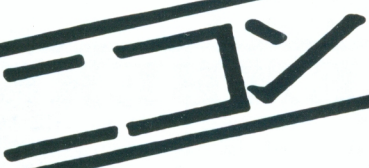


A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JUNE 30, 1994

NHS-44

The Nikon  JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE..

PG.2--THE UNUSUAL MARSHAL PRESS
PG.6--INSIDE THE ORION COUPLER
PG.8--F-SPOT..THE FEA ACTION CAMERA
PG.14--THE NIKON B.C.B. FLASHES

ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



THE NIKON JOURNAL

CONTENTS

PAGE ONE.....	
EDITORIAL.....	BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
PAGE TWO.....	
THE UNUSUAL MARSHAL PRESS	BY PETER LOWNDS
PAGE SIX.....	
INSIDE THE "ORION" LENS COUPLER	BY DIRK BERGMANN
PAGE EIGHT.....	
THE "F-SPOT".....	THE NIKON FEA ACTION CAMERA BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

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PAGE ELEVEN.....	
NIKON WWII OPTICAL ORDANCE.....	PART V BY RICHARD LANE
PAGE FOURTEEN.....	
THE NIKON B.C.B. I & II FLASH UNITS	BY ULRICH KOCH
PAGE SEVENTEEN....	
LET THE BUYER BEWARE..PART II....	BY PETER LOWNDS
N.H.S. PRODUCTS	
PAGE NINETEEN.....	
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
PAGE TWENTY.....	
CLASSIFIEDS....NEW MEMBERS....	BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL!
INSIDE REAR COVER.	
ODDS N' ENDS....NIKON "TOOL LENSES"....	BY PETER LOWNDS

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EDITORIAL

This issue fell into place at the last moment. What began as a struggle to fill space became one of finding room for everything. I had to change things around twice to make it fit & I still had to leave some things out & cut others short to make it work. The same for this page.....space is very tight and much needs to be covered, so here goes!

Peter Lownds is making one more request for any info you wish to share about the f1.1 Nikkor lens for an upcoming article. He wants it to be as complete & accurate as is possible, so if you have anything at all to contribute get it to him as soon as possible. And we thank you in advance!

There have been some auctions lately, including a very significant one at Christies. I will try to have detailed results in NHS-45 for you on this one plus the May auction in Cologne Germany.

I was not able to get photos made of some other items from NHS-Con4 but will try to have them ready by NHS-45. There are only a few items but the special lapel pin is selling well and still available.

Check out our Tony Hurst rear cover and you will see a selection from the awesome slide show he presented at NHS-Con4. This is only a sampling as there were nearly 100 made for the show. Imagine these images in full color and blown up to 50x50! If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy set please let me know. If enough people respond then we can get the price down, but believe me, whatever the price this set is worth it! Nikon-art at its best!

I did not have room for the backissue listing this time but will include an updated one in #45. Orders have been heavy of late and some originals have now been depleted, so an updated listing is necessary. More copies are being made at this moment and all orders will be completely filled.

Rudi Hillebrand, publisher of Photo Deal will run a 2 page article in his next issue on the Convention! I have seen a fax-proof and it will be great P.R. for the NHS when it comes out. He has offered to produce an English translation of the article (which is in German) for any NHS member who decides to order the issue from him. He would supply both the magazine and the translation for \$12 US by airmail anywhere in the world! This is a good chance for you to see more coverage of NHS-Con4 and also to get a look at his fine magazine & see what else is being published out there for the camera collector (his photos will be in color!!). Payment should be by cash or international reply coupons. See ad on page 18 for the address, & support this effort.

Member Peter Walnes is holding another camera show in London on October 9th. He has provided me with flyers for this issue giving details necessary for attending as either a seller or buyer. Please take note of this event and those of you who can be in London in October try to make it one of your stops. Peter is a supporter of the Society which he promotes to his many customers. He has kindly offered a table to the NHS to promote the Society, but circumstances prevent me from attending. But if you can make it, try to attend and introduce yourself to Peter as an NHS member!

I am in the process of putting together a questionnaire about NHS-Con5 (I know we just had #4, but believe me, the conventions require really advance planning, so we cannot start too early!). I hope to have it ready to insert into NHS-45 so I can get your feedback about the next meeting planned for the spring of 1996! It will come must faster than you think!

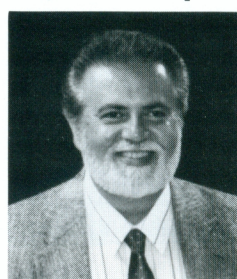
In this issue we have an article on the Marshal Press, one of the few non-Nikon made cameras that came supplied with Nikkors as standard equipment. An unusual piece for sure. Peter Lownds wrote it, as well as our Odds n' Ends feature, which is on an unusual type of Nikkor called a "tool lens". Also in this issue is Peter's follow-up letter about his "Buyer Beware" article from NHS-42. See how this saga of sorrow finally turned out.

Remember the Orion Coupler from #42? Well, German member Dirk Bergmann, who is a photo repairman and technician, requested a chance to disassemble it and see how it was done with the goal of possibly producing a replica for sale to the members. His article is very interesting as is his letter, reproduced below. Whatever your response, please let us know!

Out of space! Out of time! Take care!
From Dirk Bergmann...

Since some NHS members who read your article in NHS-42 asked me for a replica of the Orion lens coupler, let me make some additional remarks and to answer these requests in general. Production of just a few pieces would not be possible at reasonable prices. However, if there were enough NHS members interested in a special "NHS Orion" replica, it might be worth thinking about manufacturing a small limited series of them. The final price of course depends on the number of units produced, but to give you a rough idea I have calculated that we would need a total of at least 100 units to lower the price to a point under the \$1000.00 level! But such a special edition would open up some attractive possibilities for modifying the design based on customer requests. Options could include such things as...black chrome finish; meter scales instead of feet; special engravings such as the NHS logo; special serial number range; or whatever the ideas may be. So what do you think about asking the members to write to you if they are interested in the project and give a report of the response in one of the future issues?

Dirk and I have been faxing back and forth to each other since NHS-Con4 about producing a special replica series of the Orion coupler. To be honest we did not know what the cost would be at first until Dirk was able to disassemble my Orion and discover how complex it is. The fact that there are probably much fewer than 200 originals available in the world might convince many of you to consider this project. Remember also that Orions have changed hands at or near the \$2000 mark, and if we limit production to just this run for the NHS, they will qualify as a future collectable as well. Please give this some thought and if you have any ideas for customizing the item, or any thoughts at all, make sure you let me know. Just drop me a line. RJR.



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

MARSHAL

PRESS

PETER LOWNDS

I am sure that we all spend hours and hours at camera shows looking for the Nikon "crown jewels" such as the 21mm for the rangefinders, black S2s, motors, mini finders and illuminators. And we dream of the day when some little old lady walks into the room with a bag full of black SPs with motors and wanting to trade them in for a camera she can use to take pictures of her grandchildren! It does happen.. not to me..but it does happen. We have all drunk too many cups a coffee in an effort to stay alert, or eaten sandwiches so old they are about to stand up and start walking. Or taken too much money with us in the hope that the one item we need to complete our collection will "not" turn up today because we really need to have the car repaired and the kids need braces! And you try telling your wife who has had PMS for the last 6 months that you cannot live without this particular lens! But..there are cameras out there that do not command the high prices of the Nikon rangefinders, won't break the bank and are worth taking a good look at. One such camera is the "Marshall Press"!

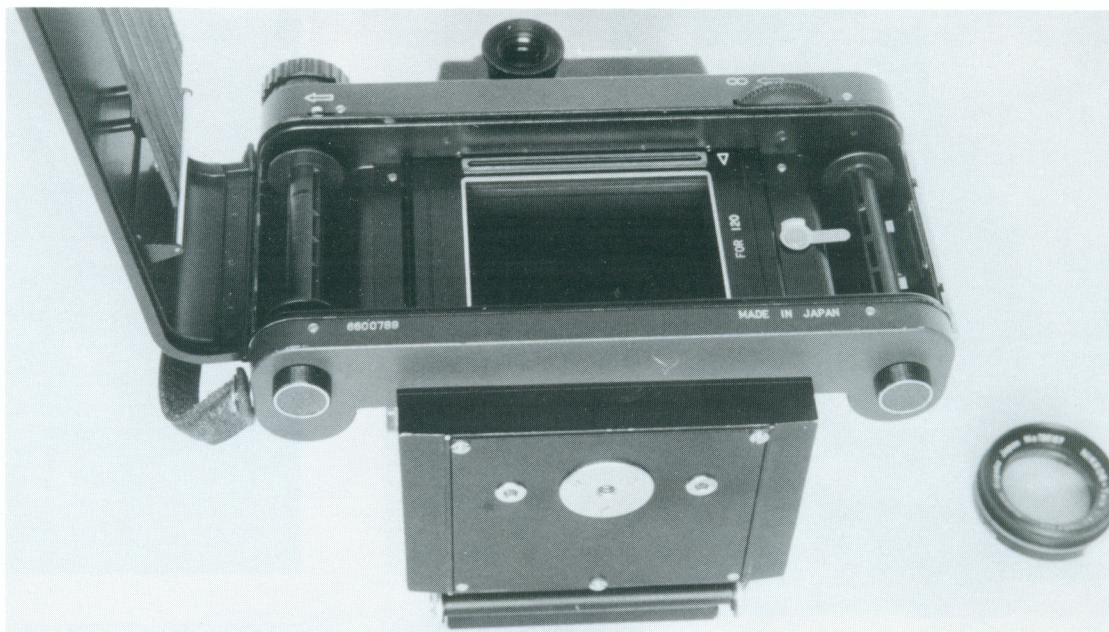
Six years ago at the second NHS Convention in Chicago, Bill Kraus gave a great talk and slide show. One of the slides he had for our enjoyment was a question and answer item. He displayed a slide of the two auxiliary lenses for the Marshall Press (sounds like a large machine used to stamp out car body parts). No one knew what the two front lenses were for. I remember making a mental note at the time...look for a Marshall Press. Well, lots of camera shows and 4 years later I found my crown jewel (thank you, Bill). My Marshall Press came to me by way of a camera show in Paris. It had been one of those days when you need six pairs of eyes. At about 4 o'clock I could no longer hold my bladder. Covering my table with a blanket I went off to do what men have to do and took time for a quick walk about the room. There on a table left for dead lay a Marshall Press! Just looking at the case was reason enough to give its contents a wide berth, but I did not. With gloves on I opened the cheap and nasty case and, low and behold, lay a Marshall Press. No Auto-Focus, no batteries, just 20 years of dust with a taste of 1960s' Main Street U.S.A. American type big and brash whopper of a camera. Dr. Mamiya must never have heard of the word compact. Back in those larger than life days of 1966 no one gave a thought about size.

I am told that this was a product of Dr. Seichi Mamiya who had sold his shares in the company that bears his name and had gone off to start over again. This was his "baby", but it seems to have been a bit of a baby white elephant! What was Dr. Mamiya thinking of when he designed this camera? Did he have hands like a coal miner or a lumber jack? Most of the production was sold in Japan, but it must have needed three Japanese to operate. The body is well screwed together with no loose fitting parts and with screws that would not be out of place on board a ship! It is almost overmade..finished in a dark grey paint with no attempt to reduce weight.

Looking at the body serial number, "66" must be for the year it was made. I think that 6600609 must be the starting point (the 609 is for the 6x9 format)? Sticking my neck out a little but I would like to know if anyone knows of a lower serial number. But lets get down to the lenses!

