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NHS-85

21ST. ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!!
NIKON JOURNAL



ROBERT ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THIS ISSUE
PAGE 1...NIKON'S ORIGINAL 500MM LENS
PAGE 8...MORE REFLEX PROTOTYPES
PAGE 12...ULTRA WIDES!



THE NIKON JOURNAL

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NHS-85 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-86, is NOV. 15, 2004. Please get all correspondence to me by then so I can get it ready before the Holidays! **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

It seems like only yesterday I was talking about our special 20th. Anniversary issue with its color covers and center spread by Tony Hurst. Now here I am writing the editorial for our 21st. Anniversary issue! Talk about a year just flying by! Of course it was a busy year with the big meeting in Tokyo. Putting together such an event is so time consuming that one tends to lose track of the days and months. Therefore, welcome to the 21st. Anniversary issue of your Nikon Journal. I truly hope that you like it.

Lots to talk about this time. Not only what is in this issue but some announcements you might be interested in. First the features. We start off with our first ever article on the massive 500mm f5 Nikkor lens. Michael Loder took on the task of describing this 'cannon' starting on page one. The 500 is a rather rare item and its early history a little mysterious. Next we have a little 2-pager by our resident expert on WWII optical ordnance produced by Nippon Kogaku. Rich Lane writes about some tiny filters that most of us would have surely missed on a show table. They even came in a little box! See page six.

I have also continued showcasing some of the prototypes we either saw in person or received photos of at NHS-Con9. This time I have concentrated on the reflexes with some F3 experiments as well as others. See 'The F-Spot' on page 8. Tom Abrahamsson has contributed two articles this issue. Tom is a photographer who actually uses what he writes about. What a novel thought, and an approach collector magazines don't often get into. But Tom shows us how to shoot with those marvelous 12 and 15mm Cosina Voigtlander lenses and also a neat little dual-finder they produce for 28 and 35mm lenses. Check it out starting on page 12.

On page 15 is the official announcement for NHS-Con10. Where? Why, Vienna, of course! See the page for some preliminary information with more to come. I also need to announce that Carl Mydans, one of the 'discoverers' of the Nikon and Nikkor lenses along with David Douglas Duncan, has died. His obit is on page 17. Also on that page is a review of the new 'McKeowns'! Yes, there is a new one just out and its bigger and better than ever. Also keep in mind that I still have a few copies of Uli Koch's 'Nikon Trilogy' available. Don't miss your chance to know all there is to know about the Nikon F.

Please note that I **DO NOT** have a current fax number. I may in the future but as of right now you can contact me by email, not fax. Also, I now have **TWO email addresses!** They are the original rotoloni@msn.com and the newer r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net. For now **YOU MUST USE THE msn ADDRESS FOR PAYPAL.** If you wish to pay dues using Paypal they only know me as rotoloni@msn.com. OK?

One final item. On page 16 I have made an announcement of some importance. I have decided to go ahead and write a new book on the rangefinders to replace my 1983 effort. Hove will again publish it in England and plans call for a spring 2005 delivery date. I have many of the details on page 16 if you are interested, but the time has come to upgrade my 'little' book to something much larger and more substantial. Of course, now that I have said it, I really need to get working on it and will be burning a lot of 'midnight oil' the next few months.



THE LONGEST REFRACTIVE LENS FOR THE NIKON RF SYSTEM

NIKON'S 'ORIGINAL'

500MM LENS

BY MICHAEL WESCOTT LODER

Nippon Kogaku (N-K) probably released its 500mm/f5 Nikkor-T in short mount for their first reflex housing sometime in late 1954 or early 1955. It is possible that N-K showed prototypes earlier, but we have found no mention of this lens in contemporary literature prior to 1955. The earliest pictures show a lens with a preset diaphragm, and apparently they all came this way, making this the earliest preset lens that N-K manufactured.

Preset lenses were still rare in 1955. Nikon's first short mount lens, the 250mm/f4 Nikkor-Q of 1954, came with a manually set diaphragm. But then so did many other long lenses from other makers, including Leitz's similar 200mm/f4.5 Telyt. Not until 1959, following the introduction of the Nikon F, did N-K upgrade its 250mm Nikkor to a preset design. (This may be a controversial statement, but a study of the literature and serial numbers does not allow for any other conclusion.)

It appears that the 500mm Nikkor used the same optical formula that N-K pioneered in 1932 as an Aero-Nikkor for the Japanese Navy—also an f5 triplet. Certainly this large, heavy optic is capable of covering a much greater area than the 24x36mm or even 6x6cm, formats. N-K was trying to compete directly against the leading German optical firms and the extra 100mm in focal length over the Leitz 400mm Telyt and other 'Big Bertha' lenses, gave the company temporary boasting rights.

N-K insisted on offering only drop-in filters for its short mount Nikkors. Since series filters did not come in a size large enough to fit the 500mm, N-K made drop-ins in a unique 110mm size, just large enough to go in the combination hood/filter holder and clear the 108mm threaded front attachment size. Very few of these huge filters must have been manufactured since they never appeared on any Nikon, Inc.'s price list, and this was the only lens that ever used that size. Unlike the other short mount Nikkors, the front lens cap does not screw into the reversed lens shade, but friction fits over it. The effect is the same; all the short mount Nikkors required their lens hoods be reversed on the lens in order to mount their caps.

Without the housing or hood, the lens measures nearly 20 inches (490.3mm) long. Add the huge hood, the housing and a camera and you have something that stretches across a desk. The lens illustrated weighs 19.5 pounds (over 8 kilos). Published weights vary and later units might have been slightly lighter. The lens hood and cap add another 2 pounds. The focusing helix alone weighs 5 pounds!

The photo used in the *Nikon Handbook* (Cooper/Abbott) shows a lens with a milled focusing ring, but all other illustrations, including the one in the July 1955 brochure on Nikkor lenses, shows a more modern knurled (scalloped) ring, so the one in Cooper/Abbott is probably 'a' or 'the' prototype. It would have been based on the already existing 250mm, which also started out with a milled focusing ring. The lens hood in that

photo is also of a slightly different pattern with a noticeable 'step-up' an inch in front of the filter holder ring. Unfortunately, Cooper/Abbott only offer a top view so no serial number is visible. The first 50 to 100 lenses (Type I) use 'INF' for the infinity mark, indicating that they were made before 1957 (see photo). The remainder appear to be all marked with the more modern 'lazy 8' symbol. Both the preset and aperture rings are milled on Type I lenses. The preset rings on later samples are cut in a cross-diamond pattern to facilitate both pulling the rings back against their spring and turning them. As is true of all the early short mount Nikkors, the lens hoods on these first lenses have no markings. Their filter holder step-up rings have 'JAPAN' engraved in small, unfilled letters. Most of the Type II lenses came with hoods engraved and white filled as: 'f=50cm 1:5,' followed by a small, unlettered N-K logo and 'NIPPON KOGAKU JAPAN'.

No other variations are known with the sole exception of one of the lenses owned by Robert Rotoloni (#647043) which has its entire front tube and hood finished in a black crinkle paint instead of the standard gloss black. In addition, a few lenses were made in Leica screw mount and Bronica mount. Serial numbers begin at 647001 and run as high as a recorded 647285, indicating a probable production of 300 total. The lens appeared in Nikon, Inc. price lists as late as 1962 and most of the last 100 were probably sold for use on the new Nikon F with the N-F adapter. Nikon specifically advertised the non-rotating version of that adapter as being for this lens. The starting (and final) price was \$550.00, easily 2 to 3 months' wages for many people back then. The compact and less expensive 500mm/f5 Reflex Nikkor, introduced in 1961, wiped out what little market there ever was for this special purpose optic.

