

The VON OPPEN COLT

Serial Number: 15304
Barrel Length: 5 ½ inch
Cal.: .45 Eley Short
Finish: Blue & Case Hardened
Grips: One-Piece Walnut
Date Shipped: November 11, 1874
Shipped to: Colts London Agency

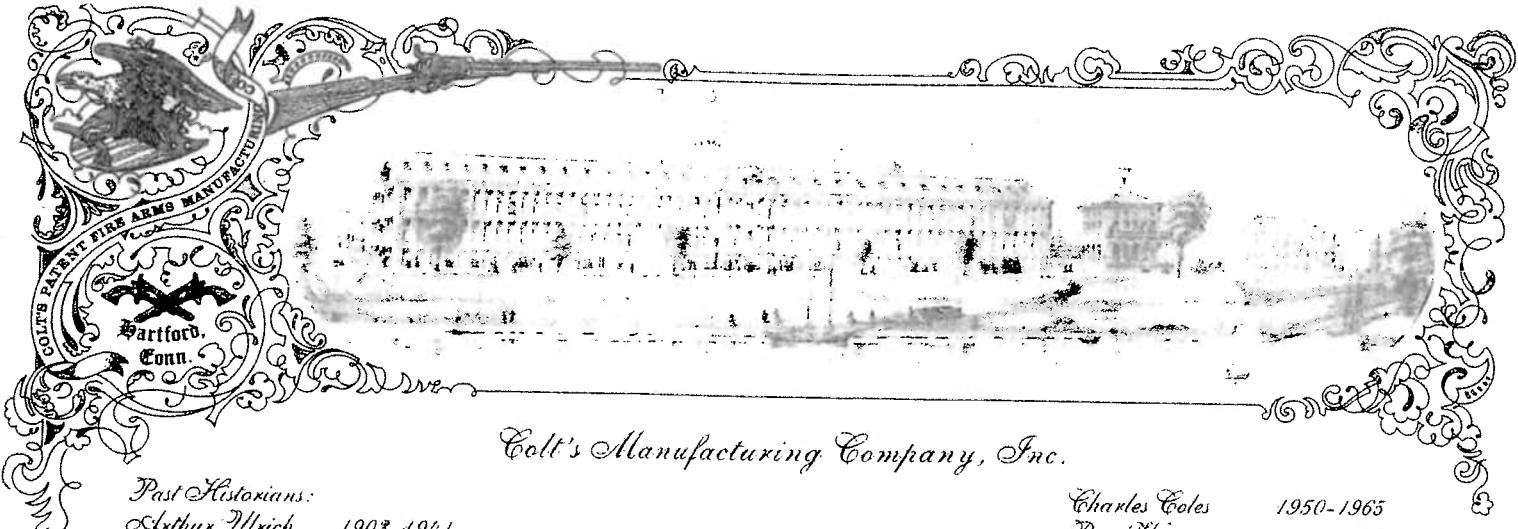
One of the FINEST CONDITIONED, FIRST YEAR PRODUCTION, Peacemakers known.

**First Year Production of Peacemaker was
September 30, 1873 – September 30, 1874**

**This gun was shipped on November 5, 1874; therefore it was manufactured prior to September 30, 1873.
(First year of Production)**

This Peacemaker is also one of only very few known to exist with the VERY RARE "VON OPPEN Mark". This mark, found on the right rear trigger guard bow, is a tiny RAMPANT COLT with a "C" ON TOP, indicating sale by Van Oppen. Barron Fredrick Von Oppen was Samuel Colt's brother-in-law and COLTS LONDON and EUROPEAN AGENT.

