

Miniature Arms

Winter, 2001

The Journal of the
Miniature Arms
Collectors/Makers
Society



The Worlds Biggest Miniature Arms Publication

The Miniature Masterpieces of Stan Blashak



Also In
This Issue

Dosick/Fisher
Early American
Berloques



Plus; The Hubley
Cap Gun Company

The Miniature Arms Journal



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The Miniature Arms Journal (formerly *Shooting The Breeze*) is published four times a year for and by the members and friends of the Miniature Arms Collectors/Makers Society, Ltd. Membership dues are \$25 per year for the North American members and \$30 per year in U.S. funds for all international members. For a family membership add \$10 (we only send one copy of MAJ to the one address). Dues are due on the first of the year. First year dues and joining fees are \$35 and \$45 respectively. Dues include the four issues of *The Miniature Arms Journal*. New members will receive all available back issues in the current volume. Dues (checks made out to the Miniature Arms Society) and correspondence concerning membership should be sent to

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The Presidents Message

Prez Message for Jan 2002

Now that things have kind of slowed down after the holidays it's time to turn our attention toward the New Year. Our membership numbers increased last year in part due to our participation in a greater number of shows across the country. I hope that we can continue this trend.

If there are local shows that you would normally attend, then why not rent a table and show some miniatures. Do a little show and tell and maybe, you might just pick up a new member.

This past November Ken and Coral Whichard & Bob and Alice McGinnis hosted 2 tables at the Las Vegas show. Coming up this February is the CADA show being held in Clearwater, FL. The Houston show will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year. Our annual Meeting for 2002 will be held in conjunction with the NRA Annual Convention in Reno NV. The NRA Collectable Show will be in Albany NY.

Also let us know what you are doing. What project are you working on. Keep those cards and letters coming. And.... Don't forget to thank Bob Urso for all his continuing efforts on our behalf.

Carmen



From the Editor



Greetings to all

As many of you know, I've recently returned from two months in Italy, where I was on sabbatical leave, painting and drawing. Lots of landscapes and lots of naked people. What a tough Life. Well I'm now paying for my pleasures, catching up on gun orders, getting out this issue, and continuing to paint.

I think this is a great issue with two major articles and lots of gun pictures. A special thanks for this issue goes to Derek F. Dredge, and Dr. Brad Maxfield. As always Kebby is a big help. These issues would not be possible without the articles, letters, phone calls, notices and images that you all are sending in. Whether it's a six page article, or just a picture of an interesting gun you recently bought or made, send it in and share it with your fellow members. We all appreciate your input.

I'd also like to put out a call for suggestions. What articles would you like to see in the Journal. First, I'll probably ask you to write it for me, but don't feel pressured, I or one of my faithful associate editors will be happy to take on the task. But we do need your ideas for articles.

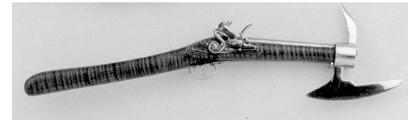
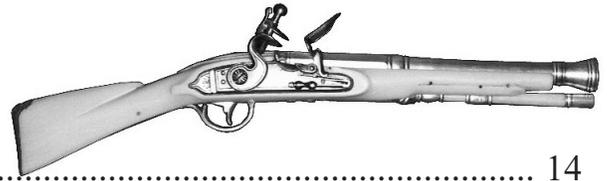
Bob Urso
1806 Samish Way
Bellingham, WA 98225
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boburso@attbi.com

*NOTE this **NEW** email address

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The Cover. Flintlock Dueling Pistol Set from the Art Brown collection.

Letters



It has been changed for some time now and if anyone has tried to e-mail me and I didn't respond, I apologize for not getting it straightened out sooner. Please make that amendment to the "Wired" section of MAS journal.

years ago. The measurements are; length 31 centimeters, by 25 centimeters.

Best Regards
Antonio Rincon

Thank you
Lew Callahan

Below: The model trebuchet made by member Antonio Rincon.

&connections

Hi Bob:

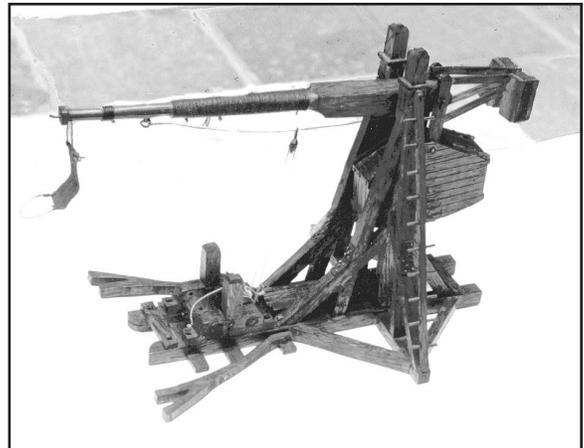
I noticed in the last Issue that my e-mail address had not changed yet. So It must have gotten misplaced. So here goes for- Lewis Callahan, My e-mail address is now

LWCallahan1@earthlink.net .

Thanks...

Dear Bob:

Thanks for the publication of the wheel lock miniature. I was fascinated reading the "A Change of Heart?" article (by R. Koebbeman) so I decided to send you one photograph of a trebuchet that I made 15



Osterman Albright rifle available

Dear Miniature Enthusiast,

I currently have a 1/2 scale flintlock rifle for sale. It is a direct copy of an original Albright rifle. Pictures may be seen on our website:

<http://www.ostermanminiatures.com>.

It is a very elaborate miniature. Relief carved stock, brass and German silver inlays, curly maple. 31 and 1/2 inches long.

This miniature is the cream of the crop when it comes to a classic American piece. It is my favorite and I do not think that a better one can be found anywhere. Comes in a velvet lined wooden case. Price -\$7,500.00. It can be shipped within 48 hours of receiving payment. Call me if you would like to talk about it at (541) 998-1503. I can directly email you more pictures if you would like.

Right: This mini Smith & Wesson is among the latest of the Osterman Mini's.

Below Working on the Albright Rifle.





MINIATURE FRENCH FLINTLOCK TAP ACTION PISTOLS :

The two pistols above recently showed up on an online auction, and were described as a;

SUPERB PAIR OF MINIATURE FRENCH FLINTLOCK TAP ACTION PISTOLS : In nice condition. 4 inch overall length. Absolutely genuine. The work of a talented 19th Century craftsman. The two pistols actions are fully functional but not built to fire any projectile. French St-Etienne 19th Century proof mark on right side of the actions. Fine original walnut grips. Nice metal showing some very minor superficial oxidation in areas. An outstanding pair of miniature pistols!

ED. I found these guns at the sellers website, available for \$2400. www.antiquefirearms.com/210.htm

Above: The two pistols, with a quarter for size comparison. Note the lever on the side to select which barrel is to be fired.



Closeup views of the side of the pistol, and the primer powder chamber.

Philip E. Crocker, 1936 - 2001

ED: Bill Adrian Sent in the following obituary for Philip E. Crocker, with a note that Phil was a member since 1989 - neither a maker nor a collector (he had a few US Historical Society Colts, and a few mini knives). He just enjoyed reading about the subject.

Philip E. Crocker, Age 64, died August 21, 2001 (in Lansing, MI). Born November 14, 1936 in Lansing.

Mr. Crocker after graduating from Lansing Sexton in 1955, joined the Air Force-Medic Administration, serving for 4 years. He was employed with General Motors as a Test Driver at Milford Proving Grounds and retired In 1997, after 41 years of faithful service. Phil had a passion for motorcycles of any make or model, and also enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was preceded in death by 1 son, Philip S. Crocker on November 30, 2000. Surviving *are* his wife of 37 years, Gracie (Samons), one son, Jason M. (Heidi) of Potterville; 2 grandchildren, Dalton and Trevin Crocker, and 1 brother, Howard "Mickey" (Orene) Crocker of Fairfield, CA;



MAS at Bienfeld Show in Vegas

The Beinfeld Antique Arms Show in Las Vegas, November 1-3 included a significant number of MAS members, and an attractive display of miniature arms. The Beinfeld shows are well known and respected in the field of antique, collectible, and fine sporting guns. The equally well known and respected show director Mr. Wallace Beinfeld graciously provided two tables free of charge for our Miniature Arms Society. During the show Mr. Beinfeld came to the MAS tables to pay his respects and make us feel welcome.

We understand that Carmine was not feeling well, so Ken and Coral Whichard came to organize and help with the MAS display and representation. At their side were Bob and Alice McGinnis. Many other MAS members helping from both sides of the tables made it a very active miniature arms area, and many show spectators and exhibitors made very favorable comments.

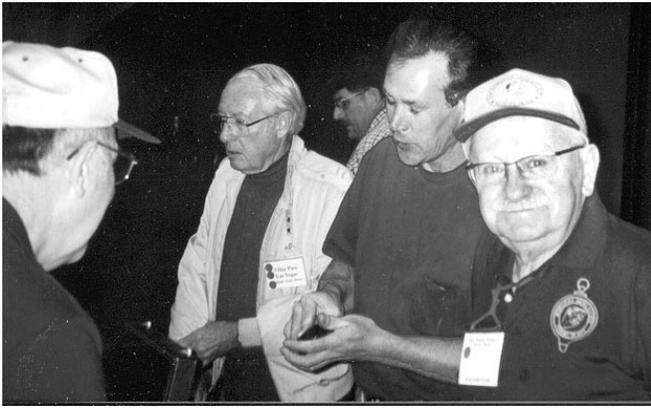
Joel and Lydia Morrow were there with a huge display of miniatures offered by the Imperial Miniature Armory. Victor Kouznetzov had a table with an impressive display of miniature arms from Russia. Ron Weingarten also had a table on which he displayed a



Marybelle & Gil Metcalf talk to Lydia Morrow the real brains behind Imperial Miniature Armory



Above: Bob McGinnis, Xavier Kucer, Alice McGinnis, David Kucer, Kenneth Whichard, Coral Whichard, Marybelle Metcalf and Gil Metcalf all help man the MAS tables.



Bob McGinnis (back to pic) with Gil Metcalf, Tim Olson, and David Kucer



Victor Kouznetzov examines a full size Revolver.

number of very collectible miniature arms. Ron has always had a special ability to locate some of the rarer miniatures.

Among the members attending, in addition to those mentioned already, were: Art Brown, Mal Mele, Jerry Tralins, Gary Lowe, Bill Rudich, Charles McMannis, Tom and Gwen Guinn, and Dave Kucer with his son Zavi. Past members and friends of MAS: Herbert Ratner, Lewis Drake, Jim

Sornberger, and Tim Olson. There may have been others, but the list was lost.

Our editor Bob Urso is scheduled to return from Italy on 12 December. By the way, many members had good things to say about Bob. He is very much appreciated.

Gil & Marybelle Metcalf

Photos by Bob McGinnis



Maning the MAS Booth

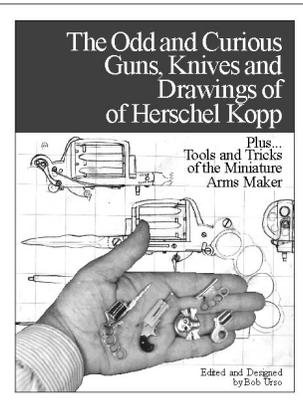
Kopp Book in second printing

That's right, we sold out the first run of 50 copies, and have just received the second printing of this new book on Herschel Kopp's work. Here's a chance to see the beautiful guns sketches, and writings of one of the founding fathers of the Society, Herschel Kopp.

This 96 page, soft bound book costs \$20 per copy plus a shipping and handling charge per book of \$3 for USA, addresses, and \$7 outside the USA. Checks made out to the *Miniature Arms Society*, should be sent to

Carmen Gianforte
6156 Bonaventura Court
Sarasota FL 34243

All proceeds go directly to the Miniature Arms Society, and to fund a new award to be given in Herschel's name

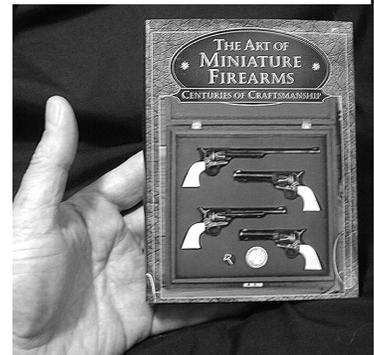


Mini Book Now Available.

A miniature version of "The Art of Miniature Firearms", is now a reality. Despite being a 1/2 scale version of the original (1/4 the volume) Mini Book is still surprisingly readable.

