

4046 Fullerton
Detroit, MI 48238
30 October 1996

Mr. Seton Rochwite F.P.S.A.
3347 Banyan Avenue
Loveland, CO 80538

Just recently I got your address from a friend of a friend, and I must say, I felt like prayers were answered. I'm an avid collector/researcher of the Exakta cameras and I'm fascinated with some of the inovative accessories made for this camera. The Kin-Dar and Hyponar stereo lenses are at the top of the list. I'd known of the Kin-Dar lens for a number of years but just a few for the Hyponar.

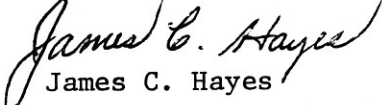
I wanted to write an article on these lenses and tried to contact The Kin-Dar Corp. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin but found no listing with directory assistance.

A friend had a Kin-Dar lens and let me photograph it on his camera but would not allow me to remove it fearing damage. Some time later a dealer offered a Hyponar for sale, my first time hearing of this lens, but it was sold when I called but the dealer sent photos as requested. A short time later another dealer let me examine his Kin-Dar and I learned something about its construction and operation; a very fascinating lens.

The article was written and published in The Exakta Times of England, a publication for Exakta collectors. Copy enclosed. Too bad I had not contacted you before so I could have had more correct information. Also enclosed are a separate list of questions with space for answers and a self addressed stamped envelope so you can just fill in the answers and mail.

I thank you very kindly for any information you may offer.

Yours truly


James C. Hayes

4046 Fullerton
Detroit, MI 48238

Mr. Seton Rochwite, F.P.S.A.
3347 Banyan Avenue
Loveland, CO 80538

Dear Mr. Rochwite,

These are questions that I'd like your answers to when you get the time.

1. What years made.....Kin-Dar? LATE 50s Hyponar? 1969-1978
2. Was there a specific purpose, medical, scientific? AMATEUR 1st - then med + dental
3. Which was first the f4 or the f3.5? f 3.5
4. How many of each made? Kin-Dar about 100 + Hyponar about 100
5. Was the Hyponar pre-focused at 12 inches? YES
6. Did any have serial numbers? KINDAR YES - HYPONAR NO.
7. What lenses used on the Hyponar? SURPLUS - AS I REMEMBER THEY WERE REVERSE-
8. Did you make any other accessories for the Exakta? NO
9. Do you have any old brochures or photos of you during that time? KIN-DAR FLYER ENCLOSED.
10. Were there any modifications made to these lenses and by whom? NO
11. Do you have either of these lenses in your collection for sale? NO
I need a Hyponar.

I would appreciate anything that you do for me, and thanks very much.

Sincerely

James C. Hayes
James C. Hayes

November 3 1996

Mr. James C. Hayes
4046 Fullerton
Detroit MI 48238

Dear Mr. Hayes,

This is in reply to your letter of Oct.30 with enclosures. I hope I will be able to satisfy some of your curiosity about the KinDar and Hyponar lenses.

In 1952 after 2 years on the staff of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory at Los Alamos NM we moved to Boulder, CO and I set myself up as a self employed consulting product engineer. My office and prototype shop were in my home. My first client was Carbide Specialty Works (later Kinder Co.) of South Milwaukee WI. My first assignment was the design of the KinDar Stereo Camera.

The close-up lens was the outgrowth of a device that a friend of mine in Milwaukee had rigged on his Contax to take close-up stereo pictures. About 1955 he moved to Boulder to work for me. Kinder Co. took an interest in his close-up rig and had me re-design it to fit on the Exakta camera. I did that and then manufactured them for Kinder. I did not sell them direct-Kinder did the marketing. I do not have a record of how many I made-something over 100 I think. The number VX1060C is the serial number. In the late 50s Kinder went out of business so that ended the production.

In the late 60s it occurred to me that there might still be a market for it. By that time we had moved to San Jose CA. So I re-designed it and gave it the name "HYPONAR". I changed the finish from plain aluminum to black anodized. I also made some dimensional changes so that it would fit the then current models-VXIIa and VXIIb. With Kinder out of business I no longer had the Steinheil Cassar lenses available but I was able to get surplus lenses from Edmund Scientific which I re-mounted. As I remember they were from the Revere Stereo camera. I did not engrave serial numbers on the Hyponars. I sold them direct to customers. The last ones I made were in 1978 after we had moved from California back to Loveland CO. I was in my 70s at that time and retired from my consulting business. A little mental arithmetic will let you guess my present age. On November 22nd I will be 92.

The only literature I have is one of the KinDar flyers which is enclosed. The original market was thought to be amateur but then it turned out to be useful in the medical and dental fields.

I hope you have enjoyed the ancient history lesson and that you will find the information of some interest. Sorry I could not be of more help.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seton Rochwite". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Seton Rochwite FPSA
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