

A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 31, 2008

NHS-99



NHS-CON11~VANCOUVER~APRIL 18/19th
NIKON 三洋 JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE
PG. 4..TWO EARLY NIKON
ONES..A COMPARISON STUDY
PG. 10..2.8CM ATTACHMNETS

ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



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Our Official Web Site is<http://www.nikonhs.org>

Our E-Mail Addresses are.....rotoloni@msn.com

and r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net

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A NO-NUMBER 'S' & AN AWESOME S2E OUTFIT!!

NHS-100 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our **NIKON JOURNAL**,
NHS-100, is **JUNE 1, 2008**. Please get all correspondence and
articles to me by then so I can get our Journal out to you on
schedule. Thank you. **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

Here we are at #99! Hard to believe but I guess it makes sense when I look at the calendar and realize how old I am. This brings up something I mentioned in my last editorial and also on page 19 this issue. NHS-100 will be our convention issue and very full, as always, so doing anything special would be difficult. Our actual 25th Anniversary issue is #101 in September, so I hope to do something different then. Tony Hurst and I will work on some possible color (if I can afford it!) plus I have other ideas. Let me know your thoughts and don't be shy!

Naturally, the big news this issue is the upcoming NHS-Con11 which is only about 2-3 weeks from when you receive this. I have used the first 3 pages to hopefully answer all questions and to maybe stimulate more of you to attend. These meetings are for you, the members. So if you can please let us know now! Thank you.

On page 4 I have done a short article comparing two very early Nikon One cameras. These early vintage Ones are a fascinating subject. Not only are they extremely significant historically, they are quite rare and 'no two seem to be identical'! Just look at the difference between bodies 60933 & 609117 shown here. But there are many more variations to explore (for which there was not enough room in my book) and I am planning on future articles that will explore this subject even further. Believe me when I say that this is an area with a lot to cover.

There is also an article on the 'little' 2.8cm (28mm) attachments made for the Varifocal and Variframe finders on page 10. These were inexpensive accessories that were not purchased in large numbers and today are worth much more than the finders they were meant for. Great items to look for.

Richard Lane, or resident expert on WWII vintage NK optical ordnance, has an article on page 14 about the first NK logo. Using the very early pre-war and wartime equipment, he traces the changing logo styles that many of us have seldom, if ever seen. Rich will also be speaking at the convention on his favorite subject and will have some fascinating items to show.

Wes Loder's long awaited book on the arrival of the Nikon in America has finally come off the presses. I have already read through it twice and it is fascinating. Please see my review on page 17 and get your copy while they last! Wes will also be at the convention and he will gladly sign your copy for you.

I am happy to announce that my book has finally made it to North America. It safely crossed the Atlantic in winter, passed through the Panama Canal and endured customs delays at Los Angeles and Portland, but it is here! They are in stock and ready for shipment. Please see page 16 for more information.

On page 18 are photos of what I feel is the rarest production RF Nikkor ever made. Take a look at only the second black 1000mm Nikkor to be covered in the Journal these last 25 years. And it is consecutively numbered with mine in my book! A rare and wonderful sight. Thank you Stephen Gandy.

Did you see the March issue of Shutterbug? Roger Hicks gives a nice review of our NHS Voigtlander R2S. Our name is in the title and text so I can't ask for better exposure. Also in the April issue on page 183 is a small mention of my book. Hopefully, more will follow. **RJR**

NHS-CON11 IN VANCOUVER APRIL 18~19, 2008!!

LAST CALL...LAST CALL

You should be receiving this issue of the Journal about three weeks before NHS-Con11 is set to happen in beautiful Vancouver, Canada. Are you coming? If undecided there still is time to register and the fee remains at \$150. You can Paypal me for immediate registration or send a check, but you must act now. We have estimated the attendance based on those who have already paid their fee (47 as I write this) plus a little extra. But we do need to know before the meeting. **If you are coming please tell us now!**

Here is a summation of all the information those who will attend need, plus some new points of interest. Here goes:

THE HOTEL...

- The Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel is located at 1088 Burrard Street in downtown Vancouver. The special room rate for attendees is \$175CDN plus tax and is for a single (king) or two double beds and this rate is available from April 13th to departing on the 24th! **(These are new extended dates for those who will arrive early and stay afterward)** The Sheraton can be accessed by the Airport Shuttle Bus service (\$13 one way, \$20 round trip CDN), taxi (\$25-\$30CDN) or limousine (\$35-\$40CDN). You are responsible for booking your own rooms so please do so now! When reserving your room make sure you specify the **'North Tower'** and that you are attending the NHS convention.
- For those of you who will have your own car in Vancouver, there is a parking charge at the hotel. Underground self-parking is \$23.00 per day so please keep this in mind. This is about average for the city of Vancouver.
- Our hotel contact information is as follows (we have a new contact person!):
The sales manager for our event is Dana Prevost and she can be contacted at:

Phone...604-893-7134 Fax...604-331-1001

Email...dprevost@wallcentre.com

The hotel website is...www.sheratonvancouver.com

The direct lines to the hotel are **604-331-1000 & 1-800-663-9255**

REGISTRATION...

- We will be set up in the hotel lobby on Friday evening beginning at 5PM. Since the meeting starts early on Saturday (8:30AM) I am sure most of you will have arrived by this time. Look for Mike and I off in a quiet corner of the lobby. We will probably remain in the lobby till at least 7PM. If you arrive later please look for us in my room in the **'South Tower'**. We are planning a hospitality gathering in my suite so please come on up! Those of you attending our Harbor Cruise Dinner on Saturday night can pay for that at registration if not already done. The cost is \$70CDN per person. **Checks or cash are fine or 'Paypal' me before April 14th!**

THE MEETING...

- **NHS-CON11 will begin promptly at 8:30AM on Saturday!!**.....It is imperative that we start on time because we have a very full day and a tight schedule. We must adhere to our plans or we will run short of time, so please be in the meeting room (**Junior Ballroom D**) before 8:30 (**8AM would be even better!**) Coffee and rolls will be in the room by 8AM (the hotel has promised this!) so we can start on time. There will also be a lunch buffet provided in the next room as well as an afternoon refreshment, so once in the meeting room there is no need to leave. All is taken care of. At this time we have '11' scheduled presentations on various subjects. Plans call for the following speakers and subjects (not necessarily in this order):

Hans Braakhuis/Yuki Kawai.....Flowers of the Modern Weapons...(This will be a definite surprise for all!)

Uli Koch....The Apo-Nikkors

Bill Kraus....The Mystery of the Curly 'N'

Richard Lane....Japanese WWII Navy Torpedo Directors

Nick Didlick....Vancouver Perspective (Nick is a local professional who will show his work of the area)

Chris Sap....Nikon One Research Project

Bill Kraus/Yuki Kawai....Two Experimental Models

Wes Loder....Nikon Novar & Opera Glasses

Bill Kraus/Chris Sap...A Trip to Nikon Sendai

Hans Braakhuis....Nikon Mikrons (5x,6x & 7x)

Tony Hurst...Nikon Slide Show

Following the speakers will be a short show n' tell (so bring some 'good stuff'). **There will also be in the room a special exhibit of all types on prewar and WWII 'NIKKO' optical ordnance made by Nippon Kogaku.** Mike Symons, Richard Lane and Jack Kelly are bringing these rare (and heavy) pieces to Vancouver for our enjoyment. This will probably be the largest single display of NIKKO products ever assembled in one room! Make sure you check out this exhibit throughout the day.

We must end the meeting by 5:30 to give us enough time to get to our rooms to freshen up and be downstairs in the lobby in time to leave for the closing event of the day.... **our dinner cruise.**

THE DINNER CRUISE...

- We have booked our ship for the dinner and we should have a deck to ourselves (if we have enough people). We are using the Sunset Harbor Cruise Line and it is a two-hour plus cruise into English Bay and Granville Island (weather permitting) as we pass by the Vancouver skyline. We will have a catered gourmet meal including dessert and a 'cash' bar. We must board by 6:30 as it leaves the dock at 7pm. Therefore, all those attending need to be in the hotel lobby by 6PM so we can leave together for the dock. Transportation has not been determined at the time of this writing. Taxis are a possibility but we may look into something else. Whatever is decided will be announced at the meeting Saturday. But again a head count is important when arranging for transportation so please let us know if you are going on the dinner cruise.
- The \$70CDN can be paid in advance of the meeting, at registration on Friday night or during the day on Saturday, or when you board. Mike and I had to pay 50% up front to reserve the ship so please try to pay directly to us when you can. There will be a cash bar for those who wish it. We do need to know how many will attend so please let us know as soon as you can. This sounds like a great closing to the meeting and I am sure everyone will enjoy it. It is a 'first' for us and I am looking forward to it.

SUNDAY CAMERA SHOW...

- We will be able to attend the annual Vancouver Camera Show, which has moved its date to coincide with our Convention, so let's support the event as much as we can. I assume that nearly everyone will want to attend plus it will give the ladies a free day to 'shop' while we do the same! Most will go

as a group (Mike & I and a few others need to go earlier to set up our NHS tables) and the best option is to take the 'Sky-Train'. The closest station is the 'Burrard Station', about a 4 block walk from the Sheraton. On Sunday it starts operation at 7:50AM, lots of time to get out to Burnaby, where the show is being held. The trip is about 35 minutes and it runs about every 10 minutes and drop off is about 4 blocks from the show. The 'early bird' is 9AM. **(I have reproduced their flyer with all info for you)** By contrast, a taxi ride would cost an estimated \$50 one way, while the 'Sky-Train' is about \$2.00! Siggie Rohde, Vice-President of the Vancouver Camera Show, tells me that there will be lots of great European food at the show. The show is well known for its great home cooked European and Canadian food! So you won't go hungry! Don't forget, any items you fail to sell or trade on Saturday can be brought to the show. Also, Siggie has put the word out that there will be at least 50 'crazed' Nikon collectors in the room, so maybe the dealers will cater to this fact! It is already rumored a Nikon One will surface that weekend. So plan on a nice Sunday at a camera show you have never been to before.

SIGHTSEEING TOURS...

- As some of you already know, the tour company we had published info on in previous journals, Grayline West, has gone bankrupt on us. Scary at first but Mike has located another company that conducts nearly identical tours. They are **Westcoast Sightseeing Tours**, and their website is **www.vancouversightseeing.com**, so please contact them for more information.

CONVENTION FEE...

- As stated previously, the Convention fee is \$150, which covers the Friday evening registration and hospitality suite, rental of the meeting room and all the AV equipment (our biggest expense!), tables and chairs, and all coffee and rolls and lunch (also a big expense) on Saturday. It will also cover the Convention gift all attendees will receive as well as gifts for those who will be making presentations. It does not cover the Saturday evening Dinner Cruise. We have decided that there will be no late fee charged.

The fee is to be paid directly to me as it might get complicated if both Mike and I receive funds. This can be done by personal or bank check and money order for those in the US and Canada, or by bank wire transfer for those overseas. **However, the easiest way for most of you would be to pay via PAYPAL!** You can pay me directly and my Paypal account numbers are my email addresses:

Rotoloni@msn.com or

r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net

If you chose to use either a check or money order please make it out to either myself or RJR Publishing, Inc., **NOT TO THE SOCIETY!** If you have any questions about payment (or anything else) please contact me.