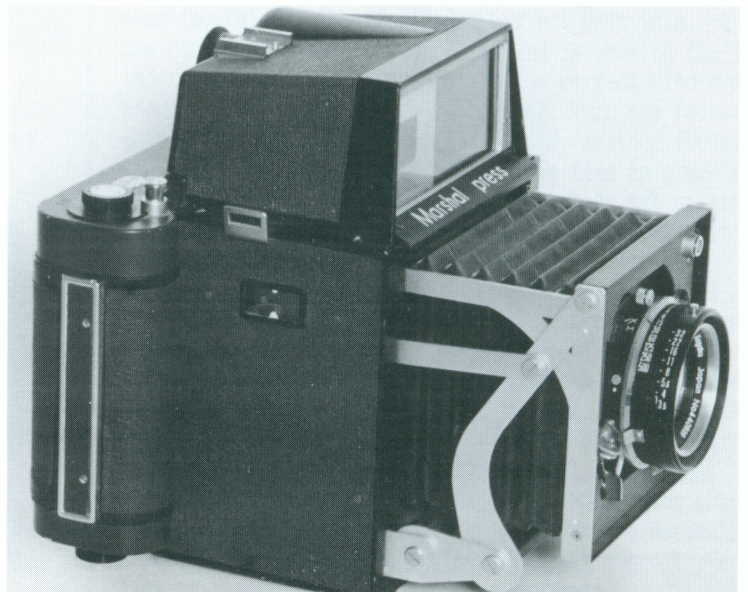
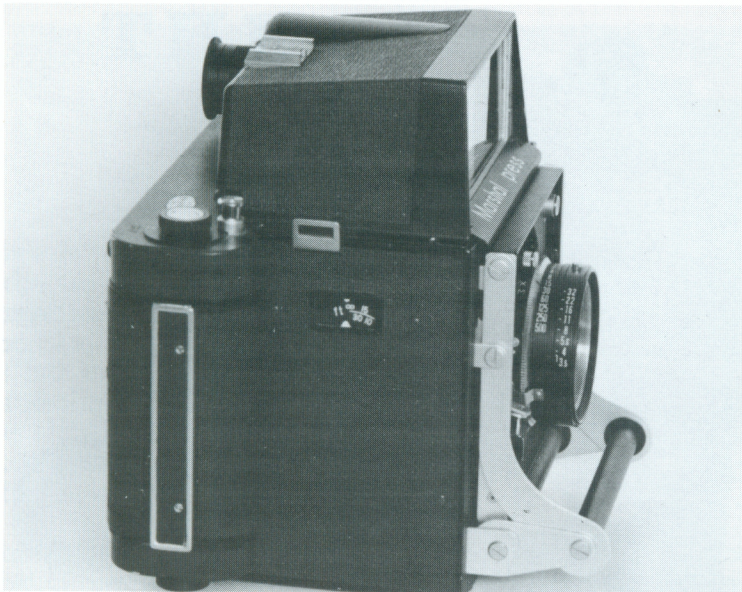
First lets take a look at the standard lens, a Nikkor 105mm/f3.5 #440936, whose number makes no sense as the starting number should have been #105035. This is true for the camera body as well as the two supplementary lenses: 135mm/f4.7 #135157 (could it be the 10th lens?) and the 150mm/f5.6 #150563 (possibly the 3rd lens?). The two lenses are an intricate part of the system. Using the 105mm lens the parallax viewfinder is automatically corrected for that focal length. The focusing stops at the end of the white part of the focusing scale on the right hand side of the camera. We now unlock the wheel on top of the camera back. This will allow the focusing to be turned further out to allow for use of the 150mm lens element as a close-up lens. Focusing down from 4 feet to 2 feet remove the 150mm lens with the orange ring, mount the 135mm lens element, turn the focusing knob on the back of the camera out a little to reveal a green focusing scale which corresponds to the green ring on the 135mm lens, and we now have the 135mm lens in place. While we have been turning, taking off and mounting things, the viewfinder has not been idle. It now has corrected itself for parallax and is showing the 135mm index mark above the eyepiece and the correct finder size for the 135mm coupled down to 12 feet. Turn the focusing wheel out yet again and low and behold, another focusing scale for the 150mm lens element, this time in green to match the green ring on this lens. Somebody sat up nights thinking about this camera. And not a printed circuit in sight!

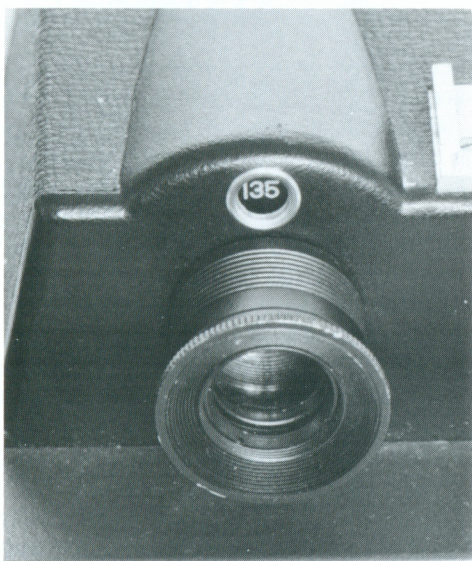
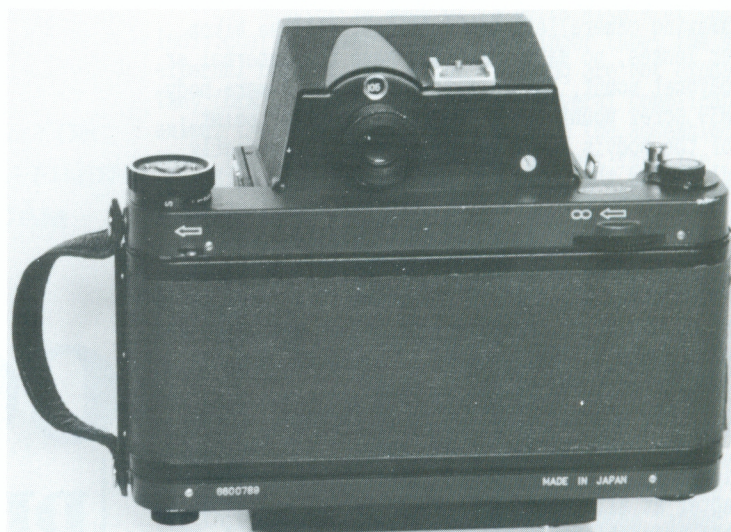
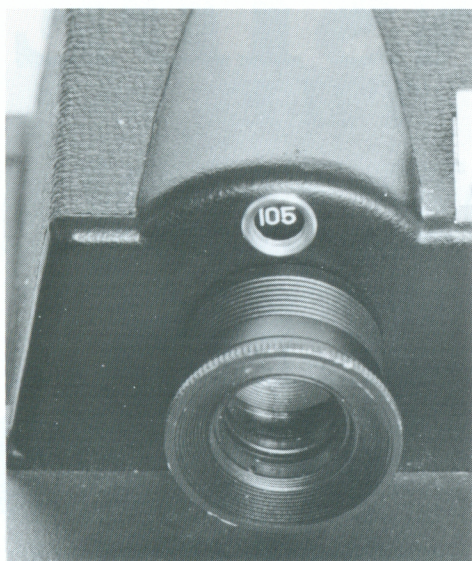
The Marshall Press has an almost army like feel about it and is built like a tank. The back is a Mamiya Press, the bellows from the Mamiya C3, the viewfinder right out of the Mamiya C23 Press. A big and brash camera, I love every 1/4" screw and nut of it. Had this camera gone into large production it would have left a line of press photographers with bad backs! But as far as I can tell, only about 700 to 800 camera bodies were made. If that's not reason enough to track one down, then I'll eat my hat. But the Marshall Press, for all its shortcomings, is still a great piece to have in anyones collection. Happy Hunting!



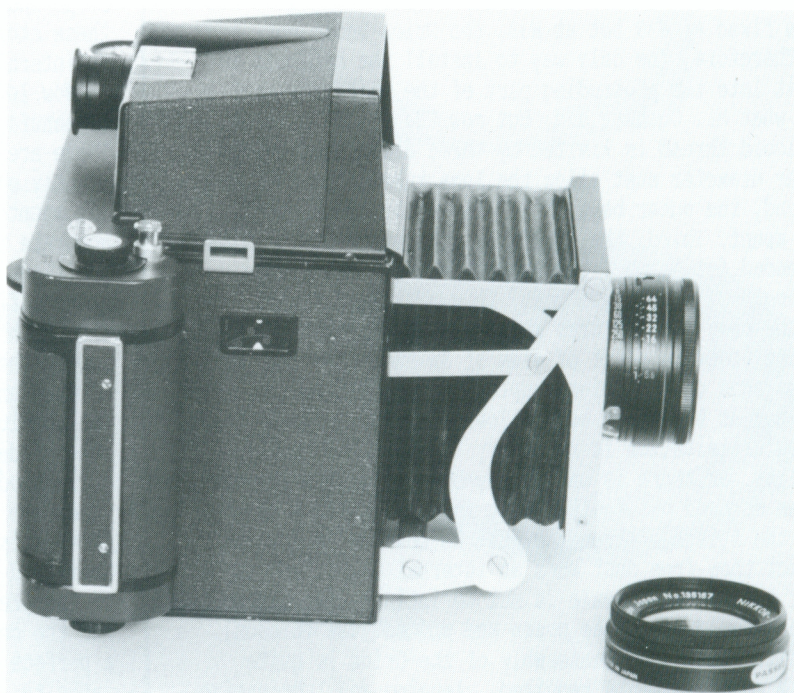
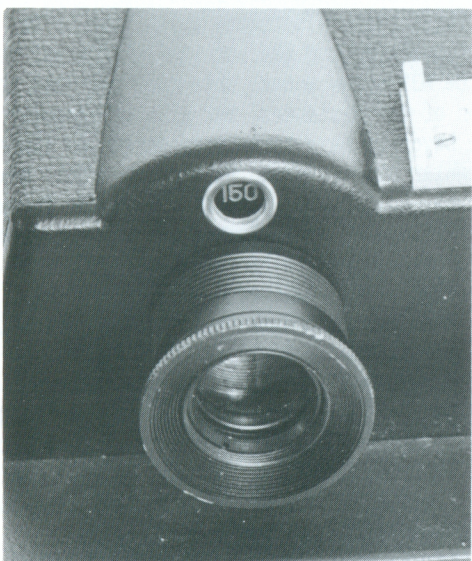
THE MARSHAL PRESS IS TRULY A MASSIVE INSTRUMENT DESIGNED TO PRODUCE 6X9 CM IMAGES ON 120/220 FILM. NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS CAMERA, BUT IT ACTUALLY IS NOT AS HEAVY AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, PROBABLY DUE TO THE LIBERAL USE OF ALUMINUM (BUT YOU WON'T FIND ANY PLASTIC ON THIS BABY, NOT DURING THE SIXTIES!). BELOW ARE THE TWO AUXILIARY LENSES, WHICH ARE NOT AS COMMON AS THE CAMERA ITSELF AND ADD APPRECIABLY TO ITS VALUE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT NOT EVERY CAMERA WAS AUTOMATICALLY SUPPLIED WITH THESE LENSES AND THEY WERE PROMOTED AS ONLY ACCESSORIES. EITHER THAT OR MANY SETS HAVE BEEN LOST OVER THE YEARS FOR ONE OFTEN FINDS THE MARSHAL PRESS WITHOUT THEM.