The 500mm Nikkor in the illustrations (#647021) was purchased by *El Mundo*, San Juan's premier newspaper, sometime in the mid-fifties for the use of Luis deCasenave, one of the best known photojournalists in Puerto Rico. DeCasenave worked for *El Mundo* for 39 years and the newspaper made him a gift of the equipment when he retired. According to his grandson, deCasenave used the lens for solar and lunar eclipses. He also used it for covering sporting events. He died in 1976 and the lens was put away.

Dead storage does not do equipment such as this any good at all. Termites made a home in the wood case, the screws rusted and fungus found the optics. The diaphragm froze then came apart when someone tried to turn it. Fortunately, none of the blades were damaged. Disassembly and a good cleaning has the lens in operating order again. Gazing at the clean and clear view this lens gives on the reflex housing (as opposed to the dark, blotchy, mirror cutoff view seen through an SLR), one can understand Uli Koch's comment that 'if the lens were not so big and heavy, one could really grow to like it.'

NIKKOR-T 1:5 F=50CM

Lens design	3 lens elements in 3 groups (Triplet formula)
Angle of view	5 degrees
Aperture scale	f5 to f45
Minimum range	25 feet (8 meters)
Front attachment	108mm
Filter size	110mm drop-in using lens hood
Diameter x length	Diameter 126mm x 490mm length
Weight	19.5 pounds (8500 grams) (later versions weigh slightly less)
Lens hood	Supplied, screw-in, two part; three versions known, see descriptions below.
Lens cap	Supplied, slip-on, with NKT logo engraved and white-filled in center front.
Other accessories	Supplied in custom framed hardwood case.

TYPE 1P

As Type 1, except: Preset ring, aperture ring and focusing ring are all milled. Aperture closes by turning to the left. Lens hood does not step out at retainer but approximately one inch (25mm) forward.
(NO SERIAL NUMBERS RECORDED)

TYPE 1

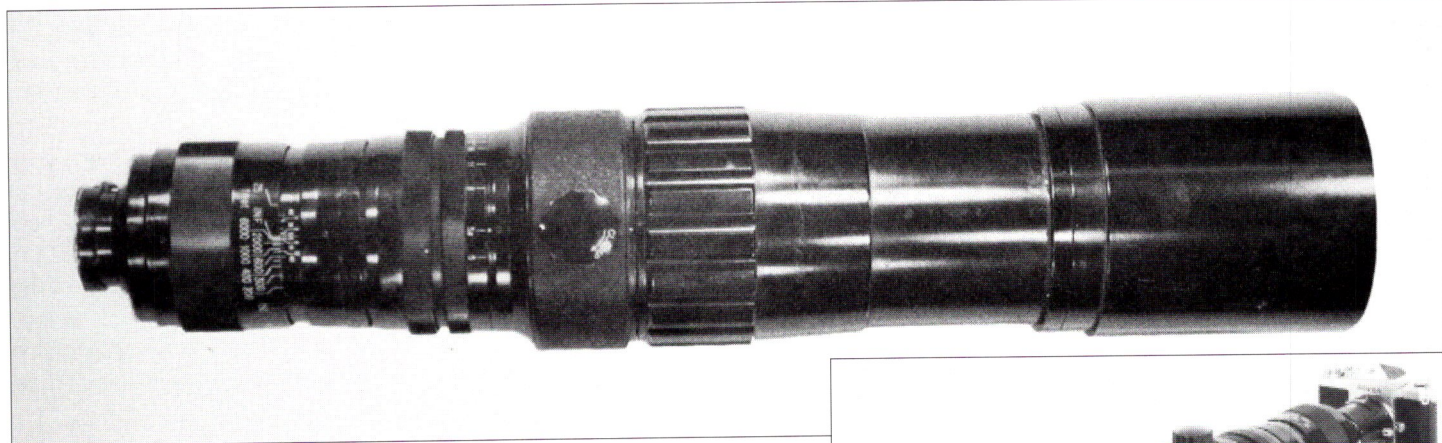
Focusing ring is scalloped, but both the preset and aperture rings are still milled. Aperture closes by turning to the right---same as other Nikkors. Focusing ring marked as "INF". Infrared "R" is pink with white dot and pink line. Lens hood has no markings except for small, engraved "JAPAN" cut into the step up ring with no white fill. Hood steps out immediately beyond threads.

<647001 >647100? (Manufactured from February 1955 to October 1956 +/- a few months.

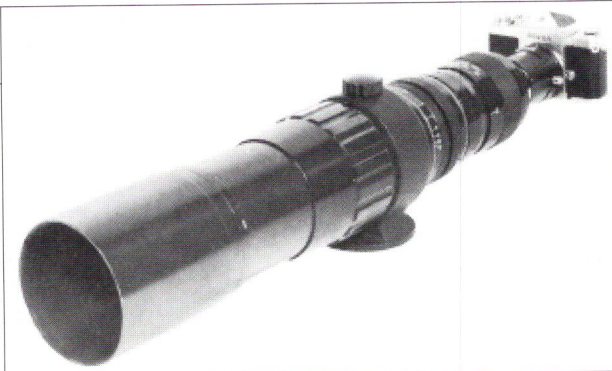
TYPE 2

As Type 1, except the preset ring cut in a diamond-shaped pattern. Focusing ring marked with the 'lazy 8'. Infrared "R" and line are filled in red (?). Lens hood now engraved 'f=50cm 1:5 NKT' logo without lettering and 'NIPPON KOGAKU Japan.' Step-up ring appears to be much deeper than the Type 1.

<647101? >647285 (300?) (Manufactured between 1957 and 1961)



Above..The 500mm Nikkor illustration from Cooper & Abbott's Manual. Not only does this specimen have a milled focusing ring like other then-current Nikkors, but the f-stops run right to left like a manual lens. The production lenses run left to right, as one would expect preset lenses to do. (There is one other photo from the literature to supplement the one in Cooper & Abbott. This one is from a 3-ring binder made for dealers by Ehrenreich called 'The Nikon System of Photography' that dates from September 1965. This may be the same lens but here is another view of the Type 1P with the milled rings. RJR)