**Additionally this Colt is one of the finest conditioned Peacemakers known from this early production period. Its rarity is further increased as Colt only manufactured about 300 Peacemakers in the first year of production.
(September 30, 1873 to September 30, 1874)**



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

March 5, 1996

ns"

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

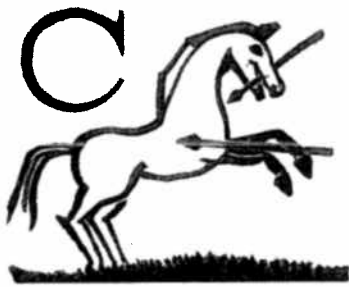
<i>Serial Number:</i>	<i>15304</i>
<i>Caliber:</i>	<i>.45 Eley Short</i>
<i>Barrel Length:</i>	<i>Not Listed</i>
<i>Finish:</i>	<i>Blue</i>
<i>Type of Stocks:</i>	<i>Not Listed</i>
<i>Shipped To:</i>	<i>Colt's Patent Fire-Arms Mfg., Co.</i>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>London Agency</i>
	<i>14 Pall Mall</i>
	<i>London, England</i>
<i>Date of Shipment:</i>	<i>November 5, 1874</i>
<i>Number of Same Type</i>	
<i>Guns in Shipment:</i>	<i>100</i>

We trust the information supplied above will be of interest.

Sincerely,
Kathleen J. Hoyt
Kathleen J. Hoyt
Historian

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The von Oppen Mark

by John D. Breslin

The First Use of the Rampant Colt on Firearms and as a Trade Mark

The "Rampant Colt" is one of the world's best known trademarks. It currently appears on all the Colt Company's products and literature. Our Colt Collectors Association has adopted it as the name of this magazine.

A couple of names not unknown to Colt collectors - Larry Wilson and the late Tom Haas, Sr. - wrote and published *The Rampant Colt* nearly 40 years ago.¹

In that book, Larry Wilson set out to describe the history of the use of a horse, or colt, by Samuel Colt and his family on silver, stationery, and ultimately as a symbol of the company itself. It may be of interest to readers to trace that use.

As early as 1576, a colt, or horse had been featured on Colt coats-of-arms.²

Some Paterson Colt long arms had a quadruple horse head silver inlay on the cheek piece, c.1836-37. A running colt, with a spear was engraved on 1851 Navy Colt Serial number 3769, ca. 1851³ Four running Colts appear on family dinnerware. About 1855⁴ New York silversmith William Adams created a silver meat cover and soup tureen, with what might be considered a "rampant" colt, with spear, although the horse is not as upright as in later renditions.

Approximately 1855, Samuel Colt commissioned a

large bronze Rampant Colt to go on the top of his "Onion Dome" atop the Colt factory in Hartford, Connecticut.

Clearly, the Rampant Colt as we know it was beginning to evolve as a symbol of the company, and yet it was not until 1875 that it appeared in U.S. Colt advertisements as an implied trade mark. In fact, it was Baron von Oppen of the London Agency who, in 1872, first placed the Rampant Colt on firearms, and called it a trade mark.

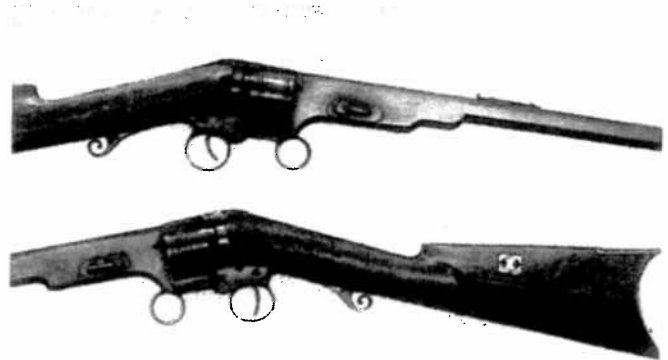
Our fellow CCA member Phil Boulton, of Southampton, England, has drawn a sketch of the mark based on surviving examples. (*See drawing in headline*)

It seems appropriate to give some background on Baron von Oppen. In his excellent book, *Colonel Colt London*⁴, Joe Rosa gives us the following account:

Samuel Colt's brother, John was convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged in 1841. Shortly before his death in prison, not from hanging, but under mysterious circumstances, he married Caroline Henshaw, who was pregnant. The marriage gave her unborn child the Colt name. Before John's death, he and Caroline had been living together, but prior to that Caroline



Sterling silver tureen made c. 1865 in New York for Colonel Colt by New York silversmith William Adams. Courtesy of Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford.



The cheek piece inlay, of German silver, with the quadruple horse head design, may be the first use of horse or colt motif on a Colt Firearm c. 1836-37. Courtesy of Wadsworth Atheneum Hartford.

had been Sam's mistress after she returned from Europe with him.

