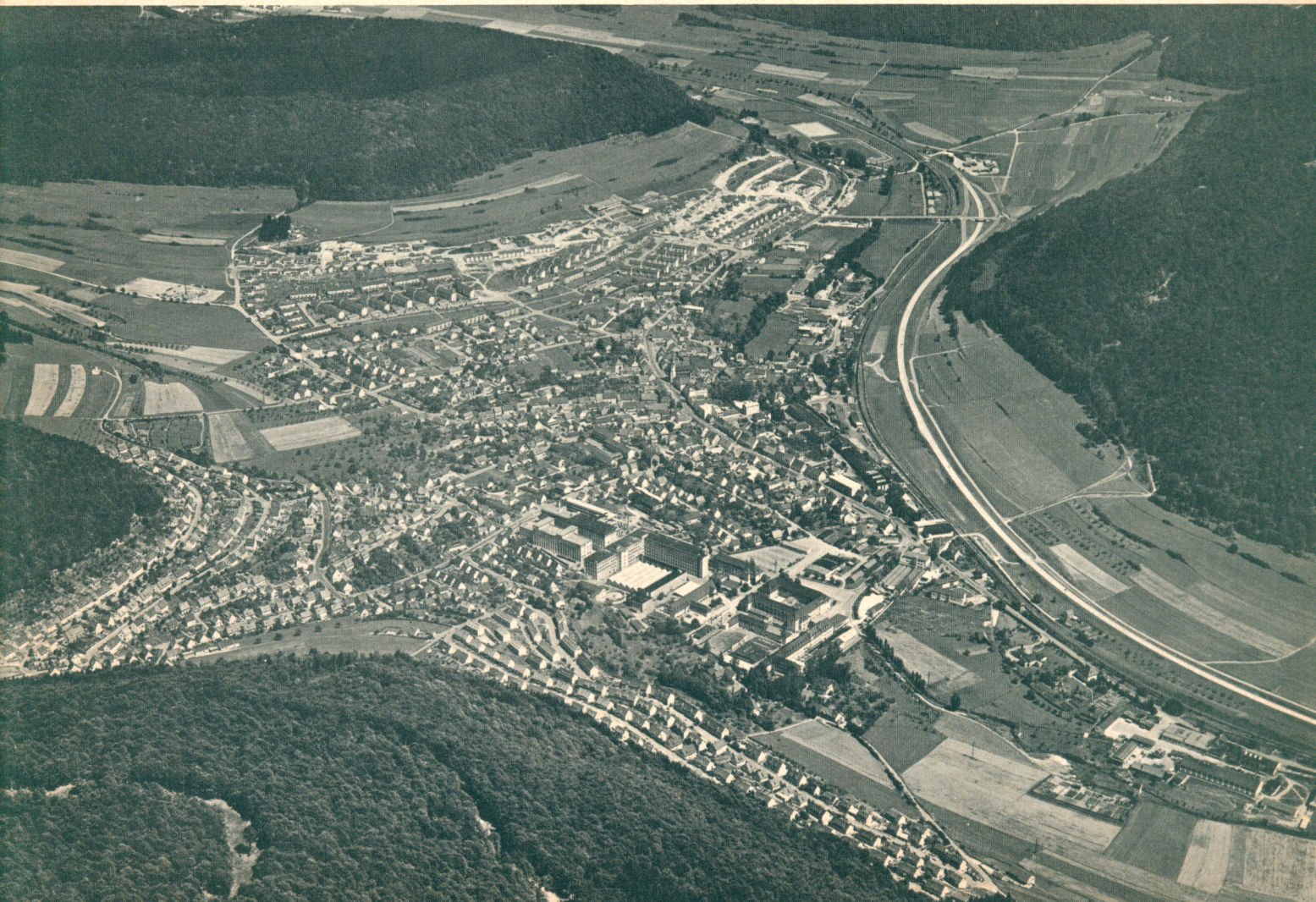
