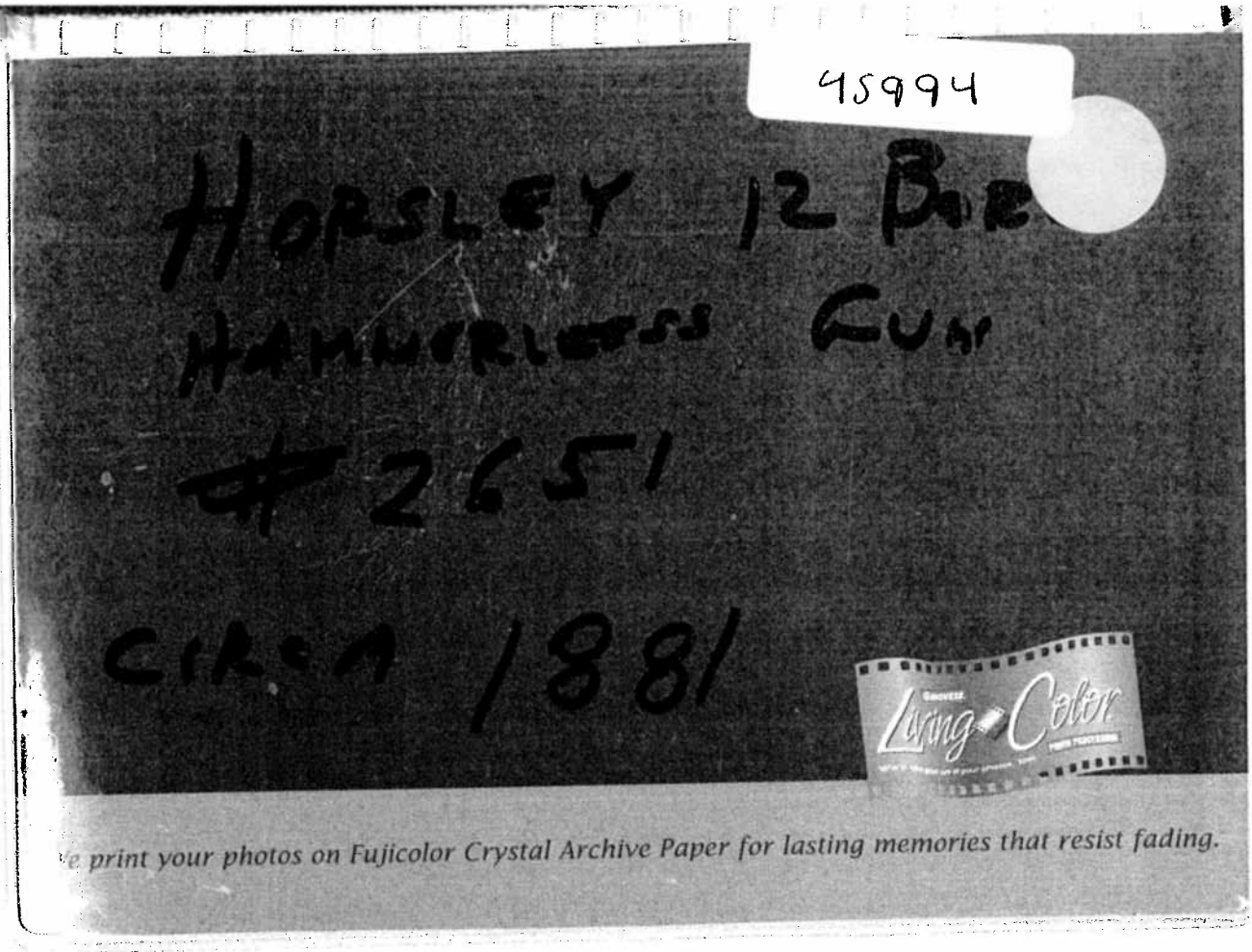
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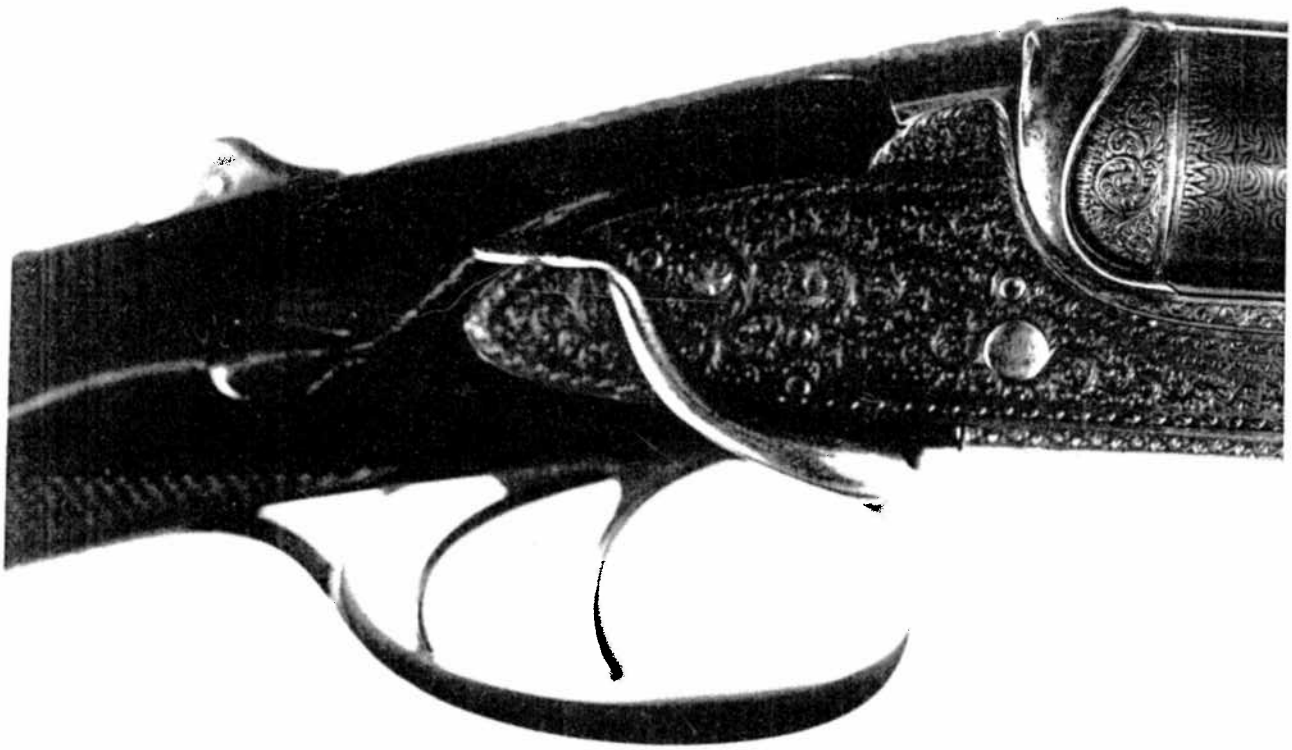