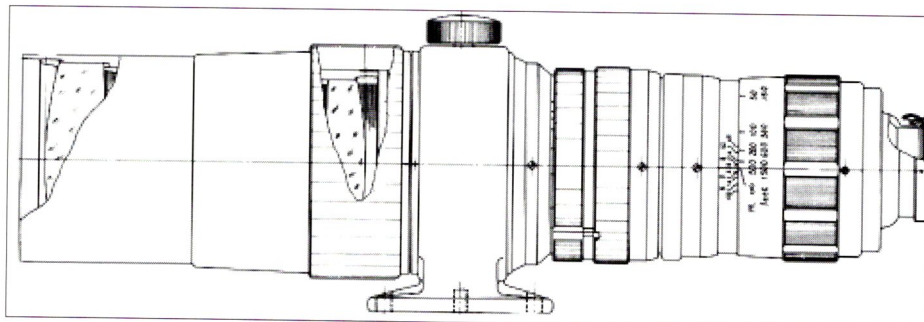


Selective Annotated Bibliography

- Cooper, Joseph D. & Abbott, Joseph C. *Nikon F Nikkormat Handbook of Photography*. Amphoto, 1968. pp5-62~5-63. Only readily available source for optical specs and dimensions. Only known photo of the probable prototype. Interestingly, the drawing shows a later lens marked in both feet and meters. If such a lens exists it would push production into 1962.
 - Koch, Uli. *Vol. 2-The Lenses*. Vienna: Peter Coeln Gmbh 2003. PP 113~114 and 117~118. Uli shows and describes a beautiful Type II 500mm Nikkor in detail.
- Joseph Ehrenreich followed up his acquisition of the Nikon franchise for North America with the publication of a series of pamphlets covering the full range of equipment. These included:
- Nikon, Inc. *Nikon Accessories & Nikkor Coated Lenses*. Both Litho USA, February 1954. The one on lenses includes the 28, 35/f3.5 & f2.5, 50/f2 & f1.4, 85/f2 and f1.5, and the 135/f3.5 in Nikon, Leica, Contax & Exakta mounts. Neither pamphlet mentions either the longer Nikkors or the reflex housing. However, a year and a half later, the next publication does:
 - Nikon, Inc. *The Great Nikkor Lenses*. Litho USA July 1955. This is the earliest Ehrenreich publication to list and illustrate the 3 lenses for the first reflex housing. Includes photos of all Nikkors then available from 25mm through 500mm. The illustrated 180mm has a chrome tripod socket and its front end and preset/aperture rings are quite different from the type usually seen. One can see the number (373602), which is probably one of the prototypes. The 250mm shown has the milled focusing ring indicative of its first series. The 500mm is also a first series lens.
 - Nikon, Inc. *Nikon S2 Fastest Handling '35' in the Field*. February 1957. An updated brochure prompted by the conversion of Nikkors (except the Micro) to black, alloy mounts. The 180mm illustrated is the Type II model usually seen. The 250mm is still the milled focusing ring version. The 500mm is also the same.
 - Rotoloni, Robert. *The Nikon Rangefinder Camera: An Illustrated History of the Nikon Rangefinder Cameras, Lenses & Accessories*. Hove, UK, 1983 (2nd Edition), Hove Collectors Books, pp. 150~151. Best source for serial number ranges. Essential illustrations. One must treat with caution the startup and ending dates Bob had access to 21 years ago when he wrote the book.
 - '*This is Nippon Kogaku K.K.*' (Advertising brochure, 1954) Published in Japan in English for use of Nippon Kogaku, U.S.A., Inc., the paper company that actually imported equipment for Nikon, Inc. to sell. Lens page shows & lists lenses from 28mm to 250mm, including the then-new 105/f2.5. Illustrates & lists 250mm but *no other short-mount lenses*.
 - Tydings, Kenneth. *The Nikon Guide*. NY: Greenberg, 1956, pg. 96. One of the earliest illustrations of the 500mm mounted to a Type I housing and on the special wood tripod made for it. The 180 shown on the same page is the same lens (#373602) that appeared in the July 1955 Nikon, Inc. pamphlet.
 - Both Wright's *Nikon Manual* of 1957 and Amphoto's *Official Nikon F Reflex Manual* of 1960 treat the 500 briefly but add little to our knowledge. Wright gives 1955 as the introduction date, which agrees with the *American* literature. The 1960 *Manual* is far more interesting for its unique photo of the 1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor in black with the stepped back and no handles.

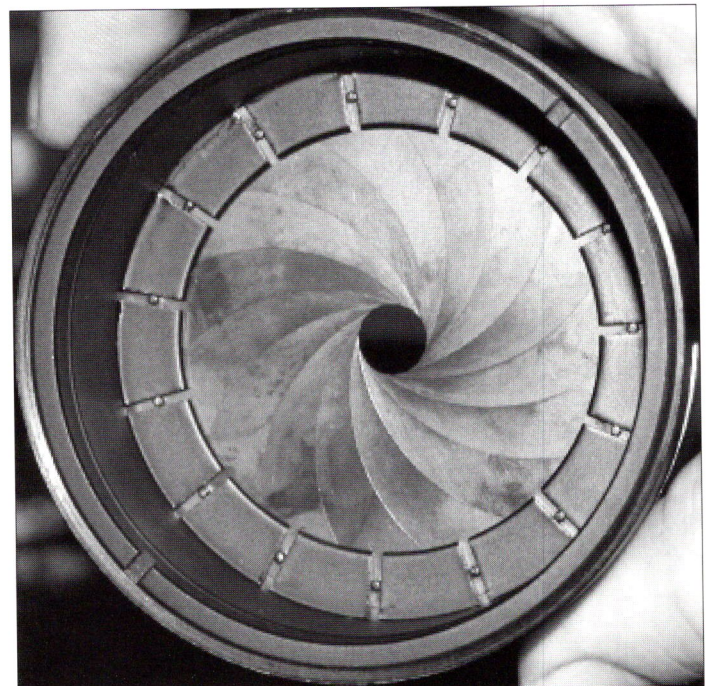
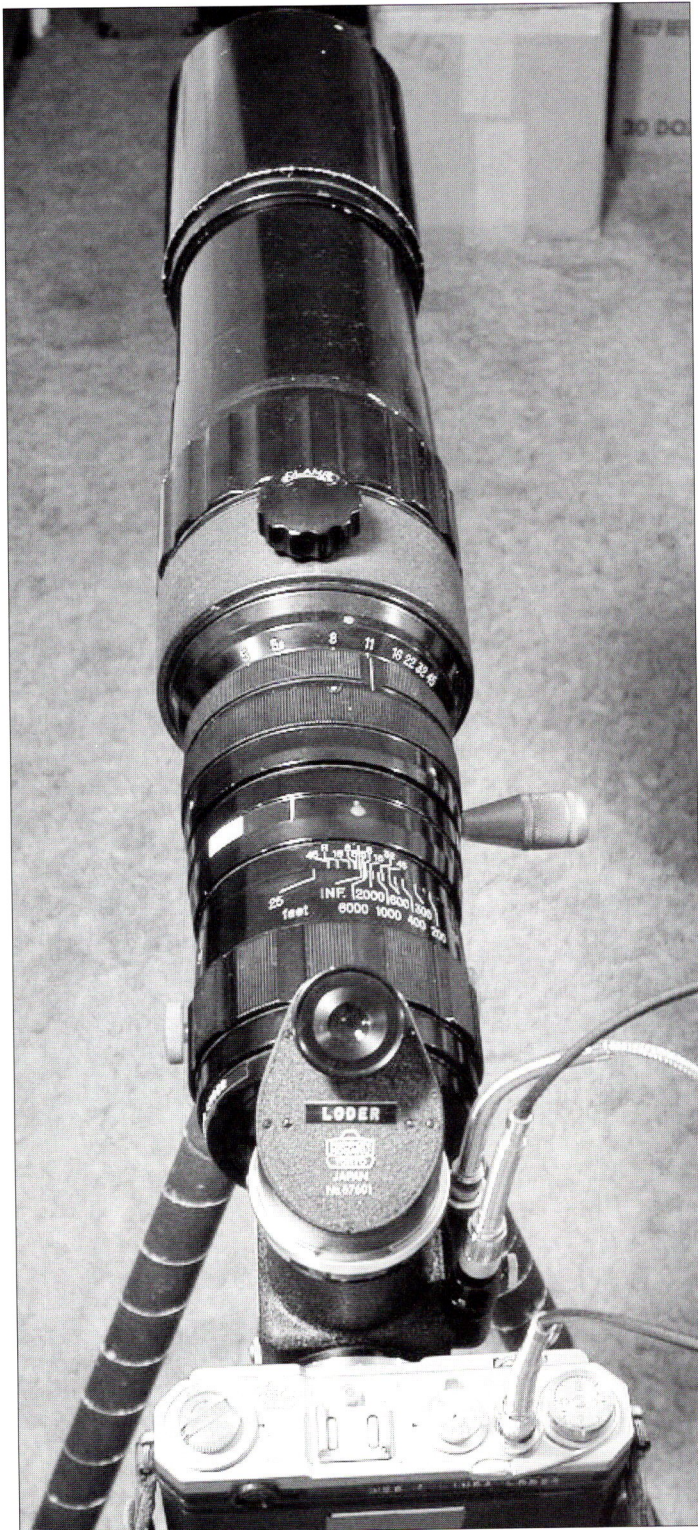