The baby, named Samuel Caldwell Colt, was officially Sam Colt's nephew, but was widely regarded to be his illegitimate son.

At Sam Colt's request, Caroline changed her name to Julia Leicester, and returned to Europe with the boy. There she met and married a young Prussian nobleman, Frederick von Oppen.

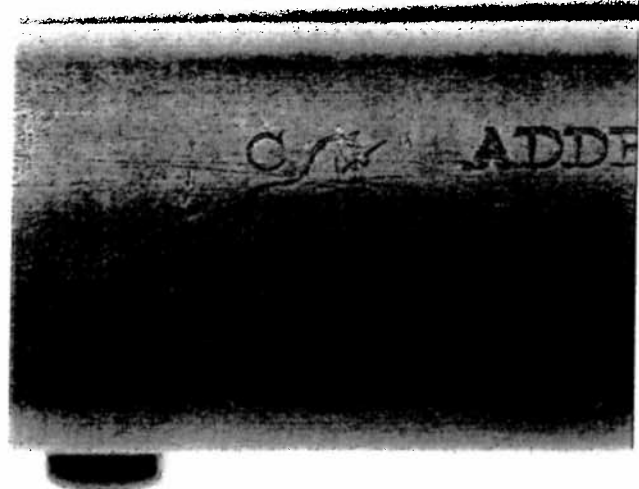
In March of 1858, Sam Colt wrote to Julia and offered her husband the job as his agent in Liege, Belgium. This apparently was a successful move, because by late 1861, von Oppen, then a baron, moved from Liege to London and became Colt's London agent. He remained in that position with distinction until his retirement in 1896.

Apparently, in the early 1870s, the Colt London Agency was plagued by what we call today "parallel imports", i.e., the importation of legitimate product that bypasses the local agent and can be sold at a slightly lower cost by avoiding the agent's commission.

Accordingly, on November 23, 1872, von Oppen wrote Hartford that: *To protect this Agency's trade, we will in future stamp all arms which we will sell here with a trademark consisting of a small 'colt' and the letter 'C'*"⁷ This seems to be the first time that the "colt" is referred to as a "trademark."

On December 28, von Oppen sent Hartford an example of "the mark we stamp on the Colt Derringers sold by this agency."⁸ In fact, it was applied to many of the arms sold by the agency in the early 1870s.

The table on the page 18 is a listing of many of these British Colts that were stamped with the "C Rampant Colt" trademark, the von Oppen mark. Fellow CCA member Charles Ford graciously provided data on more than half the pistols listed. This is by no means a survey of such arms but merely a compilation of known examples. Dates of manufacture are shown for many examples.



The "C" Rampant Colt mark on the barrel of New Model Police Pistol Serial # 5034. (J.D. Breslin Collection. Paul Goodwin Photo)

No 776.

Colt's Patent-Fire-Arms-Manufacturing Co.
Official Depot, 11, Pall Mall, London.
London Dec. 28th 1872.

Colts Pat. Fire Arms Mfg. Co. Hartford Conn. U.S.A.
Gentlemen.

☞ This is the mark which we stamp on the Colts Derringers sold by this Agency. The other arms bearing your name and address in full require it less.

In his letter of December 28, 1872, von Oppen wrote, "This is the mark we stamp on the Colt's Derringers sold by this agency. The other arms bearing your name and address in full require it less." Courtesy of the Connecticut State Library.

COLT'S PATENT FIRE-ARMS MANUFACTURING CO.,

14, PALL MALL, LONDON, S. W.

THE GENUINE
COLT'S REVOLVERS
ARE LONDON PROVED.



AND BEAR
THE COMPANY'S
TRADE MARKS.

DIRECTIONS FOR USING COLT'S NEW .450 BORE GOVERNMENT ARMY PISTOL.

To Load the Pistol.

1st motion—Half cock the pistol with the right hand, and open the latch.

2nd motion—Take the pistol in the left hand, muzzle inclined downwards. Insert the cartridges in succession with the right hand, cock and fire it (taking it in the right hand), or bring the hammer to the safety notch, as may be desired.