THE FOCAL LENGTH OF EACH LENS IN USE WAS KEYED INTO A SMALL WINDOW JUST ABOVE THE EYEPIECE FOR EASY IDENTIFICATION. IN THE PHOTO ABOVE NOTE THE ARROW & INFINITY MARK AT THE RIGHT REAR TOP. JUST BELOW THEM IS THE FOCUSING WHEEL! WITH THE CAMERA AT EYELEVEL IT COULD BE EASILY AND QUICKLY FOCUSED USING THIS WHEEL. THIS IS REALLY A SUPERB DESIGN FEATURE AS IT MAKES FOCUSING THIS VERY LARGE CAMERA EXTREMELY EASY! PROBABLY ONE OF THE EASIEST TO FOCUS 6x9s EVER MADE! WINDING KNOB & FRAME COUNTER ARE ON THE LEFT JUST ABOVE THE REWIND LEVER AND ITS ARROW.



INSIDE THE ORION LENS COUPLER

DIRK BERGMANN

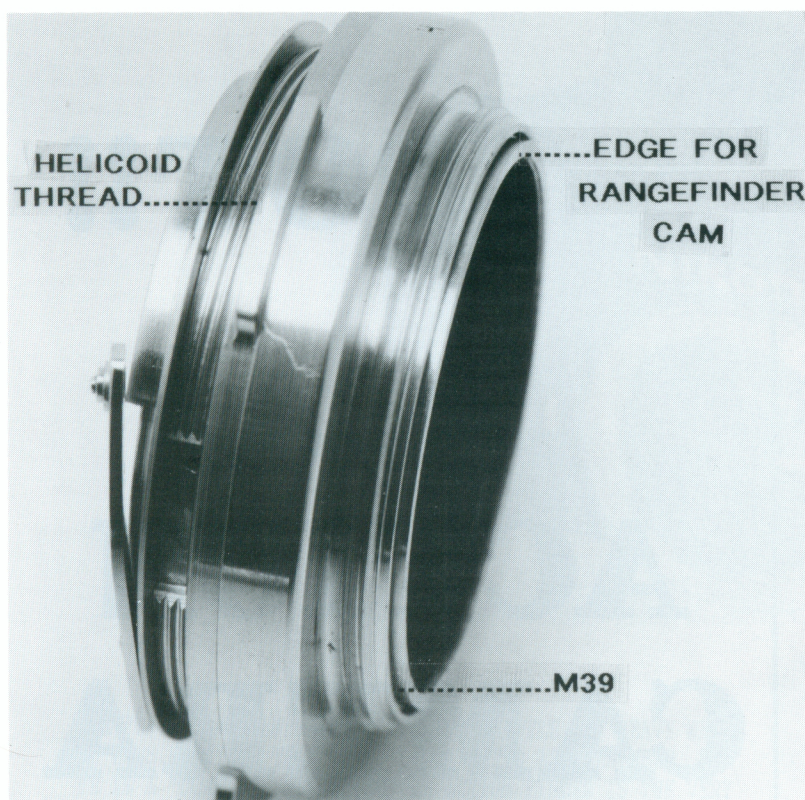
Most readers will remember Bob's fascinating article on the Orion lens coupler in NHS-42. A unique accessory, allowing amazing camera/lens combinations: all the Nikon rangefinder lenses, no matter if they have the internal or external bayonet mount, can be fitted on every camera body with the M39 screw mount. And, the most important point, function of the body's built in rangefinder is perfectly maintained! Beyond that, one can use these lenses with all Leica M models up to the latest M6 with its excellent metering system, if the common screw mount adapter is used. If such desirable combinations are allowed by this specially designed Orion ring, why then is it such a rare item? Let's try to find an answer by taking a look inside the Orion and follow the thoughts of that genius, Mr. Ogiwara, and see how he solved the various design problems.

There is one general question to be answered at the beginning of the construction of any adapter: do the dimensions, which have to be considered, allow the construction of the adapter at all? Both sides of it are of course determined by the proportions of the units to be connected. The length is determined by the distance between lens and body required to allow correct focusing. Now if there is any overlap of the outlines of body and lens mount, it is not possible to construct an adapter for this pair at all! Fortunately, this is not the case here, but there is very little space between camera and lens mount! And this is the main problem, as you will see later on.

As you know, the lens mount of the Nikon S cameras provides a helicoid thread for the internal bayonet lenses. As the M39 bodies don't have this internal focusing device, the helicoid has to be part of the lens coupler itself. To do this simply in just the same manner as inside the Nikon bodies is doomed to failure because of the lack of space. Note the three breaches in the inner tube bearing the internal bayonet. The thickness of the bars beside them runs down to 0.7mm. That means if the screw mount size had not been fixed at M39 but at M38, the Orion would not exist! Therefore, the only way to install the helicoid is to put it into the protruding part of the unit, and that is exactly what Mr. Ogiwara did. But now the entire size of the helicoid thread is limited by three dimensions: first, the inner diameter must allow the lens tube to pass through it. Second, the outer bayonet is limited by the external bayonet mount. Third, the length is determined by the distance needed for correct focusing related to the flange focal length of the camera body. This last requirement causes the only two features which are not absolutely satisfying from the point of view of an engineer: the focusing range of the Orion coupler must be limited to 3.5ft, whereas the Nikon body allows it to go down to 3.0ft. This limitation is necessary to avoid too much instability, as there is only 1.5mm overlap of the threads left when screwed out to the 3.5ft index. The other thing is that the helicoid threads cannot be covered in any way to protect them from dust when an internal mount lens is used, or the focusing scale is set to infinity (an external mount lens would of course cover and protect the threads). But as disassembly and reassembly of the Orion is quite easy with no adjustments required, cleaning and lubricating of its helical thread is not a difficult job.

The construction of the stops at both ends of the focusing scale seems to have caused another sleepless night for Mr. Ogiwara. Because of the lack of space (again) and the need for high durability, he constructed a unique device which is not used this way in any other photographic item as far as I know. When focusing a precise fabricated slide is gliding up and down in a groove milled into the inner helicoid thread. This slide is additionally guided in a narrow slot underneath the outer helicoid thread. Two bolts are screwed into the external bayonet ring to stop the motion of the slide at both ends of the scale. Another circular guide slot is turned into the ring bearing the M39 thread to prevent the slide from canting. As a result of this complicated construction you get very well defined stops and the extreme ruggedness required. Remember that these stops have to take up the whole torque when mounting an internal lens with the adapter attached to an M39 body!

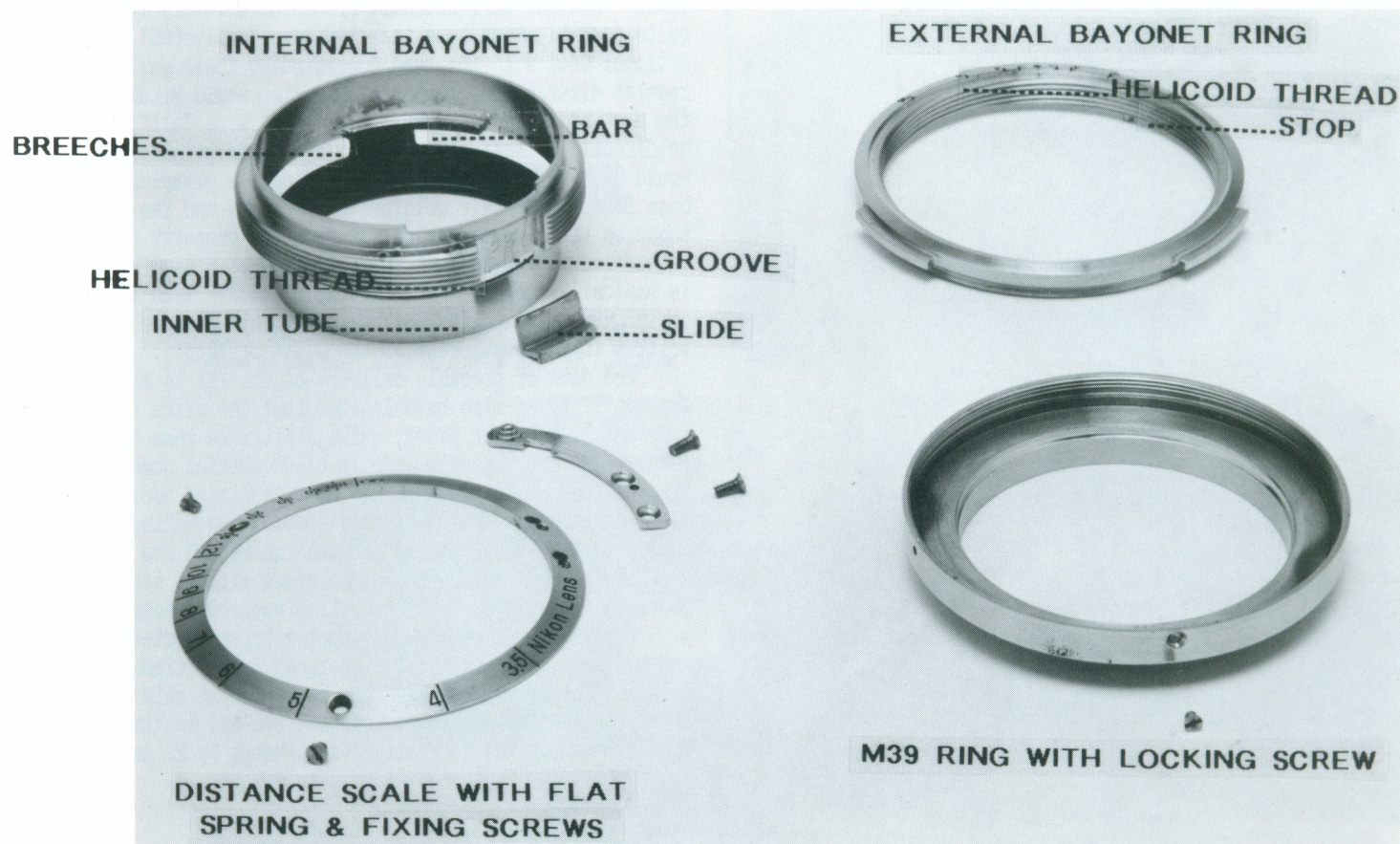
Now let's take a look at the demands made on the accuracy of manufacturing such an item as the Orion lens coupler. There are three focal plane dimensions which have to be exactly coordinated. These are the internal & external bayonet mounts and the M39 screw mount. Note that not just the accurate relation of the distances, but also the angular positions of the bayonets have to be considered, as there is no defined angular stop provided by a screw mount. Next, the pitch of the helicoid thread affecting both the focusing of the internal bayonet mount lenses and the operation of the rangefinder system has to be fixed, and of course the absolute position of the tube edge controlling the rangefinder cam. Besides, the edge of the present Orion is refinished to compensate for a deviation of 0.1mm (!) between the lens movement and the rangefinder cam movement. After this the distance scale is matched with the settings mentioned above &, to give the Orion the proper appearance of the precision instrument that it is, the distance scale and the depth-of-field scale are adjusted so that they form a perfect conic contour with no edge left when set to infinity, just like the mounts of the Nikon rangefinder cameras do!



The adapter is made of 13 parts with 4 of them scribed individually. These 4 parts: the inner tube, the slide, the external bayonet ring & the M39 ring are not exchangeable. They form a compact unit because several complicated mechanical treatments have to be made in the assembled state to reach the accuracy required for perfect function. The external bayonet ring is tightly screwed into the M39 ring and secured by a locking screw. The other parts, corresponding to those of the Nikon rangefinder camera bayonet mount, are the flat spring, the distance scale and their four fixing screws.

Emerging from the depths of the technical world of the Orion and holding it in hand, one has to pay great respect for this masterpiece of Mr. Ogihara. Isn't it much more than just a couple of chrome plated brass rings? Now to speculate about an answer to the question...why he made only 200 of them? It looks like there was no more demand for this special item which must have been rather costly even at that time. As we now can see, the job was not finished once the blueprints and prototypes were made. Because of the many complicated production steps for each individual part, it took the skill of a qualified technician to produce them.

