

WILLIAM SMITH AND SAMUEL & CHARLES SMITH SERIAL NUMBERS AND FLINTLOCK PATENT TRACKING NUMBERS.

Except as noted, maker names are William to 1823 and Samuel & Charles thereafter. 34 Tottenham Court Rd. 1801-1805; 2 New Lisle Street 1805-1816; Princes Street from 1817. Serial numbers start at 1000. "Patent" numbers appear on the lockplates and (sometimes) the frizzens of William-patent flintlocks. They differ from the serial numbers. Each entry begins with the serial number. Pairs of pistols have one serial number, pairs of guns two. Each patent flintlock in a pair or double gun has its own (consecutive) patent number. When able, I then list the production year, either from auction catalogues, special features, or obvious proximity. I then note where I found the firearm, any "Patent" numbers, and details of interest. "Patent Self Primer" refers to priming through the touchhole from the main charge. Dates are month/day/year. Types of firearms without serial numbers include the idiosyncratic Smith family over/under double barrel flintlock or imperial cap pistols, which are not listed, and flintlock boxlock pocket pistols, which are (so far I've seen only one). For a discussion of the former, see reference 3.

WSLSL=William Smith Lisle St. London. WSPSL=WS Princes Strt London.

SCSPSL=Saml & C. Smith Princes St. London.

SCSPSLSL=Saml & C. Smith Princes St. Leicester Square London.

POINCON=" Smith Patent" in a platinum-bordered rectangle=imperial cap.

- NSN Private collection. Cased flintlock [F/L] double gun. French-style cocks. W. Smith London in gold poincons on lock and on breeches. W. Smith London in gold on rib. Confirmed no serial number.
- NSN Rock Island Auction 12/6/15 lot 3264. Cased, rifled F/L pistol with shoulder stock. Barrel "W. Smith Lisle Street London", hence 1806-1816. No serial number reported.
- NSN Little John's Auction 5/26/09 lot 28, now in a private collection. Flintlock boxlock pocket pistol, W. Smith on the left side and London on the right. Decorated with extensive silver plaque on grip.
- 1007 1809 Bonhams 11/26/14 lot 472. F/L double gun. The earliest known surviving serial number. 1115 1810 Christie's 10/25/01 [Neal Sale 2001] lot 92. F/L double gun.

- 1150 Holt's 7/8/25 lot 508. F/L single gun converted to copper cap. W.Smith London on barrel, WSLSL on lock. Hexadecagonal barrel.
- 1151 1811 Del Mar 12/7/16 lot 271. F/L double gun.
- 1223 1812 Bonhams 12/2/04 lot 493. Patent 48 on lock and hammer. Single F/L duelling pistol.
- 1245 1812 Private collection (CF). F/L single gun. William Smith Lisle St. London on lock. W. Smith London on barrel top. Unusual raised pan, but different from the patent design.
- 1436 1813 Private collection. A barrel for a single gun. WF mark.
- 1519 Private collection (CF). Patent 291. Single F/L gun cased with label. WSLSL on lock, W. Smith London in gold script on barrel.
- 1543 1814 Neal Sale 2001 lot 91. Patent 342 & 343. F/L double gun.
1814 Private collection, UK (BG). Frizzens for a F/L double gun. One "W. Smith 424 Patent", the other "...425...".
- 1577 1814 Private collection (CF). Patent 498 & 499. Cased F/L double gun. WSLSL on locks. Note the out-of-order patent #'s, not explained.
- 1581 1814 Bonhams 11/29/17 lot 233; West Street 11/21. Patent 445 & 446. F/L double gun. 1581 on butt plate. Steels W.Smith 445/446 Patent. WSLSL on locks. 46"; 30" barrels. Later retailer's name on rib.
- 1616 1814 West Street Antiques 2/2021. Patent 474 & 475. Pair of F/L duelling pistols. W. Smith Lisle Street London in script on barrels, WSLSL on locks. Patent #s on locks and frizzens. W. Smith Patent on frizzens. 1616 on trigger guards. Half-stocked. 2 double gold bands at breech.
- 1626 1814 Holts 9/19/19 lot 516. W. Smith double barrels on a later percussion gun by Parker, Field, & Sons.
- 1636 1814 Christie's 11/8/95 [Neal Sale 1995] lot 303. Cased pair of F/L travelling pistols. Birmingham proof. Cocks replaced. An example of William flintlock pistols not using his patent locks. See also #1948.
- 1681 Private collection (CF). Patent 582. F/L pistol. William Smith Lisle St. London on lock and (in script) on barrel. Unusual butt shape and trigger-guard-tang decoration.