We are always in need of a head count. This is needed to make sure we have enough of everything for those who will be attending, such as food for Saturday, etc. So those of you who have not committed by the time you receive this please contact us now. There still is time and no one will be turned away. Contact Mike or me. The sooner the better. Besides my two emails listed above you can also contact Mike at:

Msymons6456@telus.net

Also there is a link on our website where you can keep up to date on what is going on.

Mike has also been in contact with all those who have registered to date. He has sent out, via email, numerous updates on the Convention as they have been necessary. Those of you who are on our list for attending have been receiving these emails. It is a great way to communicate and I am sure you will use those as a more up to date source of information than these pages, which are really meant for those who might still come.

THE FINAL WORD?...

- To summarize let me list some final points.
- If you have any questions or concerns you can contact Mike or I at our email addresses:

Rotoloni@msn.com

r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net

Msymons6456@telus.net

- Payment can be made to my Paypal accounts (emails)
- Meet us Friday at 5~7PM in the hotel lobby for registration.
- Afterwards look for us in my room in the South Tower.
- The meeting must start at 8:30 on Saturday. Please be in the room (Junior Ballroom D) BEFORE that time so we are not delayed.
- Refreshments will be available at 8am and in the afternoon plus lunch will be provided as well.
- We must finish by 5:30pm so we can get ready to go for the dinner cruise.
- Sunday will be the Vancouver Camera Show.

I hope to see many of my friends again in Vancouver. Our conventions are really social events. They allow us to see old friends from all over the world, and to make new ones or finally meet in person others we have only communicated with in letters or by phone. Please come with the attitude that we will have a good time.

I look forward to seeing you and bring your camera (and your passport!)
RJR

Please remember, the cameras are important, but it's the people who make our Conventions memorable!

VANCOUVER CAMERA SHOW AND SWAP MEET

*Vancouver's original and largest show
More stuff, more people, better prices*

Sunday April 20th 2008

Cameron Recreation Centre

**9523 Cameron St, near Lougheed Mall
Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada**

**1000s of new, old, collectible &
digital cameras, plus lenses
filters tripods flashes batteries
memory - bags - projectors**

**Tables \$40 Admission \$5, 10 am to 4 pm
\$15 early bird at 9 am—under 14 free with adult**

TURN YOUR OLD CAMERAS INTO DOLLARS
at the Association's Consignment Table. Experts will provide a free valuation, you can then decide if you would like to leave the item (at your risk) for sale with a 20% commission. Bring in before 11 am, collect item or sale proceeds after 3 pm.

www.whistlerinns.com/camerashow

PLEASE HELP—POST OR PASS-ON THIS FLYER



**This year's show is
held in conjunction
with the NHS
NIKON Convention
April 18 - 19th 2008
Information:
msymons6456@telus.net**

**We expect many high-end Nikon buyers and sellers
with unique Nikon equipment.**

GETTING THERE Cameron Street is the first east-west street north of Lougheed Mall. A ten minute walk through the mall from the SkyTrain Lougheed Station or 110 or 97 bus.

FREE PARKING Limited free parking at the centre and on-street, more spaces across the street in the mall north lot

FOOD SERVICES Full service coffee shop with home cooking, wursts, sauerkraut and the famous hot potato salad

ACCOMMODATION Special rates at nearby Best Western Coquitlam Inn starting from C\$89. Reservations 604 934-9011, 1-800-668-3383. Mention the Camera Show when booking

BOOKING A TABLE OR MORE INFORMATION
Siggi or Brigitte: telephone and fax 604 941-0300
nobllexcanada@shaw.ca

Western Canada Photographic Historical Association is the show sponsor. A non-profit BC society dedicated for 30 years to the preservation and display of cameras and images. The association welcomes anyone interested in collecting cameras to our monthly meetings — held the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 7.30 PM, in the Alpen Club basement, (restaurant and pub) 4875 Victoria Drive, Vancouver (at 33rd Ave). Non-members are welcome to bring items to sell at the buy and sell sessions held at the start of each meeting.

4

COMPARISON STUDY...

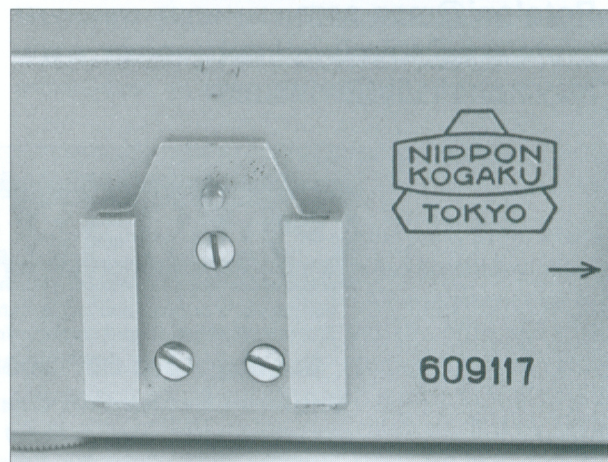
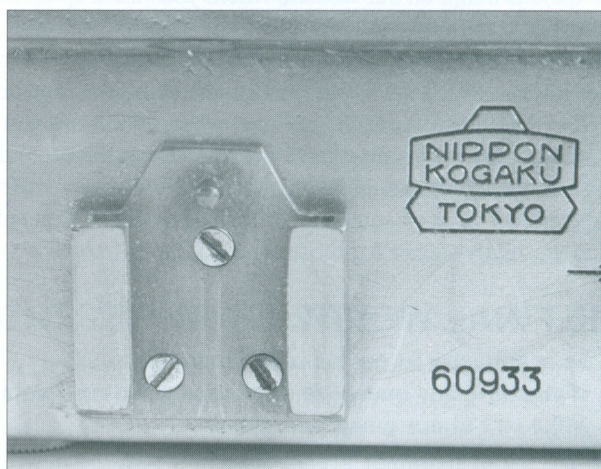
A PAIR OF EARLY NIKON ONES

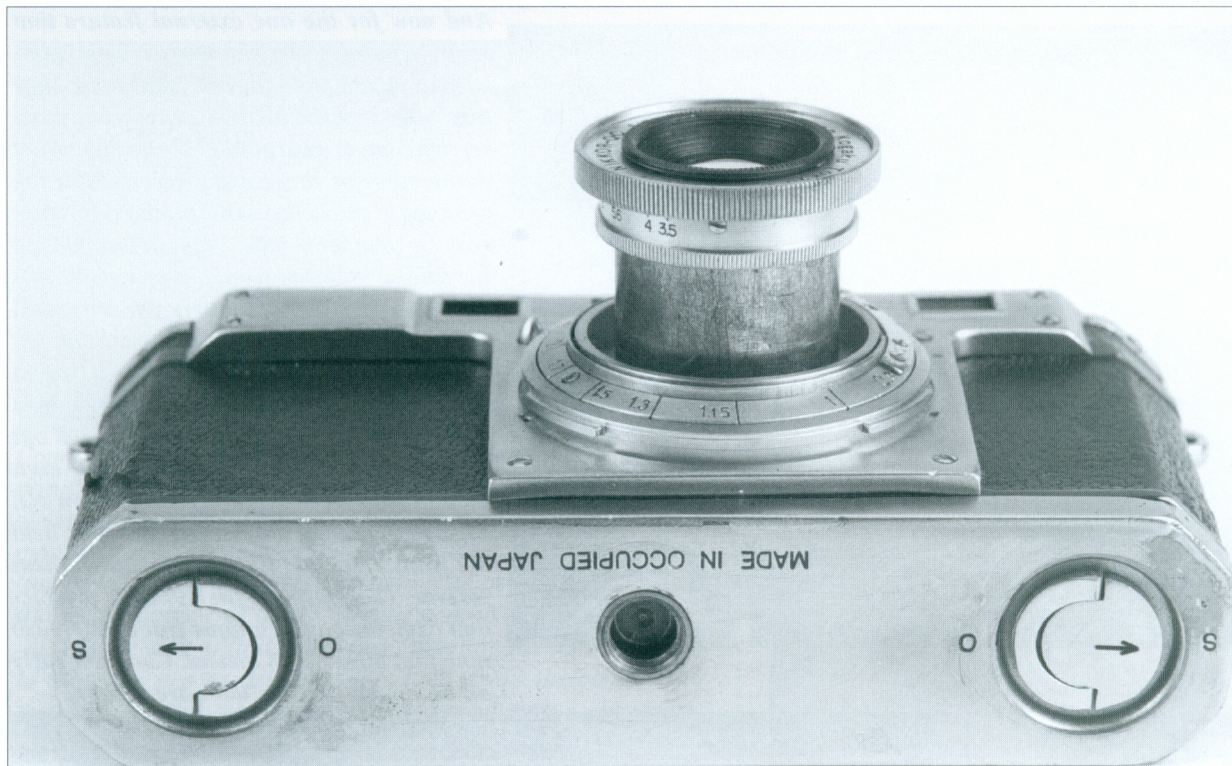
BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

To me the most fascinating aspect of collecting the Nikon Rangefinder system has always been the very early MIOJ era. Everything produced by NK from early 1948 up to about late 1951 was basically hand made or bench built at a very slow and erratic rate. The result being that variations abound to the point where it is sometimes difficult to find two examples of a particular item that are identical! But that's the fun of it. The more you acquire from the period the more mind boggling the differences become. A perfect example is the Nikon One. Although there are many variations in the following Model M, the first Nikon was made so slowly and in such small numbers, that finding two identical specimens is much harder than you might think. NK was 'learning as it was going' when producing the Nikon One. As problems and design changes occurred (sometimes very rapidly) the very next cameras assembled would incorporate the changes. The result is a wonderland of discovery for the Nikon collector. To illustrate this point I have shot comparison photos of two Nikon Ones, cameras 60933 and 609117. Although less than 100 units apart, they are very different cameras, as the photos will show. Actually, if I had another six cameras between these two, they would all differ from each other in some way. Well, you get the point.

