

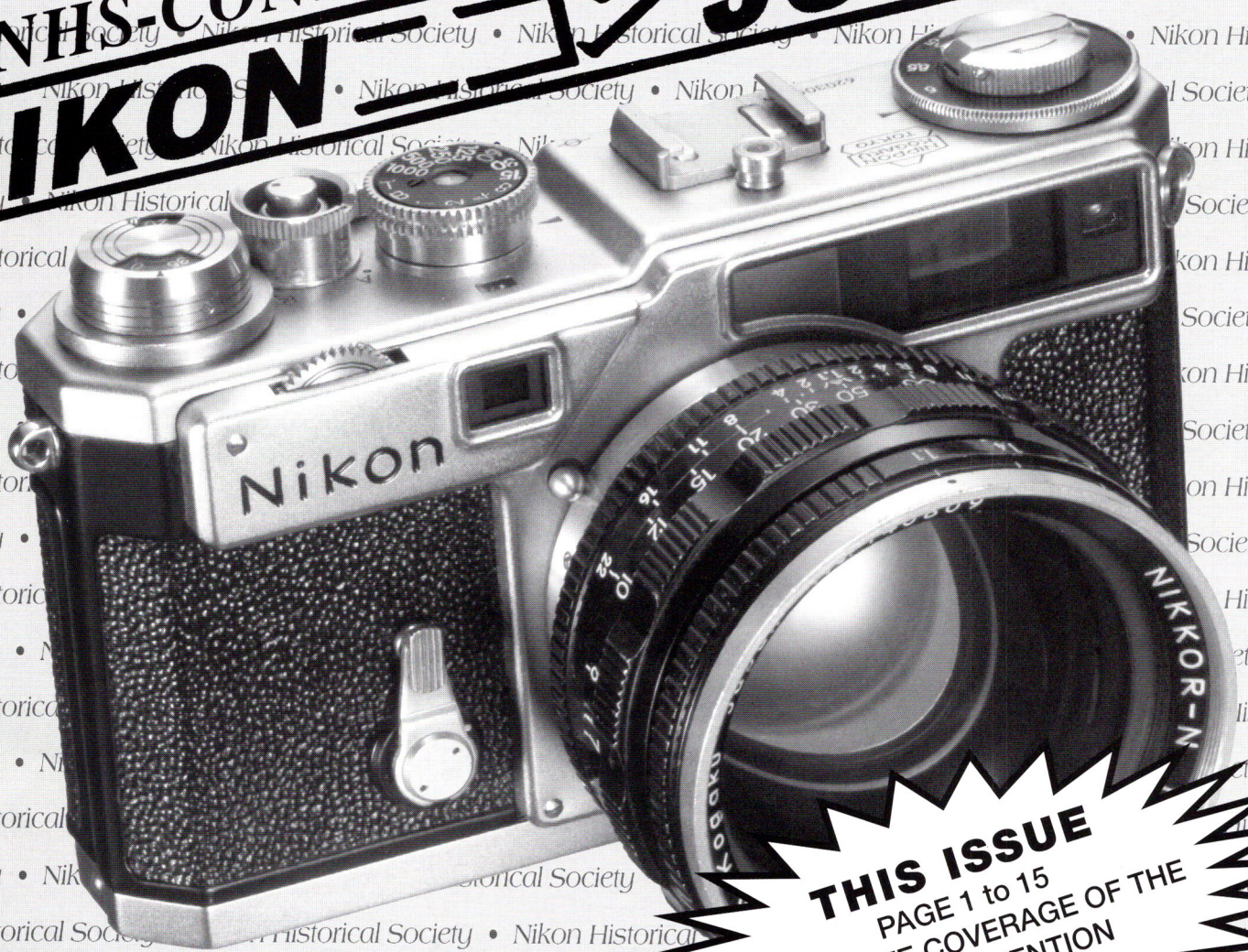
A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JUNE 30, 2006

NHS-92

NHS-CON10. COMPLETE COVERAGE!!
NIKON TV JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE
PAGE 1 to 15
COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE
10TH CONVENTION
IN VIENNA!!

ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



THE NIKON JOURNAL

VOLUME TWENTY THREE - NUMBER 3 - JUNE 30, 2006

THE NIKON JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR BY "RJR" PUBLISHING, INC., At P.O. Box 3213, Munster, Indiana 46321 U.S.A. © 2006 By "RJR" Publishing, Inc.

ALL OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE VARIOUS AUTHORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF THE NIKON JOURNAL OR OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Our Web Site is<http://www.nikonhs.org>
Our E-Mail Addresses are.....r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net
and....rotoloni@msn.com

ANNUAL SOCIETY DUES ARE

U.S./CANADA	1 Year \$30	3 Years \$75
OVERSEAS	1 Year \$40	3 Years \$105
New Rates Effective March 31, 2001		

~ CONTENTS ~

INSIDE FRONT COVER:

NHS-92 EDITORIAL.....By ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

PAGE 1 TO PAGE 15.....

.....**COMPLETE COVERAGE OF NHS-CON10 HELD IN VIENNA MAY 16~24..... WITH OVER 70 PHOTOS!**

PAGE 16.....**THE 'NIKON' IN THE NETHERLANDS AFTER WORLD WAR TWO**
by ROBERT BAKKER

PAGES 18.....**AUCTIONS....AUCTIONS....AUCTIONS A ROUNDUP OF AUCTION RESULTS WORLDWIDE IN MAY**

PAGE 20.....**CLASSIFIEDS & NEW MEMBERS BACKISSUES & MORE BLACKS**

INSIDE BACK COVER...ODDS N' ENDS

WHAT A PAIR OF Fs!

COULD THIS BE THE FIRST CHROME

'RED DOT' NIKON F? by CHRISTOPHE SAP

(COVER CON10 EMBLEM by JIMMY PURIMAHUWA)

NHS-93 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-93, is **SEPTEMBER 1, 2006**. Please get all correspondence and articles to me by then so I can get our Journal to you on schedule. Thank you. **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

I am writing this editorial less than 4 weeks after returning from NHS-Con10 in Vienna. It is always a hectic period following a convention and trying to get the Journal out on time. Besides getting back on track with my 'regular' life, I need to assemble photos from many contributors in addition to getting mine processed (over 500 frames!). Sorting through the truly immense amount of shots I received and putting into words all that we did can get a little wild. Hopefully I have done a decent job of detailing all the events, places and people that made up NHS-Con10 and I could not have done it without the help of all those who sent me photos. I could only use a fraction of what I received, but I was able to squeeze in about 75 shots. Naturally, there are many other fine images that I could not use but I am grateful for every one of them and I want to thank each of you who contributed. In addition to those seen here you can go to our website at www.nikonhs.org and look there for photos by Nico Van Dijk and, in the forum, others by Chris Sap posted by Thierry Ravassod. Hans Braakhuys has also added photos to his home page. Go to <http://home.planet.nl/~nikon.catalogus/> and click on the green buttons. For the 'Visits to Europe' presentation you need the password 'thanks:uli+hans'. The other you do not. I am sure more photos will turn up on the web so keep checking our website. Fred Krughoff will add the links as they come in and the advantage is there they are in color! Again, thank you to all who submitted photos. Each of you did a great job.

Maybe all this coverage will entice more of you to attend NHS-Con11. We do have a good time and the trip is always worth it. Just ask anyone who has been to one. In Vienna some were asking me where the next one will be. Well...at this time I do not know. I have had no one come up to me and volunteer to do it. You see the work that is involved, so it is not an easy decision for anyone to make. A few 'thoughts' did come up such as Brussels, London and Sydney. Other possibilities are Canada (Victoria/Vancouver), and the USA (east coast). My personal preference is Brussels or London, both beautiful cities with much to do and see besides just our meeting. Canada is always beautiful and photogenic as is Sydney, but it is such a long way to go. *Why not send me your thoughts on where you would like to see NHS-Con11 held. And if you feel you want to organize #11, let me know that as well! It is never too early to start thinking about it. Vienna will be a hard act to follow, but then all our meetings have been superb. I am sure #11 will be as well.*

Member Al Satterwhite has done an article on the new Nikon D200 camera that is on the web. Check it out at <http://www.imaginginfo.com/article/article.jsp?sitesection=17&id=1684>. Very interesting and after seeing what members were shooting Vienna with I might pick one up myself. Bob, bite your tongue!

