

by Frank R. Horner



FRANK R. HORNER

I wonder if any of you would like to be in my spot this morning. We have had two distinguished speakers, Eldon Wolff and Meade Patterson . . . May I suggest that if I were as well informed on my subject as the previous speaker was on his, that you'd probably get out of here about the first of November, 1965. The only reason I can figure out as to why I was asked to speak at this point is to bring solace to some of you average fellows. Not that I flatter myself that they would be so complimentary as to consider me an average collector. They would rather consider me as a horrible example. It might call to your attention what can happen to a fellow who might have been an average collector, but who turned out to be a collector of these funny little things over here called "Pepperboxes."

Now this meeting may end in a way a certain story did about a very wealthy family who had a daughter 28 years old and they just couldn't get a husband for her. The mother decided she'd have to do something desperate so she wrote up a very nice advertisement for the "personal column." She described the daughter as a beautiful, exotic, young heiress who would like to correspond with a devil may care gentleman who wants to go places. After a couple of days, the mother could not contain herself any longer so she asked the daughter, "Have you had any reply?" And the daughter said, "Oh just one." Mother said, "Well, what was it like?" The

daughter said, "I'd rather not tell." But the mother insisted. "I worked up that ad and I insist that you tell me from whom you got this reply." With a sigh, the daughter replied, "All right, if you insist. It was "poppa." So if we end up on a sort of a down grade don't be surprised.

Now, I would like to mention something about these two new books. I've had an opportunity to know a little about both of them. I'm pretty sure that all of you have taken advantage of this wonderful offer on Jim Serven's book. Jim is not in the room as you know. If you haven't, I hope you will turn in your application to Tom Holt. The same goes for Jack Dunlaps book on pepperboxes. The illustrations alone are well worth the price of the book.

Now I haven't heard whether next fall we're going to Las Vegas or Denver. Personally I would be glad to go to either place. But if it should turn out that we go to Las Vegas, I'd like to give you a little word of caution with due apologies to Harry Mann. I had a gambling friend who was very anxious to get out to Las Vegas. He parked his car and put a dime in the meter and lost his car. So my suggestion is that you fellows will be safer to fly to Las Vegas.

Now to get on with my subject of Pepperboxes, it's impossible for any one man to make a collection such as this without a lot of assistance from other people and particularly other collectors. In other words I'm not to blame for this solely and a lot of you fellows are to blame too. I'd like to mention just a few of these people; Jim Serven particularly when he was a dealer, Sam Smith all through the years, Eldon Wolff with much help and advice, the same for Dr. Hoopes of St. Louis, Red Jackson, Frank Simmons, Carl Hayes, Adrian Wilson, Harmon Leonard, Tom Wood who is a new member, Paul Mitchell, Bud Roddy, Charles Bricker, Bill Florence, John Hammer, Rolfe Holbrook, Carl Moldenhauer, Keith Neal, Miles Standish, and many others.

In that connection I'd like to tell you a story. I was reminded of it yesterday when it was mentioned that Sam Smith owned the valuable concession for the latrines. That recalled to me the story of the fellow who had imbibed a little too well and had used up all of his money. There came a time when nature called for certain functions to perform and he didn't have any money and someone had the latrine concession, no doubt, Sam Smith. So he went up to the bartender and said, "Will you give me a dime?" The bartender replied, "What for?" And so the bartender handed him a dime. He went downstairs and just as he was about to insert the dime, a fellow walked out of another one, held the door open and said, "Be my guest." A little later when he came out, he took this dime as his stake and dropped it in a slot machine. Sure enough he hit the jackpot and that evening he used the jackpot money to get into a poker game. At the end of the evening he was pretty well provided with

enough money to go west. Out west he bought into a mining claim that he had heard about and a few months later he came back worth about \$100,000.00. Naturally, just as any one of us would do if we ever got in that happy state of affluence, he went up to the bartender and asked "Do you remember me?" The bartender replied "No I don't believe I do." Our hero, "Don't you remember on April the 14th, this year, I borrowed a dime from you to go downstairs. The bartender, "Oh Yes, I remember that. Well, what happened?" Our friend told him the story about the slot machine, the poker game and the mining claim and that he came out with \$100,000.00. The bartender got quite excited and said, "Well gee, I think you ought to cut me in on that. I was responsible for all of that." Our hero snorted, "You! The guy I ought to cut in is the fellow who opened the door downstairs." So if I have left out any of you fellows to whom I should have given credit I'm sure you will forgive me.

Now I suppose it's expected that even an unformed collector should tell you a little bit about Pepperboxes. It is really unnecessary now because you can learn all about them in Jack Dunlap's new book. The name Pepperboxes or Pepperpots aroused my interest. I couldn't understand what kind of a weapon would have such a name. As a matter of fact, at first they were called revolving pistols as I think you know. But eventually, the name that became common to all of us is the Pepperbox. It was used as a close-up weapon although some of them have sights. The sights are generally useless. It is a question of sprinkling your shots if you are going to get your man. There is a great difference in definitions as to what actually constitutes a Pepperbox. Some people say that the barrel must revolve around the central axis. But many Pepperboxes don't revolve around the central axis. Some may have a central firing pin. Others have revolving firing pins and there are still other methods of firing.