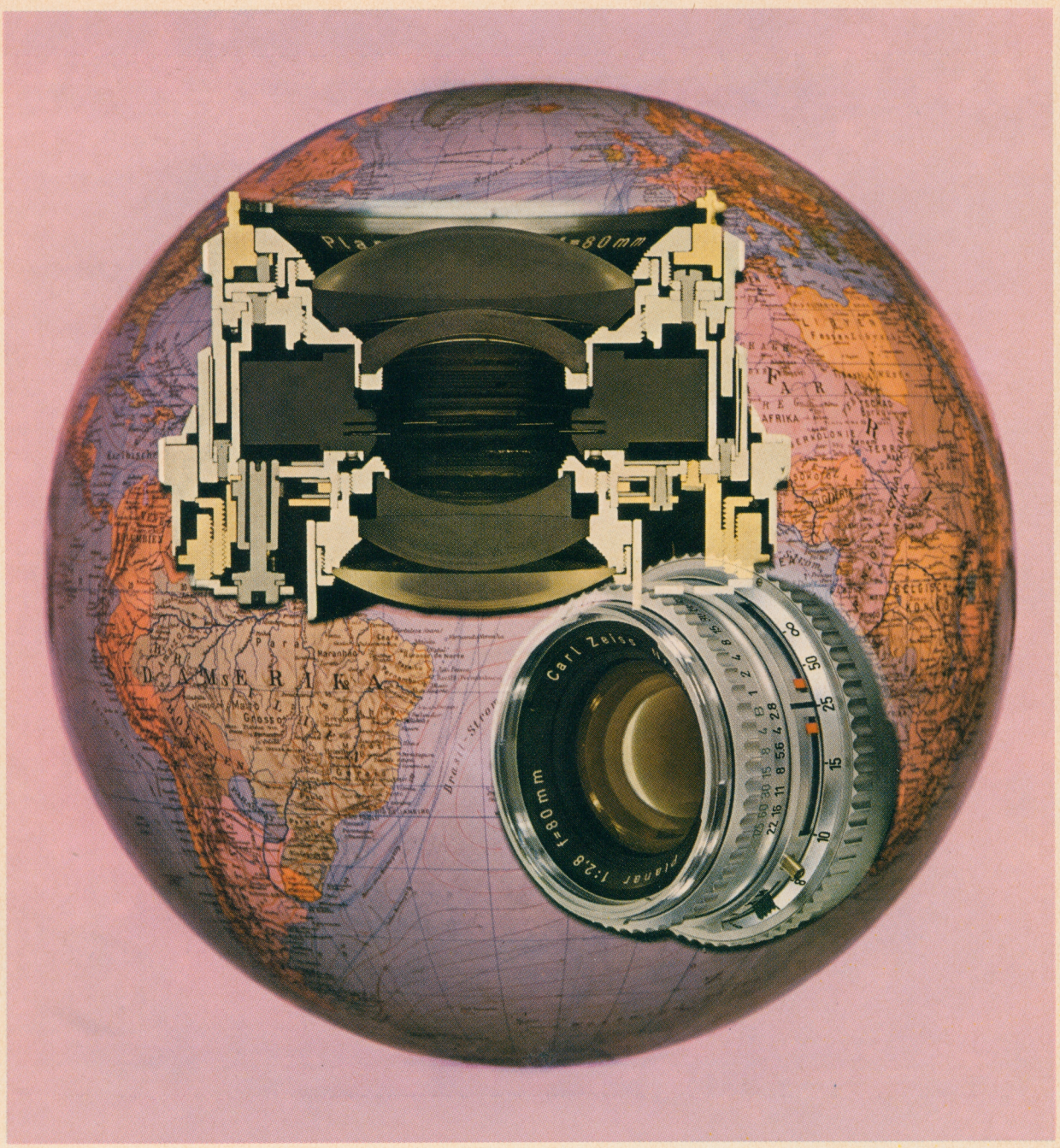
CARL ZEISS