I must end this upbeat editorial on a sad note. Long time member Les Seeligson recently passed away. Les was a contributor to the Journal in the past and I often saw him at the Chicago Collector Shows. He attended NHS-Con8 in Scottsdale in 2002 and I last saw him at London's Photographica in May 2005, before he became ill. Les was a lawyer and a very soft spoken and intelligent person. Les was in his early 60s.

NHS-CON10 IN VIENNA.....

IN A WORD.....

AWESOME!

The first word that comes to mind when describing NHS-Con10 is 'awesome'. Hans and Uli (and their families) put together a week of activities for all those who attended that came off perfectly. Every day was full of great things to do and see and each event was timed and planned out to such an extent that we were able to see and enjoy many of the best sights within the city as well as outlying areas. Vienna is a beautiful and historic city with something interesting around nearly every corner. Hans and Uli chose some of the best sights for us to see and arranged excellent transportation that allowed us ample time to enjoy each one. I will go through the week in more or less chronological order with as many photos as I can squeeze into these pages to give every member the best possible picture of what our Conventions are like and maybe entice more of you to attend a future event. But first some thank yous.

Hans Ploegmakers and Uli Koch literally spent two years arranging NHS-Con10! As early as May 2004 Vienna had been decided on and work began. Hans and his wife Arlette, and Uli and his wife Ursula, actually went to Vienna and walked through everything we did, determining how much time was needed for each step, the distances involved and the costs. The result was a flawless sequence of events. They spent countless hours, and a great deal of money, over the ensuing two years making sure all would work properly. During the actual week they worked tirelessly making sure everything was in place. And just what am I talking about? Hotels (3) had to be contracted with and rooms reserved; tour buses had to be hired and times arranged (4 times!); reservations for the boat trip on the Danube; restaurants and dinners and food for Convention day; tickets purchased in advance for various sights; setting up the Convention room and lining up speakers; and acting as hosts and guides the entire week. Do you think they were busy? They did such a superb job that all I had to do was play the 'tourist' for the week. With help from their wives, and Uli's daughter Daniela, the ladies were never bored as extra events were planned for them on Saturday and Sunday while we played with cameras. So what can I say to Hans and Uli and their families? I am sure they know how grateful I am as well as everyone who was there. Without a doubt this was one of the best, if not the best, Conventions we have ever had and I owe it all to Hans and Uli and their families. It would never have happened without them! Gentlemen, my eternal gratitude.

There is one more person I must thank who had a great deal to do with the success of NHS-Con10. Peter Coeln offered his facilities to the Society nearly two years ago. Tying in our meeting with his Westlicht Auction accomplished two very important

things. It gave each attendee an additional incentive to make the trip knowing they would be able to be personally involved in what is now the largest photographic auction in the world. As early as Tuesday evening we were able to visit Westlicht and his Leica Shop and view the items in the auction. This continued through Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We had an unheard of amount of time to examine any items we wished or just socialize, all held in a very pleasant environment with refreshments available. Peter's staff did a tremendous job dealing with us and it was great experience for all. But most importantly, Peter provided the very room the auction was held in for our meeting the following day. At no charge to the Society! A perfect meeting room with high tech AV equipment at our disposal for the entire day and it was FREE! My only cost that day was lunch, nothing compared to what a similar room would have cost us. Peter also had his staff available to us at all times, at his expense, and found time in his very busy schedule to spend with us. You can imagine how busy he was the days running up to his auction. He also provided free copies of his expensively printed full color catalog to all members who attended. Such generosity helped make this Convention possible and to you, Peter, my sincere appreciation and grateful thanks.

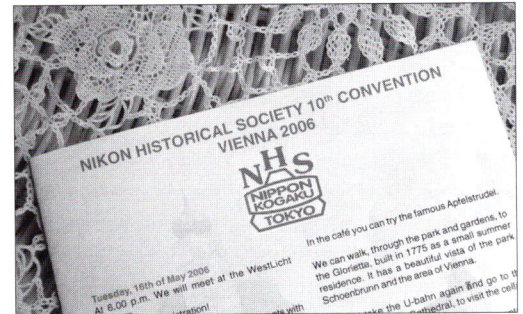
Our final event of the week was provided by Dietmar Machold in another great display of generosity. A bus trip out to his castle on Monday afternoon provided the grand finale, as we all enjoyed catered refreshments on a beautiful day in his courtyard before touring his magnificent home and viewing his awesome collection. Yes, his castle is very large and roomy, but can you imagine having 80 or more guests show up at your house! And having cake and coffee ready for them? This was a grand act of kindness on Dietmar's part, something he did once before for the Society at the 1998 meeting in New York. So Dietmar, again my sincere thank you for allowing us to visit your home and view your collection.

One final thank you: All the planning in the world would come to nothing if people did not show up. To the 80 plus members and guests who took the time and spent the money to join me and Hans and Uli in Vienna, thank you for supporting the Society and I truly hope that you had as wonderful a time as I did and I hope to see all of you again in the near future.

Now for photos and words describing NHS-Con10 in the order in which events occurred. Most of the photos within these pages were provided by the various members who were kind enough to get them to me as quickly as possible so I could get this Convention issue out on time.



Following a Tuesday night reception at Peter Coeln's Westlicht Museum, we had a full day on Wednesday, starting with a short tram ride to Schloss Schonbrunn, the former summer residence of the Habsburgs (top-photo-Jimmy Purimahua). We then went to the very center of the city to visit the Stephansdom, Vienna's most beloved landmark and Austria's finest gothic cathedral. Below left, an inside view (RJR) and right, at the very top of the spire. Enjoying the view on a picture perfect sunny day are (l-r) Hans Ploegmakers (Holland), Uwe Flammer (Germany), Dieter Scheiba (Belgium), Jim McKeown (USA) & Reinhard Kuttner (Austria)(photo-Uli Koch). The view was beautiful and many stayed at the top shooting for quite some time.

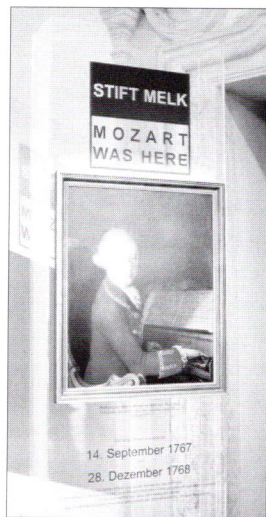


Our convention brochure. Photo by Bill Kraus



Our only disappointment on Wednesday was not being allowed to photograph inside the Schonbrunn, but we had no problem at the Stephansdom. The above photo is just one of many taken by myself and other members as we shot to our heart's content. Outside the Schonbrunn it was decided that there should be a group shot of all the 'bearded' members we could round up. Why? It just sounded like a good idea at the time. L-R, Phil Ramsden (Australia), Ken Reisher (USA), RJR, Wes Loder (USA), Tom Abrahamsson (Canada), Veli Miettinen (Finland), Ed Schwartzreich (USA). Photo-Jimmy Purimahuwa.)





Thursday began with a 90km bus trip to the Benedictine Abbey at Melk on the Danube (Danau) River. Melk proved to be one of the highlights of the week. Beautiful gardens, an outdoor cafe, a truly fabulous church and world famous library, a fine guided tour and great views of the town of Melk and the Danube. Photos clockwise from upper left..The Abbey from below (Jimmy P.), the library and church (John Millham), our chairmen and organizers Uli Koch (l) and Hans Ploegmakers (RJR), the Abbey gardens (John Millham), and, yes, Mozart was here! (RJR).



We had nearly three hours to spend at the Abbey before we had to return to the bus, and we used it well. Before and after the guided tour we had time to walk through the gardens and have some refreshments at the outdoor cafe at tables shaded by a canopy (which was needed as it was a surprisingly warm day). At the top is a panoramic view of the village of Melk taken from the terrace of the Abbey, and below our 'official' group photo on that same terrace. Both photos are by Jimmy P. using a Fuji Panorama camera (same as the Hasselblad Xpan). Above some members enjoying the shaded outdoor cafe; L-R, John Millham (UK), Paul and Jeni Bonner (UK) and Shirley Comon (USA). Photo by Paul Comon. Above right is Arlette and Hans Ploegmakers. Could she be helping our leader with directions? Hans, you can't be lost! We're all following you! Photo by Chris Sap.





