BON
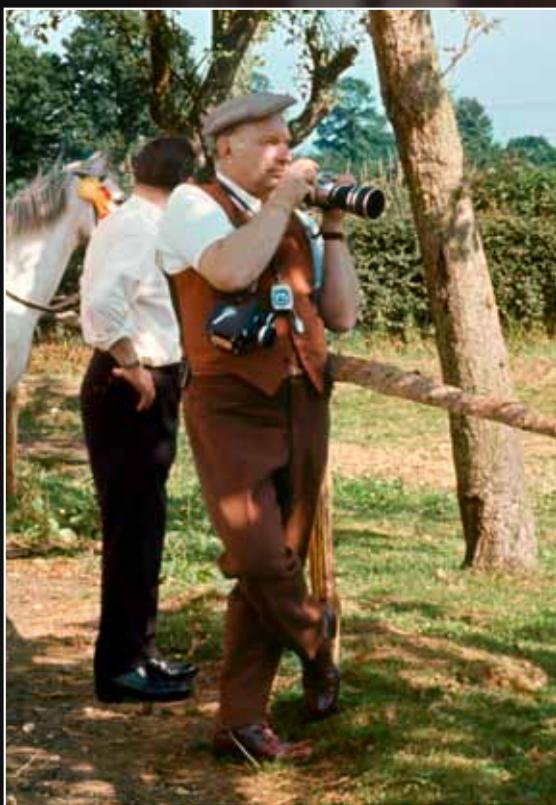
The L. Ron Hubbard Series

PHOTOGRAPHER
WRITING WITH LIGHT

Above With Voigtländer at local riding academy, East Grinstead, England, 1965

The Voigtländer

The first to provide a built-in flash and first 35mm to offer a zoom lens, the Voigtländer was nothing if not innovative. Hence, Ron's unqualified praise of the camera; he actually described the Voigtländer Ultramatic as the singularly best all-around 35mm of the day. In consequence, a Voigtländer long stood at the ready on a corner of his desk, and served him through many a shoot beyond the Canaries.

Additionally part of Ron's Voigtländer system is a long-focus 200mm lens initially employed from the bleachers of the *Plaza de Toros*. As a matter of fact, Ron actually purchased the lens barely three hours before a first bull entered the ring. ■