May I show you first a transition piece. It was an easy step to move from the Pepperbox to the revolver, by shortening the barrel group and adding a separate barrel as in this weapon. I can't tell you exactly when the first Pepperbox was made. I know that they do go back as far as the Matchlock. It's possible that some of you collectors are fortunate enough to have revolving Matchlocks. I know that several of you have revolving Flintlock Pepperboxes. Most of the guns displayed here are percussion with a few cartridge, a few needle fire, and a few flintlock.

This pair of English seven barrel revolving flintlocks was made by "H. Nock" and is so marked. Here is another three barrel revolving flintlock which has one smooth bore and two rifled barrels but we don't know who made it. It's a common practice to call most seven barrel revolving flintlocks of English make by the common name of Nock. This may or may not be because he made the first ones.

The flintlock period was followed by the percussion period which I think without question of doubt was the most popular time for Pepperboxes as you will see demonstrated here. In the United States the barrels were generally bored thru a single block. In England this was pretty much the same, but in Europe, they run very much to the separate barrels as I am sure you know. There are some which are single action and some which are double action. There are nipples coming out at almost all angles. Some nipples are covered and some are exposed. Some have concealed hammers and some have more than one hammer. There are various safety or release mechanisms.

American Pepperboxes were not only simpler but they are made less expensively than most of the foreign ones. "Allen" generally gets credit for most of the American Pepperboxes and I think that is probably justified. However, there are many other American ones which are different and I think quite interesting. I might mention some of these, the Pecare & Smith, Leonard, Stocking, Bacon, Robbins & Lawrence, Blunt & Syms. The usual Allen's are marked with "Allen's Patent," "Allen & Thurber," and "Allen & Wheelock." Then we have similar guns marked J. G. Bolen, A. W. Spies, Young & Smith, Tyron, Lane & Reed, Manhattan, Washington Arms, Phenix Armory, several combinations of Marston and a few scattered makes which resemble the Allen's and may have been manufactured by them.

In this collection is a rare underhammer Pepperbox. I think you probably know that there are two other similar weapons in the hands of American Society Members. Our former president, Herschel Logan, is a very quiet and very fine gentleman but he's also quite a talker. He talked me out of the first one I ever saw for sale. It was difficult if not impossible to pick up another one. Except for my good friend from Kansas City, Miles Standish, I would still be looking for that particular Pepperbox. Sam Smith has the other one.

Now among the commonly known European Pepperboxes, a great many of them were made in Belgium but many of them either have French or German names. It is difficult to know actually whether they were made in Germany or made in Belgium for German firms. Of the German names, Hermann is my favorite because he has so many different and peculiar mechanisms. The English made the most beautiful Pepperboxes. They were usually four and six barrels but once in awhile you'll find a five or seven barrel. Over on this table, in a beautifully cases set by "Parker Field & Co.," is a flask very similar to a Paterson Colt flask. All barrels can be loaded at one time and with the same amount of charge from the flask. We have here, one seven English percussion Pepperbox and twelve and fifteen barrel cartridge Pepperboxes. It seems that almost everyone considers the four barrel Sharps as Pepperboxes. Several are shown here along with a few similar models in other makes.

Some time ago, I think about 1948, "The Gun Collector" published an article on the Darling Pepperboxes. There has always been somewhat of a controversy in regard to the brass barrel, so called Darling's, and I'll have something more to say about the iron frame models a little later.

By the way, since I've been here, I've heard of something which happened recently in Dallas, Texas. I didn't get the name of the party but somehow the language sounded familiar. If, as it did to me, it suggests to you someone who you know, I want to say that any reference, of course, to any individual living or dead is purely accidental. In this particular case, a man collapsed on the street, was lying there helpless and the crowd gathered as usual. One man said, "Give him air, give him air." A little old lady over at the side said "Give the poor man a drink of whiskey." And again someone shouted, "Give the man air, give him air." And the little old lady repeated, "Give that poor man a drink of whiskey." Someone yelled, "Call an ambulance, call an ambulance." Once more the little old lady said, "Give that poor man a drink of whiskey." The poor fellow on the pavement raised up and said, "For God sake, why don't you fellows shut up and listen to this little old lady." So you've listened to me here, I'd like now to go over to the tables and tell you something about the pieces displayed.

Most all of the guns in the display are labeled so if later you want to look them over and care to handle or examine any gun, you are welcome to do so. This particular table has all American and mostly what we call the Allen types, which I have mentioned to you earlier. Among the more unusual ones is this one with the shotgun hammer, Young & Smith, various types of Marstons, and this interesting one which is no doubt an Allen Pepperbox but is marked "Rick Smith, London." This rather large and handsome piece is a Tryon and is about the size which is often referred to as a dragoon. The Union Arms are hard to find and the same is true for the A. W. Spies and the Lane & Reed.

