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SEPT. 30, 2008

25TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!! 9/83 ~ 9/08

NIKON JOURNAL



ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

THIS ISSUE
PG. 1..THE FIRST 100
NIKON JOURNALS!
PG. 6..THE NIKON ONE SAGA



THE NIKON JOURNAL ISSUE #101

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NHS-102 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-102, is November 15, 2008. Please get all correspondence and articles to me by then so I can get our Journal out to you on schedule with the Holidays. Thank you. RJR.

EDITORIAL

I burned a lot of 'midnight oil' putting this issue together. Hot on the heels of our 100th issue, I needed to come up with something special for this, our 25th Anniversary issue. I actually received 'zero' feedback from the members to my requests for ideas to put in #101, so I had to go it alone. I decided not to consume the entire issue (that would have been a little over-kill.. and probably not very interesting) with a retrospective, but I did want to somehow condense down those 25 years and 100 issues to a manageable number of pages, but still cover the many highlights from our past. Especially for newer members, many of who are not aware of some of the material we covered in the early years. I hope I have not made it too long (nor too short) and that I have not left out too many important items. It took some time to narrow it down and I am sure I have missed some things that you will point out to me once you receive this issue. But please enjoy it and hopefully it will help you more fully recall what we have covered these last 25 years.

As I did for our 20th Anniversary issue, I again requested that our master illustrator, Tony Hurst, do some color for me. So we have another superb color back cover Hurst creation and an awesome two page color center spread as well! Again Tony has come through for us as only he can with unique creations that we can call our own. They make this 25th Anniversary issue even more special. Thank you Tony!

As promised last issue, Chris Sap continues his project on the development of the Nikon One in celebration of the 60th birthday of the camera that started it all. This installment details his visit with Mr. Tatsuhiro Arakawa where he was shown various records and charts from the prototype and early production era of the Nikon One that Arakawa-san has preserved all these 60 plus years! It is a treasure trove of information which, like all such things, must be interpreted in order to extract as much factual substance as possible. Chris uses his skill as a trained accountant to take this body of information and summarize it for us. There will be more in future issues.

Starting on page 14 is a detailed illustrated article about a very unusual Nikon 'screw mount' prototype. Although known to me while working on my book, I was not able to obtain such good photos as those seen here and, unfortunately, this item does not appear in the book. Lars Netopil, a very prominent German dealer who specializes in Leica and other fine cameras, contacted me and wondered if I would be interested in a clear set of photos for a Journal article? Boy, would I! And what better issue for it to appear in than our 25th Anniversary? The camera is Nikon L11004 and there are numerous photos for you to look through as well as some of the previously covered Nikon L for comparison. This article compliments a fine presentation at NHS-Con11 given by Yuki Kawai and Bill Kraus on this camera and another prototype.

I mentioned on page 19 last issue about some art posters being produced by Mr. Kridon Panteli of London. Well I have received my set and they are really fine items. If you are interested see his website at www.illustration.panteli.net. Also, maybe we can talk Tony Hurst into doing a series for us as well. Something to think about.

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

THE FIRST 100 NIKON JOURNALS 25 YEARS & COUNTING

You have no idea how difficult it was for me to put this article together. How do you do a retrospective that would do justice to 25 years of Journals and over 2000 pages of articles without taking up this entire issue? (As to how many photos are in those 100 magazines...I didn't even try to count them! But an educated estimate...over 5000!) I finally decided the only way would be to touch on particular points such as the evolution and physical improvements in the Journal itself, landmark articles dealing with first-time-ever published coverage of important items, and various 'highlights' from our first 100 issues. Believe me, it wasn't easy. The biggest problem was what to include (and exclude) and how to keep it brief enough to get it all within these 5 pages. I hope I have done a decent job of it and those of you who have been with me for years find it sufficient while our newer members are now aware of just how much we have covered. It really is a massive amount of information that can only be appreciated by literally thumbing through those 100 Nikon Journals. Remember, if you need a detailed index of every article ever published in The Journal, go to our official NHS website (www.nikonhs.org) where you can download a PDF file with a complete index. British member Alan Blake maintains this for us as a service to all our members, so please use it.

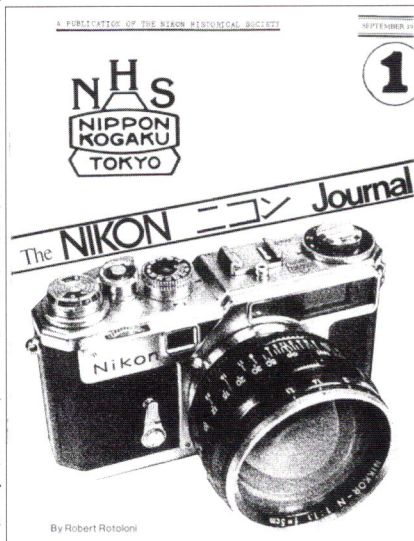
The first part of this article will touch on highlights of all types from various issues, while the second part will list some of the 'firsts' that we have accomplished. These are articles and photos of items that had never been previously covered in the English language anywhere to my knowledge. So here goes...

NHS-1..SEPT. 1983.What started it all. 16 pages of 'typewritten' copy cut and pasted the old fashion way. No computer yet but we started with 40 members, 15 of which are still with us!

NHS-2...My first computer comes on line but only a dot matrix printer. Poor quality but better than a typewriter! High quality coated paper stock for better reproduction debuts.

NHS-3/4...First limited 'black body list' published! (Tracking black bodies goes back to our beginnings) Coverage of the S36 Motor Drive and the 1000mm Reflex-Nikkor.

NHS-5...Our 1st Anniversary Issue! Now up to 60 members.



NHS-8...First 'complete black body list'! Nikon-16 covered.

NHS-9...Switched from a dot matrix to a daisy wheel printer. A little easier to read. (Ink jets are still in the future)

NHS-10...Randol Hooper begins his classic 6-part series on the screw mount Nikkors & Peter Dechert has our first article on the Nikkors made for the Canon Hansa series.

NHS-13..110 members! Joe Higham begins a 5-part series of his original drawings detailing the insides of the early Nikons!

NHS-17/18...First photos and drawings ever of the Nikon SP2 seen on my first visit to the Ohi factory!

NHS-20...Permanent increase to 20 inside pages! **133 members!** **NHS-CON1** covered as well as the largest coverage (8 pages) ever on the **STEREO-NIKKOR!**

NHS-21...Hayato Ueyama starts a 2-part series on the earliest Nikkors for the Canons. The very rare 'black 1000' debuts.

NHS-22...**Tony Hurst does his first ever rear cover!** To my knowledge he has done every one since then save for 4!!! That's nearly 80 times!

NHS-24...Celebrating 30 years of the Nikon F. First cover change with an 'F' replacing our timeless 'SP' photo!

NHS-25...The new 'F-Spot' feature is added per member interest and the first type '8-digit S' is revealed for the very first time.

NHS-29...Fred Krughoff covers the unique 'Atomic Nikkor'! Up to 200 members!

NHS-30...High Speed Nikon Fs covered..both the 7 & 9fps versions..This has never been done before.

NHS-32...Fred Krughoff details the unique 'Trifocal' SP with no 28/35 finder! NASA F3 article by Peter Lownds.

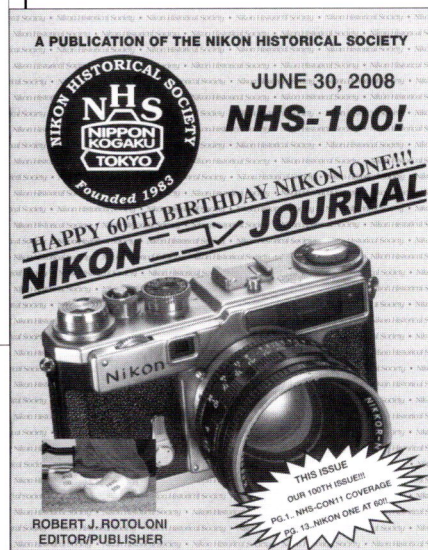
NHS-33...First of 4-part series of my Tokyo interviews with Masahiko Fuketa (Mr. Nikon).

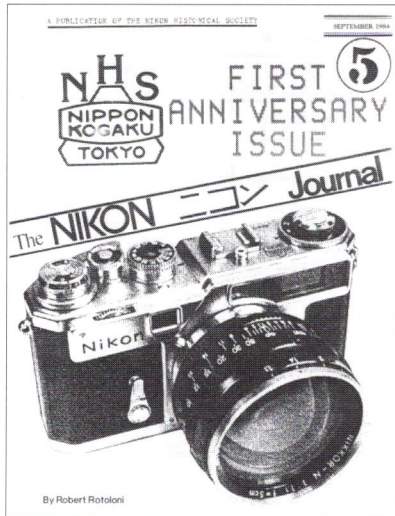
NHS-34...The 250 shot high speed Nikon F and Dummy S3.

NHS-35...The late Jose Wu Chang details the prototype 35~85 zoom for the F & Simon Nathan writes about the 120 Fisheye camera.

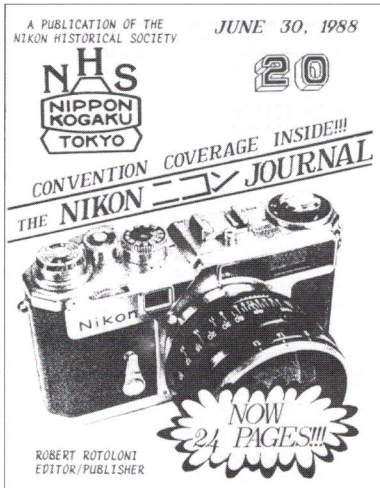
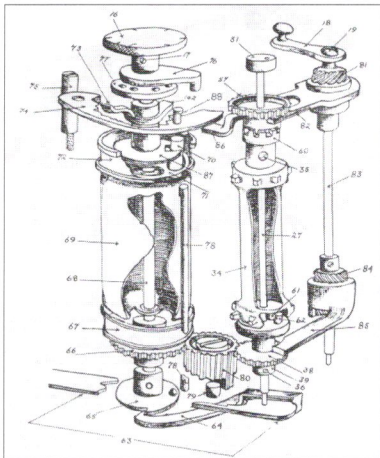
NHS-36...The almost unknown Nikkor J and the first verified Dummy SP are featured.

NHS-37...Prototype Photomic finder covered in detail. Updated black body list!

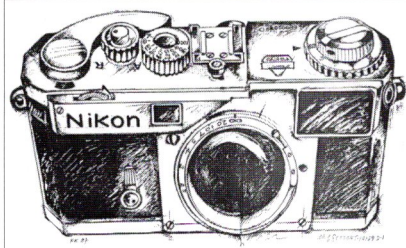




NHS-5..1st. Anniversary issue. Below, one of Joe Higham's original drawings!



Above-We go to 24 total pages. Below-1st published drawings ever of the SP2!



NHS-38..The mythical prototype 50mm/f1.8 Nikkor is covered in great detail. Only 3 are said to have been produced.

NHS-40..Mike Symons on the 6x6 X-ray Camera. Rich Lane has his first of many articles on WWII Nikon optical ordnance. Up to 330 members!

NHS-41..Our 10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!! The mythical Nikon Extension Unit is finally covered with photos of an actual specimen.

NHS-45..The first article in a series by T. Arakawa appears translated just for the NHS by Kyoko Saegusa.