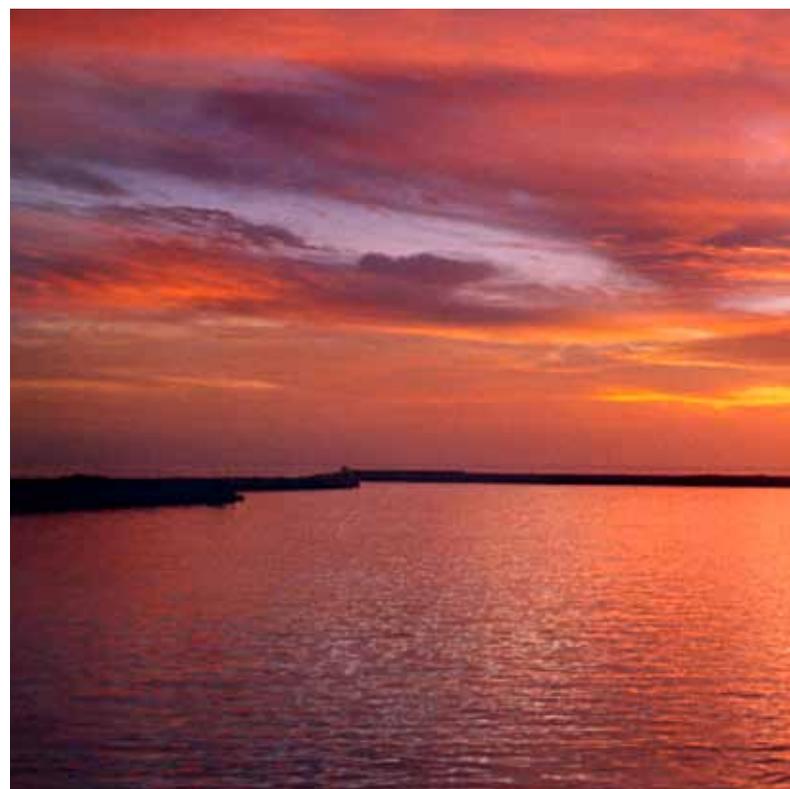*Right* Ron's Voigtländer camera system, which he described as the singular best all-around 35mm of its day
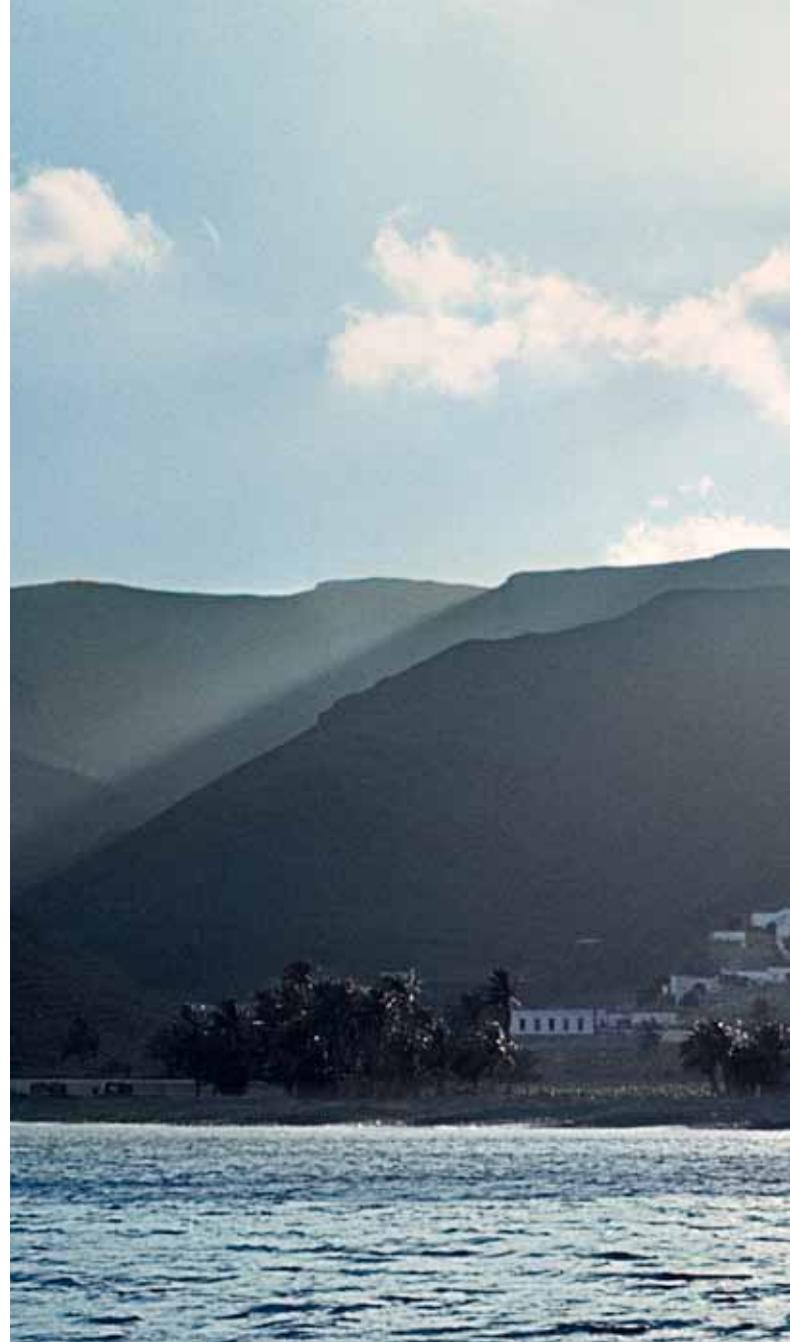
Above **With Rollei 35, aboard his Chris Craft, North Africa, 1968**

The Rollei 35

The extremely compact Rollei 35, virtually fitting in the palm of one's hand, was frequently used by LRH on photo excursions from the *Apollo* to North Africa, Spain and Portugal. ■

Above With Mamiya C33, *Apollo,* 1972

Mamiya C33

"We are interested in Japanese cameras because of the very superior lenses," reads an LRH query from 1964 to the Japan Camera Industry Association. Of particular interest was the medium-format, twin-lens Mamiya C33, providing suitably sized negatives for magazine reproduction. Among the first medium-format "systems," the Mamiya C33 offered a variety of twin-lens assemblies and accessories for every professional need. (That is, and unlike the Rolleiflex, the Mamiya lens assemblies are not permanently mounted and so interchangeable.) Later employed for several famed sea shoots in and around *Apollo* ports of call, the Mamiya C33 is best remembered for the classic LRH self-portraits as Commodore of the Sea Organization. ∎