All proceeds from the sale of book go directly to the Miniature Arms Society. The cost of the book is \$50 per copy plus shipping. To order your copy contact

Alice McGinnis
2109 Spring Street
Cross Plaines, WI 53528
 Tel. (608) 798-2860
 email mcginnr@chorus.net



What about this new book

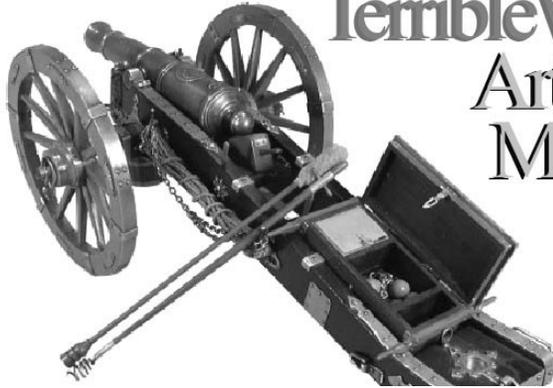
Koebberman

Wonderful, Wacky, Terrible World of Artillery in Miniature

The Wonderful, Wacky,

Terrible World of Artillery in Miniature

By
Ralph
Koebberman



The author of this book, Ralph Koebberman, has been editor of the Society's news magazine for twelve years and is now an associate editor. He has been collecting miniature cannons for the past twenty five years and has what he considers to be the best and largest collection of miniature artillery in the world. He decided that he would publish a book about them and this is the result.

While not all of his models are pictured, (There are 110 photographs, all in color, in the book) 98 are chronologically set forth to show the history of artillery starting with the sad story of Oog, and his futile attempts at making the first Stone Age cannon and ending with Hitler's "Dora" the huge 5 story high monster that shot a shell 30 inches in diameter and

17 feet long!

The book chronicles the sometimes slow and sometimes rapid advances in the art and science of artillery, starting after Oog's pathetic attempts with his "nnon" and skipping the small stuff like bows and arrows until we get to the Greeks and the Romans with their catapults and ballistas. With the coming of gunpowder into common use, and better methods of using metals, artillery took on more importance and improvements became more frequent..

The book shows how the cannons improved and gives examples of these changes for practically each step of the way. Starting with the maadfas of the Arabs and the pot-defer of the Europeans, the book details the progression from that point,

through perriers, ribaudequins, falcons, mortars, field guns, gallopers, naval guns, howitzers and railway guns with many others in between.

For the miniaturist, the book is a treasure trove of information. For the maker, many of the photographs give enough information to make a beautiful and colorful miniature to proudly display on the mantelpiece or coffee table.

For the person interested in history, it gives an idea of the progress of the military science through the ages. And for all the members, it makes an interesting read, answering such questions as: how was manure used as a weapon, how do you hit a target you can't see, why were Russian cannons painted many different colors, and what gruesome method was used to reject a demand to surrender and how did this change over the years

The book is available from Kebby Industries, 4075 Kilburn Ave., Rockford, IL, 61101

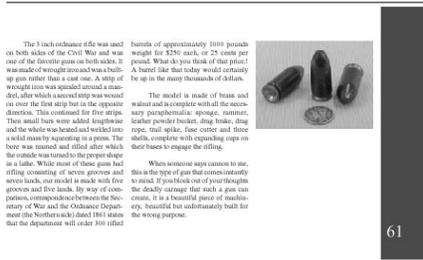
The book will retail for \$59.75, but MAS members may buy a limit of five books at cost - \$30.00 each. There is a \$6.75 S&H fee for one book plus \$1 for each additional book.

Kebby Industries,
4075 Kilburn Ave.,
Rockford, IL, 61101

Write to the above address, phone at (815) 963-1466 or fax at (815) 962-3490.



3 Inch Ordnance Rifle



The 3 inch Ordnance Rifle was used on both sides of the Civil War and was one of the finest guns in both sides. It was made of wrought iron and was built up gun rather than a cast one. A strip of wrought iron was welded around a mandrel, after which a screwing was wound over the first strip but in the opposite direction. This continued for five strips. This shell was then added lengthwise and the whole was heated and worked into a solid mass by spinning in a press. The bore was reamed and rifled after which the outside was turned by the proper shape in a lathe. While most of these guns had rifling consisting of seven grooves and seven lands, our model is made with five grooves and five lands. By way of comparison, correspondence between the Secretary of War and the Ordnance Department (the Netherlands) dated 1861 states that the department will order 300 rifled barrels of approximately 1000 pounds weight for \$250 each, or 25 cents per pound. What do you think of our price? A barrel like that today would certainly be up in the many thousands of dollars.

The model is made of brass and walnut and is complete with all the necessary paraphernalia: sponge, rammer, leather powder bag, dog trace, dog rope, trail spike, fuse cutter and three shells, complete with expanding caps as their bases to engage the rifling.

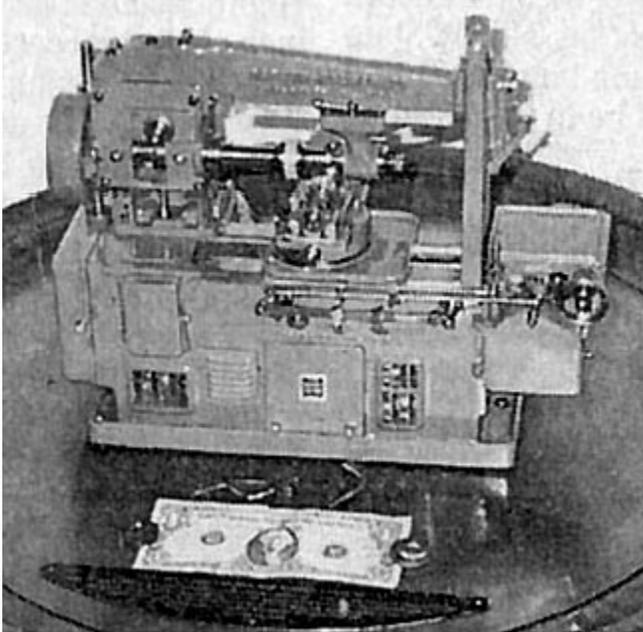
When someone says cannon to me, this is the type of gun that comes into my mind. If you look out of your thoughts the sturdy carriage that such a gun commands, it is a beautiful piece of machinery, beautiful but unfortunately built for the wrong purpose.



61

Museum-quality Miniature Stolen

by Pat CAROME, Rockford Register Star



A working replica of a gear-making machine custom-tooled in the 1930s has vanished without a clue. Thieves broke into Repair Inc. and swiped the 9-pound, 11 1/2 by 3 1/2-inch replica capable of producing a commercial grade 48-tooth gear.

So much a source of pride and joy and immeasurable value for shop owner Gene Kasten, who spent nine years chasing down the machinery, that he is offering a "substantial" reward for its return.

"It's like finding the Hope Diamond, and it's gone. It's like finding the 'Mona Lisa,' and somebody steals it," Gene Kasten said at his business at 2415 Kishwaukee St. Lansing MI. It belongs in a

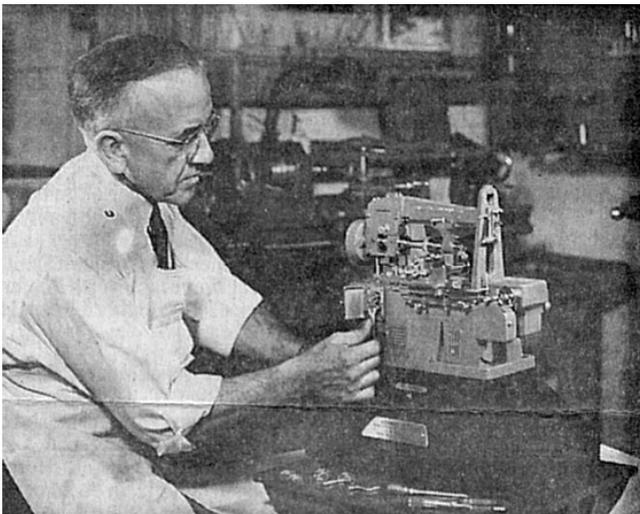


Photo courtesy of Gene Kasten

NRA Honors Frank Brownell

Eight years ago, Mr. Brownell and his family agreed to a ten-year pledge of \$250,000 to the NRA, Youth Education Endowment. and today with with two years remaining on the pledge, The Brownell Family Endowment is more than \$322,000 and growing

In cooperation with Joel and Lydia Morrow of the Imperial Miniature Armory, The NRA Foundation honored Frank Brownell and his family for their extraordinary leadership at The NRA Foundation reception held in conjunction with NRA's Annual Meetings. The family was presented with a special period 1866 Winchester miniature rifle, custom engraved to include the Brownell logo by master engraver Tom Hicks. The case reads, "Presented to Frank Brownell, III for Distinguished Endowment Leadership by The NRA Foundation and Imperial Miniature Armory, 130th NRA Annual Meeting, May 18, 2001."

The NRA Foundation extends a sincere thank-you to the Imperial Miniature Armory for their generosity in making this award available. As an avid collector of miniature firearms, the foundation felt the rifle was a perfect tribute to honor the outstanding—and ongoing—leadership of Frank Brownell and the Brownell Family.

ED. Reprinted from NRA's Traditions.



Frank Brownell (second from left) receives his award from NRA foundation President Allan Cors (center) and Joel Morrow of the Imperial Miniature Armory as son Pete Brownell and Brownell's Vice President (far left), look on.

Whatzit?



Here is a gun that member Gary Lowe picked up from Jerry Tralins: It's a Six shot revolver with fold down trigger, cylinder turns and indexes, silver or nickel plated, pearl grips. The 2mm pinfire bullets load from the right side by pulling down a hinged retainer, loading six rounds and closing the retainer.

Jerry seems to remember getting this gun along with several others about 25 years ago from Hersh Kopp. Kopp did not build the gun, only had it in his loot. Any suggestions as to it's origin would be appreciated.



Above, an enlarged view of the left side with the trigger in the folded up position.

Another WWF Find

ED. What follows is the description of this item as listed on ebay, and on-line internet auction.

What you are looking at is a brand new manufacturer built-up 1/6 scale Walther P.P packed features

It is made of steel (Gun Barrel, small pin, Recoil spring, gun body, slider, magazines and other internal parts). It has real wood grips, and comes with brass bullets

Features include a removable magazines, a cocking/sliding + recoil back movements like real gun. The hammer is movable upon sliding action, as if the real gun. It is fully painted and detailed true-to-scale metal bullet. It can be fully dismantled and reassembled

Every details of the real Walther P.P is faithfully reproduced.

What makes it Valuable?

1. It is a small limited run production by small low profile japanese company
2. There is no other comparable 1/6 Walther P.P available in the market. Dragon's are plastic and almost non-functional.
3. You cannot find this masterpiece anywhere else. You once could buy this in toymaniac.com - about 2 years ago at an expensive price - and then the item was deleted. You can't even find this in ebay (this is possibly the first time and the last time)
4. It is a MUST collection for Police/Military action figure fans, as you can hardly find anyone who has a Walther P.P like this. If you miss this auction, you will simply regret. It is simply the highest quality 1/6 stuffs I've ever seen.



1/6 Scale Miniature Arms
for 12inch Figures
& Collection
Produced by AQUAPOLIS
JAPAN



Yvon Vachon

ED. In September member Jim Whitehead called to inform me of the passing of one of the greats in miniature knife making, Yvon Vachon. The images and text on this page are reprinted from his website. To see more of Eves fine work visit his site at http://www.geocities.com/yvonvachon/fram_vachon.html

Once upon a time there was a little boy named Yvon Vachon who adored everything that was miniature. His passion was such that he enjoyed dismantling and putting back together the mechanism of a pocket watch ever since the age of 9.

During his adolescence, his favorite pass time was the fabrication of miniature cutlery and firearms.

Little boy having grown up, Yvon is now a "Master" of miniatures. Since 1993 Yvon has exhibited in numerous shows and has been awarded several first prizes, notably in Atlanta, New York and California.

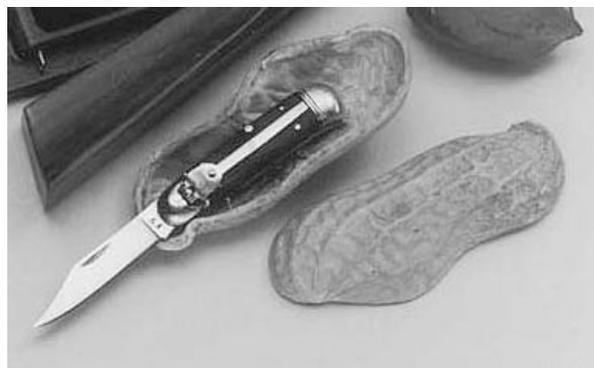
It is interesting to note that his "art" is entirely hand made, without the use of pantographs or milling machines. Each functional miniature mechanism requires his utmost precision, and therefore, may necessitate up to 400 hours of work, as is the case



Above: This 1" Swiss army knife has Tortoise Shell handles and 20 options, including; a round hole punch; needle; flat screwdriver; leather punch; metal file with nail file; reamer punch; corkscrew; button hook, 3 separate folding blades, scissors; 2 separate folding blades, gimlet, folding blade, saw, pocket watch key, tweezers with earwax spoon, and toothpick.

in the fabrication of certain "Knife Pistols", which truly function and discharge lead at a distance of over 150 feet away. Also, depending on the model being designed, screws having a diameter of 0,0105 inches, must be fabricated in order to achieve the exact scale which varies between 1/6 and 1/3.

