

**A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MARCH 31, 2007**

**NHS-95**



**NHS-CON11~VANCOUVER~APRIL 2008!!!**  
**NIKON JOURNAL**



**THIS ISSUE**  
**PG. 1..HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY**  
**THE NIKON SP TURNS 50!**  
**PG. 9..A VERY SPECIAL S2!**

**ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**  
**EDITOR/PUBLISHER**



# THE NIKON JOURNAL

VOLUME TWENTY FOUR – NUMBER TWO – MARCH 31, 2007

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### **NHS-96 DEADLINE!**

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-96, is JUNE 1, 2007. Please get all correspondence and articles to me by then so I can get our Journal out to you on schedule. Thank you. RJR.

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue #95...somehow these big numbers are starting to get a little scary. I think I’m getting old!

We kick off a celebration of the 50th birthday of the legendary Nikon SP in this issue. I hope to continue coverage of various aspects of the SP throughout the year, so look for more info in the next issue. If you have anything to contribute, just let me know. The SP is ‘THE FLAGSHIP’ of the entire Nikon RF era and we just can’t ignore its birthday. Can you believe it has been 50 years?

We also have coverage on page 9 of a special Nikon S2 recently found at auction here in the US that turned out to be a real rarity. On page 12 Chris Sap of Belgium illustrates an interesting variation of the Nikon F4 he recently found on eBay. Advertised as a ‘NASA-F4’, it turns out that the description is accurate. As a matter of fact, Chris just verified it while in Japan on a visit to the Nikon factory at Sendai. And speaking of Sendai..A group of NHS members from Europe and the US had a memorable trip to Tokyo to attend the annual Matsuya show (mentioned frequently in the Journal), and accompany Chris Sap to visit Nikon Sendai where they were shown the production lines. See page 18 for coverage of their journey.

On page 16 Dave Barth discusses the paperwork he owns for a camera he does not own. This ties in with something other members have brought up to me in the past. Who has inspection and warranty papers for Nikon RF gear they do not own? And could another member possibly own the item? Let’s start an exchange of numbers and see what happens.

As you can see on the cover, NHS-Con11 has been set for April 18-19, 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada! Show chairman, Mike Symons is already hard at work. Check out page 15 for the current information.

Member Stephen Gandy of ‘Cameraquest’ fame is the new owner of [www.rangefinderforum.com](http://www.rangefinderforum.com), one of the most popular rangefinder forums on the Internet. There has always been a Nikon RF section, but now it is listed on the homepage and you can also get to it on our NHS website, as there is a link. And make sure you keep looking in on our site. Webmaster Fred Krughoff is constantly upgrading it and he has more plans for the future. So now you have two forums concerned with all aspects of the Nikon rangefinder system. Please visit both as often as you can. There is a tremendous amount on interplay on both sites. Even if you don’t add your comments, just reading what others are saying can be very interesting indeed!

Finally, I am still getting letters and emails asking me about my book and what is happening with Hove. Well, here is the latest! **Hove Books is no longer!** They went into liquidation in mid November to the surprise and dismay of their many creditors, including a stable of authors owed royalties, some for as long as 5 years! They really pulled a fast one! They are actually still in business under the name ‘Steinyng Photo Books’, as it is the same people running it. If you need any of the books on their website you would do better with Petra Kellers and Ken Morton at [www.camerabooks.com](http://www.camerabooks.com), honest people to deal with! In the meantime I have acquired a London lawyer to look after my material and it appears he will be able to get it all back. He feels confident he can retrieve it and get it published. As I know more, so will you! RJR

# A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE NIKON SP

## FIFTY YEARS YOUNG.....1957-2007

BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

It is hard for me to believe that the introduction of the Nikon SP in the world press occurred in September 1957, nearly 50 years ago! Although we are still about 5 months from that date as you read this, I thought that I would celebrate the SP's half-century mark throughout the year. And since this is the first issue of the Journal dated 2007 why not start now. The next three Journals will carry further articles on the SP, since it is such an important camera and there is a great deal to talk about. I will try to cover various aspects of the SP story in as much detail as I possibly can and I welcome your feedback and thoughts as well. So join me in celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of what is still the most famous and influential Nikon rangefinder model. Although the Model One started it all and the S3M finished the era with a true oddity, the SP is still the most recognized Nikon amongst collectors and the general public.

When did work on the SP begin and how did Nippon Kogaku make such a leap in design from the previous S2 to their new flagship model? Because they had to!

When the S2 was released Nikon felt they had a real winner, and they did. However, design work began on the S2 back in mid 1953 with the first working prototypes ready by June of that year. The NK designers broke with the previous models in a big way coming up with an entirely new design that shared nothing but the lens-mount and focusing wheel with the earlier Nikon I/M/S bodies. So upgrading from that earlier design was a major influence on their thinking. The previous models were no longer viable in competition with the re-emerging German industry and had to be discarded in favor of something that could compete with the new West German Contax IIa and the Leica IIIf. Thus their thinking was again influenced by other available designs. They came up with a camera that out did

their competition in many ways. The S2 had rapid wind and rewind levers and a full 1:1 life-size range/viewfinder image. Features neither German camera had. The S2 was faster to load and faster to shoot with than the Leica or Contax and at its release in December 1954 was a much more modern camera than either the Leica IIIf or Contax. But, Nippon Kogaku, as well as the rest of the industry, had been caught off guard by the release of a totally new camera the previous September. With the arrival of the Leica M3 everything changed! Although the M3 still made you crawl to rewind the film and loading was as archaic as it had always been, it did have a rapid wind lever, a non-rotating shutter speed dial, a new bayonet mount eliminating one of Nikon's advantages, and the most gorgeous rangefinder image in the world! Suddenly, Nikon's 'modern' S2 no longer outshone the current Leica model, although it was superior to the Contax IIa. All that design work and time spent to leave their older models behind and leap forward with a truly modern usable camera suddenly looked inadequate. The S2 was a giant leap for Nikon, but not good enough. The Leica M3 showed the world

how a rangefinder 35 could be a dream to focus. And wasn't the rangefinder image what it was really all about? Designers knew that RFs would not be able to hold off forever the superior viewing image of the 35mm SLRs that would inevitably arrive. Leica saw this and came up with an RF system that would survive into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The finder system of the S2 would not. N-K had addressed what they thought were the shortcomings of the Leica: knob wind and rewind; slow loading, dual shutter speed dials; separate range and viewfinder windows; a tiny peep-sight and an image much less than 1:1 life-size. And they were right. Their camera compared very well with the IIIf and was much easier to



how a rangefinder 35 could be a dream to focus. And wasn't the rangefinder image what it was really all about? Designers knew that RFs would not be able to hold off forever the superior viewing image of the 35mm SLRs that would inevitably arrive. Leica saw this and came up with an RF system that would survive into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The finder system of the S2 would not. N-K had addressed what they thought were the shortcomings of the Leica: knob wind and rewind; slow loading, dual shutter speed dials; separate range and viewfinder windows; a tiny peep-sight and an image much less than 1:1 life-size. And they were right. Their camera compared very well with the IIIf and was much easier to

use and also far superior to their own Model S. However, unknown to them, they had used the wrong Leica to out do with the result that the S2 was a great camera, but about 6 months behind the technology curve. Now what to do?

Fortunately, the designers now running N-K were very forward looking people and they had learned a great deal from the S2 project. They now knew how to move forward quickly and to discard older designs when necessary. They looked upon the M3 as an incentive to do even better as they had looked upon the IIIf. They immediately knew they now had to come up with something to compete with the M3. In addition, Joseph Ehrenreich had arrived on the scene in December 1953, and his insights into what pros wanted and his huge influence on N-K also stimulated work to begin on a successor to the S2 only a year or so after its release. But those NK designers were more forward looking that was once thought. Not only did they respond to the M3 and go to work quickly to come up with a comparable camera, they went the Germans one better. The design project for the new Nikon was not for one camera, but two. Beginning in late 1955 to early 1956, work began on the Nikon SP that would compete head on with the Leica M3. However, sharing the same designers and many of the same components, they also began work on the first Nikon SLR, the model F! Both the SP and F were on the drawing boards at the same time, thus their many similarities. Even though N-K felt it had to compete with the M3 and would with the new SP, it knew that the SLR was the real future of professional 35mm photography. In this respect they were far ahead of both Leitz and Zeiss and were proven to be absolutely correct in their thinking for it was the following decade of the sixties that saw the

### THE SHAPE ON PAGE 4



The unique shape you see here—and on page 4—is a symbol of the most exciting new products to be introduced in recent photographic history. Watch for the full announcement soon.

new shutter design with all speeds on one non-rotating dial like the M3, a better rapid wind mechanism, an improved method of choosing flash synch, a new self-timer, and, finally, an entirely new rangefinder design. So the new SP could load and unload faster than the M3 and run circles around it when it came time to rewind the film, but how did it cope with the M3 finder. Well, they went Leica one better, but did not quite reach the level of focusing ease of the M3. They now had parallax corrected, moving coupled framelines for 4 lenses (50, 85, 105, 135) and an additional sight for 2 lenses (28, 35) which became their major advertising theme. The SP could be used with 6 lenses before accessory finders were needed. The M3 could only do this with 3 lenses. However, Nikon never did reach Leica's ease of focusing and the M3's bright, contrasty and beautifully defined rf spot would never be duplicated.

The SP actually proved to be the last rangefinder design from NK. Others models followed but with only variations in the finders used (simpler with less features and no moving framelines!), while the rest of the camera was really the same. Why? Because that SLR they had on the boards at the same time eventually proved much more viable than the RF models and NK put all of its resources into the Nikon F. The SP marked the high point of rangefinder design and technology at Nippon Kogaku, but it also turned out to be its 'swan's song'. More next issue.

