

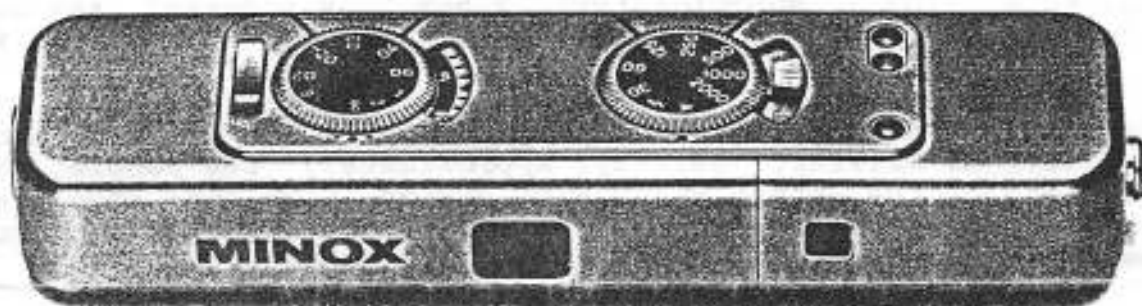
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THE SUBMINIATURE TIMES

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Supporting 110, 17.5mm, 16mm, 9.5mm, 8mm, 4mm, 1mm, Microdot, and Electronic Still Photography.



Al Doyle
c/o DOYLEJET
PO Box 60311
Houston, TX 77205

Dear Al,

I thought your readers might be interested to know that on 15 Sep 95, Minox, GmbH., held their 50th anniversary jubilee celebration at the Mercure Hotel in Wetzlar, Germany. I was honoured to be invited to attend, and have included for your information a few things:

A copy of an article describing the event which I wrote and have posted on the Compuserve net, in the Photography Forum, under General Photography; the article (file) is named Minox50.txt.

A copy of the official Minox press release kit describing the event and several, special, 50 year commemorative edition cameras.

Xeroxed copies of full colour photographs of the special edition cameras.

The event was absolutely fascinating, and I was extremely fortunate to have obtained a private, 1 and a half hour interview with the inventor, Walter Zapp himself. Apparently, he remembered me from our correspondence regarding research for the book; at 90 years old, he is still lively, in great form, and a veritable fountain of information.

Hope you enjoy the material, take care,

Sincerely,

SFC D. Scott Young
40th Engineer Battalion, HHC
Unit # 23807
APO AE 09034

By: D. Scott Young, 100615,713 Baumholder, Germany

On Friday, 15 September 1995, Minox, GmbH. celebrated their 50th anniversary as a German manufacturer of fine precision miniature photographic products. Internationally famous as the producer of the incomparable line of sub-miniature, 9.5mm "spy cameras", the 50 year old company took time out to honour the inventor, 90 year old Walter Zapp.

