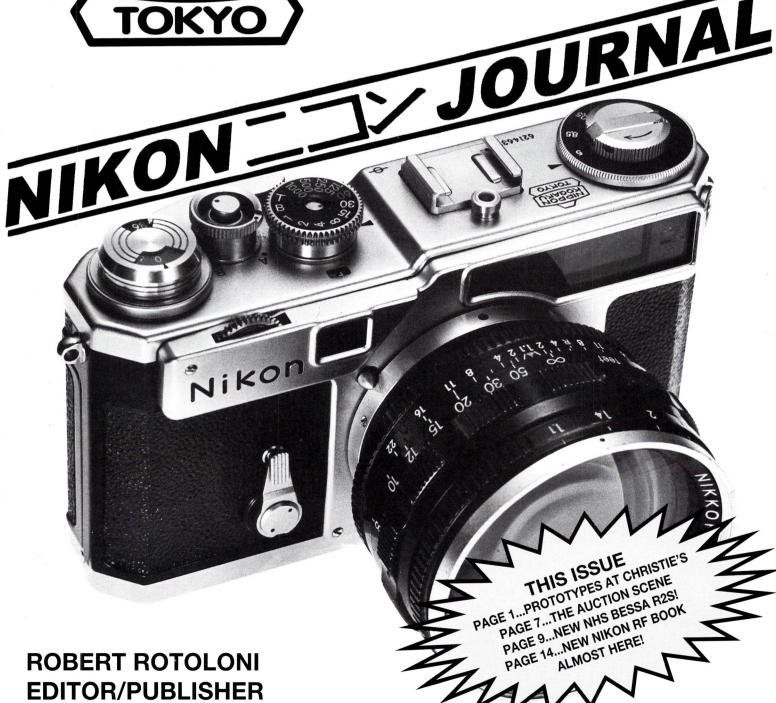


**JUNE 30, 2005** 

**NHS-88** 





### THE NIKON JOURNAL

**VOLUME TWENTY TWO – NUMBER 3 – JUNE 30, 2005** 

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### NHS-89 DEADLINE!

'TOKYO GOODIES' by TOM ABRAHAMSSON

The deadline for the next issue of our **NIKON JOURNAL**, **NHS-89**, is **SEPTEMBER 1**, **2005**. Please get all correspondence and articles to me by then so I can get our Journal to you on schedule. Thank you. *RJR*.

### **EDITORIAL**

The three weeks between May 21st and June 14th turned out to be the most prolific auction season for the Nikon collector. All three major auction houses dealing in Photographica held their sales and the amount of rare and quality Nikon gear was truly awesome. Never in my memory has so much really interesting RF and reflex equipment been available to the collector concentrated in such a short time span. On page one you will find two one-of-a-kind 'prototypes' never before seen that came up for sale at Christie's. Both were totally new to me and never even hinted at these last 30 years! On page seven I continue coverage of the auctions including the hammer prices of many of the most interesting items.

The first importer of the Nikon, Overseas Finance & Trading (OFITRA), was owned by Mr. Uno Lindholm. His right-hand man who handled most of the negotiations with Nippon Kogaku to bring the Nikon into the US was Mr. Hans Liholm. In the process of researching a new book on the period, Michael Loder interviewed Mr. Liholm who presented to Michael his personal Nikon M given to him in 1950 by Dr. Nagaoka, President of Nippon Kogaku! See Michael's article on page 3 on the camera as well as some shots from a 55-year-old roll of film that was still in it!

There will finally be a Voigtlander R2S for the NHS! Although not exactly as we had once hoped for, Cosina has released a 'limited edition' R2S with an equally limited number of 50/3.5 Heliar lenses that is has packaged in a special box marked 'SPECIAL SET FOR NHS'! These cameras are illustrated on Stephen Gandy's 'CameraQuest' website (www.cameraquest.com) and are available from the Society. Each unit sold comes with a free one-year NHS membership upgrade and a letter of authenticity from me. In addition the NHS receives a percentage of the proceeds to be used to support the Journal and Conventions. So please consider this item. It is a very usable collectible and you will be benefiting the NHS at the same time. See it beginning on page 9.

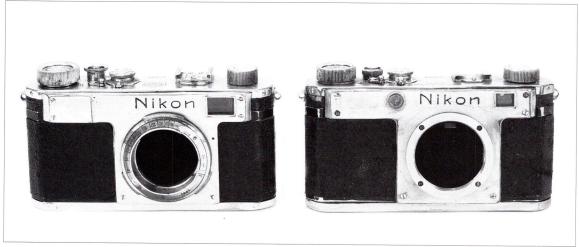
My book on the Nikon Rangefinders is getting closer to completion and there is more information on pages 14~15 to keep you up to date. As promised, the latest info will be here and I hope to have final costs and shipping dates ready for NHS-89 in September, our current target date.

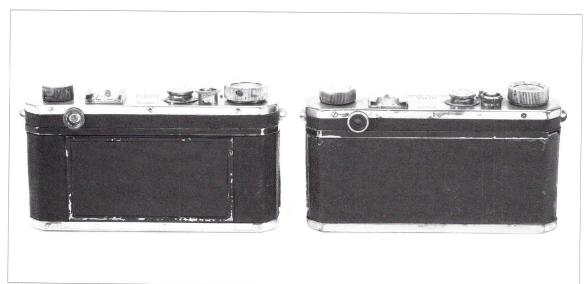
We have two pages of convention news this issue. Co-chairmen Hans Ploegmakers and Uli Koch have made a preliminary run-through for us and there latest info can be found on pages 16~17, so check it out! They have hotel information as well as a list of some of the sights and events we will see next May. Get ready for Vienna! It will be here very soon.