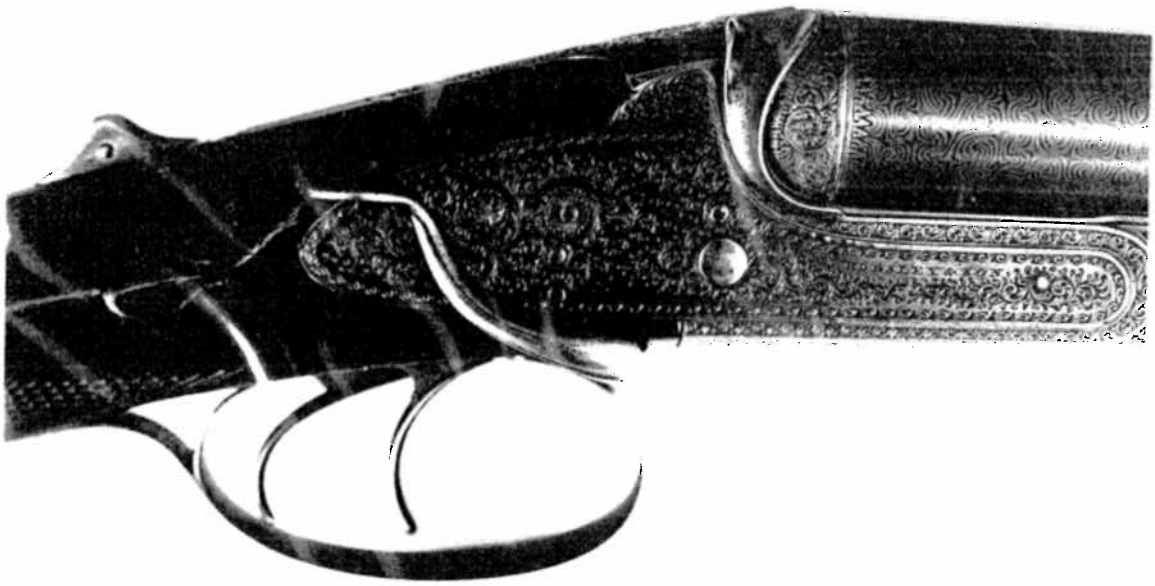

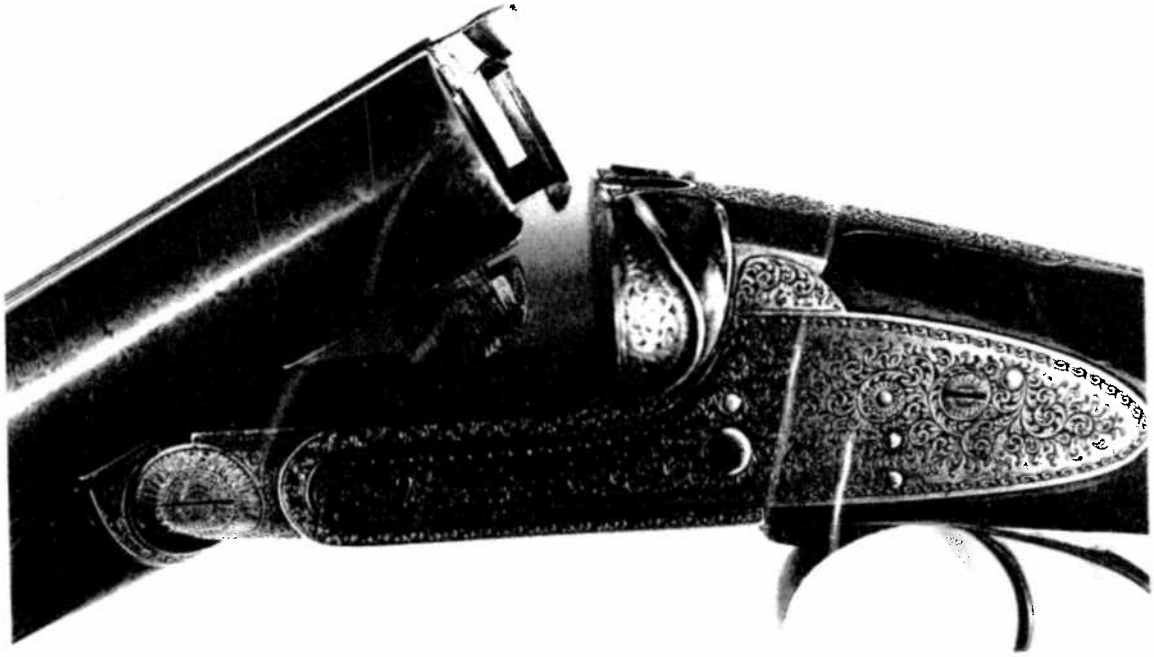