The ZEISS Works in Oberkochen





The great name in optics

The highest degree of precision in design and manufacture is a ZEISS hallmark. That is why the ZEISS Tessar, Planar, Sonnar, Biogon have won world-renown.

ZEISS

Oberkochen

West Germany

CARL ZEISS

ZEISS Today

Two Men - one Idea

A rare stroke of good luck in the middle of the last century brought together in the town of Jena (now Soviet zone of Germany) two men of exceptional ability in different but complementary fields. They set out to build better microscopes and, in so doing, they ushered in the era of modern optics.

Carl Zeiss, an instrument maker of great skill, who produced microscopes for the University of Jena on a trial and error basis, contributed his accomplished art in lens making. Ernst Abbe, young professor of mathematical physics, discovered many of the basic laws governing the path of light rays through optical lenses and established the formulae upon which modern microscopes are built. Together, first in the modest workshop of Carl Zeiss, later in their fast-growing factory, they produced microscopes and other optical instruments that rapidly gained the reputation of being the best in the world.

The CARL ZEISS Foundation - an Institution of a Progressive Sociologist

After the death of Carl Zeiss, in 1889 Abbe created a Foundation named after his deceased friend and partner, to which he, as the sole owner of the company, assigned all his personal holdings. He endowed the Foundation with a Statute which was epoch-making at the time. Later it served as a model for social legislation. Since quality of the product and scientific progress depended so much on the skill, experience, knowledge and devotion of his fellow-workers, Abbe believed that everyone contributing to the company's success was entitled to a fair share in the profits and to enjoy a measure of security. He also assigned large sums of money to the Foundation and operation of cultural and welfare organizations to serve the entire community.

Ernst Abbe established the irrevocable right to fair and adequate wages and salaries, profit sharing and job protection, pensions for disabled and retired employees and their families, and paid vacation. He introduced the 8-hour workday, had employee's committees formed, and guaranteed each individual the greatest personal freedom possible. All this may be taken for granted today, but at the turn of the century it was as revolutionary as it was effective. The employees responded by turning out optical goods of the highest quality.

The company grew and became known for its outstanding achievements in science and technology and its progressive labor relations policies. Zeiss optical products — from eyeglasses to the giant astronomical telescopes and planetarium projectors — were used in all parts of the world. Years of war and crises shook the world, but the Foundation and the firms which had joined it as members in the course of time — foremost among them Schott & Genossen, the famous makers of the finest optical glass — withstood all adversities.

Collapse at Jena - Reconstruction at Oberkochen

The collapse and the division of Germany after World War II, however, did not spare the Foundation and its member firms. On June 24 and 25, 1945, just before the American troops withdrew — to allow the Russians to occupy that part of Germany in accordance with the Yalta agreement — long columns of U.S. Army trucks, by order of the American Military High Command, took 126 men of Carl Zeiss and Schott together with their families to West Germany. These men were members of management, leading

scientists, engineers, and craftsmen. What was to become of the factories owned by the Foundation and of the people working in them? The Russians moved into Jena and confiscated the plants. Production was resumed, but it did not take long before factories were dismantled and the equipment was shipped to Russia.

Then, in 1948, the District Court of Jena, acting on official orders, struck the name of CARL ZEISS from the commercial register. Thus Carl Zeiss, Jena, existed no more.

Meanwhile, the 126 men had found shelter in Oberkochen, West Germany. In anticipation of developments in the East zone, they clearly saw that the task of preserving the work of Abbe and Zeiss now rested upon their shoulders. They were determined to continue in the spirit of the founders and to start rebuilding against all odds. Their immediate concern was to keep the group of scientists, specialists, engineers and craftsmen together. The brains of these men were the main capital to draw on. Without them, the Company Carl Zeiss could never again rise to its former status. They took it for granted that the company's assets in the Russian occupied zone had to be written off as a total loss and proceeded to consolidate whatever small Foundation property was available outside the Russian occupied zone. Most important of these were the affiliated companies and the worldwide sales organization.

At Oberkochen Carl Zeiss established a new home office and manufacturing plant which is now the mainstay of the Carl Zeiss Foundation, replacing the expropriated factory in Jena. Modern buildings now house the most up-to-date facilities for research, development and for production methods geared to meet the demands of the future.

Between 1945 and the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961, more than 1,600 scientists, designers, and skilled workers from Jena crossed the communist border to seek freedom and to rejoin the Zeiss organization in West Germany.

Statistics Spell out Success

Zeiss today is one of the world's foremost optical manufacturers. More than 30,000 people work in the Foundation's two major companies in West Germany, Carl Zeiss and Schott & Genossen, and their affiliates. The affiliates include, among others: Zeiss Ikon, Hensoldt, Voigtlaender, and the Compur Works.

More than 14% of last year's production costs at Zeiss went into research and development. The number of precision measuring and optical instruments (not counting eyeglasses, binoculars, and photographic lenses) produced, far exceeded 100,000.

What does ZEISS produce?

The major part of Zeiss's production is devoted to optical instruments for scientific research, especially of microscopes of all types. Large optical instruments, such as ZEISS planetarium projectors and astronomical telescopes, are in operation all over the world. Optical instruments assist physicians, chemists, and physicists the world over in the fields of refractometry, spectroscopy, polarimetry, photometry, and interferometry. Geodetic instruments as well as aerial cameras and plotting equipment facilitate the work of the surveyor and the cartographer. Last but not least ZEISS binoculars, ZEISS eyeglasses, and high-quality photographic lenses which have contributed so much to the world renown of CARL ZEISS.