Leading collectors in the United States, France, and all the way to Japan, have acquired Yvon's creations.



Here is an unbelievable mini Hubertus. Closed, it measures only 1" in length. The bolsters are in Nickel / Silver and The handle is Snakewood.

Right: Here is another beauty of a Swiss army knife with Red Synthetic handles and 33 options.

It's closed length is a mere 1 in. It was offered in a limited series of 5

Right; a favorite among collectors are Yvon's miniature switchblades.



Would You Believe 1/9th Scale?

ED. This note and photo's from the Bottliks was sent to Bill Adrian, who passed it on for all to see.

Dear Bill,

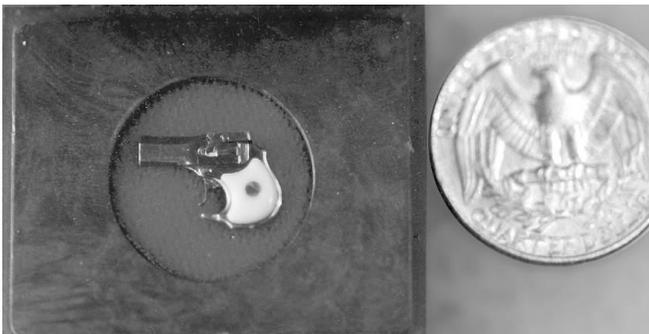
Just a quick note to keep in touch with everyone. We recently returned from our "tour of duty" (working) in Alaska and that was great, but it is much better to be finally home in Arizona enjoying this beautiful **sunny** weather!

I've enclosed a photo of some of my work, hope our fellow members enjoy seeing them. Now that my hobby/miniature shop is completed and I have free time on my hands - AND if I can only get my wife to let me in! - I can continue my min. gun projects and will send photos when finished.

Happy and safe holidays,
Andy and Liz Bottlik
P.O. \Box 1286
Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441-1286



Above: a M. 1921, .45 caliber, Thompson, submachine gun. It's only 1/9th scale and in working condition.



Above: This 1/9th scale, High Standard, .22 mag, Derringer functions, but due to it's tiny size is not a shooter



Above: A 1911 Colt .45 and a Ruger .22. Both are in 1/9th scale, working condition, but non shooters. The five miniature knives at the bottom of the picture all have damascus blades and gold fittings. The third and fifth have Ivory handles with micro scrimshaw by Andy's wife Liz Bottlik.

PLANS???

Hello Bob

Greetings from Minnesota! I was reading your article on the other Kolibri's back in the January 2001 issue of the journal. I would like to take a crack at building a model 3.

I was wondering since you have built this model if you would have any drawings you would consider selling? I'm also wondering if you would have drawings of any of the other models that I would be able to purchase. I look forward to hearing from you. Keep up the great work on the journal. I always look forward to the next issue.

Thanks,
Jon Hintz

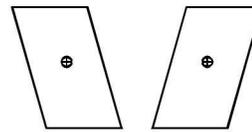
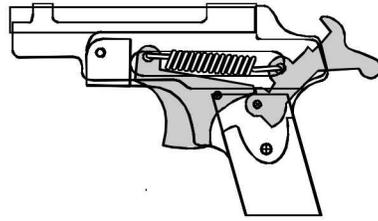
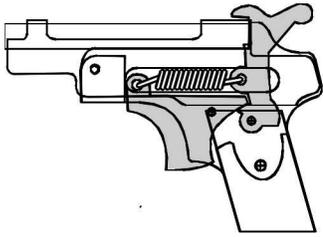
ED. After getting this email from Jon, I sent him some drawings I'd made, and thought a few of you might like to try your hand at a Kolibri Model 3, 2mm rimfire. So here are the plans and some notes I made to myself as to drill sizes for each of the holes. To see this gun completed, visit www.boburso.com

A complete list of available plans was published in the January 2001 issue of MAJ. These can be purchased from our plans librarian

Roland Friestad.

Tel. (309) 343-0629.

email Cardinal.eng@gallatinriver.net



grips

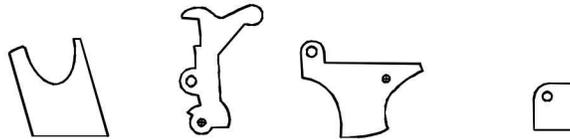
barrel
1/8" Stainless tube



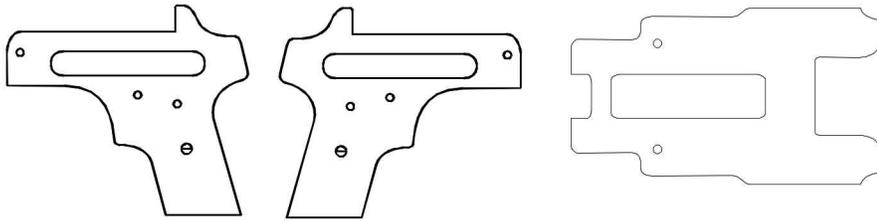
Bore
#43

The ID of this tube is not a true 2mm.
For a true 2mm barrel, use a larger OD
rolled steel rod, and bore out a 2mm ID.

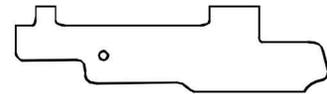
Cut these pieces from
1/16" metal



The barrel cradle and side plates are cut from 1/32" steel.



side plates

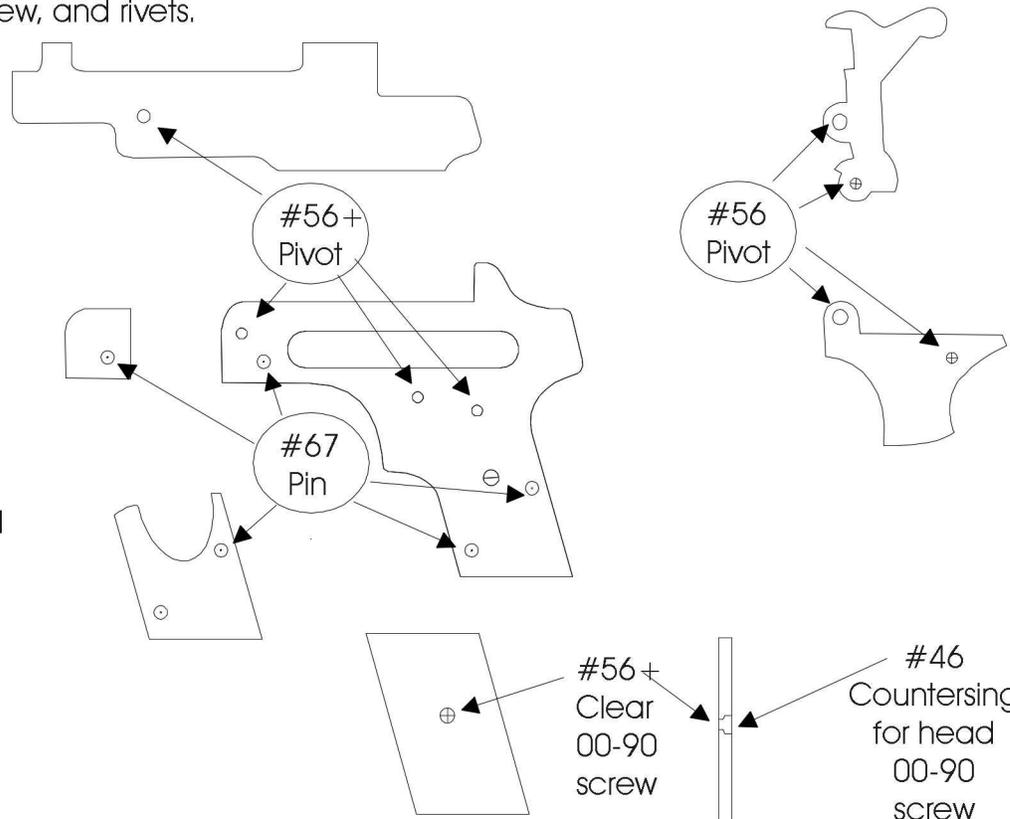
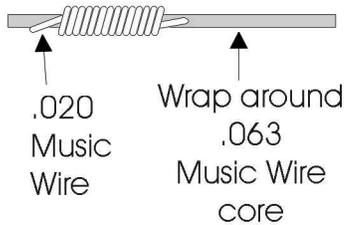


The piece to the left is bent
around a 1/8" rod to create
the barrel cradle.
The barrel is silver soldered
into the cradle

Below is a guide I use to remind me what size holes to drill
for screw, and rivets.

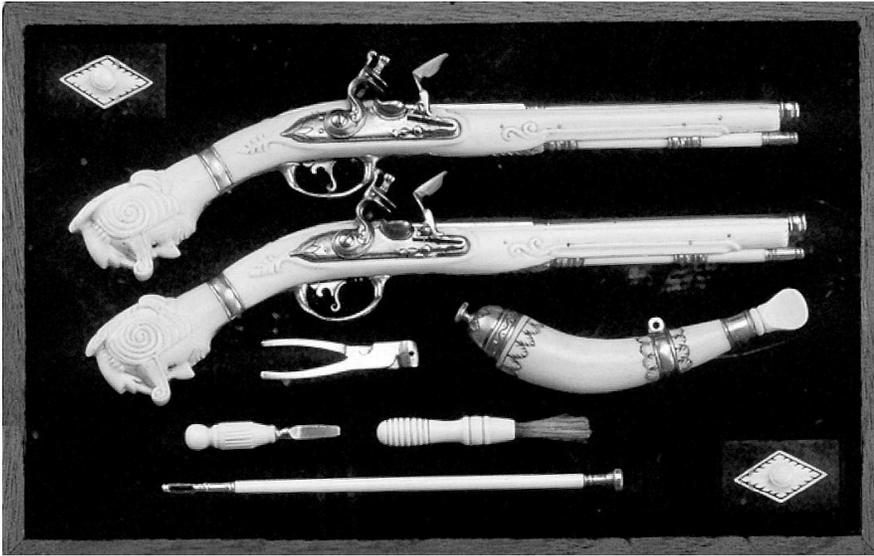


I wind my own springs
using music wire
wound around
a rod (on my lathe)



The Miniature Masterpieces of Stanley Blashak

by Bob Urso



Above: This cased pair of 1/4 scale, Dutch, Maastricht, flintlock pistols are typical Stanley Blashak 'masterpieces. They show his skills as gun maker, artist, engraver, and sculptor. The stock is Ivory, with beautifully carved heads at the butts. The furniture is all engraved silver, as are the fittings on the beautiful powder horn. OAL 8"

Right: Here is an image from 1979 showing Stanley at work in his well equipped basement shop.



Stanley Blashak was a quite man who let his work speak for him, and what they say is that Stan was a true Renaissance man. He was a mechanist, an artist, a sculptor, and an engraver. Most of the skills he needed to make the finest of miniatures, he taught himself.

For 25 years Stan was a machinist. During those years he also made Kentucky rifles for shooters, restored antique guns and engraved guns.

His career as a miniature gun maker spanned nearly half a century. His first a one-third scale Armstrong Kentucky Rifle was made in 1954, and that was followed by nerlyr 100 other guns over the next 25 years, His 1979 MAS fact sheet shows that at that time, he'd already made 20 Ken-

tucky rifles in 1/2 and 1/3 scale, 25 Kentucky pistols in 1/2 and 1/3 scale, 6 Scottish pistols in 1/2 scale, 7 1/3 and 1/4 scale Maastricht Pistols, 7 flint blunderbuss guns, 5 1/5 scale Flint Dagger pistols, 10 3/4" to 3" Bowie knives, and 12 1/4 to 1/2 scale powder horns.

After his retirement Stan was able to devote full time to making minis, and his production jumped

Continued

Below: This unusual set of dueling pistols with two large pistols for the duelers and two smaller pistols for the seconds won Best of Show at the 1994 Houston Miniature Arms Show. They are 1/3rd scale, with curly maple stocks inlaid with silver wire. All furnishing are engraved. This highly accessorized set was handsomely cased by Art Brown.