After Melk we again boarded the bus for a short trip to the Danube where we met up with the cruise boat you see in this photo. It took us down the river for 90 minutes through some of the most scenic parts of Austria. From the ship we saw many castles on the cliffs, some still in use today. This is also the heart of the wine producing part of the country which is famous for its white wine. We then docked at the medieval town of Duernstein home to the famous 'Blue Church' seen in the photo at left. A very pleasant little town we walked through and then met up once again with our bus. Photo by Uli Koch.



The boat trip was one of the few times that the weather chose not to cooperate with us. We had a little rain and heavy clouds but some still braved the elements and rode the open top deck. Above, L-R, Ursula and Axel Rosswog, Claus Walter and, standing, Uwe Flammer, all from Germany (Photo by Uli Koch). Others stayed inside and enjoyed a great lunch: L-R, Shirley Comon (USA), Joan & Jim McKeown (USA), and Hans Braakhuis (Holland). Photo by Paul Comon.

We then had to race back to attend the special four course dinner that night being held at the Museum of Fine Arts in downtown Vienna, for which we had reservations. We were seated at five round tables seen in the photo below right under the dome of the museum. It was buffet style and all you can eat. Was the food good? You have no idea! (Photo by Chris Sap). On Friday we went past the same museum so a few decided to take photos! Do we shoot pictures? You bet we do! (Photo by Uli Koch)





Following a Friday morning bus tour of the entire city and the afternoon for shopping and sightseeing, we all headed to the Westlicht Museum for a wine and cheese party and an opportunity to view the items on sale at the auction the following day. Between our members and those from all over Europe who were there for the sale, the museum was full the entire evening. Food and drink was plentiful and we spent hours socializing and viewing the auction items. Peter Coeln, right, was our host. (Photo by Hans Braakhuis)



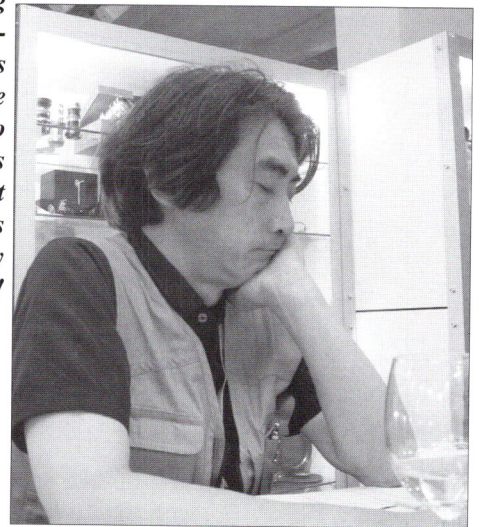
The preview party was very well attended. We had ample time to look at and handle any item that was to be in the Saturday auction. Above L-R, Mark Bonner (UK), Wim Blonk (Holland), James Martin (USA) and Paul Bonner (UK) admire the very rare High Speed Nikon F that sold for \$41,350 on Saturday! (Photo by Jimmy P.) Left..the Type I & II Reflex Housings. The Type I went for \$8,400. (Photo by Bill Kraus) Lower left..What is Chris Sap holding in his hands? Would you believe both of the Nikon S3M bodies in the sale! Careful Chris, don't drop them! Below is the wine and cheese party in full swing. The Westlicht has a large bar and eating area that was perfect for the party and Peter has some really first rate employees who did a great job the entire week. (Photo by Paul Comon)





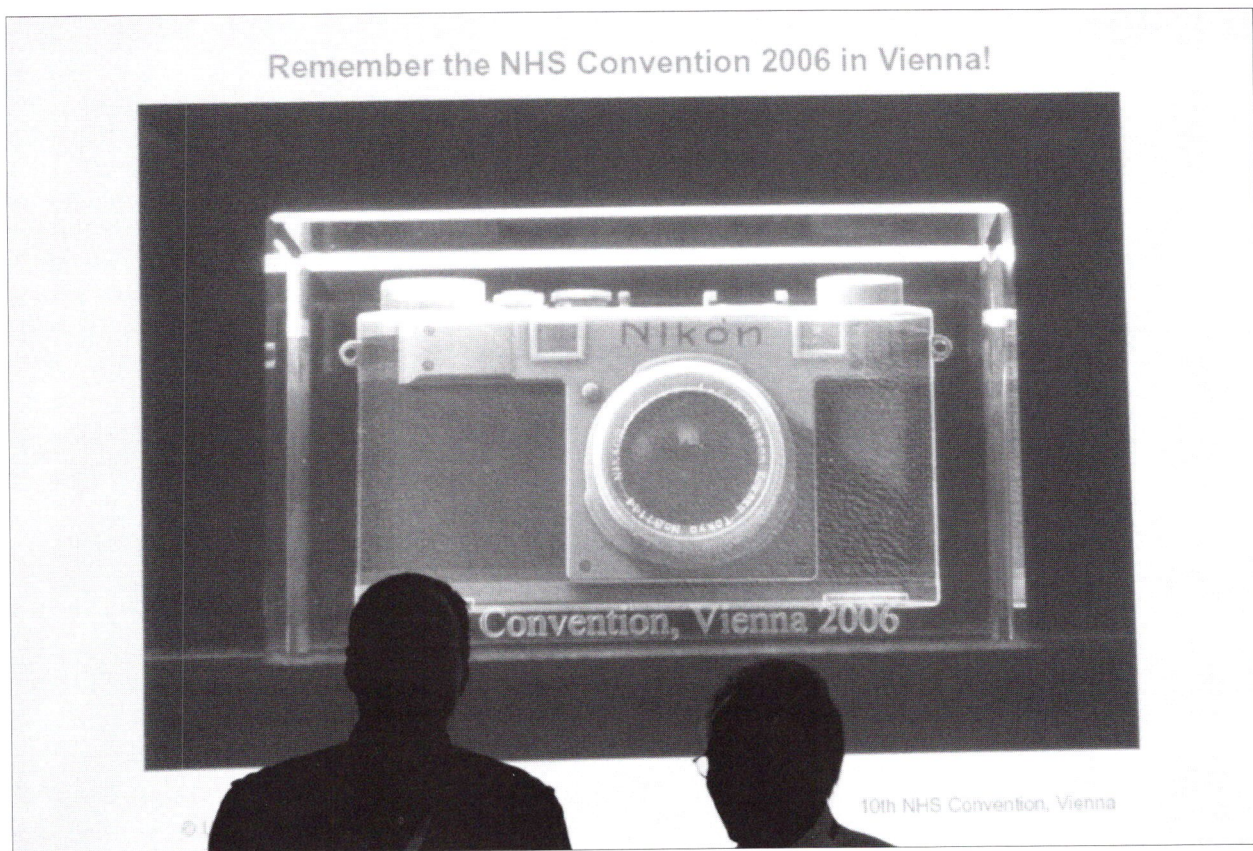
By tradition, our conventions have always been meant to be more than just a meeting with some lectures and a few cameras to look at. That would be boring! We strive to have fun and enjoy meeting and getting to know each other. It is a chance to meet people from all over the world with varied backgrounds but one very important thing in common: we enjoy collecting cameras and talking about them. And fun we had. Upper left..Phil & Elizabeth Ramsden (Australia) flank Jimmy Purimahuwa (Holland) (Photo Bill Kraus); Above..Kjetil Moen (Norway), Veli Miettinen (Finland) and Ken Reisher (USA) toast you. (Photo Bill Kraus). Left..Two from Australia! Phil Ramsden (l) & Michael Parker came a long way to attend! (Photo by Jimmy Purimahuwa)

Right..Some wine and jet lag can get to you. The only member from Japan to attend was Yutaka Ohtsu and he has the right to be a little tired! (Photo by Bill Kraus) Bottom..Hans & Uli taking a break. Don't worry fellows, everything is perfect! (Bill Kraus). Finally Saturday was the auction! (Photo by Bill Kraus)



Convention Day, Sunday May 21

We all returned to the Westlicht Museum on Sunday for NHS-Con10 held in the same room as the Auction. There were the customary welcoming speeches from Peter Coeln, Hans, Uli and myself before things began to roll. But first a little surprise! I had not seen the 'Convention Gift' until the previous Wednesday and I was as surprised as everyone present. Hans & Uli had come up with a real gem! They took photos of an actual Nikon One and had a three dimensional laser image imbedded within a glass block! Each was gift boxed and engraved with the date of the Convention. It is a superb item that catches the light from various angles and is a sight to behold. Only 80 were produced for those who attended so I guess you can think of them as an instant collectible! I hope to run some photos in the next issue as I really did not have room this month. A unique remembrance. The photo below was taken off the projection screen during Uli's announcement by Chris Sap. The bottom photo shows Uli, Hans and myself presenting the gift to those in the room for the first time. Photo by Paul Comon.