- 1714 Private collection (CF). Patent 651. Cased F/L single gun. William Smith Lisle St. London on lock, W. Smith Lisle St. London on barrel. Double roller, on frizzen spring and frizzen. See #1759.
- 1759 Private collection (CF). Patent 740 & 741. Cased F/L double gun. William Smith Lisle St. London on locks and on breech. Double roller, on frizzen spring and frizzen. See #1714.
- 1810 Private collection (CF). Patent 901. F/L pistol. William Smith Lisle St. London on lock and breech. 1810 on trigger guard.
- 1816 Private collection (JO'S). Single F/L duelling pistol. Patent 754 on the lock and the frizzen. The serial number on the top edge of the lock behind the fence. The barrel top marked Barber & Boaler Newark; the underside marked Stubs Twisted, with pre-1813 Birmingham proof and view marks (crown over P and crown over V).
- 1868 Julia 3/13/12 lot 2353. Patent 883 & 884 on locks. F/L duelling pistols. WSLSL on locks and breeches. Serial number on the bottoms of the barrels, and the #s 1 and 2. W Smith 883 Patent on the original frizzen. J.W. White Barbadoes on the other, replaced frizzen.
- Unknown # Julia 10/6/09 lot 1223, Julia 10/14/13 lot 1209, and Julia 3/15/15 lot 2462. Patent 1230 & 1231. A pair of William's patent flintlocks with his name removed and that of Joseph Manton crudely added to the lockplates and frizzens, combined with Joseph Manton double barrels.
- 1948 1816 Neal Sale 1995 lot 304. Cased single F/L double barrel officer's pistol. None Holts 12/11/14 lot 423, and Antony Cribb 7/11/23 lot 1, 11/14/23. Patent 1317 on each lock and frizzen. F/L double gun. WSPSL on locks. W. Smith London on rib. On the underside of the barrels, Birmingham proof and view; 22; M; and Twisted Stubbs. NOTE this is the only example so far of a double gun, or a pistol pair, with the same patent number on each lock. See also SN 2135 below.
- 1998 1817 West Street 4/2024. Pair F/L duelling pistols without patent locks. 1998 said to be on locks, barrels, breeches, and TG bows. WSPSL on breeches and lockplate

- 2135 1817 Private collection (CF). Patent 1317 & 1318. Cased F/L double gun. William Smith Princes St. London on locks. W. Smith Princes St. London in script on rib. Frizzen spring extends slightly beyond the front edge of the lock plate border (same on all W.S. thereafter). "St. Andrew's Cross" pattern drain behind breech.
- 2170 1817 Christie's 11/9/00 [Neal Sale 2000] lot 79. Patent 1358 & 1359 on locks and frizzens. F/L double gun.
- 2187 1817 Neal Sale 2000 lot 111, now CF. Patent 1395 & 1396. Cased F/L double gun. William Smith Princes St. London on locks. W. Smith Princes Street London on rib. "1" in gold on trigger guard. Label "From Lisle Street. Leicester Square".
- 2286 1818 Bonhams 3/27/03 lot 173. Percussion single gun, no details.
- 2299 1818 Bonhams 11/26/14 lot 473 and Antony Cribb 3/29-30/22 lot 243. Patent 1564 & 1565 on locks and frizzens. F/L double gun in "associated" case, with trade label. WSPSL on locks and barrels.
- 2358 Maynards (Vancouver) 5/25/13 lot 90. Patent 1670 & 1671. F/L double gun.
- 2392 Private collection (RK). Double gun now converted to copper cap. W. Smith Princes St. London on rib, William Smith Princes St. London on lock. "Smith's Patent" around base of nipples, which suggests prior conversion to imperial cap. 27" barrels. Escutcheon with a crest of an antlered stag running right to left.
- 2524 Holts 3/25/10 lot 505. Copper cap double gun (converted).
- 2583 Historic Arms Gallery. Double gun, relocked (tube) by Charles Moore.
- 2600 1819 Neal Sale 1995 lot 147. Patent 2110 & 2111. Cased F/L double gun.
- 2602 1819 Private collection(CF). Patent 2071 & 2072. F/L double gun. William Smith Princes Strt London on locks. W. Smith Princes Street London in script on rib. Patch box. Sling attachments.
- 2609 1819 Jack the Dog Online Auction. Cased copper cap double gun (converted).
- 2612 1819 Neal Sale 2000 lot 42. Patent 2048. F/L single gun.
- 2615 1819 Flintlock single gun, 20 bore. For sale in Australia in the 2000s. (RK)