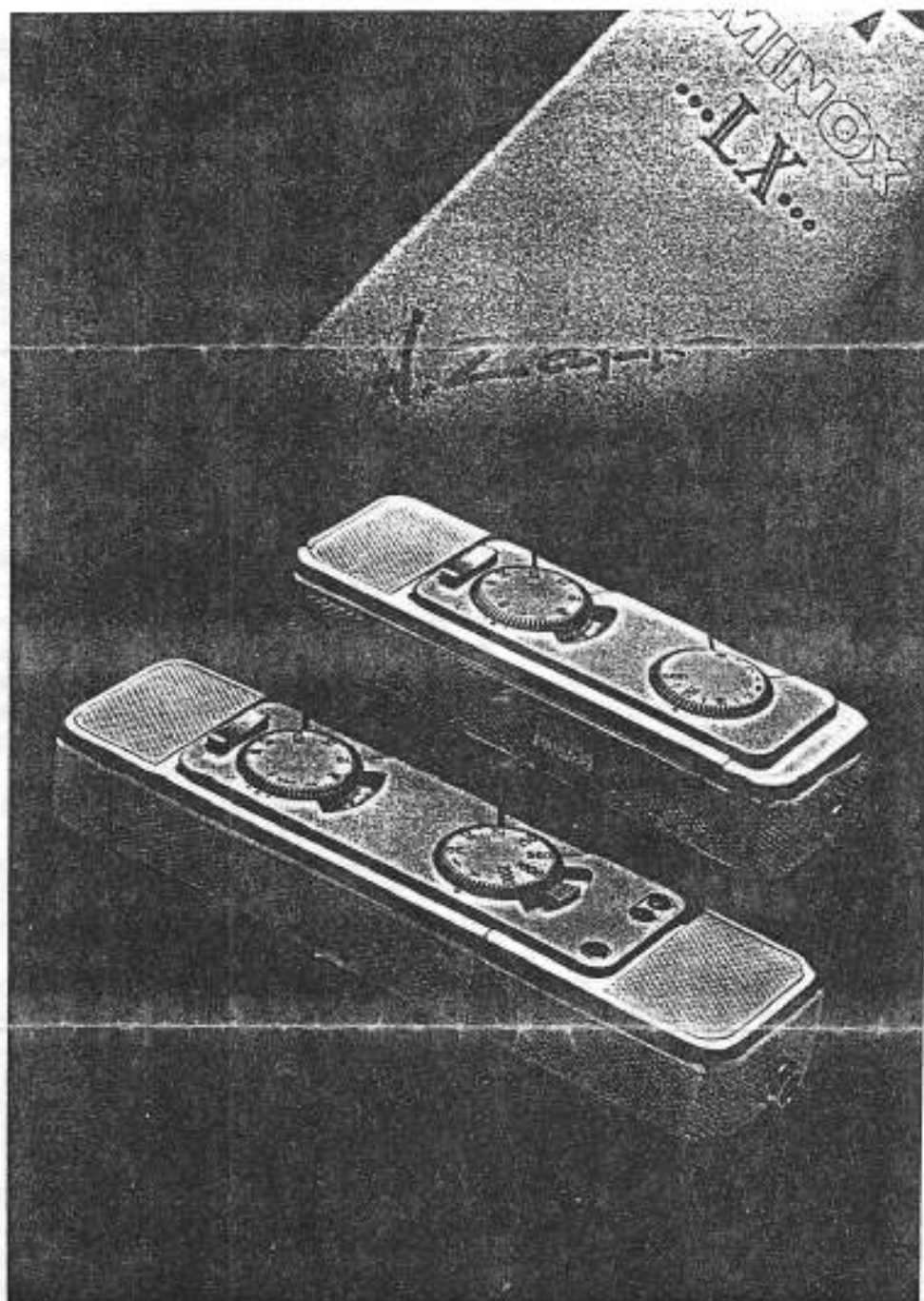
The gala event was held in the banquet hall of the Hotel Mercure, in the city of Wetzlar, Germany. Approximately 100 people, many of the members of the German Minox Photography Club (who sponsored the event), were in attendance as well as representatives from the company itself.

The event began at 1630 hours with a social session, where people mingled over champagne and closely examined several special exhibits symbolic of the event. Two areas of the hall drew particular attention from the assembled enthusiasts: the first, a glassed display case featuring the original wooden hand carved block Zapp had used in conceiving the initial dimensions of his innovative camera, along with the first working prototype, now known as the UR- (old) Minox. One of the very first production Riga-Minox cameras lay next to it, along with a unique, cut a way functioning camera designed to display the mechanical operations, all part of the inventor's private collection. The original hand drawn, hand coloured design plans were also featured.

The second attraction was a table on which were displayed 4 new variations of Minox camera specifically commemorating the jubilee. One was a 35mm edition of the company's recent pocket 35mm line of cameras, and three were the classic subminiature design for which they are best known. The first of these was a 24kt gold plated, "signature model" LX, with matching plated measuring/security chain and flash gun, attractively boxed in a wooden presentation case. A "signature model" AX was also displayed, fitted out and held in a similar wooden case. The third camera drew as much attention as the first two, a titanium clad LX to be known as the TLX. This camera is distinguished by its black focusing and shutter speed control knobs, as well as the black filtre slide bar and viewfinder framing, discretely emphasizing the gun metal grey of the titanium body shell.

The Estonian Government Post Office has recently issued a special edition postage stamp to commemorate the occasion. The stamp, samples of which were passed out among the attendees, features a 3/4 view of the original Riga-Minox, manufactured in 1936. These, and numerous promotional items were quite popular among the participants.

The formal event began with speeches from several people closely associated over the years with the growth of the "Minox phenomenon", among them, Hr. Hackman, the President of the German Minox



24kt gold signature Model AX
24kt gold signature Model LX

50th Anniversary Release 15 Sep 95

Photography Club, who presided over the ceremonies. Hr. Hackman is the author of "Variations in 8x11", a definitive collector's guide to the sub-miniature Minox cameras. Each of the speeches given paid homage to Walter Zapp as the inventor of the camera from which the company's fortunes later sprang.

Hr. Zapp himself was present, having traveled with his son and daughter in law from his home in Obergg, Switzerland to attend the celebration. A major highlight of the evening was his personal retelling of the history of the camera, with fascinating insights to his design philosophy along the way. Still lively at 90, he had earlier celebrated his birthday on the 4th of the month.

After a short break, the Minox Club was treated to a special slide show highlighting unusual aspects of the early Minox product line, including some humorous cartoons from the past that highlighted the tiny machines themselves. Of particular note was an early model II or III, specially modified by the former East German Security Police organization, the Stasi, to be concealed in a doorframe. Activated by the opening or closing of a door to a room, it kept a discrete record of a rooms occupants during clandestine meetings.

After supper the Minox club resumed the event minus the special guests and Minox factory representatives to conduct club business, to include the election of a new slate of officers. At the conclusion of the business, members had the opportunity to browse several sales points sponsored by individual members, where sales or barter of a wide variety of used classic Minox cameras as well as other brands were offered. One particularly unusual point of sale was the offering of commemorative wooden blocks, identical replicas of Walter Zapp's original design model. Carved of the same wood to exacting dimensions, they are engraved on the front with the trademark curved lettering of the Minox name, and a precise facsimile of Zapp's signature. On the back is carved the 3 digit serial number of the individual blocks. Commissioned in a run of 300, the blocks were packaged with a certificate of authenticity signed by the inventor.

The familiar, push-pull camera action of these tiny, chewing gum package sized cameras has made them unique in the world of precision photographic instruments. Recognized as the premier piece of photographic equipment best suited for the requirements of espionage in World War II, they stand alone as being among the few pieces of equipment used by the Intelligence organizations of virtually every participant in the war. Although never specifically designed for this purpose, the cameras achieved an added measure of fame afterwards by being popularized in numerous spy movies and novels, permanently earning them the nick name "spy camera". Although Minox has scaled back their production of these cameras to barely 10% of their current product line sales, they continue to produce the Model LX, EC and certain editions of the AX. A spokeswoman for the company assures us that they will continue to produce and support the camera with service and accessories for as long as the public demands. Minox is located in Heuchelheim, a small suburb of Giessen.

Subminiature Times
PO Box 60311
Houston, TX 77205

RE: "Low On Funds" (SM #80)

Dear Sirs,

Having personal experience with two (2) Minox 35 ELs and a Rollei SE (the SE has the same Sonnar lens made under license from Zeiss as the 35 S), there is little doubt the Rollei is king even with the four element Tessar.

Although eagerly sought by Minox affectionados, the 'ELs are rather poorly made. The electronically controlled shutter Minox used has been compared to the \$20.00 Polaroid cheapies; they have a limited service life and cannot be effectively repaired. The front element focus ring of the Minox tends to slip or crack as it is plastic junk. Even when properly collimated, the lens of the Minox EL cannot stand enlargements beyond 8X.

The Zeiss Sonnars whether German or Shanghai made, are remarkably sharp optics. It is my opinion the Sonnar is sharper than the Olympus XA which is much overrated. Although not a true shirt pocket camera as per the Minox 35s, the Rollei 35 (excepting the cheapie 35B and 35C and the LED) are remarkably robust, often the only repair is to remove the top plate and add a few drops of solvent to clean the slow speed escapement!

The best shirtpocket 35 however, just might be the Ukrainian made Kiev 35A. It is made with the old Minox 35EL chassis but with a much sharper optic. I do not know if the shutter will prove to be more reliable. It is the best value today however, and sells in the \$100 to \$135 range new. I haven't bought one of these yet. *

Sincerely,

Charles Wong
Charles Wong

* PS

I read the article on the Canon 110 ED 20 with interest, I recently obtained a 110 ED (without the "20"). It evidently came out a year before so the date indicators start with 76 and ends in 86. Everything else appears identical, but inspection of the cassette chamber shows no edge sensor that I can see to set the film speed; perhaps it only takes 100 speed film.

SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE

Here's your chance to get a million dollars. To everyone who renews their subscription, or adds to their current subscription by one year we'll send a microdot of a 'one million dollar bill' on a microdot with your next issue.

Offer expires December 31, 1995.

9.5 THE MINOX CLUB

Dear Mr. Doyle,
At present I am using a Minox B. I have been looking for a Minox Nikor Developing Reel for some time. I had one but was lost in a moving process. Do you have a processing reel? I have the Minox Developing tank but find it somewhat difficult to use. James T. Smith, 101 N. 69th St., Omaha, NE 68132



An overly warm film-processing solution, prolonged developing time, and cooler fix and wash water can cause the grainy appearance known as "reticulation."

CRACKING UP

I've been getting good results with a special black-and-white developer called Perfection XR-1 (Perfection Photographic Products, Inc., 10021 La Tuna Canyon Rd., San Valley, CA 91352), except for a recent roll of film. Prints from this roll have a very choppy, grainy appearance (see example). I develop at 80 degrees for 25 minutes, which is the manufacturer's recommendation, then drop the temperature to a 75-degree water rinse followed by a 70-degree fixer bath and final wash. Film from another maker didn't show the same graininess. What caused this problem?

A. Bilotto, Mount Vernon, New York
You've managed to produce a textbook example of "reticulation," a micro-cracking of the film surface. Reticulation is usually caused by the sudden contraction of the emulsion when film that has been soaking in warm developer is suddenly dunked into a colder fixer or water bath.

In your case, the higher-than-normal developer temperature, combined with an unusually long development time, softened the film emulsion to the point where it contracted when immersed in the colder liquids. As you discovered, some emulsions are more susceptible to reticulation than others, although in general this problem is rarely seen when all processing solutions are close to the same temperature. To eliminate your reticulation problem, try bringing all your solutions—from developer through fixer to wetting agent bath—to within a temperature range of one or two degrees. Remember to shorten your fixing time when using the higher temperature.

HELPLINE

A current Dockers Jeans commercial shows a Steky hanging from the rear view mirror of a car. Where do you attach a hook for a strap?

STEKY FAN in Atlanta, Ga.

IT'S NEW

NEW VIDEO of the famous B-73 Tie Camera and numerous counter-surveillance tools at The Counter Spy Shop. VHS copy: "Next Step" 9/25/95. The Discovery Channel. (301) 986-0444.

NEW SERVICE for alchemists. All of the more difficult formulas, or your favorite developer custom prepackaged in kit form. Artcraft Chemicals, Bx 583, Schneeciady, NY 12301. 1 (800) 621-1730.

INTERNATIONAL

NEW MINICAMERA (U.K.) The Motor Accident Cam w/flash.



Scotch crashing in

FILM maker Scotch has found a niche market for its single-use camera (SUC). The company, part of industrial giant 3M, has produced an SUC designed to be kept in the car and used to record details at the scene of accidents.

With over 250,000 accidents a year, the makers believe that photographic evidence can speed up the insurance payout process. Major insurance companies also support the use of photographic evidence.

The camera is loaded with a 24 exposure ISO 400 film, has built-in flash and retails at \$29. Phone: 654-6563-47.



Ultrasonic sound waves bounce off targeted wall or ceiling and return to sensor for accurate measurements.

HELPLINE

Re: Pocket rangefinders (ST #83)
The Kodak Pocket is impossible to find in Chicago. Radio Shack has a digital model for \$25.

Carol Marks, Chicago, IL.

To All, This ad appears in "The National Enquirer"

WORLD'S LARGEST Spy Supply catalog for everyone who needs that extra security. Send \$3.00 to: Lois Herten, 100 St. Franklin Dr., Maple Shade, NJ 08052.

Any subminis in World's Largest catalog? NO FIVES TO WASTE, Miami.

THE GREAT SPY MOVIE FAN CLUB

The Falcon & the Snowman ('85) Suspense. A seminary dropout (Timothy Hutton) and his cocaine-hooked buddy (Sean Penn) sell U.S. secrets to the Soviets in 1975. Directed by John Schlesinger. With David Suchet.



"THE FALCON & THE SNOWMAN"

Worth taping, or you risk sensory overload trying to count and identify all the subminiature cameras.

Hold your popcorn. Bunky does hand-held closeups without measuring. Everybody owns a Minox or name suppressed Soviet model! Subminiature lives! ****

QUICKFINDER 12/95

Cyclops binoc/cam.....	\$799 W
GaMi-16.....	599 S
Gemflex.....	725 C
Mamiya Super-16.....	79 W
Mikroma II.....	600 A
Minicord black.....	375 B
Minox B w/case, chain.....	179 B
" EC w/box, flash.....	229 B
" IIS w/case, chain.....	159 W

A Adorama.....	(212) 741-0052
B Brooklyn camera.....	(516) 678-5333
C Camera Outlet.....	(214) 620-9800
W Woodmere Camera.....	(516) 599-6013
S Wall Street Cam.....	(212) 344-0011