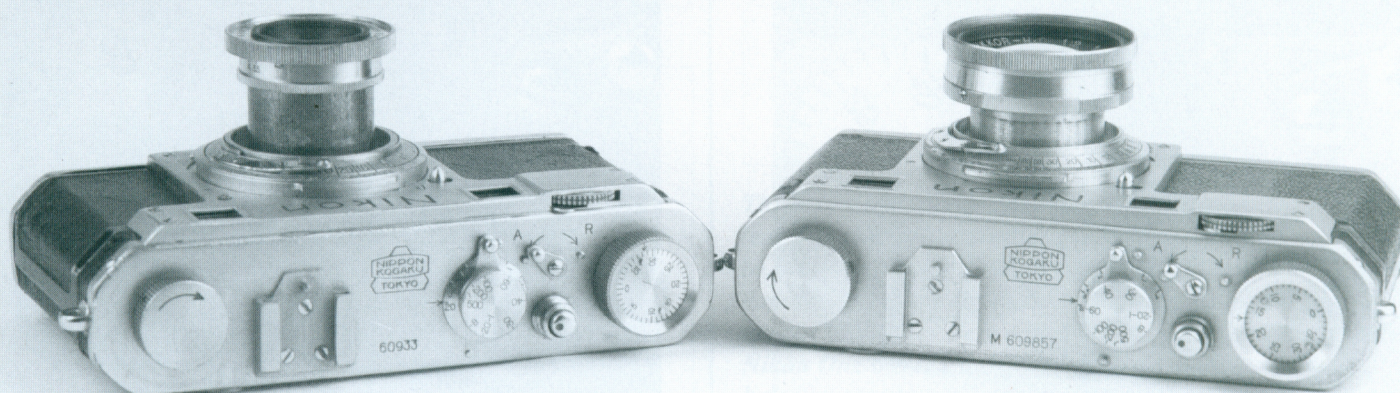
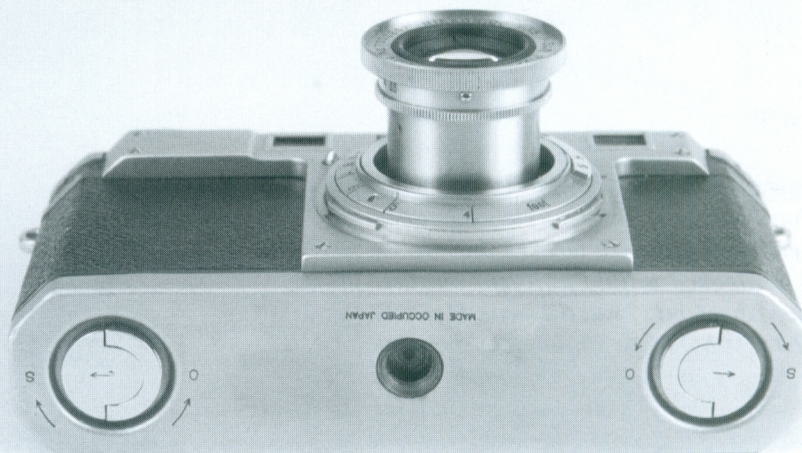
RJR

I was fortunate to have Nikon One 60933 in my possession for a short period of time which allowed me a chance to photograph it in detail before passing it on to its new owner. I have shot it alongside 609117 for comparison. Less than 100 units apart, they do differ as you will see.





On the facing page close-ups of the serial numbers of our two specimens. Note the accessory shoes appear identical. Bottom photo of our pair, both sporting 50/f3.5 Nikkors. From this distance they appear to be nearly the same, but look a little closer. On this page we start our comparison with the baseplates. Note that 60933 (top) has no arrows engraved near the O & C markings. Also the much larger MIOJ engraving compared to 609117 at the right. What can't be seen from this angle (but you may notice it in the bottom photo on the facing page) is that the leading edge of the baseplate is shallower on 60933 than 609117. Have they increased its depth this early on to combat light leaks? Below 60933 & M609857. Were those early Ms really re-issued Nikon Ones?

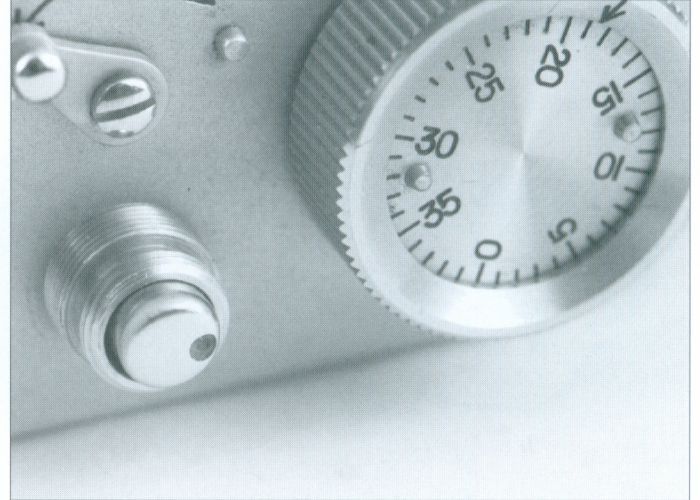
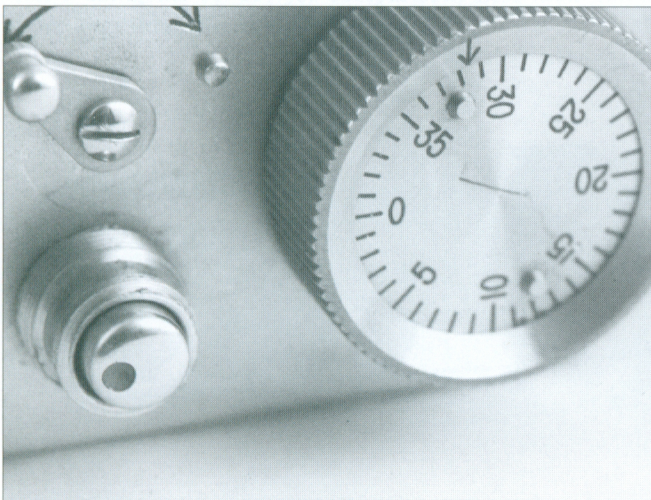


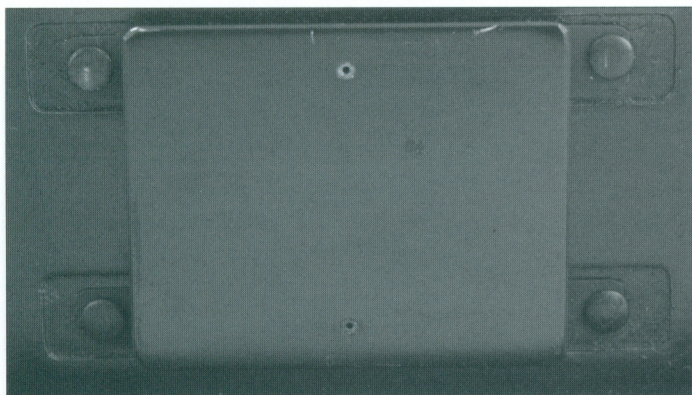


And now for the one external feature that really separates the very early Nikon Ones, such as 60933, from the rest of the herd. Note that 60933 (left) has two extra front plate screws compared to 609117 (below). So what is the story of these extra screws? All the prototypes as well as the production cameras up to at least 60952 (but before 60969) have these '8' screw front plates. On the prototypes before the addition of the lens lock, the 2 screws were actually symmetrical, but the one on the left was moved to make room for the lock! The result is really strange. Now that they do not line up they really look out of place and almost an afterthought, even though they were there first. Very soon NK decided they were not needed (6 screws held the front plate just fine) and removed them forever. Therefore the first 30 or so production cameras have a unique front plate. Also note that 60933 is in meters. Common early on but much rarer in later production.

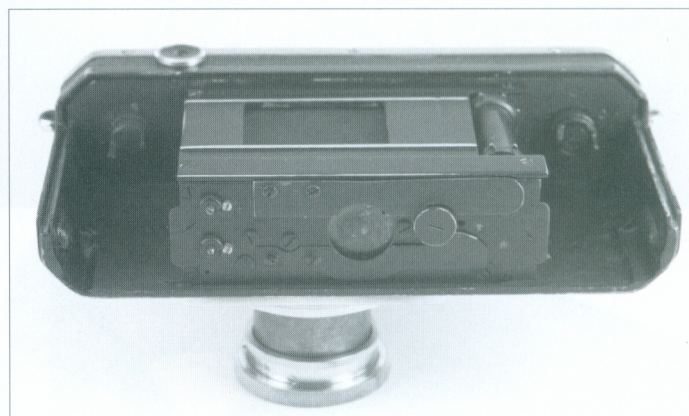
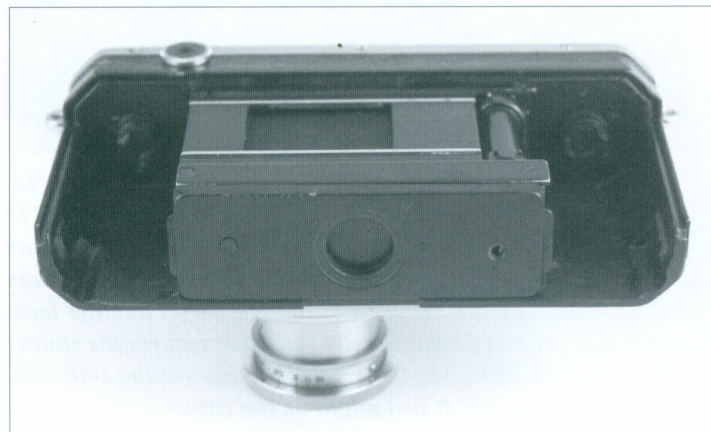
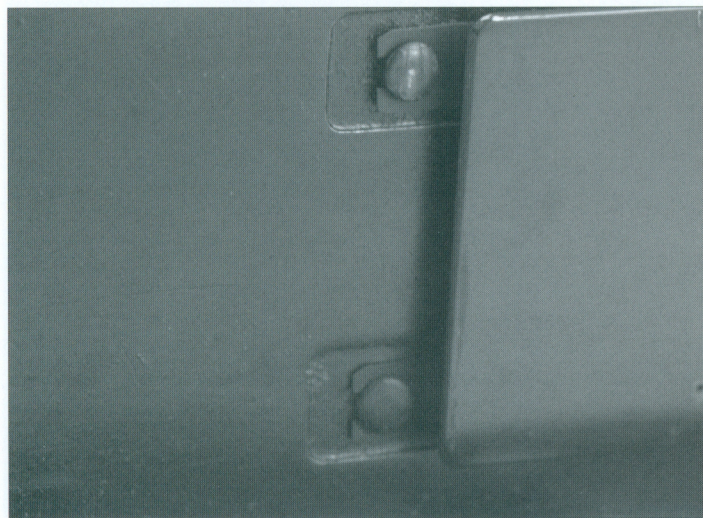
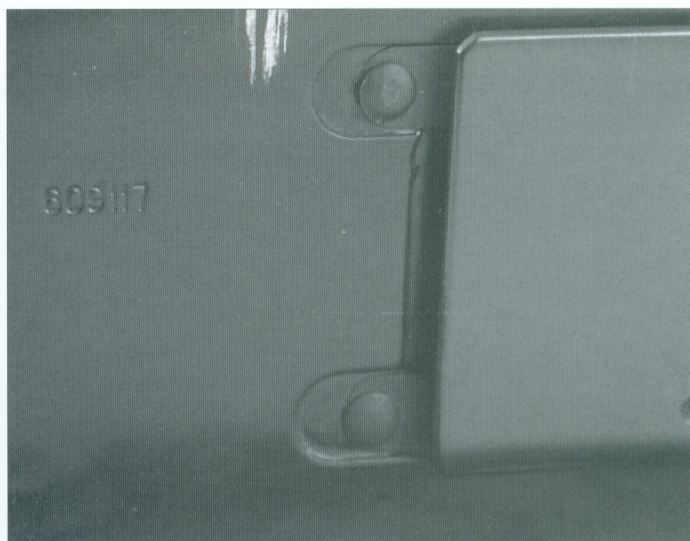
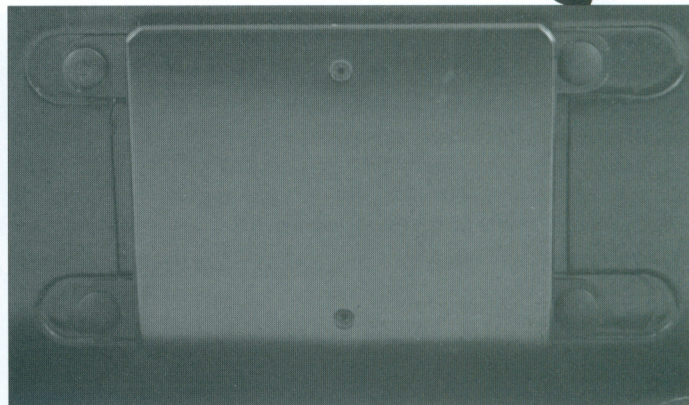


Cameras 60933 and 609117 (below) appear to have identical shutter release buttons. When I first inspected 60933 I thought the red dot looked a little different but then noticed that 609117 was the same. However, M609857 (above) is slightly different and like those I am used to. The top is flatter and more parallel to the camera top plate. Also, the red dot is not quite as close to the edge and a little smaller. A small difference but it is there.