NHS-49..The prototype Nikon 'L' and the reflex Fundus Camera are featured.

NHS-52..The very rare Underwater Housing is covered in detail.

NHS-54/55..We are on the Web! Fred Krughoff volunteers his services as our webmaster and the NHS gets it own site. Twelve years later it's still running strong!

NHS-56..The 'Hermes' enlarging lens debuts.

NHS-58..Special enlarged 28pg issue on the awesome 50mm/f1.1 Nikkor by Tony Hurst and Peter Lownds.

NHS-59..Special 'NASA' FTn by Peter Lownds. Arakawa vintage factory photos are published for the first time.

NHS-60..First ever photo of 'MOTHER ONE', Nikon#6091 is published right here!

NHS-64..The 'SM Prototypes' with exclusive photos by member Tad Sato.

NHS 69/70..The Millenium S3 is announced & we have inside factory photo coverage of its assembly by Tad Sato!

NHS-72/73/74..'Name is Nikon' trilogy by Arakawa begins.

NHS-77..The updated black body list is published. Over 500 entries!

NHS-81..20th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!...Our first ever color covers and centerfold by Tony Hurst! (Duplicated in this issue as well!)

NHS-84..First detailed photos of 'Mother One' and 6094 from Tokyo convention are published.

NHS-86...Entire issue on reflex bulk backs by Tony Hurst/Peter Lownds.

NHS-90..Our famous black body list updated once again with over 650 cameras listed!

NHS-92..Our new cover design is adopted.

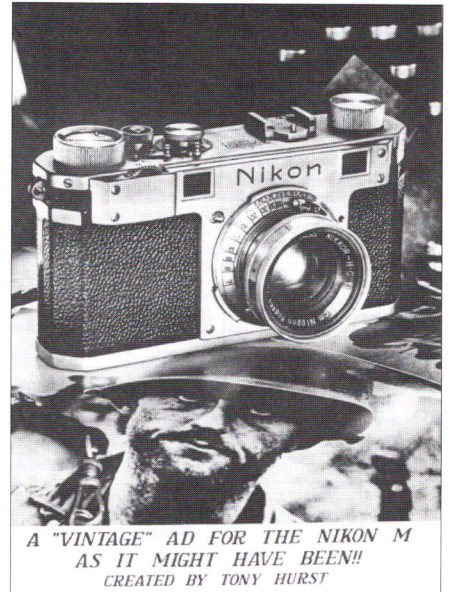
NHS-93..24 page enlarged issue on the F3 plus a landmark article on Adolph Gasser, the first Nikon importer.

NHS-94..Chris Sap writes about the F2H-250 shot..1 of only 10 ever produced!

NHS-95..The rare Nikon S2E is covered in detail! A first!

NHS-97..The Black Nikon S "Life" camera, once the property of Carl Mydans, is featured.

NHS-100..Chris Sap begins a series on the Nikon One.

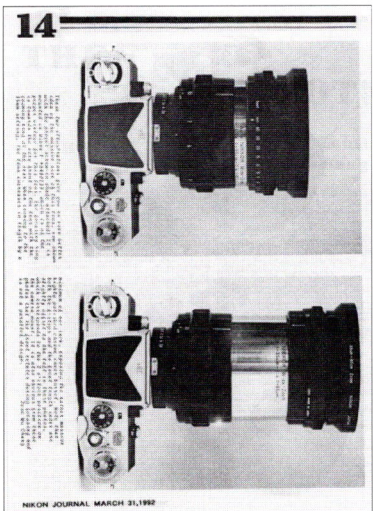


Above-Tony Hurst's very first rear cover debuted in NHS-22 in December 1988!



NHS-24..30th birthday of the Nikon F. The 'Atomic Nikkor' was in NHS-29.





NIKON JOURNAL MARCH 31, 1992

14 THE F--SPOT!!

THE NIKKOR 'J'

by ULRICH KOCH

When Nikon took over the Nikon 'J' from the Nikon 'F' in 1975, it was a significant event in the history of Nikon cameras. The 'J' was the first Nikon camera to feature a built-in electronic flash, and it was the first Nikon camera to have a built-in autofocus system. The 'J' was also the first Nikon camera to have a built-in electronic viewfinder, and it was the first Nikon camera to have a built-in electronic metering system. The 'J' was a revolutionary camera, and it was the first Nikon camera to be truly modern.



NIKORREX

8 THE F--SPOT!!

THE PHOTOMIC PROTOTYPES

by Jose Wu Chang & Robert J. Rotoloni

3 COUPLED METERS FOR NIKON F, NIKORREX F & NIKORREX F2

The Nikon Photomic prototypes were developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They were the first Nikon cameras to feature a built-in electronic flash, and they were the first Nikon cameras to have a built-in autofocus system. The Photomic prototypes were a revolutionary step forward in Nikon camera design, and they paved the way for the Nikon 'J' and the Nikon 'L'.



1/250 shutter for the Nikon extension unit

ANOTHER "NHS" EXCLUSIVE!

First Full Coverage Ever!!

NIKON SP UNDERWATER HOUSING!!

by Fred Krughoff, Geoff Spear & Alan Brody

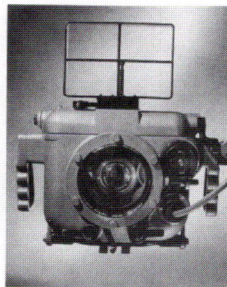
For many years photos of the Nikon Underwater Housing have intrigued collectors. However, the only known examples were never shown publicly, or photographed for the NHS Journal. The few published photos did not show clear detail, but only suggested the mystery.

The most widely known photo of the housing is in "The Nikon Manual" by George Wright, first published in 1957. The housing pictured on page 47 is not finished like the one seen here, or like any of the others that have been seen by collectors. It appears to be an airbrushed photo, simplified for clarity, or perhaps an artist's rendering. It illustrates a completely different finisher from the production models. There is no Nippon Kogaku engraved lettering around the lens window, and the filter levers have no markings. None of the joints are black, and the ring and nuts around the front glass appear to be polished metal, not painted.

The housing also appears as a rather poor quality, high contrast image, in the "Nikon Handbook" by Cooper & Abbott, on page 15-14. Published by Iapmoto in 1974, this reference states that the housing was "made by N-K for the Japanese government". Currently this is the only authoritative information about the actual use or distribution of the housing by anyone from NKKK.

The late Dr. Mikio Kuno includes the housing in his book "Nikon" published in 1990. This reference work, available only in Japanese, illustrates the production model & appears to be taken from Nikon literature. Dr. Kuno states there may have been adapters for the 50/1.4, 50/1.2.5 & 1.8, and the 20/2.5 lenses. This is not, however, the adapter set that is included with our featured housing, which is missing the 50/1.4 & 1.8.

Mr. Ted Soto owns a similar housing to the one shown here. His housing has been reported not to include many of the parts needed to make it functional, but it is here almost without any of the camera mounting gears or the flanges. Because of the probable U.S. source, it may have been a prototype sent to NKKK for evaluation. The Soto housing was shown during NKKK-CO's in Tokyo, and can be found on page 3 of NHS-31 drawing an enthusiastic crowd of admirers at the 2011 meeting. The next day a similar housing, named by Nikon, was displayed at the convention meeting. It is unknown if that unit included any accessories, tools or flanges.



CLASS-UP OF HOUSING & CAMERA WITH 300M FINER HOUSING. NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

NIKON KOGAKU 1/25/11-1/25/921

Clockwise from upper left..The 35-85 Zoom-Nikkor prototype in NHS-35. Possibly only 3 were ever assembled! The Nikkor J is the subject of the 'F-Spot' in NHS-36. The prototype Photomic finder from NHS-37. In NHS-38 we give full coverage to the mythical 50mm/f1.8 prototype, 1 of only 3 ever made! Our 10th Anniversary not only marked that landmark, but also contained the first ever photo coverage of the Nikon Extension Unit with possibly the only specimen ever manufactured! The never before seen Nikon 'L' prototype makes its debut in NHS-49, another 'first' for us. Nearly the entire NHS-52 was devoted to the very rare Underwater Housing, the first illustrated article ever done on this item!



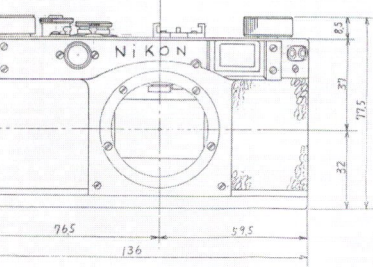
ANOTHER "NHS" EXCLUSIVE!



NIKON JOURNAL DEC.31,1992



THE NIKON 'L'



NIKON JOURNAL SEPT. 30, 1995

NHS NIPPON KOGAKU TOKYO

ANOTHER "NHS" EXCLUSIVE!



On page 66 is a reproduction of the Nikon Photomic prototype F-118 where the Extension Unit is both detached and attached. Both the camera and the Extension Unit are shown in a front-three-quarter view. The camera is shown with the Extension Unit attached, and the Extension Unit is shown with the camera attached. The camera is shown with the Extension Unit attached, and the Extension Unit is shown with the camera attached. The camera is shown with the Extension Unit attached, and the Extension Unit is shown with the camera attached.

NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPT. 30, 1993 NHS-41

10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!!



THE NIKON 'L'... THIS ISSUE... ROBERT ROTOLONI EDITOR/PUBLISHER

SOME 'NHS' EXCLUSIVES!

Over the years there have been quite a few Nikon Journal 'Firsts' or 'Exclusives' published within these pages. Rare items illustrated for the first time in the English language or, in some cases, for the first time ever anywhere! Here are some 'NHS' landmark articles that I think we can all be proud of. I hope you agree. RJR

NHS-13..Joe Higham's masterful drawings of the interior mechanism of the early Nikon I/M/S are superior to anything the factory ever produced! The series ran to 5 parts.

NHS-17/18..Fred Krughoff produced drawings from my notes of the **SP2 prototypes** I had recently seen in Tokyo. **This is the first time 'ever' that any info on these cameras is published anywhere!**

NHS-30..Detailed article on both types of High Speed Fs (7 & 9fps). This has never been done before!

NHS-32..Fred Krughoff's coverage of the '**Trifocal SP**', the first verified SP without the 28/35 finder. Only rumored to exist, but we have the 'real thing'!

NHS-33..I begin a 4 part series of interviews with **Masahiko Fuketa, 'Mr. Nikon'**. This is the first time he shares his memories with the western press.

NHS-35..The weird & wonderful **35-85mm Zoom-Nikkor** seen in the very early Nikon F ads, but never made, finally sees the light of day! Jose WuChang acquires 1 of only 3 prototypes said to have been made and we have it here in The Journal!

NHS-37..Jose follows up his zoom article with his latest find. The '**Dummy prototype**' of the original Photomic finder used in the first ads! A real first for us.

NHS-38..The **50mm/f1.8 Nikkor!** Fuketa says **only 3 were ever made. And the only known survivor is in our Journal!**

NHS-41..Jose comes through again. What may be the only one actually assembled, we have photos of the '**Nikon Extension Unit**' or '**Periscope**'. The first detailed photos ever published anywhere of this item!

NHS-49..Was there a **Nikon 'L'**? Sure there was and we have photos to prove it! Another exclusive.