- 2649 1819 Neal Sale 1995 lot 26. Cased copper cap single gun (converted).
 2674 Museum of Applied Science (Melbourne). Copper cap double gun (converted). .69 caliber. WSPSL on locks.
- 2680 1820 Holts 12/10/21 lot 522. Copper cap single gun (converted).
 William Smith Princes Strt London on lockplate.
- 2684 1820 Private collection (RK). Cased imperial cap double gun (S & C conversion). Cased with two imperial cap spanners. Princes Street London on rib. SCSPSL on lock plates.
- 2779 1820 Bonhams 5/11/16 lot 213. Copper cap double gun (converted).
- 2784 1820 Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 513. Patent 2383 on lock. "Patent Self Primer" 2383 on frizzen. Cased single saw handled F/L duelling pistol. (The pair lost.)
- 2859 1820 Neal Sale 2000 lot 80. Patent 2517 & 2518. F/L double gun.
- 2882 Unknown private collection. Cased imperial cap double rifle.
- 2928 1821 Private collection (CF). Patent 2625. F/L single gun. William Smith Princes Strt London on lock. W. Smith Princes Street London in script on barrel.
- 3014 1821 Neal Sale 1995 lot 305. Patent 2667 & 2668. Cased pair of F/L duelling pistols.
- 3072 Private collection. Ex Peter Finer Catalogue 1995 #158. Patent 2786. F/L single gun.
- 3090 1822 Neal Sale 1995 lot 148. Patent 2931. Cased F/L single gun.
- 3184 1822 Del Mar 12/7/16 lot 272. Patent 2990 & 2991 on the frizzens, along with "Patent Self Primer" on each. F/L double gun.
- 3231 Private collection (CF). Patch lock single gun. William Smith Princes St. London on lock. W. Smith Princes St. London in script on barrel. The earliest known percussion firearm by William.
- 3333 Private collection (RK). Copper cap double gun. S. Smith and Company on lockplates. S. Smith & Co. in script on rib. Reverse S mark of the Squires family, barrel makers. Escutcheon with the elephant crest of the Butcher family, Cople Bedfordshire and Cork Ireland. The earliest surviving firearm with Samuel's name.

- 3347 1823 Bonhams 3/27/03 lot 256. Patent 3249. Percussion single dueller (converted). "Samuel Smith, Princes Street, London." "Said to be the earliest recorded firearm bearing Samuel's name", but see 3333.
- 3441 Holts 3/22/18 lot 404. Patent 3208. F/L rifle. S. Smith & Co. Princes Street London on both the barrel and the lock. S. Smith 3208 Patent on the frizzen. NOTE: Though the serial number (3441) is later than # 3347, the Patent # 3208 is earlier.
- 3448 Private collection (CF, PMcG). Cased copper cap double gun. S. Smith & Co. Princes St. London on locks and rib. Animal face on lockplates,
- 3456 Private collection (CF). Patent 3214. Cased F/L single gun. S. Smith & Co. Princes St. London on lock, same in script on barrel.
- 3514 The Royal Armouries, Object XII.1620. 3232 on one lock (? with "Patent"?), ? on the other. The serial number on the upper edge of each lock plate, as with #1816 (see above). F/L double gun. S. Smith & Co Princes Street London on each lock.
- 3520 1824 Bonhams 11/24/10 lot 413. Copper cap double gun. Samuel & Charles, cased with a William Smith trade label.
- 3535 Holts July 2023 lot 2064. Copper cap single gun. SCSPSL on barrel, SCSPSL on lock. Odd hammer.
- 3538 Private collection. Cased S&C copper cap double gun.
- 3616 1825 Private collection (PC-AUS). Copper cap rifle. 24" barrel, .50 cal. Note 3616 on butt tang, 3716 on barrel—??. Same as #3716.
- 3633 1825 Del Mar 7/10/19 lot 375. Copper cap officer's pistol.
- 3635 1825 Del Mar 6/28/06 lot 37. Cased copper cap double gun.
- 3647 1825 Holts 11/21/22 lot 597. Cased copper cap rifle. Squared trigger guard. SCSPSL on barrel. SCSPSL on lock.
- 3716 1825 Private collection (PC-AUS). Rifle. 24" barrel, .50 cal. Note 3616 on butt tang, 3716 on barrel—unclear why. Same as #3616.