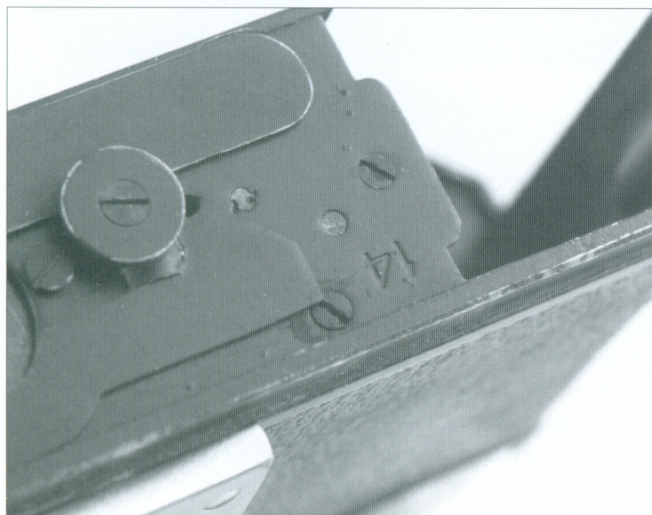
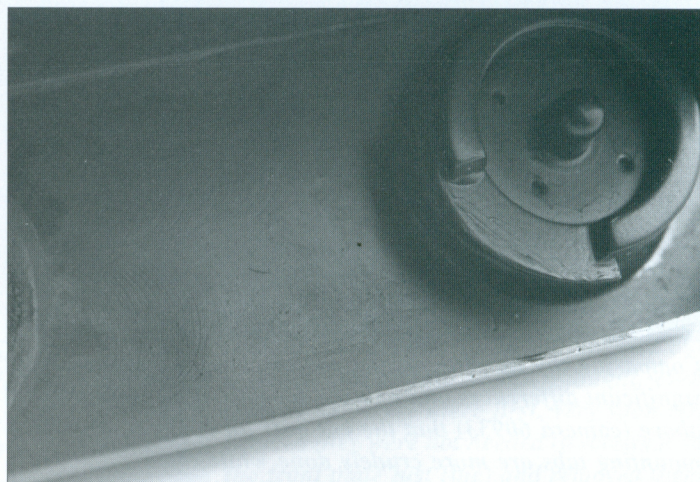




Comparing the interiors of the camera backs I can see two significant differences and one less obvious. Note in the photo above (camera 60933) that the cut outs for the pressure plate mounting tabs are more crudely done while those on 609117 (top right) are a little better executed. The photo at right shows the serial number of 609117 duplicated inside the back. This was not the case at first. A different notation to match the back to the body was used (next page) and 60933 (below) has no matching number. I have not been able to determine when numbers were added but the very early cameras do not have a matching number inside the back. Also, less obvious from these photos is that 609117 has a higher interior quality level than 60933 showing less hand finishing and painting.



The very early Nikon Ones lack the cover plate for the chassis leaving some of the shutter controls visible. This was soon to be corrected with a thin aluminum cover plate that prevented damage as well as dirt build up on these parts. It is not known exactly when they were added but it is also somewhat random. Nikon One 609171 does not have one (and there are no screw holes present to even mount one!) while 609117 (left) does. To date all the very early Ones I have recorded up to at least 60969 lack this chassis cover plate.



As mentioned, NK did not use the duplicate interior serial number at first. So what did they do? On the very early Ones such as 60933, there is a number stamped into various locations that leads one to believe is was the method used by the assemblers to mate certain parts together. Remember, these cameras were bench built by just a few people. Hand fitting was common. In the photo top left (60933) you see a '14' inside the baseplate but not on 609117 (above). What does the '14' signify?



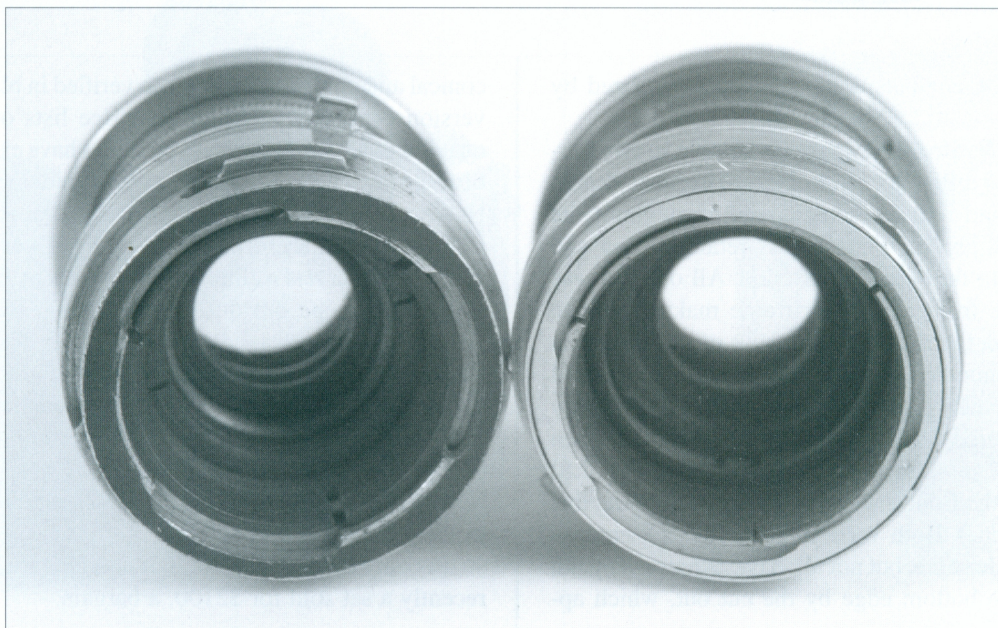
Looking inside the film take-up chamber we see the same '14' on 60933 (above left) while no number can be found on 609117 (above). Note that even though 609117 still exhibits a less than elegant finish to the inside of the body casting, it is better than that of 60933! Finally, 60933 has the '14' in yet another location. This time it is on the chassis plate that secures the shutter sub-assembly. Could the '14' signify that this was the 14th camera to be assembled? It just might be the case.



Even the lenses that came with these cameras are not identical. At nearly 1100 units apart this is not a surprise. (The f3.5 was made in very large numbers but in SM, not Nikon mount, where possibly less than 125 were produced) At left note the later lens has a better quality engraving and a spanner notch for removing the front light baffle. In the photo below the earlier lens is on the right. Note the small hole on the bayonet mount just to left of center. The later lens lacks this. Also the collapsible part of the barrel of the earlier lens has not held up well. This could be from poor original plating or some type of unusual wear.



At left notice the earlier lens has a much larger index dot crudely done and that the later lens has a much more substantial side wall to the bayonet mount where the index tab mounts. But below we see a real improvement probably learned from experience. The entire rear surface of the later lens (left) has been blackened to reduce flare undoubtedly improving performance.



THOSE 'LITTLE' 2.8CM ATTACHMENTS

BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

One of the more interesting accessories made for the RF system came in two types, although their design parameters and purpose were basically the same. But because they were made to mate to two distinctly different items, they are very different in appearance.

Actually, they are an accessory to an accessory! I am talking about the 2.8cm (28mm) attachments for the Nikon Varifocal (Zoom) and Variframe finders. Neither one was ever made in really large numbers but I will start with the more 'common' type made for the Varifocal finder.

The Varifocal version is more easily found for two basic reasons. The finder itself was made in much larger numbers than the Variframe, and the '2.8' attachment was available for nearly the entire production run, unlike the Variframe that seems to have come along very late in the life of that finder. However, in comparison to the number of Varifocals made, the '2.8' attachment does not seem to have been something many users thought necessary. Even though the 2.8cm/f3.5 Nikkor was a very popular lens, and no Nikon body except the SP ever had a 2.8cm frameline, these '28' attachments were not heavily utilized by Nikon users.

The '2.8' for the Varifocal is actually available in two versions, although the only difference is cosmetic. The basic design was simplicity itself and remained unchanged throughout the period. Consisting of a chrome-plated brass retaining ring and the optics, it attached to the finder by friction. All one did was push the ring onto the front of the Variframe making sure to align a small cut out on the ring with the front of the plate that the barrel of the finder mounted to. And that was it. Once mounted it would not rotate (because of that cut out) and fit rather tightly (I have never encountered one that felt loose or wobbled when mounted). Care is needed when attaching or removing the '2.8' as it is possible to mar the front rim of the finder when doing this (but this seldom happens). Both versions have the '2.8' engraving on the top edge while some, but not all, have 'Nippon Kogaku Japan' engraved on the bottom edge by the cut out, which ap-

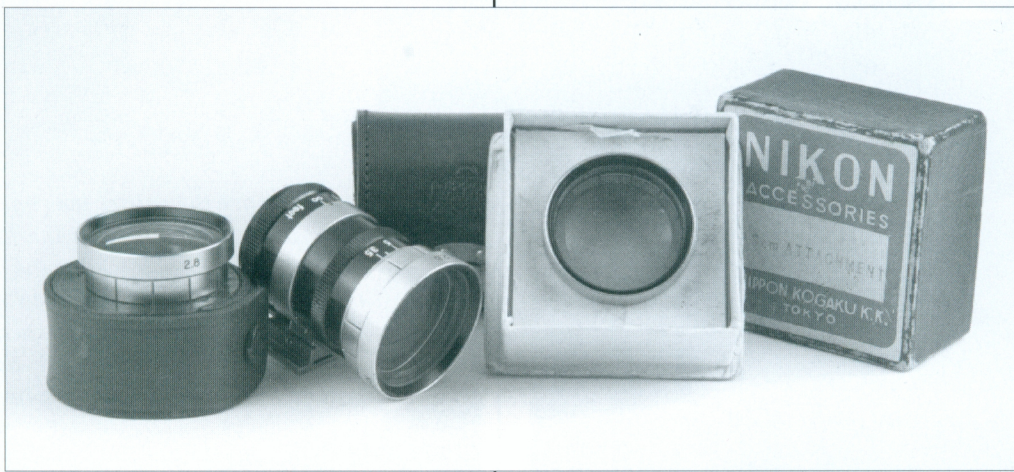
pears to be the only difference I have found. As to which came first I do not know. These attachments were never serial numbered nor have any been confirmed with 'MIOJ' markings (it is not known with certainty if they existed that early but I doubt it since no 2.8cm Nikkor was available). I can find no significant difference in finish that would date them either. So which type came first may never be known. They have been found in their original box and there is a leather case that may have been made for it, although none is ever mentioned in the literature.