NHS-52..Besides a tiny photo in the literature nothing else existed on the **Nikon Underwater Housing** until this issue! Pages and pages of photos of the real thing! Thanks to Al Brody.

NHS-56..The practically unknown prewar '**Hermes**' enlarging lens debuts in our Journal. A first!

NHS-58..No one ever covered the awesome 50mm/f1.1 Nikkor like we did! An entire enlarged issue with words by Lownds and gorgeous photos by Hurst! Couldn't be better.

NHS-60..'MOTHER ONE' is published for the first time anywhere in the world!! Not the best photo, but who cares!

NHS-64..Tad Sato sends in photos of a series of SM Nikon prototypes never published before. **They were here first!**

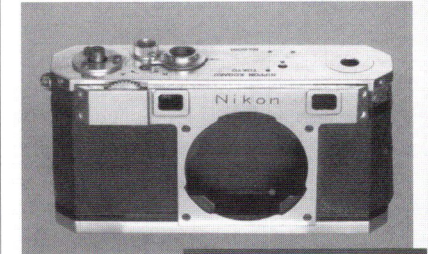
NHS-84..'MOTHER ONE' is illustrated as only Tony Hurst can. We see it live in Tokyo and you see it here!

NHS-94..Did you know they made a 250 shot version of the Nikon F2 High Speed? I didn't. **But only 10 were assembled** and Chris Sap shows us his in all its splendor!

NHS-95..The mythical Nikon S2E really does exist. Covered in great detail within these pages for the first time anywhere!

NHS-97..Rumored to exist for over 40 years but now it looks to be true. **The 'LIFE BLACK NIKON S' is verified!** And this one once belonged to Life photog Carl Mydans!

14 AS SEEN AT NHS-CON9 'MOTHER ONE' ALL PHOTOS BY TONY HURST



Without a doubt, the ultimate 'high' for those who attended NHS-Con9 was the personal appearance of 'MOTHER ONE' in the room that day! Who would have thought that this one would come in from behind glass in the JCI Museum and bring it into our meeting room that afternoon. There it was for all to see that do not touch it as it rested on a table amongst 80 plus pairs of eyes trying their best to get as good a look as possible. Of course it was difficult. Can you imagine that many people all trying to get within two feet of the same subject and trying to take photos on it? But we are in luck! They allowed Tony Hurst some time with her!

10 BECAUSE CAMERA #6194052 IS A NIKON S2E!!



IT IS ONE OF A BATCH OF ONLY 32!



I have a other 'original' Nikon S2E camera in my database #619407, #194006, #194011 & #194012. Camera #6194052 almost had a custom made lens I could never verify. It was an S2E like the camera right next to it. The camera at NHS-Con9 was an S2E that, according to the doctor, only 32 Nikon S2E cameras were produced. However, in our earlier issue you may find that I did not always make things in absolute numerical order. Because of this, I would want to say that #6194052 was an S2E even though #6194051 was. But it worked out in the end and we can still be confident of Nikon S2E cameras. Anyone know the whereabouts of others?

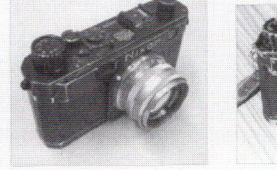
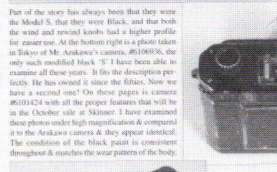
Above..NHS-84 saw the publication of a series of photos Tony took at NHS-Con9 in Tokyo of both 'MOTHER ONE 6091' and 6094. These were the first high quality detailed photos of these two prototypes ever published!!

Left..NHS-95..First ever detailed coverage of the Nikon S2E, possibly only made in a batch of 32 units! Below..For nearly 40 years we had heard rumors of a 'Black Nikon S' made at the request of 'LIFE' magazine. This may be one of them and was once owned by Carl Mydans.

1 THE BLACK 'LIFE' MAGAZINE NIKON 'S'...A 'MYTH' NO MORE!



On October 29th, Skinner Auctioneers of Boston, will have a sale that is extremely significant to all Nikon collectors. You will recall their previous one held in NHS-92 that contained a fine Nikon One and the only known example of an Original Black Krasner camera that eventually sold for \$125,000! This time, Skinner's Nick Hawkins has made available to me original photos of two Nikons in the upcoming auction. Besides another early Nikon One, #09117, important in itself, will be this camera. Only the second example I have ever recorded of the mythical 'BLACK NIKON 'S' said to have been made on special order for 'LIFE' magazine. A previous rumor since the writer has been that 'LIFE' was so impressed with the quality of the images coming back from Krasner via David Douglas-Duncan, Carl Mydans et. al., that they ordered 20 sets for the staff.



Part of the story has always been that they were the Model S, that they were Black, and that both the wind and rewind knobs had a higher profile for easier use. At the bottom right is a photo taken only weeks modified black 'S'. I have been able to examine all these years. It fits the description perfectly. He has owned it since the fifties. Now we have a second one! On these pages is camera #6018424 with all the proper features that will be in the October sale at Skinner. I have examined these photos under high magnification & compared it to the Asahikase camera & they appear identical. The condition of the black finish is consistent throughout & matches the wear pattern of the body.

6

CELEBRATING THE NIKON ONE WITH A SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECT..PART II

THE NIKON ONE (1948~2008)

HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY!

by CHRISTOPHE SAP

I had prepared some questions for Arakawa-san, but he didn't need them. He started talking and talking, with his son translating. I really hadn't time enough to write everything down. He also prepared some copies of his personal records, and they are very interesting. Not only can we see the production date of each Nikon One (the same for M and early S bodies) but he gave me full information about the start of the project. Most of this is in Bob's book, so I will not repeat it here.

Was Tatsuhiro Arakawa important? Oh yes! He submitted an opinion paper entitled 'Basic Ideas for Reconstruction', under the orders of his boss, Noboru Hamashima (who later became president). This opinion paper may have had something to do with the fact that he later became involved in camera matters within Nippon Kogaku. As we learned during our meeting he was not only an accountant, and registered the stocks, but he was also the N-K photographer.

The most impressive thing Arakawa-san told me was the meaning of '609'. It has nothing to do with 1946 (a coincidence) or the fact it was also the year 2606 in the Japanese calendar. But the '6' means simply the 6th camera type they would build. (The '609' connection to both 1946 & 2606 was confirmed to me by Masahiko Fuketa in 1991. Obviously we have a difference of opinion on this point. RJR) The 5 previous ones were those aerial cameras made for the Army and Navy during the war. Those who joined the NHS in the early days since 1983, or those having all Journals, will remember that articles have been published about N-K's aerial cameras and lenses. Mike Symons once wrote one about an artillery camera asking if this wasn't 'mother one'? Mike, you did not know it at the time how close you were to being right!

The meaning of the batches '6FT' and '6FB' is simply 'trial for 6th camera type' and 'production of 6th camera type'. I had never heard this and was somewhat skeptical, but there are no factory records that make mention of 1946 or 2606.

From the inventory kept by Arakawa-san, who was not only an accountant (as am I) but also the photographer for N-K, we learned that they don't speak of 1946 or 2606, but refer to the starting year '21'. I didn't know what that meant at the time and didn't ask, as we were too busy. Later I discovered what he meant. By '21' he meant the 21st year of the Showa period, which is the era of Emperor Hirohito. His reign began on December 25, 1925

so 1946 is the 21st year of Showa.

So Arakawa's remark makes sense, and the Nikon One should be in fact the Nikon Six. The Nikon M was not the Nikon Two or Seven but M simply because it stands for middle format and to N-K it was just a camera like the others from the batch 6FB.

In section 5 we will give some more evidence about this.

Arakawa-san told the story of how it all began. Most of it can be read in Bob's book, so I will give just a summary. When the Occupation Forces decided that N-K, who was working for the military, must convert to civilian production, a so-called fourth division was created. They quickly decided to make two cameras for the public, a 120 TLR and a 35mm rangefinder. At that time they had no experienced personnel who knew how to make cameras. On the 15th of April 1946, a trial order was given for 20 rangefinder cameras. This was only 11 days after the decision to produce cameras for the civilian market, and these cameras must be ready by year-end. And just two months after the trial order was given they decided to make 2100 production cameras, with the first batch to be completed by February 28, 1947, and another batch each month until complete in May 1947. This resulted in chaos. Testing started only in November 1947 and the trial batch was not completed until April 1948, over a year late. Completed, so to say....Indeed only 5 cameras were completed,

as we will see, and 15 never made it due to 'not enough material'. Later the company headquarters decided one more body was needed for the trial, and they took it from the very first production batch (camera 60921). Only 6 cameras were actually completed before selling to the public began. (By the way, what happened to the TLR?)

Arakawa-san went on.

Of those 5 trial cameras not one survived, as ALL were dismantled! As far as I understood him he doesn't know what happened with 60921 as it went to the headquarters, but thought it was also eventually dismantled. 'Mother One' (6091) never existed! He possessed the top plate 6091 for a long time, and later gave it to Fuketa-san. The first Nikon One was undoubtedly 60911, and 6094 was the second. Both were completed in November 1947. In December they assembled 6096 and 60913. He also confirmed that all trial cameras (that were finished) have been dismantled, so we must assume that both the remaining cameras (6091 and 6094) have



been re-assembled from parts.

I will comment more on that later.

It is also known that of the first batch of 50 cameras sent to Hong Kong, about half came back with problems (I think the others were as bad) and replacements were made. The returned cameras were either destroyed (for tax purposes) or repaired with remaining parts. So lots of Nikon Ones were destroyed, and some converted to Ms. How many Nikon Ones survived we will never know for sure. Parts were also used for repair of later bodies, so you can find late bodies with early parts, but also early bodies with parts for later cameras, so surely replacements. It is also certain that later on if they replaced a damaged back they would engrave the matching serial number of the body!

Hatsu-san of Nikon Kenkyukai has a list of 114 bodies. While there I was able to add to his info including my 60933, which was not on his list. I have 118 bodies (plus 6091 & 6094 for a total of 120) accounted for with photos of 30 of them plus 6091 and 6094.

In February 1948 eight of the trial cameras were under construction but only one (6095) was actually completed. Of the other trial cameras, in November & December 1947, two were completed each month, but none in January 1948, for a total of only five working cameras actually finished! We know the numbers of these first five completed trial cameras, and their order: 60911 (which was the first one!), 6094, 6096, 60913 & 6095.

In March 1948, one trial was started and in April seven were to be made, but not one was completed!

If you add all these 'figures' you get: $2 + 2 + 8 + 1 + 7 = 20$

At the request of headquarters, one body was taken from the first regular production batch 6FB-1. It was the first camera, 60921. The trials ran until April 30th, but the production batch 6FB-1 was already begun on March 7th for 60921 and on April 30th two more cameras were completed (60922 & 60923??). But on the same day there were supposedly two trial versions being worked on that were not completed! Strange, isn't it?

According to some records, cameras 6093, 60912, 60917 & 60919 were tested for durability in the early part of December '47 while cameras 6095, 6098, 60914 & 60920 were tested later that same month. This is odd, as according to the records of completed trial Nikons shown to me, only four cameras were completed in November & December, and 6095 not until February 13, 1948! (It is remarkable that after the first five completed trial cameras, no others were finished until 60921.) What is even stranger still is that in NHS-5 page 5 there is a copy of a photo from the book "Classic Camera" which shows a Nikon that appears to be 6097. But I do not find this number in any records of completed cameras! Very confusing, but one thing is for sure. The top plates for all the trial cameras must have once existed.

