

WINCHESTER-~~Western~~.

275 WINCHESTER AVENUE,

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511

TELEPHONE 789-5000 AREA CODE 203

February 20, 1979

Don Criswell
Box 277
Yorba Linda, CA 92686

Dear Sir:

This is in response to a request for information on a Model 21 with serial number 31278.

That gun was produced on May 4, 1967 as a Custom Grade Model 21 with two sets of barrels. The gun was basically a 20 gauge with 26" skeet one and skeet two barrels. The second barrels were 28 gauge with the same choke constrictions. The gun also had a matted rib and non-automatic safety. At that time the gun was built for someone named Robert Cass Gillie.

I hope the enclosed information is of assistance.

Sincerely,
OLIN CORPORATION


B. W. Pardee
Product Service - Firearms
WINCHESTER-WESTERN DIVISION

BWP/md





U.S. Repeating Arms Company

275 Winchester Avenue, Post Office Box 30-300
New Haven, Connecticut 06511 (203) 789-5000

February 23, 1983

Mr. William D. Phifer
c/o Metal Masters Inc.
14410 E. Nelson Avenue
Industry, CA 91744

Dear Sir:

This is in response to your recent request for information on a Model 21 bearing serial number 31278.

The above gun was produced on May 4, 1967 as a Custom Grade Model 21 with two sets of barrels. The first set of barrels was 20 gauge 26" skeet 1 and skeet 2 and the second set of barrels was 28 gauge with the same choke constrictions. The gun also had a matted rib, non-automatic safety and at that time was built for a gentleman named Robert Cass Gillie.

I trust the above information is of assistance.

Sincerely,

U. S. REPEATING ARMS COMPANY

B. W. Pardee
Administrator
Service/Information

BWP:lr



Date: 16 Apr 2005 15:03:42 EDT

From: RCGillie@VALLEY.NET (RCGillie) [Add To Address Book](#)

Subject: Re: Your Model Old Winchester Model 21 Shotgun

To: billphifer@winchestermode21.com

Dear Bill,

Just a final word on the RCG Model 21 in both 20 and 28 gauge. It was not presented to me as a retirement present.

In 1966, I was the European district manager for Winchester and resided in Paris. At the time, we set up a European / French wholly-owned subsidiary, Winchester Europe, S.A. to oversee our shotshell plant in Italy and our system of agents and distributors in Europe. My friend, Russ Titus, who worked under Dave Carlson in the Custom Shop in New Haven, told me that they had unearthed a pair of 28 gauge barrels in "the white" and would I be interested? I immediately told Russ to put a hold on those barrels until I could order a complete 20 gauge gun; the intention, obviously, was to add the 28 gauge barrels to that gun. On my next trip back to New Haven, I simply ordered a Custom Grade Model 21 with both sets of barrels fitted and numbered to the receiver. Employee price, at the time, was \$1,100. I asked Nick Kuzmit to engrave a ruffed grouse on the trigger plate along with the Custom Grade pattern. As I was quite well-known to all the boys in the Custom Shop, I was able to get "employee grade" wood. The late Reverdy Smith and I patterned all the barrels in New Haven.

As I recall, the gun was finished and delivered in the Spring of 1967. I kept it for several years but found it was too heavy to lug through the grouse coverts. Around 1974, I sold it to the late George Meschi of Eastchester, NY for approximately \$5,500.

About 15 years later, I received a 'phone call from someone in southern California who claimed he was the present owner and was I the Robert Cass Gillie whose name appeared on the gun. He was offering the gun for +/- \$24,000 and sought background information. I told him that after the death of my mother, I came across the original tan cardboard box for the gun in her attic; the box had the red and yellow end-label with the serial number written in. I told the Californian he could have the box for a one hundred dollar bill. Naturally, he didn't want to pay the asking price - I think the counter-offer was quite a bit less - so I told him never mind; I'd burn the box. Which, in fact, I did.

That's about all I can remember, but if you have any specific questions, do give me a ring at (603) 795-2615 in Lyme, NH. Should you decide to sell the 21, I'd really appreciate first refusal.

Cordially,

Bob Gillie