Vitamins are activators of life.
Through the ZEISS Polarizing Microscope you can actually see them. This is how precision optics has laid the foundation of modern food and drug research.
The above is a photomicrograph of Vitamin C crystals, magnified 150 times.

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The two gears mesh. ZEISS Strain-Testing Devices reveal under polarized light the lines of principal stress. The centers of coloration show regions of maximum stress concentration. Thus ZEISS instruments have added new dimensions to materials research.

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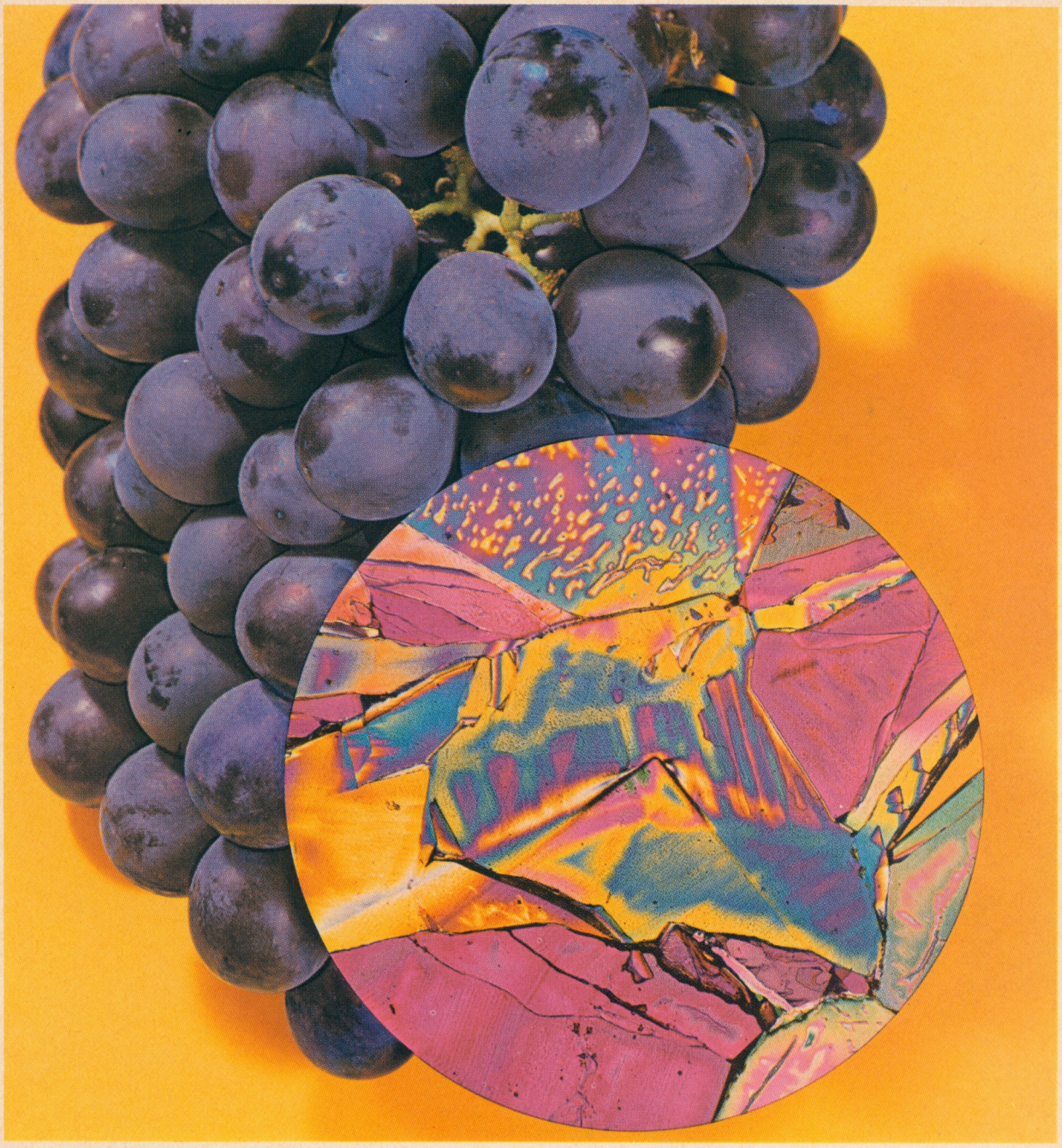

Foodstuffs and condiments must be checked constantly. ZEISS microscopes and optical precision measuring instruments keep watch over the purity of the basic raw materials and their processing.
Shown here is a photomicrograph of tartaric acid crystals, magnified 100 times.