If we take all the numbers from 6091 to 60921, the following probably existed at one time: 6093, 6094, 6095, 6096, 6098, 60911, 60912, 60913, 60914, 60917, 60920 & 60921.

Another strange thing is in production batch 6FB-1 it is noted that 60921 was ready on March 7th, but in the trial batch it is noted on March 12th, five days later. And also very bizarre, they only had enough material to complete five trial bodies, but during the trial period at least 60921 was finished, as were two oth-

ers on April 30th. So where did they find the material for these?

Production was very irregular, some days not one body was produced, others only one. On May 31st a big surprise: 22 bodies were produced! Actual production figures for 1948 look like this:

April—9 (and this is odd. I will explain later.)

May—33

June—11

July—4

Aug.—2

Sept.—9

Oct.—76! (WOW)

Nov.—31

Dec.—121! (WOW again)

The above totals 296, but batch 6FB-1 was, remember, to be 300 cameras.

In January 1949 they made 40 total (12 on the 29th and 28 on the 31st) but of those 12 produced on January 29th only 10 were part of 6FB-1, with the other 2 and all those made on the 31st, part of batch 6FB-2! This is very accurately recorded! How can that be possible? They could count very well so how do we end up with 306 in batch 6FB-1?

Well now it gets a little complicated, and surprising as well. Batch 6FB-1 started on March 7, 1948 and, as recorded, the only one made that month, 60921, went to the headquarters. Cameras 60922 and 60923 were made on April 30th, meaning only 3 bodies from batch 6FB-1 were produced in March and April. But in the records for April it says 9 bodies were made including 60921, 22 & 23 so the difference is...yes 6. So we have: $296 + 10 - 6 = 300$. Why make it simple?

But how does Arakawa-san come up with 9 bodies? Isn't 9 - 2 (60922-23) 7? It is because 60921 was 'moved' from the regular production batch 6FB-1 to the trial batch 6FT-1 and the total is 6 and not 7. He was very accurate. This double entry is clearly shown in the documents. Accountants don't make mistakes you know, and believe me, the more complicated the more difficult for the taxman! And remember, huge taxes had to be paid on consumer goods, and we saw before what they did with returned defective bodies: they destroyed them! It was not only Stereo-Nikkors that were hammered into pieces!

VERY EARLY PRODUCTION CAMERAS:

The external variations between early and late Nikon One bodies can be clearly seen. The most significant are the 8 screws used on the front plates of the very early examples later changed to 6. In fact 8 were not needed as we have seen during the repair of 60933. But inside there were lots of differences with the most important being the internal numbering of parts.

Top plates, backs, and body castings were made in different places, and early in the manufacturing process did not easily and correctly fit together. Therefore, they had to do a lot of hand finishing, where they adjusted and hand fitted parts together and numbered some of them. Inside the very early bodies you will find a particular number in as many as three different places:

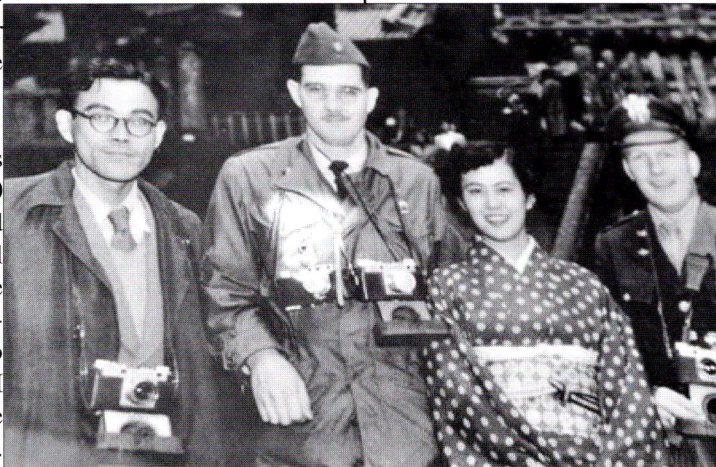
- Inside the take-up spool chamber
- On the underside of the chassis (early Ones do not have a chassis cover plate)
- Inside the base-plate attached to the camera back

Here are some early bodies with their respective unique internal numbers we have recorded to date:

Body 6091	no numbers!
Body 6094	#19 on base-plate only!
Body 60926	#2 in all three places
Body 60933	#14 in all three places
Body 60939	#27 in all three places
Body 60952	#23 in all three places
Body 60959	#33 in all three places
Body 60969	#9 in all three places
Body 60971	#20 in two places (1 under leather on camera back! Has later parts such as 4 film rails and a fixed spool.)
Body 60983	#12 in one place & #8 in two places!
Body 609118	#3 only on camera back (probably a replacement from recovered parts)

Of the first 2 cameras that were completed for sale, their serial numbers, unfortunately, are not known today (it is very likely they were NOT 60922 and 60923!). The numbers engraved on the top plates do not always correspond to the actual sequence in which they were assembled. This is both important and interesting, and my guess is that the internal numbers may represent the real sequence. Why? As we know, parts were made in different places, then brought together to be assembled. Those parts had to be adjusted one to another, so it is very likely that at that stage they were given those internal matching numbers. In other words, 60926 might have been the second completed 'production' Nikon.

The first block of cameras meant to be sold numbered 200 pieces, but only 70 of them passed inspection (and even those had all sorts of defects and had to have some 'old' parts replaced with upgraded ones in several places). So again I will venture a guess that I think those 70 cameras could be those with the internal numbering. I quote: "The Nikon cameras had to get help from the Trade Corporation in order to be exported. The first Nikons they purchased were equipped with a standard lens, and there were 200 of them. The first inspection of export products was conducted in July 1948. Nippon Kogaku had planned on having all 200 cameras pass this inspection, but only 70 actually did, and even they had all sorts of defects and had to have some old parts replaced with newer versions in several places. They barely passed inspection on paper, but their passing should have been more accurately called 'provisional'. All 200 finally made it through in September. Along the way there had been a change of plans just about every week, and inspections were again and again postponed till a later time. Records during that period tell us very vividly how people ran around desperately to get the 200 cameras in order. In any case, all 200 passed inspection, proper paperwork was completed, and they were finally ready for export! The first 50 were loaded on a ship bound



for Hong Kong in October 1948. However, this was to become a disaster for the Hong Kong customers."

And interesting to note; some tens of Nikons that from this, and other orders, were returned to the factory and stored in the warehouse were destroyed and discarded in the presence of people from the Tax Office (so the Stereo lens wasn't to be the first Nikon item to be so destroyed)!

Was Arakawa-san important? Yes he was. He collected information about the first 300 Nikon Ones and states as follows: "Thinking back carefully, I realize that production order 6FB-1 was a continuation of the trial order 6FT-1, and that the 300 Nikons (60921-609320) were simply a 'trial mass production'. It is a pity that the 'Production Number Log', which recorded how each camera was sold and disposed of, has been lost. I was promoted to the position of Cost Section Chief in the Accounting department, and the chief of the product control group, who took over after me, seems to have discarded this historic document."

During the meeting we were able to shoot some pictures from Arakawa-san's scrapbook. Most exciting was a photo of 4 people, among them Arakawa-san. Each had a Nikon around his neck (one of them also had a Leica-type camera!) This photo was taken in front of one of the temples in the holy place Nikko!

It also happens that Arakawa-san was not only the accountant and photographer but he was also present during the brainstorming sessions to name the new camera. So we give him credit

for his role in naming the 'Nikon'. Some other names that were on the table were:

Nikko, Nikkorette, Nikkotax, Nikoret, Nikon, Nicca, and Nikka.

And very strange, but I am sorry not to have asked, but in his documents we also saw other names on a separate list. They were: NK Candid, Bentax, Pentax and Pannet.

And then came time to say goodbye. We left some pounds lighter, as one of Bob's books was for Arakawa-san and lots of Belgian chocolates. (It is said that chocolate is good for the brain and wellness of the body, so enjoy dear Arakawa-san.)

The meeting was scheduled to end at noon, but it was far past 1:30 when we left. We had an appointment at 4:00 at Nikon Ohi. Miura-san left at once, but Patrick and I first visited a neighborhood camera shop. Patrick left with a new SP Limited at less than half price and a beautiful F4 for about 200 bucks! I found a very rare HN-5 hood (for the 50/1.4 and 50/2 and said not to exist!), which cost 100 times its number in yen.

One other point. During the meeting the 'EP' marking was discussed but we all know what it means. I also asked about the 'T' engraving. Some say it comes from 'tax free', but it doesn't. Arakawa-san was firm. The 'T' simply means 'test' and was used for testing now and then. So we can suppose that those 'tested' bodies that were OK were sold just like any others. Thank you very much Arakawa-san, and may we meet again.

NIKON I : several batches, but

HOW MANY TYPES

At least FOUR groups can be determined, 3 of them with subgroups

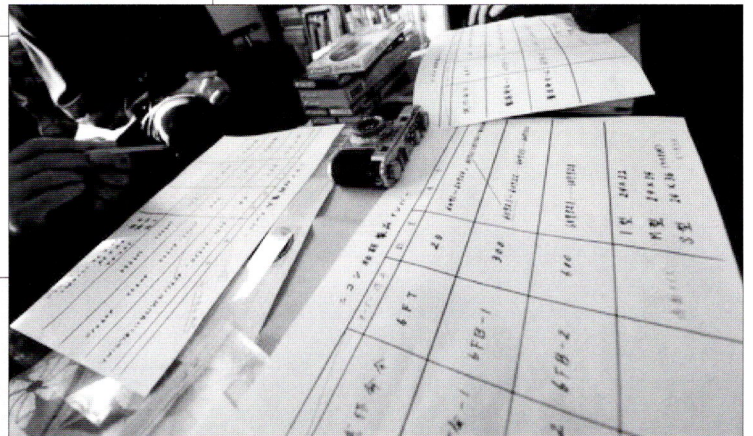
Trial version	20 + 1	(2,7 %)	
Early Nikon I	about 80	(10,7 %)	many subgroups
Mid Nikon I	about 250	(33,3 %)	subgroup
Late Nikon I	about 400	(53,3 %)	subgroup

TRIAL NIKON I

- A/ front cover plate 8 screws
4 of them at both s
- B/ top plate engraved NIPPON KOGAKU
- C/ no automatic lens locking device
- D/ film reversing : only 6091 is R - A instead of
Nikon engraving is different, and also the "windows"
(could this be the reason why this top plate was not used ?)



Two charts produced by Chris Sap based on some of the information he acquired on his recent visit to Tokyo where he interviewed Mr. Tatsuhiro Arakawa. These charts, and those on pages 12 & 13, are self-explanatory, and organize the information in a clear and precise manner. The 2 photos were taken that day at Arakawa-san's and show some of his historic records being discussed.



