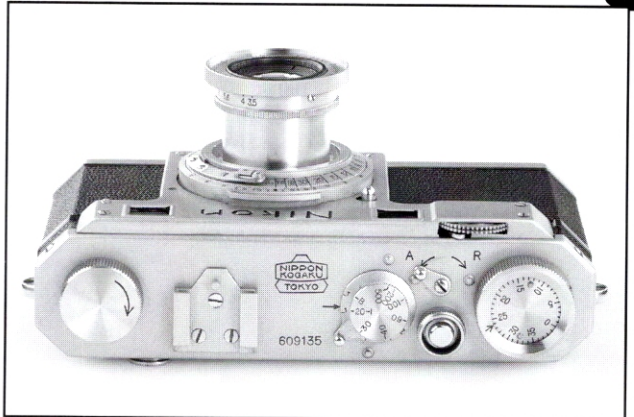
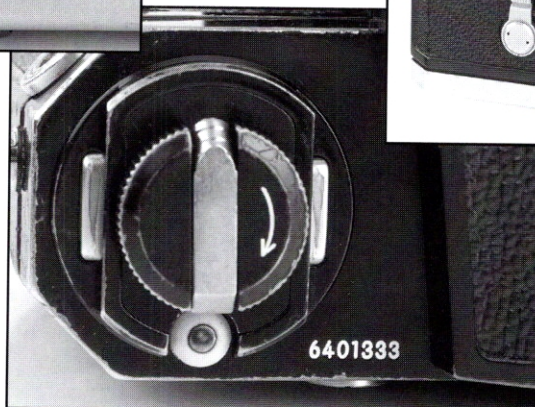
Now look at the photos for some really interesting items starting with the one right below! Can you believe it?



Above..Black Nikon S said to be a LIFE camera...\$86,000!!!!