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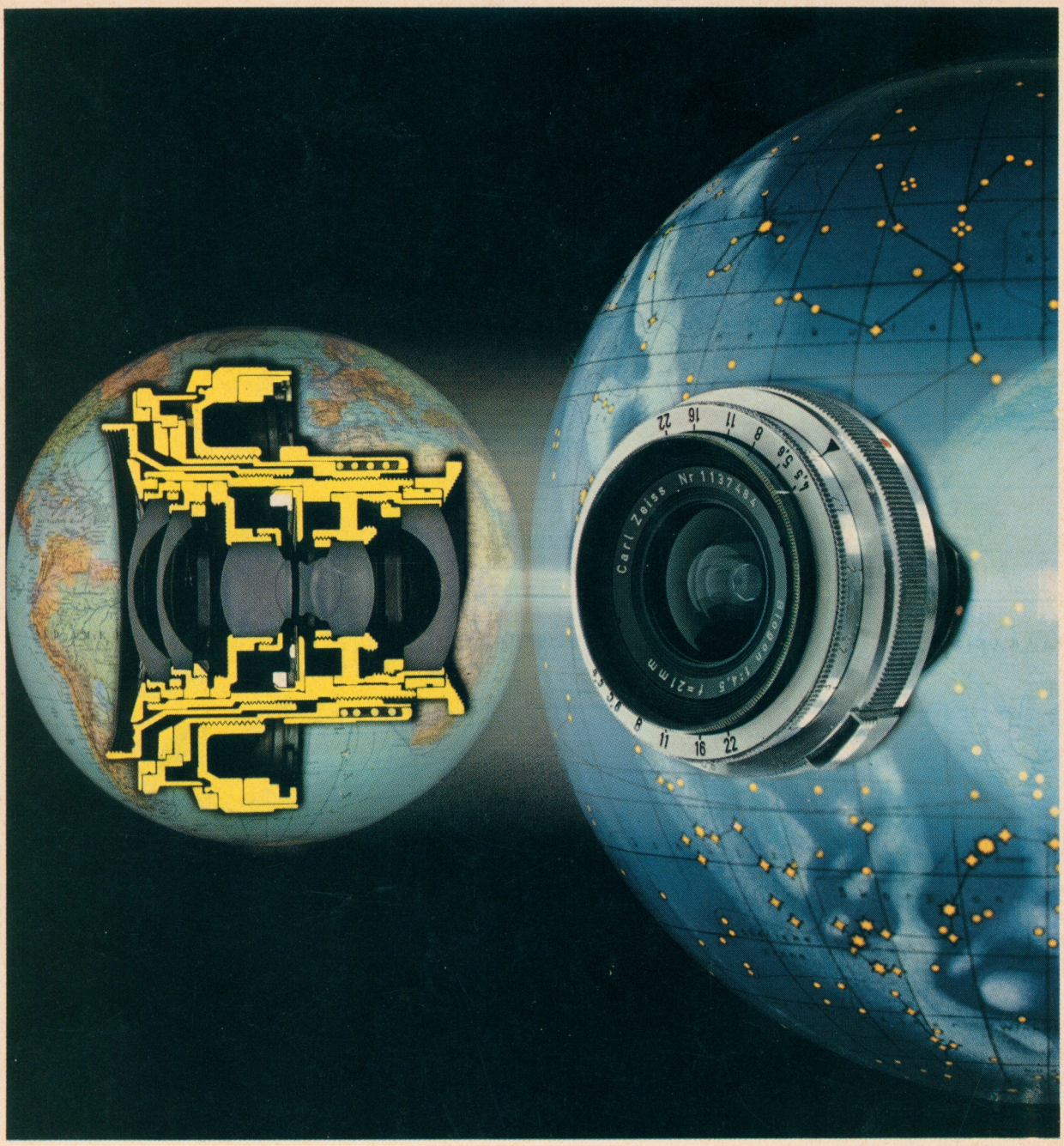

Precision carried to highest perfection in design and manufacture – a ZEISS lens. For the ultimate in image quality, be sure to select a camera with a ZEISS lens.

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Printed in West Germany