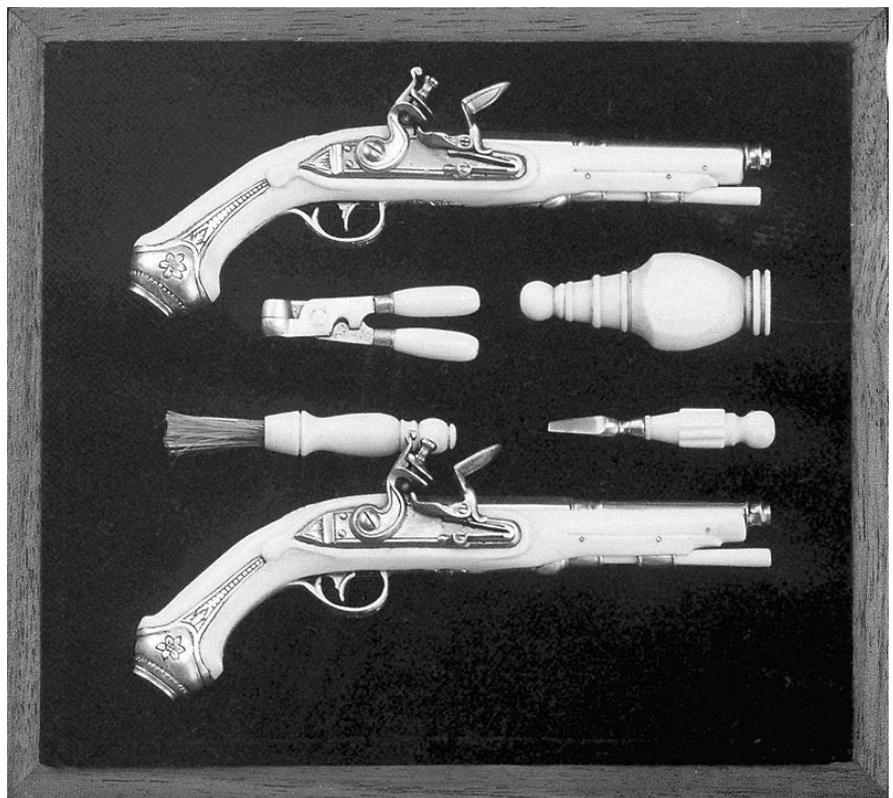
This dagger-flintlock combination weapon is beautifully engraved, and has ivory slabs.

dramatically , and for the last 25 years of his life he produced between ten and fifteen guns a year. Considering the complexity of decoration on a Blashak gun, this was a phenomenal rate of production. But making miniatures was what he enjoyed doing best. Stan preferred working at night and often would go down to his basement workshop after supper and not come up until dawn.

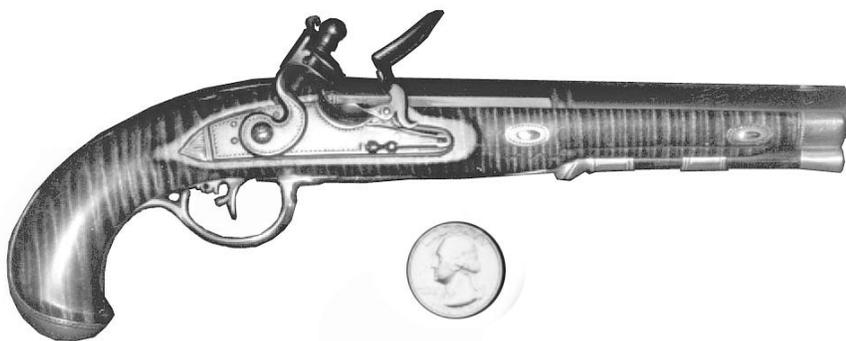
He had natural artistic abilities, and taught himself the skills necessary to produce his minis. After Stan retired, his son bought him a present he would put to good use, an ICS (International Correspondence School) course in art.

As you would expect of a retired machinist, his basement shop was complete. It included a 12" lathe with mill attachment, a 7" shaper, drill

Continued



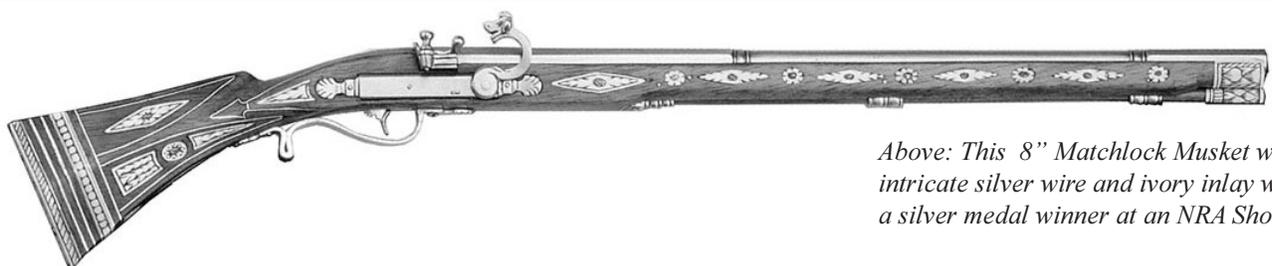
Above; a pair of 1/4 scale, early American, flintlocks. OAL 5" With ivory grips, steel barrel and lock, and a nicely engraved silver butt plate.



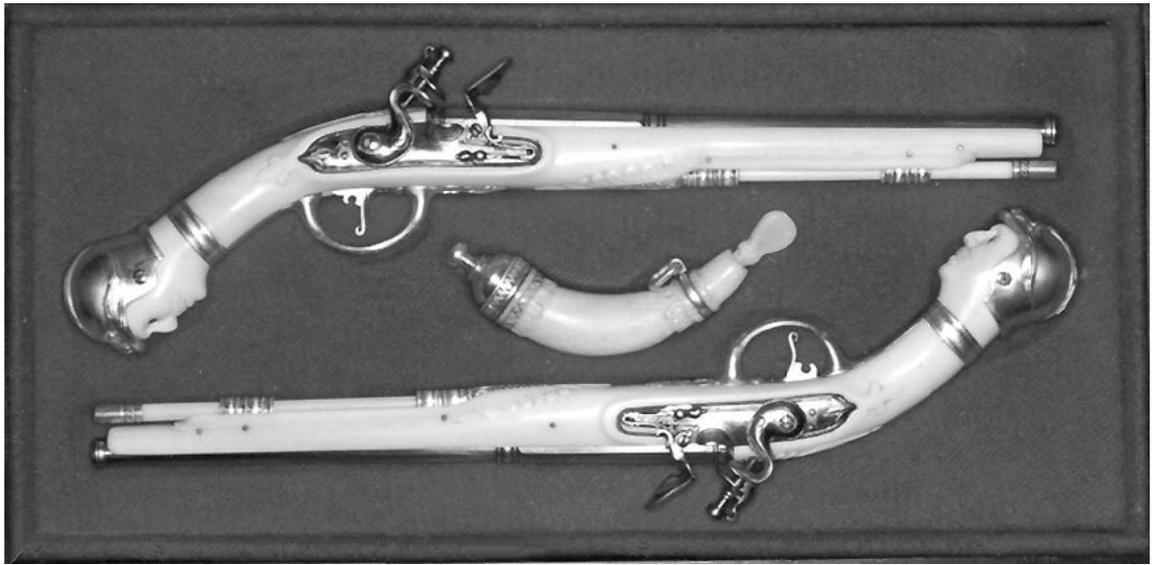
Left: A 1/2 scale J. Kunz Kentucky flintlock pistol. The stock has a beautiful tight grain. The mounts are engraved, sterling silver. It is .28 cal, with a deep rifled bore



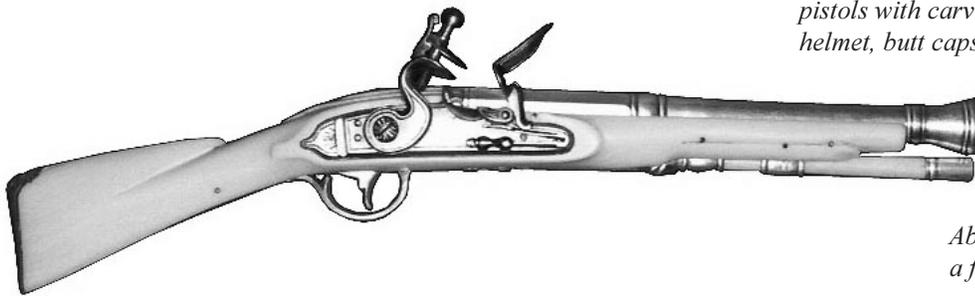
Above: A 1/4 Scale, 17" OAL Kentucky flintlock rifle. It has carved scrollwork on the stock, and an inlaid silver patchbox.



Above: This 8" Matchlock Musket with intricate silver wire and ivory inlay was a silver medal winner at an NRA Show.



Above; A pair of 1/4 scale Dutch Maastricht pistols with carved ivory stocks. The gold plated, helmet, butt caps make these extra special.

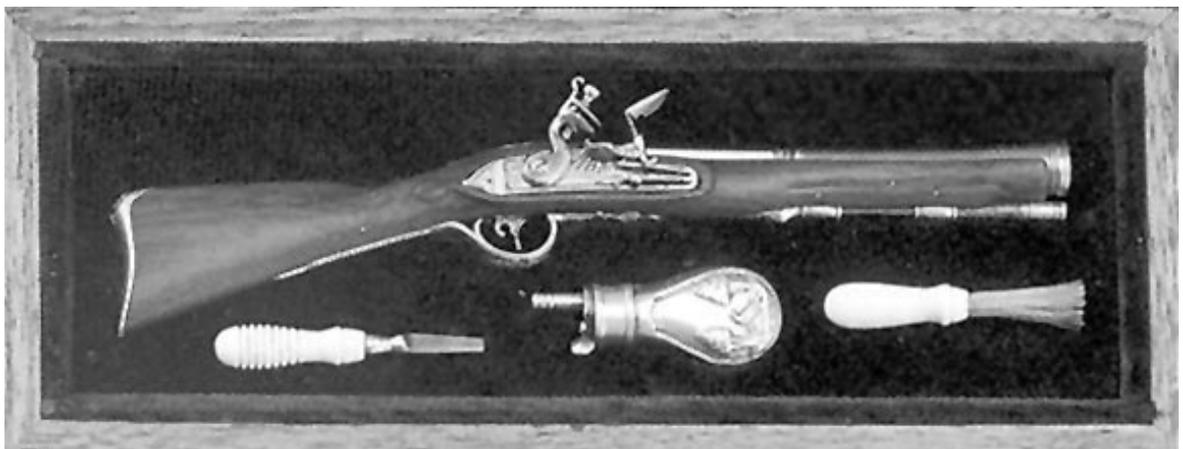


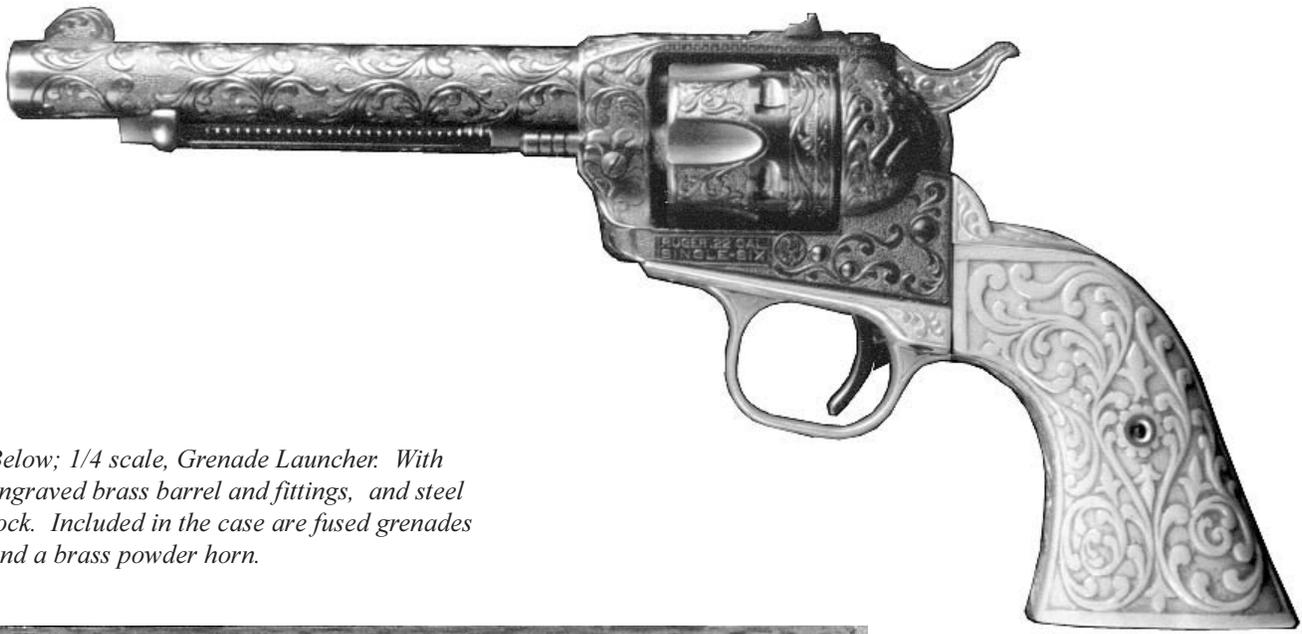
Above : Ivory stocks were always a favorite with Stanley. This Ivory and Silver Blunderbuss, rifle is 5 1/4 inches long.



