

FIREARMS CURIOSA
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS (ENGLISH)

1. Lewis Winant, FIREARMS CURIOSA. Bonanza Books, New York, 1955. The defining book for this collecting area, and still the only general one in English.
2. H. Gordon Frost, BLADES AND BARRELS. Walloon Press, El Paso, 1972. The classic book on combination weapons.
3. Taylor G. Bowen, JAMES REID AND HIS CATSKILL KNUCKLEDUSTERS. Andrew Mowbray Publishers, Lincoln, Rhode Island, 1989.
4. D.R. Baxter, SUPERIMPOSED LOAD FIREARMS 1380-1860. South China Morning Post, Hong Kong, 1966. Rare, expensive, packed with information.
5. Catherine Dike, CANE CURIOSA: From Gun To Gadget. Les Editions de L'Amateur, Paris and Geneva, 1983. (English translation of the French original, CANNES A SYSTEME.)

BOOKS (FRENCH)

You can read these with your high school French and a dictionary.

1. Jean Rene Clergeau, ARMES INSOLITES ET SYSTEMES (“Unusual Firearms and Systems”). Grancher, Paris, 1983. A very rare book, but well worth looking for. Some overlap with Winant, but covers a significant amount of different ground.

“The delightful French word ‘insolite’ refers to something so completely unexpected that it causes the beholder to stand back and marvel.” NY Times Book Review, September 15, 2005.

2.

2. Dimitri Singer, PISTOLETS ET REVOLVERS DE POCHE AU XIXieme SIECLE (“Pistols and Pocket Revolvers of the 19th Century”). Editions du Portail/Le Hussard, Paris, 1996. Includes many standard American and European firearms, but with a useful, well-illustrated section on “peculiar systems.”

ARTICLES

AN OVERVIEW

Matthew Schneiderman, “Collecting Firearms Curiosa.” Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors, #95 (April 2007), pp.35-41.

A must-read introduction for anyone exploring this collecting area!

<https://americansocietyofarmscollectors.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/COLLECTING-FIREARMS-CURIOSA.pdf>

COMBINATION WEAPONS

1. H. Gordon Frost, “Wild and Wackie Woolie Weapons.” Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors, #13 (Spring 1966), pp.6-12.
2. Richard Garrett, “The Dumouthier [sic] Knife Pistol.” Classic Arms and Militaria, volume 11, #1 (January/February 2004), pp. 20-21.

SQUEEZERS AND KNUCKLEDUSTERS

1. Andrew Lustyik, “Le Protector.” The Gun Report, volume 12, #5 (October 1966), pp. 8-17. A detailed account of the Chicago Palm Pistol and its relatives.
2. Konrad F. Schrier, Jr., “Notes on Protector Pistols.” Arms Gazette, November 1978, pp. 20-22. Compares the Turbiaux, the Minneapolis, and the Chicago, and theorizes about their origins.

3. Matthew Schneiderman, “Revisiting the Literature II: An English Apache Knuckleduster?” *The Gun Report*, volume 43, #10 (March 1998), pp. 24-27.
4. David H. Fink, “Variations of the Chicago Palm Pistol.” *Man at Arms*, volume 34, #5 (October 2012), pp. 27-30.
Highlights some little-known information about this family of firearms, and includes some detailed and unusual photos.
5. Matthew Schneiderman, “A Rigby Knuckleduster??” *Arms Heritage Magazine*, Volume 3, #6 (December 2013), pages 15-20.
It’s in Winant’s chapter (pages 86, 89, and 90), but it’s not a knuckleduster!
6. James Reid, “James Reid’s Catskill Knuckledusters.” *Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors* #110 (September 2014), pp. 16-25.