- 3726 Butterfield & Butterfield SF 12/7/94 lot 3294. Cased pair of imperial cap duelling pistols, including the nipple wrench. Shown and discussed in James Roller's article (1). Why are these pistols serial numbered for 1825 or 1826 but have an ignition system patented in 1830? The photos suggest conversion from copper cap.
- 3730 Private collection (P McG). Imperial cap double gun. Grip safety. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib. See question under #3726.
- 3739 Private collection (CF). Patent 3310. Cased F/L rifle. SCSPSL on lock. SCSPSLSL on barrel. Straight front of trigger guard.
- 3760 Private collection (CF). Cased copper cap double gun S& C. Smith Princes St. London [SCSPSL] on locks. Saml & C. Smith Princes St. Leicester Square London [SCSPSLSL] on rib.
- 3765 Poulin 5/13/23 lot 2247. F/L single rifle re-bored smooth and converted to copper cap. .69 cal. Patent 3352 on lockplate. SCSPSLSL on barrel. Straight front of trigger guard.
3835. Cased imperial cap double gun. (Per PMcG.)
- 3849 Private collection (RK). A copper cap double gun, 14 bore. SCSPSL on lock plates and rib.
- 3915 1827 Private collection (CF). Cased copper cap rifle. SCSPSL on lock. SCSPSLSL on barrel. Straight front of trigger guard.
- 3916 1827 Neal Sale 2000 lot 18. Cased copper cap sporting rifle.
- 3944 1827 Peter Finer Catalogue 1995 #163. Cased copper cap sporting rifle.
- 3958 1827 Andrew Iosson. Copper cap sporting rifle. 25 bore. SCSPSLSL barrel. SCSPSL lock. Reversed S mark.
- 4041 1827 Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 502. Cased pair of copper cap duelling pistols.
- 4065 1828 Bonhams 11/25/15 lot 207. Patent 3398. "Patent Self-Primer 3398" on the frizzen. A flintlock mechanism for a longarm from the S. James Gooding firearm lock collection.
- 4076 Private collection (P McG). Imperial cap single gun. Straight front trigger guard.
- 4108 Private collection (CF). Cased copper cap double gun. SCSPFL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib.

- 4214 Private collection (RK). Short imperial cap double gun (“covert gun”), converted to copper cap. 16 bore. Grip safety. Squires family barrel maker’s mark. Escutcheon with crest and initials of the Earl of Cadogan. SCSPSL on lockplates.
- 4248 Amoskeag 11/23/13 lot 68. Patent 3441. Single F/L overcoat pistol. Shown and discussed in Paul Lederer’s article (2).
NOTE: the serial number listed in the article is incorrect, but the patent number is correct. 3441 on lock plate, trigger guard, and frizzen. DL1050 underside of barrel.
- 4248 Private collection. Patent 3442. Single F/L overcoat pistol. S & C Smith on lock plate. S & C Smith London on barrel. 4248 on barrel, breech, and lock. 3442 on lock and trigger guard. DL1049 underside of barrel.
- 4366 1830 Neal Sale 1995 lot 135. Patent 3455. F/L carbine. Silver mounts hallmarked for 1830.
- 4390 1830 Neal Sale 1995 lot 30. Cased imperial cap single gun.
- 4459 1831 Del Mar 12/12/07 lot 560, now private collection (CF). Cased imperial cap rifle. SCSPSL on lock plate. SCSPSLSL on barrel.
- 4472 Private collection (RK). A copper cap double gun, 14 bore. “Tiger-striped maple” stock. The nipples marked R and L. Damascus barrels.
- 4558 Private collection (RK). A cased copper cap double gun, 14 bore. A ducal crest on the escutcheon and the case lid. Irish registration mark D-C 3495 on the barrels and the butt plate. Saml. & C. Smith on lock plates. SCSPSLSL on rib.
- 4650 1834 West Street Antiques, now private collection (CF). Cased pair of Imperial cap target pistols. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on barrels. Smith’s Patent in breech poincons. 4650 on trigger guards.
See Neal & Back’s Trade Card book plate 476.
- 4677 1834 West Street Antiques. Double rifle, imperial cap converted to copper cap. Smith’s Patent around each nipple. SCSPSLSL on rib. Samuel & C Smith on locks. 18 bore, 28” barrels.
- 4693 1834 Bonhams 5/10/17 lot 280. Copper cap O/U double barrel pistol.