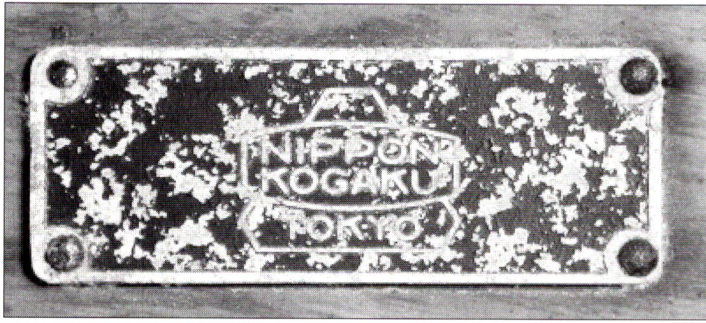
The 500mm f5 Nikkor-T mounted on the Type II reflex housing with a Nikon S2. One very long and heavy lens! At right is the drawing for the 500mm from Cooper & Abbott. It shows a lens calibrated in both feet and meters. This would be a very late vintage lens from possibly 1962 if they were actually made with both scales.



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Right..A close-up of the controls of a 'Type 1' Nikkor-T 500mm f5 lens. Note the 'INF' setting for infinity and the milled preset ring typical of this early type. Below left.. A photographer's point of view when using the 500mm Nikkor. This lens is so long and massive one gets the feeling you are sighting an artillery piece! Below right.. The 500mm Nikkor's diaphragm blades cleaned and restored and ready for reassembly.





A small aluminum plate on the lid above the lock bears the NKT logo, metal on black. This is similar to the plates on the tripods that shipped with Nikon telescopes. These cases and tripods were all probably built at the Shiojiri plant, the only other factory N-K retained after World War II. N-K kept that facility due to its proximity to the lumber sources they needed for making cases. The key and its leather holder also bore the NKT logo. Right.. Luis deCasenave with his 500mm Nikkor mounted to a reflex housing and Nikon SP at a race track sometime in the early 1960's. He has the lens hood reversed on the lens(?). With the lens aimed and pre-focused on the turn of the track, it would have been easy to grab leading horses at the right moment with this setup. Note the size of the tripod! Bottom.. The 500mm lenses shipped in fitted hardwood boxes with hinged and locking lids. Felt lined slots inside could safely hold one or two of the rare 110mm filters.



6 N-K WWII BINOCULAR POLARIZER FILTERS

BY RICHARD LANE

At your favorite camera show, at a table in the back corner, you come across two small black filters. The unusual filters measure 1 1/2 inches in diameter and have zero to ninety markings on the left and right side of a 180-degree half circle. They are individually serial numbered (No. 197 and No. 198) and on one side of each filter's edge, there is the familiar N-K logo. This logo is identical to those used on Nikon rangefinder and early F lens shades. Could this be some type of accessory for the Nikon rangefinder or early F cameras? Could it be an accessory for a post-WWII Nikon microscope or other optical instrument?

I have learned to 'expect the unexpected' when it comes to N-K's WWII optical production. These filters were not discovered at a camera show. Instead, they were found in their original fitted carrying case complete with identifying markings. If I had found them outside their case, I would have never guessed they were polarizing eyepiece filters for Japanese Navy 20 x 120mm binoculars made in February 1943.

What makes these filters unusual is the N-K logo. This logo has the same size, shape, engraving and white color fill as those used on post-WWII Nikon rangefinder and early F lens shades! The Japanese text on top of the wood carrying case translates to:

12cm Binocular Telescope
Polarizer Filters
Nippon Kogaku K.K.
February 1943



The box top is also marked with a Tokyo inspectors mark and naval anchor.

The polarizer filters have a knurled edge that allows you to rotate them 180 degrees while mounted to the eyepiece of a 20 x 120mm binocular. Rotating the filter left or right varies the light entering the eyepiece. I believe this type of filter would be especially useful in high glare conditions at sea.

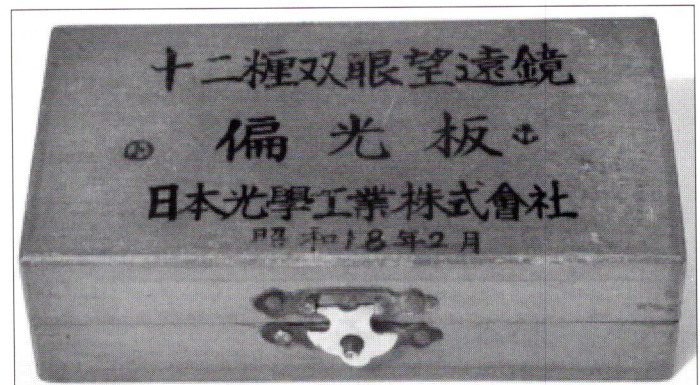
Japanese WWII 20 x 120mm binoculars were normally

equipped with two sets of eyepiece filters (amber and green). The filters were stored in a separate storage holder in the fitted wood equipment case. Why the 20 x 120mm binoculars were not normally equipped with this special type of polarizing eyepiece filter as standard issue is a mystery.

It is unknown how many of these polarizing filter sets were produced for the Japanese

Navy. With serial numbers of 197 and 198, it is likely that at least 100 pairs were produced during the war.

So the next time you come across that familiar, outlined N-K logo on some unusual optical item, take a hard look and 'expect the unexpected'. It may be something produced by N-K long before the Nikon rangefinder and F era.





8

THE F²--SPOT!

MORE PROTOTYPES FROM NHS-CON9

We continue with coverage of the many prototypes, both RF and reflex, we were fortunate to see in Tokyo last February. All photos by Takeshi Hagiya except where noted.



Although we had to shoot some of what we saw through glass at the JCII Museum downstairs from our meeting rooms, most of the really interesting items had already been professionally photographed for Mr. Kenji Toyoda's presentation by Mr. Takeshi Hagiya from Asahi Sonorama. They kindly supplied me with a copy of the CD used for the talk and those images you see here, save one, are off that CD. Thus we have professionally lighted and photographed shots to enjoy. The camera on this page is a prototype for the Nikon F3. Alright, Bob, too much sake that day, right? This is an F2, not an F3! Well...yes and no. This is a very early F3 prototype using an F2 body marked 'T-10370-1', for 'test', where the serial number would normally be. If you look closely you will note that the Photomic head has some features and lines not seen before. It may look like a regular F2 Photomic head, but not quite. Something is being tested on this unit. In the left photo there is a battery test lever to the left of the prism release button. Also there appears to be an eyepiece shutter control dial at the upper right corner of the frame.