Over the years the value of the '2.8' attachment for the Varifocal finder has gone up and down topping out at about \$700. But it has always been worth much more than the finder it was made for and is still in the \$4-500 range while the very common finders can be found for \$100 or less. Another case where an

accessory item is worth much more than the item it was designed to compliment.

If the '2.8' for the Varifocal can be called 'uncommon' then the one for the Variframe qualifies for the status of 'rare'! And I do mean rare.

To date this little screw-in

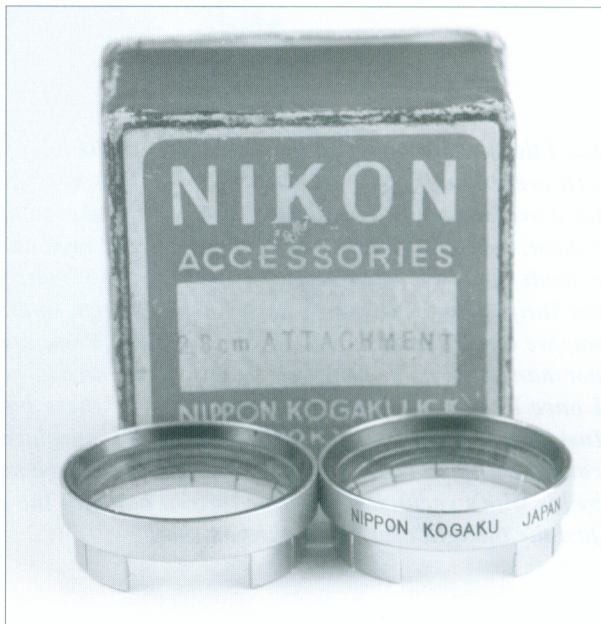
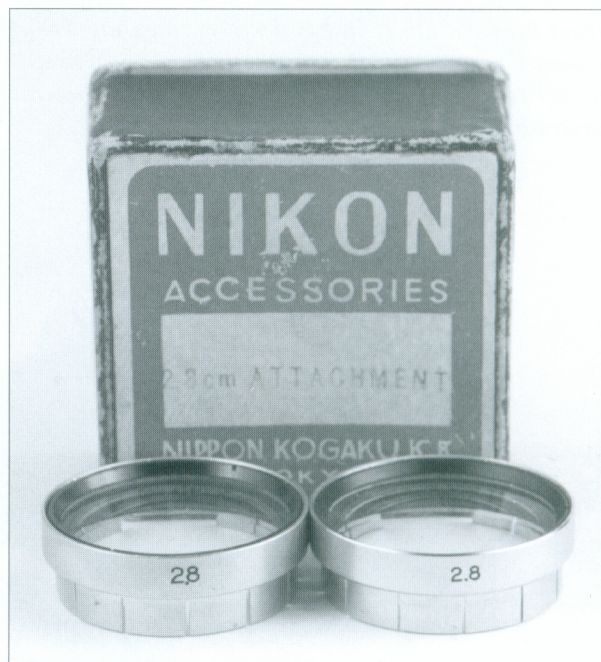


conical attachment has only been verified in black with no chrome version ever mentioned in any price lists or literature. It was once thought that a chrome type might have existed because some of the later chrome Variframes appear to have a front thread. However, on close examination those 'threads' turn out to be a light baffle. Therefore, only the black version of the Nikon Variframe ever had a 28mm attachment. The first black Variframe (Type VII) came out during the S2 era. But by this time the Variframe design was in a rapid decline. The Varifocal (Zoom) finder was more practical, easier to use, more intuitive and less bulky. Besides, the newer cameras coming soon (SP/S3) further reduced the need for this accessory because of their more comprehensive built-in finder systems. Consequently, the black Variframes sold poorly as did their 28mm attachment, resulting in their rarity today.

Recent sales hover around \$1600 plus for the attachment and recently a set sold for \$2100, a bargain.



The '2.8' for the Varifocal (Zoom) finder fits either version of the finder, so only one type was ever made. However, at least 2 versions of the '2.8' are known. Some of them are engraved 'Nippon Kogaku Japan' on the front rim opposite the '2.8' (which also is seen in two slightly different fonts), otherwise they appear the same. They originally came in a small blue box with a red label as shown below. The Varifocal finder was much more useful than the Variframe type and the 2.8 attachment increased its range to 28~135mm, covering 90% of all the lenses RF users generally shot with. You will note that it does look a bit ungainly when mounted on a camera. Also, the 2.8 attachment is quite hefty for its size (a lot of glass!) which makes the finder larger and front heavy as well. All in all, it was still a useful accessory if you shot often with a 28 lens.







14

THE FIRST NIPPON KOGAKU LOGO

BY RICHARD LANE

It has been four years since the N-K logo article was published in NHS-82. That article attempted to document transition periods between logos and depict the earliest and last design used at the end of WWII. Since then, very little has been brought to light on the subject. Now, with the discovery of three very early Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) torpedo telescopes (made from 1915 to 1919), I believe it is possible to document the first logo used at the birth of Nippon Kogaku.

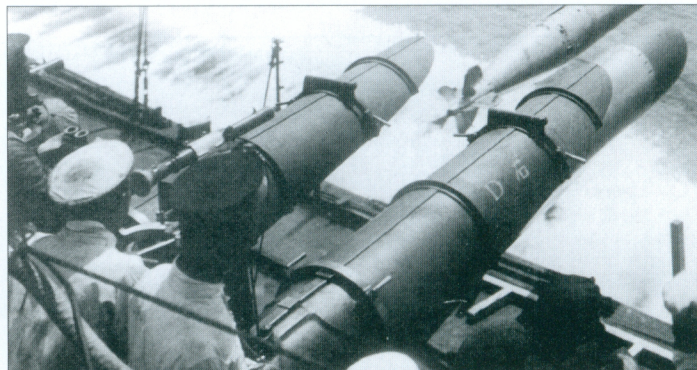
As established in Japan's optical history, Fujii Lens Seizoshō was one of three companies consolidated to form N-K in 1917. In John Baird's book "The Japanese Camera" (Historical Camera Publications, 1990), he mentions that Fujii Lens joined N-K on December 13, 1917. His book also mentions that Fujii Lens introduced a refractive type telescope in 1913.

The first telescope I'll describe was made by Fujii Lens (trademarked Fujii Brothers). It is made of brass and measures 22 inches long and is 2 inches in diameter. The telescope is marked:

No. 78
FUJII BROS.
TOKYO

The telescope is fixed focus and has a horizontal and vertical reticule. For night use, the reticule can be illuminated with a light bulb attachment that screws onto a cylinder at the center of the telescope. Additionally, the outside front and rear sights can be illuminated with bayonet light bulb attachments. What surprised me most about this telescope was its variable power. Yes—a zoom telescope (5~15 power) produced over 90 years ago! It turns out that this uniquely designed item was made for the first IJN torpedo director introduced in 1915.

In the Taisho era, the IJN manufactured several torpedo directors for their cruisers and destroyers. The Taisho era ("period of great righteousness") is a period in the history of Japan dating from 30 July 1912 to 25



December 1926. Many Japanese weapons systems made in this era were designated by their Taisho date. For example, the Type 4th-year director was introduced in Taisho 4 – 1915. The 4th-year director used a 5~15 variable power telescope on a shooting-direction board. This Fujii Lens telescope was made for this director and has the serial number 78; it's possible that it was made in 1915. A diagram of this director is depicted in a Japanese language publication titled: "Japanese Cruisers" (1993, Grand Prix Shuppan). The diagram has been reproduced in this article with an English translation by Yutaka Iwasaki, a Japanese WWII Navy historian. This Type 4th-year director was used on torpedo launchers from 1915 until it was replaced by the Type 8th-year version in 1919.

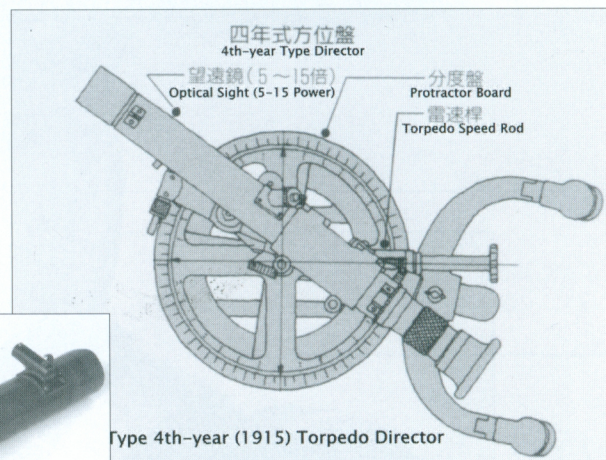


Fig. One..top..Photo of an early Japanese Navy torpedo launcher. The operator is sighting through a telescope like those in this article.

Fig. Two..left..Fujii Lens telescope for the Type 4th-year torpedo director. Note the Fujii Bros engraving and the serial No. 78.

Fig. Three..above..A diagram of the Type 4th-year torpedo director from 'Grand Prix Shuppan' book on Japanese cruisers. Translation by Yutaka Iwasaki.



The next telescope I'll describe is also made of brass and has the same dimensions as the Fujii Lens version. It is marked with an early N-K logo and has the serial number 535. The front hood is stamped with a Japanese symbol for "Torpedo", something that is not present on the Fujii Lens variation. The dimensions and knurl-ing of the rear zoom collar and eyepiece ring appear identical to the Fujii example. The N-K zoom collar has markings for the 5~15 power and this is not present on the Fujii Lens version. Another difference is the length of the reticule lighting cylinder as the Fujii version is about 1.5cm longer. Additionally, the rear optical lens on the Fujii item extends about 1cm from the end of the eyepiece whereas it is flush on the N-K example. I believe that during these transition years (1917-1919), N-K took over the design/manufacture of this telescope from Fujii Lens when the company merged with them in late 1917. It appears that N-K used most of their design when they made their version. Undoubtedly, N-K made improvements to the telescope during the production run from 1918 to 1919.