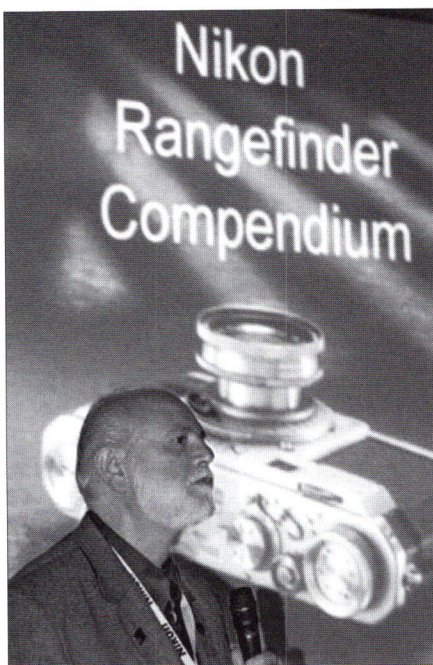
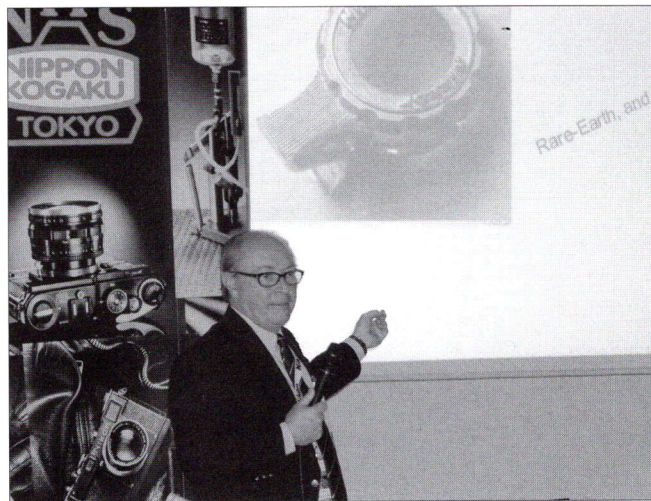
We had no less than 11 presentations slated for the day so we had to move right along. Speakers included: Hans Braakhuis on 'How I Became a Collector'; Christophe Sap on a very unique 250 shot Nikon F2 High Speed that is not supposed to exist!; Bill Kraus on the 'Impact of eBay on Nikon Values'; Peter Lownds with 2 talks ('Collections Within Collections' & 'Nikon F3 Variations'; Uli Koch on 'Newly Discovered 'Nikkor' Items'; Wes Loder on 'Nikon Exports to the US 1949-1951'; Dr. Milos Mladek on 'Using X-rays in Camera Analysis'; Tony Hurst with yet another superb slide presentation, this time on the work of Japanese graphic artist Yusaku Kamekura, the 'Kame' you see on many Nikon packages and literature from the RF era; and a short presentation I did with some shots from my upcoming Nikon book. You will also note that the 'Hurst Wall' can be seen behind our speakers. Yes, Peter Lownds carried it to Vienna all the way from Rotterdam just for our meeting! It is its third appearance at our Conventions. What a guy!



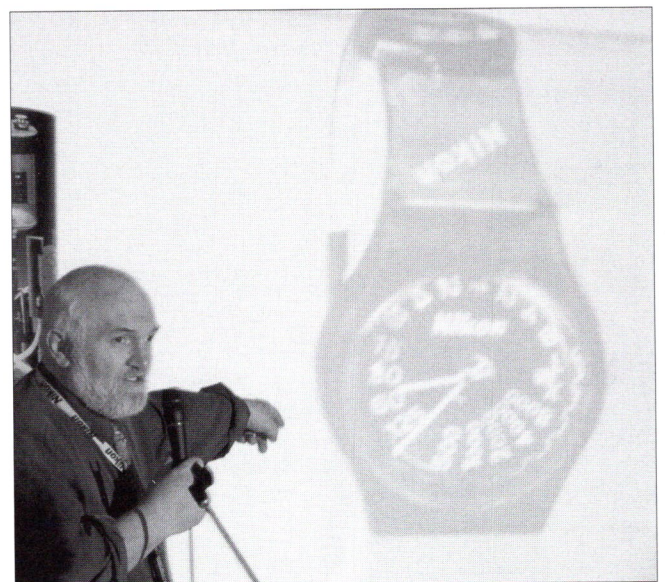
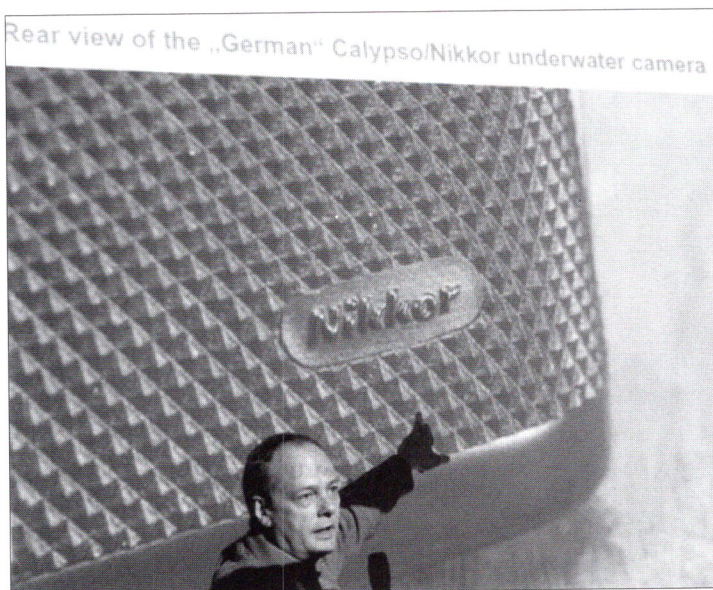


Peter Coeln not only supplied our meeting room and AV equipment free of charge, he also was an exceptional host allowing us complete freedom to preview the auction items and spend a great deal of time in his Museum and Leica Shop. Also he saw to it that there were always present members of his staff to assist us and everyone was superb. In the photo above Hans & Uli are presenting him with some gifts to show our appreciation for his assistance. (Photo by Jimmy P.) Right..Hans & Uli working to get Peter Lownds' Powerpoint presentation to load. Damned this high tech stuff! (Photo by Hans Braakhuis) Bottom left..Hans had a poster made up with the dates and locations of all 10 of our Conventions. Peter Lownds and I are the only two members to have been to all 10, but Bill Kraus (middle) has made it to 9 of them, so he is in second place! I wish I had a copy of that poster! (Photo by Hans Braakhuis) Bottom right..Only two Japanese members were present. Yuki Kawai on the right (via the USA) and Yutaka Ohtsu, whom I first met in Tokyo at NHS-Con9 two years ago. (Photo by Jimmy P.)





As always, our meetings benefit from the work of many members, especially those who agree to be speakers. A speaker needs to commit quite early in the process so we can set up the program for the day. Each strives to entertain and/or educate those present in various aspects of Nikon collecting. Not everyone can get up in front of people and give an interesting and informative talk. For our 10th Convention the speakers came through with some fine presentations. Not all who spoke are pictured here but my sincere gratitude goes out to each of them for doing their part to make NHS-Con10 such a success. Clockwise from the upper left..Hans Braakhuis (Holland), Bill Kraus (USA), Wes Loder (USA), Christophe Sap (Belgium), Peter Lownds (Holland), Uli Koch (Germany), and your editor. Not pictured are Dr. Milos Mladek (Austria) and Tony Hurst (Ireland).