Thank you Bob, for loaning your Orion to me for dissection. It was an impressive experience and I hope that some of your members will enjoy it too.



THE FE--SPOT!!

by

Robert J. Rotoloni

Some of you may remember the "Odds n' Ends" item in NHS-21. It was September 1988 and member Bill Kraus was the owner of an item that was virtually unknown to the world of Nikon collectors. Fortunately he was able to supply me with a copy of a one page fact sheet produced for this weird and wonderful item....the Nikon FE Action Camera...now known affectionately as the Nikon FEA! Bill was the proud owner of an FEA acquired through an ad in Shutterbug. All we knew at that time was that they were specially made for National Geographic Magazine for underwater work with a special housing. The specifications sheet succinctly sums up the differences between this model and the standard Nikon FE.

"Viewfinder: Fixed eyepoint, high-eyepoint "action finder" using special roof prism; finder magnification is 0.58X; permits viewing of entire field with the eye placed 43mm directly behind viewfinder; Aperture Direct Readout (ADR) not provided. Flash readylight in viewfinder not provided."

FEA ACTION CAMERA

Since NHS-21 we have learned a bit more about the FEA. We now know that "at least" 50 were made, but it is more likely that 100 were actually produced. However, it is quite possible that less than 100 were "delivered" to National Geo, with the remainder finding their way into regular distribution channels (Why else would Nikon print the fact sheet shown in NHS-21? If they were "all" meant to go directly to National Geographic, an advertising sheet would be totally unnecessary!) At least 2 examples have been found with their original box, Bill's and the one shown on these pages, which was once the property of your editor and is "brand new", having never been used! The box is basically "generic" with a simple sticker with the serial number. Also the number is, on this example, hand written in large numerals on the lid (note "48").

The date of probable delivery of the FEA to National Geo was 1978. We also have learned that the price for the body only was "about \$850", quite a bit more than the regular FE, and was only made in black. Serial numbers allotted to the FEA began with "54". Confirmed body numbers to date range from #5400009 to #5400080, suggesting that the production total did exceed the rumored 50 and was more probably 100 (I have 25 bodies recorded with no significant gaps, which tells me that production was 100 pieces).

Today the FEA is a much sought after collector piece and has been changing hands at between 3 to 5 times the original rumored price. But keep in mind that only "1" brand new specimen has surfaced, and you are looking at it in the pages of the Journal! (All photos by R. Rotoloni)





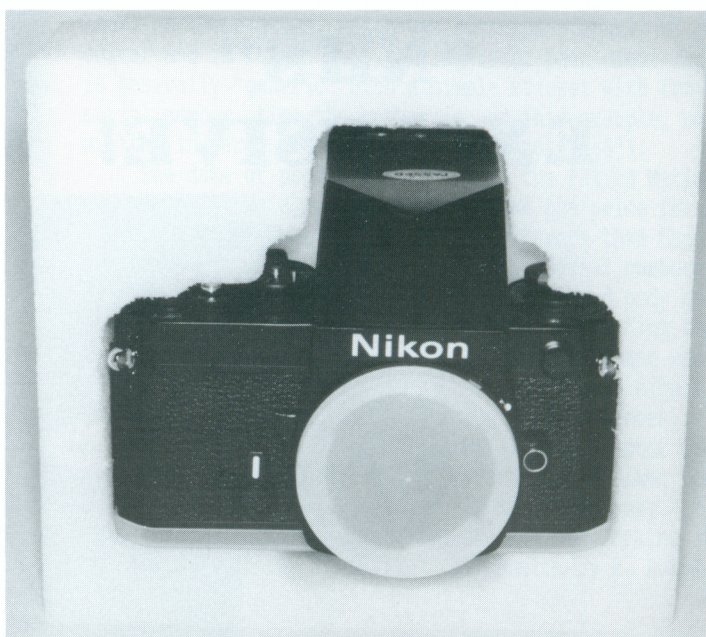
THE FEA ACTION CAMERA DOES APPEAR A LITTLE TOP HEAVY WITH NO LENS MOUNTED. THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED AS, REMEMBER, THE FE IS A "COMPACT" NIKON AND THE ACTION FINDER IS THE VERY SAME DESIGNED TO BE USED WITH THE MUCH LARGER NIKON F AND F2 BODIES. HOWEVER, ONCE A LENS IS MOUNTED BALANCE IS JUST FINE, THANK YOU.

ANOTHER "NHS" EXCLUSIVE!





LEFT..THE SPECIAL FEA SERIAL NUMBER. THE BOX PICTURED ON THIS PAGE HAS THE SAME NUMBER PRINTED ON A SMALL STICKER AS WELL AS HANDWRITTEN IN LARGE BLACK NUMERALS. NOTE ALSO THE FORM FITTING FOAM PACKING. THIS PARTICULAR CAMERA IS BRAND NEW AND MAY BE THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THIS CONDITION.



N-K OPTICAL ORDNANCE

11

PART V

There is no question that Nippon Kogaku was one of the prime suppliers of large binoculars to the Imperial Japanese Navy. In the first few years of the Pacific War the Japanese Navy was totally dependent on these really massive glasses to sight enemy ships. The binoculars were, however, only effective if used by well trained lookouts. This article features a 20 X 120mm binocular that was manufactured with just this type of training in mind.

When I first obtained these NIKKO glasses I was intrigued by several unusual features, especially the rear oculars. A knob on the right side focuses both eyepieces (like center focus glasses). The right eyepiece has external markings of 10, 20, 30 & 40. What do these numbers represent? The only thing that made sense was meters. Yes, they focus at 10 to 40 meters! That is incredibly close range (close enough to read a paperback novel at 10 meters!). They are not designed to focus at infinity or any far distance! Each eyepiece has the normal diopter adjustment and there is a reticle in the right eyepiece. These glasses are designed in such a way that the reticle remains at a constant position when the interocular distance changes. What in the world did they use these for?

Specifics are as follows: serial number is 2012 and date of manufacture is October 1940; the data plate is marked with a naval anchor and this mark is also on the binoculars; the box contained 4 filters and 2 sets of rubber eyecups. There is also an engraved metal plate on the top of the box which states they were removed from the Battleship Nagato. The name at the bottom of the plate "SK 1/C J.G. Griffiths USS Piedmont" is also painted in black stenciled letters on the top lid and the bottom! Could they have actually been removed from the only surviving Japanese battleship of WWII? At first I was very skeptical. The first thing I wanted to track down was some information on the USS Piedmont. I went to several libraries but could

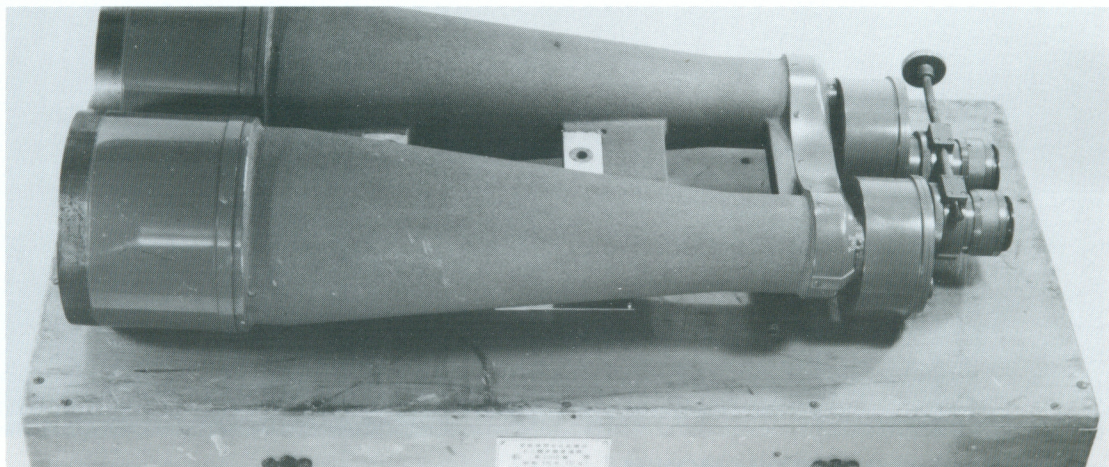
by Richard Lane

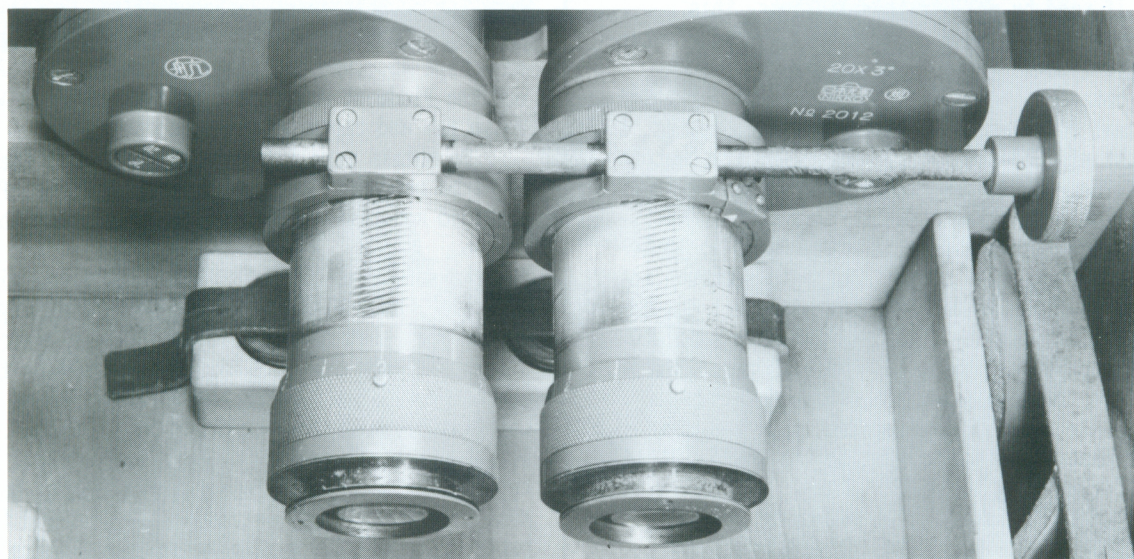
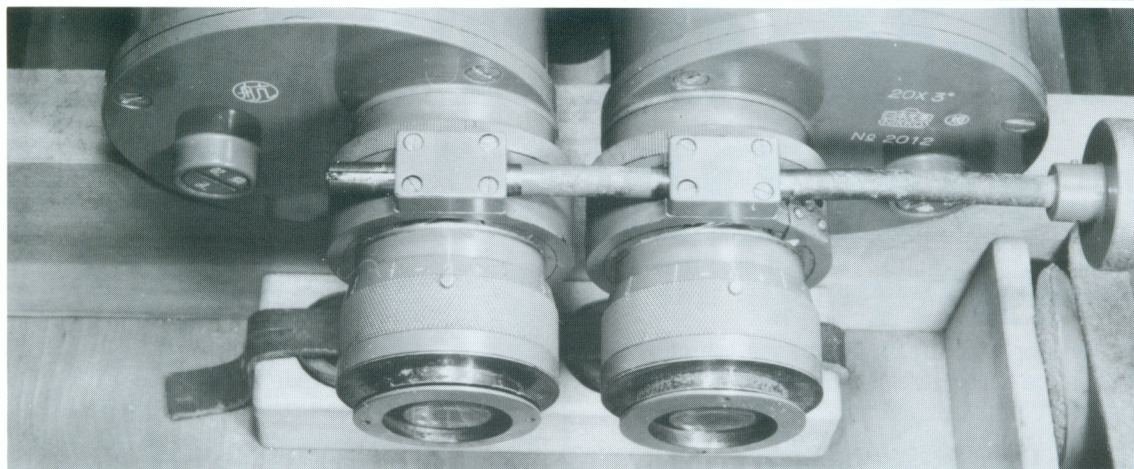
find nothing on the Piedmont. I did locate a company that provides histories of US Naval vessels. I called them and was surprised to find that the Piedmont was a destroyer escort during WWII and that it was in Yokosuka (Tokyo Bay) on 1 Sept 45. They also mentioned the Piedmont's assigned duty for occupation of Japanese ships. One interesting note to add to this...there was only one large ship at Yokosuka on 1 Sept 45...one battleship...the Nagato!! As it turns out the Piedmont was a part of Task Force 31 which occupied Tokyo Bay and captured the Nagato!