*This is how Nikon Inc. under Joseph Ehrenreich went about announcing the imminent arrival of a new Nikon model to 'take its place alongside the S2'! Rather tongue in cheek since those inside the organization had to know that a far superior camera was coming soon. The 'Nikon Merchandiser' was an internal Nikon Inc. publication aimed at dealers, not the public. This issue, dated August 1957, was where the SP was first hinted at. On the cover (left) a small box with the SP window (top) says to look on page 4, which was the back cover (right). No mention of the letters 'SP', just this enticing full page ad that says very little but leaves a lot to the imagination. Remember, this is the first hint of the SP that the US dealers saw.*

**NIKON** merchandiser  
published monthly by Nikon Incorporated, 251 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. · Oregon 4-7970

VOLUME 1 NUMBER IV AUGUST 1957

**Life Buys The Nikon Fisheye Camera**

A special Nikon camera designed to cover a 180° field of view vertically and horizontally has been purchased by Life Magazine.

The camera, called the 'Fisheye' because its lens is designed to 'see' as a fisheye sees, was developed and built by Nippon Kogaku of Tokyo. The 'Fisheye' lens was first used on an instrument called an auroson spectrograph, built for International Geophysical Year research.

This unusual lens, which is 16.3mm in focal length, has three apertures: f/8, f/11, and f/16. Shutter speeds of the camera range from 1/250 to 1/2000 seconds. Because of the phenomenal wide coverage of the lens, the camera needs no viewfinder. It takes 12 circular pictures on 120 roll film, has three built-in filters, a single-stroke wind-back film advance crank, and an automatic exposure counter.

The Fisheye first claimed public attention when it was used to photograph the U.S. Senate labor racketeering hearings, with star witness Teamster boss Dave Beck on the stand. Life Magazine then purchased the equipment and has used it on a number of assignments since.

Dealers should inform interested customers that the Fisheye is available only on special order.

**AN EDITORIAL WHAT'S AHEAD IN '35'**

Sales figures can sometimes tell a story, but it may not be the whole story. For example, healthy sales figures for 35mm cameras tend to hide the fact that the needs of camera users are constantly changing.

Nevertheless, those changing needs are as important as the daily cash count from the register.

Let's face it, when a customer pays the price for a fine '35' he wants quality, plus all the versatility, handling speed, and reliability he can get. Yet, although today's '35' is already a snappy performer, both amateurs and pros are demanding even more speed and versatility from their cameras. For the spirit of 35mm photography is one of 'presence'. The picture must suggest, not what has happened but what is happening.

Exactly what are photographers demanding?

For one thing, they want to be able to realize from their cameras the full potential of interchangeable lenses. Until now, 35mm cameras — their viewfinders and rangefinders — have been designed primarily around the 50mm normal lens.

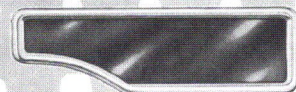
**THE SHAPE ON PAGE 4**

The unique shape you see here—and on page 4—is a symbol of the most exciting new products to be introduced in recent photographic history. Watch for the full announcement soon.

Yet, many people find themselves using the longer lenses — 85, 105, and 135 — and the wide-angle lenses of 28mm and 35mm focal lengths, as often as they use the normal. They want — and the camera designers will have to deliver — a camera which will let them change lenses and be ready to shoot quickly, with a minimum of fumbling.

Another demand is for faster camera operation. Certainly the Nikon S-2 is the fastest handling '35' in the field today. Yet the demands are for even faster handling. Cameramen are looking for ways to make 5 exposures in the time it now takes to make one. They want more than eye to capture that fleeting moment — the picture — without needless camera mechanics. (Continued on Page 2)

**VERY SOON  
A GREAT  
NEW NIKON  
WILL TAKE ITS  
PLACE ALONGSIDE  
THE S-2**



destined to break  
all high-priced-35  
sales records!

**Nikon** INCORPORATED  
 Cable Address: NIKAMERA  
 251 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y. • OREGON 4-7970

September 20, 1957

Dear Nikon Owner:

A great new '35' is born ... the Nikon SP. You who own and use Nikon equipment can best appreciate the significance of this news.

The new Nikon SP brings with it all the S-2 features, from fast handling speed to superb quality and construction; in short, the performance advantages that you have come to know and expect from Nikon. Over and above the S-2 features, the new Nikon SP introduces advantages that overshadow any 35 mm camera that you can think of.

First and foremost, is a built-in Universal Viewfinder System, which provides the precise viewing field for any Nikkor Lens -- from 28 mm wide angle through 135 mm telephoto -- without accessory finders. Add to this the other SP innovations, and you see the exciting promise of this great new '35'.


As if that isn't enough, the new Nikon SP accepts two new accessories -- a Nikon shutter-coupled Exposure Meter -- and the Nikon rapid-fire Electric Motor Drive. Sneak previewed at the International Photographic Exposition, this compact, versatile drive was greeted with a swell of enthusiasm that exceeded even the manufacturer's most optimistic dreams.

The enclosed brochure enumerates the features of the new Nikon SP. Yet words and pictures could never fully convey the significance of the SP. The best, and only way to judge how much this instrument will contribute to your work, is to see it for yourself.

Starting October 1st, Nikon dealers will demonstrate the new SP. Be among the first to see and try it. You're in for the surprise of your photographic life.

Sincerely,  
 NIKON INC.  
*Joseph C. Abbott*  
 Joseph C. Abbott  
 Sales Manager

Enc: Nikon SP Brochure  
 Nikon Price List

U. S. DISTRIBUTORS  PRODUCTS

A selection from the 'Nikon Merchandiser' and other internal literature. Above the letter from Joe Abbott is dated Sept. 20, 1957 & states that starting Oct. 1st Nikon dealers will be demonstrating the new SP. "No SPs on the Shelf" is from the Feb. 1958 issue. Note they are 'flying' them in to fill orders! The Motor Drive was big news and they played it up constantly. The cover of the Dec. 1957 issue and also within (bottom L&R). Note that the camera and motor appear to have been in stock as of at least Sept. 1957, and in the stores by October.

Nikon Merchandiser

## NIKON COVERS WORLD SERIES



The 1957 World Series games between the Milwaukee Braves and the New York Yankees was pictured by Nikon equipment. Games in County Stadium in Milwaukee were photographed by lensmen of the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL using Nikon S2 cameras with a battery of Nikkor lenses, including 135mm telephotos. United Press organization, which covered games in both Milwaukee and in New York's Yankee Stadium, used the SP, 500mm telephoto with reflex housing and motor for some of their pictures. Nikon-made pictures were published in the hundreds of UP wireservice newspapers all over the country. It's just one more evidence of Nikon's acceptance as the standard for newswork excellence!

Nikon Merchandiser

## "NO SP'S ON THE SHELF"

New York, Feb. 5 - Telephone and mail reports from Nikon dealers in five major cities appear to emphasize a single theme, namely, that there are "no SP's on the shelf" anywhere.

Camera and lens orders received by the Nikon Inc. sales department have become heavier than ever since the SP's introduction last fall. Demand for Nikon cameras far outstripped supply after October 1957, with Nikon SP's practically zooming across sales counters without ever reaching display shelves.

Nikon Inc. president Joseph Ehrenreich, reached just before he left for a trip to Japan, said of the situation "Frankly, though we were optimistic about the SP's success, we simply did not expect the avalanche of orders that has poured in since its premiere. However, we are going to the trouble of paying to have Nikon SP's flown in from the factory to fill the stacks of orders - with the result that the delivery picture has steadily become brighter."

From an original six to ten-week delay, the back order situation has improved to the current one-week to ten-day schedule recently reported by Joseph Abbott, Nikon sales manager. Latest word is that shipments from the factory are rising at a healthy rate.

# NIKON merchandiser

published monthly by Nikon Incorporated, 251 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. • OREGON 4-7970

VOLUME I NUMBER VII NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1957

## NIKON MOTOR DRIVE PROVED TOP PRO TOOL IN USE THROUGHOUT NATION

The new Nikon Motor Drive attachment has produced such spectacular results since its introduction in October, 1957 that it promises to become the most important professional tool marketed in recent photographic history.

Reports received from magazines and newspapers throughout the country show that their photographers have taken pictures with the motor (attached to the Nikon SP) never before possible with a 35mm camera.

The Saginaw News, a pioneer in 35mm news photography said: "The camera (Nikon SP with motor drive) gave us results we have been trying to get for years. - - Our football coverage of the Michigan State University game with Michigan was the best we have ever had thanks to the new SP with motor drive. . ."

The St. Petersburg Times wrote: "The SP is great - - the motor is the nuts - - wouldn't want anything else - - up to this writing hasn't missed an exposure."


Another comment from a top wire service said: - - "I would call the Nikon SP the best sequence camera yet

### THE CAMERA BUSINESS

Joseph Ehrenreich, President of Nikon Inc., Sums Up 1957 Picture, Offers 1958 Outlook

I want to extend the heartiest of season's greetings to Dealers everywhere on behalf of the entire Nikon Inc. organization. I am confident, despite the perennial gloom and doom boys, that this will be another successful holiday sales period.

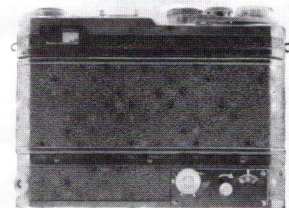
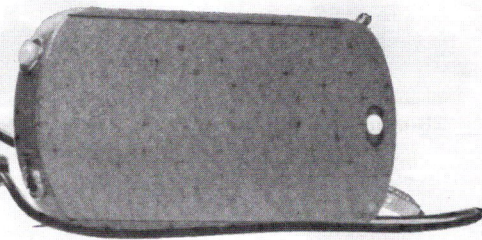
How does the camera business look? Certainly the sales outlook is optimistic. Interest in cameras is at a peak - even with sharp com-



*It offers built-in universal viewfinder for six lenses,  
electric-motor accessory for rapid-sequence shooting*



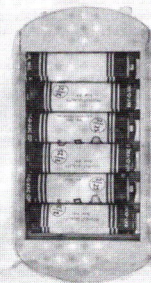
**Optional** electric motor-drive replaces standard back as shown, operates from six penlight cells in power pack (right). Motor may be operated semiautomatically or set for continuous firing.



