

Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Past Historians

Arthur Ulrich 1903-1944
Harold Hart 1942-1945

Charles Coles 1950-1965
Ron Wagner 1957-1972
Martin Huber 1972-1993

Colt, by the means of this letter, is proud to authenticate the manufacture of the Colt firearm with the following serial number:

COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY REVOLVER

<i>Serial Number:</i>	38877
<i>Caliber:</i>	.45 Boxer
<i>Barrel Length:</i>	Not Listed
<i>Finish:</i>	Blue
<i>Type of Stocks:</i>	Not Listed
<i>Special Notation:</i>	"Short Barrel"
<i>Shipped To:</i>	Colt's Patent Fire-Arms Mfg. Company
	London Agency
<i>Address:</i>	London England
<i>Date of Shipment:</i>	December 31, 1877
<i>Number of Same Type</i>	
<i>Guns in Shipment:</i>	168

We trust you will find the historical information, retrieved from the original Colt shipping records, to be of interest.

Sincerely,

Kathleen J. Hox
 Kathleen J. Hox
 Historian

©2002 Colt's Manufacturing Co., Inc

Office of the Historian, Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc. P.O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06144



Colt Peacemaker Encyclopedia

.32 S. & W.	97
.476 Eley	163
.44 S. & W.	168
.22 Rimfire	200
.44 Russian	357
.32 Colt	420
.44 S. & W. Special ...	507
.357 Magnum	525
.450 Boxer	818
.38 Colt (after 1922) ..	1,365
.455 Eley	1,563
.38 Colt (to 1914)	1,641
.44 Rimfire	1,863
.450 Eley	2,786
.41	19,676
.32-20	43,264
.38-40	50,520
.44-40	71,391
.45	158,885

Production by Year

See PRODUCTION, ANNUAL

Production of First 20,000

In the early years of production of the Peacemaker revolver the largest purchaser was the United States Government. The first 20,000 Peacemakers manufactured from 1873 to 1875 approximately 75% or 15,000 revolvers were the Cavalry Model while 25% or 5,000 revolvers were the Civilian Model.

Production, Total

See PRODUCTION, ANNUAL; PRODUCTION BY CALIBER and QUANTITIES

Promotional Literature

See BROADSIDE, BRITISH; BROADSIDE, COLT; BROCHURES; BIBLIOGRAPHY and KITTREDGE AND COMPANY

Proof Firing

The Cavalry Model revolver and the Artillery Model revolver will have a "P" on the barrel and cylinder. This "P" is called a proofmark and denotes that the barrel and cylinder were subject to proof firing to insure that these parts would withstand the pressure of firing in combat.

Proofmark

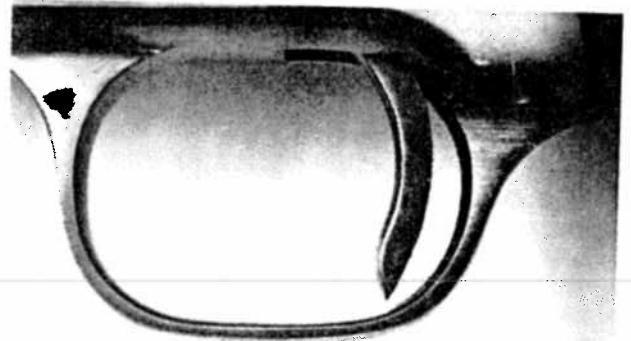
In 1902 Colt introduced their proofmark, a "V P" inside a triangle declaring that the gun was "viewed and proved". This proofmark is on the left-forward of the bow of the triggerguard. Originally not all Peacemakers have this proofmark but by 1904 all Peacemakers will be observed with it. Very infrequently this "proofmark" will be observed on the left-rear of the bow of the triggerguard which can be considered an error. (See ERRORS)



Proofmark left-rear side of triggerguard bow. Proofmarks in this position are rare



Proofmark left-forward side of triggerguard bow with Colt inspector "4"



Proofmark left-forward side of triggerguard bow without Colt inspector number on Postwar-prewar Model no. 357,741