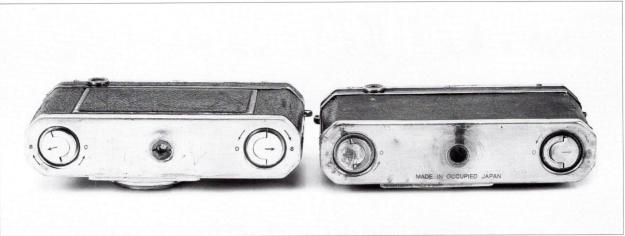
Finally, our resident photographic 'artist', Tony Hurst, recently went though some major surgery. Those of us fortunate enough to know Tony personally were quite apprehensive for a while back in March. Because of his surgery he was not able to meet with me and Hove Books in London in May, as he went though his recovery stage. I am very pleased to announce that he is doing much better and is back to work as witnessed by this issue's fabulous rear cover. Tony, take it from me and all your many friends...God Bless You! And stay well. (Tony asked that I pass along his thanks for the many get well calls, cards and emails he received. He is grateful for them all!)

# PROTOTYPES APPEAR AT CHRISTIE'S!!









Where, oh where, did these come from(!)? Over the last 35 years I have never seen nor heard of these two cameras. Not a hint! Nothing in the Japanese literature or even a rumor amongst collectors. The camera on the left in all the photos appears to be simply an S with only two items that make it different. It unusual serial number (V151001) and the missing RF window! I am not quite sure what was going on with this one. However, the other body is very interesting! Obviously a prototypical Model One body shell with the very large MIOJ on the baseplate (only seen the first 80 or so Ones made) but also the NKT is in block letters on the top plate, not the logo! This is only seen on the prototypes! Could this camera have been made using one of the original 21 prototype bodies? It has a screw mount like the Nikon L but looks a bit different and probably predates that camera. The Nikon L is #L1101 while this camera is #L11004. The actual history of this camera would be an interesting story I am sure. (Photos copyright & courtesy Christie's South Kensington)





## THE OBJECT AT HAND...A HISTORIC CAMERA FROM A TIME OF TRANSITION

### BY MICHAEL WESCOTT LODER

(Mr. Loder is currently working on a book entitled 'The Coming of the Nikon: An American Perspective' from which this material is excerpted. The text and all images copyright 2005 by Michael Wescott Loder.)

The camera illustrated here is the Nikon M that Dr. Masao Nagaoka, the president of Nippon Kogaku, gave to Mr. Hans Liholm, the manager of the Overseas Finance & Trading Company. Liholm received it while he was in Tokyo in April 1950 successfully negotiating an exclusive importation rights contract for all N-K products going to North America.

Overall, it looks no different from previous Nikons, but its details are a rich source of information as to what was happening with N-K's cameras during a transition time for both the Nikon and its company. Most of the changes one can see were the direct result of recommendations that Adolph Gasser, a San Francisco-based camera repairman, had made to Liholm the previous spring. Liholm, in turn, had sent these recommendations to N-K and the company had modified the Nikon in August 1949.

This particular camera is in almost new condition, its chrome unscratched and paint immaculate. Unfortunately, its original 5cm/f2 Nikkor lens, and an additional 8.5cm/f2 Nikkor and a

13.5cm/f4 Nikkor that Liholm was given were lost many years ago!

The serial number (M6091284) places its production to either late March or early April 1950, and probably makes it the 526th camera in the 'modified' series. Note that the accessory shoe is twopiece with pressure springs. This was a recent change from an earlier one-piece unit. This would eventually change yet again, this time to a three-piece unit, somewhere in the

next 800 cameras. While the cover plates are duller, other parts are finished in polished chrome. The lock keys and the shutter release are mirror finished. These would all change later to a bright brushed luster matching the cover plates. The early Nikons did not have a red dot on the release—a feature added to check the film advance. The size of this dot varied. This is the earlier, larger version.

Although the 50mm/f1.5 Nikkor was in production and starting to be exported, this camera's depth-of-field scale still does not have that f-stop marked. Instead, the widest f-stop is f2, and f3.5 still gets a separate marking even though N-K had ceased to make a normal with that maximum aperture for its camera. Note also that there is not yet any infrared focus adjustment marking.

Gasser had recommended that the pressure plate be improved. This camera shows that improvement with a wider, thicker plate and heavier springs. The camera's back had to be cut out and set back to accommodate that change, resulting in the familiar rectangular ridge on the backs of Nikon M and S models. N-K engraved and matched serial numbers of backs to top plates on all but its earliest cameras until sometime in 1955 or 1956.

Although much better finished than the earlier Nikons, the interior paint it still uneven and the rougher metal finish resulting from sand-casting still shows through. Milling marks also show clearly on and next to the film guides. The first Nikons had only two guide rails. This one has four. The outer plates are finished in brushed chrome similar in luster to that of the Leica camera. Close examination of the plate edges (next to the viewfinder eyepiece) reveals places where the plating did not

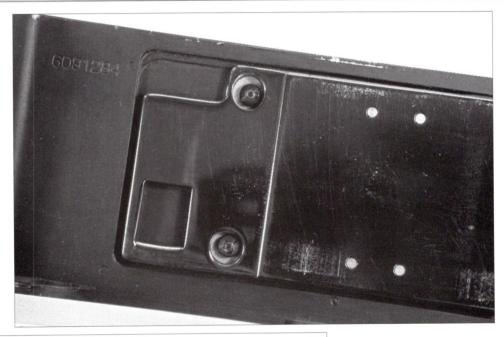
take, leaving brass showing. That fall, N-K would change to a better quality, brighter chrome finish closer in luster to the finish of the Contax.

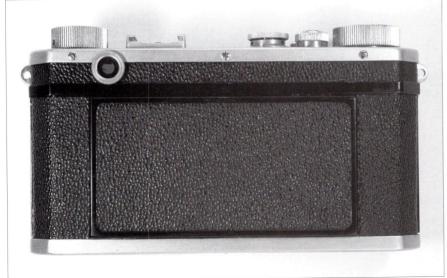
The early Nikons' tripod socket had been only a 3/8th inch threaded stamping in the base plate. This is the second version with a stronger, deeper 1/ 4th inch plug set into the base plate and locked in place with a set screw. This would remain standard



sometime in 1951 when N-K went with an even sturdier double plate held in place with four screws. Note the 'Made in Occupied Japan' engraving in front of the tripod socket. Although SCAPIN #2061, dated December 5, 1949, allowed the substitution of 'Made in Japan' or just 'Japan' for the MIOJ marking, N-K continued to use the longer label until early 1951. The marking is half the size that the same inscription had been on the









earliest Nikons. It would eventually move to a stamping in the back leather, before being replaced by just 'Japan'.

