

Camera Identification

1. This lecture is intended to assist officers engaged on examination of Passenger's Baggage. Under Baggage Hall conditions speed is essential. At a glance the Officer must decide whether to pass the camera free, receive revenue. question the passenger further, consult the Price Guide, or take a written declaration from the passenger. All these take time and time is important, so some idea of the revenue involved is required "at a glance".

2. Revenue on the camera concerned is directly related to the value, and the value is directly related to the camera's capabilities. So we want to know the capabilities of the camera, or simply what it can do, to decide value and revenue. With the most expensive cameras we must refer to the Price Guide, but some knowledge of camera features is required merely to find the correct model in the list. In the case of 35 mm still cameras this runs into some 1,500 models.

This is a vast and complicated subject. In the cause of simplicity the following observations are confined to 35 mm still cameras this being the type of camera most frequently seen in passengers baggage, although the same features affect the value of other types of cameras.

3. Summarising these features: they are:-

- a. Clarity of the picture - scope and quality of the lens, scope and accuracy of the shutter
- b. Speed of operation - Built in Rangefinder and Built in Rangefinder that is coupled.
- c. Speed of operation - Built in Exposure Meter, Built in and linked Exposure Meter, Built in and linked Exposure meter that is releasable. Through the Lens" metering.
- d. SLR = Single Lens Reflex for accurate focussing and picture composition. Viewing takes place through the lens via a pentaprism and mirror.
- e. Automatic lenses that give accurate focussing and speed of operation with the picture composition. Non automatic lenses are called "Manual" or "Preset".
- f. Acceptance of interchangeable (not supplementary) lenses, telephoto and wide angle, to take far and wide pictures. Usually SLR cameras.
- g. Adaptability to systems of changeable lenses and viewfinders for tele and close up work. Acceptance of "systems" for medical and scientific work, invariably SLR cameras which means "Single Lens Reflex".

4. How can we recognise these features that increase the camera's capabilities.

- a. Lens value by manufacturer, the size and focal length, all by lens markings. Shutter value by manufacturers markings.
- b. Rangefinder built in, recognisable in "Side viewfinder cameras by a second "window", would increase the value by approx £5. Rangefinder built in and coupled, this means that the "split" or "double" image seen through the viewfinder is brought "into one" by operation of the focussing ring. increase in value £5 approx.
- c. Exposure meter built in, avoids carrying a separate meter. Recognisable by an insert of "Blackberrysurfaced" glass, or a $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter lens in the case of CDS meters, in the camera front. In the case of meters not "linked" readings

are taken and transferred to speed and aperture control. Increase in value £5. Exposure Meter built in and linked. Appearance is similar to those not linked but the needle is seen through the viewfinder and brought "into one" with a second needle that is moved by operating the speed and aperture controls. This linkage can be released in later models. Value is increased by a further £5 approx. TTL means "Through the Lens" metering. It is by means of a light sensitive unit behind the lens, thus only light that actually passes through the lens is measured. This system is battery operated and the outside indication of its existence is the switch at the side of the viewfinder. The needle is seen through the viewfinder. "TTL" increases value considerably.

- d. SLR or "Single Lens Reflex" cameras. In the case of these cameras viewing and picture composition takes place through the lens via a pentaprism and mirror. The great advantage is that the photographer sees exactly the picture that is going to be on the negative. Fine focussing is via a screen which is usually interchangeable. SLR Cameras are recognisable by the fact that there is no viewing window on the front of the camera. TTL metering if present is seen through the viewfinder. The SLR feature usually doubles the camera value.
- e. Such cameras usually accept interchangeable lenses (Not supplementary lenses) these are telephoto and wide angle of varying focal lengths. Focussing presents no problems when being viewed through the actual lens. Such interchangeable lenses can be "manual" or "automatic". As focussing takes place at wide aperture the required aperture adjustment must be made manually to the "manual" lens before shutter release. In the case of "automatic" lenses the required adjustment to aperture size is made before viewing and focussing. As the shutter is released the aperture control is operated a split second before actual shutter operation. This feature usually doubles the value of the lens.
- f. SLR Cameras frequently have viewing systems that are interchangeable to make the camera more adaptable and increase its capabilities. In the case of the "NIKON 'F'". SLR camera a viewing system incorporating a TTL metering system can be substituted for the normal viewing system. Although both viewing systems bear the mark "NIKON F" the value of the camera will be uplifted by £40. With the more expensive viewing and metering system the "NIKON F" becomes a "PHOTOMIC T" in the "Price Guide". The possibility of this change being made to a "NIKON F" camera previously duty-paid could be borne in mind.
- g. Most of the well known SLR cameras such as "Nikon", "Edixa", "Pontax", "Exacta" can be obtained in what are known as "Systems" which include many accessories such as bellows, tubes, viewing screens and other complicated equipment for medical and scientific photography. To learn about these systems one should consult the manufacturers brochures that are amply illustrated.

5. Opportunities for Revenue Evasion

Cameras and photographic equipment, especially 35 mm equipment, is probably more prone to revenue evasion than any other "non-consumable".