Proofmark in Cylinder Flute, British

The British proofhouse fired all imported firearms, and if they passed this test they were stamped with the British proof marks. Each barrel was stamped on the underside and each chamber of the cylinder were stamped with the two British proofmarks and these two marked alternated between cylinder chambers. Sometimes the proofmark was stamped in the cylinder flute but more often these proofmarks were stamped behind each flute of the cylinder. Approximately 20%, or about 1,050 of these revolvers, have these British proofmarks in the cylinder flute and about 80%, or 4,275 have the proofmark behind the cylinder flute.

became standard on all Bisley revolvers, both the Target Model and the Standard Model, about the same time they became standard on the Peacemaker, early 1896.

Few Peacemaker revolvers with British provenance, are known with the plain eagleless grips which were standard on all Peacemaker revolvers by 1896. But sales to England at this time were almost all of the Bisley Target Model type for competition shooting. The plain one-piece walnut grips could be obtained on special order and Peacemakers have been observed with these special order grips as late as 1900 on revolvers sold in the United States.

Barrel Length

The shipment of 100 Peacemakers to von Oppen on January 5, 1874 involved a shipment of revolvers with 7-1/2 inch barrels. The shipment of fifty revolvers on March 30, 1874, involved 5-1/2 inch barrel revolvers. With the shipment of the 7-1/2 inch barrel revolvers von Oppen probably saw the need for stocking revolvers with 5-1/2 inch barrels and when Colt finished the U. S. Cavalry contract for 8,000 revolvers on March 14 they probably put into production the request from von Oppen for revolvers with 5-1/2 inch barrels. The demand for the shorter barrel revolver was much greater as from 1874 to 1883, 64% of the revolvers sold in the London Agency had a 5-1/2 inch barrel compared to 36% for revolvers with a 7-1/2 inch barrel. With the introduction of pistol matches at Wimbledon in 1885 and the restriction of shooting a pistol with a barrel no longer than 7-1/2 inches popularized this barrel length. From 1883 to 1892, 22% of the pistols sold at the London Agency had a 5-1/2 inch barrel compared to 78% for revolvers with a 7-1/2 inch barrel. This high of an increase was undoubtedly influenced by the introduction of the Flattop Model with its 7-1/2 inch barrel. The 4-3/4 inch length was evidently not even ordered by von Oppen as he probably had no call for them. The first revolver observed with this length was in 1905 in a .32-20 caliber. For an interesting sidelight on this length see BARREL STAMPING.

Finish

The factory letter on Peacemaker No. 38,379 gives the finish as "blue." This shipment of 168 revolvers shipped to "Colt's Patent Firearms London Agency, London, England December 31, 1877" were all .450 Boxer revolvers. As revolver No. 38,379 is stamped on the backstrap "F. T. Baker 88 Fleet Street, London" and the finish is nickel this revolver was undoubtedly refinished after the backstrap was stamped. The stamping would have marred the finish and the revolver was nicked. The backstrap could have been removed from the gun and after stamping it could have been reblued, but the preference for nickel was probably stated by the customer.

A Colt advertisement dated "October 1st, 1896." states: "All Genuine English Finished Arms are London proved." Perhaps the nickel finish was called English Finish.

More early revolvers appear to be of a nickel finish rather than with the blue finish. Later revolvers, after the introduction of the Peacemaker Flattop Model revolver, are with blue finish. Nickel finish on this model revolver is unknown with British provenance. It is obvious that a shooter would not want nickel finish for target shooting; revolvers are even known with a matte finish or knurling on the topstrap to help reduce reflection or glare.

British customers appear to have favored the full-blue finish over the blue finish with casehardened frame and loading gate as used on the Cavalry Model revolver; this blue finish has been called the "London blue" or British blue" finish and is described as having more luster or deeper highlights.

Sights

The front and rear sights on the standard-frame Peacemaker revolvers are the same as those on the Hartford revolvers, that is the front sight is a small iron blade and the rear sight is a "V" notch in the rear of the topstrap groove, however most front sights on the Peacemakers sent to Great Britain are larger than those on the Standard-frame Model for

Colt Peacemaker Encyclopedia

the year 1873 would be only the Civilian Model revolver.