The first Nikons used a removable take-up spool similar to the Contax. One of the 'M' improvements was a permanently installed take-up spool. But note the crude mounting, screwed in place as an obvious afterthought!

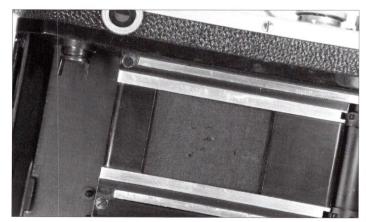
Although only a few rolls of film ever went through this camera, its shutter curtains are shot. The second curtain, rolled up for over 50 years, has lost almost all its coating and light shows through. The curtains remain exposed on either side of the film opening. Early Nikons are notorious for their poor shutter curtain durability. Apparently that problem had still not been completely solved in the spring of 1950.

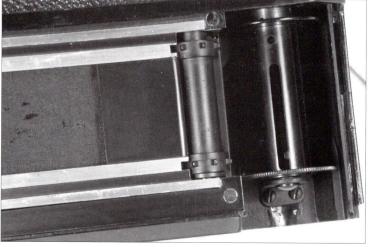
Below freezing when I received this camera in the mail, neither the rangefinder, nor the shutter worked at all. Twenty

minutes at room temperature, and everything started functioning. The speeds today seem slow, but they all work—testimony to N-K's success in designing and building a durable timing mechanism. N-K was still using heavier greases as lubricants in the helicoid and the shutter. Adolph Gasser introduced the company to a low-temperature-tolerant lubricant designed for aerial cameras later that spring when he made his own trip to Japan. Once N-K started using that lubricant, the Nikon out-performed even Leicas in the bitter cold of the Korean winter.

A 50mm Nikkor from the late fifties fits loosely in the lens mount, allowing an in-out play of almost a half of a millimeter. This is unacceptable. Were the bayonet lugs on the early Nikkors thicker and more Contax-like? Apparently even the lens mount changed over time.







Images from 1950-51 taken by Hans Liholm on the last roll of film that went through this Nikon:

In the camera was an exposed but rewound roll of Kodak Plus-X film. The film was obviously very old since the magazine ends were uncrimped. I had the film hand processed by our local lab and under close examination of the results determined that some images had survived. I had the lab print two of them. Both pictures show outdoor scenes somewhere in the San Francisco area and include Bardro Nyberg, Liholm's companion and first wife. Liholm does not remember who the man by the chain link fence was, but the man in the parking lot is Olof Dahlin, an inventor of a new kind of tube cap who Uno Lindholm, president of OFITRA, sent to America (at OFITRA's expense) in hopes that Liholm would find a market for it.

(Both images used with permission of Hans Liholm.)

### Bibliography;

- Personal interviews with Hans Liholm and Adolph Gasser.
- SCAP Camera Export Weekly (later monthly) Report for August 1948~April 1951.
  - Lists cameras and lenses available for export and where exported to for all Japanese camera manufacturers.
- Wolbarst, John '...report on the NIKON.' Modern Photography (June 1951, pp. 44-45, 82-86)





## THE AUCTION SCENE... 3 WEEKS OF BOUNTY!

Besides the fabulous pair of prototypes featured in the lead off article this issue, there was an unusually large selection of Nikon rangefinder and reflex equipment up for bids in a short three week period. Between May 21st and June 14th, all three major auction houses held significant sales making this short span of time the most interesting for the Nikon collector in quite some time! I will list the hammer prices for the most important items in each sale in chronological order.

May 21st saw Peter Coeln's 7th Westlicht Auction in Vienna Austria. As always his hardbound catalog is quite an item in its own right with large clear color photos of each and every item up for sale. Eleven months from now those who attend NHS-Con10 will be able to participate in the May 2006 sale and observe one of the major photographic auctions in person. The following hammer prices are converted from Euros to dollars and include the 20% buyers' premium.....

1	
Nikon M9061855 w/1.5 Nikkor (Very rare!)	.\$13,200
Nikon SP black #6215369 w/1.4 Nikkor	.\$17,950
Nikon S w/1.4 Nikkorcomplete boxed set	\$2,050
Nikon S3 #6305721 w/1.4 Nikkormint	\$2,600
Micro-Nikkor #523341mint	\$5,000
Collar for Micro-Nikkor (Very rare!)	\$3,600
Olympic 1.4 Nikkor #140502mint	\$4,700
85/f1.5 Nikkor #264464 w/hood & caps	\$4,700
S36 Motor Drive #94248(no battery pack)	\$11,700
Nikon F High Speed7fpsmint(Very rare!)	\$36,000
Nikon F2 High Speedcomplete boxed set as new	\$8,000

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Stan Tamarkin held his 18<sup>th</sup> Rare Camera Auction in New York City. Stan concentrates on Nikon and Leica equipment so his mix is basically high quality with corresponding prices. There are always some really fine Nikon RF items featured and this sale was no exception. The following hammer prices include the 15% buyers' premium....

Micro-Nikkor #523565 w/bubble	\$4,075
50mm/f1.1 Nikkor #140823 (External)	
Nikon M6091721 w/1.5 Nikkor	
And last, but not the least	

1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor #100668 in rangefinder mount! One of the rarest of all RF Nikkors..EX++ w/case....This item did not sell which I find surprising. They seldom come on the market and the minimum estimate of \$45,000 was not out of line. Auction results can sometimes leave you scratching your head.

The final event in this 'trilogy' of Nikon offerings was held on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Christie's in London. You will recall the flyer for this sale that was in your last Journal. It included some, but not all, of our famous Webmaster, Fred Krughoff's, collection. Not all the Nikon items were Fred's but a significant percentage was, as well as some other non-Nikon items featured. The following hammer prices have been converted from pounds sterling to dollars and include the 20% buyers' premium....