- 4708 1834 Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 499. Pair of saw-handled imp. target pistols.
 4733 Private collection(CF). Cased imperial cap rifle. SCSPSL on lock.
 SCSPSLSL on barrel.
- 4789 Holts 3/19/19 lot 531. Double barrel gun, imperial cap hammers and
 copper cap nipples.
- 4871 1837 Neal Sale 1995 lot 201. Cased pair of saw-handled imperial cap target
 pistols. "Smith's Patent" in breech poincons. SCSPSLSL on barrels.
4873. Christies 3/22/96 lot 256 (per PMcG). Cased double gun, 15 bore.
 4903 Holts 12/13/07 lot 684. Cased imperial cap double rifle. "Patent"
 medial to nipples.
- 4938 Private collection (CF). Cased copper cap double gun. SCSPSL on
 locks. SCSPSLSL on rib.
- 4985 Holts 6/25/09 lot 503, now private collection (RK). Copper cap double
 gun, 14 bore. SCSPSLSL on lock plates and rib.
- 4987 Private collection (PC). Imperial cap double gun, converted to copper
 cap. 15 bore. 30" barrels. Grip safety.
5016. Bonhams 11/22/22 lot 165. Imperial cap rifle.
- 5070 Del Mar 6/26/25 lot 295 (ex-PC). Imperial cap double gun. SCSPSL on
 locks. SMITH'S PATENT in breech poincon. Nipples and hammer
 noses marked R and L. 13 bore, 30" 5-wire twist Damascus barrels.
 Vented ramrod with reversible worm (see also #5219).
- 5098 Carol Watson's Orange Coast Auctions 1/25/14 lot 167. Imperial cap
 double gun.
- 5106 Private collection (P McG). Oak-cased imperial cap rifle. Patch box.
 5119 RIA 12/4/20 lot 341, and 6/22/22 lot 239. Imperial cap double rifle,
 converted to copper cap. SCSPSLSL on rib, SCSPSL locks. SMITH'S
 PATENT breeches.
- 5128 Bonhams 5/23/18 lot 402. IC double gun. Cased with #5137.
- 5137 Bonhams 5/23/18 lot 402. Imperial cap sporting rifle. Cased with
 #5128.
- 5164 Private collection (CF). Cased copper cap rifle. SCSPSL on lock.
 SCSPSLSL on barrel.