To Eject the Cartridge Shells.

1st motion—Half cock the pistol with the right hand, and open the latch.

2nd motion—Take the pistol in the left hand, and, with the ejector pushed by the right hand, eject the shells in succession.

When the shells have been ejected, the pistol is ready for the 2nd motion of loading.

To take the Pistol to pieces.

Loosen the screw in front end of frame which holds the base-pin, draw out the base-pin, half cock the pistol, open the latch, and the cylinder can then be withdrawn.

To remove the ejector, turn out the screw that holds its front end. It can be removed by pushing the front end away from the barrel, and then pulling it towards the muzzle. The barrel can then be unscrewed. The stock can be removed by turning out the three screws of the back strap; after having removed the stock, loosen the screw of the mainspring and turn the mainspring away from under the hammer, then remove the trigger guard by unscrewing the three screws attaching it to the body. All the parts of the lock are then displayed, and can be readily separated; the cylinder bushing should be pushed out for cleaning.

To remove the latch, turn out a screw in the lower side of the frame, (hidden by the trigger guard), then a spiral spring and catch can be withdrawn and the latch can be pulled out.

N.B. There are three notches in the hammer of this pistol, the first is the safety notch, the second is the half cock notch, and third is the cock notch; the pistol can only be fired when the hammer rests in the cock notch (is at full cock). The pistol, when loaded, should be carried with the hammer resting in the safety notch.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

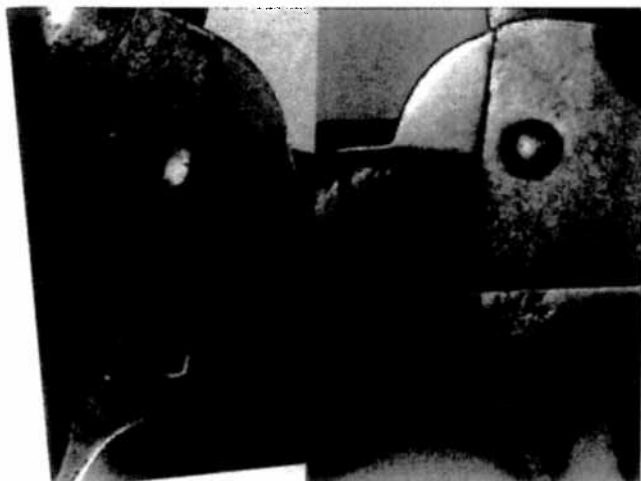
Reproduction of the label placed by Colt's London Agency in the lid of the cases used for their early Single Action revolvers.

The dates are not London shipping dates, but provide a frame of reference since such shipments would have been after the dates of manufacture.

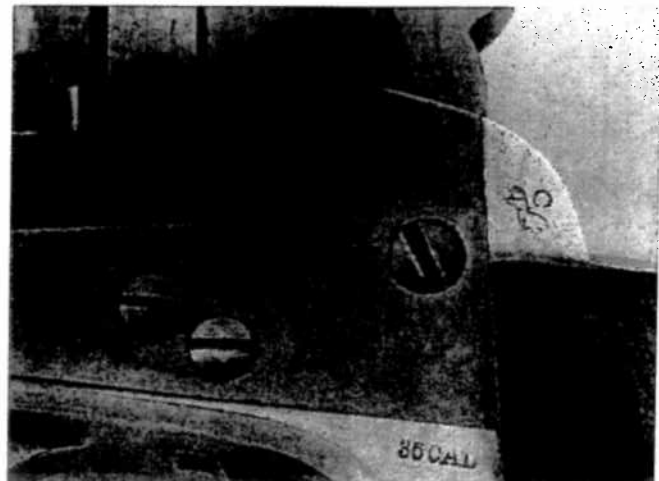
Advertising and case labels bore the sentence: "The Genuine Colt's Revolvers are London Proved and Bear the Company's Trade Mark."

Apparently, the New Model Police Breech Loading Pistols, (sometimes erroneously called "Small Frame Conversions") were among the first to be so marked.

Serial Number 5034 was marked on top of the barrel ahead of the address. It did not work too well to try to put a flat stamp on a round surface.