The black 1000/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor may be the rarest 'production' RF Nikkor of them all! To date we know of just 6 examples! This lens was actually pictured and listed in the reflex section instead of the rangefinder pages and may have been missed by some bidders. But it is definitely in an RFmount. It sold for \$39,000 which, believe it or not, is a bargain, as others have changed hands at well over \$50,000! A true rarity in a world where that word tends to be overused. (Photo copyright & courtesy Christie's South Kensington)



Nikon M6091838 w/1.4 Nikkor Nikon S2 BLACK w/all black 1.4 Nikkor	,
Nikon S2 BLACK w/all black 1.4 Nikkor	\$10,800
Nikon S2 BLACK w/Micro-Nikkor & box Nikon S2 BLACK w/1.4 Nikkor	\$10,800
2.1cm/f4 Nikkor #621057 w/fdrshows use	\$6,500
50cm/f5.0 Nikkor #647059 w/wood box	
Bellows Model One #56010 w/box/rings/135 lens  Type II Reflex Housing complete & boxed  And again last, but not the least	

1000mm f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor #100640 in the even more rare BLACK barrel! W/metal case & N-F tube.........\$39,000! (This item was listed in the reflex section, not under the RFs where it belonged and may have been missed by bidders. This is the very rare initial black version of which only 6 are known! The price? A bargain!)

Taking all listed on this page along with the prototypes on pages 1-2 and you must agree that the 3 weeks within which these auctions occurred has to rank as the most prolific for the Nikon collector! This is the first time I recall where so much quality and truly 'rare' Nikon equipment became available at nearly the same time! Will it happen again? You never know!



This is the 21mm set that did not sell! It is actually cleaner than the one that was sold and it has the very rare rear cap. Strange! The set that sold went for \$6,500,a fair price considering its condition. The set at left is worth at least 25% more. The lot shown below was really the 'sleeper' of the entire sale. Consisting of a very early M body (M609816) with proper normal, a very early boxed variframe and a first-run 135/f.40 Nikkor worth at least \$2,500 by itself! The entire outfit sold for \$5,900 which I feel is the bargain of the day since early 6-digit Ms with the collapsible f2 Nikkor sell for \$6,000 plus by themselves! (Photos copyright & courtesy Christie's South Kensington)



A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NIPPON KOGAKU TOKYO

MARCH 31, 2005

**NHS-87** 



BESSA-R2S
Special Set for NHS



Special Set fc THS

VOIGTLANDER
ANNOUNCES THE
'LAST' R2S JUST
FOR THE 'NHS'!!

'BESSA NHS/R2S 50/F3.5 HELIAR LIMITED EDITION'.

The following is excerpted from Stephen Gandy's 'CameraQuest' site where this special 'NHS R2S' is being promoted on the Internet in addition to being on our Society web page...

'The last of the Bessa R2S series is the 'NHS R2S 50/3.5 Heliar S Limited Edition'. What's so special? Only that the 50/3.5 Heliar is probably the sharpest lens ever made in Nikon RF mount and this is the first Special Edition camera for the Nikon Historical Society! Separately from the NHS R2S you will receive a letter of authenticity from NHS President Robert Rotoloni, and a year's membership to the Nikon Historical Society (current members will have an additional year added to their present membership). In 2001 Voigtlander introduced the Bessa-T 101 Heliar Sets in Leica mount. The fabulous 50/3.5 Heliar turned out to be the best performing lens ever tested by *Popular Photography!* Now in 2005 Cosina has reintroduced the Heliar in Nikon RF mount with a special R2S as the 'last' of Cosina's Nikon RF mount cameras and lenses.

Both the Leica and Nikon mount Heliars have the same optics with the same startling performance. Unlike the standard R2S body, the NHS R2S has a handsome black piano paint front face instead of the previous splattered black paint, setting it off from all other R2S bodies. The R2S has a higher top speed of 1/2000<sup>th</sup> and a higher flash synch of 1/125<sup>th</sup> than any Nikon Rangefinder, not to mention a **MUCH** brighter viewfinder and RF focusing spot, and parallax projected brightlines. **In addition, the R2S is** 



the only production Nikon Rangefinder mount camera ever made with TTL metering!

Alas, the Voigtlander Nikon Rangefinder mount cameras and lenses are now discontinued as Cosina concentrates on the Leica mount. This is your last chance to obtain a modern and very usable Nikon mount RF camera and modern multi-coated lenses.'

\*\*\*\*\*

The cost for the NHS R2S set is \$999 plus \$20 shipping within the US and \$40 international. In addition you will receive a one-year membership upgrade and I will mail a letter of Authenticity to each buyer. Payment should be made directly to me and I will forward it to Stephen who will then ship the camera directly to the buyer. They are in stock right now so there is no delay. As of June 17<sup>th</sup> we have already sold 15 sets, which accounts for many of the new members listed in this issue. This will definitely help the Society and ensure our future.

Now for a personal note.. I bought 2 R2S bodies, a trigger winder, and a set of lenses when they first came out. I recently returned from 8 days in London where I walked the entire city. I brought 2 cameras...an FE with a 25~50 Nikkor and an R2S with the 21mm Voigtlander. I never took the FE out of the bag! I used only the R2S with the 21mm for over 500 shots! The results.. Every one sharp to the edges and perfectly exposed. Maybe it's my eyes, but I can focus this camera easily and the 21mm is simply awesome! So I speak from personal use..the R2S is no Nikon nor is it a Leica but it was not meant to be. What it is is an extremely competent and modern camera with a beautiful finder and a very accurate TTL meter and shutter that takes Nikon RF lenses! For Vienna I will have an R2S and 2 or 3 lenses with me. Why? Because the shots I brought back from London are some of the best I have done in quite some time. As simple as that! This camera is a true alternative to using your valuable SP/S3 and it has TTL metering and a better finder as well! Since Nikon seems headed down the path of extremely expensive 'retro' cameras and not a modern usable body, the R2S is your only alternative! Get one while you still can and help the Society at the same time! RJR





At last a chance for those of you who missed out on the Bessa-T 101 with the 50/3.5 Heliar. Voigtlander/Cosina is now producing a limited edition R2S with the rigid version of the Heliar. If you haven't had a chance to try this lens, don't miss it now as there will be no more of them once this run is completed. It is most likely one of the best 50mm lenses made by anyone, anytime. It is not just the contrast and sharpness, but the quality of the image. It has a certain 'roundness' to it that makes it stand out among the plethora of 50's that are available. The classic Heliar formula--5 elements in 3 groups-- is mostly seen in the larger formats, but this lens has adapted remarkably well to 35mm. Of course you can wait until it is no longer available and pay more for it, but I suggest that you get it now and use it. You will be surprised at the quality of images you will get. Tom Abrahamsson.