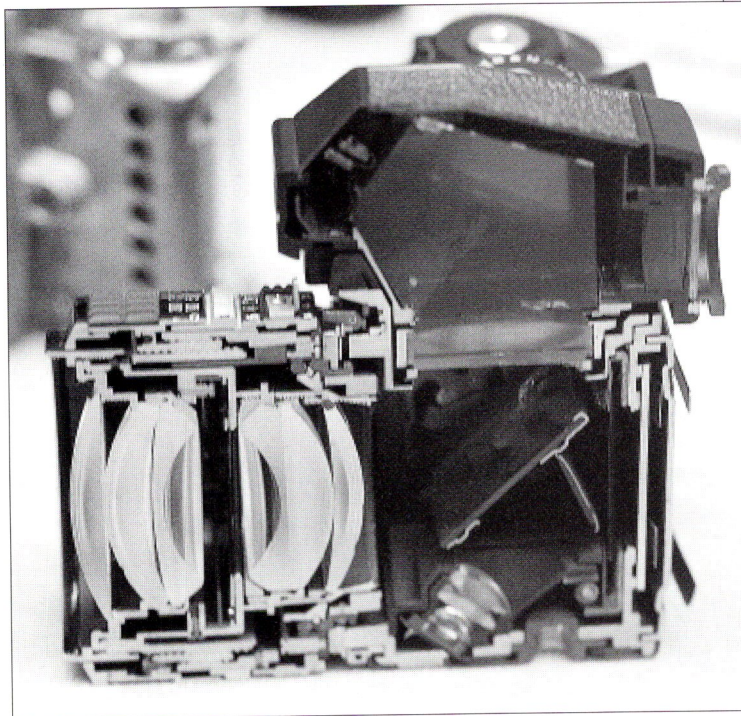


On this page we have two more early F3 prototypes. Above is a really interesting item. Is this an FE? At first glance it could be taken for an FE or its prototype, especially around the prism and the general body shape. But there is an F3 in the making here. The prism is removable like all flagship 'F' models. Note the wind lever and rewind modules. They appear more F3 like than FE. This basic body could have eventually been used for the FE but at this point it is a real hybrid. That part of the serial number that can be read is '00002'. The camera below still has the FE style prism (but it also is removable) and body shape but has picked up a more F3 look to the controls. Could the hole in the front near the mirror-up lever be for a grip of some kind? What is the button below the mirror lever? A selftimer? And the second button on the right above the lens release. What might that be?





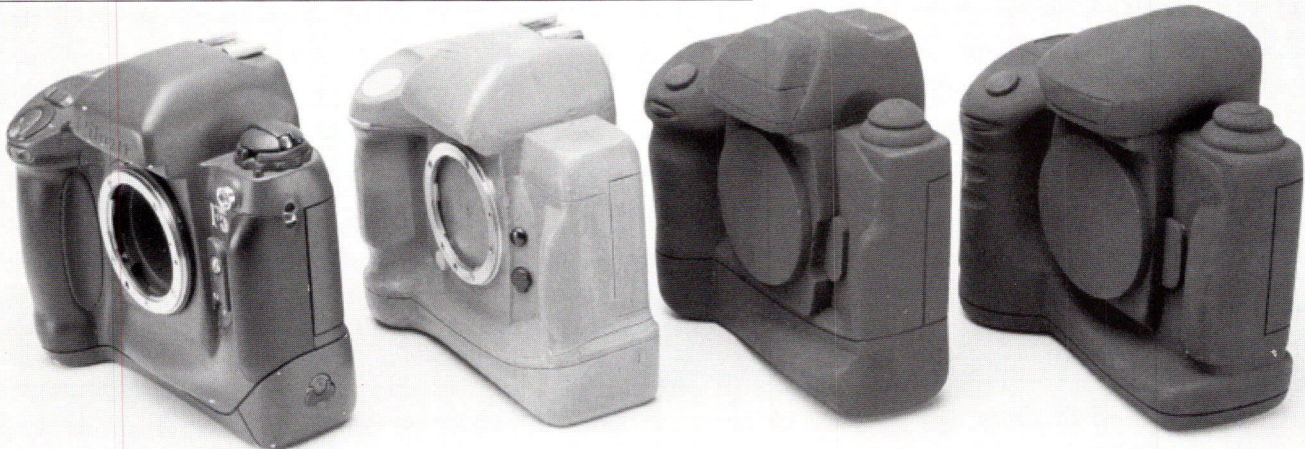
Above..Now it is really starting to look like an F3. The top deck controls are just about there but the two most outstanding features that peg this as an F3 are the prism shape and the built in handgrip. That is an F3 prism...and the body contours are no longer FE like. No mirror present as this is a non-functioning mock-up. Below is a shot, through glass, by member Thierry Ravassod (France) of an F3 cutaway in the JCIH Museum. Below right...This is an AF-Zoom-Nikkor 50~135mm f3.5 #100574. I can remember the early attempts at AF by various makers (Nikon, Pentax, Canon, etc) had all the electronics in the barrel, not the body. Thus the protrusion near the middle. This is an AI-S lens so that dates it for you.



To the right is a prototype of the original Nikomat (Nikkormat). Now I have not used the model designation 'FT' which, we all know WAS the original Nikkormat. Right? Actually, no! The Nikkormat was first designed with an 'external' meter, not TTL. The FT started at serial #3100004. This is camera #3100003! There is the usual meter coupling around the lens mount with its ASA scale, but this is an external metering camera. Just before release, N-K realized that TTL metering was absolutely necessary for their new camera, so they re-designed it. However, some of the earliest FTs actually used the same top plates as this prototype with a 'plug' where the meter is here! It is visible as a semi-circle in the chrome. Also note the nameplate with all upper case lettering. Actually I like it more than what they eventually used. It is more eye-catching.



What do we have here? These are wood mock-ups. At the left is a design study for a 'Zoom Camera'. This appears relatively modern, so it could be quite recent. The lines are very futuristic as is the very large hand grip and release button. It might have made an interesting amateur camera. Below is a series of wood mock-ups for the Nikon F5. If you look closely each is different from the next as the ultimate body shape evolved. You can see the various ideas for the prism, although the hand grip/shutter release seems to have been decided on with very little variation seen here. They are also playing with the lower body configuration as each mock-up is different in this respect. More next issue!



12

AMAZING FLEXIBILITY OF THE ULTRA WIDES

SHOOTING WITH THE 12MM & 15MM VOIGTLANDERS by TOM ABRAHAMSSON

The 12mm/f5.6 and the 15mm/f4.5 Cosina Voigtlander lenses in Nikon S mount exhibit an amazing adaptability. Not only can you use these lenses on your Nikon Fs and F2s and any other Nikon SLRs with a 'mirror up' capability, but with the proper Cosina adapters you can also mount them on your Nikon RFs or, if you wish, on both the Leica M cameras and the older screw mounts! Optically these lenses are outstanding and their extreme

coverage allows you images that would be next to impossible to get before. Yes, f5.6 might seem a bit slow, but you can hand hold these lenses at \sim or 1/8 of a second and get away with it. They do have a bit of a steep learning curve, but it is well worth it for the unique view they afford you. Check with Cameraquest.com or Photovill.com for prices and availability of the lenses and their adapters.



Above...One lens and multiple bodies. The 12/5.6 will go straight on to the Nikon F with mirror up and, with the correct adapter, on to the Nikon RF bodies. With F to Leica screwmount adapter it will also go on the venerable 'Barnack' cameras and with the screw to bayonet adapter on to the M cameras. Next page top..The Tokyo International Forum, a couple of blocks from Ginza. The 12/5.6 is a remarkable lens. I am less than 3 feet from the Smoke Box. Probably not a good idea to use it for portraits, though. Bottom..If you don't check the level with the 12/5.6 you do get wild distortion, but it gives an interesting perspective on the NHS-Con9 crowd waiting for the next presentation. 12/5.6 wide open on a Nikon F. Left..As a reminder, a shot from NHS-81 by Stephen Gandy of the 12 & 15 on Nikons.



