

R. L. Wilson

HISTORICAL CONSULTANT FOR COLT'S PATENT FIRE ARMS COMPANY

27 LAKEWOOD CIRCLE NORTH • MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT 06040 U.S.A. • TEL. 203 646-1648

SAMUEL COLT PRESENTS (1961)

ARMS COLLECTION OF COLONEL COLT (1963)

ARMY REVOLVERS & GATLING GUNS (1964)

L. D. NIMSCHE, FIREARMS ENGRAVER (1965)

BAT MASTERSON, LAWMAN OF THE WEST (1966)

THE EVOLUTION OF THE COLT (1967)

SCRIMSHAW: THE ART OF THE WHALEMAN (1968)

30 January 1969

Dr. Robert G. Cox
804 Sycamore
Palestine, TEXAS 75801

Dear Dr. Cox:

Thanks for your letters, and for the payments covering the engraved pistol and the various books. All have been shipped to you (two packages) excepting RAMPANT COLT; this should reach you in about ten days due to printing and binding delays. Also enclosed in the packages are the Masterson and other items. The SCRIMSHAW book is not due for publication until later this year, perhaps in the fall.

I was glad to learn of your specialization in an era and an area rather unappreciated by many Colt collectors. The New Lines and the longarms are two subjects gradually gaining in popularity, and soon to "come into their own". It's best to get in on the ground floor, so to speak, and you are apparently doing this. I hope one of these days to have the opportunity of studying your collection, and perhaps you will have the chance to visit in Hartford, where the State Library's Colt Collection has about 20 very fine and unusual New Line and House-Police pistols of great interest.

Unfortunately I do not know the answers to several of your questions. From my experience with the original shipping ledgers, 1890 was the cutoff production date; deliveries sporadically took place since then, and as late as into the early 1900's. Surprisingly enough the percussion models were sold as late as c. 1890!

Factory engraved specimens of any New Line or House-Police pistols are scarce, excepting the 22 Open Tops. I have not made careful records of these guns, but have seen engraving on all models, excepting perhaps the Cop & Thug (with ejector tube). The engraving has been outside work (Nimschke type generally) on the Cloverleaf's, and smaller caliber New Lines; Gustave Young work on all models except Cop & Thug; and the classic style as on the pistol you have just purchased, #25634. There were no advertised standard patterns on any of these guns; although the engravers themselves certainly had standard patterns, and there was little deviation, except due to variations in skill, changes in personnel, or custom orders calling for lavish coverage, or other special treatment.

R. L. Wilson

[2]

Casings are also rarities; and most sales were made in cardboard cartons, or perhaps wrapped in paper, or right off the shelf. In England casings were more in demand, perhaps due to their damp weather, so that the British style casings are the most common. The same is true with Single Action Colts, American casings for which are a great rarity. The other variations you mention are unknown to me, though I do know of two New Lines with 10" barrels. One of these is #20067, in 32 caliber, with factory letter. The other is an experimental, with brass frame, displayed in the Connecticut State Library. The 10" production total was probably about 10 or 20; strictly a great rarity; and fitted for shoulder stock of the skeleton type.

Wilson told me
this at the reg.
Sutherland
Kearns

Quite a few of the New Line and House-Police pistols in the State Library's Colt collection have no serial number, or are in some other ways unusual. Most are 22 Open Tops. Mrs. Maver perhaps can send a listing to you, though this would require some special research and study on her part.

I will check the Hartford papers in and around the presentation date on your pistol; and if something turns up a photocopy shall be sent on to you gratis. My fingers are crossed. A set of diaries* from c. 1875-1915, in my possession, includes notes daily through 1893; a check revealed nothing pertinent.

The RIFLEMAN purchased an article on gun engraving, c. 1870-c. 1915, in which I mentioned the frequency of certain types of Colt arms of the period as being engraved. You will be surprised at the relative scarcity of such pieces. The only commonly engraved Colt arms of the period were the shotguns, the #1 and #2 deringers, and the Open Top 22 pistols.

You're probably getting more than you want in advice, but I certainly hope that originality and condition are important considerations in any purchase - with perhaps the only exceptions being tremendous rarities, and that being an exception only in condition.

My notes show the New Lines to have been introduced c. 1873; and assume I had established that date by an examination of Colt factory shipping records. I could be wrong, however.

I have a few duplicates in paper material from the 1873-1890 period, and some from earlier and later periods. For the next several days I'll be out of town, but on returning, a list of available items will be sent for your consideration. This listing will perhaps arrive along with THE RAMPANT COLT.

Thanks again for your enquiries, and if I can help further please let me know. When I find something new that should interest you, I'll advise immediately.

Sincerely,

RL Wilson
RL Wilson

*Kept by a Colt employee.

DRS. HUNTER, KAY, COX, WALKUP & JORDAN

804 S. SYCAMORE

PALESTINE, TEXAS

1-27-69

Mr R.L. Wilson
 27 Lakewood North
 Manchester, Conn. 06040

Dear Mr Wilson,

Little did I know yesterday in ordering your books & asking about New Lines etc that I would get a reply so soon.

I have been re-reading your letter several times today & want very much the Colt House pistol Ser # 25634.