**Rear-view** of motor-drive unit on camera; controls and film-counter dial at lower right.

## NIKON SP: A TOP 35MM SYSTEM IS REDESIGNED

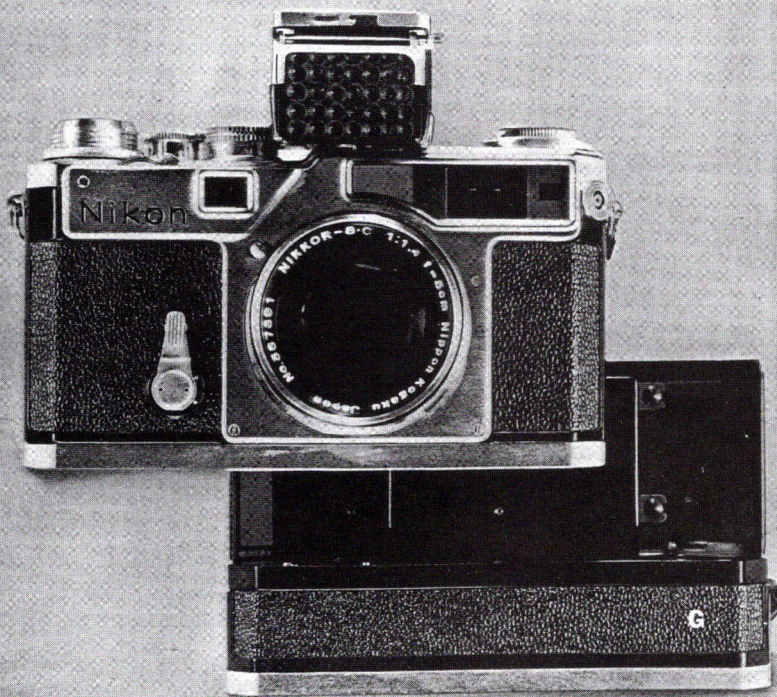
by MAYNARD FRANK WOLFE and HERBERT KEPPLER



**Six** penlight cells nest inside a lightweight metal power pack.

109

*Both Popular and Modern Photography announced and tested the new SP and its revolutionary motor drive in their September 1957 issues. Taking into account the fact that such a cover date would have to have been printed in August (Magazines did not have such advanced dates as they do today. You generally received your September issue in that very month.) and time was needed to test the equipment, photograph it and write the copy, would mean the testers would have received their SP & motor in July or early August! Note that both magazines (Pop Photo at top and Modern to the left) use 'prototype' motors for their tests! Power outlets on the rear corner and leatherette all the way across the front. No motor numbers are visible. Pop Photo used SP #6200018, Modern #6200014 and U.S. Camera #6200016! Bodies #1, 4, and 10 were used in Factory literature. Body #20 is in Wright's manual. So the Nikon SP must have been in America by July or August!?*



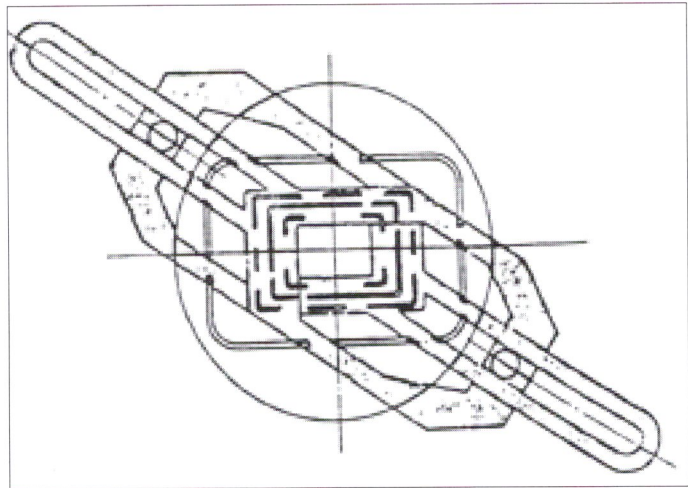


*Did the New SP evolve from the S2? There is a definite resemblance as illustrated in this series of photos. Overall body size and shape, layout of top mounted controls, focusing wheel, strap lugs, interior layout and method of loading, are very similar. Enough that anyone using both cameras would not be confused. However, inside the SP was a very different animal. A totally new shutter design allowing for a single non-rotating speed dial and a completely new and unique range/viewfinder system were used. Similar? Yes. The same? No. The SP was much more advanced.*

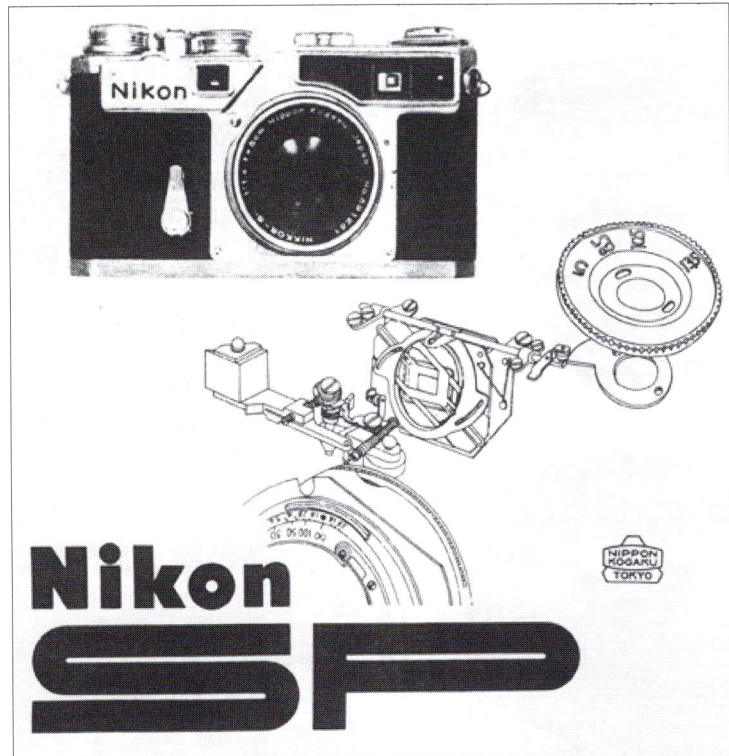


# 6

Besides the new electric motor drive, the promotional literature devoted a great deal of space to the revolutionary finder system of the new SP. Much of the material was quite technical in that it went to great measures to illustrate what was going on inside your new SP as you focused. The projected & parallax corrected framelines were new to Nikon and meant to compete directly with the Leica M3. Unlike the M3, however, the frames were not automatic as there had been no re-design of the lensmount, but keyed in at will by rotating the selector wheel under the rewind lever. This allowed NK to keep their mount and not obsolete their earlier lenses. They could have abandoned their Contax style bayonet for a new system but was it worth it? Their selector wheel solved the problem. Besides, maybe they knew that the RF system was not to be for that much longer?



With Lens Field Selector set at "5", you see only the 50mm field of view. Setting the Selector to "8.5" adds the 85mm field, etc.



Nikon Merchandise

February 1958

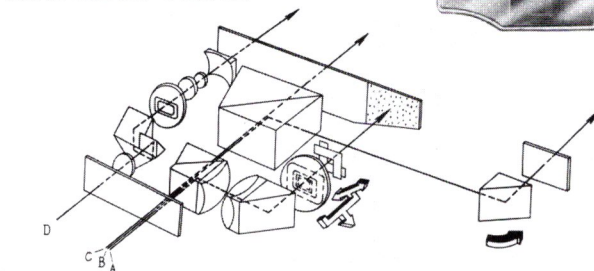
## NIKONery ... news of Nikon products

### THE STORY BEHIND THE SHAPE - THE NIKON SP UNIVERSAL VIEWFINDER SYSTEM

The answer to your customer's question "Why the distinctive shape of the SP's viewfinder window?" is simple but complicated. Simple because you can tell him that the SP's viewfinder presents viewing fields for 6 lenses from 28mm wide-angle to 135mm telephoto, with auto-parallax correction and bright-frame, life-size image for the 50mm to 135mm fields.

Complicated because behind the shape is a versatile and rugged optical system, shown here schematically, that does more work than any viewfinder in camera history.

Explain it to him this way. Path D is the wide-angle path, with an eyepiece lens, Porro-prism to erect and offset the axis, etched plate for the 28mm and 35mm fields, and 3 correction



lenses. Paths C, B, and A are normal and long focus paths. C is a straight-through path to the scene. B is the rangefinder path, using reflection from the gold-half plated large prism and the rangefinder prism at right which rotates as shown by its arrow. Path A is the bright-frame path, and includes the field-selector masks (adjusted by the

Lens Field Selector on top of the camera), automatic parallax correction, and bright-frame projection components.

Very briefly, that's it. But if you're interested or your customer wants to know, we'll send you a more complete explanation of the Universal Viewfinder System. Just write us.