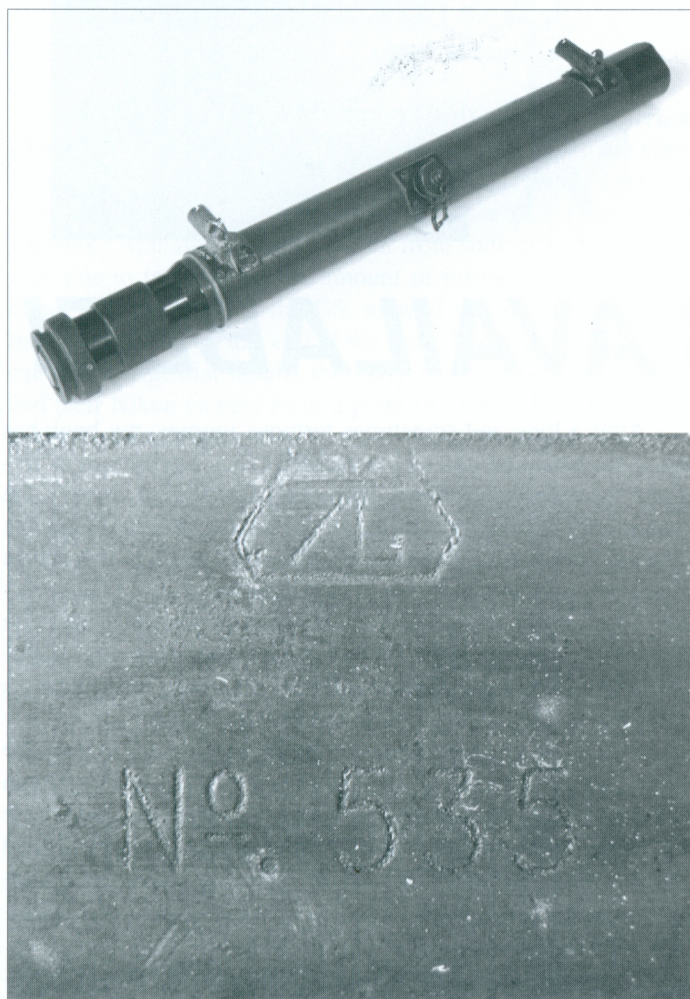


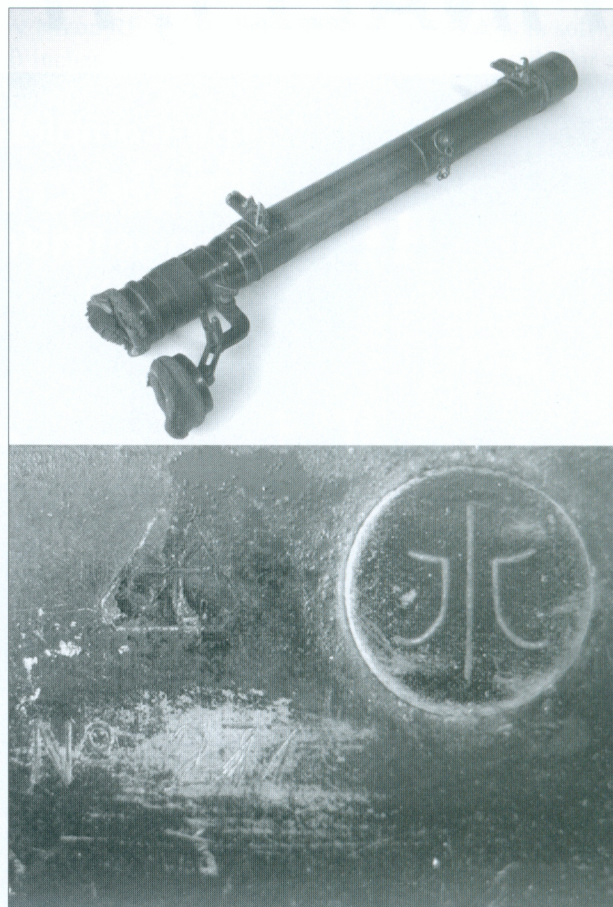
Fig. Four..above..A Nippon Kogaku telescope for the Type 4th-year torpedo director. It is serial number 535.

Fig. Five..top..Comparison of early Type 4th-year director telescopes. Left is the Fujii lens version & right, that by N-K.

Fig. Six..right..Nippon Kogaku telescope for Type 8th-year torpedo director. It is serial number 277.



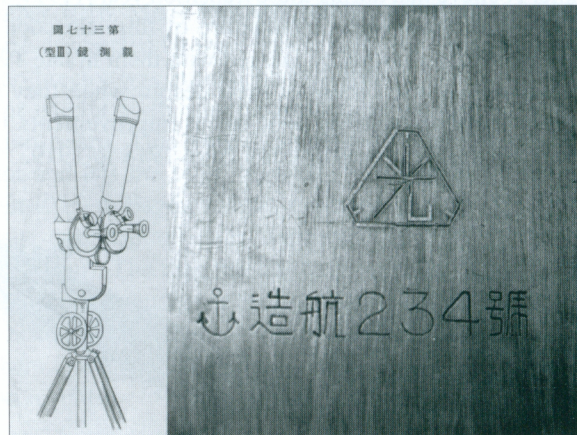
Finally, I'll discuss a third type Torpedo sight. As mentioned previously, the Type 4th-year director was replaced by the Type 8th-year version in 1919. This new director used a fixed-power telescope and had an eyepiece with focusing capability. This telescope has the same dimensions as the two previously described versions. It is marked with the same early N-K logo and has the serial number 277. There is a Japanese symbol for "Torpedo" just right of the serial number and N-K logo. Although not marked, I would estimate the magnification of this telescope to be 6-power. Even though introduced in 1919, this director would continue to be modified and produced until the end of WWII. I have an N-K Type 8th-year torpedo telescope with a late N-K logo made in March of 1945.



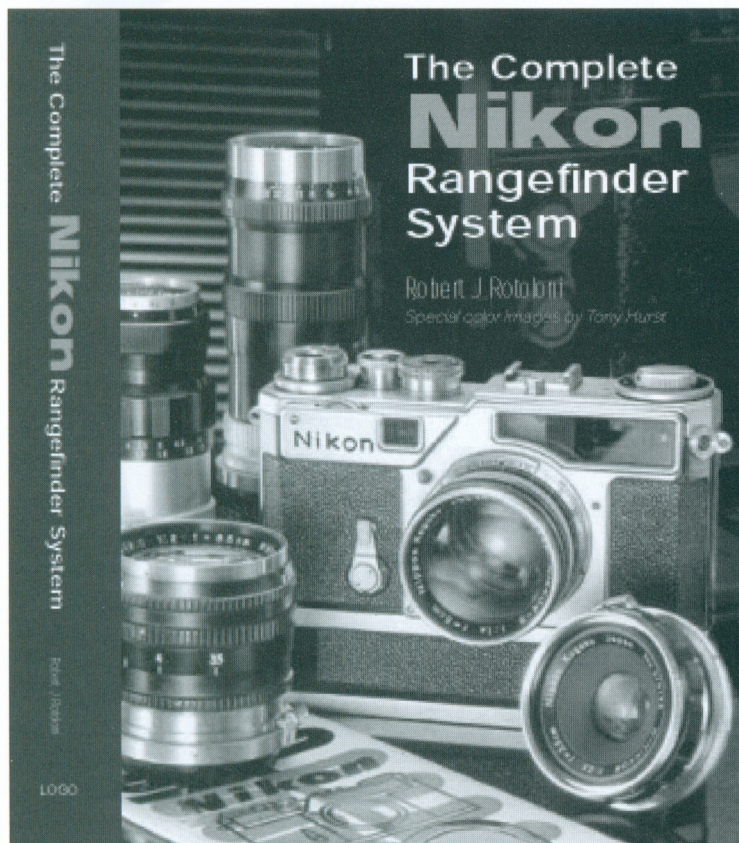


I have updated the N-K logo sequence from NHS-82 in the diagram in this article. What is still unknown, and requires more research, is the transition period for the first and second N-K logo. Additionally, was this first N-K logo used only on optical ordnance or was it also used on civilian products? I suspect the transition period for the first and second logos happened very early in N-K's history. I base this assumption on the scarce number of surviving optical instruments with this very early logo. I have only recorded this version on the two N-K torpedo sights described in this article, a telescope (No. 39 – photo in NHS-82), and several periscope binoculars. I have included a photo of one of these periscope binoculars (diagram from an early IJN manual on nautical instruments) and the associated logo/serial number from an example in my collection. The dates and transition periods for several other logos remain a mystery (JOICO and the logo on a binocular depicted in NHS-31).... the quest continues.

*Fig. Seven..above..The progression of Nippon Kogaku logos.
Fig. Eight..below..N-K logo on very early Japanese Navy periscope binoculars.*



FINALLY, IT IS AVAILABLE!



After a long and sometimes tortuous journey, my book has finally arrived here in the States. Delays in leaving port in England then the long journey across the Atlantic and through the Panama Canal, finally arriving at LA (where it was delayed in customs and X-ray) then on to Portland (once again delayed in customs!) (Could there have been a target or a sign saying 'Inspect Me' painted on our container?), it finally made it to the warehouse. I received my first shipment on the last day of February, so as you read this it is in stock and ready for immediate shipping.

Those of you who wish to obtain a signed copy from me need only to contact me and it will be done. I did not mention previously that, besides 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 postage:

United States	\$100 including Priority shipping.
Canada	\$115 including Int. Priority shipping.
Europe	\$125 including Int. Priority shipping.
Japan/Australia	\$130 including Int. Priority shipping.

I can accept checks (US/Canada only), money orders, bank wires, cash or PAYPAL. My email address (rotoloni@msn.com) is my Paypal account number. Please make all checks/money orders payable to RJR PUBLISHING or myself (NOT THE SOCIETY!)

I hope that you enjoy it and find it to be informative as well. Thank you for your support and patience. RJR

WES LODER BOOK IS READY!!

For nearly as long as I had been working on my book there was another one in preparation. As a matter of fact, its author, member Wes Loder, and I shared historical information at an early stage in the development of both books. Little did we know how difficult and convoluted our paths would be to final publication as we both endured delays for various reasons, some expected, some not. What I find interesting is that both projects came to a conclusion within a few weeks of each other. Because of this almost mystical coincidence I can announce both books in the very same issue of the Journal! And this is a timely announcement since both are available as you receive this issue. Who would have known?

In a way it is very appropriate that these two works should debut at the same time for they compliment each other. Mine is more a guide to all that was actually made plus as much history as I could fit in and felt I had some knowledge of. But that history was the result of information obtained from various sources and interviews that I had access to.

Wes Loder's new book, *The Nikon Camera in America, 1946-1953*, is the result of research and interviews that are completely different sources that I had never found. While I had interviews on the Japanese side with Masahiko Fuketa and Tatushiko Arakawa and information from sources in Japan, Wes was able to tap into a huge amount of information in our National Archives here in the US, as well as interview two very important people on this end of the story. The result is an historical manuscript that details the early years of Nippon Kogaku and their Nikon camera from a point of view never before seen in the English language.

This book is a 'must read' for any real Nikon RF collector or anyone who has the slightest interest in the real history of the Nippon Kogaku company, its products, or the Japanese optical industry in general. Within its pages is a gold mine of detailed information concerning the nearly day-to-day struggle of a war devastated country and its optical industry, the beginnings of the efforts to distribute their products and the arrival of the people who actually made it happen here in America.

To be fair one must admit that it was the American market (both here and in the guise of our Occupation troops) that made the world aware of the quality of the Nikon camera and its lenses. Yes, early on its products were sold in other markets (some of which will surprise you but you must read the book to really see where some Nikons ended up!), but it was the 'discovery' of the Nikon by the likes of David Douglas Duncan, Carl Mydans and Horace Bristol that led to the Jacob Deschin article in the NY Times that really made things happen. Wes covers this story, which has been talked and written about for decades, but in much greater detail than I have ever heard before! An important story and Wes covers it beautifully.