THE 28/35 'MINIFINDER'.... VOIGTLANDER'S LITTLE GEM

BY TOM ABRAHAMSSON

The Nikon S2 has one of the best 50mm finders of any rangefinder camera, but it sorely lacks framelines for any other focal lengths. It is possible to get auxiliary finders for the other lenses, but it is a bit inconvenient and adds yet another thing that will float around in the camera bag. The latest finder from Voigtlander solves that problem, in a manner of speaking. It is a dual frame line finder for the 28 and 35 mm focal lengths. It is small enough that it can be left on the camera at all times without creating much extra bulk. The magnification is less than on the single focal length finders, a mere 0.50, but with the wide angles this is less important than with the longer lenses. Voigtlander's finders have proven themselves to be extremely good, with brilliant contrast and remarkable brightness. The Nikon and Leica finders are old designs by now and their age shows in comparison. The individual 28 and 35 finders have higher magnification, but are bigger and you have to carry two of them to cover the 35 and 28mm lenses. The new finder is available from Cameraquest.com or Photovilla.com at a modest \$149 and that is much less than an SP body or the individual finders from Voigtlander and, of course, the original Nikon items. The S2 is also one of the bargains among Nikon RF bodies. There are plenty of them around and the prices are modest (by Nikon RF standards). Now, this could also make the Nikon S a usable camera. It has a rather dinky finder for 50mm to start with, but this 28/35 finder could give it a new lease as a user. I kind of like the 24 x 34 frame too. At least there is always enough space between the frames when you cut the negatives. It also will drive your local one-hour photo lab up the wall!



Left..Voigtlander 'mini-finder' on a black S3-2000. The S3 has the 35mm frame, but if you wear glasses it is a bit of a guessing game to figure out where it is. Below..S2 with a 28/35 lens package & the mini-finder on the camera. 35/f1.8 mounted, 50/1.4 & two 28s, Nikon & Voigtlander in front. A nice little 3-lens package & it would make even more sense on an S4. The Nikkor 28mm is very good, but the Voigtlander has become one of my favorites for B&W. Very sharp with amazing tonality. Bottom left..Nikon 28 and scarce black 35mm finders and the modern Voigtlander equivalents, with the mini-finder in front. Small enough to

leave on the camera. Bottom right..Most of us have one of these. An F with a less than perfect mirror. They are cheap & can be used for special purposes. The Voigtlander replacement prism top is intended for the finders for the 12/5.6 & 15/4.5 in F mount, but there is nothing that says it can't be used with a 28 or 35 as a 'guestifocus' lens. Flip the mirror up and it is a remarkably quiet camera as well.



SPRINGTIME IN EUROPE... NHS-CON10....SEE YOU IN VIENNA! PLANS CALL FOR A MAY 2006 MEETING

As is often the case, we begin discussing where the next NHS-Con will be held while we are attending the current one. This happened again in Tokyo where I had talks with the two gentlemen who approached me and offered to organize and host NHS-Con10. This has always been a voluntary commitment on the part of the organizers as it was this time. I know the amount of time, work and energy that are required to put together one of our Conventions, and those of you who have attended any can attest to how well organized they are. But that organization results from the very hard work done by the host or hosts. All have been difficult and time consuming and I have had many attendees say to me how amazed and pleased they are with the results.

As far back as November 2003, even before the Tokyo meeting, I was in Holland for the Houten camera show when I was initially approached concerning where NHS-Con10 might be held. Uli Koch, of the 'Nikon F Trilogy' fame, took me aside and made me an offer anyone would find hard to refuse. I did not commit at that time because I had too much going with the upcoming Tokyo meeting to really think about 2006. But I filed it at the back of my mind as a really great idea. Then in Tokyo both he and Hans Ploegmakers, who was very much involved with the Dutch convention in 2000 assisting show chairman Peter Lownds, approached me. We stood outside the JCII building during the lunch break where he volunteered to act as the co-chairman with Uli for NHS-Con10. Both would have to do some traveling because, for the first time, a convention organizer does not live in the same country as the meeting. But they are willing to do it for us. With their efforts I can offer to my members the opportunity to spend a little time in the spring in.....VIENNA!

Think about it. A week in Vienna in May! How could you ask for more? Not only is May a great time to be in Europe when the weather is usually very pleasant, Vienna is a beautiful and historic city and the photo possibilities are endless. Another reason we have shifted the Convention back a few months is that Peter Coeln, owner of the Leica Shop and the Westlicht Museum, has offered the very room where his auctions are held for our meeting. Peter usually has his auction in May so both the

weather and Westlicht are two very good reasons to spend some time with us in Vienna.

I will have a great deal more information in these pages as time passes, and will keep you informed in each succeeding issue. For now I can tell you that plans are already being made for our entertainment plus bring a lot of film. I plan on it! Shooting Vienna and the surrounding area sounds very enticing.

Here is some general information for now with some preliminary ideas that will evolve as we get closer, but Uli and Hans are already coming up with many ideas; Since the Westlicht Auction is on Saturday, our meeting would be on Sunday. To see the auction and attend NHS-Con10 you would need to plan around this time frame. The room can accommodate up to 120 people and there is the museum, a library and even a bar! Peter has all the A/V equipment we would need so it should be a great room for the meeting. The Museum is about 300 meters from a 4-star hotel and 600 meters from a 3-star. And we are a 10-minute tram ride from the center of town. Also we are about a 40-minute bus ride from the airport. They have some ideas for cultural and sightseeing events as well. We could visit: Schloss Schonbrunn, a large castle and park; Stephansdom, a huge church and the tallest in Europe; Wiener Hofburg, a huge castle within the town; Arabian horses stabled nearby; other castles and several museums; the Burgtheater, the most famous theater in the German speaking countries; many old, beautiful and historical buildings are nearby; the Kloster Melk Abbey fully restored; and then there is the symphony and the opera!

So you see there are endless possibilities for things to do and see. Hopefully you will all bring some 'shooting' gear with you to record it all. Hans and Uli are coming up with all kinds of ideas and I am sure it will be a very busy and full Convention. Bring your cameras, bring your film, bring money (remember the auction on Saturday) and bring your partners, for a good time in one of the most beautiful and historic cities in Europe at about the best time of the year to be there. Start making your plans to spend some time in Vienna in May 2006!

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

A NEW NIKON RANGEFINDER BOOK IS IN THE WORKS...FINALLY!

Those of you with a long memory will recall that I self-published my first book on the Nikon rangefinders system here in Chicago in 1981. This was followed by my second book in 1983, which was published in England by Hove Foto Books, now known as Hove Collectors Books. In September 1983, shortly before the second book arrived in the States, I started the NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY and have published our quarterly Nikon Journal without interruption over the last 21 years.

During those years we have learned a great deal about the Nikon rangefinder system and whatever I have been able to document has turned up in these pages. After 85 issues and over 1800 pages, it is obvious that what has been presented here has far outstripped that which was in my 'little' book written over 21 years ago! Between new discoveries and added knowledge, the scope of information that has appeared within these pages tends to obsolete my book, to say nothing of the added photographic coverage I have been able to provide.

For at least the last 15 years I have had countless people ask me when I was going to do another book on the rangefinders, or simply update the current one. My answer has usually been that one was not really needed for at least the first 5 years up to about 1988, plus I was very busy with the Journal and I looked upon it as more or less a continuous update of the book. Between 1993 and 2000 I simply did not have the time since I had my own business, which consumed 60-70 hours a week of my time. Just getting the Journal out during those years was very difficult and left no time for anything else. It is only in the last few years that some time has become available to me as my job has been reduced to a more normal 40 hours a week with only the quarterly Journal to publish.