In starting to specialize in the New Line I tried to find a model or models which was covered as little as possible in Coltiana but which would be plentiful enough & have enough variations to be interesting. Of prime concern was that I was a new collector with a limited budget & a large interest & curiosity. The New Lines & House & Police New Lines have filled the bill & most specimens have been of very modest cost - even though

DRS. HUNTER, KAY, COX, WALKUP & JORDAN

804 S. SYCAMORE

PALESTINE, TEXAS

2.

Purchase from relieve dealer &
in excellent to mint condition.
Now in finding the border to
look specimens slightly higher as
they should be.

Your price, I know is very
fair but I would like for you
to add two things so that I
can stretch an already, expanded
gun collector's budget a little farther.

1) Would you do a little more
research on The Wm J. Collins
for me to see wh, the gun was
presented to him. If you could
check The Hartford newspapers
for June 18, 1893 to see if any
mention was given him. It might
have been presented for some heroic
act (as the SAA shown presented in
last yrs "Am. Rifleman" was given), or
at retirement etc. This might
have been a news item & mentioned
in the papers. It might show up

DRS. HUNTER, KAY, COX, WALKUP & JORDAN

804 S. SYCAMORE

PALESTINE, TEXAS

3.

on June 19th or June 20th, 1893.
 Since you are at Hartford
 Could you do this.

2) How about throwing in your
 other books (autographed) that
 I don't have & did not order
 yesterday in the 37.95 book order.

The ones I do not have are:

- a) Army Revolvers & Fighting guns
- b) Bot Mackinnon Lawmen of the West
- c) The Evolution of the Colt
- d) Scrimshaw the art of the
Wholesaler

I hope this does not seem
 too much to you. Enclosed is
 a check for 450⁰⁰ to cover all if you
 will. Also enclosed is a copy of
 my TFL.

I hope we have a deal or I
 have not seen an engraved Haver
 Pistre before. Have you seen others? Have
 you seen engraved New-Line Police Models?

DRS. HUNTER, KAY, COX, WALKUP & JORDAN

804 S. SYCAMORE

PALESTINE, TEXAS

4.

Have you seen many engraved
New Line Revolvers in 32, 38 & 41 cal.?

Have you seen many factory casings
in New Line? Have or Police Pistols?

Have you seen any 41 caliber New
Line Revolvers (Not the Home or Police Model)
that have the long frame & eye
(as does the 38 cal) to accept the
41 CF long coat Cartridge?

Have you seen any long or short
bbl lengths in the 41 caliber New Line?

In the factory, letter you sent
showing delivery of this Home pistols
in 1893. I thought they finished
making them in 1890. Were some
few assembled or just shipped
from stock after 1890. I assume
from catalogs etc that the
Police & Home pistols were introduced
in 1876. Do you know if this is

TELEPHONE 729-2155

R. H. HUNTER, M. D.

R. H. KAY, M. D.

R. G. COX, M. D.

T. E. WALKUP, M. D.

C. R. JORDAN, M. D.

DRS. HUNTER, KAY, COX, WALKUP & JORDAN

804 S. SYCAMORE

PALESTINE, TEXAS

5.

the correct date?

There are some of the guns
I'm still looking for + questions
I have regarding them.

Thank you for your interesting
letter + hope you will favor
a new-comer in the Coet collecting
field.

Yours truly
Robert G. Cox



Colt Industries
Colt's Inc Firearms Division

150 Huyshope Avenue
Hartford, Conn., U.S.A. 06102
Tel. 203/527-4101

January 24th, 1969

Mr. Larry Wilson
27 Lakewood Circle No.
Manchester, Conn.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Reference is made to your recent inquiry requesting historical information on Colt New House pistol serial # 25634.

Upon researching our records, we located the information listed below which describes this arm as originally shipped from the Colt factory in 1893.

Caliber	38
Barrel length	Not listed
Finish	Nickel
Type of stocks	Pearl
Factory engraved	Yes
Sold and shipped to	Henry C. Hallaver
Address	Colt factory
Date of shipment	June 14, 1893
Number of same type guns in shipment	1

Two other Hallavers' were employed at Colts in 1893. We understand this pistol is inscribed on the back strap and this inscription would be covered by the engraving mentioned above.

We trust the information supplied above will be of interest.

Yours very truly,

R.H. Wagner

R.H. Wagner
Spare Parts Supervisor

RHW/jk

February 5, 1969

Mr. R. L. Wilson
27 Lakewood Circle North
Manchester, Connecticut 06040

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I have received the books and am enjoying them immensely. I am looking forward to the list of duplicates which you might have in paper material pertaining to Colts in the 1873 to 1890 era. Colt House Pistol No. 25634 also arrived in good order and I am quite pleased with it. Engraving on it is similar to that on two .30 caliber New Lines that I have.

I appreciate your information regarding the presence of numerous New Lines in the State Library Colt Collection and also the information about the 10-inch barrel .32 caliber New Line. I will be traveling to Winconsin this summer and hope that I can arrange to see Mr. Sutherland's collection in Kansas City and also Mr. Phillip's collection in Bartlesville on my way up. At a later date I hope to see the collections there in Hartford, and perhaps by then will have most of the information I need regarding the New Line models.

I enjoyed visiting with you in Las Vegas and hope that I can see you again and talk "Colts" with you. Should you be in this part of the country, please let me know. My collection is small, but I feel that I have some unusual guns in the spur trigger models as well as a good overall coverage on the variations in these models.

Very truly yours,

Robert G. Cox, M. D.

RGC/jm