

*Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc.*

*Past Historians*

*Arthur Ulrich 1903-1941*  
*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>	<i>18520</i>
<i>Caliber:</i>	<i>.45 Eley</i>
<i>Barrel Length:</i>	<i>Not Listed</i>
<i>Finish:</i>	<i>Nickel</i>
<i>Type of Stocks:</i>	<i>Not Listed</i>
<i>Shipped To:</i>	<i>Colt's Patent Fire-Arms Mfg. Co.</i>
	<i>London Agency</i>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>London, England</i>
<i>Date of Shipment:</i>	<i>May 17, 1875</i>
<i>Number of Same Type</i>	
<i>Guns in Shipment:</i>	<i>6</i>

*Remarks: As noted above, the records do not provide information with regard to the barrel length of subject revolver or the type of stocks. However, this is usually an indication of a 7 1/2" barrel length and walnut stocks as these were considered standard issue for that time period.*

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

*Sincerely,*

*Kathleen J. Hoyt*  
 Kathleen J. Hoyt  
 Historian

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*Office of the Historian, Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc., P.O. Box 1808, Hartford, CT 06144*



COLT MODEL 1873 SINGLE ACTION  
ARMY REVOLVER

SERIAL #18520

MANUFACTURED 1875

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FROM: Rock Island Auction Company



COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY S/N 18520 (1875)

THE COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY S/N 18520 ON THE REVERSE OF THIS PAGE APPEARED ON THE INSIDE COVER OF THE CATALOG FOR SESSION 1 OF ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY'S APRIL 2003 CATALOG.

S/N 18520 IS PICTURED AND DISCUSSED AT PAGE 19 OF GRAHAM, KOPEC & MOORE'S BOOK, A STUDY OF THE COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY REVOLVER WHEREIN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT IS NOTED THAT IT "... WAS SENT TO LONDON ON MAY 17, 1875, AND THAT THE LONDON AGENCY'S CASING...NO DOUBT ACCOUNTS FOR ITS EXCEPTIONALLY FINE CONDITION."

S/N 18520 IS ALSO TWICE REFERENCED IN KEITH COCHRANE'S BOOK, COLT PEACEMAKER BRITISH MODEL.



Samuel Colt  
1814-1862

From the Photographic Collection  
of Herb Peck, Jr.