*The SP is a handsome design in either black or chrome, although most collectors lust after the black version. Because black RF Nikons were made in much smaller numbers than would be seen during the reflex era, they are more appealing, especially when in fine condition. Although very similar in shape and contours to the S2 and the following S3/S4/S3M models, that long shapely viewfinder window is so distinctive that, even to this day, the SP cannot be mistaken for any other camera from any maker. Maybe that's why it was so prominently used in Nikon's promotional literature. And why not?*





*I plan on continuing this birthday coverage of the Nikon SP for the next 2-3 issues. Future installments will cover such things as; prototypes, ads and reviews, instruction manuals, brochures, the SP-2004, specific accessories like the motor and illuminator, schematics and repair drawings, price lists, X-rays, etc. If any of you have other ideas please let me know and I'll see what I can do. In the meantime, why not take out one of your SPs and run it through the shutter speeds or, better yet, go out and shoot a roll. You might say to yourself, How far have we really come? The quality, fit and precision of the SP will still impress you. Today's cameras are marvels of technology for sure, and are capable of doing things the designers of the SP could never envision in their day. But the SP was what a quality camera was meant to be and has held up quite well.*

*THE PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE AND PAGE ONE ARE THE WORK OF TONY HURST.*

A GREAT NEW '35'

NIPPON KOGAKU K.K. TOKYO, JAPAN

**Nikon**  
WITH BUILT-IN UNIVERSAL VIEWFINDER SYSTEM

# THE 32-YEAR QUEST FOR NIKON S2 #6194052 IS FINALLY OVER.....

**BY ROBERT J. ROTOLONI**

They say that the 'fun is in the chase' and I have heard countless collectors use this phrase over the years. And I agree! Most of the best stories I have listened to these last three decades have been about the 'near misses', or the 'I should have bought it', or 'he got to it before me', or 'you won't believe where I found it', or 'I can't believe how cheap (or expensive) it was'. All have been great stories and fun to listen to whenever we get together at shows or our own Conventions. And I have been the teller of my fair share of horror stories of items missed as well as grand tales of finally obtaining some wonderful piece at a ridiculous price. Such stories add another dimension to collecting and increase our enjoyment of the hobby. Sometimes the chase is a short one while other times it can encompass years of searching for a particular item. The latter situation is the story told here.

The camera you see within these three pages, black Nikon S2 body #6194052, has been the subject of a 32-year quest that finally came to an end on February 12<sup>th</sup> of this year. When did it begin? That would be mid 1975!

As most of you know, I have been collecting and categorizing Nikon rangefinder serial numbers since 1972. My database now consists of about 15,000 numbers of bodies, lenses and accessories. This process has proven to be invaluable to me on various levels. Without it I never could have put together our 'NHS black body list' or been able to make fairly accurate estimates of production quantities and serial number ranges for Nikon rangefinder equipment. Camera #6194052 entered my database in 1975 and I have been tracking it ever since. Why? Because it is black (which always attracts my attention) and also from the final batch of black S2s made by Nikon. But there is yet another reason.

As time passed I added a few other numbers around #6194052, including one adjacent to it (#6194051) and it be-

came part of a batch of black S2s that so far range from #6194007 to #6194297, suggesting a run of 300 pieces (Nikon usually made the black RFs in small batches). Four of the added serial numbers simply increased my interest in #6194052 as I tracked it through three owners over the years. Then, about 10 years ago, no further sightings were reported to me, suggesting that it was in someone's collection somewhere. Then came the catalog for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Tamarkin camera auction to be held on January 28, 2007 in New York. It contained some interesting Nikon RF items including black Nikon S2 #6194052! It had resurfaced!

Although not a gambler at heart, I felt I had to take a chance and bid for it, based simply on my knowledge of what was in my database and the fact that I had personally examined three others within just a few numbers of #6194052. I sent in a high bid and waited.

I saw on eBay that it had sold but I did not learn until a few

days later that I had been the high bidder when I received an email from Stan Tamarkin. Funds were sent and the wait for the package began. Fortunately it arrived just two days before I was to leave for The Netherlands for the semi-annual Houten Camera Fair.

As we all do, I opened the package as soon as I got my hands on it, removed the S2 from its protective wrap-



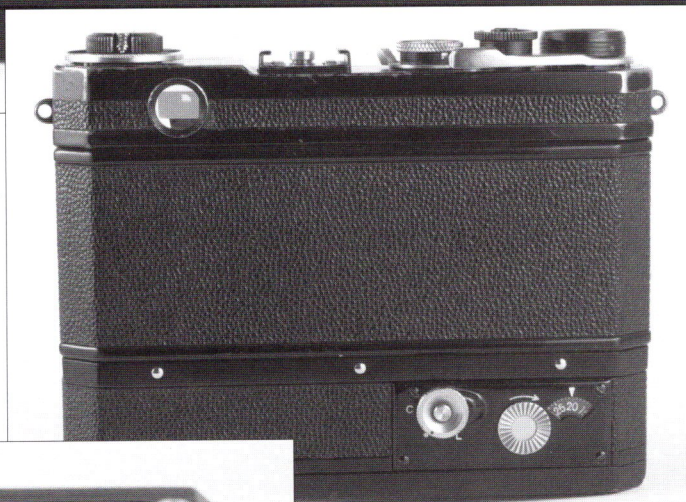
pings, and checked it out. Yes it was #6194052 and in better condition than I had thought it would be. But was it what I had been really looking for? Had the data been correct? Did the numbers lead me to what I wanted and was my 32-year quest for #6194052 worth it? Well, remember they say the 'fun is in the chase', but 32 years is a long time to search, and I truly hoped my 'chase' was finally over. A further examination of #6194052 showed that it had finally reached the end! Turn the page to see the real reason I chased this camera for over 30 years.....

# 10

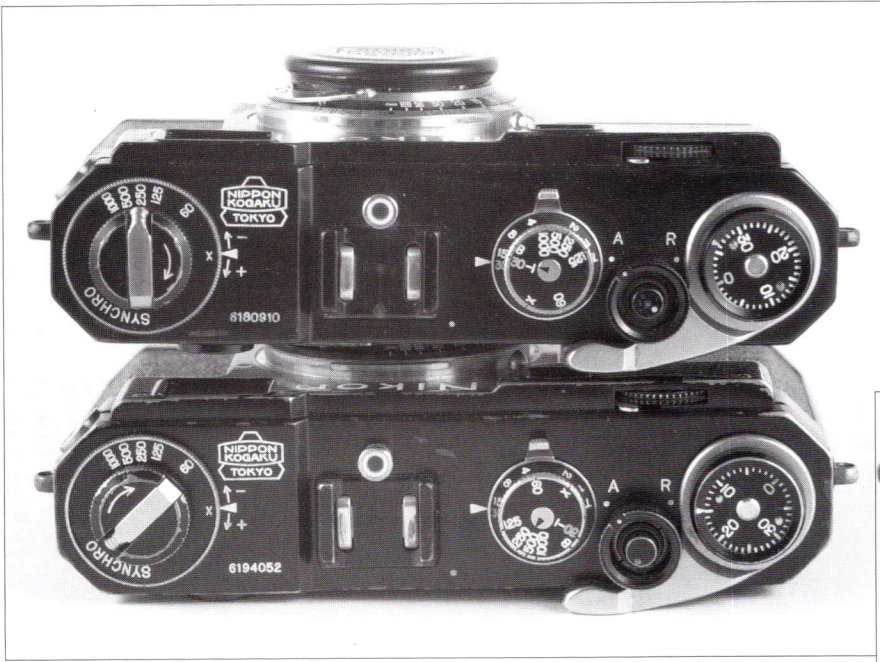
## BECAUSE CAMERA #6194052 IS A NIKON S2E!!



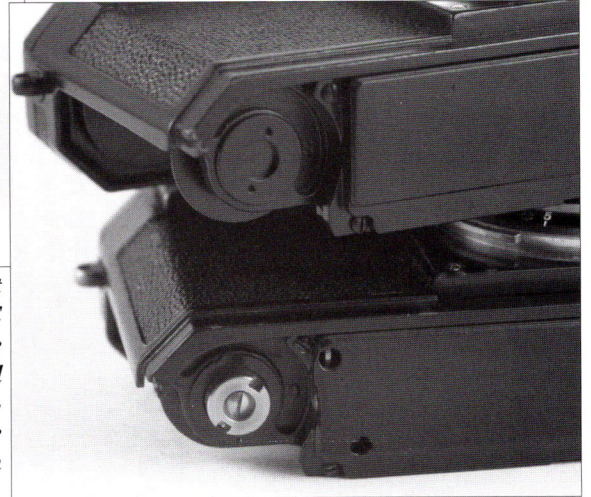
**IT IS ONE OF  
A BATCH OF  
ONLY 32!**



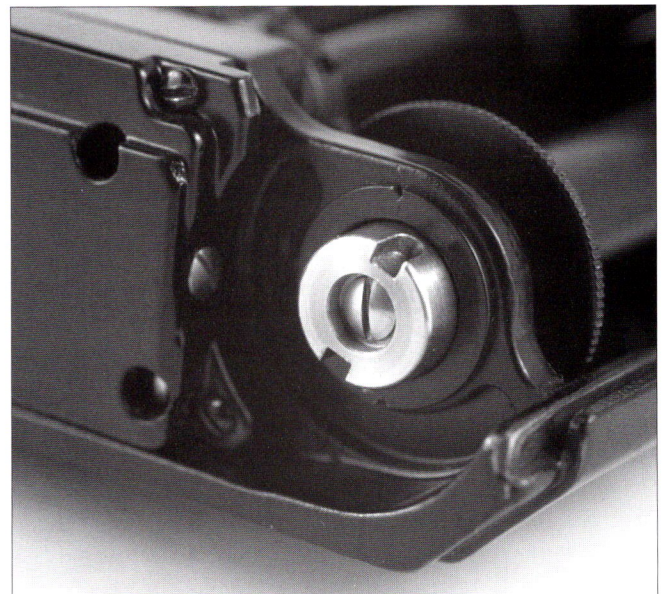
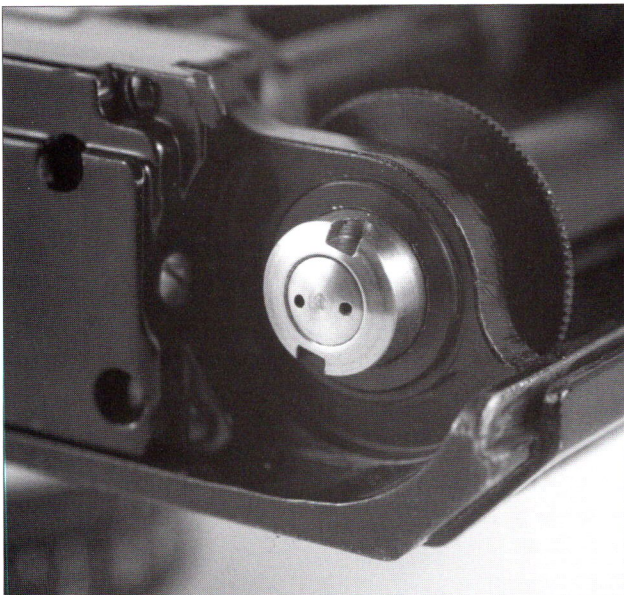
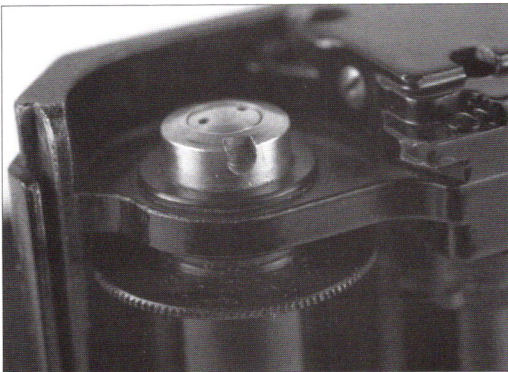
*I have 4 other 'confirmed' Nikon S2E cameras in my database: 6194007, 6194009, 6194013 & 6194051. Camera 6194052 always had a question mark since I could never confirm if it was an S2E like the camera right next to it. We learned at NHS-Con9 in Tokyo in 2004 that, according to the factory, only '32' Nikon S2E cameras were produced. However, no serial number range was given and NK did not always make things in absolute numerical order. Because of this tendency, I could never be sure that 6194052 was an S2E even though 6194051 was. But it worked out in the end and we now have 5 confirmed Nikon S2E cameras. Anyone know the whereabouts of others?*