To obtain more information about what these glasses might be used for, Bob corresponded with Mr. Fuketa, who provided some interesting information about them....

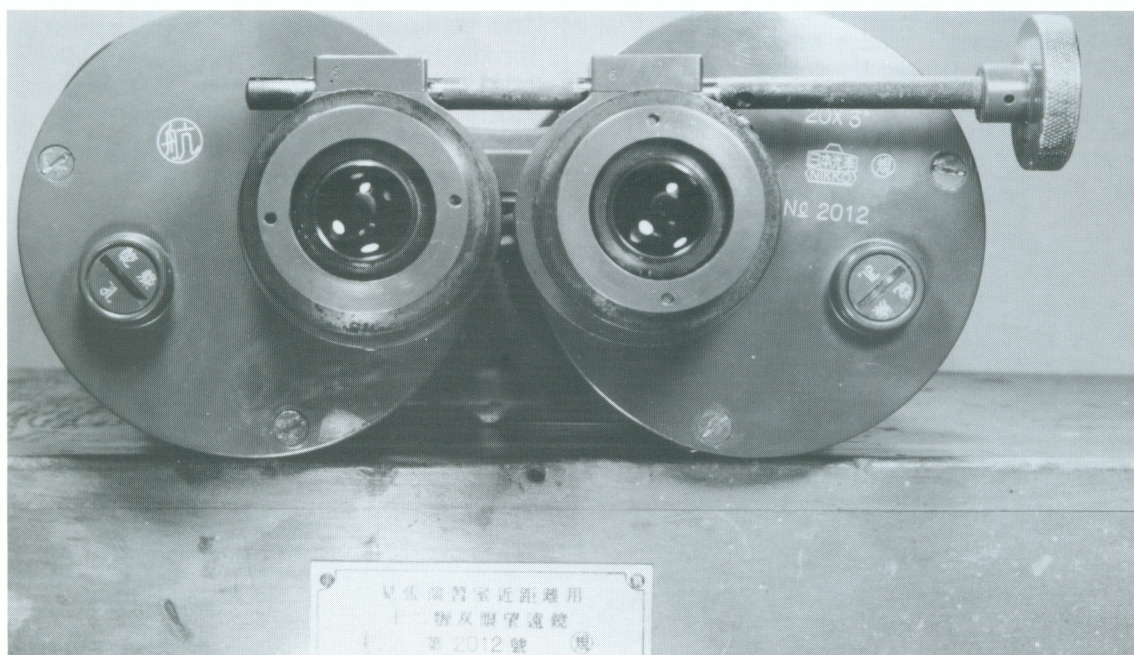
"Fuketa-san..Personally I am not acquainted with this binocular, as I was working at another factory before WWII. However, it must be an optical part of a "Watching Simulator" used by the naval forces, because the label indicates..."12cm Caliber Binocular Telescope for use in Watching Training Room at close up distances". Before the war we often received requests from the naval authorities to produce "mock battle simulators" such as gun/torpedo/anti-aircraft firing use. We mostly produced their optical parts only. As far as I know these simulators were installed in Naval Schools and Training Rooms at naval bases. But, since the Nagato was the biggest warship I can guess that it contained its own Watching Simulator on board."

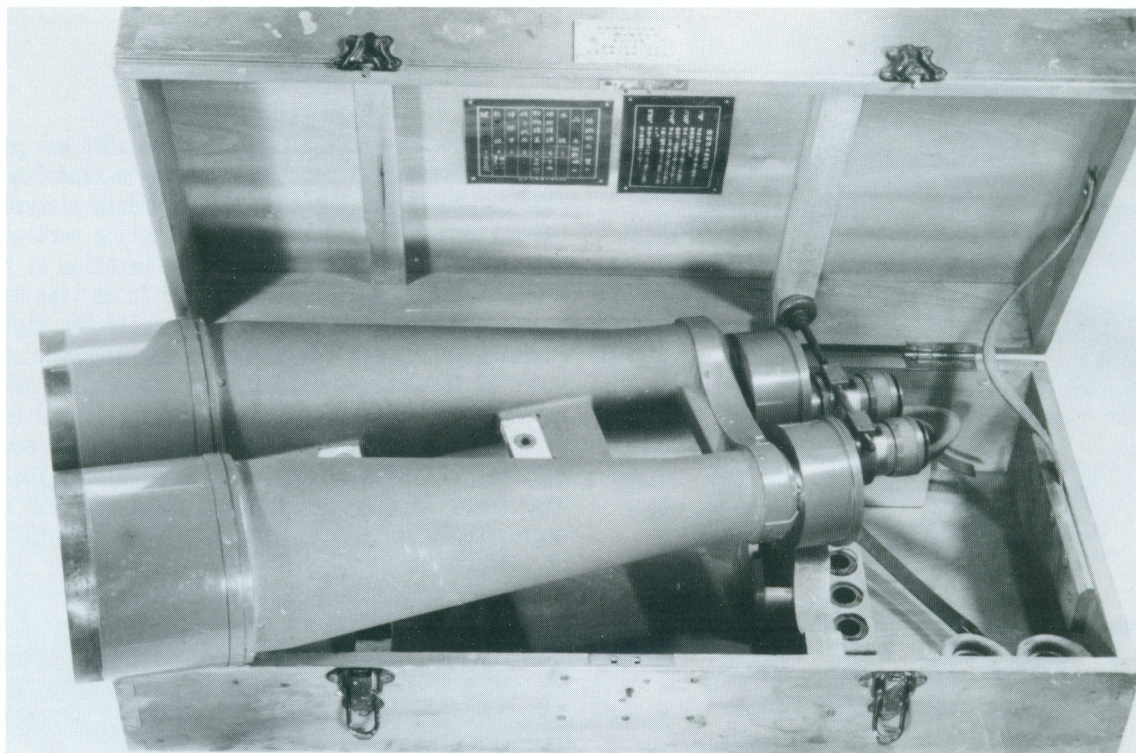
It would be something if they were actually removed from the Nagato. In 1941 the Nagato served as the flagship for the Imperial Japanese Navy. It was the only Japanese battleship to survive the war, only to sink in the US Atomic bomb test "Baker" in July of 1946. If only I could find SK 1/C J.G. Griffiths of the USS Piedmont. And even if I can't track him down, they are still a very interesting set of Nikon binoculars.



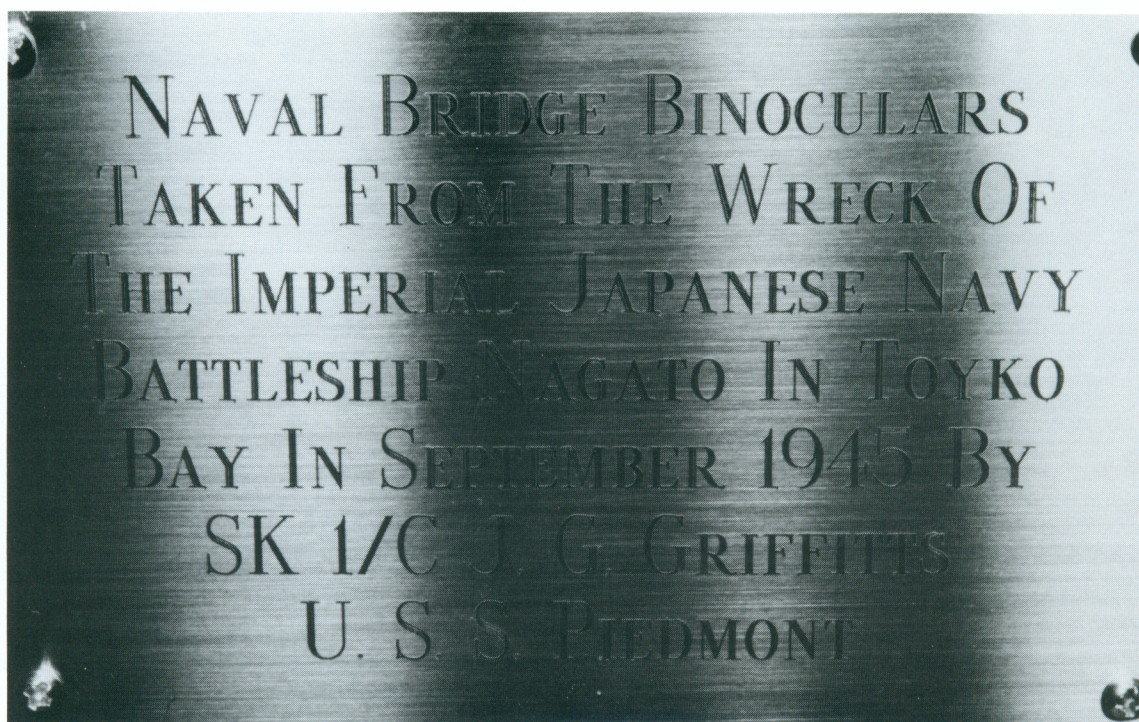


THESE GLASSES HAVE AN UNUSUAL FOCUSING ARRANGEMENT. ROTATING THE WHEEL AT THE RIGHT END OF THE SHAFT RACKS BOTH EYEPIECES IN AND OUT, AS ILLUSTRATED HERE.





