

money spent here can save much grief down the road.

As your background expands you will develop a "feel" for such subtle differences as the changes in finish employed over the forty year production of the Model 1896; you will begin to know and understand the numerous variants which confront the collector; and you will be able to define a specific area in which to specialize. The last ability is very important, because very few people have the money or time to collect across the entire Broomhandle spectrum. Depending on personal preference, a collector may wish to specialize in wartime pistols, contract pieces, Bolos, copies, or any of a number of other categories. Ultimately it is much more satisfying to have a detailed collection of a specific type than to have a random collection united only by name. Quality is always more important than quantity.

We offer the following scarcity table as a rough guide for valuation of prospective purchases. The basic unit of value is a wartime commercial or military 7.63 mm., in good collectible condition (80-85%). If your current valuation of this standard is \$600, multiply this figure by the scarcity value of the pistol in question. A gun in poor condition, or which has been reblued is worth about half as much. A gun in mint condition (95-98%) is worth about 1.5 times the standard. A gun in new condition (99 or 100%) is worth about twice the standard.

SCARCITY CHART

Step-barreled Conehammer	25 X
System Mauser Chambered Conehammer	15 X
Non-reinforced Sight Conehammer	4 X
Standard Conehammer	2.5 X
Fixed-sight Conehammer	3 X
Large Ring Transitional	2 X
Italian Navy	4 X
Standard Flatside	2.5 X
Early Small Ring Transitional	3 X
Early Bolo	3 X
Banner Chamber	2.5 X
9 mm. Export	2.5 X
Pre-War Commercial	1.5 X
Persian Contract	4 X
Wartime Military 7.63	1 X
Wartime Military 9 mm.	1.5 X
Rework	1.5 X
Gendarme	2.5 X
Postwar Bolo	1.5 X
Long-barreled Bolo	3 X
1930 Commercial	1.5 X
3.15 mm 1930	4 X
Model 1932 (Schnellfeuer)	2.5 X
Six-shot Pistols	10 X
Carbine	15 X
Twenty-shot Pistol	20 X

For example:

A six-shot in new condition is worth
 \$600 X 10 X 2 = \$12,000
 BASE SCARCITY CONDITION

A reblued carbine is worth

\$600 X 15 X .5 = \$4500
 BASE SCARCITY CONDITION

A long-barreled Bolo in mint condition is worth

\$600 X 3 X 1.5 = \$2700
 BASE SCARCITY CONDITION

While some collectors may assign different values to condition or wish to use a different base, we have found that this system approximates the known value of guns currently available.



Paul Mauser
Shortly Before His Death.

Assembling

Barrel Assembly

1. Insert recoil spring into bolt and latter into barrel extension, extractor uppermost.
2. Compress recoil spring with cleaning rod so that abutment can be inserted, sleeve to front, from the right, into barrel extension, and lock into place.
3. Insert striker, press in with cleaning rod and give $\frac{1}{4}$ turn to left.

Locking block.

Take block, claw to muzzle and locking teeth to bolt, and hook over lug on barrel extension by the reverse motion.

Coupling Lock and Barrel Assemblies.

Lay lock assembly on locking block so that claw of block is forward of coupling and tongue lies in unlocking recess of lock frame. Press lock frame and barrel extension firmly together with both thumbs until they snap into engagement.

Replacing Working Parts in Body

Hold body in left hand, press barrel and lock groups lightly together with right, and slide into body until retaining latch locks into place.

Magazine Parts

1. Insert carrier, bolt-arresting stud to butt, into magazine, press locking pin inwards with floor plate, engaging T-lug into seat, and slide floor backwards until pin locks it in place.
2. Let down hammer.

Holster-Stock

The pistol is carried in a holster made of a single piece of walnut, fitted for attaching to pistol so as to form a butt and enable the arm to be used as a carbine. Although not essential, the butt is a valuable aid to accuracy, especially when firing at longer than customary pistol range.

To attach, hold pistol in right hand — barrel pointing to right butt towards person, back of hand uppermost — grasp holster by small, toe of shoe to pistol butt, insert tongue of shoe into T-slot of pistol butt and press home until catch snaps into plate.

Take off by holding small of holster in left hand, pistol flatwise in right — back of hand uppermost — with thumb round butt behind trigger guard, then pressing back catch with left thumb and sliding pistol off butt.