Three "C" Rampant Colt marks on the trigger guard and back strap of New Model police pistol Serial # 5036. (J.D. Breslin Collection and photos)



The "C" Rampant Colt on back strap of New Model Police pistol, Serial #4075. (Charles R. Ford Collection. Paul Goodwin photo)

4360 PARKER FOR SALE

PARKER VH 12ga 28" cyl/IC, factory straight grip, DT, extractor, 95% barrels, 30% fading case colors, exc. wood and bores, original butt plate, \$2,250. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. gdm9224654

PARKER VH 12ga 30" F/M, 50% Thinning barrel Blue with some light pitting silver rec. butt stock repaired with a pin, checkering worn on both ends, action loose, bores bright with few scattered pits, couple dings in right barrel, \$750. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 gdm8577278

PARKER VH 16ga 28" F/IC, 0 frame, 95% redone barrels, little pitting toward front on bottom, nice blue on custom engraved receiver with bird scenes on both sides and a dog on bottom, R. Seipt engraved on trigger guard, nice refinished wood with small repair in toe, \$2,950. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. gdm9225097

PARKER VHE 12ga 30" F/F, 97% barrels, 50% case colors, nice wood with 14" LOP over new Hawkins pad, 1 1/2 frame, \$2,950. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. gdm8572241

PARKER VHE 16GA 28" xfull/xfull, 98% barrels, silver receiver, 98% original finish on wood, mirror bores, \$3850.00. wildwoodguns.com. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. gdm8870939

VH GRADE, steel, 30" M/F, fine+, unaltered \$1595. photos www.goodmanguns.com Bill 406-587-3131 gdm11155863

4361 PARKER WANTED

BUYING PARKERS and all other guns. Singles or collections. Over 600 guns in stock. Call Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. wildwoodguns.com Email wildwood@fairpoint.net Located in China, Maine. FFL licensed dealer since 1976. gdm4831475

4440 REMINGTON RIFLES FOR SALE

ALMOST ALL Remington sights. 817-346-9633. 3585523

M-700 ADL .222mag 1966 VIN unfired 100% bluing and perfect bore all orig \$750. +S/H 330-705-9925 gdm11312082

MARLIN 1893 38-55 Oct Rifle, 80% bbl fading to brown, 30% fading case colors, nice wood, exc. bore, made 1899, \$1950. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 gdm9429946

REMINGTON 12A 22 24" Round rifle, 85% barrel with some spotting, 80% receiver, VG wood, exc. Shiny bore, \$550. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. www.wildwoodguns.com gdm6139408

REMINGTON 700 ADL 30-06, 97% blue, VG wood with handling marks, Pachmyr pad 3-9 bushell %595.00 Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm10863382

REMINGTON 721 30-06, 97% barrel and receiver, good wood lightly checkered at pistol grip, 4X Tasco, exc. bore, \$495. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. gdm8571701

REMINGTON 722 300 Savage, 97% blue with light freckling, exc. dark walnut, bushnell 1.5-4.5 on redfield mounts, 695.00 Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm10448096

REMINGTON MODEL 6 22 20", 97% bbl blue with some freckling, 98% rec. exc. wood & bore \$495. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm9794378

REMINGTON MODEL 25
25-20 & 32-20.
 Both in VG to Exc. cond.
 25-20 HRS slight freckling on receiver.
\$850 each or \$1,600 for both + ship
607-565-4969

4441 REMINGTON RIFLES WANTED

BUYING REMINGTON RIFLES and all other guns. Singles or collections. Over 600 guns in stock. Call Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. wildwoodguns.com Email wildwood@fairpoint.net Located in China, Maine. FFL licensed dealer since 1976. gdm4831477

M-7, MS, Mannlicher 6mm, 250, 260, 308, 35 REM wanted. Gil 772-528-7020. capnball@bellsouth.net gdm2335429

MODEL 14-1/2, 38-40, 44-40, wanted. Gil 772-528-7020. capnball@bellsouth.net gdm3163875

4460 REMINGTON SHOTGUNS FOR SALE

REMINGTON 1100 12GA 2-3/4" 28" Mod plain barrel, 97% blue with some freckling, exc. wood with few handling marks, exc. bore, \$450. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm7498952