I must admit that the idea of doing another book has been in my mind going back to at least 1990, but I knew it could not be just an update. Why? Three basic reasons... We have leaned entirely too much additional information that could not simply be 'inserted' into the previous book without causing confusion and chaos. Second, the collector's market has become much more sophisticated than it was 21 years ago! Today, with literally hundreds of books out there on nearly every camera type imaginable, there is more competition, thus more to compare to. Third, the printing business has been revolutionized by digital technology allowing for quality levels unknown in the 1980s'. The Journal has been done in digital now since early 2002. The quality of the images in this magazine far exceeds those in my book from 1983. Today's market requires higher quality images plus...color. Yes, you have to have color today to satisfy the market. B&W by itself just won't cut it. But, color is not as difficult or as expensive as it once was and a very distinct possibility today.

If I were to do another book I would have to address the following points;

- 1) A complete re-writing would be necessary, using very little from the previous book.
- 2) A complete re-shooting of all images, discarding all those in the previous book.
- 3) Adding coverage, in both words and photos, of the many new discoveries made since the first book.
- 4) Covering everything in much greater detail, similar to how I do it here in the Journal.
- 5) Adding color plates and a color cover, as well as really professional quality B&W photos.
- 6) Increasing the page size and adding pages to allow for up to 4 times the space used in the first book.

Without the above being done a new book would not be worth the effort. It would all have to come together.... which it has. I have signed contracts with Hove Collectors Books to produce a new edition of my Nikon Rangefinder book, effective immediately. Plans call for a spring 2005 release date. To address the points just stated the new book will be completely re-written and photographed, mostly in digital, and use practically nothing from the previous volume. Many new items and variations will be added, some already seen in these pages the last decades, and everything will be photographed in much greater detail than before. New sections will be added and more tables included. Our resident photographic genius, Tony Hurst, has agreed to do all the color work (yes there will be color) including the front and back covers and at least 24 internal plates. In addition I will use some of his great B&W shots as well, therefore, photographically, this edition will far outshine my previous effort. In order to do all of this the new book will use a much larger format of 7.5 x 10 inches and plans call for between 300-400 pages. It will be similar in size to the current 'Nikon Compendium' by Hove and has the working title 'Nikon Rangefinder Compendium'.

So I have committed to finally updating my aging book and I hope to make it worth the wait. The new edition promises to address all the new information that has surfaced the last two decades and also be more pleasing to the eye as well as more informative. An almost 22 year span between editions is a long time, but I feel that circumstances make this the best time to do it. Wish me luck. RJR.

WEB SITES TO SEE!!

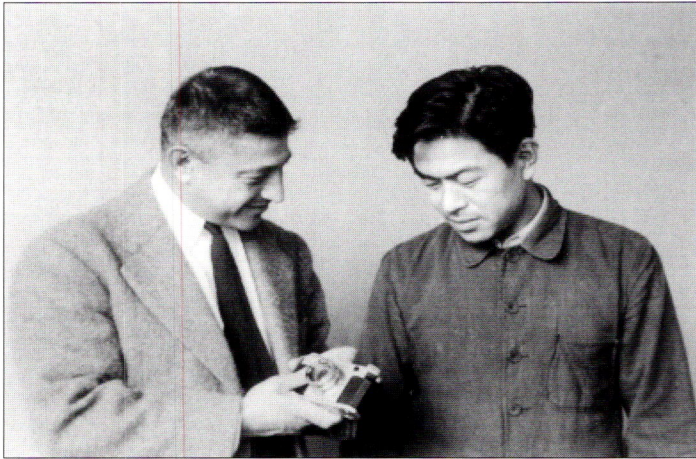
Please add the following web sites to our recurring list here in the Journal. I did not have enough room this time around, but I hope to run the entire list in the next issue.

<http://home.planet.nl/~nikon.catalogus/>...Member Hans Braakhuis has added his first internet page to his web site. He promises more articles will be added to this page, so check it out. Hans has produced a very detailed history of the optical industry in Japan.

www.westlicht-auction.com...This is the site for Peter Coeln's Auction house in Vienna, Austria. His catalogs are available to order on this site. Keep your eyes on the site for dates and sale results as well. His May 2006 auction will be the site of NHS-Con10.

MR. CARL MYDANS HAS DIED AT 97.

One of the photojournalist closely identified with the discovery of the Nikon camera and its Nikkor lenses has died. Carl Mydans has been mentioned repeatedly by other writers and myself when discussing the events leading up to the discovery of the Nikon by the western press. Along with others such as David Douglas Duncan and Horace Bristol, Carl Mydans was in Tokyo at the outbreak of the Korean War as a staff photographer for



A NEW McKEOWN'S

Rumors had been circulating that the 2001-2002 edition of McKeown's Price Guide was to be the last. From the information I was privy to it seemed to be more than a rumor and I had resigned myself to the thought that our 'bible' would no longer be with us. Then in June I got an email from Jim asking me to please update my contributions to the Nikon section I had done for years. I was surprised because a new edition was not supposed to happen. But it was a pleasant surprise! The previous 11 editions have been 'THE' book for all collectors worldwide and I cannot imagine what the last 30 or so years of collecting would have been like without Jim's guide book.

The 12th edition for 2005-2008 is out right now. We had them at the Chicago show on September 12th, so they are available. The specs for the new edition are awesome. It is the most comprehensive book of its kind with over 40,000 cameras listed with over 10,000 clear, sharp illustrations to aid the collector. There is detailed historical and technical information about the cameras and their makers. The prices are based on up-to-the-minute sales data from Jim's giant database. Since the last edition, over 15,000 cameras have been added. Amazing.

The previous edition was 900 pages. This new effort is 1,248 pages! And with no increase in price! The hardbound edition lists for \$139.00 while the softbound is \$125.00. From past experience I say get the hardbound. The book has grown to such a size where I cannot imagine a softbound holding up for long and all my hardbound copies have aged gracefully. Contact Jim at Centennial Photo Service for more information. His email is mckeown@camera-net.com; fax is 715-689-2277. Don't miss the 12th edition of McKeown's Price Guide to Antique & Classic Cameras. I hope it is with us for years to come.

Life Magazine covering the postwar US Occupation for the magazine. Mr. Mydans had been the 'fifth' photographer hired in 1936 when the new 'Life' came into existence. Along with Duncan and Bristol he became involved with checking out the small factory in the Shinagawa section of Tokyo that was owned by Nippon Kogaku, a name virtually unknown outside of Japan. They were following up on the maker of some lenses they had been introduced to that this optical company produced. They were called 'Nikkors'. Eventually, as they went on to shoot the Korean War, they replaced their German optics with these upstart Nikkors and, as they say, the rest is history. It was Duncan and Mydans who actually took their new equipment back to New York for testing, resulting in word getting around to other Life shooters and finally Jacob Deschin of the NY Times, whose article is credited with being the spark that got things going for Nikon in the US.

Carl Mydans spent a great deal of time at the Ohi factory. I have photos of him with Masahiko Fuketa and Dr. Nagoaka on his many visits to the factory. I have re-run the photo of him from about 1950 that was in a previous Journal. He is seen here discussing the latest Nikon (either a late One or early M) with a gentlemen we all know from his signature. That is Mr. Watanabe whose name is on every lens inspection slip from the early rangefinder era!