Above...My R2S with a pre-production 50/3.5 Heliar. Right.. Outside our living room window there is a cherry tree and in early spring it is loaded with pink flowers. It also provides me with a good test subject for lenses at close up. This is with the Heliar at f3.5 and the results are smoother and more pleasing than most modern lenses. Bottom.. Two Heliars, the collapsible screw mount version for the Bessa-T 101 and the new rigid S-C mount version made just for the NHS set. Leica once made a 105mm/f6.3 that carries the moniker of 'Mountain Elmar' so the Heliar 50mm should maybe be known as the 'Molehill Heliar'.





TO MY MEMBERS.... The special edition R2S shown on these pages is being promoted not only here but also on our website as well as Stephen Gandy's 'CameraQuest'. Mr. Kobayashi, the CEO of Voigtlander/Cosina, wanted to do something for the NHS. For legal reasons we could not engrave cameras with our logo but in an effort to help the Society raise money he has put together this 'R2S NHS Set'. He had the boxes printed up and mounted a few hundred Heliars in the Nikon bayonet just for this camera! These Heliars are the only ones so mounted. All others are in Leica SM, making ours a very limited run. By purchasing a set you are also helping the Society. Unfortunately the dues cannot cover the cost of the Journal and never have. I have come up with the difference to hold the dues down. All proceeds from the NHS R2S set will be used to produce the Journal and our future meetings while keeping the dues in check. I hope to be able to produce the Journal for years to come & a little financial help here and there would be very welcome. Please support this project for you are also supporting the NHS as well! RJR

## THE -SPOT! NIKON F4 PROTOTYPES FROM









ruary. In this issue we spotlight the Nikon F4 beginning with some very early mock-ups to nearly final-design prototypes. All photos by Takeshi Haqiya from Asahi Sonorama.







### MOUNTING NAI LENSES ON NIKON D100 AND D70 BODIES The information presented here is based on my experience. | by DAVE BARTH

The information presented here is based on my experience. Mounting older lenses to newer cameras must be done carefully to avoid damaging the body, the mount, or electrical contacts.

The venerable Nikon SLR lens mount dates from the Nikon F that went into production in 1959. Few camera companies can boast that most lenses built since 1959 will mount to their digital cameras in 2005, 46 years later, and shoot high quality photos.

Nearly all Automatic maximum aperture Indexed (AI) and Non-AI (NAI) lenses mount to the digital D100 and D70 bodies without any problems. AI and NAI lenses do not have a Central Processing Unit (CPU) in the lens, so the camera cannot meter with them. As a result, when using these lenses, the camera must be operated in manual exposure mode.

Some NAI lenses do not mount to these cameras because the rear rim of the NAI lens extends so far back that it interferes with the tiny slide switch at the 8 o'clock position to the lens mount as viewed when looking at the front of the camera. The best solution is to file down the slide switch so that the lens can fit against the mounting ring. It should be filed down only enough to allow NAI lenses to fit, but not so much that non-G AF lenses do not mate with the switch. G lenses do not touch the slide switch because they do not have an f-stop ring.

Filing the switch should be accomplished a small amount at a time, then attemp to mount the lens to check the clearance and repeating the process as necessary. Before filing, the lens mount must be covered so that dust and particles do not get on the low-pass filter that protects the Charge Coupled Device (CCD). After filing, it is a good idea to blow out the inside of the mount.

Operating the camera in manual mode is accomplished by doing the following:

- 1. If the lens has an f-stop ring, adjust it to the desired setting.
- 2. Rotate the function dial to M.

- 3. Rotate the main command dial to select the desired shutter speed. Speeds between 1/30 to 1/4000 & B can be selected.
- 4. Rotate the subcommand dial to select the desired aperture.
- 5. Focus and release the shutter to take the picture.

After the photo is taken, it can be displayed to determine if it should be retaken with different aperture and speed settings.

A good reason for shooting older lenses is that it allows you to use optics that you might not have in a CPU version, such as the 500mm/f8, or the manual focus perspective control and fisheye lenses. The D100 and D70 have a mirror-up capability that can be used to clean dust from the low-pass filter that protects the CCD. However, there is no capability to raise the mirror to shoot with the older, very deep fisheyes like the 8mm/f8.

The early 35mm/f3.5 Perspective Control lens announced in 1962 fits Nikon F bodies with a waist level, standard eye level, or a Photomic FTn finder. Earlier Photomics do not provide enough clearance for this lens. It will fit the D100 and D70 if the slide switch is filed down to allow it to mount. However, the PC screw is too long to pass beneath the prism housing. This means that perspective adjustments cannot be made with the screw at the top. For most architectural photos where the verticals converge toward the top of the photo, the button is at the bottom of the lens, and this works fine with these digital cameras. In a sense this lens is more useful with the digital bodies than it is with a Nikon F sporting a pre-FTn Photomic! Later versions of the PC lens have the screw farther forward on the barrel, allowing it to clear the prism. Unlike the 1962 version, these later models will rotate 360 degrees when mounted on the D100/D70.

Some lenses do not have an f-stop ring, such as the 500mm/f8 Mirror lens. In the manual mode, the f-stop setting is set to f8 and the desired shutter speed is set as described above.

I am pleased to announce that work continues on my new book on the Nikon Rangefinders 'almost' on schedule. The publishing industry is an inexact science and things seldom come off as originally planned. However, it appears that we will be very close. The initial target date was spring 2005, and this was set last May, allowing Hove Books and I approximately one year

to put it all together. We were hoping to have all copy in by February 28<sup>th</sup>, but that didn't quite happen. Here is where we are as I write this article on June19<sup>th</sup>.