- 5175 1841 Neal Sale 2001 lot 169; Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 500. Cased pair of imperial cap target pistols. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on barrels. Slight saw handle. Two-tiered case with nipple wrench and imperial caps.
- 5218 Private collection (P McG). Ex David Back. Imperial cap double gun converted to copper cap.
- 5219 Del Mar 6/26/25 (ex-PC). Imperial cap double gun. 16 bore. SCSPSL on locks. Smith's Patent in breech poincon. Hammer noses and nipples marked R and L. Vented ramrod with reversible worm (see also #5070).
- 5224 Mick's Guns. Cased imperial cap double gun.
- 5227 Private collection. Imperial cap double rifle. Saml & C. Smith Princes St. London on back action lock. "Smith's Patent" in breech poincon
- 5245 The Royal Armouries, Object XII.1612. Imperial cap double gun.
- 5277 Private collection (RK). Cased imperial cap double rifle. 19 bore. SCSPSL on lock plates (back action locks). Saml. & C. Smith on rib. Original owner William Bradley Wainman, Carr Head, Yorkshire.
- 5295 1843 Neal Sale 2001 lot 87. Patent 3471 & 3472. Flintlock double gun, only the locks by the Smiths.
- 5344 Private collection (CF). Imperial cap double gun. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib. Smith's Patent in breech poincon.
- 5369 West Street Antiques. Copper cap park rifle; serial # under the barrel.
- 5396 1844 Del Mar 12/10/08 lot 363, now in a private collection (RK). Copper cap double gun, 14 bore. Reverse S barrel maker's mark of the Squires family. SCSPSL on lock plates. Rib markings worn.
- 5457 1845 Neal Sale 2001 lot 23, then Poulin 5/13/23 lot 2246; FB (AU). Cased imperial cap double gun. 16 bore. SCSPSLSL rib, SCSPSL lock. Grip safety. Case includes Smith nipple wrench, extra nipples and noses, many caps. Vented ramrod.

- 5492 Blades & Barrels 9/2021 (HAS, Australia). From the Armory of Digbijai Singh, Maharajah Bahadur; now private collection, Australia. Cased imperial cap double rifle. 27" barrels, 18 bore. Collection # 9; owner's name on the rib. "Smith's Patent" on breech poincon.
- 5506 1846 Holts 12/13/07 lot 686. Cased imperial cap double gun. Silver mounts hallmarked for 1846.
5510. 1846 RIA May 2025 lot 3307. Cased silver-mounted imperial cap double rifle, hexadecagonal barrels. Silver hallmarked for 1846. Hammer nose key, nipple key.
- 5520 1846 Holts 12/13/07 lot 685, now private collection (CF). Cased imperial cap rifle. Silver mounts hallmarked for 1846. SCSPSL on lock. SCSPSLSL on barrel. "Smith's Patent" on breech poincon.
- 5524 1846 Neal Sale 2000 lot 106. "Patent" 3486. Cased F/L single gun. SCSPSL on lockplate.
- 5531 1846 Private collection (PC-AUS). Cased copper cap double rifle, .38 cal. Gold scroll inlay on muzzles and breech, gold-washed locks and hammers. Silver mounts hallmarked for 1846. SCSPSL on rib.
- 5533 1846 Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 493. Cased imperial cap rifle, silver mounts hallmarked for 1846.
- 5540 1846 Private collection (PC, to PMcG). Patent 3487 & 3488. F/L double gun. SCSPSL on locks. 5540 under barrels and on barrel channel. The last known S&C flintlock firearm.
- 5558 Cribb 4/23/25. Cased imperial cap double rifle. SCSPSLSL. Nipple key.
- 5589 Holts 3/20/23 lot 594. Cased imperial cap double rifle. SCSPSLSL rib. SCSPSL locks. "Smith's Patent" on breech poincons.
- 5624 Private collection (CF). Imperial cap double gun converted to copper cap. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib. Poincons.
- 5638 Private collection (CF). Cased imperial cap double gun. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib. "Smith's Patent" on breech poincons.
- 5698 1848 Neal Sale 2000 lot 15. Cased imperial cap single gun.
- ? 1849 Christies London 1977 (per RK). Pair of imperial cap target pistols, silver mounts hallmarked for 1849. Half-stocked in walnut.