ALARM AND TRAP GUNS

1. Melvin Flanagan, “Trap Guns.” *Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors*, #83 (September 2000), pp. 5-22.
An excellent discussion, and description of a large collection.
2. John Kuntz, “A Percussion Burgler Alarm.” *The Gun Report*, volume 53, #11 (April 2008), page 41.
3. Brian Godwin, “A Trip in the Dark!—The Infamous 18th Century English Spring Gun.” *Journal of the Arms & Armour Society* Volume XXIII #3 (March 2020), pages 207-228.
An excellent account of spring guns (basically trap guns for humans, e.g poachers or grave robbers) and their sociopolitical background, in the 18th and 19th centuries, with many illustrations and with period newspaper accounts.

KNIFE PISTOLS AND CANE GUNS

1. Paul Berg, "Remington Cane Guns." *Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors*, #49 (Fall 1983), pp. 40-50.
2. Elliott L. Burka, "Remington Rifle Cane." *Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors*, #85 (April 2002), pp. 1-10.

SUPERIMPOSED LOADS

1. John D. McAuley, "The Lindsay Rifle Musket." *The Gun Report*, February 1982, pp. 16-18. Discusses the Lindsay patent and both the musket and pistols.
2. John W. Burgoyne, "A Queen Anne Style Pistol Firing Superimposed Loads." *Arms Collecting*, volume 36, #2 (March 1998), pp. 39-45.
3. Elis Joubert, "Isaiah Jennings, Man of Progress." *Man at Arms*, volume 30, #1, February 2008, pp. 33-36. Discussion and photos of the Jennings all-metal superimposed 12-shot repeating flintlock rifle.
4. Herbert G. Houze, "John Parker Lindsay and John Walch: References and Biographical Notes." *The Gun Report*, volume 53, #12 (May 2008), pp. 20-31.
5. Philip Boulton, "Follow up to Herb Houze's Article on the Walch 12 Shot Navy Model". *The Gun Report*, volume 54, #10 (March 2009). pp. 34-35.
6. Matthew Schneiderman and John Burgoyne, "Superimposed-Load Flintlock Pistols: Three Examples of 18th Century Technology." *Arms Heritage Magazine*, volume 7, # 4 (August 2017), pp. 21-25.

TURRET AND CHAIN GUNS

1. Howard L. Blackmore, "Development of the Wheel or Turret Revolving Firearms." *Arms Collecting*, volume 21, #3 (August 1983), pp. 75-94. An excellent article, focusing on Wilkinson wheel rifles but discussing a broad range of turret firearms.
2. J. R. Salzer, "Milo Cass' Repeating Chain Gun." *The Gun Report*, January 1995, pp.32-33.
3. Charles M. Grimes, "The Rare Guycot Chain Guns." *The Gun Report*, Volume 53, #1 (June 2007), pp. 16-18.
4. Matthew Schneiderman, "How Do We Know How It Works?—The Genhart and the Noel: Two European Wheel Pistols Circa 1860." *The Gun Report*, volume 48, #4 (September 2002), pp. 30-41.
5. George Moller, "Porter Repeating Percussion Rifles." *The Gun Report*, Volume 54, #3 (August 2008), pp. 14-27.

FIREARMS DISGUISED AS, HIDDEN IN, OR ATTACHED TO UTILITARIAN OBJECTS

1. David H. Fink, "Disguised Guns." *Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors* #56 (April 1987), pp. 35-50.
2. David H. Fink, "HIDDEN THUNDER. A Brief Over-view of Disguised Weaponry." *Man At Arms*, #1 (January/February) 1989, pp. 22-31, 34-38. An excellent discussion, with many bizarre examples and photos, plus extensive references to earlier articles I don't list.

3. Kevin Williams and Charles Pate, “ ‘Sidewalk’ Sedgley & the Haight Fist Gun.” *Man at Arms*, volume 29, #1 (February 2007), pp. 30-35.
4. John Kuntz, “The Key.” *The Gun Report*, volume 55 #1 (June 2009), page 30.
5. Kenneth L. Cole, “Frankenau’s Purse Revolver”. *Arms Collecting* volume 25 #1 (February 1987) pp. 27-28.