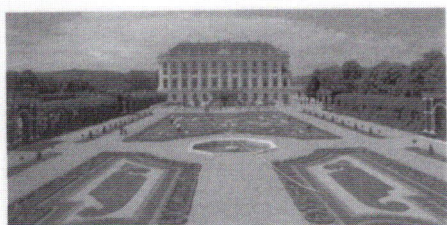




Above..L-R..Tony Hurst (Ireland) and Kjetil Moen (Norway) talking cameras at Westlicht during the auction preview. Tony once again produced a superb slide show as well as the official NHS-Con10 poster you see on the back cover of this Journal. (Photo by Jimmy P.) Right..Are we shooters? You bet we are! Everything from vintage to digital, we used them all! Photo top right Jimmy P. & right Bill Kraus. Below..Each person was given a Nikon neck lanyard with their own personalized name badge.



Robert Rotoloni
USA



10th Convention, Vienna 2006

NHS Nikon Historical Society

On Saturday morning some of us went to visit the Hofburg Palace complex which includes the former Imperial Palace, museums, the National Library and the Spanish Riding School, the home of the famous white Lipizzaner stallions. We were able to attend the Saturday morning exercise session of these beautiful horses who perform for the public every Sunday. Photo below Chris Sap and below left Bill Kraus.





Following the Monday visit to the town of Baden we continued by bus to the castle of member Dietmar Machold, taking us to within only a few miles of the Hungarian border. We were greeted by Dietmar as well as his curators Barbara Drews and member Dirk Bergmann. We were treated to an outdoor buffet of beverages and Austrian sweets on a beautiful sunny day. Dietmar's world famous Nikon collection is housed at the very top of his castle which meant that we had to visit in groups of 10 or so at a time. While waiting our turn we ate, drank and talked in very pleasant surroundings. Dietmar proved a fabulous host as he has done in the past. Clockwise from upper left..The courtyard before the main entrance (John Millham); RJR, Barbara Drews, Dietmar, Ken & Diane Reisher (Paul Comon); at the very top of the castle..L-R, Bill Kraus, Sherna & Al Brody (USA), Kjetil Moen & Daniela Koch (Bill Kraus); Why are these men smiling? Why not! L-R..Wes Loder, Hans Braakhuis, Chris Sap & Uwe Flammer (John Millham); Chris Sap as Mozart?; Uli Koch, Dirk Bergmann(Germany) & Hans Braakhuis with Andy Price (UK) in the background admiring the artwork! (Chris Sap). Waiting for their turn to view the collection. L-R, Tom Abrahamsson(Canada), Paul-Henry vanHasbroeck(UK), Ed Schweitzreich(USA), Phil Ramsden & Tuulikki Abrahamsson (Paul Comon).



The final event of the week was the Convention dinner. It was held just a few miles from the castle at a typical Austrian Farmers Restaurant called a Heurigen, where all the food is homemade. Believe me it was delicious, plentiful and inexpensive! Top left..Dietmar & Barbara Drews welcoming us. Top right..Hans used this last get together to present gifts to 3 ladies who worked very hard all week to make NHS-Con10 such a success. L-R, Daniela Koch, Ursula Koch & Arlette Pleogmakers. Thank you ladies! Above left..Can you believe this? I have hundreds of cameras but I can't get this damned digital contraption to work! Above right..Ok, Dietmar, now watch me and see how it's done! (All 3 photos by Uli Koch) Right..Paul Bonner sent me this shot which turned out to be the only one I received with just Dietmar and I together. Taken in the castle courtyard. Again, I want to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to Dietmar for his hospitality, Hans & Uli & their families for all their hard work, Peter Coeln for allowing us to use his Westlicht Museum for 5 days, and everyone who came to Vienna! My hope is you enjoyed it as much as I did!

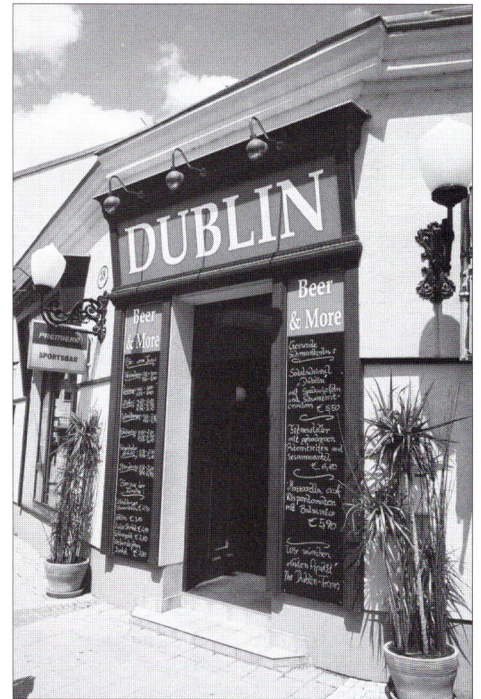




Anyone catch this guy's name? I can't read his tag! (Jimmy P.)



A bear in Baden offering a Coke to a very thirsty tourist. Looks good. (RJR)



Even in Baden you can find an Irish Pub! Tony, did you see this place? (RJR)



Daniela Koch & Al Brody enjoying lunch outside the Dublin in Baden. (Uli Koch)

On these 2 pages are some random shots of people, places & things that made up our week in Vienna & surrounding areas. NHS-Con10 was not just a meeting about cameras.. it was a social event designed to bring people from all over the world together to enjoy our common interest in Nikons and each others' company. I do think that it worked! Below.. Relaxing in a Vienna cafe are, L-R, Kjetil Moen, Joy & Tony Hurst, John Millham, Rod Stines & Jan Bos. RJR is in the mirror shooting.



L-R, Diane Reisher, Denise Miettinen & Ken Reisher in Baden. Ken, what are you eating?!! (B. Kraus)





A Viennese version of a McDonalds! Not bad!! (RJR)



I prefer to equate the 'Real Vienna' with Mozart, not tattoos & piercings. How about you? (RJR)



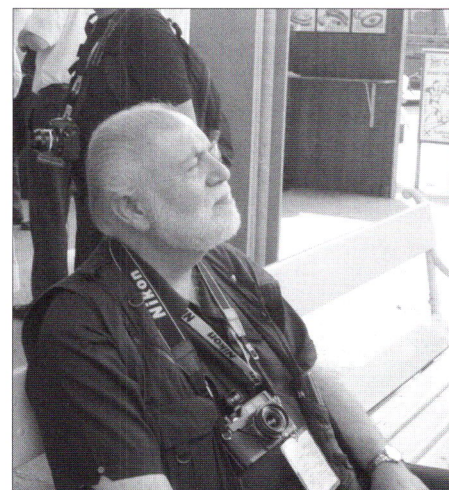
Leave it up to Bill Kraus & Yuki Kawai to find a place like this! OK, guys, where is it? (Bill Kraus)



Is it only in Vienna that you see two gentlemen on the main shopping street dressed like this? That's the Stephensdom at the left rear. This is on Friday when we had a little rain. (RJR)



Left...I must admit I did see a couple of members go into this shop, but they shall remain nameless! I wonder what they bought? (Bill Kraus) Right..Tired? Sure! Happy? You Bet! (Uli Koch) I can't wait till No. 11...Where will it be? No volunteers as yet have approached me. Where should we try? Brussels? London? Sydney? Any thoughts?



THE 'NIKON' IN THE NETHERLANDS AFTER WORLD WAR II....by ROBERT BAKKER

As you all probably know, Nikon's first post war camera was the Nikon I, introduced in 1948. Not many were made: about 700 came onto the market in Asia and, through American GIs, in the US. Around 1950, the camera was officially distributed in the US by the Overseas Finance and Trading Company.

But how about familiarity with these cameras in Europe and, especially, in The Netherlands? What was the attitude of the photo magazines and the industry towards these newcomers? In this article I try to give you some insight using articles and commentaries from two Dutch photo magazines: *FOTO* and *Focus*.

The first article on new Japanese lenses appears in *Focus* issue 23, November 10th 1951. In the years before there is no mention of Japan's post war photographic industry. Not surprising because if cameras and lenses were exported at all, it was to the United States and not to Europe. The *Focus*' article refers to sources in the US that mention that war correspondents in Korea have become acquainted with the new Nikkor lenses. The lenses could be used on Leica and Contax type cameras. David Douglas Duncan is also mentioned as is the fact that LIFE told Duncan they had never before received such sharp negatives. The lenses concerned were the 50mm/f1.5, 85mm/f2.0 and 135mm/f3.5. The article continues by quoting sources that say it is a good fake of the well known Zeiss Sonnar lens, but that it is nothing new! The article in *Focus* concludes with the remark that the editors have not heard anything about this in any other European magazine.