*There is no way to spot an S2E by just looking at it unless it is mounted on a motor. This camera was offered with no motor so the catalog photo was not a tip off as to what model it really was. Here we see it with a standard 'Black Dial Black S2' #6180910. They look the same. But in the photo below is the difference! All other S2s lack the motor drive coupler that was standard on every SP/S3/S3M ever made. Except for '32' special ones. Remember, the S36 motor was originally designed for and shown on an S2 in March 1957.*

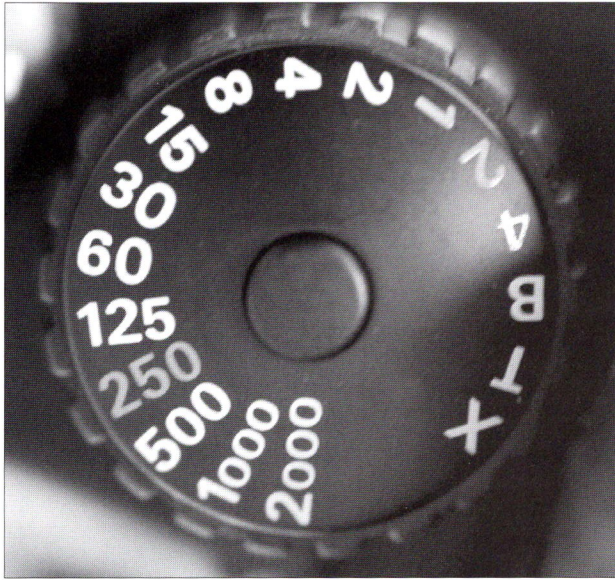


*But you may ask, Can't you just add a coupler to an S2 to make it an S2E? Not so easy. I am not a repairman so I can only speculate that the shutter on an S2E (and the motorizable models that followed) must have been modified in some way from the standard S2 design. It makes sense that the shutter linkage would need to be beefed up to withstand motor use. However, there is a second problem. Note the coupler on the S2E is shaped slightly different from those on the SP/S3/S3M models. In the lower 4 photos the S2E is on the right and the SP on the left. Very different indeed, but both mate perfectly with the S36.*



# 12 THE F4 --SPOT!

## A NASA-F4 ON EBAY!!

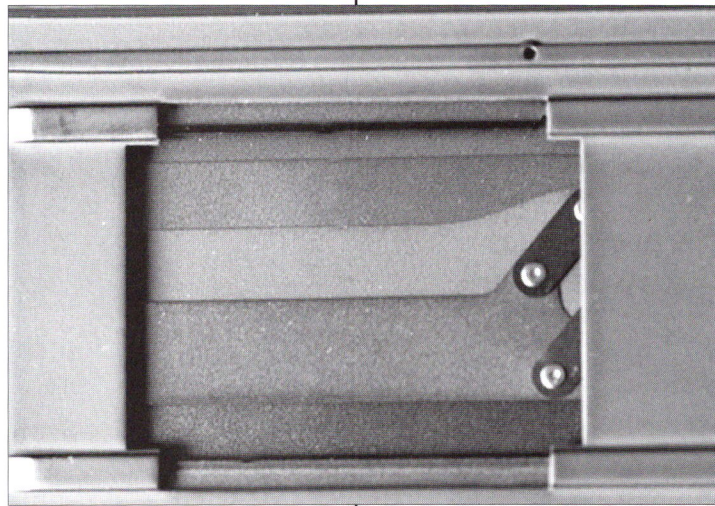


I recently took time to take a close look at my first Nikon arrival of 2007. It is a Nikon NASA F4 that I purchased off eBay. On the NHS website forum this item was being discussed and it was thought that it could not be original. But I think it really is a genuine Nikon made item.

On eBay there were only photos of the outside of the camera and some with the back open. But the major modifications are inside, so the seller did not know all there was about this camera and failed to point out these features. Indeed, when you remove the DA-20 finder it came with and lock up the mirror, you find a lot of differences. See the photos reproduced here and the captions.

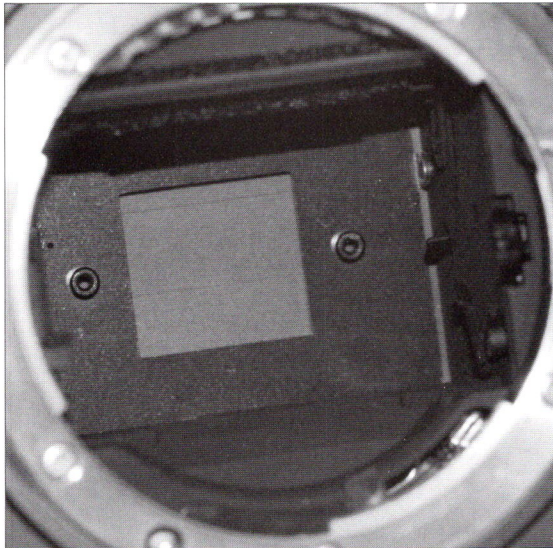
**I think that this is indeed what it was said to be, a NASA F4, and not made by some repair shop. As a matter of fact, I just returned from Japan where Mr. Miura Kosho of Nikon Sendai confirmed that it was made by them at their Mito factory!**

Christophe Sap (Belgium)

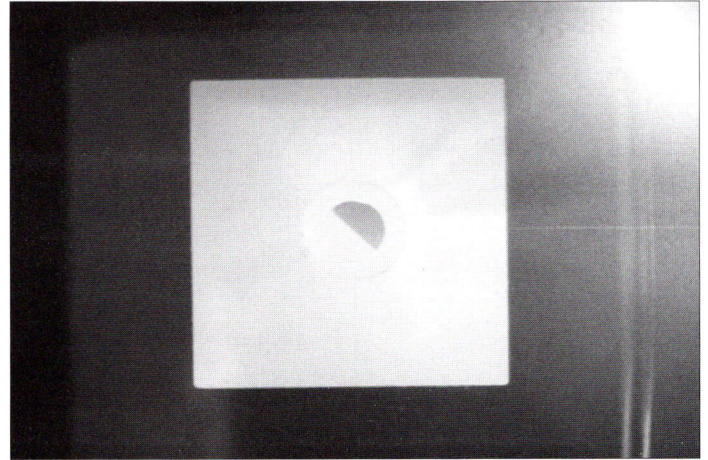


*Top photo..This F4 only has engraved speeds to 1/2000sec. while regular production F4s go up to 1/8000sec. Middle photo..Note that the guide rails have not been polished and have been partially milled away resulting in a nearly square configuration. The significance of this square will be seen in the photos on the next page. And the film cannot be advanced on this camera. (Is it jammed or does it require a special power source?) Right photo..An extra plate is seen at the end of the mirror housing. When you look inside a standard F4 there are two holes on the underside of the mirror. In the second one you can see a copper colored switch. In this body there is no such switch but there is this extra plate.*





*Above photo..Front view of the shutter curtain with the special 'plate' installed that reduces the image to a square, which corresponds to the format resulting from the milled guide rails shown in middle photo on the facing page.*



*Above photo..This the is resulting image seen on the focusing screen because of the second added plate mounted below the screen. It measures approximately 12mm square (One half inch).*

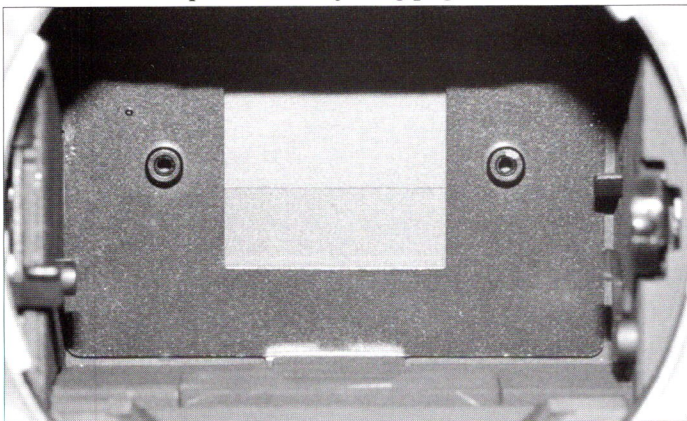


*Above photo..A better view of the metal plate mounted below the focusing screen reducing its image to a square.*