Original plans called for a book of between 400~450 pages plus approximately 24~36 color pages showcasing the work of our resident photographic artist, Tony Hurst. All photography, except for a very few items in the first book and others that are not personally available to me, was to be completely redone! I am using practically nothing from the 1983 edition in the way of photos (less than 2%) plus I am re-writing the entire book with over 90% of the copy new and revised. Reshooting everything, plus adding much of what we have covered in the Journal these last 23 years, has been a monumental task. I knew it was going to be a lot of

going to be a lot of work, but once I got into it and realized what I needed to cover and illustrate, I saw that it was going to grow and grow, and it has. Our target is still around 500 pages, which I should get very close to. However, it looks like we will hit approximately 1,300~1,400 photos! This figure includes Tony's work as well as scanned photos of some very rare items sent to me by NHS members from all over the world! The remaining, at least 95%, will be done by me. With digital technology it can be done (I just can't imagine doing it with film as I did in 1983!), but it is still a huge task. Every photo that makes it into the book represents at least 10 that did not! Even after deleting totally unusable shots I still have filled

over 8 gigabytes worth of Compact Flashcards using a Nikon D1 and the 60mm/f2.8 Micro-Nikkor. Hours and hours of actual shooting followed by even more hours of bringing them up in PhotoShop, deleting bad ones then choosing amongst the remaining, is still followed by even more hours of laying out the chosen shots around the copy I have written and, finally, writing cap-

tions to match those 1,300+ photos! Without digital it would be at least a 3-year project and my film and processing costs would have been thousands of dollars. But we are close.

How close? By the time you receive this Journal, Hove should have at least 450 or more pages in their hands. The lenses, accessories and bodies are finished. What remains is history, production facts and information, etc. In other words, a lot of writing. I met with Ron Clark of Hove in London in early May and he had 242 'completed' pages (the lenses) for me to proof. I hand delivered the body section so he now has everything save for 30-40 pages of history, tables and introductions. Ron tells me that September is a 'reasonable' target at this time, so we are only a few months late.

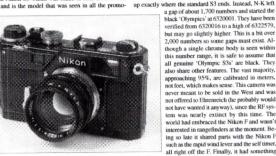
**Nikon** Rangefinder Compendium Robert Rotoloni Colour by Tony Hurst

Not bad for this type of business. Keep your fingers crossed for me.

Hove has a 'proposed' cover price of forty English pounds or approximately \$75~\$80 based on the current exchange rates, which is a very reasonable figure even if we exceed it by 10%. This is the last Journal I needed to put together while still doing the book (believe me, that hasn't been easy!), so hopefully I will get everything done on schedule. I have spoken to both Hove and their distributor and as soon as I know delivery dates and prices including shipping, I will have it in these pages. For now I give you what the cover will 'probably' be. Thank you, RJR.

### THE NIKON S3 'OLYMPIC'

The serial numbers for the 'Olympics' do not pick up exactly where the standard S3 ends. Instead, N-K left



tional literature that I am aware of. However, there is another version of the S3 that was never really promoted in the West nor have I been able to uncover any Japanese literature specific to it. Although never given any special model name by the factory, including that which collect tors have assigned to it these last 30 years, it is a signifi cant enough variation to warrant its own section. It was made as one batch of 2,000 cameras in 1964, nearly three rears after the original S3 was discontinued. Although

years after the original S3 was discontinue rumors remain that it was specifically re-quested by Japanese press photographers to cover a certain event, this may just be a myth that can never be proven. However, it arrived on the scene in time for that major event whose name has been inextricably linked to whose name has been inextricably linked to it ever since. It is what we call the black 'Olympic S3'!

Factory records show that the last regular issue Nikon S3 was produced in October 1960 as final batch number 7 consisting of ces. Then two additional batches of 2,010 pieces. Then two additional batches of 2,000 each, numbers 8 and 9, are shown as 'cancelled' and were never produced. Suddenly, in April 1964, a 10° batch of 2,000 cameras is listed! This 10° batch, which arrived just before the start of the summer Olympics in Japan, is that which makes up

also share other features. The vast majority approaching 95%, are calibrated in meters, not feet, which makes sense. This camera was ever meant to be sold in the West and was reich (he probably would not offered to Ehrenricich (he probably would not have wanted it anyway), since the RF sys-tem was nearly extinct by this time. The world had embraced the Nikon F and wasn't interested in rangefinders at the moment. Be-ing so late it shared parts with the Nikon F such as the rapid wind lever and the self timer, all right off the F. Finally, it had something else the standard S3 lacked; a Titanium foil shutter.

The 'Olympic S3' is an interesting variation much sought after by collectors today. Since 2,000 were made mon' black Nikon RF, if that word can it is the most common black riskon ler; it that who can be used. But it is also unique in that it was a special run yet it was updated to the latest hardware and not just assembled from leftover parts. Every Nikon collection should have one and, unlike other black models in the line, it is not overly difficult to obtain today.



Here are a couple of sample pages to give you an idea of how I am covering items in this edition. We have gone with a much larger format (7.5x10) which allows for more and larger photos than before. I have used this additional space to cover 'everything' in much greater detail. The final layout will vary a bit from what you see here, but this is very close. With the larger page size and two and a half times more pages, I have nearly ten times the space available than I had 23 years ago. The result being this edition will share very little with the 1983 version. The bodies, lenses and accessories will be broken down to finer detail with more variations pictured and discussed and even, in some cases, given their own chapters. For example, the 8-digit Nikon S (both types) have their own sections and this is also done for such items as the '906' Ms, the synched MS, the S2E and the Dummies. Lenses are also discussed in finer detail as are the accessories. In addition, items never covered in the 1983 edition are addressed this time around. This includes the screw mount prototypes, 'Mother One' and the other 21 'Original Prototypes', the SP2 and SPX, the Black S and the new S3 and SP. Lens variations and types have been added such as the 50/f1.8, 50/ f1.0 and 35/f1.4 prototypes, the Black 1000 and extended coverage of the Stereo-Nikkor. As for accessories, the S250 motor has been added as well as the Periscope Attachment, with extended coverage of the Reflex Housings and the Bellows. I have tried to cover 'everything' (but of course that is really not possible) and I hope that the finished product will be a truly comprehensive guide for the collector and worth your consideration.

### THE NIKON S3M 'HALF-FRAME'

camera, the S3M. If the Nikon One was N-K's first at tempt at designing a rangefinder camera, then the S3M was their last contribution to the genre. Although the SP would actually be made after the S3M was gone, this odel can be considered the final Nikon rangefinder 35 design.