On the other hand one could not feel completely reassured. In the magazine *de Fotohandel* (translates to Photography Store/business), Heinze Kilfitt, the well known camera and lens maker, writes that the Japanese cameras and lenses would one day compete with the German products!

In the articles we already see two elements that will play a role in the discussion of the new Japanese products in the years to come: on the one hand they were considered mere imitations, on the other hand the sense of fear that they may be a threat to European products. One other element that was introduced later was that the reliability of these new products was still something that had to be proved. The outcome of course we all know today!

In this context, I would like to mention it is not my intention to give a qualitative statement or a personal opinion in this article. I just like to paint a historically accurate picture of what happened. In hindsight, it is easy to judge, but we have to place the whole series of events in its time. But let us now continue with the story.

Of course a reaction to the enthusiastic reports about the new Nikkor lenses was inevitable. In *Focus* issue 10 of May 10th 1952, a press report from Zeiss is quoted. It talks about "Japanese propaganda that is enthusiastically received by the American press". Zeiss continues by mentioning that research showed the Japanese lenses were just bad copies of famous German optics. Furthermore, the Japanese "did not quite have a good control of the quality in the manufacturing process" and the Nikkor f/1.4 appeared to be an f/1.5 after measurements (like the

Sonnar!). At the same time one is not reassured that the 'Japanese masters of copying' are harmless. But justifiably the editors of *Focus* try to have a more neutral/objective position. They mention that the Japanese cameras are not just copies, but that sometimes also show original ideas! Serious competition from low labor costs in Japan will not be a problem in the coming years, the editors say, because Japanese cameras would not be imported in the near future. The article concludes that it remains to be seen if the young Japanese industry will have enough experience to be able to compete with the "fine mechanical manufacturing, in which the Germans have a natural advantage".

Two issues (a month) later, we see a small article that mentions that the first advertisement of a Nikon camera and Nikkor lenses had appeared in a Swedish magazine. The editors are anxious to know the real quality of the Nikkor lenses and calls for its readers who might encounter one of these items, to lend it to *Focus* for a test! They expected the prices of the Japanese cameras to be much higher than the European. If that prediction had proved to be true.....?

Subsequently there is silence about the threat from the Far East. In January 1953, there is a small piece in *FOTO* on the attack on the Leica IIIf in the US. The company is Canon with their Canon IV, but...equipped with a Nikkor lens. The piece continues: The imitation is literally thrown on the market with huge advertising. The camera is 25% cheaper and the misfortune is, according to a spokesperson in *FOTO*, the Nikkor is so awfully good. Japan is a serious competitor for optics, not just in lenses for photography but also in binoculars. Some even go so far as to claim the Nikkor beats any other lens in performance. The editors of *FOTO* add a dry comment to the report: "Thus an illustration of the anxiety on the other side of the Atlantic. "We have not seen or tested anything yet". That the campaign had some success is illustrated by a piece in *Focus* issue 20 of October 1954. In this piece American photographer John D. Walker mentions his Leica that is equipped with one of those famous Japanese Nikkor f/1.4 lenses". He continues "the lenses are excellent and the prices are lower than the German optics. So what would you do?"

In the end, the photo magazines concluded, one can no longer ignore the Japanese products. The consumer wants to know what's up and demands for a judgment by the experts. And so editorials appear on the subject in *Focus* as well as *FOTO*.

In *Focus* issue 8 of April 16th 1955, the editors write: "We believe that it is good to speak openly about the Japanese cameras, on which so many rumors are circulating.... A single specimen of the camera ended up in the Netherlands through sailors and airmen. Then distributors of Japanese goods appeared with small film and reflex cameras. We have to be honest about it. A few years ago, we received adverts that we refused to place, because the interests of the Dutch photographic retailers asked for it. It is not pure to cross a company with certain arrangements by outsiders. But we are democratic to the bone, so now when cer-

tain distributors of photographic equipment are offering Japanese cameras and the quality of these is appearing to be quite good, there is no reason to refuse these cameras." The editors make a few comments concerning the price of the Japanese products: "Apart from the price, the consumer has to take into account the quality and expected time for repairs when a certain defect occurs." At the end of their piece, the editors make a few nice and, in my opinion, just remarks: "Concerning the Japanese cameras, we shall perform our job, that is not enviable, openly and we will discuss fairly, what deserves to be discussed."

FOTO issue 5 of May 1955 also writes an editorial on the Japanese cameras. "It has become clear to us that one expects an opinion on the Japanese cameras and accessories that currently have been introduced...In the past they were awfully cheap and equally bad...but this time this country is serious. They are seriously intending to acquire a position on the world market and products are only allowed to be exported when they comply with stringent quality requirements." The editors state further that "amateurs can be reasonably assured that they deal with a good product, but questions arise how it will be regarding repairs and how durable the product will be over time. Concerning European and American products we know this: manufacturers have great experience and have to keep up their reputations." The editors of **FOTO** also promise solemnly to test offered cameras to the best of their abilities. "Slowly opinions will form themselves. This is the only healthy way".

One has to keep one's promise. In **Focus** issue 2 of February 4th 1956, there is the first test report on a Nikon rangefinder. According to the article the camera and lens "were submitted to normal tests in our laboratory", but the discussion of the results is a bit short. Perhaps one cannot compare this with the current test reports in photo magazines. The report does not mention which camera was used, but from the picture accompanying the article it is clear it is an S2. There are a few introductory remarks. "For the German manufacturers that have worked on these designs for years, it must have been extremely irritating to tolerate that foreign manufacturers are allowed to copy their designs. We can vividly understand that." On the other hand the editors say fairly "We do not enter into politics, but when a distributor thinks he must import, normal competition begins and the public will judge whether to buy or not". Subsequently, the editors give their opinion on the Japanese equipment. "Regarding the optics we can be short: equal to the best German." Then the camera: "good finishing, but how the materials will hold up, time will tell." **Focus** believes the German products will not face much competition, because the prices of the Japanese products are rather high. The camera gets positive notes especially on aspects like film transport, the combined viewfinder and the shutter. The article ends with the remark that the inventor of the first small film camera, Oscar Barnack, would have been surprised if he would have seen a picture of the camera. "We would give much to hear his judgment about it."

However, the consumer's reaction appears to be more down to earth: in two letters to the editor, that were placed before and after the test report, it is stated that there is no reason to boycott Japanese cameras. "If they are not good, then they will disappear from the market and the case is closed. Competition is necessary in terms of price and quality." Besides, there is no real

competition on the Dutch market: there is still no official distributor!

Around the same time period, February 1956, reports appear in **Focus** and **FOTO** of a promotional trip with a show of all sorts of Japanese cameras, lenses and enlargers, etc., in the Netherlands organized by the firm Foka in Rotterdam. The editors were deeply impressed by this! One could no longer get around Japanese products. Also, internationally, the Japanese are making their way. They put their heads in the Lion's mouth: Photokina in Cologne. Due to the high import taxations the Japanese products were no match for the German products.

Slowly more and more reviews appear on Japanese cameras in the Dutch photo magazines. In 1956 another two, the Aires 35 small film camera and the Hacoflex 6x6 TLR. But in 1957 more follow: Aires Automat 6x6, Soligor 66, Fodor 35, Mamiya 35 II, Topcon 35S, Canon V, Asahiflex Ila, and few other TLRs. And the judgment on all these cameras by **Focus** and **FOTO** is positive! That means something, I would say.

By 1958 the Japanese products seem to be accepted: more serious reviews appear: Leotax F, Neoca 35, Fofor Novo, Kinoflex 6x6. In **FOTO** of February the availability of the Nikon SP with motor drive is mentioned and in the July issue there is a lot of praise for the Canon cameras. But further nothing about Nikon! In **Focus** issue 4 there is a report by travel journalist and photographer Wim Dussel on his journeys through Japan. He finds the Japanese camera industry has become a fierce competitor of the American and European manufacturers. "I had this opinion already in 1951, but when I wanted to write something about this for **Focus**, I received a letter from editor Dick Boer with more or less the following content: "I am convinced that it is all very beautiful and perhaps even very good, but dear Wim, I cannot publish this in **Focus** because the whole photographic community would come down on me." So a lot had changed in those 7 years!