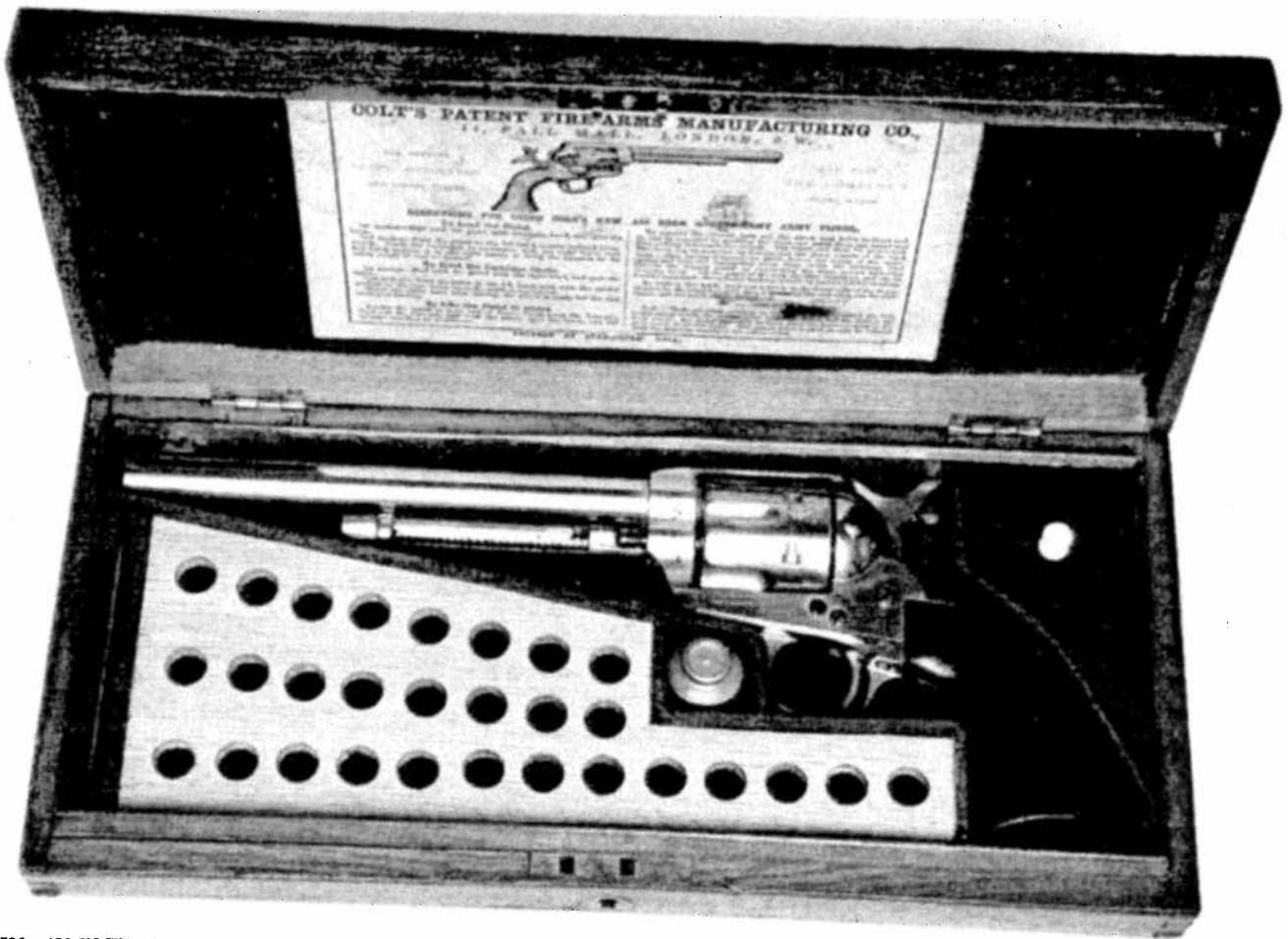
*A STUDY OF THE  
COLT SINGLE ACTION  
ARMY REVOLVER*

*by*

RON GRAHAM

JOHN A. KOPEC

C. KENNETH MOORE



SN 18520, .450 ELEY, nickel, sent to London on May 17, 1875. The London Agency's casing of this SA no doubt accounts for its exceptionally fine condi-

tion. Note one style of label used by Colt's London Agency.

Richard R. Atkinson collection.  
Photo by Gronau's.



The von Oppen trademark stamping on the right rear trigger guard flat of SN 18230. Baron Frederick von Oppen, Colt's London Agent, used a right-facing Rampant Colt as one of his agency's identification marks. A tilted die strike resulted in parts of the colt's shoulders, neck and head not being imprinted.

Anonymous Australian collection.  
Photo courtesy of Neil Speed.



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**London Agency Cased Colt Single Action Army Revolver**



Click on thumbnail to enlarge.

<b>Serial Number:</b>	18520	<b>Lot Number:</b>	2339
<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Colt	<b>Model:</b>	Single Action Army
<b>Type:</b>	revolver	<b>Gauge:</b>	.45 Eley
<b>Est. Price:</b>	\$ 16000 - 22500	<b>Catalog Page:</b>	223
<b>Barrel Length:</b>	7-1/2 inch round	<b>Finish:</b>	nickel
<b>Grip:</b>	walnut	<b>Stock:</b>	N/A