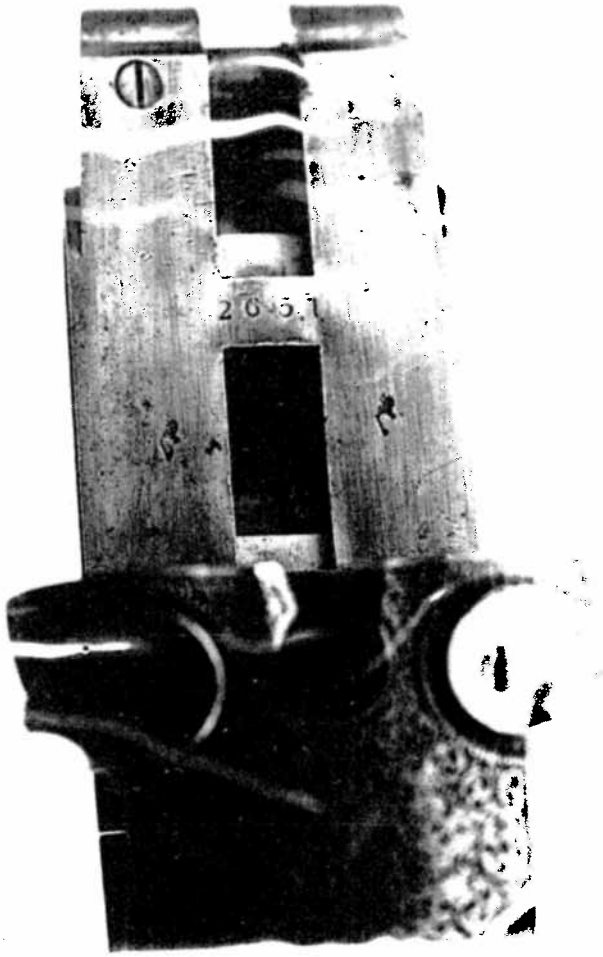
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