After that all remains relatively quiet for a while, that is for Nikon products. Remarkable is an article on a Nikon fish-eye camera with an image angle of 180 degrees on 6x6 format. In **FOTO** issue 1 of 1959, there are a few reviews of Japanese cameras like Canon, Olympus and Mamiya and an interesting article on the manufacturing of several Japanese lenses. Also nice is a full-page ad by the Japanese Camera Industry to convince the consumer of the precision, reliability and durability of the Japanese camera.

The following first report on Nikon appears in **FOTO** of March 1961. But that is an important one: starting from January 1st 1961, the firm Cinon n.v. from Amsterdam has become the sole distributor of Nikon in the Netherlands. Finally, there is official distribution! A month later **FOTO** as well as **Focus** have extensive test reports on the Nikon F camera that was introduced in 1959, plus the Nikkorex F SLR and Nikkorex 8 movie camera. One of the test reports that is full of praise begins with the following: "There are a few top brands among Japanese cameras and among these are explicitly the Nikon cameras... The Nikon small film camera (rangefinder) has acquired a historical reputation." Official importation of the rangefinder was no longer the case as concentration was on the Nikon F and Nikkorex F. But for Nikon came a long awaited recognition! And from that point onwards, you all know how our beloved brand has fared.

18

AUCTIONS...AUCTION

May proved to be yet another banner month for auctions of interest to members of the NHS. In addition to the fabulous one in Vienna that many of us experienced first hand, the other two major houses had sales as well.

First off was Stan Tamarkin's 20th sale held in New York on May 6th. Stan had a very fine selection of Nikon items including some first class rarities! Many of the better items sold but there were a few surprises. Items that should have sold did not (50/f1.4 'ALL BLACK' Nikkor, 1000mm Reflex-Nikkor (!), and a black SP and S2! Here is a sampling of the results of Stan's sale. Prices include the 15% buyer's fee..

35mm Mini Finder.....	\$1046.00
Nikon SP Illuminator.....	\$1150.00
21mm RF Nikkor (lens only).....	\$4500.00
21mm RF Nikkor Lens Shade Only!.....	\$3000.00
Micro-Nikkor (lens only).....	\$2300.00
Micro-Nikkor Collar Only!.....	\$1730.00
50mm/f1.1 Nikkor (Internal).....	\$4500.00
50mm/f1.1 Nikkor Shade Only!.....	\$1840.00
25mm RF Nikkor w/finder & shade!.....	\$2300.00
85mm/f1.5 Nikkor w/shade.....	\$3700.00
Nikon SP Chrome (body only).....	\$3000.00
Reflex Housing Type Two.....	\$2600.00

And for the star of the auction.....

Nikon SP Black w/S36 Motor Drive/pack.....\$27,140.00!

Some members coming to Vienna were able to attend the Christie's auction on Monday the 15th in London. The Nikon equipment was heavy in reflex gear and none really collectible, but there was a good mix of rangefinder gear including another 1000mm Mirror optic! And this one did sell!! The following hammer prices include the buyer's premium.....

Nikon S #6125007) chrome body repainted black & sold only as a replica (I got to see it in Vienna!).....	\$375.00
Nikon S4 body only.....	\$3150.00
21mm RF Nikkor Finder Only.....	\$335.00
1000mm/f6.3 Reflex Nikkor #100657 w/case.....	\$21,000.00!!

We now come to Peter Coeln's 'Westlicht Auction'. When Peter first mentioned that he would like to host our 10th Convention the same weekend as his sale, he promised to strive to bring together as many quality Nikon items as he could. Well, he did one hell of a job. I personally cannot remember such an awesome selection of Nikon RF and Reflex items in one sale before. Many were true rarities and nearly everything was in really collector's condition. As with any auction there were surprises here as well. Again a few items failed to find a bidder or make the minimum that really should have sold while others went for far more than anyone anticipated. Since condition was high across the board, prices were correspondingly high as well, but many items were in collector's condition and should have found buyers. Here is a long list of items and their final prices including the 20% buyers premium...

Nikon M outfit (body & 4 lenses & finder).....	\$10,140.00
Nikon M #M6092084 w/f1.4.....	\$3100.00
Nikon S#6094164 MIOJ w/1.4.....	\$2000.00
Nikon S2 BLACK W/ALL BLACK 1.4!.....	\$21,850.00!
Nikon SP ch w/1.4 DOUBLE BOXED!.....	\$4000.00

Nikon SP w/f1.1 lens DOUBLE BOXED!!.....	\$18,000.00!
Nikon S3 Black Olympic body only.....	\$4400.00
Nikon S3M chrome body only!!.....	\$42,000.00!
21mm RF Nikkor w/finder and BOX!!.....	\$10,500.00!
STEREO-NIKKOR OUTFIT w/case.....	\$35,000.00!
50mm/f1.1 Nikkor (Internal).....	\$5200.00
50mm/f1.1 Nikkor Shade Only!.....	2700.00
1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor #100640 BLACK!!.....	\$33,000.00!
Reflex Housing Type One.....	\$8400.00
Reflex Housing Type Two.....	\$4700.00
35mm Mini Finder w/box.....	\$2000.00
Variframe Finder MIOJ 24x32 for Nikon One.....	\$4400.00
Micro-Nikkor Collar Only!.....	\$2700.00
Nikon F High Speed 'Sapporo' 7FPS.....	\$41,350.00!
Nikon F2 High Speed.....	\$7800.00
Nikon F2 Titan.....	\$4400.00
Nikon F3 'NASA 250' w/NASA 35/f1.4.....	\$46,000.00!
Nikon 58mm/f1.0 'CRT Nikkor'.....	\$7500.00!

There were some true surprises in this sale. Compare the hammer prices for the Micro Collar, 21mm RF Nikkor, Reflex Housing II, 35mm Mini Finder and f1.1 shade to those in the Tamarkin sale. Quite a difference. And the 1000mm lens at Christie's. It gives you an idea of how auction prices can vary from sale to sale. In my opinion both 1000s, both 21s, the S3M, Stereo set, and some of the black bodies went for lower prices than anticipated. But in this sale a few items really took off. Which ones?

Take a look at the CRT-Nikkor. No one thought it would make its minimum yet it sold high. The NASA went very high (and should have) but the 'Sapporo' High Speed F went for much more than I would have thought. But in every sale there is often one really big surprise and Westlicht had such an item. Lot 545 consisted of a really fine black S36 motor drive and its very rare 'Sardine' battery pack, of which probably less than 100 were ever produced. My thoughts were it would sell for between \$8-10,000 because of condition and the pack. Well, there was a bidding war over this item and when it was finished there was applause throughout the room, the only time this happened over a Nikon RF item. What was the final hammer price? **How does \$26,500.00 sound to you?** Now you know why the applause. Astounding price!

AND LOOK WHAT WILL BE IN CHRISTIES' NEXT AUCTION ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2006!! NIKON ONE #60959 W/F3.5!!



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AT AUCTION

Featuring Photography

Saturday, July 29, 2006
at 10 a.m.

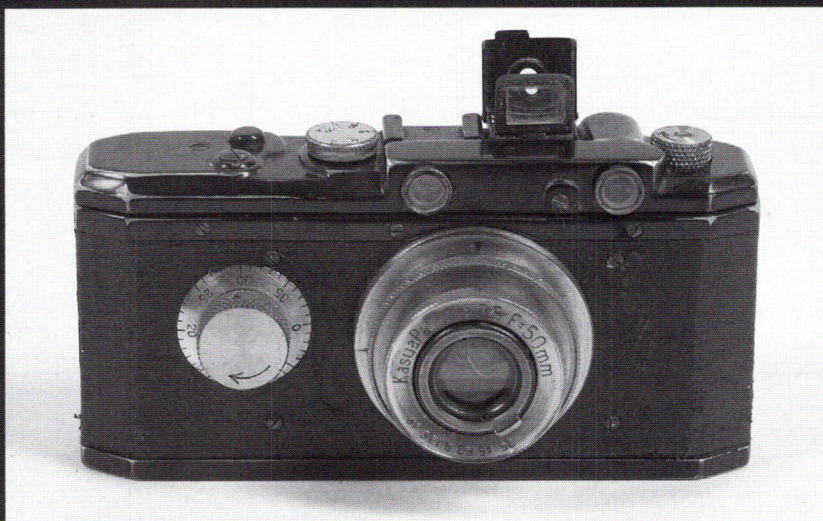
63 Park Plaza, Boston

Preview Times:

July 27, 12 to 5 p.m.