Right...Very early Nikon S3 from the first batch of 100 bodies, #6300051...\$950

Below...Complete NIKKOR F camera with correct FTn finder & engravings...\$1,500



Above..Nikon I #609135 w/f3.5 Nikkor #705199...\$26,500



Above..Very early Nikon M609816 w/f2 Nikkor...\$7,000



Above..Early Nikon F body only #6400170...\$1,250

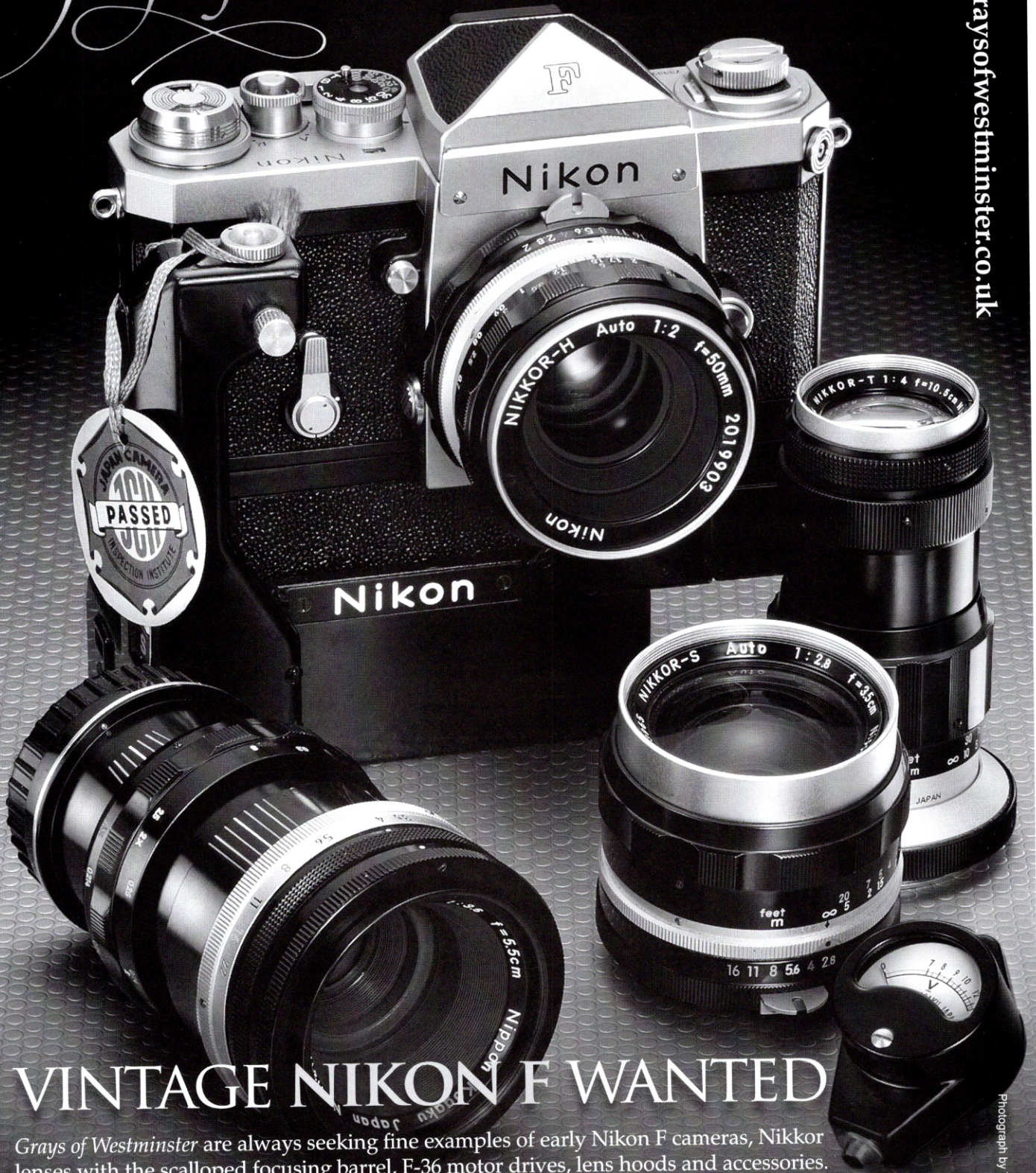


Above...Rare Nikon F factory made cut-away body...\$1,170

Left...Very early black Nikon F #6401333 and one that is not a fake! ..\$6,250

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Grays of Westminster are always seeking fine examples of early Nikon F cameras, Nikkor lenses with the scalloped focusing barrel, F-36 motor drives, lens hoods and accessories. Please telephone +44 (0)20 7828 4925 or email us full details info@graysofwestminster.co.uk

GRAYS OF WESTMINSTER, 40, CHURTON STREET, LONDON SW1V 2LP, ENGLAND

Photograph by Tony Hurst

IN MEMORIAM....

HANS LIHOLM 1935~2013

We are saddened to report the recent death of Hans W. Liholm, former manager of The Overseas Finance & Trading Company. OFITRA was the first importer of the Nikon camera and other products of Nippon Kogaku into North America. Liholm imported Nikons to America starting in the spring of 1949. In the fall of 1949 he negotiated a contract to supply 13mm Cine Nikkors to the Revere Camera Company, a deal that gave NK badly needed cash flow. He also created a market for NK's Lensometers that helped build a reputation for Japanese optical products among American optical professionals. In April 1950, he flew to Tokyo where he negotiated a formal importation agreement that lasted until 1953. By the time Ehrenreich took over the importation of Nikons, Liholm's work had resulted in the Nikon becoming recognized as the best 35mm rangefinder camera to come out of Japan.

Hans was born in Sweden to a Swedish father and a German mother. With the coming of Hitler he moved to Sweden where he graduated from school in 1945 at the age of 20. Ambitious and with strong linguistic skills, he took a job with the Aktiebolaget Goteberg Bank where he soon was doing the job of senior bankers. In 1947 he worked out an agreement that put him in San Francisco working for the Bank of America. It was there that he was introduced to Uno Lindholm, a Swedish trader. Lindholm was planning to become an important player in the export of post-war Japanese goods to America, particularly the products of NK. He hired Liholm to make this happen.

Liholm and the newly created OFITRA quickly started importing binoculars, then branched into other NK products, including their new camera. Running into sales resistance, Liholm took a Nikon to Adolph Gasser, San Francisco's best camera repairman. Gasser recommended changes and improvements that led to the Nikon M. In 1950, Liholm not only gained an import contract for the US, but also one to supply the CPO with cameras and lenses for the military exchanges. This strongly boosted sales in 1950.

In 1951 Liholm and Gasser, working together under the banner of "Nikon Camera Company", exploited the Korean War correspondents' publicity to push the sales of Nikon products. But in the autumn of 1951, Liholm fell seriously ill in Hamburg, Germany, while in route to Japan. Forced to relinquish his role with OFITRA and the Nikon Camera Company, Liholm never worked with Nikons again.

He returned to the banking business as a financial advisor in Hamburg where he played a major role in the recovery of Germany's merchant marine. He was hugely successful and continued working well into the 1990s.

I knew him as a dear friend, willing to answer any questions about his life and role in the Nikon import business. His memory was full and strong. My extended visit with him and his wife, Christine, in February 2005, was one of the highlights of my research that led to my book on the early history of the Nikon camera. We continued to be in touch, his correspondence and a second visit in 2008 full of warmth and a deep love of life. I will miss him deeply.