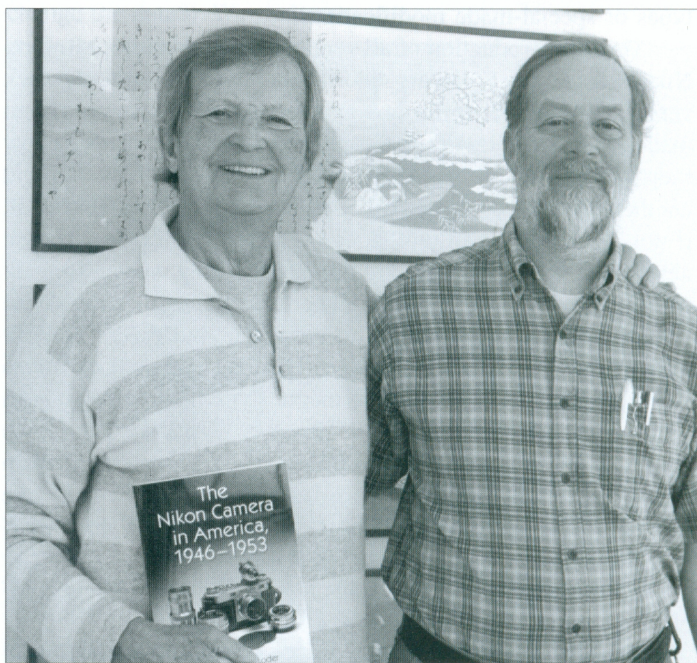
The same for the two 'new' historical sources that I was never able to access or, in one case, never thought existed. Using the National Archives and various other libraries and indexes, Wes found the detailed records of the American Occupation au-

thorities (SCAP) pertaining to the optical industry. From this he was able to determine production quantities and introductions, in some cases on a week to week basis! You have to see this and discover how many Nikons were made the week of October 4-10, 1948 as an example. Fabulous reading!

The second source is a story onto itself and one for which I only knew the names of the players but had never met. Here Wes gives us a very detailed accounting of the actions and efforts of both Hans Liholm and Adolph Gasser, the two men who did the real groundwork to bring the Nikon into America and make it a success long before the arrival of Joe Ehrenreich. Although Joe did a tremendous job of promoting the Nikon, Liholm and Gasser had already set the stage for that success. They were the first to approach American dealers with this new Japanese camera no one had ever heard of. They were the ones to negotiate with the factory to bring them here and it was Gasser who made numerous suggestions to improve the camera to make it successful (including designing the flash synch!). Gasser also lined up people like Marty Forscher in NY to handle servicing on the East Coast and he made trips to the factory to actually teach the Nikon engineers how to test their shutters and lube their camera!

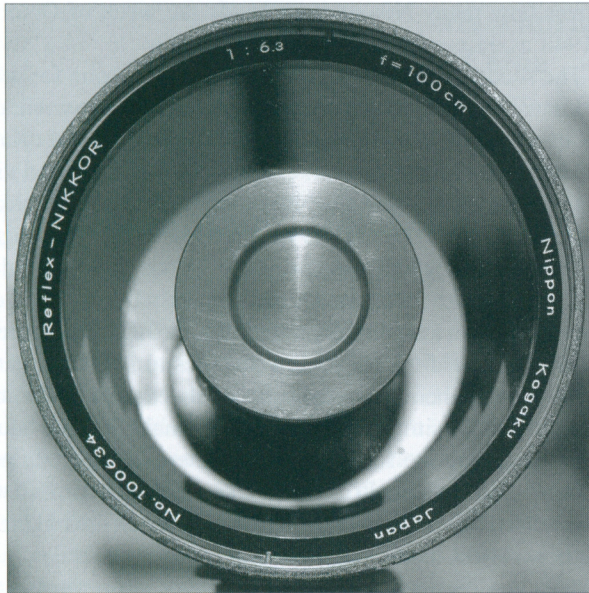
This is a fascinating story and one that has never been told before. After reading Wes' book you will feel like you know the major players on both sides of the Pacific who started the Nikon legend on a personal level.

I feel it is a must read (I finished a first read in 2 days!) that every Nikon RF collector should own. The book is in soft-cover 7x10 inches and 217 pages and has a \$39.95 retail. For more information contact the publisher, McFarland at mcfarlandpub.com or Wes at mwl2@psu.edu or **purchase it right now from camerabooks.com!** You will find it fascinating. RJR



Hans Liholm (left) & Wes Loder with his new book. It was Hans Liholm who really brought the 'Nikon to America'!

THE RAREST 'PRODUCTION' RF NIKKOR OF THEM ALL!



Recently I was asked what I thought were the 12 rarest RF Nikkors made. Stephen Gandy had started a poll on his 'rangefinderforum.com' and I was more than happy to give him my list of suggestions. There were items on there made only in the hundreds and others at less than 100. But there were a few that went really low, and this lens was one of them. Actually, both Stephen and I feel that, in the end, this lens must qualify as the rarest 'production' RF Nikkor ever made! (Our list was limited to optics that were actually sold to the public. Not prototypes or special-made modifications.)

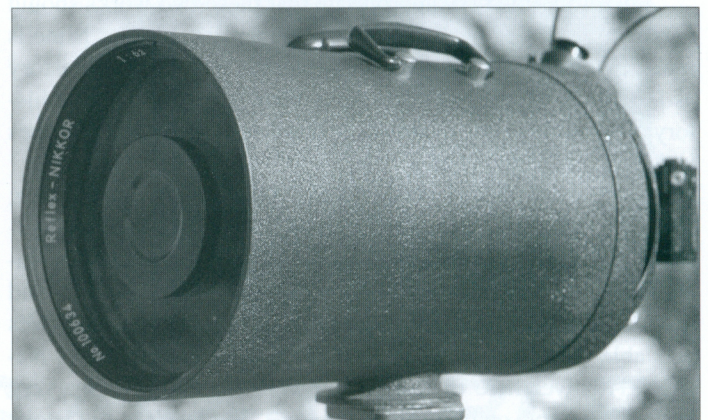
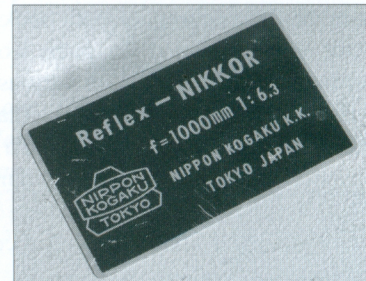
The total production of all versions of the 1000/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor, according to factory records, was 48 lenses! But the black version, which does differ in configuration, may have only been made 10 times or less! Were these prototypes? No, since we know they were sold and that LIFE magazine had at least two and another was actually owned by a LIFE staffer. Undoubtedly, most, if not all, ended up in the hands of some organization, be it a newspaper, magazine or corporation, since they were extremely expensive and of limited use. (The lens was \$1,650 plus you needed a \$200 reflex housing to mount it. And this is in 1959 dollars! You could buy a VW Beetle for that money back then!)

Serial numbers for the '1000' begin at 100631 and have been verified up to a high of 100680. However, verified black lenses so far recorded are numbers 100633, 100634, 100635, 100636 and 100637. (Lens #100632 is in 'white' and may be the same lens in the Cooper/Abbott books.) That's right. So far only 5 black lenses have been reported and verified.

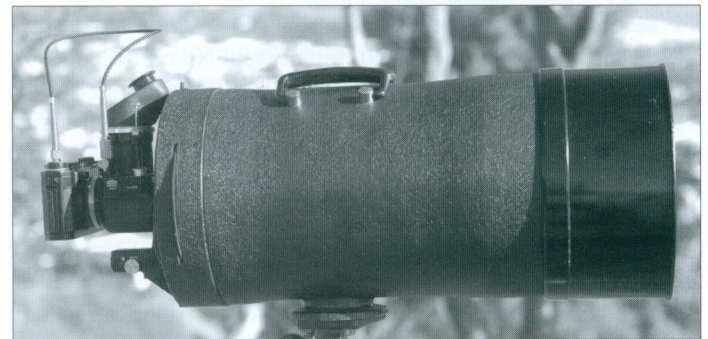
So what do you think? Is this the rarest of all production RF Nikkors? I think we can safely say... **Yes it is!**

Thank you Stephen Gandy for these photos of your black '1000' (which he tells me is available) and see my book for photos of the very next lens, 100635!

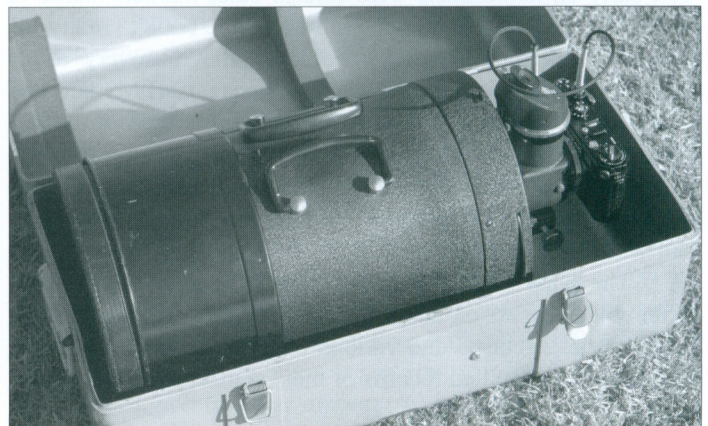
RJR



*Top..The name plate attached to the special fitted metal case.
Above..The '1000' is a very impressive rig, wouldn't you say?*



*Above..a black S2 & Type II Reflex Housing on #100634.
Below..The fitted metal case. Note room for housing/camera.*



CURRENT AUCTION NEWS

Peter Coeln has announced that his 13th Westlicht Photographica Auction will be held on Saturday, June 7th, in Vienna. Always an exciting event, you can view the selection on line by the end of March at www.westlicht-auction.com or email them at auktion@westlicht.com for ordering info for their catalog. I am sure he will, as always, have a very interesting selection of Nikon equipment.

Remember the Christies' sale that was slated for January 17th? Well, it was cancelled reportedly because the vendor decided to retain his collection. So again, it appears that Christies' is out of the photographica auction world. A shame.

On a similar note, the Photographic Historical Society of Canada is holding its annual spring show in Toronto on May 25th. For more info go to www.phsc.ca or email them at marklsinger@gmail.com.

AS SEEN ON THE INTERNET

NHS member Nico van Dijk (Netherlands) has opened a new website dealing with things Nikon. He has reviews on all types of equipment, both RF and reflex and I feel you will find it to be very interesting. Go to www.nicovandijk.net and take a look!

Now for something really cool! Mike Symons put me on to this one. On 'youtube' out of the UK comes a very interesting Nikon TV commercial you just have to see. Here is how to get to it. <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=S2pXECOGKzg&NR=1> Once there type in 'Nikon' and search. Scrolling to page 2 (more pages may be needed by the time you read this) look for 'Nikon Commercial' shot by Valdimir Jedlicka from 'pasadenajoey' and play it. I think you might be as surprised as I was. You have to see this one.

A Star is Born! Well, maybe. But one of our star Nikon collectors has made it onto the UK version of 'Antiques Roadshow'! Member Peter Lownds (Netherlands) recently appeared on the show with a huge display of Nikon cameras. Originally shot last July, it aired on British TV the first week of January. Didn't catch that show? Not to worry. We have the Internet don't we? Go to 'youtube' and watch it for yourself. Here's your link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCqsuxCWmFU.