July 28, 12 to 7 p.m.

July 29, 8 to 9 a.m.



Kwanon Prototype Camera



Nikon I No. 609339

Illustrated catalogue available
for \$32 by mail, \$39 overseas

For further information,
please contact Nick Hawkins
at 978.779.6241
or science-tech@skinnerinc.com

SKINNER

Auctioneers and Appraisers of Antiques and Fine Art

63 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116 Tel: 617.350.5400 • 357 Main Street, Bolton, MA 01740 Tel: 978.779.6241
view auctions online at www.skinnerinc.com

20

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEW MEMBERS

HARRY COAKLEY
619 58TH STREET
KINOSHA, WI 53140

FABRIZIO CORTESI
PO BOX M101 MISSENDEN ROAD
CAMPERDOWN 2050, SYDNEY (NSW), AUSTRALIA

MICHAEL CRAFT
3231-C BUSINESS PARK DRIVE, #316
VISTA, CA 92081

SPENCER GRANT
31512 FLYING CLOUD DRIVE
LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA 92677-2711

JOSE RUBEN ESPARZA GUTIERREZ
417 E. COMA AVE., SUITE 529
HIDALGO, TX 78557

FELIX MAR
3911 WEST 21ST. AVE.
VANCOUVER, BC, V6S 1H7, CANADA

KJETIL MOEN
TORDENSKJOOLDSGATE 60
N-4009 STAVANGER, NORWAY

JAMES W. NORRIS
8016 BANGOR DRIVE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116-6939

BRUNO OPICE
VIA ENRICO PETRELLA 14, CIT. 21
20124 MILANO, ITALY

DOMINIK PHILIPP
GOTTORPSTR. 46
22605 HAMBURG, GERMANY

SCOTT SINCLAIR-HALL
6644 CARLETON AVE. SOUTH
SEATTLE, WA 98108-3531

JON YAMAMOTO
1655 S. JACKSON STREET
DENVER, CO 80210

FERNANDO YEPEZ
1804 BALLINA LANE
McHENRY, IL 60050

NEW ADDRESSES

CHRISTOPHER ENGELER
55 E. ERIE STREET #3301
CHICAGO, IL 60611

OLE HELOE
GRANVEIEN 44A
1394 NESBRU, NORWAY

WOLFGANG STIMMER
SIEMENS BUSINESS SERVICES GMBH & CO.
AUTOKADERSTRASSE 29, A-1210 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

PETER WALNES
PO BOX 3888
TEMPLECOMBE, SOMERSET BA8 0WZ, ENGLAND

BLACK & BEAUTIFUL!

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

6157505 6180987 6202489 6215381 6218858 6220689
6320079 6320151 6321140 6321276 6321628 6321897
6321978 6322229 6322315 6322329 6322409

THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS ARE THOSE OF 'FAKES'!
6125007 6211725 6211734 6302595 6310106

'NHS' RED DOT F LIST

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

6592702 6593071 (CORRECTS 6593073 IN NHS91)
6600484 6600225 (FAKE BLACK!)

NHS BACK ISSUE & REPRINT SERVICE!

AVAILABLE "ORIGINAL" BACKISSUES OF THE "NIKON JOURNAL" INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:

32, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 58, 59, 60,
61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78,
79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90 & 91.

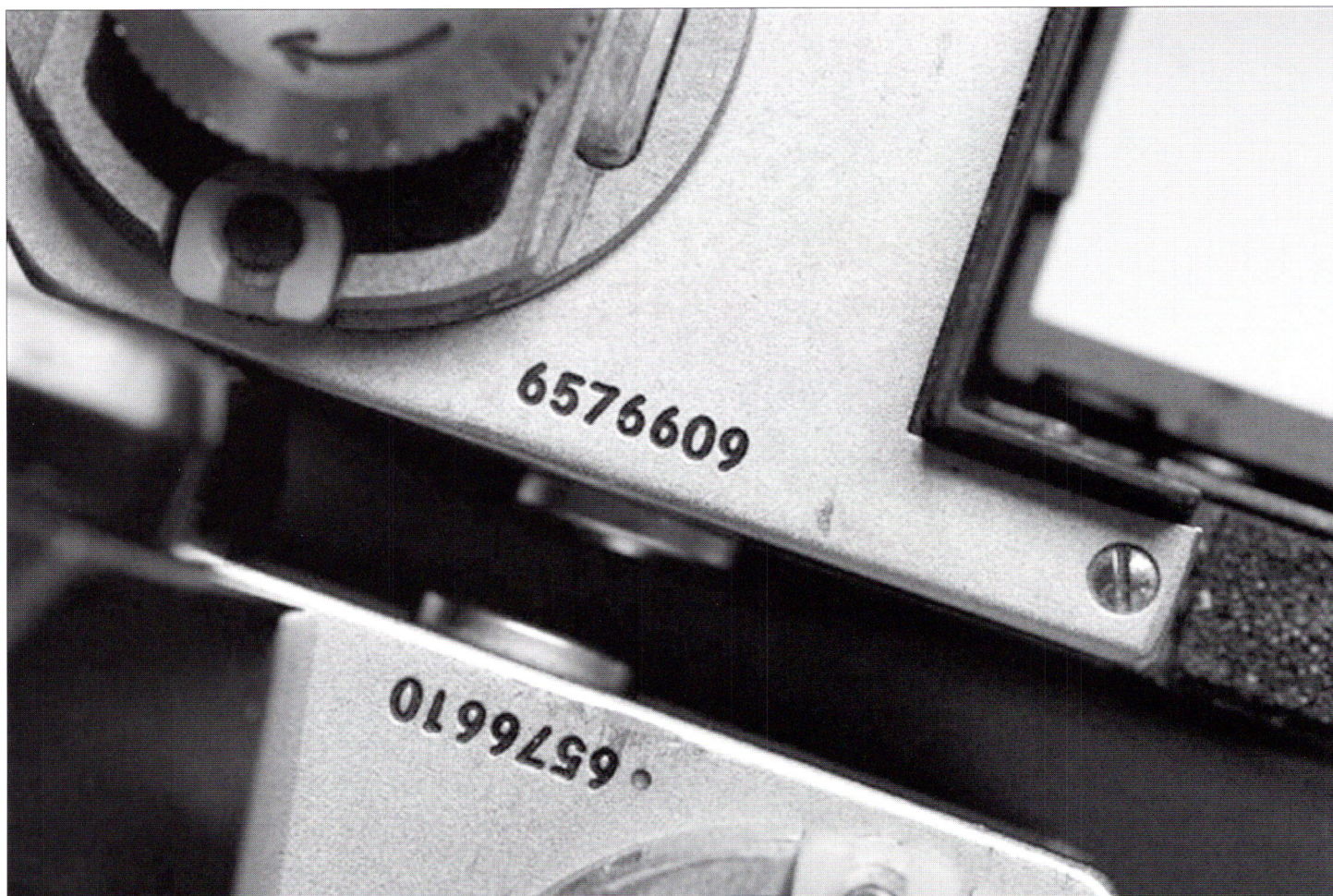
\$7.00 EACH IN U.S.A. POSTPAID
\$9.00 EACH OVERSEAS POSTPAID

HIGH QUALITY COPIES PRINTED ON 11X17 PAPER THEN FOLDED & STAPLED (INCLUDES "ONLY" THOSE ISSUE NUMBERS 'NOT' LISTED ABOVE!)

\$5.00 EACH IN U.S.A. POSTPAID
\$7.00 EACH OVERSEAS POSTPAID

**odds
'n ends**

**WHAT A PAIR OF 'F's!!
COULD THIS BE THE 1ST 'RED DOT'?**



Could this be the very first chrome Nikon F engraved by the factory with the 'red dot'? And the camera right next to it was not? The proud new owner of this very interesting set is Christophe Sap of Belgium. His words follow..."I found 'RED DOT' camera #6576610 in Australia and later #6576609 without the dot in America. They both came together in Vienna, Austria, during the 10th Convention of the Nikon Historical Society. Robert Rotoloni brought #6609 over for me and I was able to show it to members of the NHS on Sunday. A very nice pair, is it not! The camera with the 'red dot' is currently the earliest known chrome example."

Kame

STRAIGHT NIKON POREX L.S. 3

Created For The "NHS" By Jerry Hurst

CON10

Nikon Historical Society Convention
Vienna, May 16 - 22, 2006