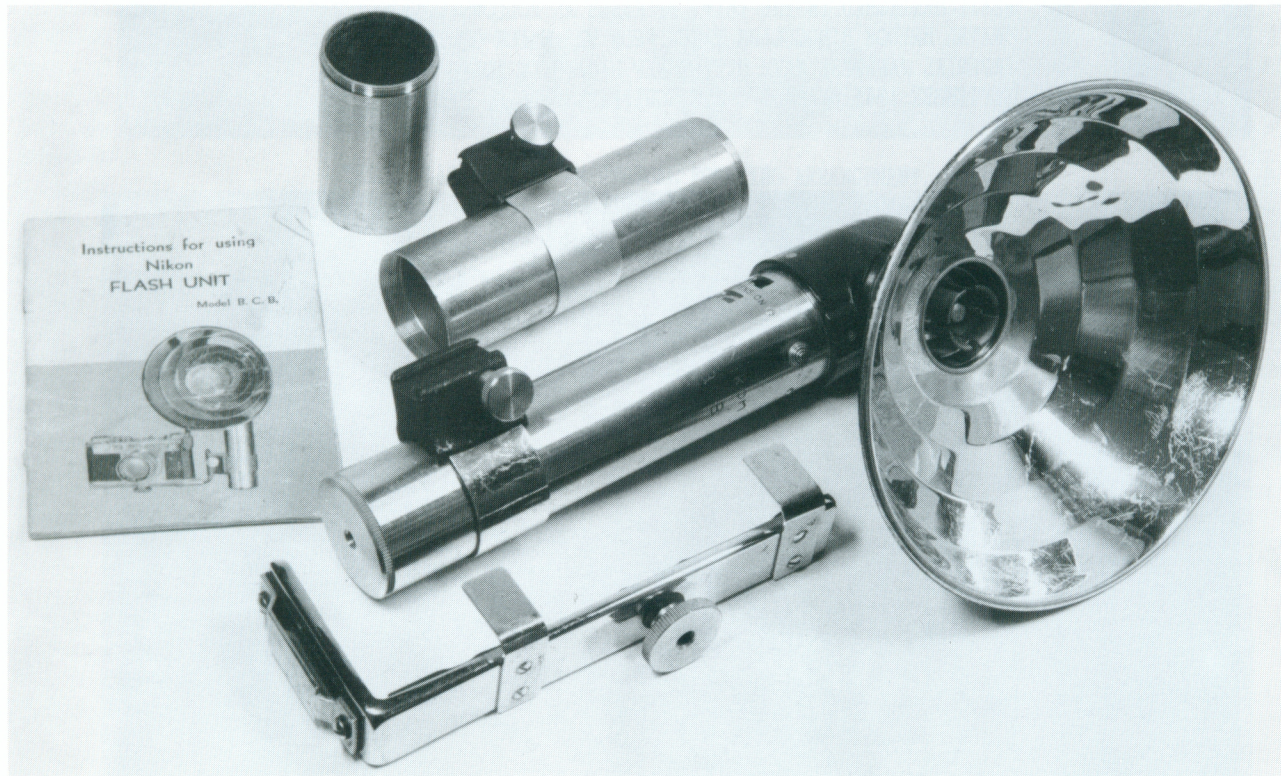
THE GLASSES WERE FOUND IN THEIR ORIGINAL WOOD BOX WITH ACCESSORIES SUCH AS FILTERS AND EYECUPS. BELOW IS THE METAL PLATE MENTIONED IN THE TEXT. IT READS AS FOLLOWS...
 "NAVAL BRIDGE BINOCULARS TAKEN FROM THE WRECK OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY BATTLESHIP NAGATO IN TOKYO BAY IN SEPTEMBER 1945 BY SK 1/C J.G. GRIFFITTS U.S.S. PIEDMONT."



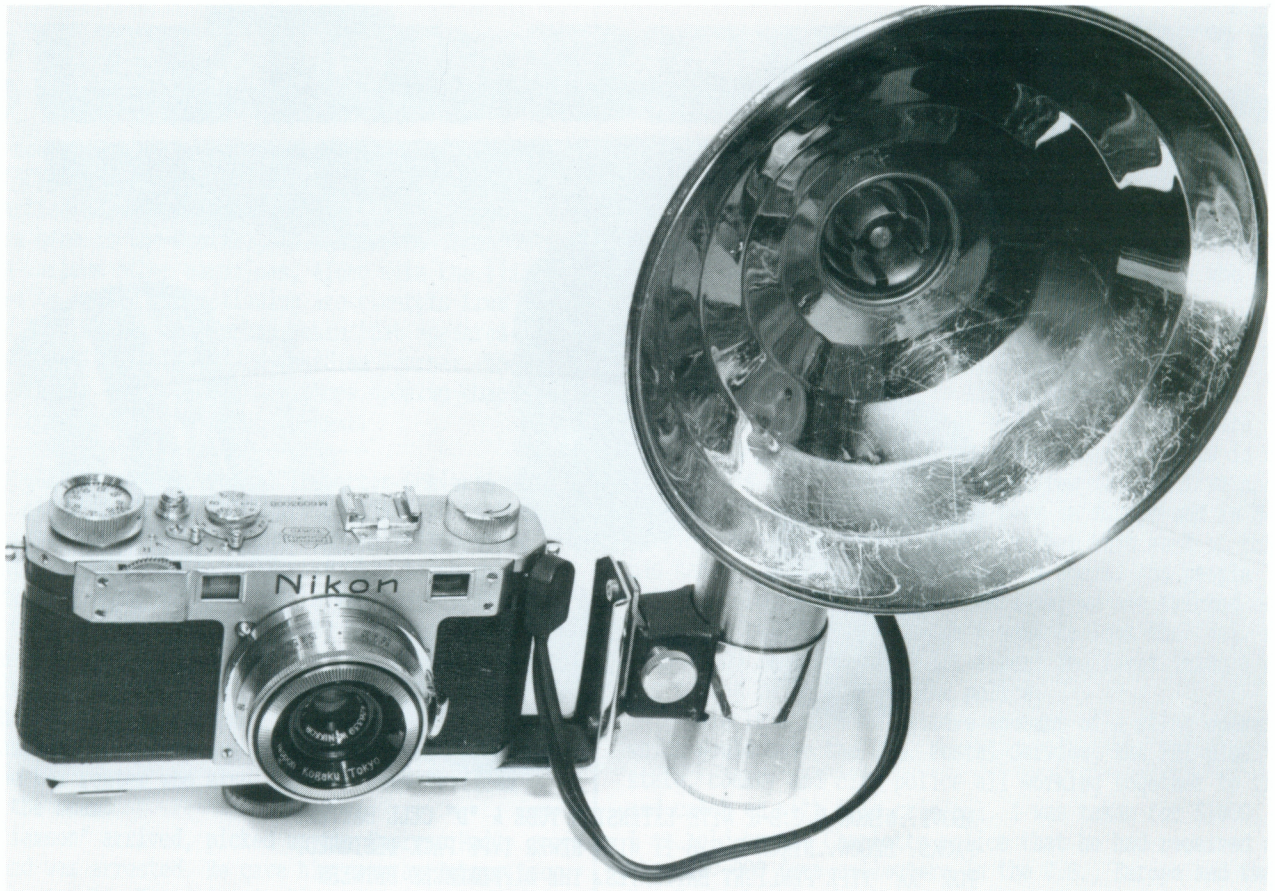
NIKON B.C.B. FLASH UNITS

by **ULRICH KOCH**

Although we have already covered what was probably the earliest flash unit meant for the Nikon rangefinder cameras (NHS-33, pg 12, T. Hurst), the two models pictured on these pages represent the first true production versions that were actually sold in any numbers. Operation of both versions is nearly identical, with the later type having an improved battery configuration and reflector styles. In the literature they are identified as the Nikon B.C.B. and the B.C.B-II (however, the first model is simply called the B.C.B in its instruction book and not referred to as the B.C.B-I until publication of the book for the newer model B.C.B-II!). Confusing isn't it? Well, Nippon Kogaku didn't stop there, but decided to cloud the issue even more by engraving "BOTH" models as simply "B.C.B." with no numbers at all! So how do you tell them apart? With a little effort it can be done, but member Ulrich Koch has decided to help you out of this state of confusion with the photographs on these pages. After studying his photos and captions obvious differences between the two types will become apparent, for they do differ appreciably. (All photos and captions in this article by Ulrich Koch.)

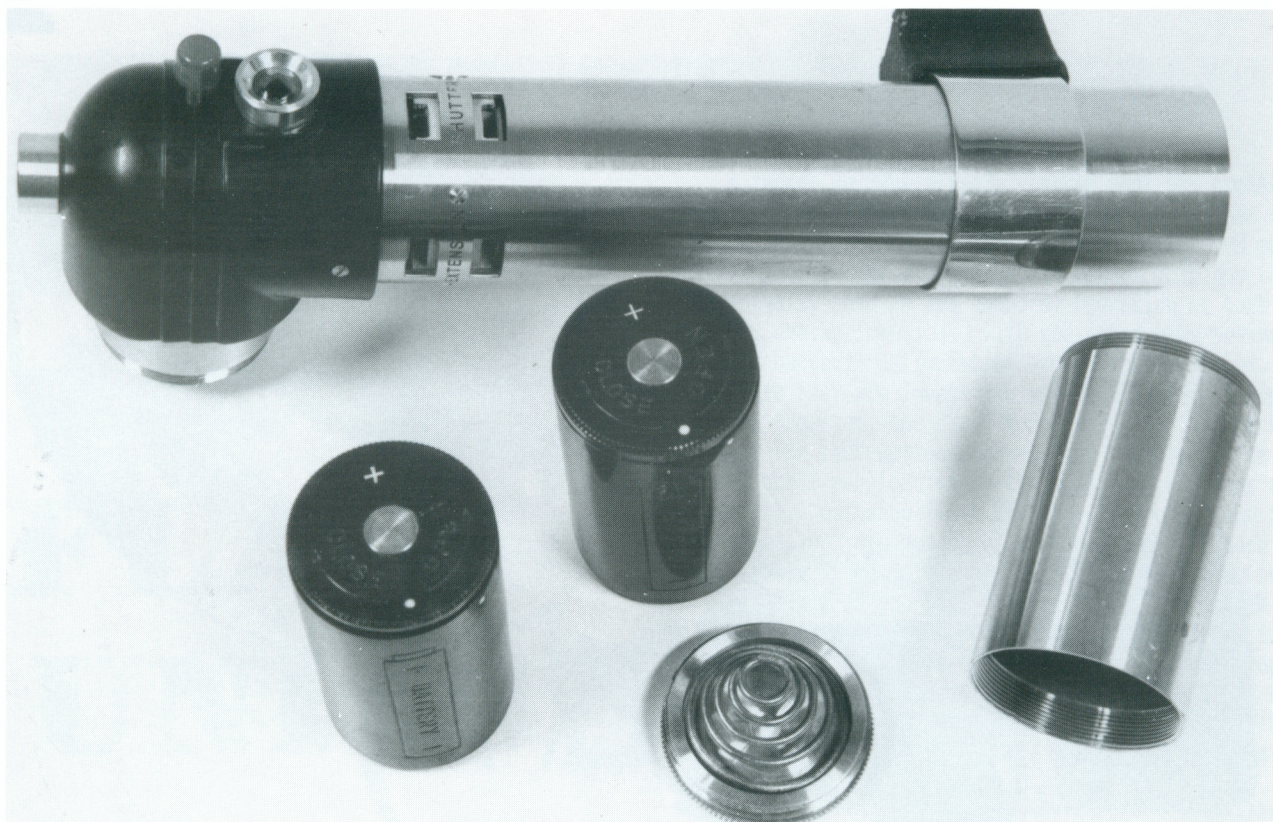


NIKON B.C.B-I WITH INSTRUCTION BOOK, BRACKET AND ADDITIONAL BATTERY CASE WITH EXTENSION UNIT.