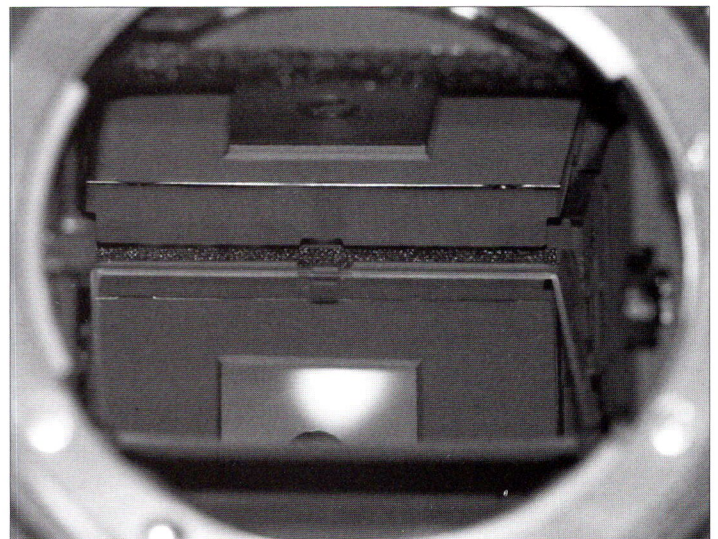
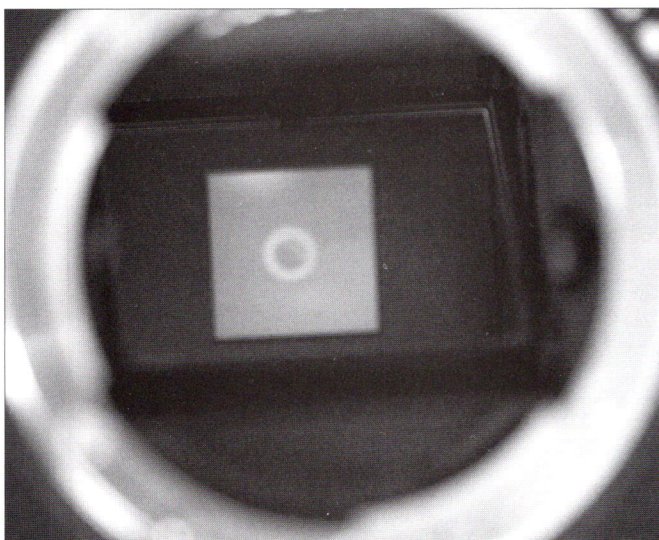
*Photo below..A view of the plate below the screen and the reflection of the screen in the mirror.*

*Photo below left..The focusing screen relected in the camera's mirror.*

*Whatever this camera was intended to record, a square image was needed. We will probably never know the answer.*



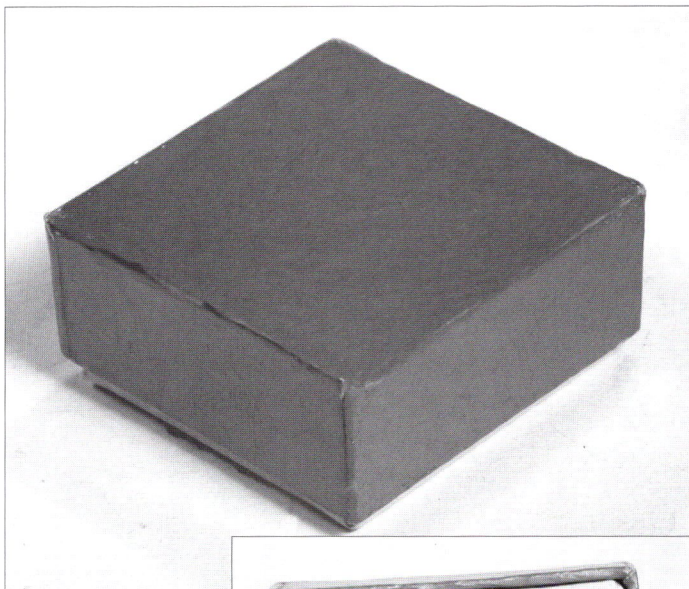
*Above photo..View from the front better illustrating the added metal plate in front of the curtain forming the square format.*



# 14

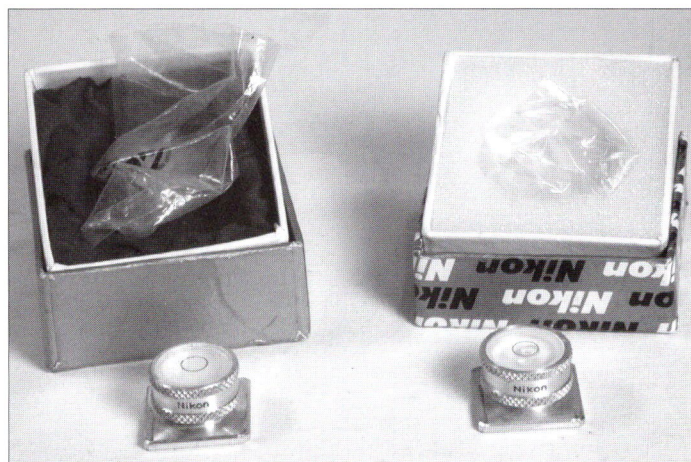
## SOME MEMBER FEEDBACK....

Here may be part of the answer to Jan Jonker's question about the Nikon Bubble Levels in NHS-94. Or does it just confuse the issue? You be the judge. *Michael Wescott Loder*



Left photos, top to bottom..A plain gold-topped box. What can it hold? Ah, the bottom gives away the secret. "Nikon Level" is stamped on the bottom. It includes an original EPOI code tag and a price sticker for \$3.95. Purchased in Austin, Texas probably in late 1968 or early 1969. It is a bit shop worn and may have been in the store a long time, although it must date from 1962 or later, as EPOI was set up in 1962. Inside we find the level in a plastic bag labelled 'Nikon' resting in a dark red velvet nest. Lovely.

Right photos, top to bottom..The second box lid gives away the contents immediately. Bottom of second box indicating the same price and EPOI code as the first level. This was purchased either in late 1970 or early 1971. Both levels together. The newer level came in a plain plastic bag nested in a simple foam cut-out. The older level has the lettering slightly closer together and a smoother finish to the knurling. The newer level has the lettering farther apart, but not as far as the one Jan shows. The knurling on the newer one is noticeably sharper--the opposite of those illustrated by Jan. So which of Jan's is older?





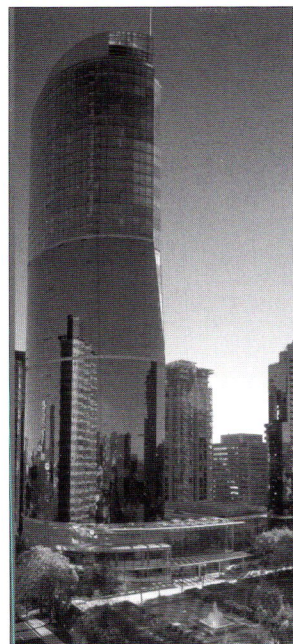
# IT'S IN THE WORKS!!

## NHS-CON11 IN VANCOUVER

### APRIL 18~19, 2008!!

Things have really started moving on NHS-Con11 as show chairman, Mike Symons, has jumped in with both feet! Here it is over a year to go and Mike has already made great progress. As you can see the dates of the meeting have been set for Friday and Saturday, April 18~19, 2008. By the time you read this it is probable that the hotel will have been chosen and space reserved. As I write this, Mike and I have agreed on the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel (2 photos on this page) and the deposit is 'in the mail'!

Mike has preliminary figures as to room rates and sizes as well as various cost factors such as the meeting room, AV material, catering, closing dinner, etc. Mostly everything is still in negotiation so a final price has not been determined. However, by NHS-96 we should have firmed up room costs as well as catering to the point where we will be able to publish the convention fee structure.



In this issue I want to simply announce when and where things will happen so that those who have 'ANY'

intentions of coming can start making their plans. Now is the time to look ahead as these meetings have a tendency to creep on you faster than you think they will. Can you believe it is

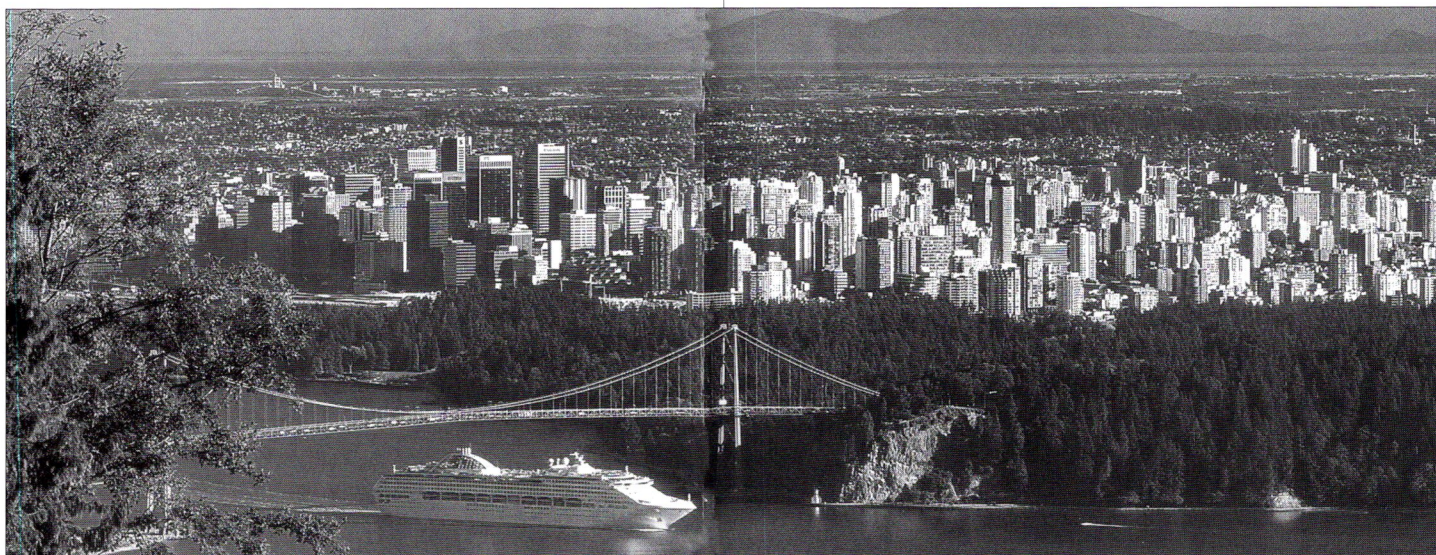
nearly a year since the meeting in Vienna? I can't! Negotiated room rates will be available for 3 days before and after the meeting dates (a total of 8 days for those who wish it). There are plans for things for the wives to do on Saturday as well as some other ideas for various excursions the few days before the meeting. In addition, we hope to have a local show promoter have his annual April show the same weekend so we can go to that on Sunday. It is a 100+ table show that should be well worth it for us to attend!