REMINGTON 1148 12GA 26" with cuts, 97+% blue, exc. wood & bore, \$350. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm7251848

REMINGTON 1148 12GA 28" mod. plain, 98% overall looks almost new \$595.00 Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 Wildwoodguns.com gdm10678164

REMINGTON 1148 28ga 25" mod. plain, 98% nice reblued barrel, 80% receiver fading to brown, good solid wood with finish wear, no checkering on butt. \$550.00 Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm10862975

REMINGTON 1148 28ga 25" mod. plain, 97% blue, exc. wood with repaired chip in toe, exc bore \$850.00 Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm10862933

REMINGTON 1894 12ga 30" F/M, 90% nice Damascus pattern, smooth patina receiver, good solid wood with partially worn checkering, shiny bores with scattered pitting, \$550. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. gdm9700777

4461 REMINGTON SHOTGUNS WANTED

BUYING REMINGTON Shotguns and all other guns. Singles or collections. Over 600 guns in stock. Call Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. wildwoodguns.com Email wildwood@fairpoint.net Located in China, Maine. FFL licensed dealer since 1976. gdm4831489

4480 REMINGTON HANDGUNS FOR SALE

REMINGTON ELLIOT Derringer 41RF, 1st variation, 1889-93, 90% nice bright blue, exc. grips, exc. bores, antique, \$1,450. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. gdm9224896

REMINGTON VEST Pocket Derringer 22, 80% smooth nickel finish, exc grips, fair bore, antique, \$1250. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 gdm6951714

4490 ROSSI FOR SALE

RANCH HAND 12" 44 mag or 357 mag NIB \$695. Charles 207-741-2655. gdm7715044

4500 RUGER RIFLES FOR SALE

HISTORIC 10/22 SN 6x, fancy, \$1895. details/photos www.goodmanguns.com Bill 406-587-3131 gdm11155872

M-77 ULTRALIGHT laminated 18 1/2" carbine, 30-06, rare, \$795. photos www.goodmanguns.com Bill 406-587-3131 gdm11155869

RUGER 77 FRBBZ MKII Frontier, designed with the scope mount on the barrel with Leupold FX2 Varix II Scout scope, 98% overall, \$1250. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 gdm6679351

Extended Mag Releases

MK-I & II (Blue).....	\$9.95
(Stainless).....	\$12.95
10-22 (Blue).....	\$12.95
(Stainless).....	\$15.95
M77-22 (Black).....	\$12.95
(Silver).....	\$12.95
M77-22 AW.....	\$12.95
MK-3 Hammer-Release Spacer..	\$8.95

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 All items Post Paid.

4501 RUGER RIFLES WANTED

BUYING RUGER Rifles and all other guns. Singles or collections. Over 600 guns in stock. Call Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. wildwoodguns.com Email wildwood@fairpoint.net Located in China, Maine. FFL licensed dealer since 1976. gdm4831528

4520 RUGER SHOTGUNS FOR SALE

BROWNING A-5 20 ga 22" lc. Simmons rib, 98% barrel, 95% receiver with some freckling, vg wood with a couple of small chips on top edge of the fore end round knob. 1965, \$995.00 Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm10863481

RUGER RED label 20ga 26" f/m, blue receiver, 95% blue with some freckling, nice wood with some figure in the butt, in original box \$1095.00 Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm10863468

4540 RUGER HANDGUNS FOR SALE

BLACKHAWK NEW Model 3" barrel 45 Colt 99% \$590. Charles 207-741-2655 gdm11055255

FLATTOP .44MAG, c.1961, exc+, \$995. photos www.goodmanguns.com Bill 406-587-3131 gdm11155883

OLD MODEL Blackhawk .357, 6 1/2", exc, \$450. photos www.goodmanguns.com Bill 406-587-3131 gdm11155880

RUGER BEARCAT 22 Old Model, non prefix serial number, NIB with papers, \$650 David or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm7179701

RUGER BLACKHAWK Flat Top 44mg in rare 7 1/2". 98% blue, exc. black grips, mirror bore, made in 1962, \$1950. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. wildwoodguns.com gdm5295453

RUGER MKI 22 6" plain barrel, very rare US marked, \$1250 Dick or Craig 207-868-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm7179519