COLLECTORS' GUIDE

Because of its scarcity, the Broomhandle has not attracted the legion of collectors which surrounds higher production guns. Few substantial collections are in existence, but it is still possible to assemble a very creditable and enjoyable collection which will appreciate over the years. The purposes of this chapter are to provide some guidelines for the novice collector and to suggest some standards for evaluating a prospective purchase. While we do not presume this to be comprehensive, we do believe it provides a firm foundation on which to build.

The major factors influencing the valuation of a pistol are scarcity, condition, and originality. Scarcity is basically a function of number of pistols produced and survival rate. Condition is dependent on such factors as percentage of original finish (blueing or heat-treating) remaining, completeness (parts missing or mismatched) and overall condition. Condition is usually expressed as a percentage, with 100% being "new" condition. Originality is another factor of condition, in that it tells whether non-factory changes or improvements have been made. The most desirable condition is factory original, even if it exhibits a little wear. While a little cosmetic restoration is increasingly accepted, modern rebluing always decreases the value of a pistol. Similarly while factory engraving or engraving contemporary with the time of manufacture are valuable, modern engraving always decreases value.

Most collectors recognize four broad categories of pistols; parts, shooters, fillers, and keepers. A parts pistol is one that is in very poor condition, or incomplete. As original parts become more difficult to find, possession of a pistol which

can be "cannibalized" for parts to restore a more valuable piece is increasingly worthwhile. While even conehammers or large rings in common variants may fit this category, no really rare gun would ever be stripped for parts. Guns restored with mismatched parts suffer some decline in value, but are preferable to incomplete guns.

A shooter is a complete pistol, in adequate condition to be fired without danger, but not to make a permanent addition to a collection. Once again, no collector would risk damage to a rare pistol by firing it. For beginning collectors shooters may assume a second role as fillers.

A filler is a representative pistol, placed in a collection until an example in more desirable condition is acquired. Depending on the level of sophistication and the money available, the quality of a filler will vary widely. While we would all like to collect only "as new" pistols, the realities of availability and finance often make this impossible. Circumstances often force a collector to make do with a filler until a keeper comes along.

A keeper is a pistol of the highest quality that can be obtained in the market. For the more common variants, a keeper should be at least a 95% gun. The scarcity of many variants dictates that the collector accept pistols in much rougher condition.

It is strongly recommended that the beginning collector start slowly. The two most important acquisitions a collector can make are intangibles, knowledge of and familiarity with the pistols. Read everything you can, see and handle the guns whenever possible, and ask questions. Initially, deal with known, reputable dealers and collectors. A little time and

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THE LUGER P08 AND LP08 PISTOLS Made by Mauser Under French Control



P08 serial number 367 and LP08 serial number 456 produced at Mauser under French Control. The LP08 represents a very rare variation. Only a few are reported today. They were made using the last DWM barrels still available at Oberndorf. (M. Baudino Collection)

The French Occupation of Germany in 1945

In February 1944, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to divide Germany into three zones of occupation as soon as World War II was over. In November 1944, they invited France to take part in the occupation. That arrangement was confirmed at the Yalta Conference in February of 1945.

In the French occupation zone, staff officers were dispersed in each province in order to undertake the political, economic and social reorganization of the country. These officers started restructuring the local administration, which had been erased by Nazi centralization.

Oberndorf and Mauser under French Control

The war ended for Oberndorf am Neckar on April 20,

1945. On the 19th of April, between 1 a.m. and 2:30 a.m., part of the 9th Régiment de Chasseurs d'Afrique crossed the River Rhine at the French town of Beinheim. At 7:00 a.m., they reached the city of Kuppenheim, where they received the order to move to Freudenstadt. At 6:30 p.m., they arrived at their target after having travelled some 200 kilometers without encountering German resistance. Their purpose was to divide the German forces that were then withdrawing into the Black Forest area.

The men of Col. Labarthe were ordered to occupy the town of Oberndorf and take control of the Mauser Company. On the 20th of April, around 4:00 p.m., Oberndorf was occupied by the Jullien and Du Crest squadrons under the command of Major Jaleques. Mauser was secured by these troops, and the French and the Polish prison labor camps

were liberated. Five French NCOs lost their lives during the struggle and several soldiers were injured. The French forces found a relatively peaceful city and the Mauser firm largely intact, although without any finished weapons — only spare parts.