6FT-I

A/ completed bodies
production date

22 nov/18
 nov/24
 dec/17
 dec/22

23 feb/13
 mar/12

B/ not completed, but used as trials "as is"

no records about
date of production

tested

60911 same day
6094 same day
6096
60913

6095 end dec 47 *
60921 GHQ

6093 early dec *
60912 " *
60917 " *
60919 " *
6098 end dec 47 *
60914 " *
60920 " *

in order of numbering

6093
6094
6095

6096
6098
60911
60912

60913
60914
60917
60919
60920
60921

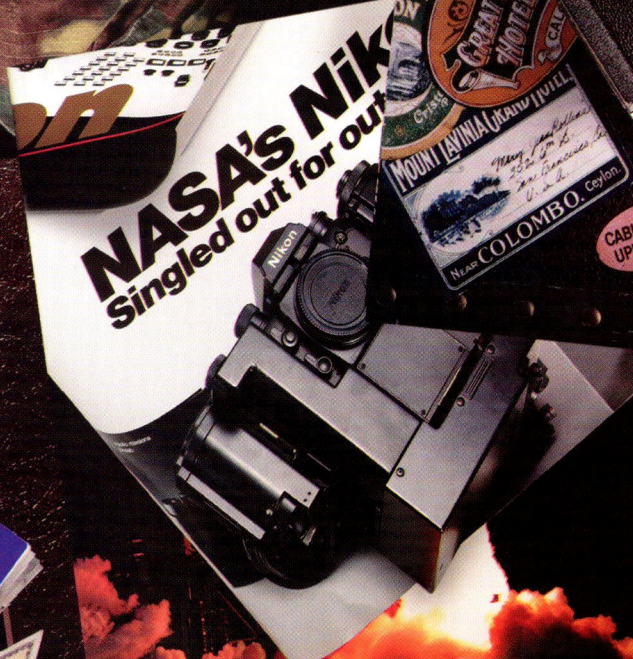
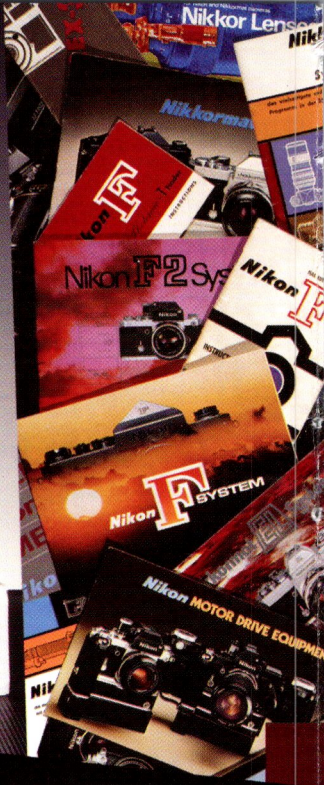
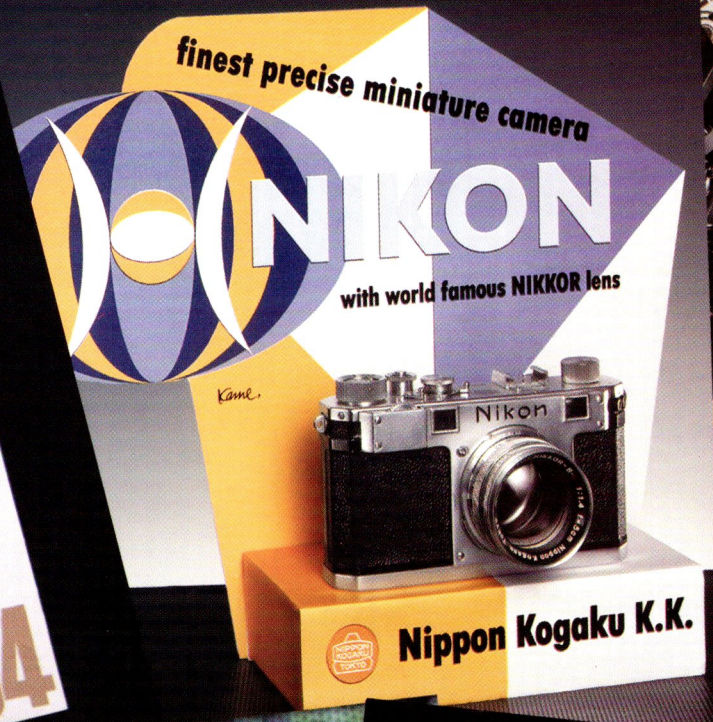
remember : ONLY 6 have ever been completed

ONLY 7 more have been partialy
8 never were assembled : 6091-2-7-9-10-15-16 & 18
total : 21

ALL of them have been DISMANTLED

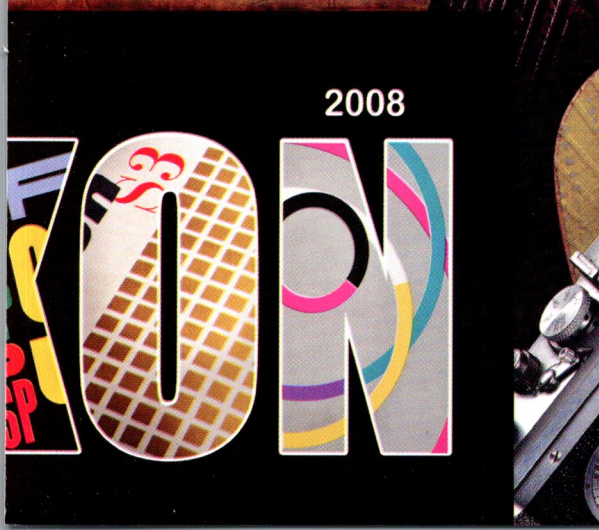
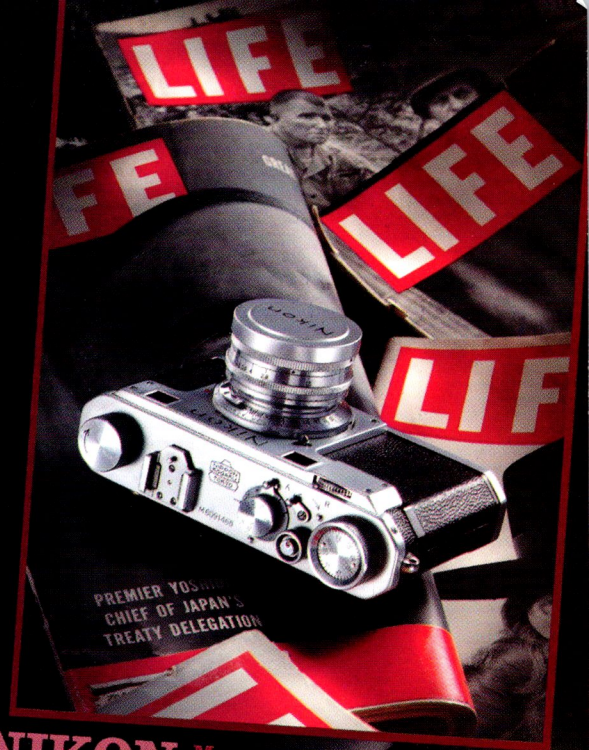
(60921 : it is only known it went to GHQ)

* those dates are not correct



1983





EARLY TYPES

with subgroups, as changes applied during production undoubtedly the most exciting series

distances	meter
one fixed film spool	NO
film guide rails	2
MIOJ engraving	Large, later Smaller
Open/Close arrows	NO, later YES
eye piece spiral	NO
slit in flash shoe	NO, later YES
chassis cover	NO, later YES
serial number on back cover	NO, later YES
internal matching serial numbers	YES, at least 3, later NO
screws in front plate	8 later 6



MID NIKON I

distances	feet
eye piece spirals	NO, later YES

LATE NIKON I

one fixed film spool	NO, later YES
film guide rails	4



NIKON I serial numbers

(product dates, first and last 100 known to exist)

number	produced	if consecutively numbered			
	1947	from the FIRST 100			
6091	??				
6094	24/11/1947				
	1948	produced	product nu		
60924	may 4	1 that day			
60926	6	1 that day			
60933	27	7 that day	28-34		
60939	31	22 that	35-56		
60941	"				
60942	"				
60944	"				
60952	"				
60968	july 7	4 that day	68-71		
60969	"				
60971	"				
60972	aug 19	1 that day			
60983	oct 6	4 that day	83-86		
60992	11	20 that	87-106		
60993	"				
60995	"				
60997	"				

		till the LAST 100
	1949	
609663	june	60 that month
609674		
609675		
609676		
609681		
609701		
609702		
609710		
609717	july	44 that month, <i>might be 33 & 1</i>
609719		
609724		
609734		
609736		
609738		
609752		
609759	august	2 that month & 32 M's

NIKON I monthly production

1947

november 2 trials 60911 & 6094
 december 2 trials 6096 & 60913

1948

february 8 trials, among them 6095 completed
 march 1 trial + nr 60921 taken from 6FB-1
 april 7 trials and 2 regular
 TOTAL : 20 +1 trials, and 2 regular

grand total	23	
	6FB-1	6FB-2
may	33	
june	11	
july	4	
aug	2	
sept	9	
oct	76	
nov	31	
dec	121	
	310	

(1947-48)

1949

jan	10	30	
feb		85	
march		85	
april		42	
may		91	
june		60	
july		44	one could be an M
aug		34	of them 32 are M
		471	
		-32	
	320	+ 439	= 759

OFFICIAL NAME : batch 6FT-I and 6FB-I-9

22/11-26/6

nov 47 june 51

batch	number	started	finished
6FT-I	20	22-11-18	23-4-30
6FB-I	300	23 - 3	24 - 1
6FB-2	600	24 - 1	24 - 11
6FB-3	600	24 - 12	25 - 5
6FB-4	600	25 - 5	25 - 9
6FB-5	500	25 - 9	25 - 11
6FB-6	500	25 - 11	26 - 1
6FB-7	500	26 - 1	26 - 3
6FB-8	500	26 - 3	26 - 5
6FB-9	1000	26 - 5	26 - 7

and than they continued.

6FB-10	1000	26 - 7	26 - 9
6FB-11	1000	26 - 9	26 - 11
6FB-12	1000	26 - 10	

They did not make any difference between
 I - M - S

for them it was just : "Nikon camera"

FB-1 was finished january 1949, here they made 40 cameras, 10 batch FB-I and 30 batch FB-2

THE

Till the end of June 49 they had build 713 cameras the 20 (21) trials included

July 49 they build 44 plus 713 allready made = 757

August they build 34 TWO of them are mentioned to be I, and 32 to be M, so 757 + 2 makes 759

BUT : according to the inventory one of those 44 could have been a M !! Making only 758 I's ????

highest production : batch 6FB-10 : 558 cameras in august 1951, on a total of 1000 for batch 6FB-10

TWO NIKON SM PROTOTYPES COMPARED

NIKON L11004

You will recall the article in NHS-88 about two very unusual prototypes being offered at Christies. I was able to obtain, at that time, the actual photos used by Christies for their catalog, but nothing more. This was June of 2005. Both cameras eventually did change hands but to whom I was not aware. They sold as a pair for \$67,000 including the buyer's premium. I would eventually see them in person nearly a year later at NHS-Con10 in Vienna where both were on display at Westlicht behind glass.

There was so much going on that week that I never got around to taking a few 'grab' shots which I did regret later. Not knowing who actually owned the cameras I failed to obtain permission to use them in the book and now know that photos would have been possible. In addition, the book was finished to the point where additions would be difficult and it was also the time when my first publisher was not communicating with me and the future of the book was in limbo. Needless to say, it would have been an important addition.