Left: A 1/3rd scale brass barrel Blunderbuss, pistol, with rosewood stock, and brass mounts.

Below: a 1/4 scale Blunderbuss, rifle. OAL 7". Cased with Powder horn, cleaning brush, and screwdriver.





Below; 1/4 scale, Grenade Launcher. With engraved brass barrel and fittings, and steel lock. Included in the case are fused grenades and a brass powder horn.



The gun above is a full size Colt, but is included here as another example of how well Stanley taught himself to engrave and carve

press, band saw, belt sander, gas welding equipment, and hand tools. Yet despite his background as a machinist, and his well equipped shop, Stan decided to specialize in miniatures of older guns, feeling that his shop was not quite what he needed to do the more complex machining necessary to produce automatic weapons.

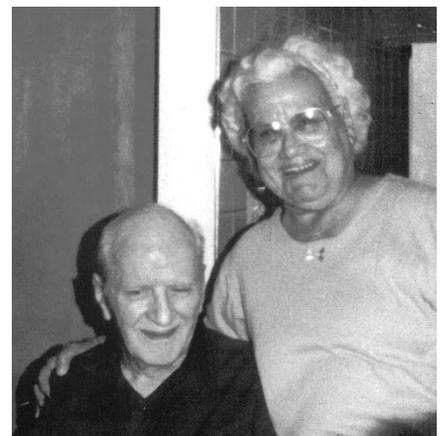
Blashak guns are often marked "Stan Blashak, New Castle, Pa" in 1/32" letters on either the frame or the back of the lock.

His guns were highly prized and were collected by Sam Weill, Hersh Kopp, Dick Young, Bob Williams, John Goloweyco, Art Brown, Ken

Whichard, Joel Morrow, Ralph Koebbeman, to name a few.

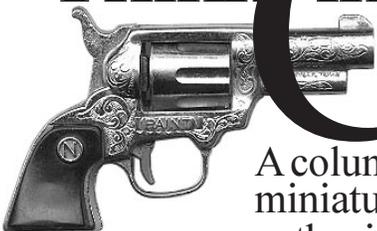
Stanley Blashak was born on December 18, 1914 and died, in his shop, working on a miniature, on March 21, 2001. Despite the excellence of his work, and his prodigious production, there is little written about Stanley Blashak. For the most part, he did not seek out publicity, nor did he travel to MAS get-togethers, to meet and talk with other makers.

Those who did get to know him, however, all have the same thing to say. He was a gentleman, a craftsman of the highest order, and a person who will be missed.



Stanley and his wife of 63 years, Ann.

Thinking Caps



A column for miniature toy gun enthusiasts.

by Dr. Brad Maxfield

Introduction:

Greetings MAS members, my name is Brad Maxfield. I've been a MAS member for a few years now and I'm a regular contributor to the Journal. This I owe to Bob Urso, who introduced me to the club after observing my particular buying habits on eBay a few winters back. Bob politely encourages Journal contributions from his recruits and I have obliged him in the main focus of my current collection, toys.

I have collected miniature toy guns and miniature cap guns for over 20 years and have over 1000 items. They run the gamut from Cracker Jack toys and metal charms to vintage miniature cap guns by Marx and Armodelli. They are displayed in frames, cases, a 10 drawer flat file, and piled in closets around my house. I've also archived 1000's of images of items sold on eBay.

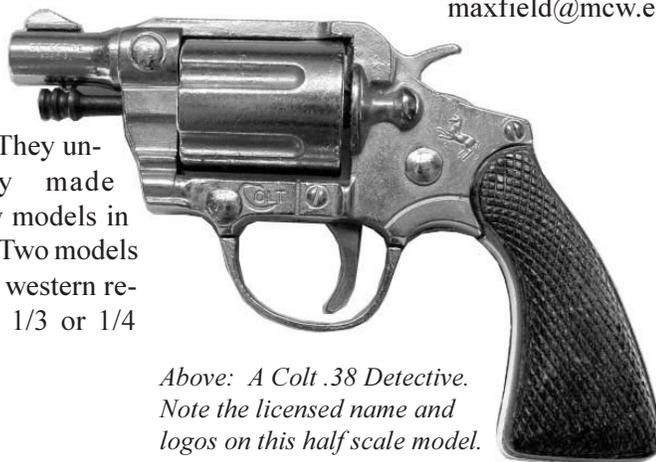
"Thinking Caps" will be a short regular column. Each installment will feature a maker or model of toy gun. I'll include pictures and as much info as I know. If you want to see and hear more about any toy guns in your collection I'd like to do request topics or Q&A. If I don't know it will be a good excuse for me to bug other long-time toy collectors like Tom Malia.

I'd like to kick off "Thinking Caps" with some rare miniature models by Hubley. Hubley is a very famous name in vintage cap guns and their "full scale" cap guns are some of the most sought after collector items. They unfortunately made only a few models in miniature. Two models are classic western revolvers in 1/3 or 1/4

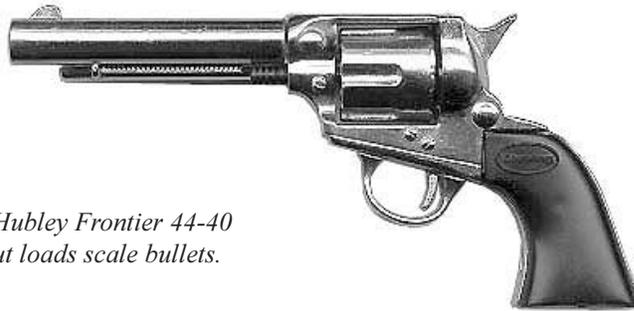
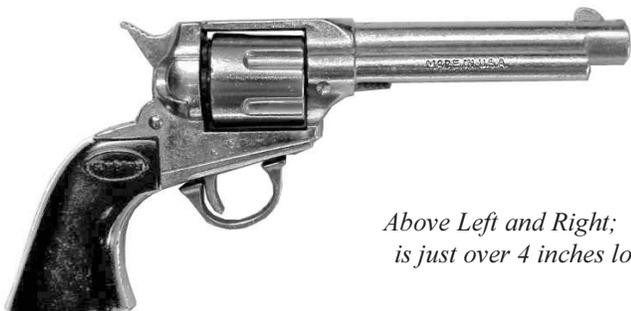
scale. The first is modeled after a Colt frontier 44-40 single action revolver. It was sold as the "Frontier". The second, The "Remmington 44" is modeled after a Remmington Navy revolver. Both were diecast and finished with bright chrome. They are usually seen with black plastic grips, but I have seen grips in white. They were sold in a paper display box with a fitted plastic tray. Both featured removable cylinders and tiny plastic bullets for loading. The triggers are very small so Hubley used the entire trigger guard to drop the hammer.

Hubley also made some nice half scale Colt models. A .45 semi-automatic and .38 snub nose revolver. These were made in cooperation with Colt and bore the Colt trademarks. The automatic featured a removable clip and loading plastic bullets. The .38 also had loading bullets and a removable cylinder.

Contact Dr. Brad Maxfield at
(414) 525-1587 or
maxfield@mcw.edu



Above: A Colt .38 Detective. Note the licensed name and logos on this half scale model.



Above Left and Right; The Hubley Frontier 44-40 is just over 4 inches long but loads scale bullets.



Above Left and Right; The Remington 44 and Frontier single action models in their attractive original packaging. When collecting antique toys remember, the toys may have

been built to last but most of the boxes were trashed as soon as they came home from the store. Original boxes can add 10-100% to the value of a toy gun.



Left: A Colt licensed .45 automatic with removable, bullet-loading clip. Like the .38 Detective it is roughly half scale.



Right: Diaper guns, were a popular novelty in the 50s. This tiny set was made by Hubley and featured real leather holsters. The guns are tiny, with a simple spur trigger and hammer. Two quick safety pins and little junior could be "packin' iron" before he could walk.



NOW... your young cowpoke can ride the crib range totin' the SMALLEST CAP FIRING PISTOL in the World

by
RALPH
KEBBY

What Is The Opposite Of Sinecure?

One of the definitions Webster gives for "sinecure" is a job with no work but which provides an income. I am a firm believer that this type of a job is one that 98% of the population devoutly wishes they could have, especially if the income is on the generous side. The opposite, of course, (and I don't know the word) is a job with a lot of work but with no reward in the form of filthy lucre when payday comes around.

Well, folks, I'm here to tell you that the Miniature Arms Society is one place where the second type of situation is quite plentiful. Now, I'm not casting rocks at you, Mr. Average Member, but face the facts, your main duty as a member is going into your shop to work on a model, dust off your collection, read a model magazine or check the mailbox for the latest issue of the Miniature Arms Journal. Fortunately for the well-being and future of the club, there are a few misguided individuals who are willing to take non-sinecure (What the hell is that word!) jobs that keep the Ship of Miniature Arms afloat and under full sail. While giving a doff of the Kebby fedora to all the hard working officials of the club, let me list a few of the main ones.



Carmen Gianforte

First comes our president, Carmen Gianforte who schedules the club activities, gets and disposes of practically all of the mail, (and there is quite a bit), rides herd on the board of directors and worries about the directions the club should go in.

The rest come in no particular order, starting with Bill Adrian, the secretary/membership chairman. He answers all applications for membership, keeps the membership list up-to-date, keeps dues payments notices current, furnishes addresses for the magazine and works to increase the membership.



Bill Adrian

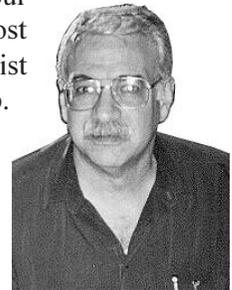
Then there is Alice McGinnis, the treasurer.



Alice with husband Bob

She handles all the money for the club; keeps the accounts for the club and all the book sales go through her.

Bob Urso, the editor of our magazine, has possibly the most arduous job of anyone on the list and he does a magnificent job. (I should know, because I struggled with the task for a long time.) After Bob gets through with making up the magazine that of course he does four times a year, he sends it to be printed



Your humble editor.

Dave Hall then calls the family together and he, together with his wife, Sandy, daughter Jessica and son



Dave and Sandy Hall

Jacob proceed to stuff magazines into envelopes and affix labels, also four times a year. Dave then takes the batch to his shop where he puts the postage on and puts them in the mail.



Dr. Paul, and Mary Kopsch

Joel Morrow, who is the owner of the Imperial Miniature Armory, travels all over the country displaying his wares and in doing so has a chance to meet a lot of people interested in miniatures. He puts these meetings to good advantage for the club by signing up a goodly number of members every year. Just by displaying his great items for sale, he gets the Big Gun people interested so they become Little Gun people and thus interested in the Miniature Arms Society.

Last but not least, there is our plan librarian, Roland Friestad, who stores, catalogs and dispenses our stock of plans for miniature arms.

These are just some of the people who make up our hardworking group of people who help make the Miniature Arms Society what it is today. There are others that I did not mention, the corporate agent, and the reporters for the various sections as well as a tip of the hat to members who write in to tell us about machining tips, new products and other items of interest. In closing, may I say that if you are more interested in fame than money, you can start here, We will gladly put your name in our

Dr. Paul Kopsch, one of the founders of the club is in charge of the show exhibits at the annual wingding of the National Rifle Association. It is his job to see that the club gets a choice location for our display of miniatures, which, incidentally is one of the prime exhibits of the show, takes care of the paperwork for prizes and oversees the set-up of the display, all in all, a large task.



Joel talking up miniature arms with NRA Foundation President Allan Cors, at the annual meeting

pantheon of letters and you will be on your way to the top!

Stop The Presses! Important Announcement!

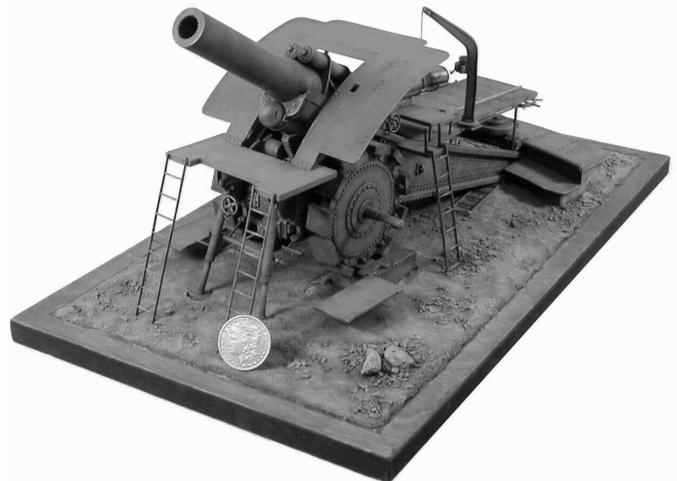
Ralph Koebbeman

In case you aren't familiar with printer's jive talk. "Stop the presses" means just that, that something hot has just come in and must be inserted in the Journal. "What." you may ask, "Is so important?" Well, it is the formation of a new group, "The FOR Group", the FOR standing for "Friends Of Ralph" Group.

