



Springfield Mass

January 5, 2007

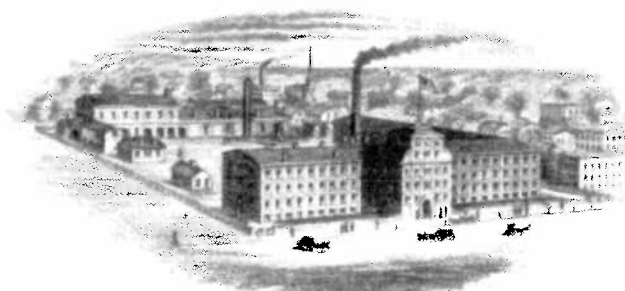
for World
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The revolver you inquired about recently is a New Model No. 3. It was introduced by the factory in 1878 and manufactured until 1898, but continued to be sold until 1912. A total of 35,796 revolvers were produced in either blue or nickel finish with barrel lengths of 3 1/2", 4", 5", 6", 6 1/2", 7", 7 1/2" and 8". The original grips on the gun were checkered walnut or checkered hard rubber. It used .44 S&W Russian ammunition.

During the thirty-four years the revolver was produced, it was manufactured in both target and fixed-sight variations in the following calibers: .32 S&W, .32-44 S&W, .320 S&W Revolving Rifle, .38 S&W, .38-44 S&W, .41 S&W, .44 Henry Rim Fire, .44 S&W American, .44 S&W Russian, .45 S&W Schofield, .450 Revolver, .45 Webley, .455 Mark I, and .455 Mark II.

Many other countries purchased the New Model No. 3, but significant orders were received from Japan and Turkey. The Japanese government through their agent, Takata & Company, purchased approximately one third of the total production, and the revolver was so popular with the Japanese that in 1902 Smith & Wesson featured an advertisement showing the New Model No. 3 as the choice of the Japanese Navy.

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SMITH & WESSON




New Model No. 3
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We have researched your Smith & Wesson New Model No. 3 .44 Single Action Target, caliber Smith & Wesson .32-44 Gallery Cartridge, in company records which indicate that your handgun, with serial number 27997, was open on the records, therefore there is no shipping information available. We can state that this revolver was built in 1889 and that the group of 50 units that included this serial number are all open on the records and were all completed as target models in both .32-44 and .38-44 cartridges. We do not have an explanation as to why they were never log out of the company.

Sincerely,

SMITH & WESSON



Roy G. Jinks
Historian