Then Yuki Kawai and Bill Kraus gave a fine Powerpoint presentation at NHS-Con11 in Vancouver in which they directly compared both cameras to the standard production Nikons they were most similar to. Too late for the book but I knew I would eventually do something in the Journal.

The photos you see on these pages are courtesy of Lars Netopil of Weztlar, Germany (www.lars-netopil.com). I can now use the Journal to cover one of those very strange cameras in great detail. Keep in mind that I have used our magazine these last 25 years as a continuing supplement to my earlier books, and I plan to do the same with my latest. No collector book can ever be completely 'finished' so this process will continue. Now to the wonderful prototype.

This camera is a screw mount variant that begs comparison to the Nikon 'L' previously published in the Journal and also in my book. But there are significant differences in construction and vintage. I have included photos of the 'L' for comparison.

How do they differ and what is similar? First a simple list.

NIKON L1101

- Standard Leica type screw mount
- Protruding rectangular viewfinder window
- No protrusion where focusing wheel would have been
- Round rangefinder window with a screw on each side
- Nippon Kogaku logo on the top plate
- Mid-vintage 'M' type controls (knobs & acc. shoe w/rails)
- 'S' type shutter release guard
- 'M/S' type back with rectangular ridge
- Smaller MIOJ engraving on base like 'M/S'
- Very deep chrome superstructure down to top edge of back
- Semi-circular ridge on front plate below 'Nikon' name
- Small access hole below letter 'n' in Nikon
- Flash synch sockets in standard 'M/S' location
- No strap lugs
- Serial number is 'L1101'

SM PROTOTYPE L11004

- Standard Leica type screw mount
- Standard non-protruding rectangular viewfinder window
- No protrusion where focusing wheel would have been
- Round rangefinder window but no screws
- 'NIPPON KOGAKU TOKYO' block lettering...no logo!
- More 'Nikon One' like controls and no rails in shoe
- 'Nikon One' type shutter release guard
- 'Nikon One' type one piece back with no rectangular ridge
- Larger MIOJ engraving seen on very early Nikon Ones!
- Standard top plate configuration like all I/M/S bodies
- No semi circular ridge on front plate is present
- No small access hole below letter 'n' is present
- No flash synch is present
- Strap lugs are in the standard location
- Serial number is 'L11004'....a different sequence?

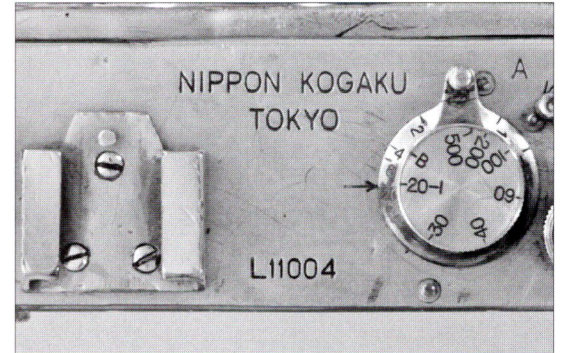
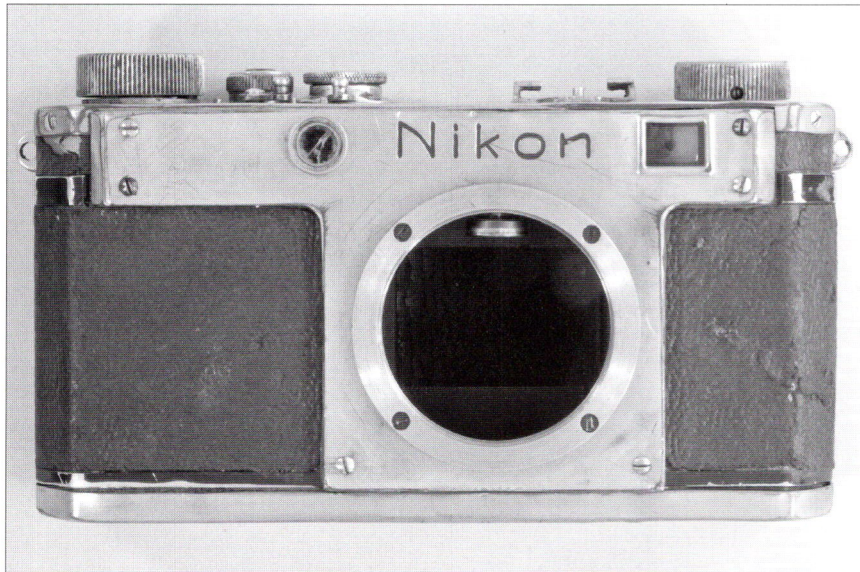
Although these two prototypes are an attempt to produce the same product type, they are no where near identical and their vintages are definitely different. Body L11004 is obviously built on a Nikon One chassis (and a very early one at that), while L1101 is on a later Nikon M chassis. The most obvious features that support this statement are;

- The camera backs. The Nikon One back was unique to the entire series with no raised ridge since the method of mounting the pressure plate was different. On the M/S the ridge was added because of this change in construction.
- The MIOJ engraving is the very large type seen only on the very early Nikon One production cameras and verified only up to body 60969.
- There is no flash synch on L11004 while L1101 has the standard dual sockets just like the MS/S models. No Nikon Ones were factory synched.
- The top mounted controls on L1101 are from the M/MS era with rails in the accessory shoe and even a later S type shutter guard. All the controls on L11004 are from the earlier Nikon One era.
- But the most significant difference is the missing logo on L11004. The large NKT block lettering has only been seen on the original prototypes and is verified on 6091 and 6094 and some very early literature. By 60924 the logo is present! This top plate was stamped and engraved very early in the development stage of the Nikon One and used on this prototype. Why is anyone's guess.

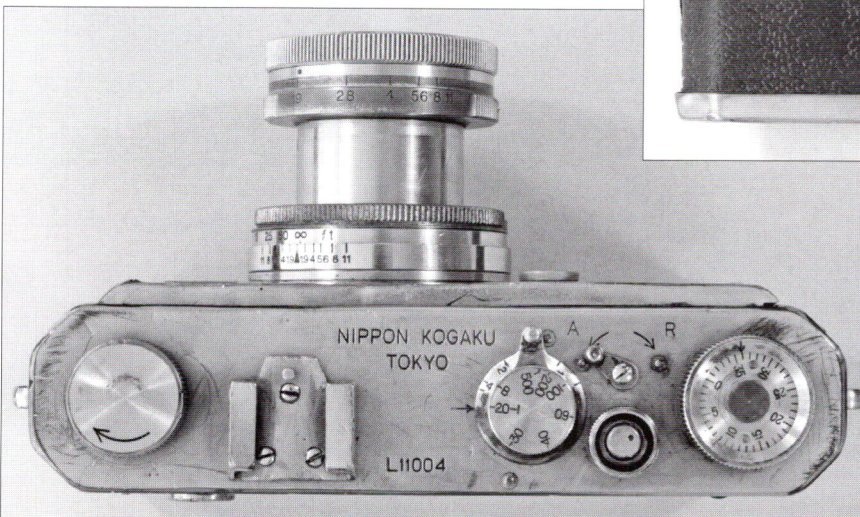
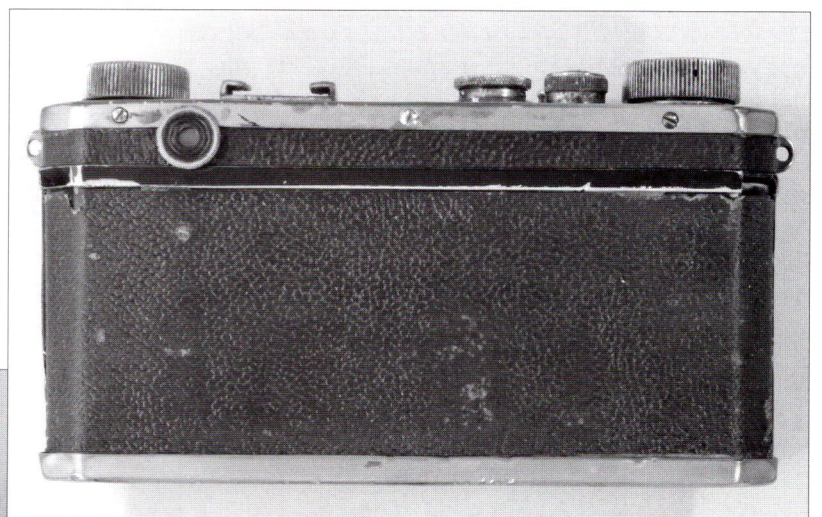
From these photos it is obvious that L11004 predates L1101 and was either being developed at the same time as the Nikon One or so early on that an unused Nikon One chassis, controls, back and the prototypical top plate were allocated. All of this makes body L11004 very interesting indeed.

Lars tells me that the frame size is 24x35 and not 24x32. This makes sense if you are developing a Leica type camera. As to the frame size of L1101 I do not know at this time nor do I have an interior shot to compare with. Body L11004 definitely has a One-type interior with only two film rails. L1104 may have a more M like interior but I cannot verify this.

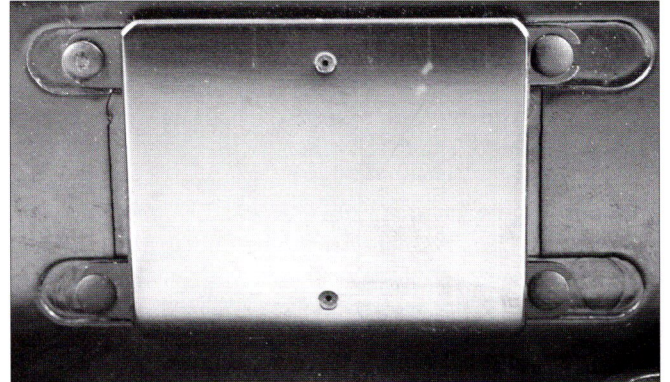
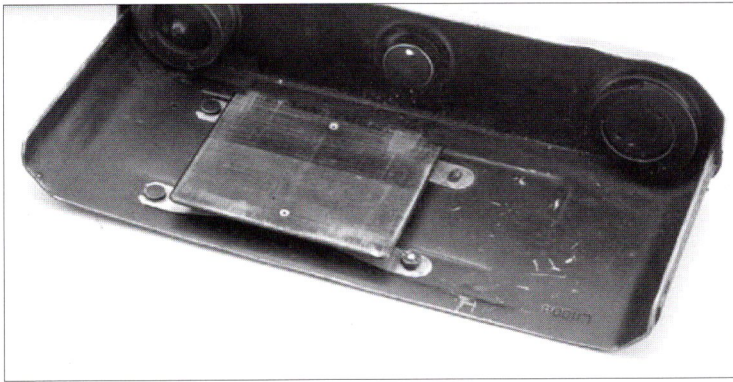
So the saga continues as we learn more almost daily. With Chris Sap's series on the Nikon One and this prototype you can see why the Journal is important in its role as a continuing update for new information.
RJR



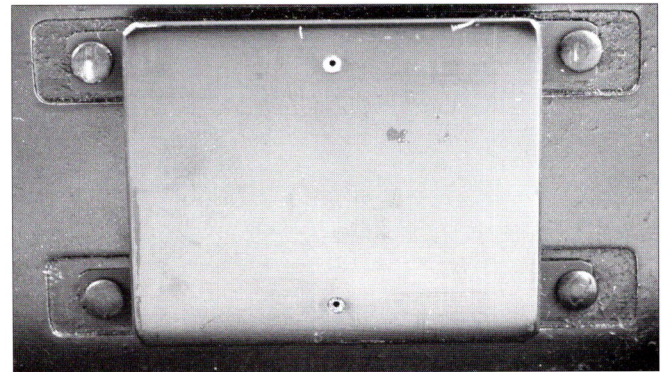
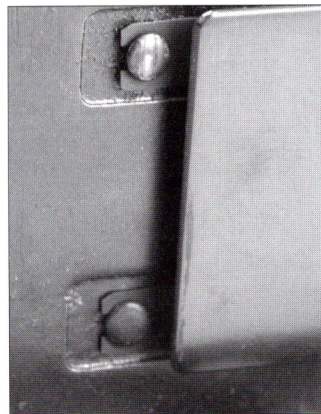
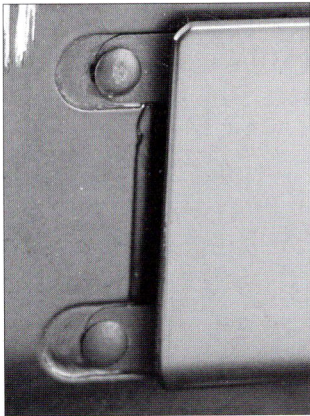
Unlike some other prototypes where Nikon gave standard production numbers, this one was given a special number that was duly inscribed inside the back. And look at the block lettering for NKT! See my book page 43 for the only 2 other Nikons found without the logo.