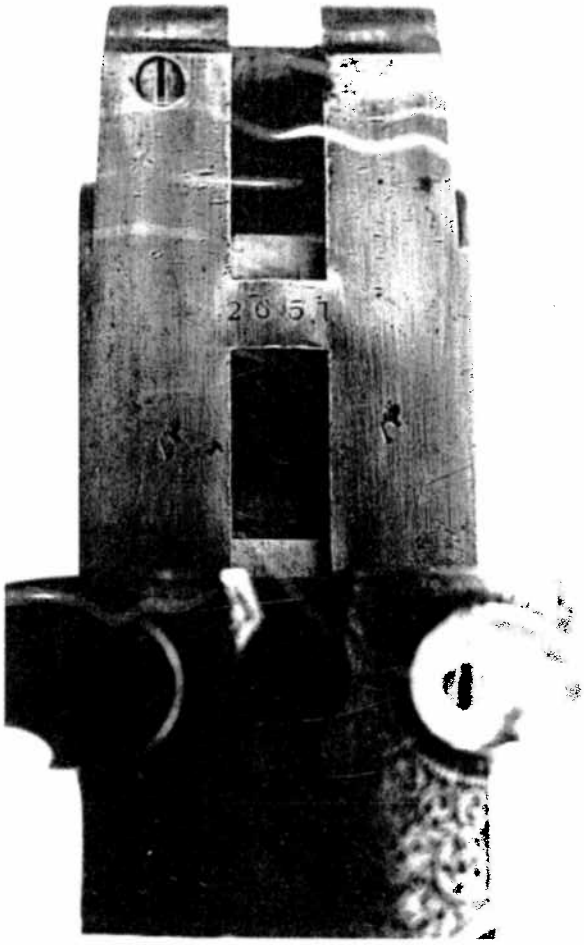
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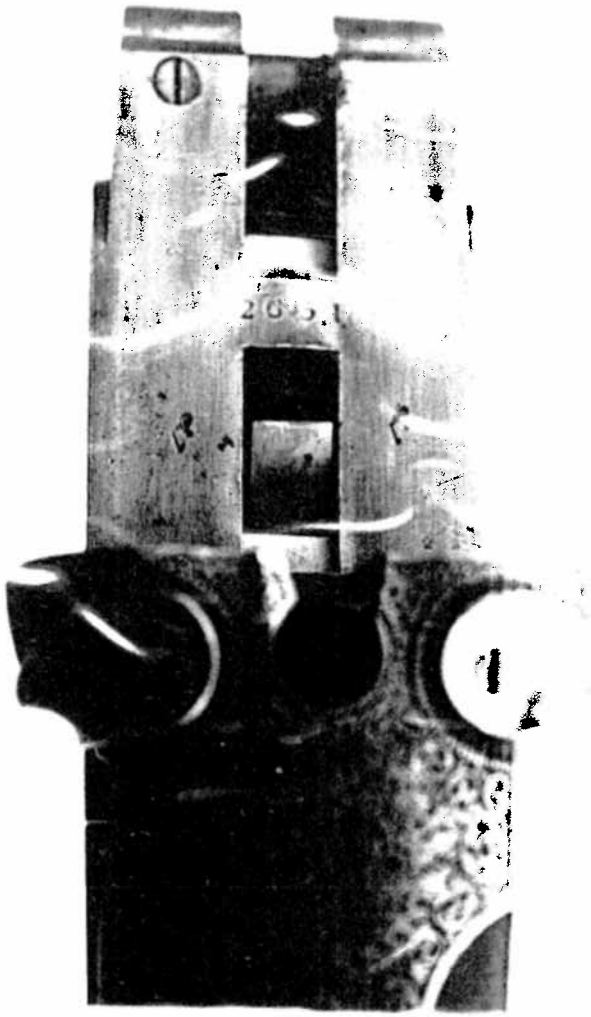
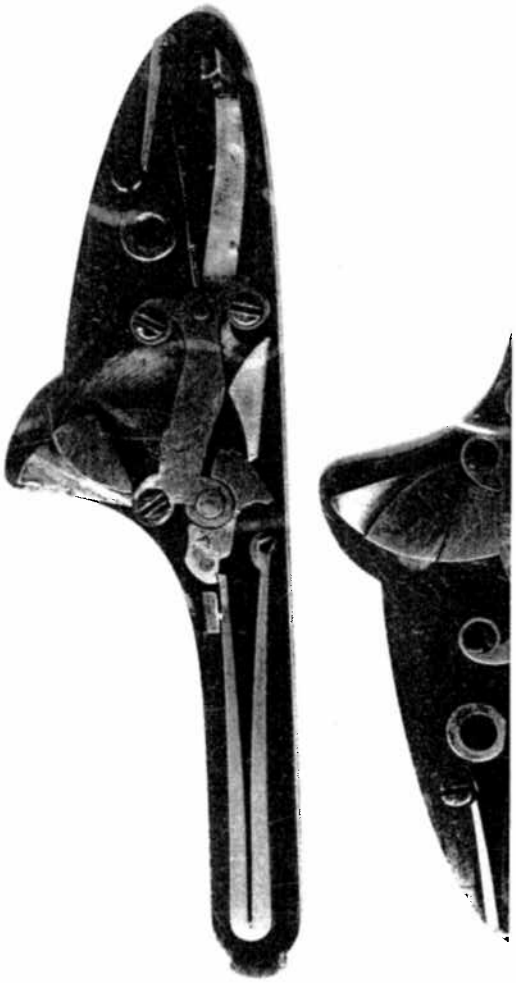
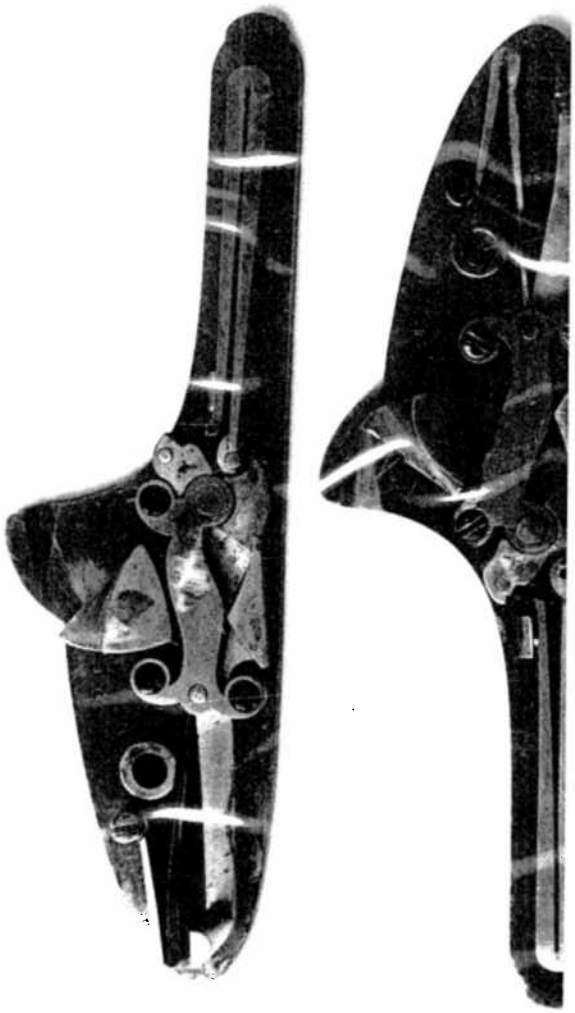
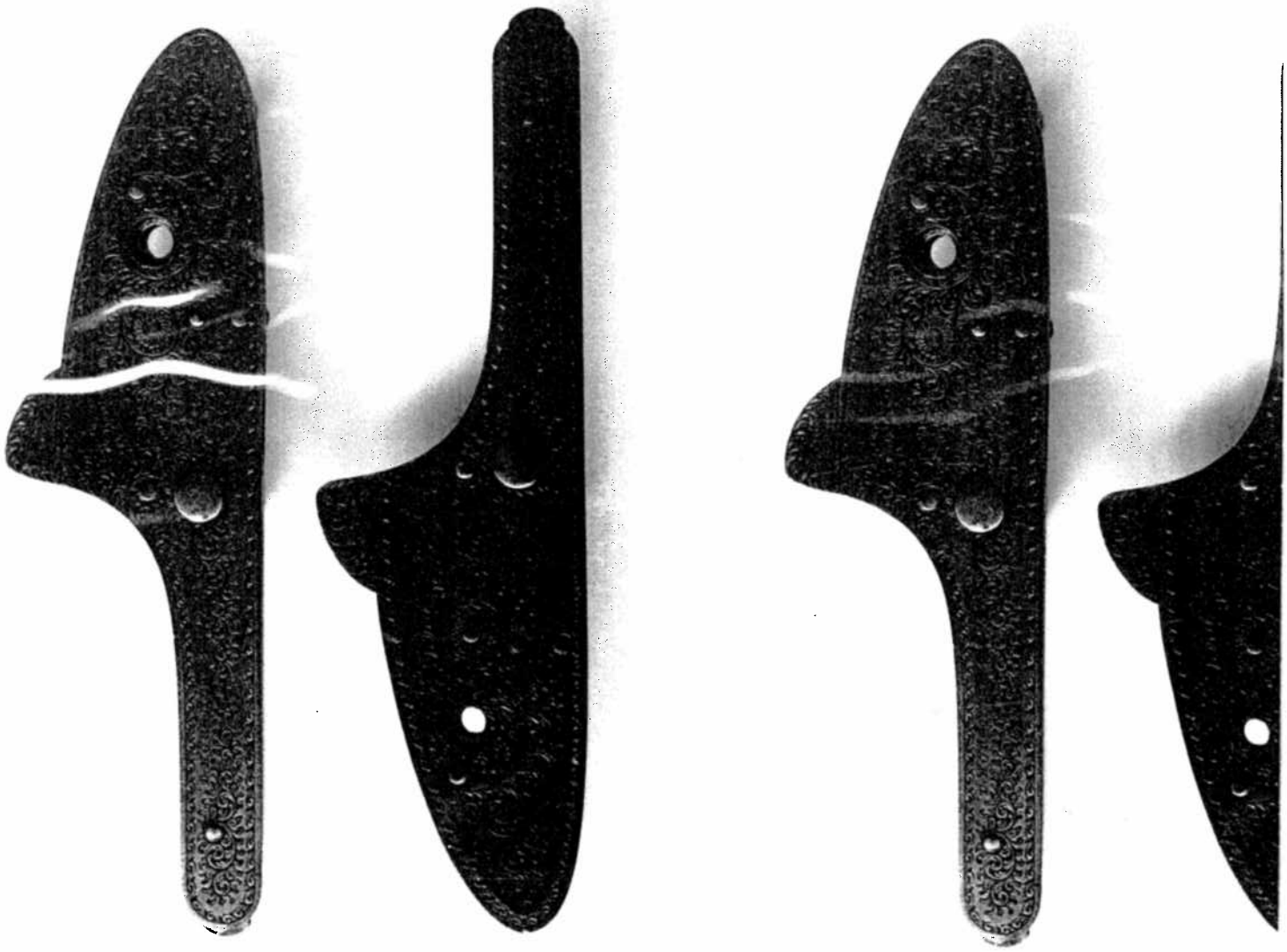
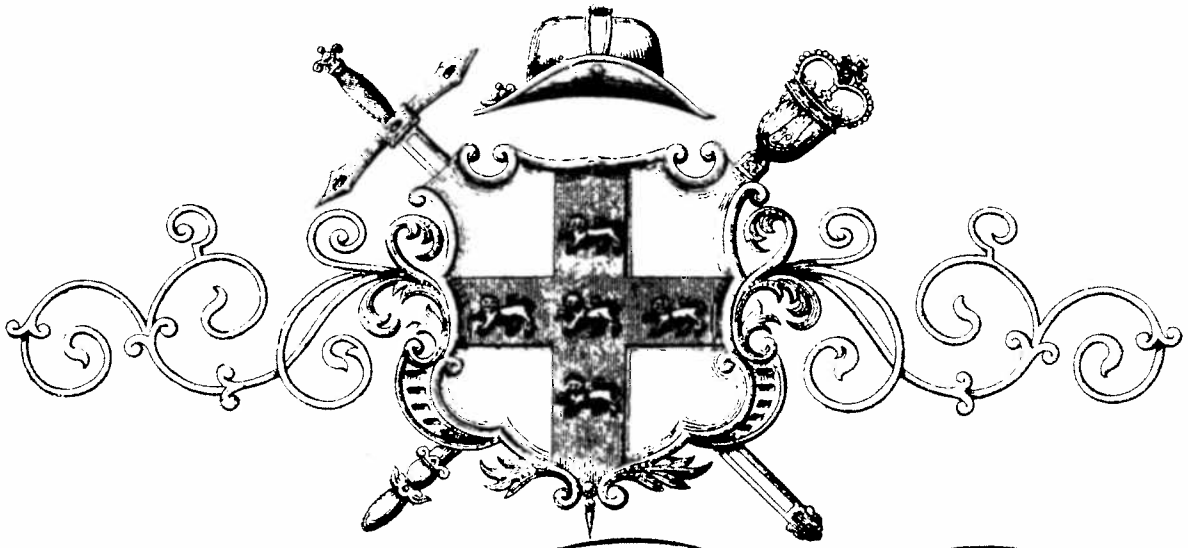










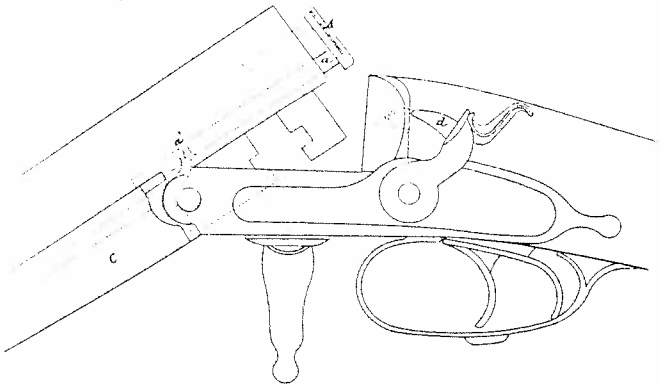
THOMAS HORSLEY,

Gun Maker,

Coney Street,

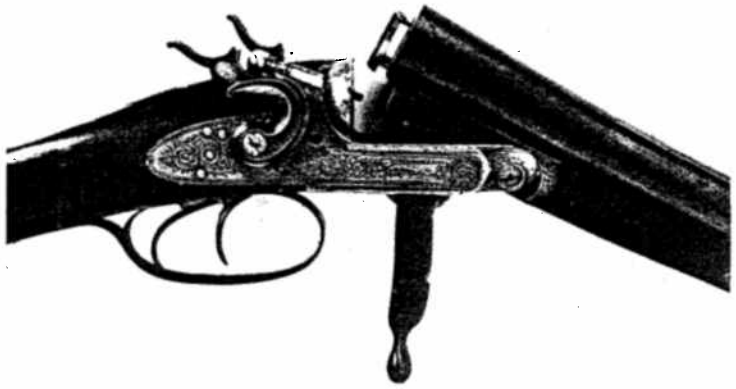
YORK.