Non Declaration Concealment of a £300 35 mm camera is not difficult by reason of bulk and the following is familiar:-

Slung over the passenger's shoulder and beneath his raincoat but not declared, "I'm not trying to hide it in any way, I always carry it like this".

Undervaluation Also familiar is the declaration of value "About twenty pounds I think Officer". Or production of false receipts frequently offered by camera salesman anxious to make a sale.

Substitution of interchangeable components Mainly in the case of "SLR" cameras Interchangeable lenses value £10 to £500. If a standard lens is seen in the baggage take a second look at the one on the used camera. Interchange of Standard "manual" lens to an "automatic" lens of the same size. "Automatic" doubles the lens value. Another example has been given under "NIKON F" and "PHOTOMIC T" see "SLR cameras".

Concealment inside cameras. If the examining officer feels that there is possibility of concealment inside the camera the passenger may claim that the camera contains film and cannot be opened. Most 35mm cameras have cassette loading and the film can be wound back into the cassette allowing the camera back to be opened without loss of film. If the number of exposures is noted, the film can be returned to its previous position without loss of exposure of film.

It is interesting to note that the value of leather ever-ready cases for the more expensive SLR cameras is between £20 and £30.

To deal with possible methods of revenue evasion its an advantage to have some knowledge of cameras. Cameras of high value are of special interest. Intelligent questions on the capabilities of the camera can reveal the fact that the owner has little knowledge of the camera that he claims to have owned for more than twelve months.

6. Handling of Cameras during examination

All cameras should be handled with great care, always in a position that, should they be dropped, they would fall only an inch or two and not onto the floor or bench. Cameras can be examined over an opened suitcase or clothing. Do not work the controls there may be a "lock" to release before operation. Very important indeed is the fact that any glass surface should not be touched. Lenses are made of very soft glass that can be permanently marked with the touch of a finger. If the owner has camera knowledge he will be watching very carefully.

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"MONARK" PRICE GUIDE

LETTERING INDICATIONS

Lettering	Meaning	Note
<u>CONCERNING FOCUS</u>		
RF	Rangefinder (Built in)	Not coupled
CRF	Rangefinder Built in coupled to Focussing	Rangetaking adjusts Focus
SLR	Single Lens Reflex	(Does not require Rangefinder)
P ⁴ PRISM	Pentaprism	SLR Cameras
B L V	Bright Line Viewfinder	Framing Aid in "Side Viewfinder" Cameras
<u>CONCERNING SHUTTERS</u>		
F P S	Focal Plane Shutter	More costly than others
Syn. Cpr.	Synchro Compur	Manufacturer's Name
Cpr Rpd	Compur Rapid	" "
Pronto	Pronto	" "
P/LK	Pronto L.K.	" "
S.V.	Type of Shutter	" "
L.K.	" " "	" "
S.L.K.	" " "	" "
S.Y.S.	" " "	" "
Cpr.R.Syn.	Compur Rapid Synchro	" "
<u>CONCERNING EXPOSURE METERS</u>		
E.M.	Exposure Meter Built In	Usually Photo Electric
C.D.S.	Cadmium Sulphide (Exp.Mtr.)	Indicated by a 1/4" Dia Lens on the Camera Front
T.T.L.	Through the Lens (CDS)	No Front Indication but a switch at side of the viewing system
Px	A Battery	Indicates electrically operated
Mallory	A Battery	Indicates electrically operated
L.V.	Light Value Scale	A simplified exposure method
E.V.	Exposure Value	" " " "

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LETTERING INDICATIONS

(contd.)

Lettering	Meaning	Note
<u>CONCERNING LENSES</u>		
TELE	Telephoto	For distant subjects
W.A.	Wide Angle	For close situations
P.S.	Pre Set	Lens Aperture is set manually
P.S.A.	Pre Set Aperture	Lens Aperture is set manually
A.P.D.	Automatic Preset Diaphragm	Diaphragm closes automatically
F.A.D.	Fully Automatic Diaphragm	Diaphragm closes and opens automatically
FAP-SD	Fully Automatic Preset Dia.	As A.P.D. (Automatic)
P-SD	Preset Diaphragm	As P.S. (Manual)
C.S.	Click Stops	Aperture Adjustments can be felt and heard when moved manually
C.T.D.	Coated	Glass Tinting or Colour Correction
S.	Screw Fitting	Some Lenses have Bayonet Fitting
Meniscus	A simple lens	Usually of one element and "Fixed Focus"
<u>CONCERNING FLASH CONTACTS</u>		
X	Electronic and Low Speed Contact	There may be one or more of these indications shown in the Price Guide
M	Flash Bulb Contact Synchronised	
V	Delayed Action Flash Contact	
F	Flash Contact for Focal Plane Shutters	
X.M.V.	The Camera has contacts for Elect. Bulb and D.A.	There will be three contact positions visible on the Camera
X.M.	Contacts for Electronic and Bulb synchronised	Two contacts visible
X.F.	The Camera has contacts for Elect. and Focal Plane	Two contacts visible
<u>MONARK IS HEADED PRICE GUIDE</u>		
<u>IT IS NOT A PRICE LIST</u>		