Using Mr. Parsons' figures, the average annual production of the Peacemaker for the first sixty-eight years this gun was produced was 5,262 guns, with a mean annual average of 4,000.

1873	.....	200
1873	.....	3,250 (Cochran)
1873	.....	3,460 to 4,000 (Graham)
1874	.....	14,800
1875	.....	7,000
1876	.....	11,000
1877	.....	8,000 *
1878	.....	8,000
1879	.....	4,000
1880	.....	9,000
1881	.....	11,000
1882	.....	12,000
1883	.....	17,000
1884	.....	12,000
1885	.....	3,000
1886	.....	2,000
1887	.....	6,000
1888	.....	3,000
1889	.....	2,000
1890	.....	6,000
1891	.....	8,000
1892	.....	5,000
1893	.....	5,000
1894	.....	5,000
1895	.....	4,000
1896	.....	5,000
1897	.....	7,000
1898	.....	7,000
1899	.....	10,000
1900	.....	11,000
1901	.....	17,000
1902	.....	18,000
1903	.....	12,000
1904	.....	11,000
1905	.....	12,000
1906	.....	15,000
1907	.....	16,000
1908	.....	4,000
1909	.....	4,000
1910	.....	4,000
1911	.....	5,000
1912	.....	4,000
1913	.....	3,000
1914	.....	1,500
1915	.....	2,500
1916	.....	3,000
1917	.....	2,000
1918	.....	200
1919	.....	800

1920	.....	3,000
1921	.....	2,000
1922	.....	1,500
1923	.....	1,900
1924	.....	900
1925	.....	900
1926	.....	1,600
1927	.....	1,500
1928	.....	1,100
1929	.....	1,400
1930	.....	300
1931	.....	400
1932	.....	300
1933	.....	200
1934	.....	200
1935	.....	100
1936	.....	100
1937	.....	700
1938	.....	500
1939	.....	400
1940	.....	859

(See also QUANTITIES and SERIAL NUMBER BY THE END OF EACH YEAR)

Production by Caliber

The following is a list of the number of Peacemakers known to have been manufactured in each of the calibers this gun is known to have been made between 1873 and 1940. This list covers all models/variations of the Peacemaker. Most if not all of the following quantities are from John E. Parsons' THE PEACEMAKER AND ITS RIVALS: An Account of the Single Action Colt (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1950). Mr. Parsons compiled his list of calibers or quantities from a careful examination of Colt shipping records, which, however, are not complete. Any modifications to Mr. Parsons' list of calibers or quantities contained herein are based on extra information compiled by this author. These figures are the total production of the four basic models: Bisley Model, Bisley Target Model, Peacemaker and Peacemaker Flattop Model.

Caliber	Number Made
.32 New Police	..... 1
.32 Rimfire	..... 1
.30 Carbine	..... 2
.380 Eley	..... 4
.45 Smoothbore	..... 6
.44 Smoothbore	..... 16
.38 S. & W. Special	..... 27
.32-44	..... 42
.45 Automatic	..... 44
.44 German	..... 59
.38 S. & W.	..... 63
.38-44	..... 66
.38 Colt Special	..... 89