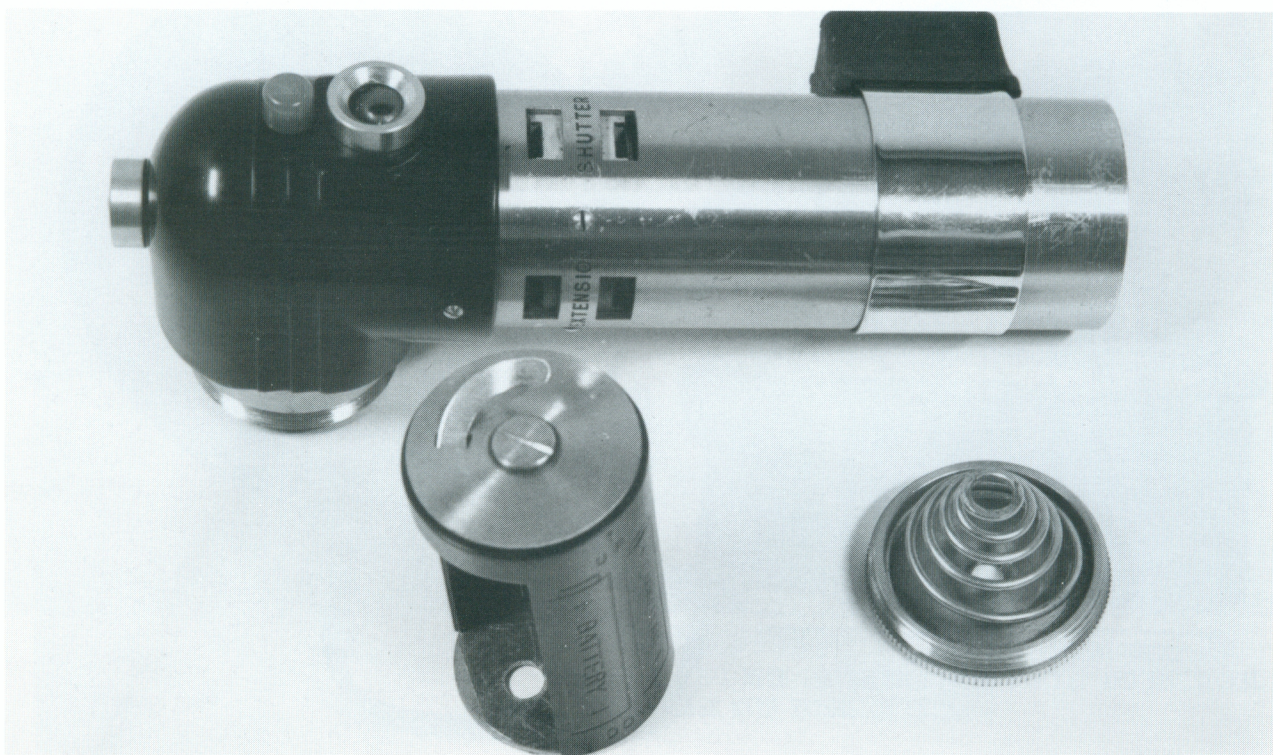


ABOVE..NIKON B.C.B-I ON NIKON M6093008 W/35/F3.5 #426339.
BELOW..NIKON B.C.B-II ON NIKON S 60910646 W/50/1.4 #353639.





ABOVE..NIKON B.C.B-I WITH EXTENSION TUBE & "D" CELL BATTERY PACKS. BELOW..NIKON B.C.B-II WITH NEWER TYPE PACK DESIGNED FOR "AA" TYPE PENLIGHT BATTERIES. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO UNITS BESIDES THE BATTERY REQUIREMENTS ARE.... LENGTH OF THE BATTERY TUBE; THE BULB EJECTOR PIN STICKS OUT FURTHER ON THE TYPE I; FITTING FOR THE REFLECTOR PROTRUDES FURTHER ON THE TYPE I.



by **PETER LOWNDS****BUYER BEWARE!!**

In NHS-42 member Peter Lownds relayed a story of grief entitled "BUYER BEWARE". It was a tale of attempted fraud by a con artist using the name "William Keene". Since publication here in the Journal, this story has been covered in various other magazines, along with the final chapter, so to speak. The following are excerpts from an article by Jack Naylor and Burton Rubin that appeared in both the New England Journal and Canadian Journal. These articles tell the end to the story whose opening chapter appeared first here in the Nikon Journal.

"Police Sargent Graham and Postal Inspector Schierle were staked out at "Suite 149" on January 6, 1994. In fact they were at Box 149, a maildrop used by Tarheel Liquidators at a legitimate mail box and fax store at 5512 Southern Blvd. in Charlotte, N. Carolina. The police were waiting for the renter of the box, "David Williamson", to arrive. He was to pick up an Express Mail envelope purported to contain \$6000 sent to him by a collector to purchase a rare Canon J camera. The well known collector was operating in a "sting" with the authorities. The name "Williamson" was the alias used by the box renter who also used the name "William Keene" in the scam.

"Williamson" arrived, picked up the Express Mail envelope and was arrested. He gave his name as Johnny Leon Blackwelder, age 38. His driver's license gave an address in Sterling, Virginia. According to police, Blackwelder was released after posting \$20,000 bail. A federal trial date has not been set.

We do not know how much money was sent to "Suite 149" by camera dealers and collectors for cameras that did not exist. We do know that many thousands of dollars was sent

from the Chicago area, California, England, Holland, Taiwan and Japan and possibly Hong Kong. This was an enormous response to the unsigned, undated letters".

And now for a personal point of view from the man who first made us aware of the problem, member Peter Lownds.

Since this nightmare story unfolded lots of things have been happening. This is like a screenplay from a Hollywood movie. This is about as far away from camera collecting as you can get. The article has appeared in many collector's magazines over the last few months. I've spent that time talking to collectors here in Europe and in North America. What has come to light is that this sort of thing has happened before, and will happen again. And people being people, no matter how much money we are tricked out of we try to cover up. We don't want to look the fool. Well I am \$1000 lighter, and a lot wiser! The first thing I did was to get in touch with the police.

This is a hard to believe account of a sting operation which would have the U.S. Postal Service, the FBI plus the state, county and city police all working together to try and catch up with this criminal. I was taken for \$1000, but I am told by the Charlotte police that he had received more than \$70,000 from collectors in the U.S., Europe and the Far East! Looking back in hindsight, this could have been my end. Had I gone out to Charlotte he could have picked me up at the airport, driven me off to some lonely spot, blown my brains out and left me for dead in a shallow grave and taken my money and left without a trace.

So the next time you do a deal with somebody and need to carry large sums of cash, do the deal in a hotel of your choice, take along a large friend at least 6ft. tall, and do not go to a hotel room without some hotel security. Even if it costs \$50 an hour, you are worth more than that to the wife and kids. But you get to walk out of the hotel alive with the camera, or your money. I would like to hear from members with ideas about how to safeguard yourself, with regards to buying cameras through the post, or going to a hotel for seller's home.

The perpetrator of this dastardly deed is now out on bail awaiting a fair trial.

Peter Lownds.

"NHS" PRODUCTS

I was not able to make photos of other items from NHS-Con4 in time for this issue. Besides a special pen we also have an "NHS" puzzle and tote bag. I will try to get this together for NHS-45. Currently available items follow.

OFFICIAL NHS-CON4 LAPEL PIN.....	\$5.00 US
	\$6.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON S SYSTEM GENERAL LIST REPRINT.....	\$17.00 US
	\$20.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON F HIGH SPEED MANUAL REPRINT.....	\$10.00 US
	\$13.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON MOTOR DRIVE MANUAL REPRINT.....	\$17.00 US
	\$20.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON F MOD. III EXP. METER REPRINT.....	\$10.00 US
	\$13.00 OVERSEAS

"THIS IS WAR"..D.D. DUNCAN...NEW!.....	\$25.00 US
	\$40.00 OVERSEAS
NIKON RANGEFINDER..ROTOLONI..(SIGNED).....	\$30.00 US
	\$40.00 OVERSEAS
OFFICIAL NHS-CON2 LAPEL PIN.....	\$5.00 US
	\$6.00 OVERSEAS
GENUINE NIKON COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.....	\$130.00 US
	150.00 OVERSEAS
"THE HISTORY OF NIKON" WALL POSTER.....	\$20.00 US
	\$25.00 OVERSEAS

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Specialising exclusively in Nikon (the choice of 85% of the world's professional photographers) we endeavour to stock almost all catalogued Nikon items, for instance all types of F4, all models of F3, the F90 series plus F-801S, F-601, FM2n in black and chrome, and also the Nikonos RS & V underwater systems. Naturally we stock every one of the range of twenty-five Autofocus lenses and a selection of the manual Nikkor lenses. The Grays of Westminster Catalogue issued twice yearly and the Grays of Westminster Gazette issued every six weeks have become an institution in the Nikon world.

The famous Nippon Kogaku Room where early Nikon items are on display is situated in a separate area of Grays of Westminster. It was opened on the 25th July 1992 as part of our celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of Nikon. The name Nikon comes from the first four letters of the original company name: Nippon Kogaku to which the letter 'N' was added. The stock is, of course, ever-changing, but typically includes Nikon Rangefinder, the Nikon F family and all the F2 models, lenses and accessories. Grays of Westminster have become renowned for the quality of their equipment, and have set a standard to which other dealers aspire. People who demand and value top quality will not be disappointed. Furthermore both written and telephone queries will always be dealt with in a prompt, friendly and helpful manner.

Grays are usually the first place that collectors contact for early and rare Nikon cameras, lenses and accessories. We are regularly consulted by writers, researchers, television and film production companies for advice and supply of Nikon equipment for both period and modern films. All this can be viewed in delightfully comfortable old-fashioned surroundings where we welcome part exchanges of other quality equipment.

Fast and reliable MAIL ORDER on any Nikon item is available to all UK and worldwide destinations. We send goods right across the globe as a matter of routine, so you can confidently rely on us to meet your requirements for despatch to any part of the world. Our hours of business are 9.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and from 9.30am to 2pm Saturdays local time. Out of these hours an answerphone service is available, or if you prefer you may deal with us by fax at any time.

"... the kind of service of which legends are made
... Grays of Westminster."

Amateur Photographer magazine



From Alan Blake...

For many years I have been puzzled by the purpose of the approx. 45mm diameter internal thread at the rangefinder lens mount end of the BR1 tube. Carefully examining the photos of the RF bellows units both in your book and in Mikio Kuno's reveals a similar looking thread which in this case was presumably for the reversing adapters. If indeed the BR1 has this same thread, it implies that in the SLR era Nikon proposed, or at least catered for, the use of reversed RF lenses on the SLR bellows. Or was it specifically to allow the 135mm f4 bellows Nikkor to be reverse mounted? Or am I missing something?

There is another piece of Nikonry that has intrigued me since I first learned of it, although it is somewhat more recent than the "legitimate" NHS period. The ML1 infra-red remote control was current at the same time as the AW1 winder for the ELW and EL2. However, it could not be used with the AW1 as the latter was not fitted with a remote control connector. To overcome this, Nikon announced a "shutter release adapter" and featured it in the 1976 Photokina new products brochure. To the best of my knowledge this remained "science fiction" at least in the U.K., but was the thing ever made?

PHOTO Deal

The new German magazine for collectable cameras, second hand cameras and photo highlights published four times a year; February, June, September and December.

This "must" for every photo enthusiast is published in a classical layout and printed on high quality paper. The first issue, which is 40 pages, features Nikon rangefinder cameras, Minox, Rollei, Contax, Konica Hexar, all dates of German photo shows and other interesting articles. It is available for \$14 by international reply coupons or cash. Subscription rates for overseas is just \$55 which entitles you to five lines of free classified advertising per issue. Display ads are also very reasonable--e.g. 1/4 page is \$155, 1/8 page just \$80.

For further information please contact:

Rudolf Hillebrand DGPh
Kiefernweg 21
D-4040 Neuss 21
Germany
TEL: 0213777676
FAX: 0213777635

An Open Letter To The NHS

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY....

Dear Friends,

I have asked Robert Rotoloni (Mr. Nikon) to print this letter in the Journal. NHS-Con4 is now part of history to be read about, talked over and remembered. For me the one thing that stands out, that I will remember most about the convention in Holland, will be the friendships made, old ones renewed, seeing smiling faces, shaking hands and drinking a beer with old and new friends.

As a group we have come a long way since Bob sent out that first Journal nearly 11 years ago. Without Bob's 101% input there would not be a Nikon Historical Society, no Journal, no Conventions and no friends in all 4 corners of the world! He is still sticking the stamps on the almost 400 copies each issue, putting the Journal together with articles he has written and researched himself, taken 100s of photos, toted that barge and lifted that bale.....and all for the love of Nikon. Bob, take a bow you are now in the spotlight, and from all the members, many thanks.