Another link with the post-war era at Nippon Kogaku is broken. Mr. Carl Mydans was 97 years old.

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'NHS' e-mail LIST!!

NEW! ROBERT ROTOLONI...rrotoloni@sbcglobal.net NEW!

As a service to my members I will run an updated list each issue of the NIKON JOURNAL, so keep me informed. Any addresses added or changed since the last issue are in bold italics! This listing has been updated as of **Sept. 30, 2004.**

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'NHS' eBAY LIST!!

In the last issue we talked about starting a list of member's 'eBay' screen names. This could be helpful when buying or selling on the Internet. More than once I have won a bid or sold an item to only find out after the auction closed that it was a member. I have also dropped out of bidding when I have recognized my competition to be a member or friend that I just did not feel right bidding against. So here we go with our NHS 'eBay' list.

Dave Barth.....fliier
 Steve Fischer.....selma-1
 Don Gresock.....Roller6519
 Bill Pringle.....BigChips
 Robert Rotoloni.....6091
 Mike Symons.....NIKMIKE

'NHS' RED DOT F LIST

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

6597602(BLACK) 6597660 (BLACK) 6602013

Member Matthew Lin writes: 'Bob, I have just added a Red Dot Nikon F page in my website under 'My Nikon Collection' section. Credit has been given to the NHS.' (Please check out Matthews website at <http://www.matthewlin.com>)

THE AUCTION SCENE

As mentioned in NHS-84, I am reporting on the Christies auction held on June 15th in London. In an unusual move, two catalogs were printed for this event. One for the morning sale and one for the afternoon. First time that I recall seeing this done. There were interesting Nikons in both sales, rangefinder and reflex. Prices, starting with the morning session (includes the buyers premium and rounded to the nearest \$ amount);

Nikon S outfit (boxed body, 4 lenses).....\$2,000
Nikon SP w/f2 & manual (boxed).....\$2,575
Nikon S2 w/f2 & manual (boxed).....\$1,400

There were other items but mostly common with the above 3 lots the main attractions for the morning sale. In the afternoon there was more;

Nikon SP (BLACK!) & 3 common lenses.....\$10,750
Nikon SP chrome body, no lens.....\$1,500
Nikon SP (BLACK!) w/f1.4.....\$5,600
50/f1.1 Internal mount.....\$2,800
50/f1.1 External mount.....\$2,800
50/1.4 Olympic lens only.....\$2,150
85/f1.5 w/shade.....\$3,250
Boxed SP meters & booster (two).....ea....\$470
35/f1.8.....\$1,075
350/f4.5 w/shade.....\$1,050

There are three upcoming auctions, one of which will be history by the time you receive this. Auction Team Koln has a huge sale set for October 2nd but there is very little in Nikon RF to report on. Nothing rare or exciting but their catalog is worth checking out each time. They tend more towards European equipment but have had some interesting Nikons in the past.

Peter Coeln's Westlicht Auction will be held in Vienna on Saturday, November 6th. Look them up on the web at www.westlicht-auction.com for details. You will notice the announcement this issue that our next convention will be held in conjunction with his sale slated for May of 2006. So for those of you with thoughts of attending, now is your chance to become acquainted with Westlicht and what it holds in store for us in about 18 months. Peter will assist us in many ways, so please support his auctions. His past events have had some really great Nikon RF items and we hope the same will prevail in 2006.

Finally, member Stan Tamarkin is holding his next auction in New York on Sunday, December 5th. Stan always tries to have a good selection of Nikon RF in his sales and not just Leicas. His catalogs are well illustrated and he offers them free of charge to all NHS members. Write him at Tamarkin Photographic, 270 Amity Rd, Woodbridge, CT 06525 to get on his list. And check out his website at www.auctions@tamarkin.com. I think it is important to support the 'only' photographic auction house in North America, since very few of us can easily attend those in Europe. Unfortunately, the deadline for consignments was October 1st, too soon for this issue.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED... To augment a small Nikon F collection seeking in EX++ condition a chrome series 73xxxxx 'Apollo' and a 'German' F black or chrome marked 'Nikkor' not Nikon. **John Utterson..Tel 479-986-8029 or email to utter@specent.com**

WANTED...Nikon Multiphot complete systems or parts, including optics, working or not. Also Nikon Model 'H' microscope, complete or non working. Contact..**Bob Simpson at 613-358-5659 or email to bob@stonemills.net.** Also please take a look at my new website at **www.stonemills.net**

WANTED...Nikon M-B adapter (prevents movement of the front lens during focusing-used with an early Micro-Nikkor reverse mounted on a bellows unit.) I am willing to pay \$50 for one in poor condition or \$200 for one in excellent condition, and I will consider offers. **David Barth..email to Dvbarth@aol.com**

SELLING/TRADE LIST...Those of you who would like to receive my list with each issue of **The Journal** need only tell me so and it shall be done. I try to add items with each edition & always include a large amount of **Nikon RF & Reflex** items. Also included are products from other quality makers such as **Bronica, Canon, Pentax, Zeiss** and others. Consignment items are always welcome! If you have a list make sure to send me a copy! I am always open to trades of all kinds! **Robert Rotoloni, P.O. Box 3213, Munster, IN 46321...You can e-mail me at rotoloni@msn.com or r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net**

NEW MEMBERS

KELVIN FAN
YU KIT FAN, ROOM 506
KWAI YEE HSE, KWAI YIN CRT,
TSUEN WAN, NT
HONG KONG

FR. DALE PETERKA
7121 PLAINFIELD ROAD
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45236-3810

IRA STEWART
4810 LAMONT DRIVE
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28210

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LETTERS...LETTERS..

From Don Gresock...Bob, I just received my NHS-84 Journal on Thursday and have gone through it. With my 60-year background as a printer I don't know how you can find the time to edit such a fine magazine. I usually start with the Letters and in doing so I read Bill Pringle's mentioning eBay screen names so here's mine to include in a list if we have one...ROLLER6519... I haven't used eBay much lately do to the forgery that is going on recently. I wish all NHS members a lot of luck in the future plus knowing our handles will help.

.....
From John Utterson...Bob, I would like to receive your quarterly sell list with the Journal. Regarding the proposed list of eBay screen names, I think it would be safer if member-sellers simply put "NHS" at the end of their description while member-bidders send their names and "NHS" as a "question for seller".

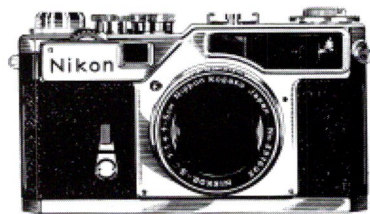
(I have started the list this issue with a few contributions so we will see how it grows. John's idea is a viable one and can be an alternative to a Journal listing. Either way, I think it is a good idea and surely will make some future dealings more pleasant and secure as eBay continues to grow like 'topsy' and, in some cases, getting out of hand. The recent 'fake' Nikon One is a good example. We just had our Chicago show and the crowds were larger than the previous 4 outings, so maybe eBay is losing its appeal a bit. We shall see. RJR)

odds 'n ends

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THIS AD BY GRAPHIC ARTIST 'KAME', APPEARED IN THE MARCH/APRIL 1959 ISSUE OF THE JAPANESE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PHOTO MAGAZINE 'CAMERA ART'. IT IS ONE OF A LONG RUNNING SERIES THAT 'KAME' PRODUCED FOR NIPPON KOGAKU. VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT RAN IN THE WESTERN PRESS AT THE TIME.



Created For The "NHS" By Tony Hurst