STANDARD AUTO blue 22LR 2" bbl 90% \$250 Charles 207-741-2655 gdm942448

STANDARD AUTO Signature Series 4-3/4" SS ANIB (wood) \$560. Charles 207-741-2655 gdm11055200

4541 RUGER HANDGUNS WANTED

BUYING RUGER Handguns and all other guns. Singles or collections. Over 600 guns in stock. Call Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. wildwoodguns.com Email wildwood@fairpoint.net Located in China, Maine. FFL licensed dealer since 1976. gdm4831533

HAWKEYES 99% and better. L&M Enterprises, phone: 319-33226. E-mail: LMENTERPRISES@mchsi.com 3697566

RUGER factory engraved Single Six revolver w/case, 10" 357 44 Magnum flattops; 2pc boxes. 218-825-3856. 3860016

SPEED SIX, wanted. Gil 772-528-7020. capnball@bellsouth.net gdm3990851

4560 R MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

RANGER 22 smooth bore (Marlin 100) Bolt single shot 24" smooth bore with recess choke, 97% Blue, nice wood with some finish wear, exc. bore, \$695. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. wildwoodguns.com gdm7426256

4580 SAKO FOR SALE

SAKO DELUXE Riihimaki 222 Rem. clip fed. 98% barrel & receiver, exc. wood & bore, \$1250. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm8150044

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4581 SAKO WANTED

MANNLICHER FULLSTOCK Models wanted. Collector. Gil 772-528-7020. capnball@bellsouth.net gdm3720655

4600 SAVAGE FOR SALE

BBL, TANG, receiver sights. 817-346-9633. 3585526

M 1907 32 ACP Blue 99% \$495. Charles 207-741-2655 gdm10828071

M-1895s Two: octagon, #78XX, round, #59XX unaltered, vg \$695/\$950. photos www.goodmanguns.com Bill 406-587-3131 gdm11155888

M-1899 SRC .303, fine+, \$995. photos www.goodmanguns.com Bill 406-587-3131 gdm11155894

M111 TROPHY hunter 30.06 22" barrel, simmonds adjust. scope, black composite stock 99% \$595. Charles 207-741-2655 gdm10758190

SAVAGE 1899 250-300 Takedown rifle, made 1916, cro checkered trigger, perch belly stock, 95+% barrel with some freckling, 95% case colors on lever, nice wood with few hunting marks, exc. bore, tang sight, RT side and bottom of receiver 95% with some freckling, left side and around to top has some pitting from poor storage and was cleaned up and cold blued, it has not seen a lot of use, \$1,850. wildwoodguns.com Dick or Craig 207-968-2138. gdm9225207

SAVAGE 1899 250-3000 takedown, perch belly stock, original introductory gun made in 1915, 90% barrel, silver receiver, fair wood, VG bore, \$1450. Dick or Craig 207-968-2138 wildwoodguns.com gdm7252198

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BUS: 717-763-8806

FAX: 717-763-8804

EMAIL: aschamroth@asaconsultants.net

Date: January 7, 2014

t S/N 15304

In response to your questions concerning Colt S/N 15304.

I purchased this gun from Ron Dean who is a well know Colt Collector/Dealer.
His specialty is Colts that went to England. This gun (S/N 15304) was 100%
authenticated by Ron Dean and several other Colt Dealers.

(See information provided by Ron Dean)

Therefore in my opinion this Von Oppen Colt is completely authentic and correct.

Best Regards,



Alex Schamroth

The VON OPPEN COLT

Serial Number: 15304

Barrel Length: 5 ½ inch

Cal.: .45 Eley Short

Finish: Blue & Case Hardened

Grips: One-Piece Walnut

Date Shipped: November 11, 1874

Shipped to: Colts London Agency

One of the FINEST CONDITIONED, FIRST YEAR PRODUCTION, Peacemakers known.

**First Year Production of Peacemaker was
September 30, 1873 – September 30, 1874**

**This gun was shipped on November 5, 1874; therefore it was manufactured prior to September 30, 1873.
(First year of Production)**

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**Additionally this Colt is one of the finest conditioned Peacemakers know from this early production period. Its rarity is further increased as Colt only manufactured about 300 Peacemakers in the first year of production.
(September 30, 1873 to September 30, 1874)**

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January 14, 2014

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation with Rock Island Auction Company.

