

The trailblazing single-lens reflex camera with fully-fledged autofocus

Registration No.	Number 00290		
Registration Date	September 15, 2020	Registration Category	Category 1

Name (Model, etc.)	MINOLTA 7000
Location	Hachioji-shi, Tokyo
	KONICA MINOLTA WITH YOU, Inc
Owner (Custodian)	KONICA MINOLTA WITH YOU, Inc
Manufacturer (Company)	MINOLTA CAMERA Co., Ltd. (now KONICA MINOLTA, INC.)
Year Manufactured	1985
Year first appeared	1985
Reason For Selection	In the early 1980s, one feature of SLR cameras was the capability to switch between different lenses. A major obstacle in developing a system to enable autofocus while maintaining this feature were the existing lenses. The camera itself could be fitted with a focus detecting function, called focus aid, which indicated when the image was out of focus. However, this could not be made to work together with the lens mechanically. Autofocus could only be made to work with the limited range of lenses that had a focus drive mechanism built in. In this camera, the entire system was completely redesigned with the autofocus function built into the body of the camera. The camera was fitted with a newly developed set of lenses that had a built-in interlocking system to connect them to the camera body, resulting in a near-perfect autofocus function. This innovative product is significant as it completely changed the course of subsequent 35mm SLR camera design, which has carried through to the digital SLR cameras of today.
Registration Standard	1-A (Show an important aspect or stage of the development of science and technology.) 1-B (Show a uniquely Japanese scientific or technological development from an international perspective.)

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