**Description:** London Agency Cased Colt Single Action Army Revolver This revolver was shipped to Colt's London Agency on May 17, 1875. This unique, early Colt Single Action and its London Agency oak casing are pictured and described on page 19 of "A STUDY OF THE COLT SINGLE ACTION REVOLVER", by Graham Kopec and Moore. The revolver's finish, caliber and date of shipment are listed in the Colt factory letter. The revolver barrel has the early Colt "SCRIPT" Hartford address. The left side of the frame has the two-line, two-date patent marking and the left trigger guard shoulder is stamped "45 CAL/ B". The serial numbers on the frame, trigger guard, cylinder and back strap are matching. The barrel is stamped with British proofs just to the right of the cylinder pan. Each cylinder has similar proofs. The revolver has nickel finish with niter blue cylinder pin and screws. The grips are varnished walnut. The 14-1/2 inch by 6-1/2 inch English oak case is lined with green velvet. The top of the case has an 8 by 5 inch label entitled, "DIRECTIONS FOR USING COLT'S NEW .450 BORE GOVERNMENT ARMY PISTOL" with Colt's London address. The case contains a block for .31 cartridges, a screw driver, a German silver oil bottle (with Dixon address on the bottom), a cleaning rod and a parts compartment with lid. The top of the case is inlaid with an one inch oval escutcheon. The case is fitted for a lock and key-now missing..

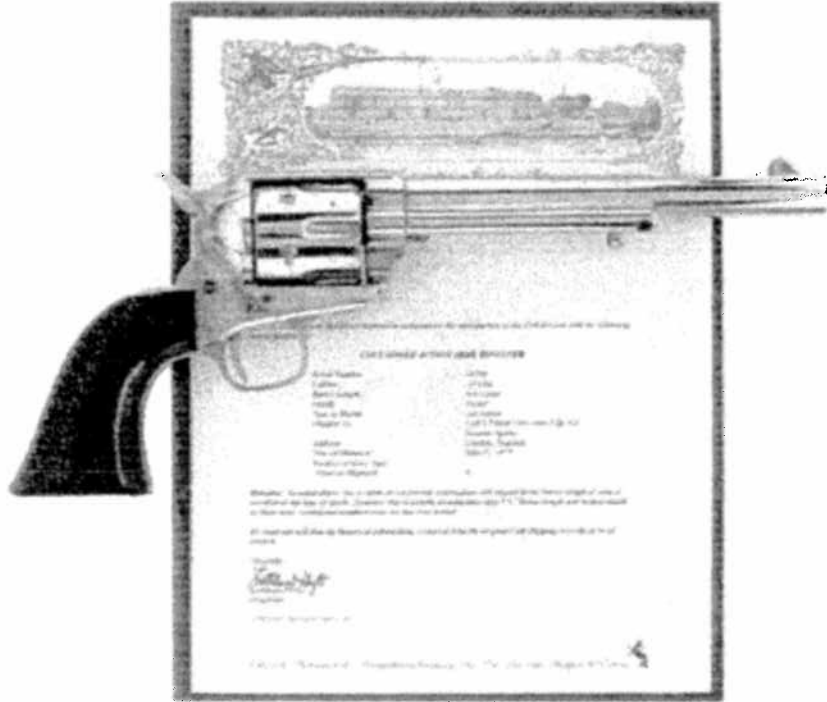
**Condition:** The revolver is in excellent plus condition and shows minimal use. Approximately 98% of the nickel plated finish is intact.

There is some minor flaking on the front sight, at the edges of the cylinder and the forward portions of the frame, next to the cylinder. The plating on the cylinder has flaked slightly between the cylinder flutes. There is one minor 1/4 inch spot of pitting at the rear of the cylinder. None of this, rather inconsequential, wear is immediately apparent and the overall appearance of the revolver is near new. The bore is mint. All markings are crisp. The grips retain about 98% of the original varnish with very slight wear along the edges of the grip heel. The case exterior is in excellent overall condition. The bottom of the case has an eight inch crack. The case interior is excellent. The label has a few minor stains but is completely intact. The lining has little wear and is not faded or discolored. All accessories are excellent. A really rare and attractive Colt Single Action Revolver.

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