

The Journal of the Historical Society for *Retina* Cameras

L'Appareils Kodak Retina avec Objectifs Francisees



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Kodak Retina cameras with French lenses

The Journal of the Historical Society for Retina Cameras

The quarterly journal of the Historical Society for Retina Cameras, 50695 Ridgemoor Way, Granger, Indiana 46530 U.S.A.

" for the acquisition and dissemination of true, complete and accurate historical information concerning Kodak Retina and Retinette Cameras and their accessories "

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Pre-war Retina cameras with French lenses

The author's research into pre-war Retina cameras with French lens began as a result of the inability to find a Typ 126 Retina I camera with an Angenieux lens. Kalton LaHue's *Collector's Guide* "Kodak Retina Cameras" makes a statement on page 36 that Typ 126 Retina I cameras were manufactured with Angenieux lenses.

The first evidence of a French-made lens on a pre-war Retina camera was discovered by the author at the Kodak Archiv at Kodak A.G. Stuttgart-Wangen. The pre-war advertisements collection at the Kodak Archiv contained a Kodak Pathe' ad from *L'ILLUSTRATION* of May 1, 1937 which shows a Typ 126 camera with a "KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lens with serial number 241069. This ad is illustrated in figure 1 at the right with a detailed enlargement of the camera from another French ad shown in figure 2.

A French language catalog was also found at Kodak Archiv which demonstrates another Typ 126 with KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lens with serial number 241321. The catalog front page is illustrated on the front page of this Journal and a detailed enlargement of the camera in figure 3.

Figure

1



3^{me} MAI 1937 L'ILLUSTRATION



Scène fugitive!
fixée pour toujours
avec le
"Kodak" "Retina"

Rien n'échappe au "KODAK" "RETINA"! La vie en plein mouvement, le portrait le plus délicat. Il permet toutes les audaces, toutes les prouesses photographiques et reste de beaucoup le moins cher des appareils de haute précision. Il ne coûte en effet que 90 francs et vous pourrez l'acquiescir pour un premier voyage de 30 jours seulement.

Avec le "KODAK" "RETINA" vous "saisissez" l'action en 1/50^e de seconde. Se met au point en 1/10^e de seconde à peine et vous fixe 10 images en 21 secondes d'autant plus facilement que vous êtes prêt à courtir de pellicules puisque le film "KODAK" Paracolor coûte 30 francs.

Avec le "KODAK" "RETINA", vivante dans votre photographie, vous éprouverez vraiment toutes les émotions du respect, du sport comme de l'amour.

Et même qu'en quelques instants, chez un bon marchand, vous ayez vu servir du "KODAK" "RETINA"!

POUR 90 frs
PREMIER TRICOLOR
vous en porterez
votre "Kodak" "Retina"

Caractéristiques du "Kodak" "Retina" couleur
Obt. F: 2,8 à 4 boîtiers
appartenance aux 126
Alpina, Géométrique, Compact
Usage de 35 mm. Comp. par automatique de 1937.



Chargez votre "Kodak" "Retina" avec la Pellicule "Kodak Panatomic", "Kodak Super X" ou "Kodak Super Sensitive", celles qu'utilisent les cinéastes professionnels.