Enclosed is a copy of the catalog listing and a written statement from the consignor regarding the condition and history of the Lot 3168 - Excellent Early Production Colt Single Action Revolver with Rare Von Oppen Rampant Colt Trademark and Factory Letter, serial number 15304, which you purchased at our December 6th, 7th, & 8th Premiere Firearms Auction. This information is included for your records.

If I can be of any further assistance please let me know.

Sincerely,



Casandra Braechevelt
Customer Service Department
Rock Island Auction Company

enclosure

December 6th, 7th, & 8th 2013 Premiere Auction

Lot 3168

Excellent Early Production Colt Single Action Revolver with Rare Von Oppen Rampant Colt Trademark and Factory Letter - Serial no. 15304, 45 Eley Short cal., 5 1/2 inch round bbl., blue/casehardened finish, walnut grips. This is an excellent example of a Colt Single Action Army Revolver that was chambered for the .45 Eley Short cartridge and shipped to the Colt London Agency. The right trigger guard shoulder is stamped with the small "C/Rampant Colt" trademark used by Colt's London Agent Fredrick Von Oppen. Von Oppen initiated the use of the "C/Rampant Colt" trademark in late 1872. This was the first use of the famous Rampant Colt trademark on any Colt firearm. The revolver has London proof marks on the underside of the barrel and between each chamber on the cylinder. The revolver has the Colt high polish commercial blue finish on the barrel, ejector housing, cylinder, trigger guard and back strap. The frame, loading gate and hammer are color casehardened with vivid case colors. The frame screws and cylinder pin are niter blue. The one piece walnut grip has a high polish varnished piano finish. The first style ejector housing has the early barrel boss and bullseye ejector rod head. The cylinder has the small stops and bolt guides. The top of the barrel is roll-stamped with the first style script address "+ COLT'S PT. F. A. MFG. Co. HARTFORD. CT. U.S.A.+" with a slanted cross at either end of the marking. The left side of the frame is roll-stamped with the first style two date in two lines patent marking. The left shoulder of the trigger guard is stamped with the caliber designation "45 CAL/B" (45 Eley Short). The loading gate is stamped with the assembly number "25". Small "C" Colt inspection marks are stamped on the underside of the barrel behind the barrel boss hole, on the rear face of the cylinder and in the hammer well above the firing pin hole. The full serial number "15304" is stamped on the bottom of the frame, trigger guard and back strap. The partial serial number "5304" is stamped on the underside of the barrel beneath the ejector housing and on the side of the cylinder. The accompanying factory letter verifies the serial number, caliber, blue finish, with barrel length and grips as "Not Listed" and that it was shipped as 1 of 100 to Colt's London Agency, 14 Pall Mall, London, England, on November 5, 1874. TJ/R1

CONDITION: Very fine. The revolver remains in exceptional condition for an early production Colt Single Action and retains 80% plus of the bright original blue and 95% vivid casehardened finish. The barrel and ejector housing have some edge wear at the muzzle and flaking along the top and left rear of the barrel. The visible steel has an attractive mellow plum-brown patina. The cylinder has 75% of the blue finish with the same matching attractive plum patina as the barrel. Nearly all of the blue finish is present on the trigger guard and back strap. The frame and hammer sides have 90% or more of the original casehardened finish with vivid case colors. The case colors on the top of the hammer and the loading gate have silvered slightly but still retain nearly 90% of the casehardened finish. The frame screws and the end of the cylinder pin have 80% or more of the fiery niter blue finish. The grip is excellent with 95% or more of the piano-finish varnish remaining. Wear is limited to several minor storage marks on the sides and heels of the grip. All of the markings, including the Von Oppen "C/Rampant Colt" trademark are crisp. The action is tight and functions perfectly. This is a rare high condition example of an early production London Agency Single Action Army Revolver with the Von Oppen "C/Rampant Colt" trademark rarely found on Single Action Army Revolvers. The revolver is one of the finest known early production Colt Single Action Army Revolvers.

Estimate: 20000 - 30000