How's that for some exposure for Nikon collectors? By the way. I took a tape measure with me to the Netherlands in February just to check out Peter's hat size. It only went up one size!

GRAYS NEW VIRTUAL TOUR

I am sure everyone reading this has heard of Grays of Westminster, the 'Nikon-only' camera shop in London. Gray Levett runs a really first rate Nikon emporium that is just full of every type of Nikon gear you can think of. But what really makes it different is its 'ambience' and atmosphere. I have been there twice and enjoyed myself immensely. If you have not been there it is very difficult to describe it fully but now there is a way. I quote from a recent press release:

"Open Sesame – Journey to the Centre of Nikon.

A Nikon D3 opens the doors to a high-quality virtual reality tour of Grays of Westminster.

Grays of Westminster, the acclaimed Nikon-only shop, is pleased to announce the availability of its first online virtual tour of its premises."

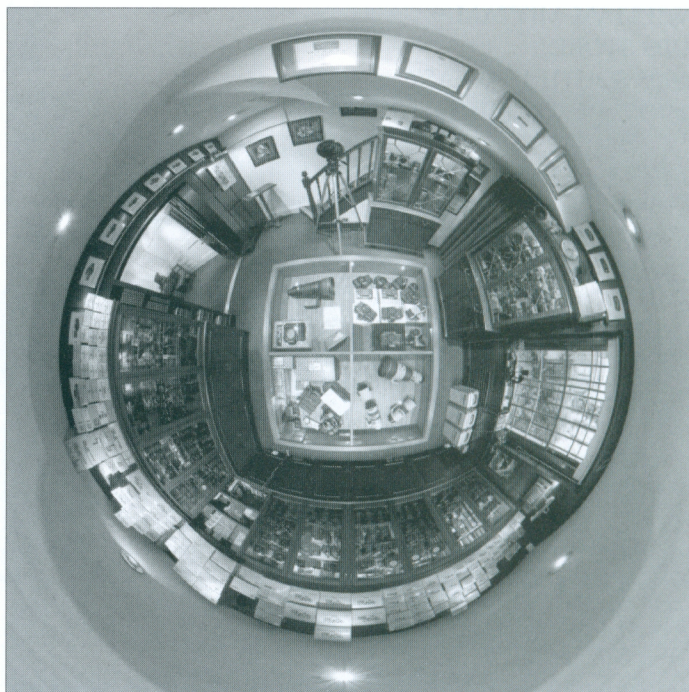
To see the tour go to www.graysofwestminster.com and go to the main menu page and click on "Tour the Shop" button. You will then take a virtual walk through this most elegant of camera shops. I have included on this page a fisheye shot of their Secondhand Room just to give you a taste of what you will see. Please check it out!

NHS-101~25TH ANNIVERSARY

I did not get any feedback from the last issue concerning two upcoming events for the Society, so I thought I would 'repeat' myself this issue.

Obviously we are approaching two milestones: our 100th issue and also our 25th Anniversary issue (#101). This causes me a bit of a dilemma. Issue #100 will be the Convention issue, which generally leaves very little space for doing anything special to commemorate our 100th Journal. But I also want to do something special for our 25th Anniversary issue #101. I have a few ideas but what would you like to see in our 25th Anniversary Journal? Any ideas or suggestions? Let me know soon so I can start making some plans. I hope to have some color, if I can afford it (like we did for the 20th), and I am sure Tony Hurst will come through with something unique as he did the last time. But what else? I do have some ideas but I am always open to your suggestions. So feel free to contact me. If I can afford it and we have the space, I will do it.

I have an additional problem. Usually the September issue goes to the printer about the 15th. However, my daughter has informed me she intends on getting married on the 13th! So I may have to either complete #101 early or delay it a little since I will be a bit busy the week of the 13th (unless I can get her to change the date?). We shall see.



CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED...Nikon RF Nikkors: 21/f4.0 w/fdr, 50/f2 collapsible #609xx, 50/f3.5 collapsible in Nikon BM, 35/f1.8 with Black Front Rim!, 50/f1.5 #907xx & #905xx (also in Leica SM), 50/f1.4 #316xxx & #33128x, 85/f2 #903xx, Variframe fdr #705xx or #712xx, Nikon I five digits serial number, Nikon M six digit serial number, 'Sardine' type battery pack for S36, RF telescope adapter, Melcon II, Varifocal 'Zoom' finder 'MIOJ', Nikon Periscope Attachment, Seiki Kogaku Nippon camera, Vivitar or Soligor 135/f1.5 in Nikon F mt. **Contact Biagio Guerra Fax.....702-492-6269 or email guerrabn@aol.com**

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BLACK & BEAUTIFUL!

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NIKON RF BLACK BODY SERIAL NUMBERS TO OUR UPDATED AND REVISED 'NHS BLACK LIST' LAST PUBLISHED IN NHS-90!

6144520	6144689	6170975
6215400	6320072	6321086
		6322443

THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS ARE THOSE OF 'FAKES'!
6137045 6325099

'NHS' RED DOT F LIST

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

6578939 6583239 6587163 6590442 6592530 6596229
6597694-BL 6598137 6598853 6599082 6602356 6602385

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

odds 'n ends

Classic Cameraの魅力

西暦1913年に世界に初めてライカが誕生する。

今年2000年までの間に作られた銀板写真機ダゲレオタイプから現在に至るハイテク機となるまでカメラは世界の文化進展に大きく貢献し、日本に於いては世界に誇る一大産業となったことはご存知の通りです。

現在も造られ続けているカメラはその魅力において過去のそれに優るであろうか、

手探りの中で生まれ、頑な個性を持った魅力的なカメラは飽きることを知りません。

美しい風景を撮るのに、いつ故障してもおかしくないクラシックカメラで、薄氷を踏む思いでシャッターを切るより

最新のハイテクカメラで写真は撮りたい、しかしながらクラシックカメラを眺めていると生産当時の

設計者の努力の産物であり、頭の下がる思いである。 全日本写真連盟総本部

理事 寺西 二郎



日本光学 S2Eブラック (モーター付)
外面、元函、保証書、取扱、カメラケース (黒)、リレーボックス

This ad appeared in a Japanese photo magazine a few months back. Obviously a real eye catcher since the reader will immediately spot the black motorized Nikon body, the sardine can battery pack (very rare!) and the boxes and paperwork. All make this a very special outfit. If you look a little closer you will note that this set consists of... Black Nikon with S36 motor & original back Sardine can battery pack and cord An 85mm/f1.5 Nikkor (?) mounted Both inner & shipping boxes for the camera Gray box for the S36 Motor Drive Relay box and its original carton Camera everready case Various paperwork.

A special outfit, correct? But if you haven't noticed yet, look at the first line of copy below the photo. That's right...this is an S2E outfit! The price? Reportedly 20 Million Yen! You do the math!

It is currently rumored that this outfit now resides somewhere in Europe. Happy hunting!

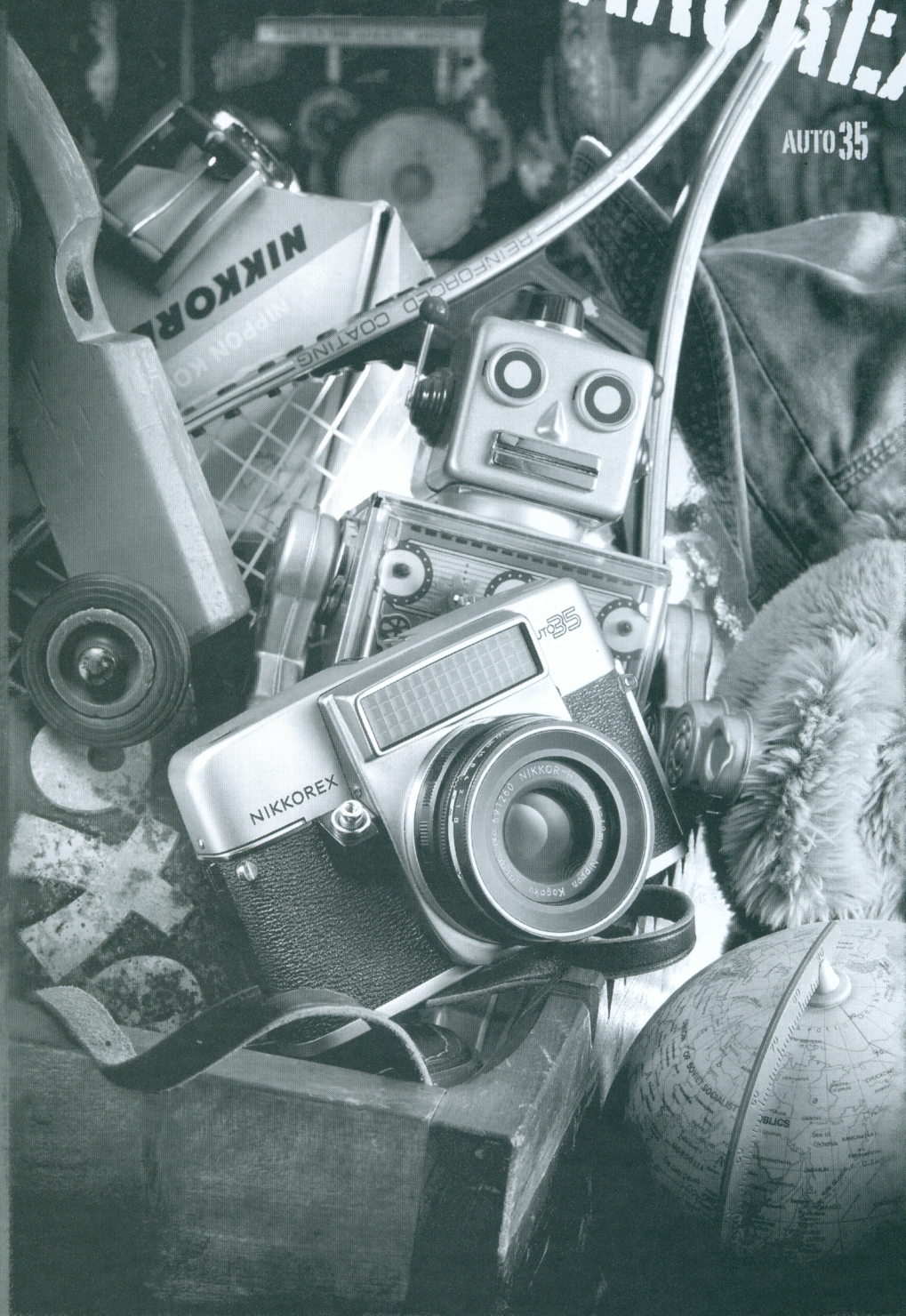
Member Jon Mitchell, who lives in Japan, saw this item listed on Yahoo last September. It looks just like any other ordinary Nikon S with the common 50/f2 Nikkor. The kind of item that many internet surfers would pass right over without ever bringing the image up on their screen to inspect it. Who really needs another Nikon S, right? Well, don't ignore the common items because sometimes they can fool you. Take a close look at the photo. Notice anything different about this 'S'? Sure you do.....

NO SERIAL NUMBER!



NIKKOREX

AUTO 35



NIPPON KOGAKU K.K. SHINAGAWA TOKYO