MULTIPLE IN LINE CHAMBERS AND BARRELS

1. Paul S. Lederer, “A Three Barrelled Percussion Pistol by Baker of Thetford.” *Arms Collecting*, volume 40, #2 (May 2002), pp. 53-55.
2. Matthew Schneiderman, “The Bar Pistol.” *The Gun Report*, volume 49, #6 (November 2003), pp.16-22. This article defined a subtype of Firearms Curiosa not noted by Winant.
3. Nick Chandler, “Harmonica Guns. A Guide for Collectors.” *Man at Arms*, volume 26, #6 (December 2004), pp. 14-23. An excellent article discussing a wonderful collection which won a display award at the ASAC Burlington meeting.
4. Charles M. Grimes, “Jarre’s Unusual Harmonicas.” *The Gun Report*, volume 51, #3 (August 2005), pp. 16-22.

WEIRD PERCUSSION PISTOLS

1. Matthew Schneiderman, “Joseph Rock Cooper and His Underhammer Transition Revolver.” *The Gun Report*, volume 30, #4 (November 1984), pp. 46-48. Just think about it.

2. Matthew Schneiderman, “The Joseph Rock Cooper Transition Revolver—A Missing Sibling is Discovered.” *Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors* Number 125 (Newport News, VA, April 2022), pages 49-53.
3. Matthew Schneiderman, “An English Crundwell Patent Pistol—A New Example of Firearms Curiosa.” *The Gun Report*, volume 46, #6 (November 2000), pp. 16-20. A very rare enclosed-action pistol, now in the Royal Armouries collection at Leeds

FLINTLOCK CURIOSA

1. D.R. Baxter, “Concealed Flintlock Firearms.” *Journal of the Arms & Armour Society*, volume 5, #11 (September 1967), pp. 405-420.
2. Jonathan Barrett, “Six Oddities of English Flintlock Construction,” in *ART, ARMS, AND ARMOUR: AN INTERNATIONAL ANTHOLOGY*, Robert Held editor. Aquafresca Editrice, Chiasso, Switzerland, 1979, pp. 392-399. A medley of bizarre flintlock pistols.
3. Eric Griffin, “Boxlock Pistols with Removable Flash Pans and Covers.” *The Gun Report*, August 2003, pp. 28-31.
4. Matthew Schneiderman and John O’Sullivan, “The Mysterious Floating Pan: A Pair of Curious Pistols by Samuel Staudenmayer.” *The Gun Report*, volume 52, # 2 (July 2006), pp. 31-35.
Gun Report Correction published in volume 52, #3 (August 2006) page 46 (correct photograph for Figure 5).
 Reprinted, with text updates and all-new photos, in *Caps & Flints*, the *Journal of the Antique and Historical Arms Collectors Guild of Victoria (Australia)*, #8 (August 2023), pages 8-12; John O’Sullivan as first author.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Ian Bottomley, "Indian Firearms Curiosa." *Arms & Armour (Journal of The Royal Armouries)*, volume 1, number 1, 2004, pp. 81-87.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

1. Philippe Joris, "Armes Insolites du Musee D'Armes de Liege". *Bulletin Des Amis Du Musee D'Armes de Liege*, #52, April 1987. Catalogue of an exhibit at the Liege Antiquarian Fair March 1987.

COLLECTIONS AT AUCTION

1. Dr. William R. Funderburg, Sotheby Parke Bernet Los Angeles, April 14 & 15, 1975.
2. Dr. Jack Strassman, Christie's New York, May 21, 1986.
3. Stephen L. Pilsner, Greg Martin Auctions, November 6, 2006.

WEB SITES

1. www.littlegun.info
Click on "Curiosities", near the bottom of the list of countries on the left. A good collection of Firearms Curiosa, with an emphasis on disguised weapons.

