

The origin of the made-in-Japan 35mm SLR camera

Registration No.	Number 00279		
Registration Date	September 10, 2019	Registration Category	Category 1

Name (Model, etc.)	ASAHIFLEX I
Location	Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
	JCII Camera Museum
Owner (Custodian)	Japan Camera Industry Institute
Manufacturer (Company)	Asahi Optical Co., Ltd. (Asahi Kougaku, now: Ricoh Imaging Company, Ltd.)
Year Manufactured	Unknown
Year first appeared	1952
Reason For Selection	Japan's first domestic 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) camera. Its original screw mount allows the lens to be changed. One problem with SLR cameras had been black-out, the image through the finder being blocked after exposure. This model, however, used the ever-return mirror: pressing the shutter button raised the mirror for exposure, and releasing the shutter button returned the mirror and ended the black-out. This mechanism later led to the development of the instant-return mirror, in which just pressing the shutter would initiate a series of events—raise the mirror, expose, and return the mirror—and became a true solution to black-out. This solution provided the momentum to make SLR the mainstream camera. The SLR camera is something that took the world by storm, and this resource is valuable as the first model that turned Japan's original technology into a product.
Registration Standard	1-B (Show a uniquely Japanese scientific or technological development from an international perspective.)

Open/Closed to Public	Open to Public
Photo	
Other useful information	