Front, back, top and bottom of L11004. Note the totally flat front plate with no protrusions or indentations. Also the round RF window. Otherwise from the front it looks like an M/S. From the back it is a One because of the missing rectangle found on the following M/MS/S bodies. The top looks very much like a One save for the missing logo. From this vantage point you can see that the front plate is flat save for the decorator ring around the tiny RF window. The bottom has the very large MIOJ engraving found only on very early Ones!

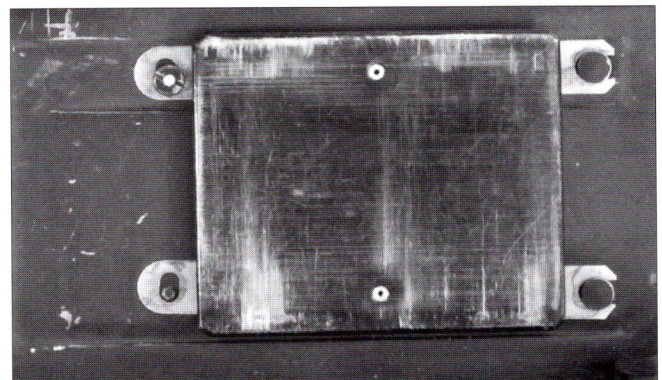
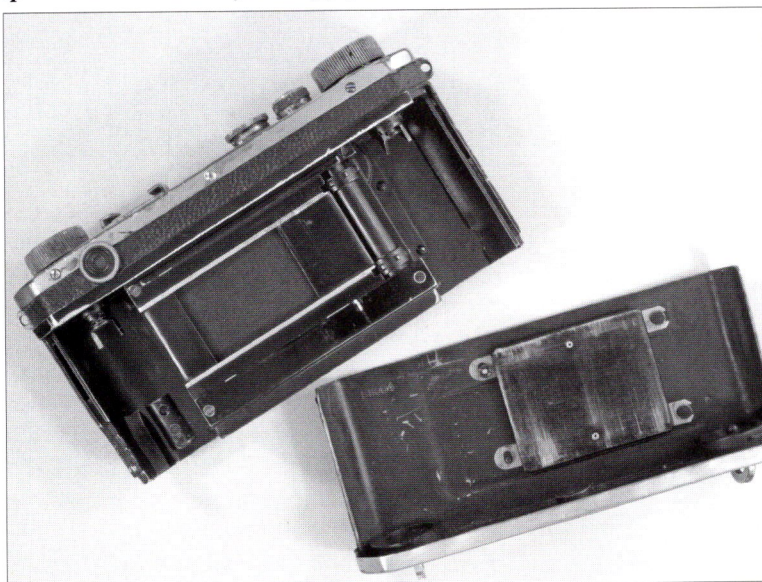


We discussed the cut outs for the pressure plate mounting tabs on the Ones in NHS-99. Above we have 609117 and below is 60933, a very early example. Note the different shape and the more crude appearance of 60933. Square cut outs would be easier to do than round.



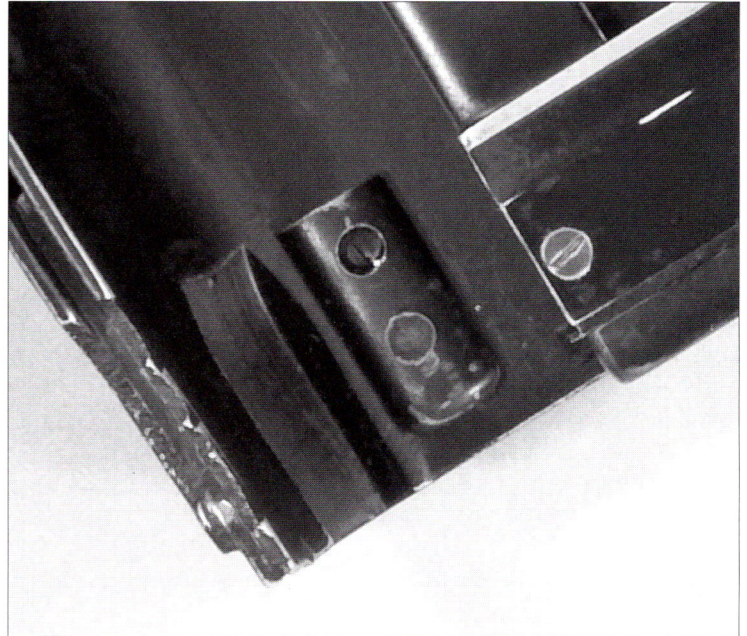
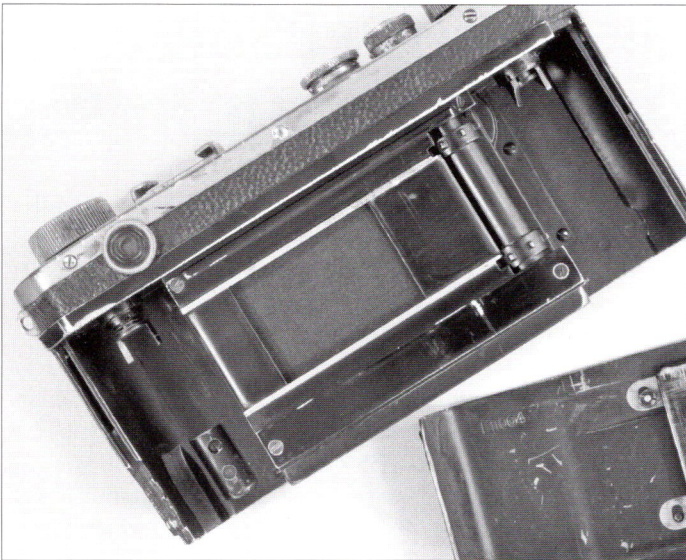
L11004 is different again. Just a simple shallowing out of the metal with no real attempt at a shape. I do not have access to similar photos of 6091 or 6094 to see if they have the same feature, but I suspect they do.

The interior of L11004 is just like a One save for the addition of a chassis cover plate. (These plates are VERY easy to add and it appears that some early Ones were so modified.) Actually just a simple improvement based on, I am sure, experience. Why not cover the shutter controls for both protection and to keep out dirt. I believe the lack of a plate on the original cameras was an oversight that was soon corrected. Note only 2 film guide rails and, like many Ones, there is no fixed take up spool but look at the film supply chamber.

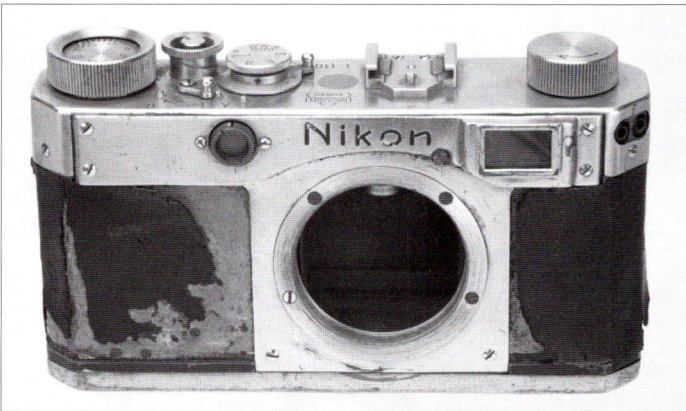


The baseplate of L11004 is identical to the early Nikon Ones with the very large MIOJ engraving. No surprise here.



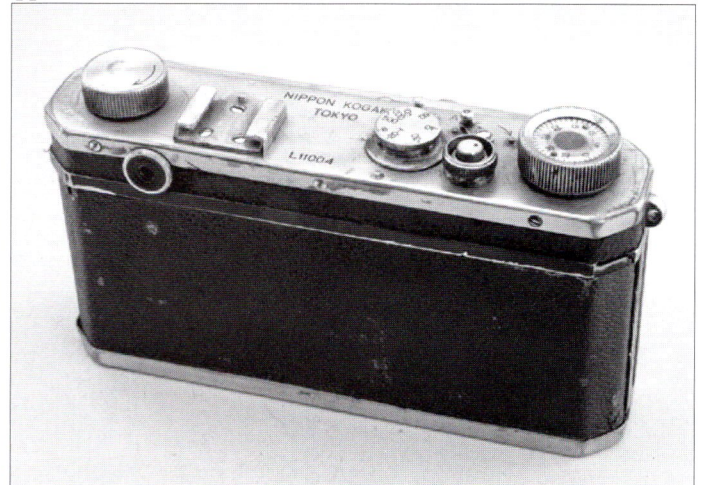


Here are two closer views of the film supply chamber. At first I did not notice this but then I realized there was something different. Look at the photo at the right. A slug of metal has been added after the casting process and attached with two screws. What is it? My guess it had something to do with positioning the film cassette for proper feeding of the film. What do you think?



For comparison we have similar front and back photos of L1104 (right) and L1101. Side by side the differences mentioned in the text are quite obvious. These cameras have distinctly different vintages.

There must be some difference in the geometry of the RF optics, since L1101 has a larger more protruding VF window. Also, it appears that the lens mount is more recessed on L1101.



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MORE BOOK UPDATES

Continuing in our efforts to keep my book as up to date as possible, here is more feedback from various members. Many new 'high' and 'lows' are coming to light and we are seeing additional examples of some very rare items. Keep it up! RJR

- 1) You mention the 105mm black brite line finder as coming in satin and gloss finish. So does the 135mm version.
- 2) From England we hear of a Type III Microflex #30304 but with only a 1/200sec shutter like the Type II. Interesting.
- 3) We have another rare Hermes lens to report.....#893!
- 4) An additional 90 degree prism for the reflex housing, #77051, has recently surfaced in an American auction.
- 5) Another DUMMY Nikon S has been found. It is 6109487 and came with a DUMMY f1.4 #50051635 from the MIOJ era?
- 6) For the 35mm/f2.5 Nikkor in the f1.8 barrel add lens 271081 calibrated in meters and 271206: with the colon!
- 7) For the rimless 50/f2 Nikkors, add 721411 and 749327.
- 8) For the Type 9 Variframe finder a new high number has been discovered. It is 562798.
- 9) From Germany we learn of some additional short mount Nikkors in the very uncommon Bronica mount. A 250mm/f4 #277205 (a new low for this series in all mounts!) and a 180mm/f2.5 #470094. (180 #470095 is owned by the same member but it is in Nikon mount! (Neat!)