I have been to all 3 conventions in the States and have talked many times with Bob about doing a convention in

Europe. Well a year ago this month Bob gave me the green light to make plans for NHS-Con4. I had no idea of the task I had taken on. It seemed easy enough....book a hotel with a large room, everybody comes to Holland, we have a good time, end of story. Well, not quite. The task I had taken on would make climbing Mount Everest in bare feet with no rope seem like a picnic. One problem I had to overcome was, who was going to pay?? The N.H.S. has no slush fund for conventions. Bob paid for the first 3 out of his own pocket. I asked those who were planing to attend in Holland to donate \$15. I tried and I think that we succeeded in making NHS-Con4 in Europe a success, but not without a large overrun on the budget. We were on limited funds and many of those who attended (and a few who didn't) rallied to the call and pitched in. You know who you are. Please allow me this opportunity to thank you for your help. With friends like you around I would do it all over again! Thank you all for the many letters and phone calls. Lets keep the spirit of friendship alive. Long live the Nikon Historical Society!

I would like to see the next convention held in Japan. Friends in Nippon, what about you taking on the task!!?

FIELDGRASS & GALE

WANTED FOR CASH OR TRADE

Nikon rangefinder bodies, lenses, motors, mirror boxes, stereo attachment, anything Nikon!

Nikon reflex... classic to contemporary... vintage 1959 to 1993.

Leica screw mount, M and R in clean, original condition.

Rare Leica, e.g. Compur, 72, GG reporter, III d, III f black, III g black, Monte en Sarre, MP, black paint M, military green & gray M, Hologon, 50/1.2 Noctilux, Thambar, Summarex, screw-mt. Summilux/Summicron.

Commemorative Leica, e.g. M4 50 yr, M4P Everest, M6G, M6 Platinum, M6 Colombo, R3 LHSA

Leica copies... Canon, Hansa, Seiki, Leotax, Tanack, Tower, Honor, Nicca, Ducati, Look, Peerless, etc.

Contax, Contarex, Zeiss Hologon, Contaflex TLR, Alpa, Minolta CL / CLE, Kinoptik, Angenieux, Zunow, Topogon, Biotar, Biogon, Heliar, Apo-Lanthar, Hypergon, Bronica, Pentax LX, Pentax 67, Hasselblad.

This is not a complete list. Contact us if you have ANYTHING you think may be of interest to us. Thank you!

Ask for Peter Walnes or Jon Harris (both NHS members!). Available for advice from 4:30am E.S.T. Monday thru Friday!

203 Welsbach House, The Business Village, Broomhill Road, London SW18 4JQ
Telephone: 01144 81 870 7611 Fax: 01144 81 870 6551

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE..."NIKKO" 10x70 WWII military binoculars, lockable focus eyepieces, EX, glass good, rubber eyecups missing, no box, \$395 plus shipping: "NIKKO" 2x "Capella" opera glasses circa 1930s', EX, no case, \$275 plus shipping.

WANTED...Black Variframe finder Type 7, in case. Mike Symons, 3844 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8P 2S9. Tel..604-477-1867 after 6PM PDT.

WANTED...Nikon F bodies, accessories, "cm" lenses, instructions, publications (Nikon World, early Cooper/Abbott). I am also looking for a nice user SP with 1.8/35 and/or 1.4/50 lens. Richard de Stoutz, Fliegerweg 11, CH-3600 Thun Switzerland. Tel.011-41-33-222767, Fax.011-41-31-38-96830.

FOR SALE...Nikon Reflex Housing Type II w/45 degree prism, mint w/cables, no box, \$2500; 300mm/f2.8 Pre-set ED Nikkor, banged up but very early, \$2000 or best offer; set consisting of 600mm/f5.6, 800mm/f8 & 1200mm/f11 ED lens heads, 3 different focusing mounts (earliest, next & latest), all in very good to excellent condition. Also have 400mm/f4.5 and mount, but may keep it. Please make offer on entire set. I'd still like to trade my very fine 50mm/f1.1 Internal for an External. Al Satterwhite, PO Box 398, Concord, VA 24538. Tel..804-332-1818/Fax..804-332-7832. (Cash, no trades!)

WANTED...Collector seeks RF items: bodies, lenses and accessories. Nikkors in SM. Canon bodies and lenses like 19mm, 25mm, 50/0.95, 200mm & Mirror box. All types of Leica copies. Nikkors for F like Fisheye OP, 55mm UV, PS Micro, 400-600-800-1200 heads & mount. Per Kullenberg, Ollingvej 11, 6933 Kibaek, Denmark. Tel.011-45-971-91393.

FOR SALE...Extensive list of Nikon rangefinder and "F" cameras, lenses, accessories and literature. John Williams, 1260 Huntington Dr., Suite 107, South Pasadena, CA 90130. Tel.213-734-5006.

Grays of Westminster, the exclusively Nikon dealers latest listing of secondhand equipment for sale covering the entire range of the Nikon system, has just been issued. If you would like to receive a free copy of this and future issues please write, fax or telephone us with your name and address and we will make the necessary arrangements. Likewise if you are seeking early Nikon equipment please let us know and we'll advise you as soon as it becomes available. Highest cash prices immediately paid for your Nikon rangefinder & reflex bodies, lenses, motors, accessories, books and literature. Contact Gray Levett, Grays of Westminster, 40 Churton St. Pimlico, London SW1V 2LP England. Tel.44-71-828-4925 & 44-71-828-3218. Fax.44-71-976-5783.

SELLING LIST...I periodically send out a list of Nikon RF and reflex items as well as other quality gear for sale or trade. To get on my mailing list just drop me a line telling me so. Robert Rotoloni, PO Box 3213, Munster, IN 46321. Fax..708-895-9663.

NEW MEMBERS

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BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL!

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR OFFICIAL
"NHS BLACK BODY LIST" THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN NHS-37!

6202515

6220731

FOR SALE...Nikon S2 black dial, EX+, \$595; 8.5cm black lens EX+, \$595; Nikon BC-III flash, boxed, EX++, \$450; Model "H" Nikon Microscope, Mint-, complete, \$3995, will trade for Nikon RF, early F or boxed F2 cameras to equal value. Doug Napier..Tel..905-731-4694.Fax..905-731-8623.

FOR SALE...Nikon F #640xxxx, black, NKK eye level finder, MINT, \$2500; early NKK eye level finder, black, Mint, \$250. Ron Wilson..Tel..713-578-2594.

odds 'n ends

THIS "ODDS N' ENDS" PAGE WILL BE RESERVED IN ALL FUTURE ISSUES OF "THE NIKON JOURNAL" AS A SHOWCASE FOR THE RARE, THE UNUSUAL & OFFBEAT, OR JUST THE OUT OF THE ORDINARY! IF YOU FEEL

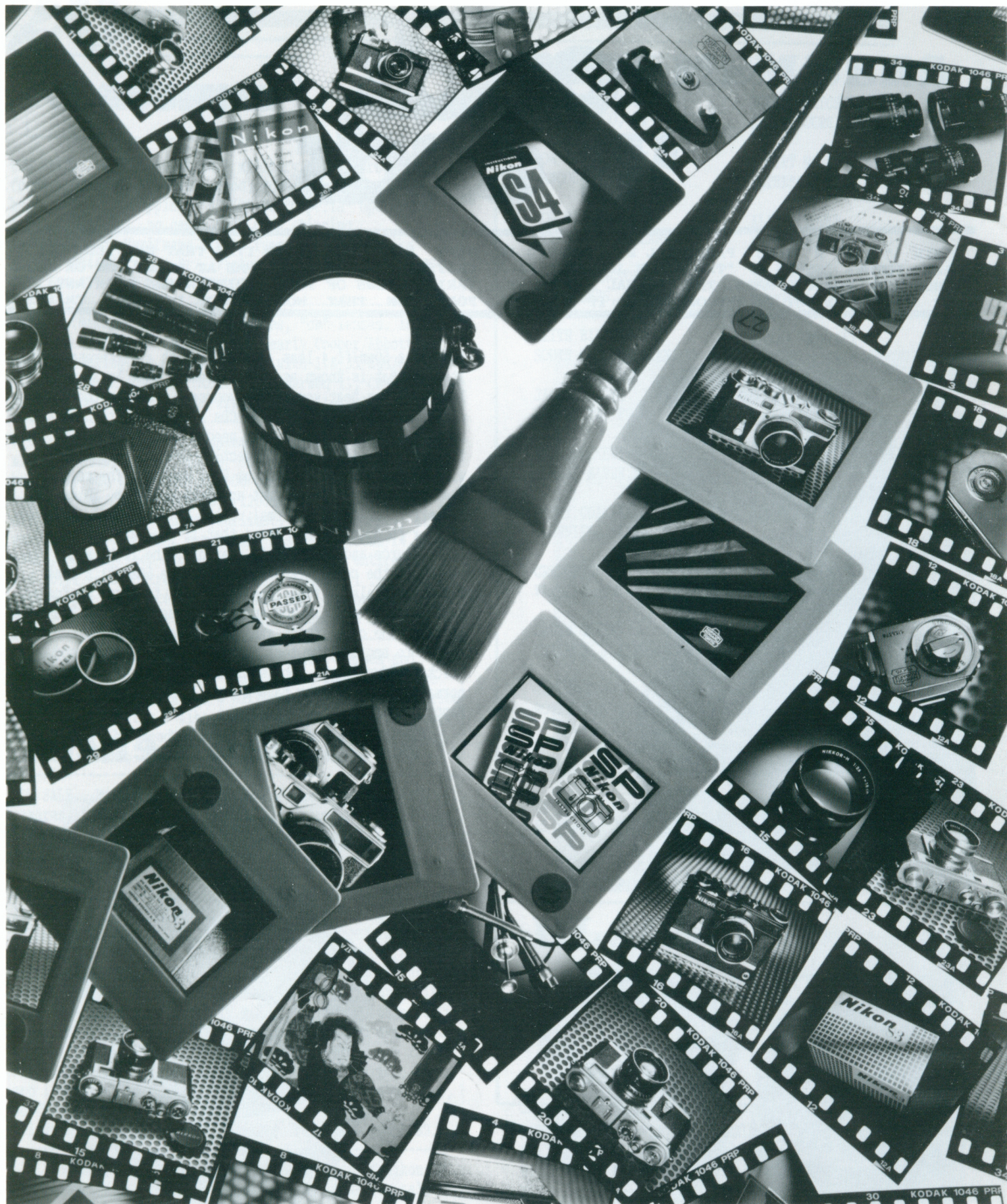
THAT YOU POSSESS AN ITEM THAT FULFILLS THESE CRITERIA, PLEASE SEND ME AT LEAST TWO OR MORE VARIED VIEWS OF YOUR ODDITY ALONG WITH ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST. THANKS!



This is a 50mm/f1.4 lens, #1213991, with a difference! This item is what is known as a "tool lens". What is a tool lens?...I can hear you asking yourself. Back in those dark days before programs, before LCDs & cameras with on-board computers, two constants were needed in order to calibrate the camera's light meter correctly. One was a light box with accurate light values, or E.V. numbers. The second item was a lens with correct aperture settings. This lens is correct at all apertures!...that is f5.6 is f5.6 and not f5.4 or f5.8, etc. This means that if you have a constant light source and an accurate aperture, the light meter can be set to the correct shutter speed. The 50mm/f1.8 lens #1869133 is also a tool lens. So as not to cause confusion in the repair shop, Nikon supplied these lenses with a set of dark blue caps, front and back. However, they did not bother to engrave the tool numbers (#J18072), but used stick on "dymo" type labels! Take a look at all of your normal lenses. You may have a tool lens in your collection! Happy hunting.

Two Tool Lenses





Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST