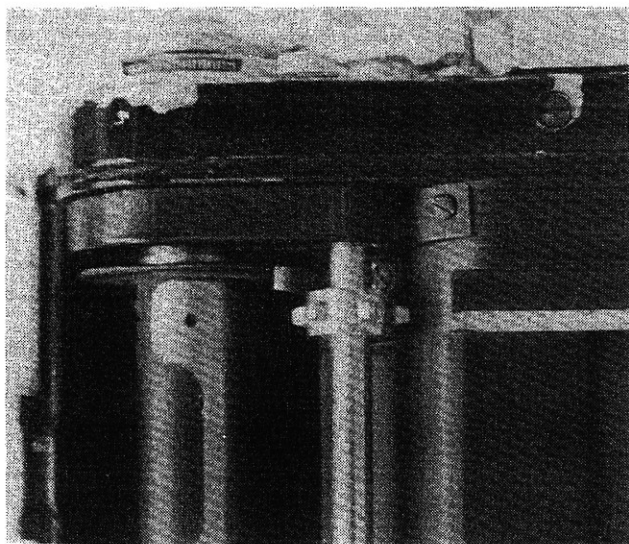


Idle Thoughts No.14

Mike Rees

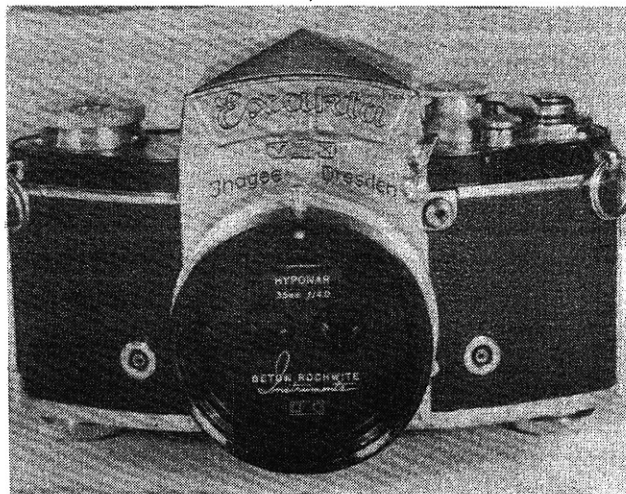
Thanks to Peter's most useful index, I realise that these ramblings have appeared in every issue of *E.T.* (now where have I heard those letters before?) except one. So I'll number any future efforts to save on adjectives.

Now then, remove the back of any Exakta V, VX, or at least early VX11a and you will observe that, held by two screws behind the top sprocket drive, is what can only be described as a "prong". This strange device protrudes level with the top of the take-up spool. No other Exakta models pre- or post-war have it. A friend of mine directed my attention to this peculiar fitment as his VX regularly jammed after about twenty exposures. After removing the "prong" the camera worked perfectly. So what on earth was it there for in the first place? Stein suggests that it could have something to do with the cassette-to-cassette facility - but why did they drop the fitment from later models? Can any other Circular member shed further light on this minor mystery?



The reason my friend wished to use the camera in the first place was because he has discovered a most unusual Exakta fitment. It is a stereo device which has two

lenses and fits into the body's bayonet like a normal lens. It looks very much like the Leitz "Stemar". It is beautifully made and finished, is of American origin and bears on its front the words "HYPONAR 35mm f4.0" Below the twin lenses it says "SETON ROCHWITE Instruments" and below that is a red rectangular logo at each end of which is drawn a stylised lens (see illustrations)



It is a macro-stereo lens, will only fit a camera which does NOT have an instantly returning mirror and can only be mounted with the mirror in the "up" position. It is obviously a highly professional creation, not a one-off and was probably designed to meet some scientific purpose. If anybody knows about the origins of and reasons behind this intriguing creation, it just has to be a member of the Circle, so, whoever it is, please enlighten us!