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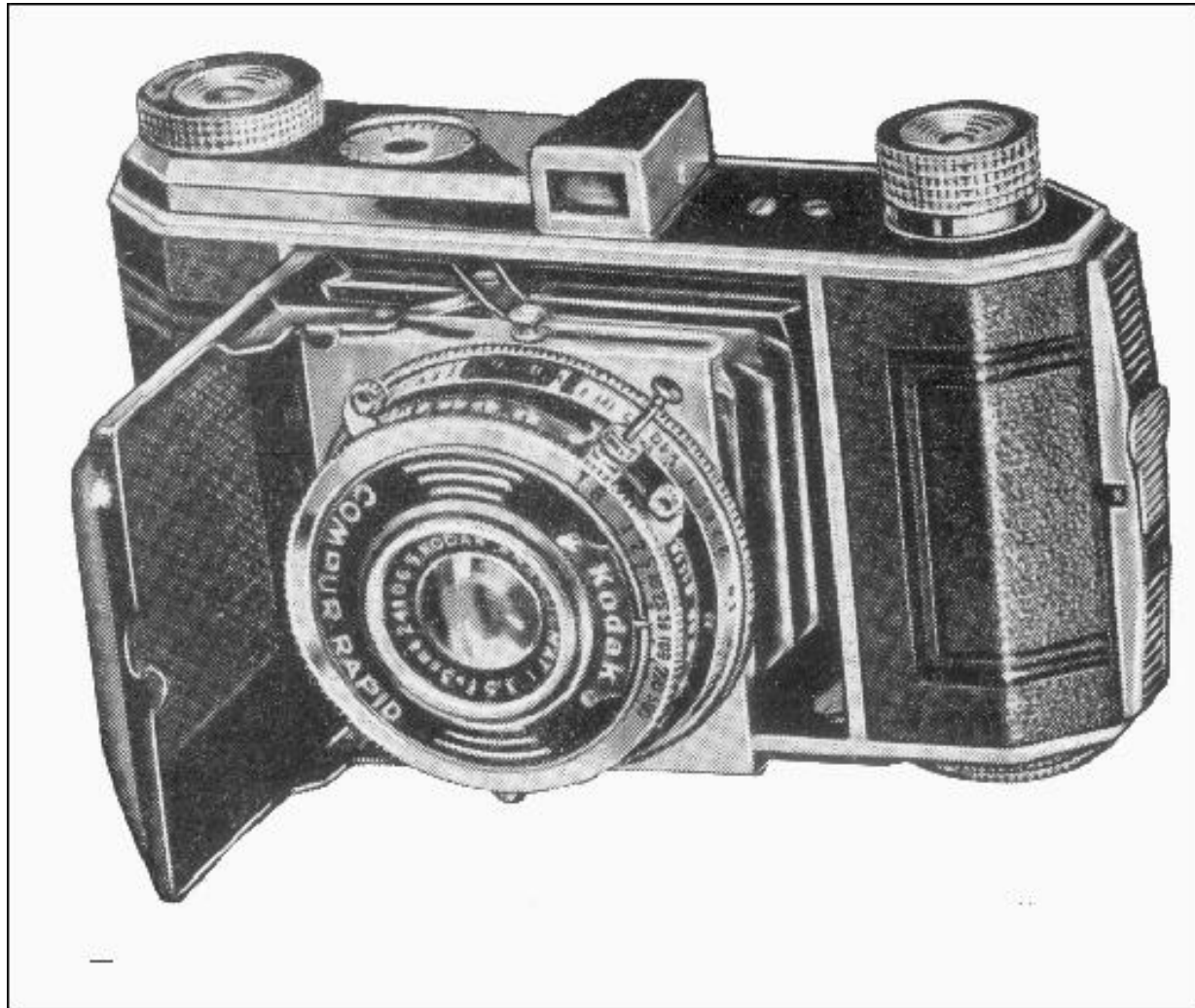


Figure 2: Typ 126 with KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms s/n 241069

**“KODAK RETINA”
Modèle I**

CE prodigieux appareil comblera les désirs du photographe acquis au format 35mm. qui se verra permises toutes les audaces photographiques, car le “Kodak Retina” est un des appareils de petit format les plus perfectionnés. C’est aussi le meilleur marché. Le “Kodak Retina.” se règle avec une telle rapidité que l’on peut “mitrailler” photographiquement le sujet en pleine action



Typ 126 Retina I-- Body serial no. 53633K. with KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lens s/n 241683

The author has acquired three Typ 126 Retina I cameras with the KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lenses and COMPUR-RAPID shutters. All three cameras have French depth of field scales. Further research into other HSRC member collections revealed additional Typ 126 cameras with this lens and also a rare Typ 141 Retina I camera with this lens/shutter combination. A list of all identified pre-war Retina cameras with KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms French lenses can be found in table 1 on the last page of this Journal.