As you have read elsewhere in the journal, I have written a book, "The Wonderful, Wacky, Terrible World Of Artillery In Miniature" which is going on sale at \$59.75. Because I think it is an important book, I am doing this - all the members of the Miniature Arms Society have just been inducted into the FOR Group.

Because I have been active in the club for so long and because I think the book is informative as well as being very readable (my opinion) I am making this offer of letting all of the MAS members buy the book at my cost of \$30.00. I am setting a limit of five books per member and there is a \$6.75 S&H fee for one book. If you order more than one book, add one dollar shipping fee for every additional book. I'm prejudiced, but I think this is a delightful and informative book to read. Also, if you are interested in making cannons, this book could be a big help. So take advantage of this offer and get a copy. I hope that you will think that the FOR Group is a great deal.

Ralph



An American Enigma



Dosick and Fisher, Early American Berloques.

By Derek F Dredge

This is the story of the Early American Berloques, the Fisher Firesure and the Dosick. The controversy surrounding these two early Berloques is as fascinating a tale as a Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery.

Here we have two, seemingly unconnected Miniature working 2mm Pinfire "Watch Charm" Pistols. They are almost identical in design and of a design never before seen. They both had applications made for Patents within 10 weeks of each other and both had their Patents granted within two months of each other. Both "inventors" were "living" in close proximity to each other, just across a County line. Did one steal the idea from the other, who knows the truth? This cannot be just a coincidence.

When attempting to piece together the events and facts that are 70 to 120 years old, you do face certain problems. It is even worse when one is also 3000 miles away and on a different continent. The Internet has been the most valuable of tools in this research. I also have had a lot of help in piecing the various elements together. I therefore would like to thank Susan Roe, who has been researching the Chilson Family History of Massachusetts for many years and MAS member Cyrus Kemp, for

their hard work, thoughts, ideas and insight. Special thanks go to the Attleboro Librarians for providing me press clippings from the last 100 years for the JM Fisher Company.

Fisher Firesure



JOHN MELATIAH FISHER, founder of the J. M. Fisher Co., whose life span from 1850 to 1920 left an impressive imprint upon this city.

The J. M. Fisher Company, one of the oldest jewelry firms in Attleboro, Bristol County, MA is the major player in this story. John Melatiah Fisher and Charles R Harris formed it in 1879 as the jewelry firm of Harris and Fisher. They began business in the first brick factory on Railroad Street, the old "Bailey Carriage Shop" When Harris retired in 1885, the firm became

known as the JM Fisher Company.

By 1894 it's annual output of charms was between 40 and 50 thousand dozens, employing around 50 workers. In 1910, the year after it was incorporated, it moved to the Leach and Gardner Building on the corner of Pearl Street and James Street. Following retirements from the Board of Directors in 1914, Lewis S Chilson and Samuel M. Holman Jr. the two sons in laws of J. M. Fisher, purchased stock in the company. Holman became Vice President and Chilson Treasurer.

The company made its third and final move in 1956 to their own large purpose built factory of 10,000 sq feet, in the East Street Industrial works. They were still employing 50 people but with modern methods of production, they were producing some 4000 different styles.

The first mention of the Fisher Firesure, "They used to make a miniature pistol which sounded off when the powder was fired", appeared in the Attleboro Sun, August 1 1956

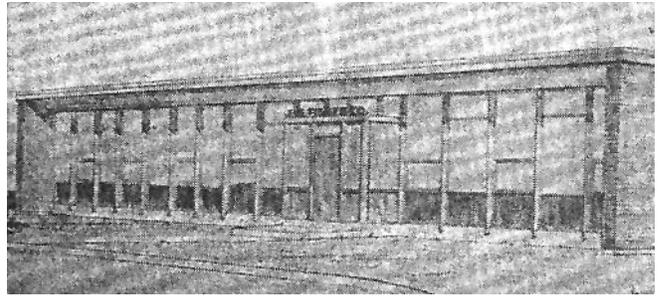
John Melatiah Fisher was an influential figure in Attleboro. He was active in the campaign for prohibition and in 1990, was nominated for Governor of Massachusetts. One of his last acts before his death in 1920 was the building of the Sanatorium at a cost of \$500,000. It is now the La Salette Seminary.

The Firesure part of this story starts in the 1880's. Lewis Shepard Chilson, another of the major players in this little scenario, was born on Jan 10 1887 in Attleborough, the only son of Jonathan Draper Chilson, the owner of a jewellery business from as early as 1880; they were living in Attleborough, MA (known as the birthplace of the jewelery industry in New England.).

Lewis Chilson's education was at Bryant and Stratton Business College, Providence, Rhode Island. He did some military service with the Massachusetts State Guard for 2 years and ended up as a Corporal. His primary Occu-



Above: Some examples of the quality work produced by the JM Fisher Company

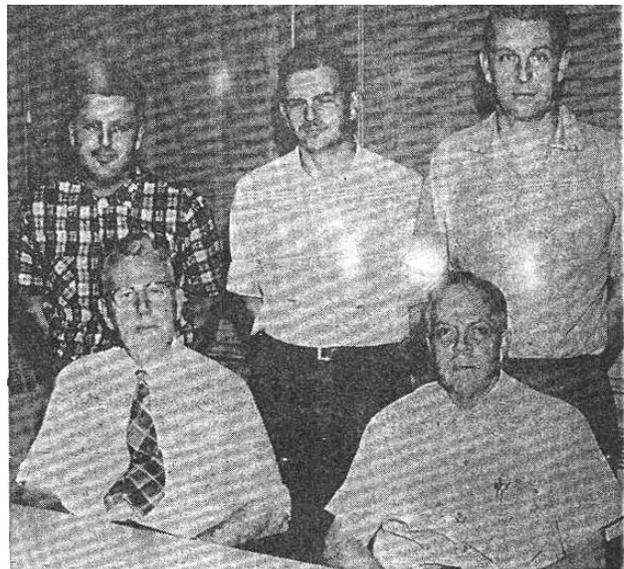


Above: The final home of JM Fisher at the East Street Industrial works - circa 1956.

Below: A printed piece with an image of the plant.



Above; In 1910, the year after it was incorporated, JMF C. moved to the Leach and Gardner Building.



KEY PERSONNEL—These are the key men at the J. M. Fisher Co. plant who planned the move into the factory on East St. of this jewelry firm which dates back to 1879. Left to right, front row, seated, Lewis Chilson, vice-president; Samuel M. Holman, secretary; standing, Howard F. Chilson, salesman; and Warr F. Holman, foreman and Robert F. Chilson, foreman. —Photo by Adam

pation was as a Jeweller; he held positions with several companies, lastly the J. M. Fisher Co. where he was Vice President and Treasurer. He was a spiritual man and was a regular attendee at the Attleboro Second Congregational Church

He married Gertrude Horton Fisher in 1913. They had two Children. Robert Fisher Chilson, b. April 24 1914 and Howard Fisher Chilson, b. September 20 1918. Both of whom worked for the JM Fisher Company in later years.

Lewis Chilson had some of the privileges of being a Son in Law of the owner, firstly by becoming the company's Treasurer following his purchase of stock in 1914 and eventually becoming the company's Vice President.

On the August 6 1929, he applied, as assignor for the J.M. Fisher Company for a patent for a "Berloque" Revolver styled Pistol. The title used for the application was "Toy Pistol". This was sold as the Fisher Firesure. A US Patent, No 1,794,364 was granted on March 3 1931.

There were several versions of the Patented Fisher Firesure. Nickel with Black Plastic Grips (the most common), with White plastic Grips, with Bone Grips, with Ivory Grips and with Mother of Pearl Grips.

Lewis Shepard Chilson died in Attleboro in December 1966

The Enigma.

Samuel Dosick, the final player in this real life saga, is perhaps as big an enigma as the argument about which came first, the Fisher or the Dosick? His age is unknown. No one seems to know where or when he was born and where or when he died. There is no documentary evidence so far produced to give any credence to him whatsoever. Samuel Dosick, whose personal history and in fact his very existence is unsupported by any facts whatsoever with

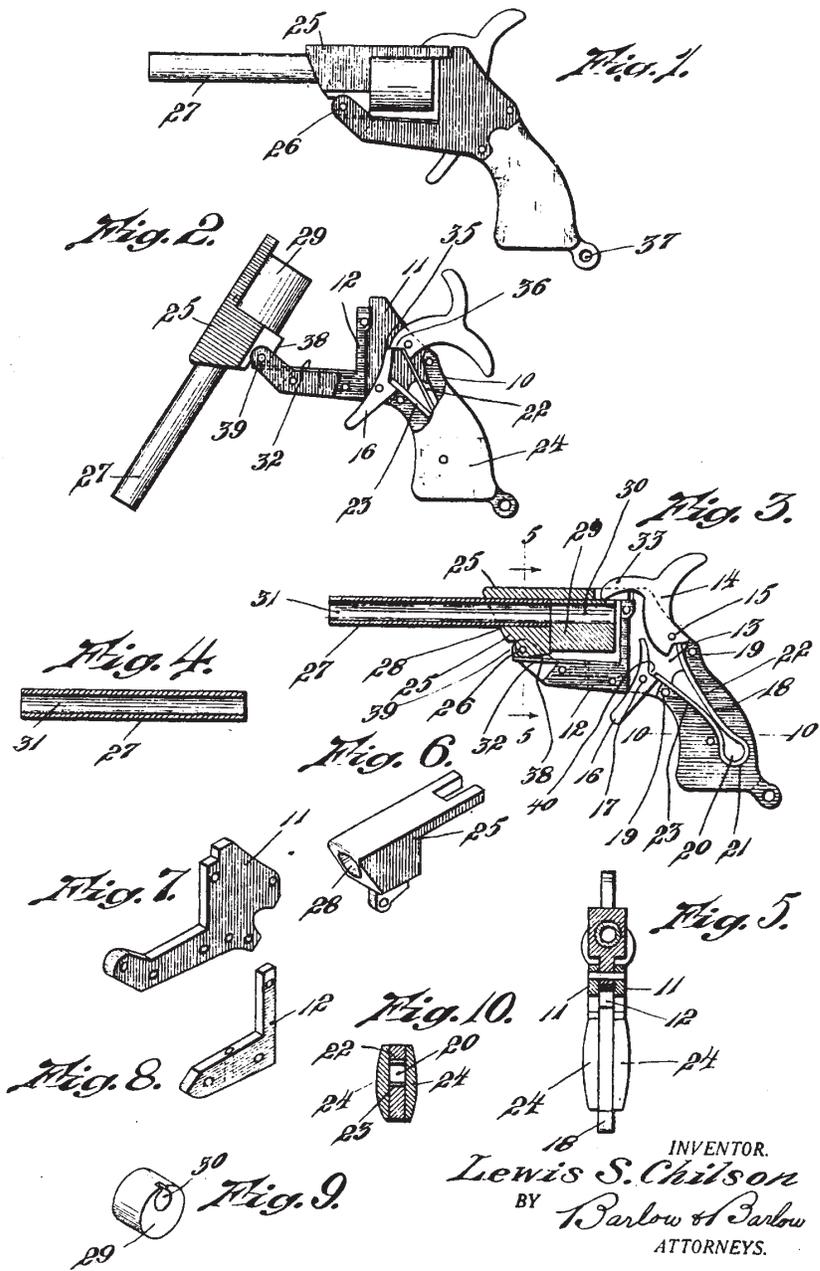
March 3, 1931.

L. S. CHILSON

1,794,364

TOY PISTOL

Filed Aug. 6, 1929



Above: Chilson's patent for the Fisher Firesure

Right: The Firesure was packaged in a small cardboard box along with a clean-out rod.