Moving to the next table, here is another hard to find, the Leonard. Incidentally, the President brought a very rare Leonard and I appreciate the opportunity of examining it. The Robbins & Lawrence are rather unusual with a very unique mechanism. I don't think that under any circumstance, one could call that an Allen type.

This group of Stockings is interesting for several reasons. This lever hammer is unusual and in cocking it it also revolves the barrels. Some of these have nipple covers but some do not have any cover and actually no place for one. In my opinion this is the earlier type of Stocking.

Among several here whose makers are unknown, this beautiful large shotgun Pepperbox, the real vest pocket type, about 70 caliber was given to me by our good friend, Frank Simmons. This unknown maker with three long barrels and a most unusual hammer offers a challenge to student. I'd like to suggest to the Society that we have a meeting in which all of us inexperienced and uninformed collectors can bring such guns for study and examination by you fellows who are experts. It should be fun for you and it should save us a lot of time.

In this group is an Allen type but marked Hyde & Goodrich, New Orleans. When I acquired this Phenix Armory Pepperbox, Nick Harrison of the Gun Collector was quite interested and thought he might prove it was confederate. That study has never been completed so far as I know. This J. P. Terrill is possibly an experimental model, six shot and with an all brass barrel group.

The Pccare & Smith were made in four shot and ten shot models. One of the four shot models has a sight on each barrel which would usually not be of much value. The four shot was made both in the brass frame and in the iron frame. Yesterday, at the museum, in Eldon Wolff's show, I saw the one that has the little cocking lever on the top. That's the only one I've ever seen of that particular type. The better known type are the ten shots of which three are shown here. Generally they have a barrel shield but one here doesn't have a shield and apparently was never made to have one. Incidentally, I am told that the reason why they had a shield was to protect you so you could keep on firing if your victim was fairly close to you and should happen to grab the barrel. You could still pull the hammer and continue to fire. That's the story as I have heard it.

The Blunt & Syms Pepperboxes are interesting because there are so many variations among them. I believe one of our members is planning on doing a research on them. Some of them are very large and some are quite small as this tiny size one. Some of them are marked and some of them are not. In my opinion, I believe the early ones were marked and the later ones were not. Most of the early ones were also built without a nipple shield. If you look over the various models exhibited you'll notice how great a variation there is in the barrel group. There are at least four or five designs for the barrels, and I would assume that this would have made them much more expensive to manufacture. The casing of this American one is a little different in that the case is felt lined.

In the center of this table are some 18 barrel Pepperboxes. This particular one with a solid barrel group is assumed to be American made. At one of our Wisconsin shows a number of years ago, I returned from lunch and found that some of my friends whose names I prefer not to mention, had placed flowers in each of the 18 barrels. It made a beautiful display and was a very kind act in showing a practical use for this particular model. This other 18 separate barrels is European made. I mentioned earlier that the underhammer Pepperbox is a very rare one and should you run across a specimen at any time, I am sure any pepperbox collector would be interested.

Here are the usually seen Darling Pepperboxes with a solid barrel group of four to six shots. They vary in caliber and are usually single action. They have always been a lot more expensive than the average pepperbox. Back in the good ole days when one could buy an Allen for \$6 or \$7 you might have to pay as much as \$50 for a Darling. By the way, may I digress for a moment to tell you a story on prices. Many years ago, I went down to Ohio to my first big gun club meeting and I had placed a limit on any purchase. There was a fellow there by the name of George McQueen from Omaha who had fluted Colt arm but it was \$12.00. Of course, I couldn't afford it and I might say that when I bought one later from a member of this Society I did pay slightly over \$12.00 for it. One of these sixshots has the barrel revolve by cocking the hammer. When our good friend Lou Winant wrote the original pepperbox book, he stated that there was a rumor that there was a three barrel Darling. This happens to be a three barrel and it's in the revised book published by Jack Dunlap. The barrels are numbered one to three but I don't quite understand why.

These two pieces which I hold are marked B. and B.M. Darling and are known as the first American Pepperboxes. They have metal frames with unusual grips. This one was shown in Lou's book and he considered it so precious that he kept it in his safety deposit box. Do any of you remember the method by which he offered it for sale? So as not to show any favoritism to anyone. The price started at \$3,000 and went down \$50 a day and when it got to your bid it was your gun. Well I'm not much of a gambler and Harry, I'm not even going to park my car when I go to Las Vegas so I didn't bit. Some time later at an ASAC meeting, Lou came to me and said that he and his wife thought that I should have this gun. Of course I agreed and fortunately I was able to acquire it from him. We now know of a few others in the hands of collectors but not all are marked exactly the same. They are, however, definitely the same type of weapon.