At this early stage I want to encourage those of you who wish to attend to begin making your plans. Also, we value your input and ideas so if you have any thoughts please let us know! The sooner the better. You can contact either Mike or myself with your feedback. Also please go to our website at ([www.nikonhs.org](http://www.nikonhs.org)) where there is a link on the front page to a forum devoted just to the Convention. Please use it as often as you can and add your thoughts to the forum. Until next issue when we will have more info do not hesitate to contact us at the following addresses. We need a head count so as soon as you are sure you are coming let us know. Thank you.



**Mike H. Symons** [msymons6456@telus.net](mailto:msymons6456@telus.net)

**RJR** [rotoloni@msn.com](mailto:rotoloni@msn.com) & [r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net)



# 16

## GONE.....BUT NOT

### FORGOTTEN..by DAVE BARTH

After reading Christophe Sap's exciting article in the Nikon Society Journal, NHS-94, about researching the past of a rare Nikon F2H-250 camera, I recalled some old documents that I had acquired several years ago for a gone but not forgotten Nikon M. The documents came from a seller who no longer had the camera or lenses, only these documents.

1. An Inspection Certificate for a Nikon M, serial number M6092809. The certificate shows that a 5cm f2 lens was included as well as an ever ready case and a magazine. It specifies that the picture size is 24 x 34 mm. The certificate is dated December 20, 1950.

2. A guarantee card for both the camera and the 5.0cm f2 lens that came with it. The lens serial number was 50080652. The card is dated December 20, 1950.

3. An inspection card, this one for a 13.5cm f4 lens, serial number 523739. The card is dated February 5, 1951.

4. A deteriorated sheet describing the use of an early Nikon flash attachment.

5. A 2-page instruction sheet entitled: INSTRUCTIONS TO USE The "Nikon" - Model S Built-in Flash Synchronizer.

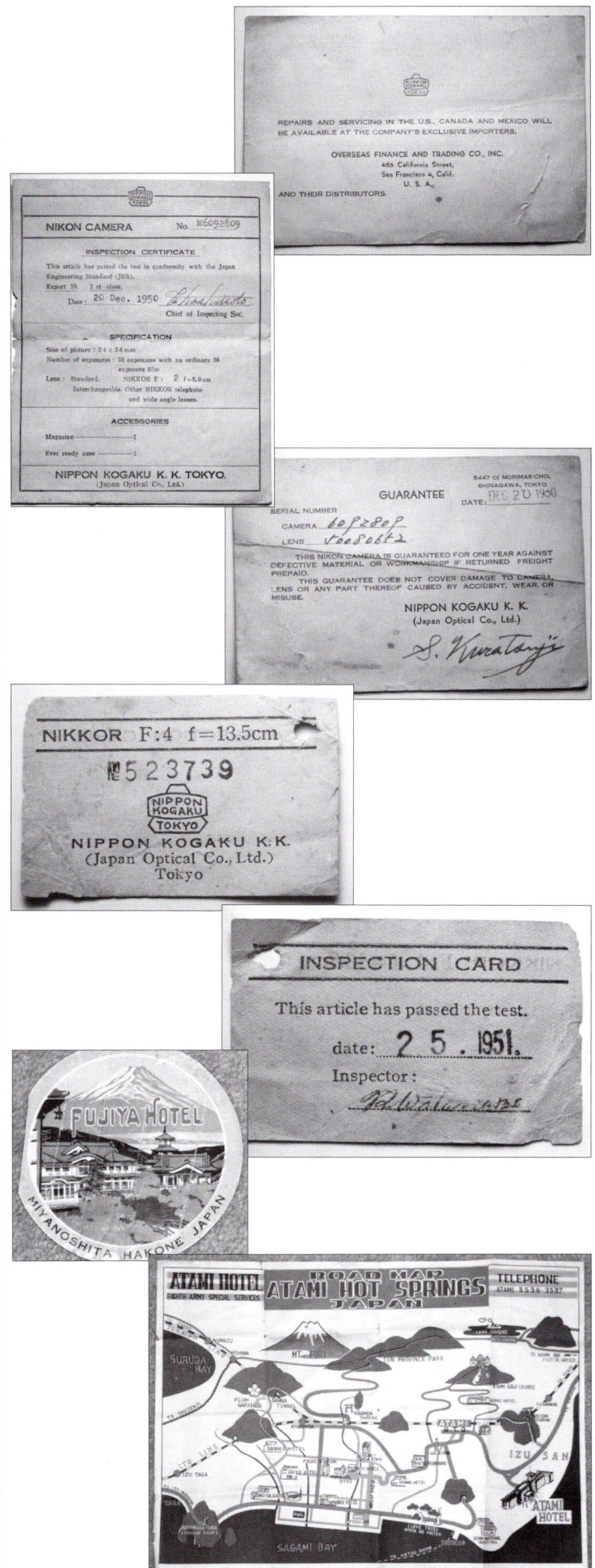
An interesting sidelight to this is that negatives and prints of those negatives accompanied these documents. Because they came with the documents, I assume that the photographs were taken with the Nikon M. The photographs were taken in Japan, and old automobiles, a lady in western clothes of that era, and a helicopter support the presumption that the photos were taken in the early 1950s. (*I hope to publish them in NHS-96..RJR*)

In addition to the photos is a road map of the Atami Hot Springs provided by the Eighth Army Special Services and a circular paper, 11mm in diameter, advertising the Fujiya Hotel. Inscribed are the words "Miyanoshta Hakone Japan".

If we make a lot of assumptions, this camera was probably purchased in Japan by a serviceman. Because many of the pictures are of submarines tied up in port as well as a sailor on board what appears to be the interior of a ship, my belief is that an American sailor purchased the camera from a base exchange in Japan and took these photographs with it.

Then a huge gap appears in the story because, apparently, the camera, the documents, the map, and the photographs went into a lengthy hiatus until a few years ago when they were uncovered, and the camera and lenses sold without these items. The negatives were printed on March 15, 2000 by a one-hour lab in Titusville, Florida. Included with the prints are two, dated proof sheets, one with 21 pictures and the other with 23. I have not digitized the photographs, but I plan to do so with my Nikon Coolscan V using a Nikon FH-3 Film Strip holder to accommodate the non-standard negative sprocket holes.

This chain of events may indicate that the camera and the lenses still exist, somewhere in the world. I wish I had them!



## THE AUCTION SCENE

### A CALL FOR INSPECTION SLIPS!

I have been considering an article about inspection slips and warranty cards that came with Nikon rangefinder equipment for some time. Like others in our Society, I have, over the years, acquired some of these numbered and dated slips but not the actual item! I have always wondered if maybe I own the cards for something that another member might possess. Others, such as Dave Barth and Chris Sap, have brought up the same question. So why not start an exchange amongst us? If you have some slips/cards why not send me the numbers and I will post them in the Journal. Maybe we can reunite some of these slips with their original equipment! Now wouldn't that be interesting? To start things off, some slips I have collected. If you have any to add please let me know for future issues. RJR

**Nikon S #6097087 body only dated January 31, 1952**  
**Nikon S #60911040 & f2 #625551 dated July 10, 1952**  
**Nikon S #6123218 & f1.4 #344227 dated August 1, 1954**  
**Nikon S2 #6138696 & f1.4 #350832 dated March 30, 1955**  
**Nikon S2 #6139721 & f1.4 #355108 dated May 13, 1955**  
**Nikon S3 #6313238 & f1.4 #403661 US Warranty Card 1960**

## MEMBER NEWS

Our members seem to always be doing something of interest. Here are some of their latest projects and accomplishments.

**Paul Comon** has written yet another book on photography from a user point of view. His latest is 'Digital Photo Design', part of the 'Kodak Art of Digital Photography' series and published by Lark Books. It is a 160 page 8.5 x 11 soft cover volume containing both color and B&W illustrations. Sub-titled 'How to Compose Winning Pictures', it deals extensively with all aspects of composition, lighting, color, and perspective to help you produce more pleasing and professionally composed images with your digital camera. Each is illustrated with photos, many of them full page. It explains the difference between what you see and what your digital camera may see, and how to deal with it, but it is really a good composition guide for any photographer whether you use digital or film. The cover price is \$24.95 and it is available anywhere photographic books are sold.

**Wes Loder** tells me that his book is getting closer to publication. You will remember that he is writing a detailed history of events leading up to the arrival of the Nikon in America. One of his sources has been the National Archives. I have had the good fortune of availing myself of some of his detailed research in writing my book. Look to these pages for news of its release.

**Al Satterwhite** is a full-time working pro who has had close ties with Nikon for many years, to the point of producing some of their print ads! Some of his work is currently included in the 'Afterimage Photo Gallery' on the Internet. There you will see some of Al's portraits of people you just might recognize. They include: John Wayne, Bob Hope, Robert Redford, Steve McQueen, Paul Newman, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mohammed Ali, Mick Jagger, and Ansel Adams. I was not aware that Al had photographed so many famous faces. I am sure you will recognize many of these photos. Go to <http://www.afterimage.com> and scroll down to Arnold's photo and click it. Some great stuff!