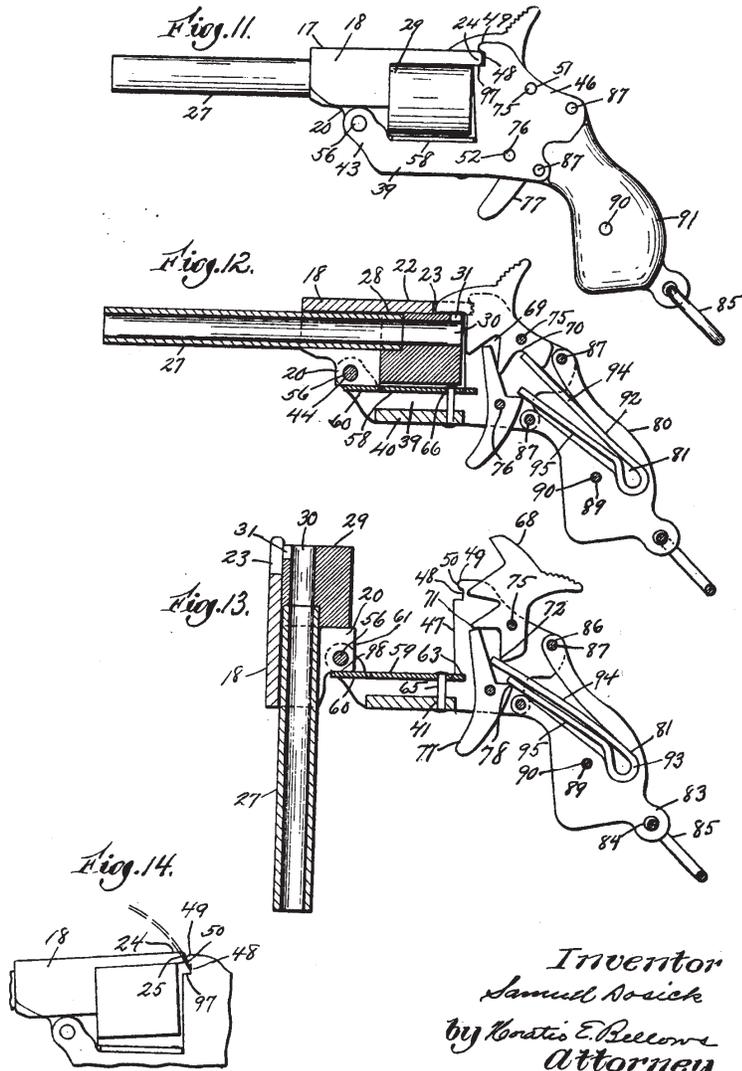
May 12, 1931.

S. DOSICK
PISTOL CHARM

1,805,080

Filed Oct. 23, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Copy provided by PTCS from the PTO APS Image Data Base on 08/31/1998

Left: the Dosick Patent
Below: A rare Dosick instruction sheet.



tol, which is almost identical to the Fisher Firesure. The title Samuel Dosick used was "Pistol Charm". US Patent No 1,805,080 was approved and granted on May 12 1931.

The Patent states that Samuel Dosick was from Providence, Rhode Island, which is less than ten miles from Attleboro. It has been supposed that perhaps he was a jewelry worker of the J M Fisher Company and left sometime prior to applying for the Patent. Again, there is no documentary evidence to confirm or deny this.

The Pistols

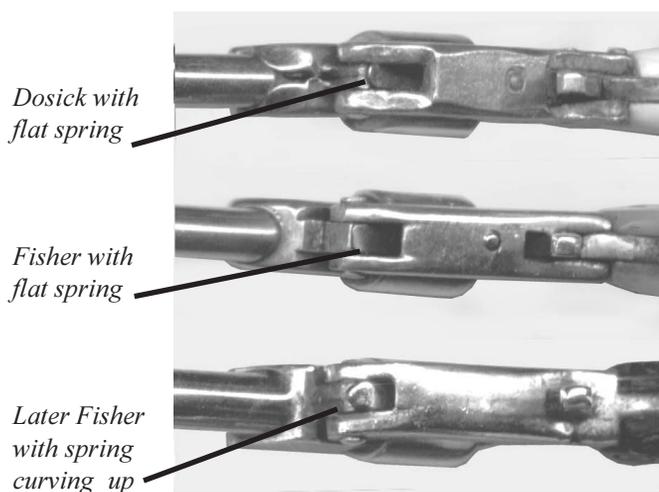
the exception of a Patent. There are no records of a Social Security number, no birth date (could he have been an immigrant, perhaps an illegal?) There is no record of a marriage or even his death. All my searches have been in vain.

A "Samuel Dosick" certainly applied for a Patent on October 23 1929; for a "Berloque" Revolver style Pis-

There are some interesting facts about the patents and the pistols. The patents have some remarkable similarities, one of which, is the formation of the F in the word Fig (indicating a particular part of the design). The Barrels and the Chamber are both marked with the same number on both Patents, another coincidence?

There are some minor differences between the early Fisher pistols and the patented ones. The lack of a foresight on the barrel, the slight curvature to the body just under the Patent Pending stamp (this is more reminiscent of the Dosick) the trigger looks shorter and the hammer is more curved. There are several deliberate changes to the Patented Fishers and they are not as per the Patent.

The only real difference between the two Patents was the design of the closure spring. Cyrus Kemp reasons, "If you look at the closure spring that Chilson patented in his patent you will see that spring is not what the Fisher Firesure uses". "I have some very early ones and they all use the flat closure spring that Dosick Patented".



These bottom views show the barrel springs. Top: this is a Dosick, note how the frame is not solid, but a stamped piece of thin metal that wraps around the barrel Middle and Bottom: These two are Fisher Firesures, Note that the barrel inserts into a solid piece of metal. The Middle image has the earlier flat spring, the bottom has a later curved spring.

Cyrus's wife works in patent law and she said that the flat closure spring that Dosick claims in his patent is protected. That if the Fisher Firesure was legally using that closure spring than there would have to have been an assignment made by Dosick to allow the use of his patented closure spring in the Firesure. There could be a search done for an assignment, but that will cost some money. Cyrus thinks that solving the mystery of the closure spring is the most important fact surrounding these guns. I tend to agree with him.

The early "Patent Pending" (Pat Pend) Fishers used this arrangement and I can find no records of any Patent challenge or Court proceedings taken out against this ob-

vious infringement. Another mystery? Why was a patented idea, and probably the most important aspect of that design, allowed to used on a competitors Pistol, without recourse?

Conclusion

Did Samuel Dosick actually exist? his Patent certainly does. Did he steal the idea whilst a worker for the JM Fisher Co and try to pre-empt their plans?. On the other hand, was Lewis Chilson the unscrupulous Boss, stealing a workers design to further his own ends? I think not. Although they are scenarios worthy of a true industrial espionage story, I doubt both of them. Alternatively, I believe that the Dosick was a very clever marketing ploy by a company entering a period of economic depression and eager for sales to boost their balance books. Therefore was Samuel Dosick, a made up person, maybe even a nom de plume of Lewis S Chilson and was the Patent and subsequent pistols called Dosick's all made by the JM Fisher Company? A little "friendly competition" would ensure their complete domination of the market in this area and would capture a market lead over the European imports. This latter theory is becoming my firm favourite, mainly as no information can be found on Samuel Dosick whatsoever.

The other strange thing to have come from all the investigation and research is that no advertisements have ever turned up on either of these guns. That coupled with the fact that the country was entering a great depression. It is surprising that these guns were even made and sold. There is no trace of anything being sold or produced under the name of Dosick.

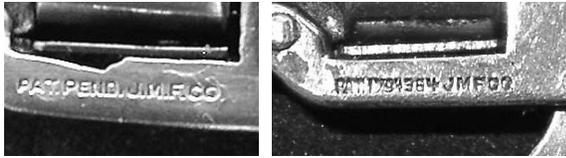
Although the JM Fisher Company was a very big company, like so many of the independent jewellers in Attleboro at that time, they simply did not advertise. Adverts are seen however and these usually date from the post WW2 period. The J M Fisher Company's last annual report was February 24 1988 it is therefore assumed that they stopped trading in the same year.

I leave the readers, to form their own opinion, as to this little mystery. Or does someone out there know the Real Story?



A rare, early, "PAT.PEND.J.M.F. CO." marked Fisher Firesure

How to Tell a Fisher Firesure from a Dosick

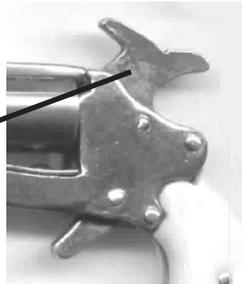


1. If your gun is marked with the PAT (or PAT PEND) mark along with JMF, it's a Fisher Firesure for sure. However, not all Fisher Firesure's were marked. So on unmarked guns;

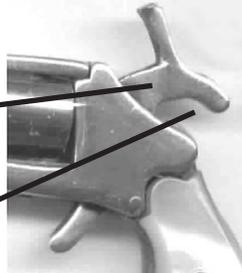
2. If the piece the barrel is attached to is solid, it's a Fisher Firesure (see the bottom two guns in the photo on the previous page). If the piece around the barrel is a folded piece of thin metal, it's a Dosick.

3. The hammers on each gun are distinctive.

To the right is the fatter hammer of the Dosick. Also not the curved top of the hammer.



The hammer on the Fisher Firesure is thinner



It also has a long thin hammer and thumb grip.

The presence of rivets on the side of the frame, just above the grips does not necessarily mean it's a Dosick. Some Fisher Firesures did not have their rivets filed down. If unsure check the hammer as in 3 above.

Bob Urso

1950'S PEZ SPACE GUN

ED. Here's a goodie I recently came across on the ebay auction site. Would you believe that this little plastic fella sold for over \$700.



1950'S PEZ SPACE GUN SUPER! THIS RARE PEZ 1950'S GUN.MADE IN AUSTRIA, 5" WIDE BY 3"3/4 HIGH.NO CHIPS, CRACKS OR DOG BITES! RUBBER BAND FOR TRIGGER NEEDS REPLACING AND THE GUN SITE HAS SCUFFS/DENTS FROM STORAGE(SEE PICTURE NOT BAD AT ALL). SUPER PIECE NO DISAPPOINTMENTS. HAS ALL INTERIOR PARTS.

Gene Autry (?) ring gun

This ring gun has a sparker wheel - just like in a zippo lighter - on the top. It was another ebay auction find, and it went for a mere \$48.



Two Superb Combination Weapons

Beautiful and Bizarre.

Several months ago, while doing research, I came across an article in the January 2000 issue of MAJ about the wheel lock system, written by Ralph Koebbeman. He showed a diagram of the working parts of a double hammer wheellock taken from a wonderful book "One Hundred Great Guns" by Merrill Lindsay, and clearly describes the performance of this system. After reading this article, I thought of the possibility of making one of these intricate and complicated wheellocks in miniature.

The problem was, never having made anything similar, I had to do a lot of research before embarking on this project. I combined a sketch of Leonardo DaVinci, made circa 1485 - from his Codex Atlanticus - and combined it with the information in Ralph's article. I was able to complete the lock in one month.

The second decision I had to make was, on what kind of gun I would mount this lock on. I decided to make a combination weapon, taking as a model an all steel combination mace and pistol, now in the Tower of London Museum.

The shaft of the miniature contains a six-inch barrel which fires through the flanges of the maces's head.

The lock has a ring-shaped wheel cover, decorated with a mythological creature in gold. The neck of the cock is decorated with a chub in gold. The side plate has one sculpture, one serpent and two fleur de lis in silver. The overall length is 27 cts.

Accessories include a powder flask modeled after one from the Medici family, decorated with a me-



dusa head and venus de Milo in gold, two animal figures in gold over the cover and dose, and a box spanner, decorated with animal figures in gold and has an ivory handle, A silver plaque inside the mahogany case is inscribed, *Leonardo Da Vinci - Codex Atlanticus by Antonio Rincon.*

The second miniature is a pessimist weapon, a combination of flintlock carbine, battle axe and pike. The Fiamco maple trigger tail stock has the slightly curved shape of an axe. The side plate is silver with foliage design in open work. The barrel is 3 cts. long, and the overall length is

19cts.

The combination weapon is perfectly functional. This red sugar maple wood case is lined with dark velvet with ebony partitions, and also contains a silver powder flask, and an ebony and ivory ramrod

Axe pistols were common in Hungary and Poland where they were carried in processions.

Man's ingenuity has created armament of beautiful design and strange combinations, all deadly.

Antonio Rincon





Joy's Cannon Barrel

Some time ago I received a letter from a woman named Joy, addressed to the Miniature Arms Society at my address. Apparently Joy had an old reference, referring back to when I was president. Whatever, this is one type of letter that we often get, asking for help of one kind or another. As I mentioned in *Kebby's Korner*, the requests are varied. Often the writer asks how to join the Society, where can he buy a 1914 model of a Puma pistol made by the Panther Co., can you help me get information on gunsmith Lowell C__ who lived in Adobe, Arizona in 1948 and so on. The requests sometimes are enough to make you feel bad - Will your members keep an eye out for five guns that were stolen from me on July 17? They are—

This is what Joy's letter was about:

"My name is Joy — and I have a miniature cannon, it was left to me by my Grandpaw, he was born in the 1800's & came from Mississippi, it is all brass & I can't find any letters or numbers anywhere on it, I took these pictures to see if you know any thing about it, it is 7 3/4 inches long & 2 1/2 to 3 lbs. I have wondered for

yrs. About it & would appreciate any information you could give me, the year and its worth & would be so helpful or if you know anyone else who would know. Thank you so very, very much!