- 5806 Southams Auctions 3/10/22 lot 280; Cribb 4/25. Copper cap double gun. SCSPSL on locks, SCSPSLSL on rib. 27 ½" barrels.
- 5818 Private collection. Cased imperial cap double gun.
- 5880 1851 Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 492. Imperial cap double gun, cased with #5881 and #6139. "Smith's Patent" around base of nipples. Converted post-auction to copper cap by Tim Owen, Cable Farm.
- 5881 1851 Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 492. Imperial cap double gun, cased with #5880 and #6139. "Smith's Patent" around base of nipples. Converted post-auction to copper cap by Tim Owen, Cable Farm.
- 5937 Private collection (CF). Imperial cap double gun. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib. "Smith's Patent" on breech poincons.
- 5942 Private collection (Fred B). Cased imperial cap double rifle.
- 6049 Private collection (RK). 6049 and 6050 stamped inside an oak case for a pair of double guns (the guns missing). S&C trade label in the case.
- 6050
- 6098 Blades & Barrels 9/2021 (HAS, Australia). From the Armory of Digbijai Singh, Maharajah Bahadur; now private collection, Australia. Cased imperial cap rifle. 29" barrel, 15 bore. Collection # 28; owner's name on the barrel.
- 6133 1854 Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 491. Cased imperial cap double gun.
- 6139 1854 Bonhams 11/27/19 lot 492. Imperial cap double gun, cased with #5880 and #5881. "Smith's Patent" around base of nipples. Converted post-auction to copper cap by Tim Owen, Cable Farm.
- 6149 1854 RIA 12/4/20 lot 3353. Cased imperial cap double gun, converted to copper cap. SCSPSLSL rib, SCSPSL locks, Smith's Patent on breeches.
- 6150 1854 Private collection (EF 3/21). Cased imperial cap double gun. SCSPSLSL rib, SCSPSL locks, Smith's Patent in breech poincon.
6188. Noted by PMcG 6/25. 14 bore double rifle.
- 6198 1855 Australian Arms Auctions 4/23/18 lot 333 (Fred B). Imperial cap double rifle. 6198 and 23 underside of barrels. Reversed S barrel maker's mark of the Squires family. SCSPSL locks. Hexadecagonal barrels.

- 6228 1855 Private collection (MMS) Pair of saw-handled imperial cap target pistols. Serial # under each barrel and on each trigger guard strap. Bedford Metropolitan Museum catalogue #39. Destroyed in the Palisades fire January 2025.
- 6240 1855 Bonhams 11/2010 lot 415, now Private Collection (a friend of CS). Cased imperial cap double gun. Vented ramrod, normal capped worm. Collection of David Back.
- 6241 1855 Holts 6/23/11 lot 508. Cased imperial cap double rifle.
- 6286 Private collection (CF). Cased imperial cap rifle. SCSPSL on lock. SCSPSLSL on barrel. Much case hardening on lockplate.
- 6325 Private Collection (Fred B). Cased copper cap double gun. 12 bore. HS under the barrel, mark of barrel maker Henry Squires.
- 6330 Kedlestone Hall, UK National Trust. Pair of copper cap double guns.
- 6331 Lockplates SCSPSL. Ribs SCSPSLSL. Underside of barrels London proof and view, serial number, H.S, and 13.
- 6406 Private collection (CF). Cased imperial cap double rifle. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib. "Smith's Patent" on breech poincons.
- 6466 Private collection (CF). Cased imperial cap double gun. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib. "Smith's Patent" on breech poincons.
- 6502 Private collection. (P McG). Pinfire double rifle.
- 6506 Royal Armouries. Pinfire double gun, 12 bore.
- 6511 Private collection. Copper cap double rifle. Hexadecagonal barrels. 5 folding leaf sights. SCSPSL on locks. SCSPSLSL on rib. On underside of barrels: London proof and view, 18, H.S, and 6511. 6511 on short butt tang. Decorated patch box. (Via FB.)
- 6520 Private collection (P McG). "Percussion" 5 bore live pigeon gun.
- 6583 Vintage Gun Journal 5/25. Pinfire DBL gun, SCSPSLSL barrels. Back action locks with SCSPSL upside down on each.
6595. Christies 12/16/02 lot 89 (per PMcG). Single CC gun. Barrel Henry Squires.
- 6607 1863 Bonhams 5/11/16 lot 212. Pinfire double gun, by the second generation Samuel & Charles (William's grandsons). 12 bore.

6660 Private collection (RK). 12 bore centerfire double gun. Samuel & Charles the grandsons. Princes Street address. Though dated by “the list” to 1865, it’s said to have E.C. Hodges’ GB patent #251, January 31, 1871. Abridgement calls it a barrel-locking device. RK calls it “”patent underlever action” and also a cartridge extractor.

1. James P. Roller, “Smith’s Patent Imperial Cap & Nipple, 1830”. “Arms Collecting”, volume 26 #4 (November 1988), pages 126-127.
2. Paul S. Lederer, “William Smith’s Patent Flintlock”. “Arms Collecting”, volume 26 #2 (May 1988), pages 69-71.
3. Matthew Schneiderman, “William, Samuel, and Charles Smith 19th Century London Gunmakers”. Arms Heritage Magazine Volume 10 #2 (April 2020), pages 17-25.