There is activity at all three auction houses that feature photographica to report on this issue. One sale is completed with results below, while another will have occurred shortly before you receive this issue of the Journal. The third is up coming the end of May.

Stan Tamarkin held his 21<sup>st</sup> camera auction on January 28<sup>th</sup> in New York. In what has to be his best looking catalog he has produced to date, there were featured 340 lots of fine quality equipment. About 60 lots were of various makes while 45 were Nikon items with the remaining comprised of Leica equipment, always the bulk of Stan's sales. The Nikon section featured some really rare, interesting and exotic pieces including two Micro-Nikkors (1 each in BM & SM), four 35mm/f1.8s, a Nikon MS, four Nikon S3s, an SA copy outfit like new, an S4, three chrome Nikon SPs and 2 black ones, a black S2 (featured in this issue), and, last but not the least, a 1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor in RF mount! Overall a really excellent assortment. However, sales were a bit disappointing. Items that one would think would have sold did not. This includes both black SPs, the SA outfit, the BM Micro, the MS, the S4 and the 1000mm lens. Quite surprising as the black SPs were really fine examples with one in Mint condition, as was the 1000. However, none made their reserves.

Some sales results (Including buyers premium) were as follows.....  
**35mm/f1.8 & shade with some coating problems.....\$575**  
**105mm/f2.5 mint w/caps & shade.....\$630**  
**Nikon S2 black dial w/f2 Nikkor.....\$520**  
**Nikon S3 #6300772 w/f2 Nikkor.....\$1150**  
**Nikon SP #6200165 w/1.4 Nikkor.....\$1726**  
**Nikon S2 black #6194052 body.....\$8600**

Christies will have their next sale on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Although there are only four Nikon rangefinder items up for sale, two of them, or 50%, are quite special. They are both Nikon Ones! That's right....two of them! The earlier camera is 609171 and it is fitted with the rare 50/f3.5 Nikkor lens, of which only about 100 were ever made! The other is 609593 that comes with a collapsible f2 Nikkor from the early '708' batch. I will report on this sale in the next issue. In the meantime, Michael Pritchard has informed me that their June 6<sup>th</sup> sale will include a significant collection of Nikons, the majority of which is Nikon F, but will also include a Black SP, a chrome SP, a reflex housing and additional lenses and accessories. Most items are in EX condition and many are boxed. **And it is being offered without reserve!** Contact Michael at [MPritchard@christies.com](mailto:MPritchard@christies.com) about their new live online Internet bidding service!

The 11<sup>th</sup> Westlicht Auction in Vienna will take place on May 26<sup>th</sup> and I will have results for this sale in the next Journal as well. Peter Coeln is doing something different with his catalog this time. It will now consist of a text description of all lots the size of a paperback book plus a CD that will contain up to 10 photos of every lot! All 800 of them! This sounds really interesting. As many as 10 photos of each item you may be interested in can make for a better auction experience. And to top it off....the catalog and CD are **FREE!** Yes! You can order it online at [www.westlicht-auction.com](http://www.westlicht-auction.com). What's stopping you?

More next issue.

## NHS MEMBERS VISIT THE NIKON SENDAI FACTORY!

Members of the NHS met in Tokyo in February for the annual Matsuya Camera Show. The following day some of them made a trip to the Nikon Sendai factory. This is Bill Kraus' commentary on their experience.

The visit to Sendai on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, was quite interesting. Our group took a 90-minute ride from Tokyo station on the Shinkansen to Sendai, a city of about one million. The Nikon factory was reached after a short 15-minute local train ride, and a 5-minute walk (past the Sapporo brewery) from the Natori station.

On arrival, we were greeted by Nikon Sendai President Mikio Ohmikawa, and Kosho Miura, General Manager and designer of the F5. A formal group photo with the President was taken in front of the headquarters building.

President Ohmikawa invited the group in for a Power Point presentation of Nikon and Sendai plant operations. Sendai, started in 1971, is one of three manufacturing plants in Japan. It employs about 500, with an additional 500 temporary workers. He was proud of the site's achievements in safe and environmentally sound operations. The site manufactures cameras (including the new D2Xs, D2Hs and F6), and also key components for cameras assembled at other sites, including Thailand and China. While no optical components are produced at Sendai, the 12 millionth camera produced was recently commemorated at this site, with a specially produced and serial numbered F5, #11,111,111. We also saw the very last F5 produced, #3235612.

The tour started with the machine shop, where brass blanks are converted into intricate lens mounts via multi-staged computer controlled automatic lathes. For the next stop the group was required to wear clean-room gear. Dressed in white caps & gowns, we were taken through the production of printed circuit boards, the key component in today's digital equipment. President Ohmikawa was gracious in allowing photos to be taken of these operations. Samples of a lens mount and a D200 printed circuit board were presented to each visitor. It was stated that there are actually 83 different lens mounts in current production and we thought an F-mount was a one and only!

The last stop was the camera body assembly and inspection lines. This building also required clean-room garb, for obvious reasons. It was, perhaps, the most interesting part of the tour, but with highly confidential proceedings, no photography was permitted of the work or test stations.

The tour ended with a Q&A session with the President and General Manager. The subject of most interest and discussion was centered on the future of digital photography and the con-

tinued growth of the technology. We left with the distinct feeling and impression that Nikon will continue at the forefront of digital technology.

The return trip also provided and unexpected delight. At the Sendai Station we saw the new prototype Shinkansen train—the new Fastech 360. Quite different in design from the current white bullet train, the F-360 sported a slick metallic forest-green paint job. Inside the cars were test equipment, connecting wires and monitors. We all photographed the big green snake as it slithered out of the station just before our train arrived to take the group back to Tokyo.

Those who made the trip: Bill Kraus, Al Brody, Hans Ploegmakers, John Millham, Hans Braakhuis, Tad Sato, Shusaku Suzuki and Takadon Takahashi are indebted to Belgian NHS member Christophe Sap, who not only made this visit possible, but also arranged for the travel and shepherded the group there and back safely. Thank you, Chris. More info can be found on their website....[www.sendai-nikon.com](http://www.sendai-nikon.com).





On the facing page our intrepid gang of NHSers during their visit to Nikon-Sendai. Above a photo of the last Nikon F5 #3235612 & the 12 millionth Nikon which was a specially made & numbered F5, #11,111,111 dated May 23, 2003. At right is Koshiro Miura holding the last F5, which he owns! By the way, F6 #00001 is at the Ohi factory while #00002 is at Sendai (below right). Below, the annual 'rooftop' meeting during the Matsuya Camera show. One item at the show was an S3M with a price tag of 9,660,000 Yen! About \$80,000! And with no motor??



The annual Matsuya show is held in that department store in the Ginza. February in Tokyo is usually crisp and clear. A great time to visit the country that gave us our Nikons. Besides that little S3M (right) were many, many other Nikons including an ocean of Nikon Fs. Below we have a group of fellows just having a good time.



# 20

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### NEW MEMBERS

MATTHEW CHANG  
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FREMONT, CA 94538

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

6137658	6157523	6170904	6180652	6215683
6312131	6312266	6320152	6320945	6321131
6321172	6321366	6321428	6321479	6321566
	6321839	6321864	6322431	

(All but 1 of these new numbers were provided by member Christophe Sap and were recorded by him on his recent trip to Tokyo for the Matsuya Show and a visit to Nikon Sendai.)

THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS ARE THOSE OF 'FAKES'!

6106569	6115264	6115769	6126065	6127934
6168092	6176117	6215102	6301791	

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

6585566	6587590	6589559	6589560	6589647
6589752	6589915	6590568	6591110	6593459
6593922	6594937	6596796	6597812 (BLACK)	
6597969	6598020	6598207	6598431	6598591
6598661	6600186	6600283	6600556	6600763
6601003	6601030	6601100	6601181	

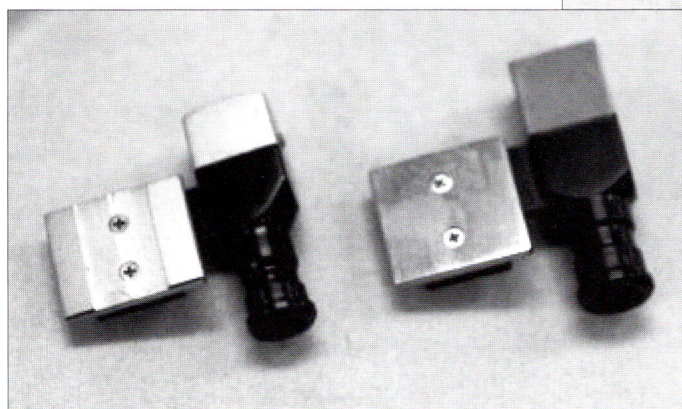
(The majority of these new numbers came to me from the website of NHS member Matthew Lin. He keeps a running list of Red Dot Fs on his site and updates it regularly. Look to his site for the most complete and accurate Red Dot list.)

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# odds 'n ends

## NOTES FROM JAPAN.....by CHRISTOPHE SAP

*Here we have two 'FAKE' versions of the very uncommon and expensive 35mm 'Mini-Finder'! These two knock-offs are for sale in Tokyo as you read this. If my math is correct, they sell for between \$150 to \$300. A lot of money for a fake! But then, maybe some people just want to use them? Be careful though, at least one has shown up on eBay and touted as genuine!!*



*Chris also saw this item. It is a Cinemax-8 movie camera with a non-interchangeable 13mm/f1.9 Cine-Nikkor with the very interesting serial number 400046. It has a 14mm filter thread! It seems that there is always something new to see in the world of Nikons! Thanks to Chris Sap of Belgium for these photos and also some on pages 18-19 of the Nikon Sendai trip.*



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