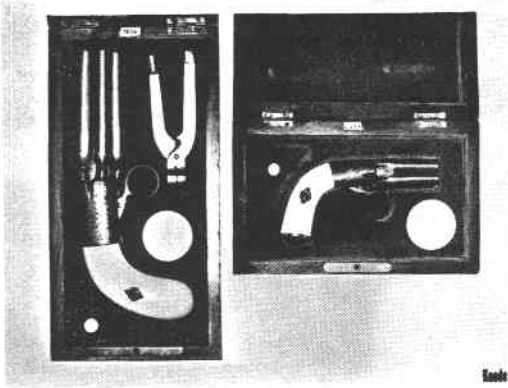
I'd like to show you this Henry Harrington piece which Lou was kind enough to call the most interesting gun in his book on pepperboxes. And Jack Dunlap has included it in the new edition. A question always arises, why are there two hammers, two triggers but only one firing nipple to fire all seven barrels from this loading chamber. As an indication of what it means to be a member of the ASAC, I'm indebted to another member, Paul Westergard for the answer to these several questions. He told me if I would go to Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts and go to the Old Gun Shop, I would find the answer to the question and it is very simple. I don't know whether you can see from where you are but by pushing this lever to the left you may lift out the loading chamber. Then by pushing aside the cover, you see a chamber for powder and a place for the bullets which I assume are pushed in by hand. You then fill the powder chamber, close the cover, drop back in the proper place, lock the lever, and place the nipple, you cock the hammer, pull the trigger and fire all seven shots at one time. Now why is there an extra hammer and an extra trigger but only one nipple. Well gentlemen, this Henry Harrington made several longer arms than this and they are exhibited at the Old Gun Shop I mentioned. In the loading chambers he has made a little partition so that only three of the barrels fire at one time and the other four are fired by the second nipple which hasn't been placed on this particular weapon. It seems odd that so many of us couldn't figure it out without making a trip to Old Sturbridge.

This very large and beautifully made English Pepperbox has the name "James Harper." You do not see many as large or as heavy pepperboxes as this with a caliber around sixty. It came from the Dr. Buck collection. Incidentally, I was fortunate in those days for most collectors were not interested in Pepperboxes. When I inquired about pepperboxes and oddities from Mr. Kimball who was selling out the Buck collection, he wrote that he hadn't had time to look them over. He didn't exactly call them junk but I got the impression that they were not very highly regarded. Many of the good collectors over the United States and probably some of you fellows were taking the train out east to personally select from that collection and of course none could blame you for so doing. I waited for him to write me as to what was available and I was fortunate enough in getting a few which are presently displayed and of which I have seen no duplicates. Apparently he had recently bought an English collection since many of the guns still had the original descriptive tags. This particular gun is not particularly handy for a pocket and a belt hook such as some other large pieces have would make it much more convenient to carry.

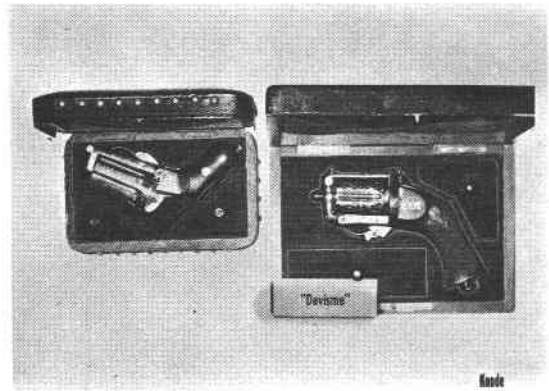
On this next table, the first piece is a Turret pistol with four barrels. Many people consider this a Pepperbox. This Turret is hand revolved and as you notice, you fire one barrel and then hand revolve to the next one. I understand there are a few with six barrels and I know that Mr. Sam Smith has one with three barrels. Incidentally, it has the name of the maker S. Smith so it seems very appropriate in Sam's collection. As I stated earlier, there are not many seven barrel pepperboxes. This English one is also by Smith. It revolves to the right. This beautiful four barrel English Pepperbox has two hammers, two triggers and revolves by hand. One of the reasons why I'm fond of it is that it is marked "Manton & Co. -- Calcutta."

Now we'll look over a few Irish Pepperboxes and here are three sizes of the "W. & J. Rigby" with one cased. This interesting arrangement of a small button on each side which you press to take off the barrel so that you can install the nipples, is very simple and practical and so far as I know exclusive to the Rigby. This cased Rigby has a loading device with five compartments with powder which you load at the same time, turn your gun down over it and then reverse the procedure so that you give a correct charge to all chambers and all at one time. You remember I mentioned a while ago that most sights on Pepperboxes seem to be useless. This "William Norman of Dublin" has many unusual features including the arrangements of the sights. The hammer is placed in a substantial gap between the frame and the barrel group so it is down below the level of the sights and does not interfere. With a good sight at the rear of the frame and a sight on each barrel you