A less well known firing pin and hammer combination bears a great deal of resemblance to the one described above. The details of it are contained in another patent of the London maker Frank Emsdorff Walker, No. 981 of 5 April 1866. This time the hammers have rigid points formed on their noses which strike the cap.

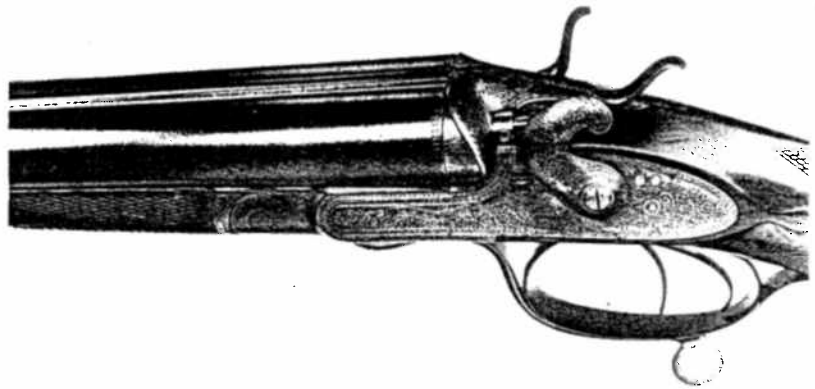


Walker patent no. 981 of 1866

An equally basic idea was that which William Wellington Greener patented on 7 March 1868, No. 800, which was to have horn-like hooks on the breasts of the hammers which drew back the firing pins. These pins had lateral projections to engage with the hooks, and were retained and guided by a slot cut lengthways in the pin, into which projected a small screw set in the standing breech. This type of firing pin, used in conjunction with a slot in the inside face of the hammer, as in the Gastinne patent, while not the subject of a single specification, is one of the most widely encountered systems of retracting firing pins. The illustrated example is on a very early gun by MacNaughton of Edinburgh, but we have also seen guns by Edge of Manchester, and Johnson of Swaffham, so equipped and suspect that it was used even more widely.



Greener patent no. 800 of 1868



MacNaughton gun with retracting firing pins

An idea that was developed in a variety of ways was somehow to retract the firing pins by a lever worked as the lock was half-cocked. Not the first, but perhaps the most basic application of this idea was contained in the Thomas Horsley patent, No 1138 of 17 April 1867. In this the breasts of the hammers had cams formed on them. These cams acted on the ends of two short levers, which were pivoted on vertical pivots, and protruded horizontally from either side of the standing breech. The inside ends of these levers worked the firing pins, and drew them back as the hammers were half cocked. This mechanism was used extensively by Horsley's, usually in association with the pull back top lever single bite snap action, and sometimes with the loaded indicator previously described. Perhaps it is not unworthy of notice that an example of the use of Horsley retracting firing pins has been encountered, is on a gun by Lyell of Aberdeen, and it is the only non-Horsley gun which we have seen using this system. With later Horsleys the system was neatened by moving the levers round towards the bottom of the standing breech, where they were less obtrusive.

A gunmaker who appears to have given considerable consideration to the question of mechanically retracting firing pins was William Rochester Pape. His deliberations resulted in three specifications left with the Patent Office. The first, No. 594 of 2 March 1867, was pursued no further than the provisional stage, and the ideas contained in it were incorporated in the second patent, this time a full specification, dated 3 September 1867, No. 2488. In this the firing pin is worked by a lever pivoted on the outside of the lockplate. The lever and the inside face of the hammer are so shaped that the movement of the hammer, as it is brought to half cock, made the two faces work together to retract the firing pin.

The third Pape patent is No. 752 of 15 March 1870 and describes a lever pivoted inside the lockplate of a bar action lock, up in the angle, where the lockplate curves round the standing breech. This lever is so positioned that, as the lock is half cocked, the tumbler pushes the bottom of the lever forwards, and the top of the lever engages with the firing pin to draw it