Even as the new Nikon F was being introduced, N-K had this camera on the drawing boards. It was first re-leased in April of 1960 and it was imported into the US by Ehrenreich, Although there are probably others, I can only find the S3M in the October 2, 1961 price list. It is Item #CA1080 and is described as such; "An S3 camera. specially adapted for 18x24 single frame photography Takes 72 pictures on a standard 36-exposure roll Viewfinder provides correct viewing field for 35mm,

50mm and 105mm lenses Other are the same as the S3 The S3M is equipped with an electric motor drive taking single, 2, 3 or burst exposures up to 72 frames at the rate of 4 per second. CA1080..Nikon S3M camera body only, Satin Black Finish, complete with \$72 electric motor-drive, battery cas and connecting cord...\$449.00' I am sure no comment on the price is needed!

What N-K did was take the

basic S3 and added two features to come up with the S3M. It is identical to the S3 in all respects

save these two design changes. Unlike the S3 that had all three etched framelines visible at once, the S3M uses a sliding lever on the back of the camera near the viewfinder eyepiece to individually key in each frame, one at a time Like the S3 they have parallax marks but unlike the S3 the finder is much less crowded and less prone to flare Also each frameline is identified as to focal length. It is a ich more pleasant finder to use and is a feature that N K should have given to the standard S3. These framelines are not projected like those in the SP, therefore the frosted

The second feature makes the S3M unique amongs Nikon cameras, for it is the first, and only, production half-frame Nikon ever made! It is Nikon's version of the Leica 72 but they went them one better. Like all Nikon ing with the SP, the S3M could be mo

ready adapted, for this camera was really meatorized use. It comes with its own S72 motor (although any S36 could also be used) capable of 4FPS out of the box. It is purported that 12FPS are possible using larger battery packs but I have not been able to verify this.

Although it was only listed in black by Nikon USA.

y were also made in chrome, and not all are motorized. Based on our current serial number knowledge (56 recorded cameras!), the ratio of black to chrome bodies is nearly 50/50. As of publication, I have 29 in black and 27 in chrome in my database. Therefore, it appears that neither finish can be called rarer than the other with nearly 25% of the entire production run accounted for. According to factory records only 195 Nikon S3M cameras were produced! And we have documented 56 of them! The code for the S3M was 26F1MB and it was assigned the

serial number block from corded numbers range from 6600002 to a high of 6600223 so some gaps exist in the numbers as only 195 were produced. The vast majority are calibrated in meters, not feet. Nearly every black body has been found either with its motor or, if missing, already drilled for a motor. Cona motor and not drilled! Does this mean that only black

that at least half of the production (the chrome bodies) were not? If so then that would mean that only 100 or so S72 motors were actually produced, not 195, making it rarer than the camera. That would also mean that only about 100 Nikon S3M 'sets' ever existed. Not only is the S3M the most unique of all the Nikon rangefinders but, based on production, also the rarest, with a complete set

with proper motor even rarer.

The S3M was the final Nikon rangefinder to be released, yet both the S3 and SP were still available at its introduction. The S3 was gone soon after but the SP remained in production for at least another four years Therefore, the design that was the inspiration for the last three models outlived them all—which is only another reason why the Nikon SP is to this day considered the

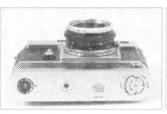


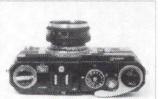


Nikon S3M 6600067 with matching S72 Motor No. 94978. Not purchased as a set (the body was found in the USA, the boxed motor in Australia the author had them adapted in the late eighties. Like most chrome bodies, this one was not originally drilled for a motor! This is the correct S72 motor for the frame counter goes up to 72 exposures as it should. Unlike the earlier all black version, which really looks best on a black body, the chrome motors compliment both black and chrome bodies and are also less prone to wear. Lower right is black S3M 6600064, so close in nur appear to have been made in nearly identical quantities, splitting the to tal production 50/50.

On this and the facing page is chrome







# NHS-CON10.... SEE YOU IN VIENNA!! PLANS CALL FOR A MAY 21, 2006 MEETING

During my recent visit to England to meet with Hove Books I was also able to see Hans Ploegmakers on Sunday at the London camera show. We discussed NHS-Con10 and his upcoming visit to Vienna where he and co-chairman, Uli Koch, were to attend the Westlicht Auction and finalize some of the events planned for the meeting next May. They planned to actually visit the sites we as a group would see and time how long each would take. They also planned to look into hotels, restaurants and other items of importance so that NHS-Con10 would come off without a hitch. Their report follows and, as you can see, much has already been determined and dates have been finalized. Although it is a long list of events, not everyone will want to participate in

the entire selection because of time constraints, so each event will be voluntary. It is hoped that most attendees will be able to be with us the entire week, but it is understandable that some cannot. Hans and Uli are preparing a 4-page information sheet for all who will attend as well as a city map! There will also be information on getting from the airport to downtown. A Convention fee has not yet been determined since some costs need

to be investigated, but it will be announced in NHS-89!

At this time I need to ask of you the following: Even though some have previously contacted me about attending it was too early to begin making a list. Therefore, I ask that anyone who plans on attending NHS-Con10... PLEASE LET ME KNOW! You do not need to send any funds right now, but we need to begin putting together a list of members so we can make our plans. Let me know you are coming, if your spouse or family member will join you, when you think you will arrive, and which hotel type you are interested in. Once you are on my list you will receive information in a more timely manner than waiting for the Journal. SO PLEASE CONTACT ME EVEN IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO IN THE PAST! Thank you. RJR And now for Hans' and Uli's report:

Dear Fellow Nikon Historical Society Members,

Uli Koch and I have just returned from a visit to Vienna where we have begun to organize NHS-Con10. We have made plans for a lot of very interesting highlights, not only for you but also for the wives.

The Convention will be held on Sunday the 21st of May

**2006** in the Westlicht Museum in Vienna. For nearly a week, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will offer interesting visits and sightseeing tours for you and your wives. For the ladies we will have special trips planned for the day before and the day of the Convention. Arlette Ploegmakers and Ursula and Daniela Koch will be the guides for these outings.

The Convention will have very interesting speeches ranging from 15 to 20 minutes in length and we will have several highlights!