BRIAN LEBEL'S
13TH ANNUAL

CATALOG

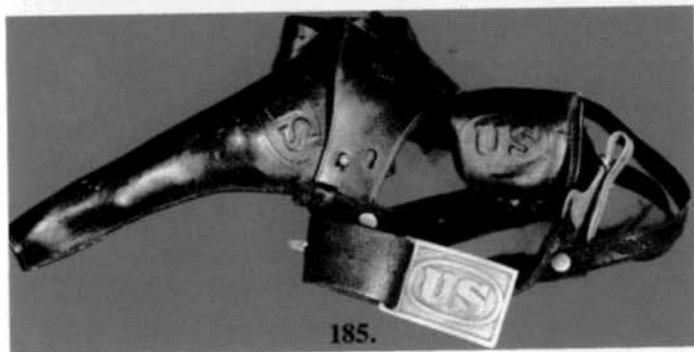
50935-14



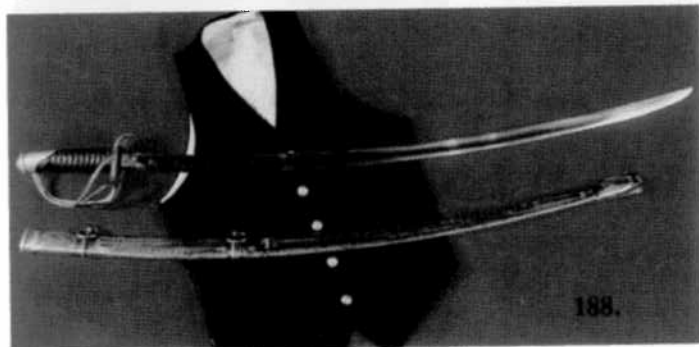
Cody Old West

SHOW & AUCTION

2002



10TH CAVALRY



183. Colt 5 1/2" S. A. A. **REVOLVER** in scarce .450 Boxer. All correct with Pall Mall address and hole for lanyard. This 70% overall gun comes with a rare marked double loop holster by "Riley Maker - Calgary NWT" (est. \$6500-7500)

184. 2 Gun RIGS: (1) Decorative & unusual studded 4" wide cartridge belt & holster **RIG** - holster fits 7 1/2" Colt SA or larger revolver; (2) 1910 Colorado gun rig, cartridge money belt by H.H. Heiser well marked R.T. Frazier Holster for a 4 3/4" colt SA (est. \$1800-2400 both)

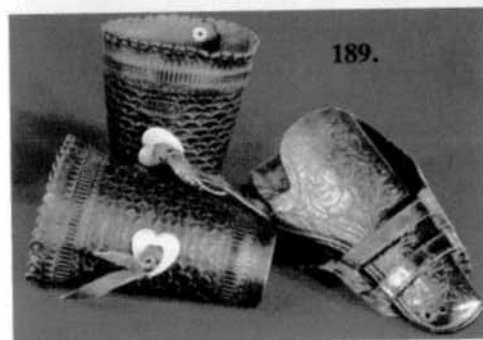
185. 1880's **US Cavalry Belt, R.I.** marked **HOLSTER, Cartridge POUCH** & Stuart Saber **STRAPS**. All orig & period but holster has less wear than other items (est. \$1200-1500 for all)

186. **Remington** factory conversion of new model Army Percussion **REVOLVER** - factory converted to 46 rim fire. *Rollin White* patent stamped on

cylinder making it an early Remington conversion - no finish remaining, hammer spur filed down. Comes with an attractive belt & holster rig (est. \$1400-1800 for all)

187. Very scarce **10th US cavalry RIG**, 1866-1875, belt, holster, cartridge pouch, and 1860 army Colt marked US as issued to 9th & 10th cavalry - Gun is even brown & all original. (est. \$3500-4000 for all)

188. Very rare 1860 light U.S. **CAVALRY 190. SABER** with **10th Cavalry** markings. Also has the marker for trooper #59. Overall in VGd cond, does show use. Scabbard is pinched in 2 places - also included is a scarce 1880's US army **VEST** in fine cond that was brought to supplement the winter uniform (est. \$1500-1800 for all)



189. Well marked **C.P. Shipley** scalloped each 7 1/2" tall, basketstamped w/4-Shipley conchos. Good cond plus unmarked, floral dbl-loop **HOLSTER** for a 4 1/2" colt S.A. (est. \$450-650 both)

190. 1) Great **PHOTO** of **W.F. Cody** by Batavia, NY. Clear image of Bill checking in on his pocket watch. Slight damage to rig affecting the image, mounted on photo by 2) Single page-handwritten **LETTER** re: Cody Burgess Mines. Signed **CD**. (est. \$1600-2400 for both)

191. Lot of 2 **CODY ITEMS** 1). Fabul (folded) handwritten list of fines imposed on performer for drunkenness. Appears to be written by John Burke. A great piece of 2). A cir. 1873 C.D.V. of Cody, card is d image is not affected. (est. \$1800-2400 f