Joy —
Midwest City, Okla. 73110

This is the answer I gave Joy:

Dear Joy:

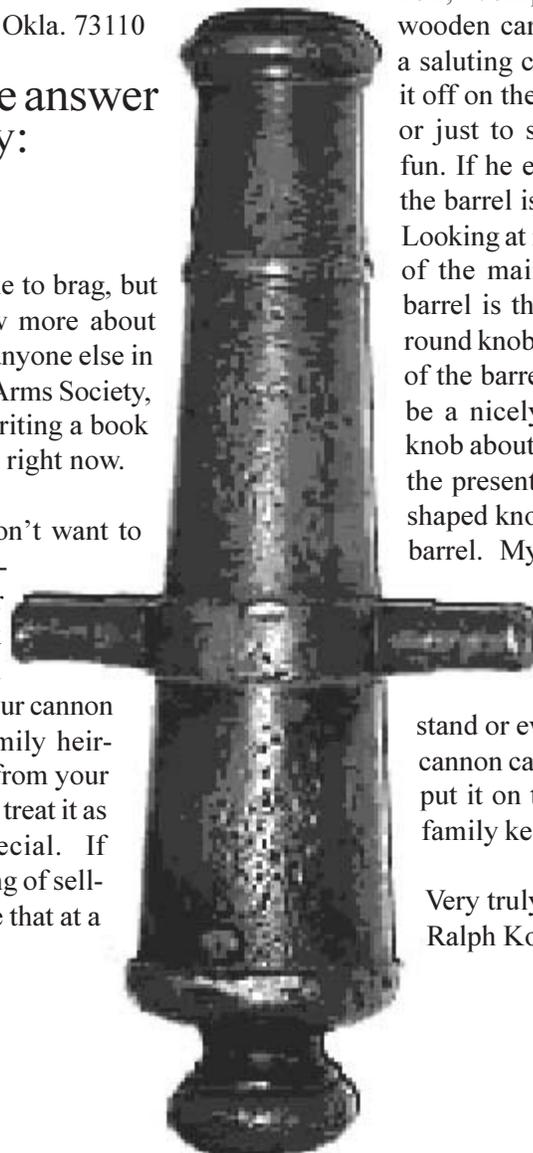
I'm not one to brag, but I think I know more about cannons than anyone else in the Miniature Arms Society, in fact, I am writing a book about cannons right now.

While I don't want to throw cold water on your hopes, I think that you should keep your cannon barrel as a family heirloom coming from your Grandpaw and treat it as something special. If you are thinking of selling it, I believe that at a

gun show you would get possibly \$15 to \$50 for it with more than likely the low figure would be what you would get.

I think it was made by someone who wanted to make a miniature cannon, complete with a wooden carriage to use as a saluting cannon, to bang it off on the Fourth of July or just to shoot it off for fun. If he ever finished it, the barrel is all that is left. Looking at it critically, one of the main parts of this barrel is the cascabel, the round knob at the back end of the barrel. This should be a nicely turned round knob about half the size of the present rather crudely shaped knob that is on the barrel. My personal opinion of what you should do would be to make a little stand or even a miniature cannon carriage for it and put it on the mantel as a family keepsake.

Very truly yours
Ralph Koebbeman



Wired...



Below are members email addresses. PLEASE... be sure to email boburso@home.com if your address change.

Recent changes are in **BOLD**.

Adrian, Bill mra@mail.netwave.net
Armstrong, Robin jandr.armstrong@virgin.net
Bilbow, Alan abilbow@worldnet.att.net
Bilbow, Yolanda ybilbow@worldnet.att.net
Brown, Arthur mini_guns@yahoo.com
Butler, Ed efab@mail.bcpl.net
Callahan, Lew LWCallahan1@earthlink.net
Dalby, Cranford cdalby@msn.com
Dredge, Derek dredge@madasafish.com
Dyson, Andy dyson@gunmakers-honley.freeserve.co.uk
Roland Friestad cardinal.eng@gallatinriver.net
Federico, Vincent vfederico@email.msn.com
Fujise, Joe FunForSale@aol.com
Friestad, Roland cardinal.eng@gallatinriver.net
Gerber, Jack jackgerber@home.com
Gauffin, Paul miniguns@empire.net
Gianforte, Carmen gin40@msn.com
Goodwin, Max jgoodwin@gj.net
Hintz, Jon jehintz@yahoo.com
Hudson, James [Business website www.jpj.com](http://www.jpj.com)
Hulsen, Chris hulsencs@hotmail.com
Keeler, Randy thekeelerfam@hotmail.com
Kemp, Cyrus CyrusKemp@aol.com
Koebbeman, Ralph rkebby@aol.com
Kolligs, Walt horseandhorse@aol.com
Kopsch, Paul mjkops@yahoo.com
Korn, Harry David harrydkorn@yahoo.com
Koury, Rich richkoury@yahoo.com
Kritser, Sloan toolegg@worldnet.att.net
Kucer, David DMKucer@aol.com
Kouznetsov, Victor V. kouznet@attglobal.net
Lagattuta, Chris chris@autowerkstat.com
Little, Tom tlittle241@aol.com
Loos, Henry C. hcloos@optonline.net
Lowe, Gary jglowe@floorboxes.com
Maxfield, Dr. Brad maxfield@mcw.edu
McDonagh, John (Ireland) macd@iol.ie
McHenry, Pat reikip@aol.com
McGinnis, Alice mcginnr@chorus.net
McGinnis, Bob mcginnr@chorus.net
McKinley, J. Brent wallowa_jim@Hotmail.com
McManis Charles cemcmlv@earthlink.net

Mele, Mal mal@neosoft.com
Morris, Wayne A. wmorris2@cfl.rr.com
Morrow, Joel joel@1800miniature.com
Nelson, David davidn4329@aol.com
Olsen, Ron rono438@aol.com
Pentelow, Lynn tc1cat@hotmail.com
Phillips, Dr Ron Bartsart@BellSouth.Net
Reinen, Jerry jerryrei@bak2.light-speed.net
Sampson, Roger rsampson@ecenet.com
Seamann, Ron rseamann@uslink.net
Segel, Robert EmmaGeeMan@aol.com
Snowden, Chuck CLSnowden@aol.com
Stumpp, George B gbstumpp@aol.com
Tom Tinker TTinker4@aol.com
Toppel, Karl Karl.Toppel@ProcessPlants.BOC.com
Urso, Bob boburso@attbi.com
Weingarten, Ron doronron@earthlink.net
Weinstein, Alan tlviking@aol.com
Wenzek, George gwenzek@aol.com
Whichard, Ken kenco@geeksnets.com
Whitehead, Jim jdwmks@mediaone.net
Wickliffe, Will ford32@goldrush.com
Williams, Jim cwilliams@infoave.net
Wirth, Jeff jwirth45@aol.com



Fixes & Changes

Correct email addresses for

Lew Callahan

LWCallahan1@earthlink.net

Bob Urso

boburso@attbi.com

Piccolo Miniature Gunworks - Bob Urso's site now is on a new server at

<http://www.boburso.com>



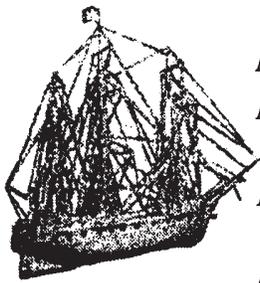
Osterman Miniatures has a new, expanded site at;
<http://www.ostermanminiatures.com>.



The GERHARD GOEBHARTER Company now has a site at;
<http://www.berloque.com/>

Web sites worth checking out...

- The Miniature Arms Society Site - by Brad Maxfield www.miniaturearms.com
- Piccolo Miniature Gunworks - Bob Urso's site <http://www.boburso.com>
- Art Brown's Miniature Firearms Museum <http://www.MINIATUREFIREARMS.COM/>
- Pinfire - Derek Dredge's site <http://pinfire.homestead.com/MiniaturePinfires.html>
- Paul Gauffins has a new website "Small Arms Specialists" <http://www.miniguns.com>
- David Nelsons site about the Lewis and Clark expedition. <http://www.lewis-clark.org/index.htm>
- Peter Dyson and Sons, England <http://www.peterdyson.co.uk/>
- D.W. Dyson - not related to Peter and Andrew can be found at <http://dwdhallmark.com/miniature.htm>
- Classic Miniature Machine Guns has a sale on now at <http://Sarcoinc.com/new39.html>
- See Dan Osterman's minis at - <http://www.OstermanMiniatures.com>
- See Lew Callahan's minis at - <http://bart.efn.org/ivystreet.com/gallery/callahan>
- Imperial Miniature Arms at - <http://www.1800miniature.com/ure.com>
- Robin Armstrongs guns - www.armstrong-miniatures.com
- Uberti miniatures at - <http://www.uberti.com/products/>
- Yves Vachon is showing his mini knives at - http://www.geocities.com/yvonvachon/fram_vachon.html
- Richard Koury has a website listing miniatures for sale at <http://www.kouryinvestments.com>
- For waxes and cleaning products, check out Dennis Blaine's Renaissance Wax site <http://www.renwax.com>
- R. Boos Miniature Knives. <http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/arabesqu/rbminis/index.html>
- Palmers Armoury mini cannon site <http://www.palmersarmoury.co.za/Longtom.htm>
- Guns, better than toys, but not quite true minis <http://www.siouxcity.com/x/ReplicaPistolsRifles/22w.htm>
- French Dealer that has a page of minis <http://www.pierre-rolly.com/hTen/Page4.html>



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Back Cover	150.00	180.00
Bus. Card Free	Free	
Classified Free	Free	

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Daniel Osterman
danosterman@earthlink.net

Cigar Piercer???



ED. Here's an Item That I found recently at the Quality Vintage Gentlemen's Collectibles website. <http://antiques-internet.com/illinois/fine-olde-tyme-stuff/dynapage/PP10.htm>. They also had several pistol cigar cutters.

Here is an unusual item, from the past. It is a cigar perforator pistol. The hammer is cocked and small cigar is placed in the barrel, when the trigger is pulled a metal nail is pushed into the end of the cigar. This was preferred by some of the old gent's, instead of cutting off the tip, so the

cigar would draw air. It is embossed "Flock 25" and Germany". The pistol is 4-1/2" long, has most of the original paint remaining, and is in very good condition. Estimate age as very early 1900's. To check if this "Premier" item is available: Please call or e-mail me

This item is part of a vast collection of... Fine Quality Vintage Gentlemen's Collectibles. Price: \$ 225.00

Allan H. Harris, Purveyor
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
Tel. (847) 634-1303
(email AL1890s@aol.com)

New from Imperial

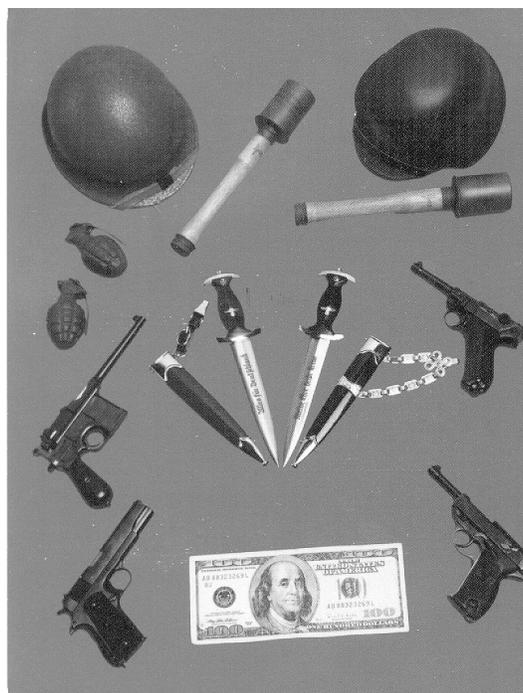
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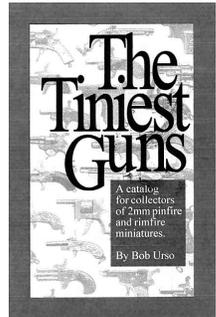
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Come January first, however, dues are due again.

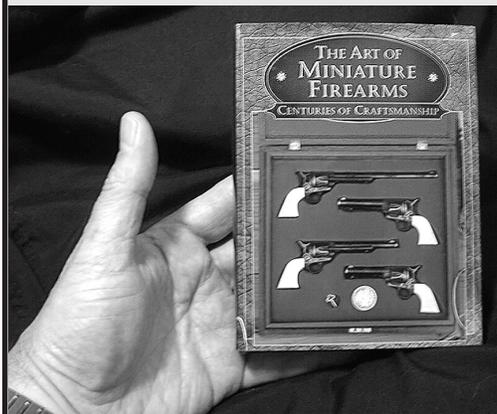
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