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Depth of Field scale in French from 53633K.



Typ 141 Retina I-- Body serial no. 175723K. with KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lens s/n 247355

To date, no documentation or French advertisements have been acquired for the Typ 141 Retina I camera with KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lens.

A Typ 118 Retina camera was acquired from an eBay auction that had a KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lens No. 15441 with an COMPUR-RAPID shutter and a French depth of field scale. This Typ 118 Retina is illustrated on the next page. Two additional versions of the Typ 118 with French lens are found in the HSRC database. The KODAK ANASTIGMAT lenses on Typ 118 cameras have a different serial number series and a different engraving style. See page 6.



Depth of Field scale in French from 175723K.

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Typ 118 Retina I-- Body serial no. 486935. with KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lens No. 15441



Close-up detail of different engraving style on Typ 118 lenses



Depth of Field scale in French from 486935.

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A real breakthrough in the research came with some correspondence between the author, Peter Barz and Patrice-Herve Pont. The question posed was whether the author had ever encountered an Angenieux lens on a pre-war Retina. The authors answer was "NO". The author related the finding of the KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lenses with serial number data to Patrice-Herve Pont and asked if the serial number data might indicate Angenieux as a manufacturer. To the author's surprise, Patrice-Herve Pont stated that the lens serial number series for the Typ 126 and Typ 141 Retina I cameras of 241069 thru 243601 would be consistent with **SOM BERTHIOT** as the lens manufacturer. SOM Berthiot was at lens serial number 240000 in 1935.

The KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms lenses found on the French Typ 118 Retina cameras have a different serial number series. The identified series is from No. 15082 to No. 15646. This series would not make sense for an SOM BERTHIOT origin and the lens engraving is different than that seen on the French lenses of the Typ 126 and Typ 141 series. This No. 15000 lens series would fit into the serial number series of lenses from Paul Angenieux at the time of manufacture of the Typ 118, but this does not represent conclusive evidence. The one historical source the author has on Angenieux lenses states that no lenses for 35mm cameras were manufactured by Paul Angenieux until 1938. Perhaps these lenses were missed by photohistorians since the word Angenieux is not engraved on the lens.

SOM BERTHIOT LENS SERIAL NUMBER DATA:

1925 c 150 000
 1930 c 190 000
 1935 c 240 000
 1940 c 350 000
 1950 c 600 000

(Source: Patrice-Herve Pont)

A summation of the HSRC findings about Pre-war Kodak Retina I cameras with French lenses.

1. The lenses show the following engraving:
 KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms
2. All cameras have COMPUR-RAPID shutters.
3. All cameras have metric focus scales and French language depth of field scales.
4. The Typ 126 and Typ 141 camera French lenses were probably manufactured under license by SOM Berthiot. This has been established from serial number data.
5. The Typ 118 camera French lenses may have been manufactured by Angenieux.

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Table 1-- Historical Society for Retina Cameras Database:

Body S/N	Typ	Lens	Lens S/N	Shutter	DOF
463034	118	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	No. 15646	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
486935	118	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	No. 15441	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
487593	118	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	No. 15082	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
50640K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	242386	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
53653K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	241683	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
54656K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	?	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
54748K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	241183	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
55389K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	243591	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
56875K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	243247	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
60947K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	243064	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
62677K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	243601	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
62942K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	242711	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
64679K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	242342	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
?	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	241069	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
?	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	241321	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
131634K.	126	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	243238	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
175723K.	141	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	247355	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
175966K.	141	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	?	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
211466K.	141	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	251476	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
211580K.	141	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	249705	COMPUR-RAPID	frn
211949K.	141	KODAK ANASTIGMAT 1:3.5 F=5cms	251507	COMPUR-RAPID	frn