Michael Wescott Loder

SOME NEW BOOK UPDATES

Besides Nikon I #609135 in the Westlicht Auction (see page 17) I have 2 others to report. They are cameras #609168 w/f2 #7088 and #609663 w/f2 #708157 which sold in Tokyo for \$17,000! More colon (:) marked lenses (besides the 358s) reported to me include 135/3.5s #250148, 255245, 260996 & 269677. Also 85/f2 #295417. Also 135/f3.5s #254715 & #259453 are in Meters! Variframe Type 6 finders #s363861 & 394091 had nose threads added somewhere between them. Well #364043 has NO THREADS so it is now narrowed down to #364043 ~ 364091. Very close! Please add SM 500/f5 #647114 to our small known batch. Two very early lenses also surfaced. They are 50/f2 #50375 & REGNO-Nikkor 50/f2 #141139A, both in Canon Hansa mount! Micro-Nikkor #524443 has been seen and is a new high, Also add S2 body #6205003 to our list.

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.

Type I housings #371169 & 371187 were offered. One came with the Type II 90 degree prism, a mismatch! But oh so rare! Type II housing is #471124/67020. Has very early features since it is probably the 23rd produced as well as the 19th finder! Zunow f1.1 in SM could be bought for only \$10,350.00! Hmmm 21mm F mount Nikkor & finder was out there for only \$10,000! Nikkor F black #7061811 was for sale as well as an 8-digit Nikon S #60910921.

Finally..though not on ebay the following FAKE black Nikon F bodies have been offered on the market. They are #s 6400064 & 6400077. Both very early and both are FAKE. A shame they had to ruin two F bodies from the first 100 made!!

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!

RJR

FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT

Those of you who wish to obtain a signed copy of my book from me need only to contact me. 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 (15%!).

United States\$100 including Priority shipping.

Canada..... \$125 including Int. Priority shipping.

Europe/Japan/Aus. \$140 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 NIKON HISTORICAL SOC. or MYSELF

THANK YOU.....RJR

20 CLASSIFIED ADS

SELL LIST... I am now on EBAY on a regular basis! You might want to make me a preferred seller so you can keep track of what I have currently listed. My call letters are '6091'!. **RJR rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net**

WANTED...Photos wanted if possible for any of the following lenses: NIKKOR 21mm/f3.5 in LTM; NIKKOR 25mm/f4.5 in Nikon mt; NIKKOR 28mm/f4 in Nikon mt; STEREO-NIKKOR in LTM!; KINEGON 35mm/f2.5 in Nikon mt; KOMURA 28mm/f2.8 in Nikon mt. Rare non-Nikkor wide angle lenses for Nikon RF mount. **Akito Tamla, Suginami-ku, Kami-gusa 1-25-11-104, Tokyo 167-0023 Japan. Cell phone email akito49@wm.pdx.ne.jp Thanks.**

WANTED...Nikon 35mm/f1.8 in Leica SM. Prefer clean glass & cosmetics. Authentic BLACK Canon rangefinder body, preferably a VIT or VIL model. NO repaint-only original. Original box for Nikon SP. Nikon 3.5cm bright line finder. **teamrogen@sbcglobal.net**

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 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

WANTED...Common models of Autographic Kodaks, & also large size Ansco models. Contact: **Tony Hurst (Dublin) at email nippon54@hotmail.com or telephone me at (353) 1288- 4896.**

DUPLICATE ITEMS FOR TRADE OR BUY..I have the following 135mm Nikkors that are duplicate #s: **250148, 253653 (Contax), 254200, 255426, 260671, 260996.** Willing to trade 1 of them (except 255426/260996) for a matching # on the list or buy one at normal price. In 50/f1.4s I have: **337332, 337860, 358006, 358079.** Willing to exchange 327332 or 337860 or buy their mates. **Chris Sap, email me at csap@skynet.be Thank You**

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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.
www.matthewlin.com

odds 'n ends

YET JUST ANOTHER 135MM NIKKOR?? NOT ON YOUR LIFE!!



Last issue on this page I showcased a newly discovered variant for the MIOJ Nikkor telephotos produced in 'Contax' mount by NK. It was the first such lens reported to me and something we had never been aware of previously. It was an early 135/f3.5 with the letter 'C' engraved on the rear cam below the MIOJ! Well...we now have another one. This time it is an even less common item, a 135mm/f4.0 Nikkor #904591 in Contax mount with its 'C' also on the rear cam! I love this kind of feedback don't you? Sent in by long time Japanese member Katsuharu Takashima.



CREATED FOR THE "NHS" BY *Tony Street*