An excerpt copied from an article by “Expertus” on sporting guns published in ‘The Sporting Magazine’ of December 15th, 1817 :101-110. “There are very few that fire so more instantaneously than those made by Mr. SMITH, of Lisle -street, Leicester-fields”.

THE FATE OF SAMUEL SMITH III (from RK):

“The Illustrated London News” Page 370, April 17, 1875. “At the Surrey Sessions, Samuel Smith, a gun-maker aged 35, has been found guilty of obtaining money by false pretenses from Mr. Malcolm Martin of Brighton, and sentenced to twelve months hard labour. There were several other charges against him, and it appears that he had been in the habit of writing begging letters containing false representations to his late father’s customers”. The Charity Organization Society prosecuted.”

Note this organization was founded in London in 1869 by social reformers with the twin objectives of helping the poor and needy and at the same time rooting out scroungers amongst them. In the same years a similar organization operated in the USA as well.

FROM RK, MAY 26, 2021.

I came across the November 1999 Arms and Armour catalogue of A.P. Blades. In the catalogue under lot 25 are a pair of flintlock duelling pistols by William Smith trading from his early Tottenham Court Road address:

“A good and unusual cased pair of F/L.Officers/Duelling pistols by W. Smith of Tottenham Court Road,London ... and with gold poincons on the standing breech stamped W. Smith London. Fully stocked in walnut, with finely chequered butts, silver wedge surrounds, and silver bands at muzzle.Steel furniture of finely engraved trigger guards with spurs, pineapple finials and very long ramrod pipes with spring loaded catches, retaining steel rammers/cleaning rods//bayonets. When theses rods are released they can be locked in, in reverse order and act as bayonets. Stepped and bolted locks with sunbursts and acanthus engraving, rear sliding safeties, the lock plates signed W. Smith. Engraved swan necked cocks, gold touch holes, rainproof pans, roller frizens and set triggers. 16” overall in very crisp condition and working order. Contained in their original blue velvet lined mahogany case with flush fitting brass carrying handle. Case also contains maroon leather covered two way flask, two piece cleaning rod, various jags, etc; turnscrew with pricker and some original balls. UK Pounds 3900 US Dollars 6500.”

FROM RK, AUGUST 3, 2022.

THE FIELD, THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN’S NEWSPAPER January 23rd, 1860, page 57
SAMUEL and CHARLES SMITH, GUNMAKERS, Princes --street, Leicester Square,W. —
This old-- established business (the management of which since the decease of Mr Charles Smith, has been temporarily superintended by his executors) will for the future be carried on by the same style or firm of Samuel and Charles Smith, under the direction of Jemima Smith, the widow of the late Samuel Smith, and her two sons, Samuel and Charles Smith, and with the same staff which for many years has successfully conducted the same.—Prince’s--street,W.,Jan.2

FROM RK, DECEMBER 2022.

Regarding other makers using the Imperial cap. I have here a best muzzle loading double 2 groove big game rifle circa 1850 by the top Irish makers Trulock & Son of Dublin. This with the nipples and hammer facings made to take the Smith Imperial cap. Also a best double 15 bore muzzle loading shotgun by Samuel Nock, who was also another great London maker. Now with common percussion nipples but with removable hammer facings to take the Imperial cap.

FROM RK, DECEMBER 2022.

Next from “The Field” magazine of October 12th, 1888. This from an article on short barrels by the writer and later author under his pen name of “20,00 Shots”. He mentions therein Squires of Whitechapel barrel maker to the gun trade, and who supplied his barrels to the Smith business, as this we know from his reversed S initial. Squires was apprenticed to William Fullerd and to Charles Riley, both of Holborn. Doubtless you have come across W F the initials of William Fullerd on the barrels of many London made best guns of the day, including James Purdey in his work records. William Fullerd actually forged his barrels in London and was the only one to do so. Obviously the damascus twist barrels used by the London trade including Samuel & Charles were best quality tubes from the Birmingham area.

THE REVERSED S MARK:



Smith's Patent in a platinum-bordered breech poinçon, signifying imperial cap manufacture.



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