A FEW OF THE OVER TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE PEPPERBOXES DISPLAYED
BY FRANK R. HORNER



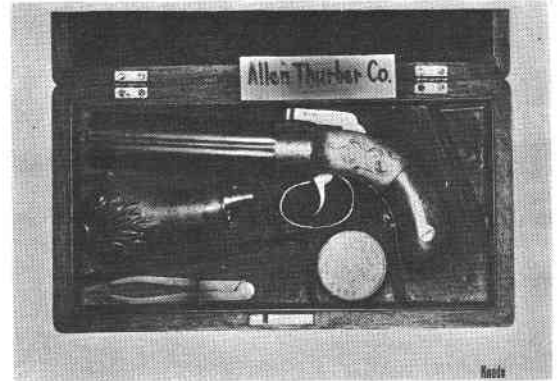
Cased Foreign Pepperboxes, Belgium



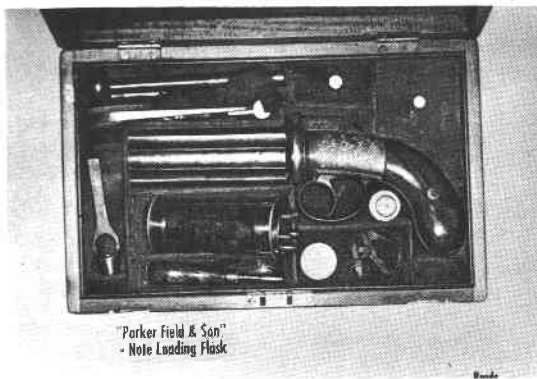
Apache Fist Pistols



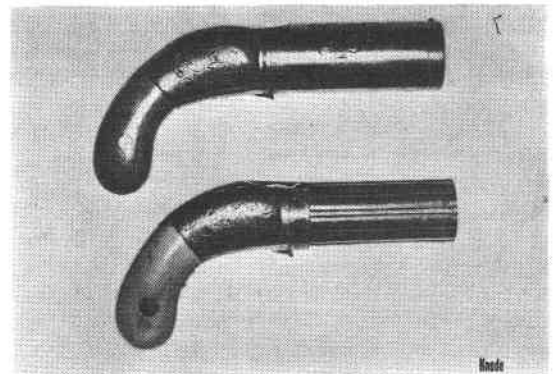
Blunt & Smys "Dragoon Size" 6 Shot
.38 Cal, 9 3/8" oa.



Allen Thurber Co. Typical American
Pepperbox and Casing



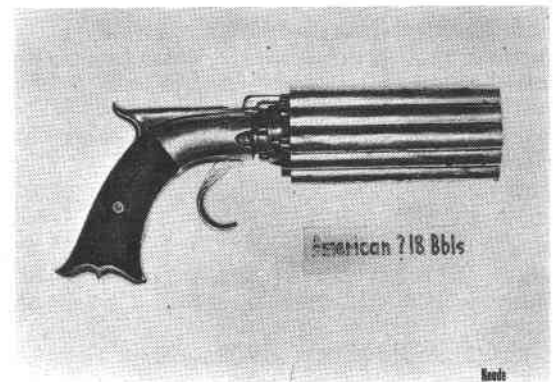
"Parker Field & Son" English Pepper-
box, Note Paterson Type Loading Flask



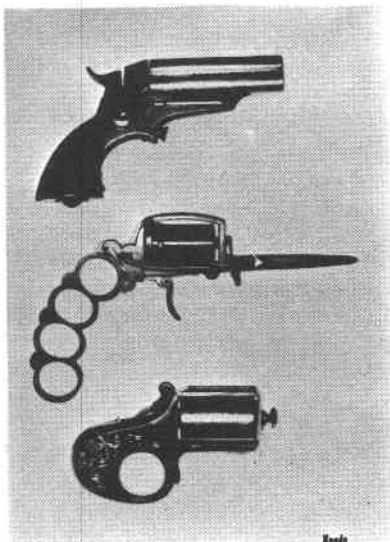
Pecare & Smith
Rare American Pepperboxes



Harrington Multi-shot Pistol, seven
barrel group, one nipple, all fire at
once. Chamber block removes for loading.



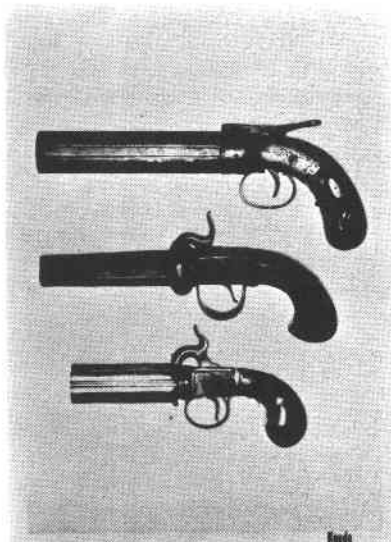
Frank's favorite flower vase, 18 barrel
Group, unmarked, believed to be Ameri-
can manufacture.



Starr's Pat. May 10, 1864,
4 shots

Apache Knuckle-duster &
Knife Pistol

J. Reid's Derringer "My
Friend"



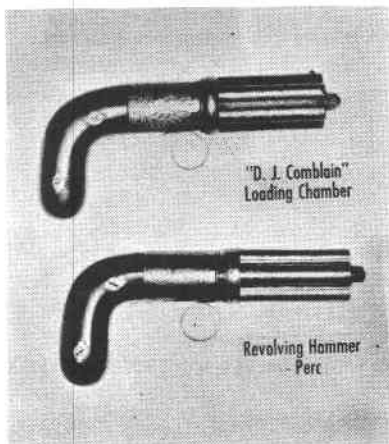
Stocking "Bar-hammer"
single action

Darling (unmarked) 3 shot
Pepperbox

Rare B&B M. Darling 6
shot Pepperbox



Typical Cane Revolver with
Dagger

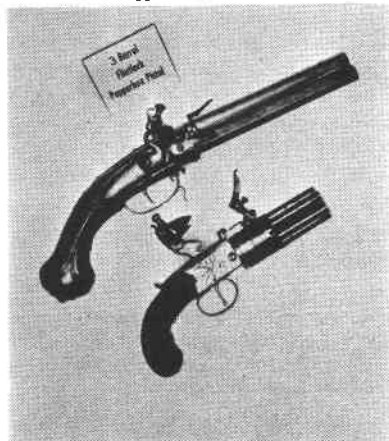


"D. J. Comblain"
Loading Chamber

Revolving Hammer
Perc

D. J. Comblain Pepperbox,
6 shot, .28 Cal., 7" oa.

D. J. Comblain Pepperbox,
6 shot, .28 Cal., 7" oa.



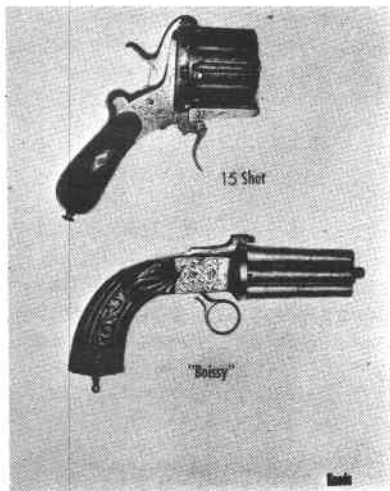
English, 3 barrel
Flintlock
Pepperbox

Henry Nock 7 shot
Flintlock
Pepperbox



"William Norman", Dub-
lin, odd 6 shot pepperbox

Unmarked, possibly Euro-
pean, 6 shot, 7 3/8" oa,
3 3/4" barrel, .40 Cal.

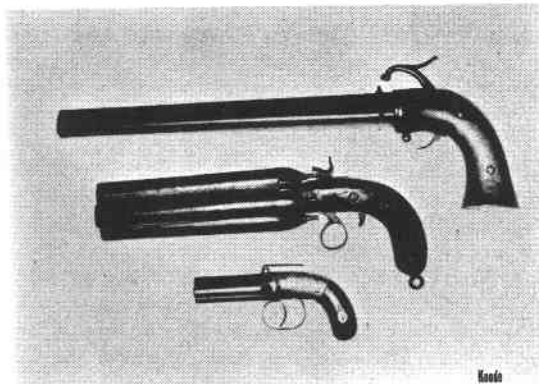


15 Shot

"Boissy"

15 shot 7 mm pin-fire
Belgium proofed

"Boissy" 5 shot, 40 Cal.



Possibly Early American
3 Shot, 16 1/2" oa, 2"
barrel section, 138 Cal.

Large Mariette Pepper-
box - American Bar-
hammer pepperbox

"Mariette Brevete" Pep-
perbox, 6 shot .25 Cal.

"Rigby Type" 4 Shot, re-
volving firing pin marked
B. C. Redfern

might do very well in aiming it. Usually when you are trying to fire a pepperbox and the hammer comes up in front of you and even though many of the Allen type have hammers with a small hole drilled through as a sight, I doubt if it would be very effective. This Irish piece also has a double trigger which acts similar to trigger so that you can pull it back just so far and then a little further will cause it to fire. It's a very interesting and handsome weapon.

As I move a little further along the tables, I'd like to remind you what Herman Dean said in his talk last night that you don't have to own a gun to enjoy it. You just enjoy the other fellow having it. So I enjoy the fact that Gordon Frost has two Allens with bayonets. I hope you will take that to heart Mr. Frost. This particular gun has a bayonet which can be used instead of the regular barrel screw. It is beautifully cased and is apparently of English origin. Incidentally, I think a man who is a little mechanically inclined could take some of these European Pepperboxes and make bayonets for them. They wouldn't be so hard to make and shouldn't be as expensive as the ones which are available. Of course I'm only kidding for we all want completely original weapons.

At one of our meetings I had the privilege of seeing the beautiful collections of Howard Green and our new President Harmon Leonard. The latter was kind enough to permit me to bring home this little gun. It's a beautiful piece with considerable gold inlay but doesn't have any mark of the maker. On this side is a little lever and if you look under this cap down next to the barrel group you'll find there's a tube. As far as I'm concerned, it's the first tube cap holder that I have owned. You fill the tube with caps, apparently point the barrel group down so that the caps should drop on the nipples.

We now move over to the multiple separate barrel pepperboxes of which there are many varieties like this one. One which has a long group of barrels is always intriguing. Many offer a challenge as to how you are going to load them, some others as how you are going to cap them. This morning I felt a little ired at one of our distinguished members. Last night, to my knowledge, he spent over thirty minutes trying to figure out how you could put the caps on this particular gun. Before I could find out his solution I was called away from the table and I still don't have the slightest idea how you are going to cap it. That gentleman can get back in favor with me later if he'll just tell me that he found out how to get in to this particular gun and show me. Now there are many variations of barrels and barrel groups. As you know there are three, four five, six, seven, eight, eighteen and twenty-four groups of separate barrels. I haven't been able to locate a nine, a ten or an eleven barrel but I do have on exhibit a twelve and a fifteen both of which are cartridge guns. Here also is a eighteen solid barrel group which is said to be American. There are two rows of Nipples, the inner one of six nipples and the outer one of twelve nipples. The hammer has a double striking head and the barrels are revolved by hand. If you haven't already seen the handsome cased twenty-four separate barrel pepperbox of Paul Mitchell's which is on exhibit at his table, I suggest that you do so. Again, -thanks to Herman Dean, I've just enjoyed tremendously being able to see that gun back there even though it isn't on my table.

"Mr. Cooper" of England made a great many different models but here are two early ones which are quite unconventional and not like the later models. Both of these are six shot with smooth round barrels, folding triggers, double action, one with a hammer on top and one with the hammer underneath. There is a single button lever on the left side which is lightly like the Rigby and makes it easy to remove the barrels. One of these has a most unusual lever which extends out over the barrel and which has a sight on the end of it. You will see a great many English pepperboxes made under the Cooper Patent. Now here is the name of a gun maker who must have been very enterprising and very publicity minded and one should have had no trouble in finding him. His name, - Edward London, Address, - London Wall, London.

Here is another of my favorite pieces which also came from the Buck collection. It's a four barrel, folding trigger, double action, with a row of four hammers side by side to hit four nipples in the same arrangement and it reminds me somewhat of a piano keyboard. This large six separate barrel group of about six caliber was made in Italy by "G. Pilla." It happens to be the only Italian pepperbox I have acquired. It's double action with a concealed hammer. It has an engraved frame, very finely checkered and decorated grips with a silver sleeping lion decoration on the butt plate.

Now I would like to return briefly to the cased guns and to show you this beautifully cased five shot pepperbox made in "Strausbourg?" This is a piece I'm saving and don't want to ever sell. I found another collector here who is trying to do what I have tried to do. You will notice a very thick box and the pepperbox sits well at the top. I feel sure there's a hidden treasure underneath and must consist of valuable jewels. Over here is a cased outfit which Mr. Dexter says gives "color" to a collection. This is a French cartridge pepperbox similar to the "fist" type but made by "Divisme" who I believe is rated number two among French gun makers. Let me read you what is written in French on what I take to be a statement. It's addressed to M. J. Bonapart and gives his street address. At the top is what I believe is a name of a magazine and a date and it says "Your subscription is finished on the fifteenth day of April, 1776." The gun has many gold inlays including the initials M. J. B. I'm told that Mr. M. J. Bonapart was a nephew of the Emperor.

Next here is this "Parker, Field & SON" outfit which I mentioned earlier. This is an example of a fine gun in a fine case. What interested me most was this loading flask which I am told resembles one of Mr. Colt's rare and valuable flasks. With it all barrels can receive an equal measured charge at the same time.

Many times I've heard this next weapon, a four shot very large caliber gun, called a lion or elephant pistol which I am sure is incorrect. I don't believe any hunter would want to depend on this gun in a dangerous situation. It was made under the "Charles Lancaster Patent." The caliber is 455. It has a concealed revolving hammer and there's a lanyard in the butt. These next four pieces have considerable similarity to the Sharps but are quite a bit larger and better made. This "H. Biedermann Patent" is a four shot and this four and five shot are "Grum Baum Patent, Vienna." This next group consists of cartridge guns, usually called "fist pistols." There is quite a lot of variation in design as well as size. They have markings of various countries. I am sure you are familiar with all the all the Sharps Patent models and similar pieces as well as this gun which looks like an automatic but is a four shot Brownie. The Bacon, the Continental and other small ones were usually called Ladies Muff Pistols. They are generally much in demand and hard to find. Among the Remington's, these three are considered pepperboxes. When I got this piece called a Remington Zig Zag Deringer. I fooled around with it for quite awhile because I couldn't figure out how to load it. A fellow came to my office and when he saw this gun he picked up and looked at it and asked "How do you load it?" I got a 50¢ bet out of him that he could not figure it out in five minutes at the end of that time he reached in his pocket and gave me a half dollar and said "Now show me." When I replied that I didn't know myself, he didn't seem to like it very well. All of you are familiar with the Reids which are usually referred to as "Knuckle-dusters." This small one, a Rupertus is another hard one to find. Some of those just mentioned are also classified as oddities and the same applies to this next weapon. Being a triple weapon, it always gets quite an attention when you display guns. It's called an "Apache." You are supposed to use the knucks first, then the bayonet and then its success has escaped you so far, you fire the revolver.

Some of you fellow collectors of oddities in pepperboxes have been more lucky than I have been and have picked up several Cane pepperboxes, umbrella pepperboxes and Bicycle Hnadlebar pepperboxes and other odd pieces. A couple of years ago we were just about ready to leave Europe for home and without having acquired any guns. We were looking around a little shop in Copenhagen which had a few guns when I picked up this Cane and discovered it was also a Cane gun. Believe it or not it was purchased at a very reasonable figure. When I got to New York I carried it with me off the ship and through the customs. When I asked to declare it the customs official was quite surprised and intrigued. This English cartridge gun is a twelve shot and made by Sheffield. This next is a fifteen shot cartridge but has no marks.

This next group have tapered barrels, some are beautifully engraved and each has some differences over the others. If there were time I'd like to challenge any one of you to find the name of this particular gun in the next minute. To let you in on a secret, you pull this hammer back as far as you can and then you see underneath "B-O-I-S-S-E". He wanted to put his name on it but he didn't want you to see it if it was possible to avoid doing so.

You Colt collectors don't want to miss seeing this transition piece. As usual in such pieces it's pepperbox up to the front end of the barrel group and then a barrel is attached. It's valuable because it is marked "Colt" right on the barrel. Mr. Red Jackson was responsible for me getting this very valuable piece. While I don't collect Colts, I naturally would not want to lose this one. Unfortunately there's only one thing Red and I wondered about. Right after the Colt it says "Brevette."

Awhile ago I told you about the seven barrel Knucks and about this unmarked three barrel revolving Flintlock. I forgot to tell you that this came to me from a man who is now a new member, Thomas Wood of Richmond, Virginia. I believe he's our only Virginia member. I finally acquired this four shot "Duck Foot." It's not exactly a pepperbox since all barrels fire at the same time but it is an interesting peice. I haven't shown any two barrel or three barrel Flintlocks other than the three barrel revolving Flintlock because I do not consider them pepperboxes. A few years I was laid up for several weeks with an eye operation and for five weeks I was completely without sight and lying flat on my back. At that time a good friend of mine by the name of Ozzie Klavestad who has a wonderful collection of guns displayed at the Stagecoach Inn just outside of Minneapolis, sent me a gift of a very rare pepperbox. In a letter which was read to me, he described it as rarest two barrel pepperbox in existance and was sure that it would add a great deal to my collection. I was already in my pajamas but unlike the experience Herman Dean told about, I couldn't droll over this weapon because I couldn't see it. You may be sure that one of the first things I did when they put glasses on me so that I could see out through pin holes, I examined this unusual and valuable gift from Ozzie. It was about average size for two barrel. The barrels were made out of some kind of tube iron. It had all the other trimmings of a two barrel but on the side it showed the makers name as Horner. I suspect that it took him a rather long evening to make this up for me and I do consider it valuable because of the circumstances.

Now I'd like to tell you about a trip to Ohio a great many years ago to one of the great Ohio meetings of those days. I was lucky in securing a sort of prize package which never found its way on to the tables. When people ask me how I get these guns I usually say "Let me show you my purse after I have been to a gun show." I open this side of the purse and of course it's completely empty.

My next comment is "However there are some compensations." That could be a barrel in the end of the purse and this could be a trigger that drops down from the bottom. Now when we open the other side of the purse we discover a beautiful little pepperbox so that the prize package turns out to be a purse with a nice little concealed pepperbox in it. That's some consolation for coming back from a gun show completely broke.

Now if Harry Mann doesn't object, I'd like to tell you the story of a man who went out to Las Vegas and he was a confirmed roulette player. Before long he was tossed out. If you don't know what that means, I'm sure you will after you go to Las Vegas. And so he took a gun and put it to his head and was about ready to blow his brains out when he heard a little voice saying "Don't do it don't do it." He said, "Well, why shouldn't I do it?" The little voice said, "Look in your pocket." So he reached in his pocket and he found a dollar bill so he was in business again. Then he said, "What'll I do?" The Voice said, "Put it on 29." And so he put it on 29 and 29 came in and got back \$25. "What'll I do now?" he asked. The voice replied, "Put it on 29 again." And so he put it on 29 and 29 came in again and he had \$250. So he asked once again, "Now what'll I do?" The small voice said, "Play it again." So once more he placed on 29 but this time he lost. "Now what am I going to do?" The voice replied, "Pull the trigger, pull the trigger." So I think I've come to the point where I should pull the trigger. You've been a nice audience. You've been kind enough to give me an award. Thanks a lot. I'll see you in Washington.