NHS-CON11 FEEDBACK.. LETTERS TO THE NHS...

From Bill Jackson...

Lynne and I enjoyed your photographic extravaganza tremendously. You again seem to be the spark plug that motivates the engine of the NHS. We are looking forward to Brussels in 2010. I continue to be in awe of your knowledge, dedication to the cause and to the remarkable amount of effort expended.

From Paul Bonner...

I'm just back from a tour of the new Baltic States and I thought I must write to say what a wonderful job you did with your all-encompassing account of NHS-Con11. Also I look forward to the further episodes of Chris Sap's odyssey in search of Nikon One enlightenment.

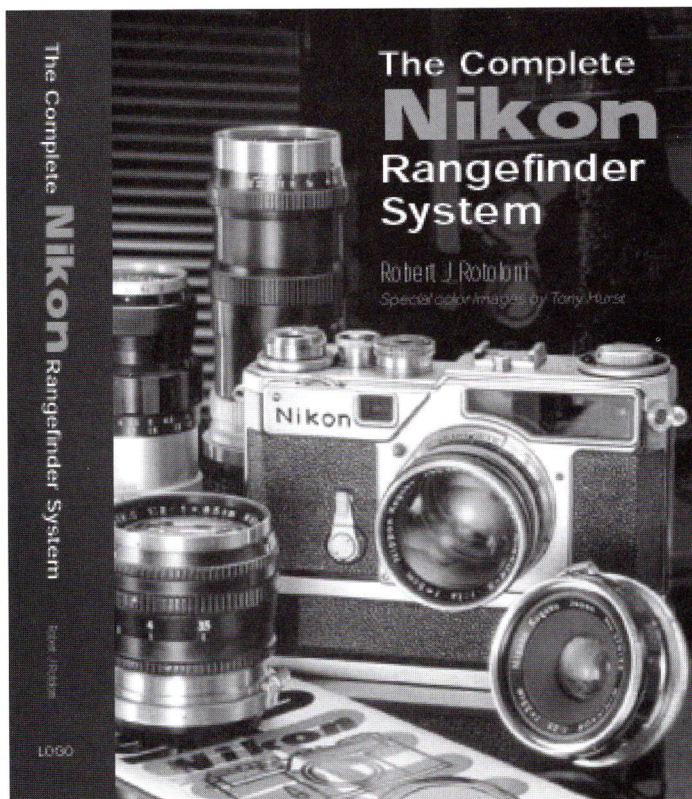
From George Jenkins...

Thanks for hanging in there until your book got published. I've now read it cover to cover and think all Nikon RF collectors should buy it and read it. You should be proud of yourself.

From Gianni Giovannini...

This morning your book arrived. It is terrific! I have never seen another photographic system book like yours. There is a surprise on every page. And Tony's pictures are fantastic, one of the best photographers of cameras. I am very proud of your signature. I found very interesting your added information on the Nikon 16.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT



I am pleased to announce that the US inventory of my book is in place and all orders can be processed for immediate shipment. Since it became available the beginning of March, I have been shipping within 48 hours of receiving payment.

I am happy to announce that I have sold over 240 copies myself with at least 125 of those going to NHS members. That still leaves quite a few members who have not ordered as yet (although many overseas are buying locally), and remember that I do sign and label those copies ordered through me.

Those of you who wish to obtain a signed copy from me need only to contact me and it will be done. I did not mention previously that, besides signing the book, I have also had made up labels stating to the fact that 'this copy has been purchased directly from the author'. Prices are as follow and include postage:

United States	\$100 including Priority shipping.
Canada	\$115 including Int. Priority shipping.
Europe	\$125 including Int. Priority shipping.
Japan/Australia	\$130 including Int. Priority shipping.

I can accept checks (US/Canada only), money orders, bank wires, cash or PAYPAL. My email addresses (rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net) are my Paypal account numbers. Please make all checks/money orders payable to RJR PUBLISHING or myself (NOT THE SOCIETY!)

THE AUCTION SCENE

Only one sale to report on this issue and, as promised in NHS-100, here are the results of the 23rd Tamarkin Photographica sale held on June 22nd. Besides those four black Nikon RFs mentioned in the last issue (enough right there to hold your interest) there were other rangefinder items, most of which appear to have sold. Here are the hammer prices, which include the 15% buyer's premium.

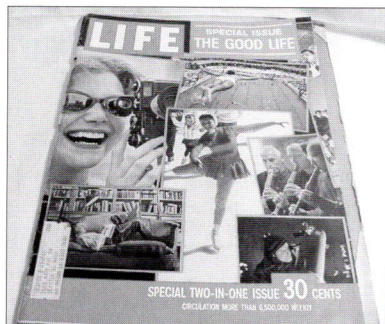
Nikon Varifocal fdr. W/28mm attachment... 'a bargain'.....\$400
 Black 28mm/f3.5 Nikkor said to be mint.....\$632
 35mm/f2.5 Nikkor in the rare '1.8' type barrel.....\$1,150
 85mm/f2 Nikkor #90370..very early MIOJ lens.....\$575
 Nikon S #6095195 w/f1.4..early & in EX++.....\$505
 Nikon S2 #6190786 w/1.4..boxed...black dial!.....\$805
BLACK NIKON S2 #6170997 W/1.4.....\$8,625
 Nikon S3 #6304280 w/35mmf3.5.....\$975
 Nikon S3 #6311856 w/f2.....\$1,095
BLACK NIKON SP #6202562 W/1.4...DRILLED!.....\$6,900
BLACK NIKON SP #6202687 W/1.4...DRILLED!.....\$8,050
 Nikon SP #6215901w/f2.....foil shutter!.....\$1,840

As you can see, 3 of the 4 black bodies did sell with the 4th being the one in the most worn condition. The black S2 went a bit low while the two black SPs went just about right for their respective conditions, although they both were drilled for a motor, which was not mentioned in the catalog. A definite plus for the buyer. It was a good sale with the final prices again being, as with all auctions, a bit low in some cases and right on in others. But note that the rarer and more desirable pieces always seem to fetch their price save for that 35mm/f2.5 in the '1.8' style barrel. At \$1,150 it was probably the bargain of the entire auction!

NIKON MAKES THE COVER OF 'LIFE'?

Recently long time member Bill Adams sent me an email concerning an old issue of "LIFE" magazine that he had just found. He thought I would find the cover interesting so I asked for some 'jpegs', which he sent.

The issue is dated December 28, 1959 when 'LIFE' was a weekly publication (remember those days?) and the main cover title is 'THE GOOD LIFE' and deals with various activities of Americans living during the high times that followed the war. Note the young lady with the sunglasses in the upper left corner. She is identified on page 4 as 'Tourist photographer Gail Gladstone of New York reflecting Big Ben on a tour of London'. If you enlarge it and take a closer look what you see is Ms. Gladstone shooting with a black Nikon SP with one of the 35mm lenses and brite line finder. Of course, as was the fashion back then, the word 'Nikon' has been blacked out. Wouldn't want any blatant endorsement on the cover of 'LIFE' now would we? Thanks Bill.



There was a very large Skinner auction on Aug. 23/24 that consisted of nearly 1600 lots. Their nearly full color catalog ran to 230 pages. Now Skinner does not by any means specialize in photographica and this sale was actually titled 'Science & Technology, Toys & Dolls'. There were even automobiles. However, Skinner does come up with some interesting photographic items (in the past the Kwanon, two Nikon Ones, and the Carl Mydans Black Nikon S) and this time they had a few pieces of quality. There were over 150 Leica lots, some Zeiss and a little Nikon. Of interest here were the following:

NIKON SP W/1.4 #6201995 in chrome.....\$2,252
 85mm/f1.5 Nikkor (w/jammed on rear cap!).....\$2,015
 105mm/f2.5 Nikkor complete w/chrome finder.....\$563!
 25mm/f4 Nikkor with hood.....\$1,422
 Nikon Reflex Housing w/cables & finder.....\$1,896
NIKON 90 DEGREE PRISM FOR HOUSING!.....\$5,629!

Not many items but some interesting prices. I would say the SP went about right if not a little high but the 105 was definitely a surprise. I wish I could get that for them. The reflex housing went a little low but what about the 90 degree prism? It looks like a lot of money but it is really below previous confirmed sales between \$6,700 and \$7,500. Less than 100 were probably ever made and this one was in good shape. An interesting sale.

Lastly is the sale at Auktion Team Breker (formerly Auktion Team Koln) scheduled for September 26/27. In other words it will be over before you get this but I did not receive the catalog until Aug. 29th! Just a few Nikon items but I hope to discuss it next issue, as it is always a HUGE sale, and I mean HUGE!



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CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED...Nikon RF Nikkors: 21/f4.0 w/fdr, 50/f2 collapsible #609xx, 50/f3.5 collapsible in Nikon BM, 35/f1.8 with Black Front Rim!, 50/f1.5 #907xx & #905xx (also in Leica SM), 50/f1.4 #316xxx & #33128x, 85/f2 #903xx, Variframe fdr #705xx or #712xx, Nikon I five digits serial number, Nikon M six digit serial number, 'Sardine' type battery pack for S36, RF telescope adapter, Melcon II, Varifocal 'Zoom' finder 'MIOJ', Nikon Periscope Attachment, Seiki Kogaku Nippon camera, Vivitar or Soligor 135/f1.5 in Nikon F mt. **Contact Biagio Guerra Fax.....702-492-6269 or email guerrabn@aol.com**

WANTED... Help wanted..I need spares for my Nikonos V, also any info or help with assembly & settings for major components (this is not available in the workshop manual). Also spares needed for my F3 plus need parts/repair books. **Wanted..**Copies of 'Outdoor Photographer', 'Nature's Best' and 'Birders World'. Will trade for UK wildlife magazines. Many titles to choose from. Also have much Pentax literature to trade for any Nikon, Mamiya, Bronica, Contax/Kiev, Bolex, etc. **Ian DC Shephard at this email address dcian@fastemail.us. Thank You.**

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(Please see 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. www.matthewlin.com)

**odds
'n ends**

A PAIR OF NIKON BOOKENDS!!

Dutch member Jan Prinsen recently sent me this photo that I thought would make an interesting closing shot for this issue. Since we are celebrating the 60th Birthday of the Nikon One why not have a photo of the camera that started it all alongside its most recent prodigy, the Nikon D3. Obviously Nikon, and camera technology, have come a long way these last six decades, yet in the end what we want, and what they provide, are high quality images of the world around us. Our family, our friends, important events in our lives and times we want to accurately remember. We sometimes lose sight of what our Nikons were meant to do as we get all wrapped up in the technical side of photography. Although these two machines are light years apart in design and execution, each in its own time performed its correct function; recording the world around us. Yes, Nikon has come a long way, but like all journeys, there had to be a first step, and the Nikon One was that step. Today we have the D3 to show how successful a journey it has been.



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