You will have the opportunity to visit one of the most interesting museums of photographic items in Europe. There will be a special showcase with very rare Nikon items at the Conven-

tion. On Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> there will be the famous Westlicht Auction (No. 9) in the rooms of the Westlicht Museum. On Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be another highlight: We are invited by the famous Nikon collector, Dietmar Machold, to visit his castle where we will be able to see his world famous Nikon collection!

We are sure this will be an event you will never forget. Vienna is a wonderfully photogenic city with palaces, chuches, castles and

very interesting museums. On Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> we will make a short trip to the famous castle at Schonbrunn in Vienna where the last Austrian emperor lived and we will visit the Stephansdom, a large cathedral in the middle of Vienna. The next day, Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will take a day trip to the gorgeous Abbey of Melk, where we will take a 2-hour boat tour on the Donau River where old castles and abbeys can be seen from the boat. We will be able to visit the historic village of Durnstein. That evening we will have dinner at the beautiful Kunsthistorisches Museum in the center of Vienna.

On Friday we will have time to go sightseeing and shopping or whatever else you please in Vienna, and in the evening there will be the opportunity to view the auction lots. At 6:30PM we will have a 'Cheese & Wine' party in the Westlicht Museum where you will have the chance to taste Dutch cheeses and Austrian wines, and this will be the official start of NHS-Con10.

The program for the ladies will be announced in the next NHS Journal (#89-Sept.), as well as more details on the Convention and the fee for the meeting. At the end of July you will be able to find more detailed information at Uli's website:

www.nikon-f.de where you will find a link to NHS-Con10.

You may join us on whichever day you are able to, but you have to **tell us by no later than January 1, 2006** when you will be arriving.

In order to guarantee yourself a hotel room, be sure you book as early as possible. For your convenience we have reserved 10 rooms in a modest hotel, with the rooms starting at EUR 50 (\$70), with the option of a shower or bathroom. In a middle class hotel we have reserved 5 single and 20 double rooms from about EUR 55 (\$72) for the single rooms and about EUR 80 (\$105) for the double rooms. This price depends on how many members will stay at this hotel. Nice rooms with a bath or shower, TV and phone. The price includes a continental breakfast.

We have also reserved 40 rooms in an upper class hotel just around the corner from the Westlicht Museum. This hotel is a first class establishment and fully booked around the year. The price for a single room will be EUR 106 (\$138) and for a double it is EUR 135 (\$175). This price also includes a first class continental breakfast. (All prices are based on current exchange rates and are approximate..RJR)

All three hotels are within a 3 to 10 minute slow walk either from the Westbahnhof railway station or the Westlicht Museum. If you plan to visit Vienna and enjoy the Convention, <u>PLEASE LET US KNOW NOW OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!</u> Send an email or give us a phone call.

WARNING: 2006 is the Year of Mozart and the hotels will be fully booked in Vienna between May and July!!

Hans Ploegmakers....email to ploegmakers@talensfoto.nl Phone: 31 15 25 62 43 6

Uli Koch.....email to uli koch@t-online.de

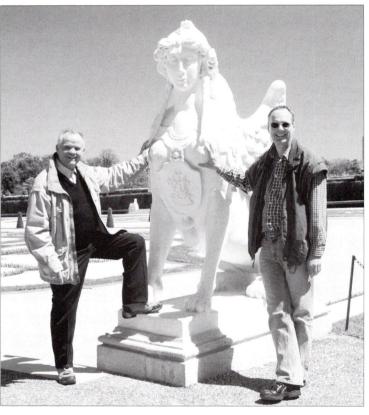
R. Rotoloni..rotoloni@msn.com or r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net
We will make sure you have a hotel room! But you must
do your part. As soon as you are sure you will attend and know
your arrival date you MUST contact us! We will let you know
more details and inform you about reserving your room at the
special rates.

I there are any special requests, such as attending a concert or ballet, please let us know. We do have contacts to ask about these special events and of course, we will let you know about any special events planned for the celebration of the Mozart year.

Hans & Uli

### I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN VIENNA, MAY 2006





次回コンベンションのハイライトの1つに、ディエトマー・マッホールド氏所有の莫大

なニコンコレクションの見学会があります。コンベンション後の月曜日に、マッホール

ド氏所有の古城へ招待してくれる事となりました。マッホールド氏の古城ツアーが含ま

れますコンベンションに是非ご参加くださいませ!

Our co-chairmen, Hans Ploegmakers (l) and Uli Koch, 'checking' things out in Vienna in May. They plan a well organized and full convention and a good time for all!



### NEW! ROBERT ROTOLONI....r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net NEW!

last issue are in bold italics!	will run an updated list each issue of the NIKON rmed. Any addresses <u>added or changed</u> since the [his listing has been updated as of June 30, 2005telscope@europa.com
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## odds, n ends

### TOKYO 'GOODIES'

While roaming around Tokyo in February with my wife and Stephen Gandy, we many camera stores, large and small. Prices were a bit lower than before so I decided I'd look for interesting accessories. At Akasaka Camera (close to the hotel that headquartered NHS-Con9 last year) I found some nice pieces, at least for me as a user. The Nikon 50/1.4 hoods are expensive and prone to falling off so the discovery of a machined hood with a 43mm thread and nice 'cross drilling' for lightening the weight was a good find. It does look like something used in the food manufacturing industry, but it works well and is remarkably rigid. The other 'necessity' was 50mm back caps in aluminum, not cheap at \$26 each, but have you priced the originals lately? At least it does protect that back element in your bag.





Above..No, it is not an original 21 finder. Somebody in Japan is making 'replicas' of several of the more elusive finders. There were a couple of variations of the 21 finder, this one in all black and another one with the chrome front surround. I liked the looks of the all black one better. They also had a replica 'Mini-35 finder', but the original was less than useful and at \$150, the replica was no improvement. Right..Hoods and back caps...the back caps are made of a thin alloy and look like they have been 'deep drawn' and then machined. Probably by someone who makes the little cans with clear caps that you can find at 'notions' outlets. They should be cheap to make and even anodize black. And look at those hoods. They are strong and light weight and not the snap-on type so easy to dislodge. These screw in. They look good on the 50/1.4 on the black dial \$2.