Many tools, finished guns, prototypes, documents and staff members had been rounded up and put onto a train and moved to the Bavarian Alps a few weeks earlier, where the last Reich supporters thought of mounting a resistance. Over 200 Mauser workers, part of the management team, and a treasure trove of equipment, tools, parts and documents started an odyssey that would not end for them until almost six months later.

For Mauser, this was the beginning of the end. The French set up a new administration team to oversee factory activities. The head of this new management was the French Commandant (Major) Michon. The German director was Dr. Harnisch. New production was entirely based on the spare parts still available at the firm. No new parts were being produced. Under French control, 1,500 workers produced a total of about 47,700 carbines and 26,000 pistols up until May of 1946. At the same time, the French ordered the managers in the factories to surrender the tooling machines and gauges while they waited for the time at which weapons production would no longer be possible.

Mauser Parabellums Made Under French Control

In June of 1945, now under French control, Mauser started producing (or rather, assembling) guns for the French army, which was short on small arms. August Weiss, already employed by DWM and responsible for small arms production at Mauser (1930–45), was placed in charge of the new production under French control. In a document dated 1973, Weiss answered several questions by Dr. Gminder about postwar production. He stated that, through March of 1946, the following guns were produced:

6,375 Mauser 45 carbines in .22lr
35,000 P38 pistols
20,000 Mauser HSc pistols
2,560 P08 pistols

Mr. Weiss also stated that the availability of P08 receivers was very limited. Included in the August Weiss files, there is an internal Mauser document dating from May 2, 1946, sent to Dr. Harnisch of Department 300. It related to the production from April of 1946. It appears in translated and tabulated form at the bottom of this page, and was headed "to Department 300, Herrn Dir. Dr. Harnisch/Concerns: Report of readied production of weapon for the month of April 1946."

As can be seen at the bottom, 3,040 P08s had been prepared by the end of April 1946. As such, they represent one of the rarest variations produced by Mauser. The highest serial number found so far is 3,334. This is probably a realistic indication of the total for production that formally ended in June of 1946. Interestingly, Weiss also told Gminder that when Major Michon left Mauser, he took a Parabellum carbine in 9mm as a gift, which had the marking of the King of Serbia on its chamber.

The Parabellums made under French control followed the same standards as the Mauser commercial production made from 1937. The quality was higher than that of the pistols made during the war. This higher quality was mainly the result of the use of a new steel introduced by Mauser in 1940. The gun was always chambered for the 9x19mm Parabellum. No pistols in 7.65mm Parabellum (.30 Luger) have been reported so far. All the parts were blued using the salt-dip bluing method, apart from the firing pin and the safety catch, which were left in the white. The improved steel quality also resulted in a better quality of the salt-dip bluing, and the final result was a nice, deep-black finish.

As described above, the French asked Mauser to produce a limited number of Artillery Lugers using the barrels that were still in stock. The result is most probably the rarest Artillery variation ever produced. The reintroduction of the Artillery Luger by Mauser in 1945–1946 is certainly intriguing. What is important to highlight is that Mauser never produced long barrels for the Artillery Luger — they came from DWM. In an inventory made at the end of March of 1930, 4,726 LP08 barrels were available, 1,000 blued and the remaining ones in white. Some of the long barrels were still available when the French arrived, and this was the reason why they asked Mauser to assemble what is today considered to be one of the rarest Artillery Luger variations.

Weapon		Assembly Planned	Ready	Precision Tests Planned	Passed	Forecast for May
K 98 k	Month	3000	4090	3000	49	-
	Total	49600	51786	48374	45696	-
Confiscated K 98 k	Month	-	200	-	175	-
	Total	-	1525	-	1350	-
Small Caliber Mod. 45	Month	2200	2150	2200	2200	2500
	Total	8275	8525	8197	8197	-
Pi 38	Month	-	-	5000	2930	-
	Total	-	-	41348	36720	-
Pi 7.65 h	Month	-	-	2000	807	2000
	Total	-	-	16087	13971	-
Pi 08	Month	-	-	-	480	-
	Total	-	-	-	3040	-

1896 BROOMHANDLE

in 1897, Mauser marked chamber

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