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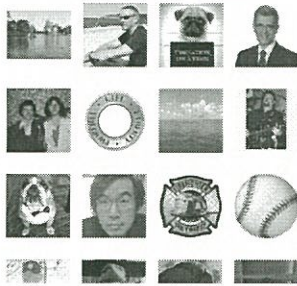
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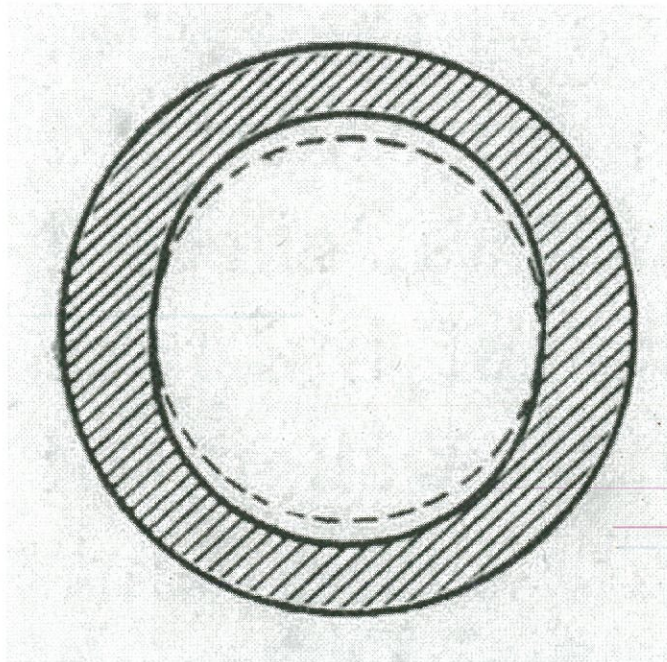
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Saturday, January 11, 2014

Is it a shotgun or a rifle? Oval Bores and the Colindian

In the [last two](#) posts, we looked at some examples of firearms that could be used as both rifles and shotguns. In today's post, we will look at another firearm of this ball and shotgun category, the "Colindian gun".

The Colindian gun was produced by Charles Lancaster, a famous British gunmaker in the 1800s. Mr. Lancaster was not only interested in small arms, but also larger cannons as well. In 1850, he came up with the idea of an oval shaped bore. The bore would be slightly oval shaped and would rotate throughout the length of the barrel and therefore, a tightly fitting projectile would come out spinning, just like a rifle bullet. Unlike a true rifle though, there are no grooves and therefore, no sharp rifling edges, which makes the bore easier to clean.



The above image shows the cross-sectional profile of an oval bore barrel. The image has the details slightly exaggerated though. In reality, the oval diameter was only slightly away from being perfectly round and imperceptible to the eye.

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What are the differences between AK-47, AKM, AK-56, AK-74 and AK-101?

The AK family of assault rifles are pretty widespread around the world, because of their lower cost of manufacturing, lower tooling costs, ...



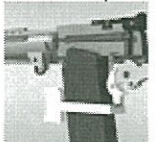
Revolvers: Pepper-Box Revolver

The first repeating revolver type weapons and predecessors of modern revolvers are called pepper-box revolvers. The name has to do with the ...



Pistols: Derringers

The name "derringer" is often associated with a class of pistols that are small and designed to be carried in a coat pocket, woman...



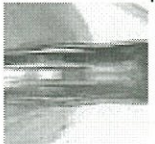
Hammer Fired vs. Striker Fired

In the world of modern firearms which use centerfire cartridges, there are two major types of mechanisms used to trigger the cartridge prim...



Concealed Weapons

In our last post about combined firearms, two of the examples (the whip pistol and King Henry VIII's mace) are also examples of a conce...



Rifling: Manufacturing: Button Rifling

In our last post, we studied a method of rifling called Broach Rifling. Now we will study another method of rifling called Button Rifling

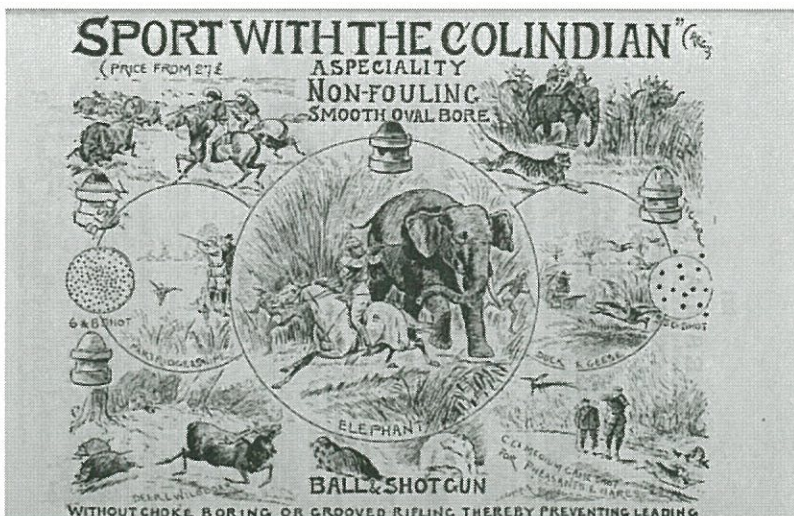
Shotguns: Actions and Designs

The early history of true shotguns begins in the 1800s, when people began to use them to hunt birds.

To prove that his idea could work, he constructed a 68-pounder cannon (which was the same as the largest cannon then in British military service), which he successfully demonstrated to the British government in 1851. In 1852, he decided to use the same principle in rifles and produced a few carbines bored with his special oval boring, which he submitted for evaluation by the British military. This carbine design was accepted by the Royal Engineers in 1855 and used until 1867. The Lancaster cannon design was also used in the British military, especially during the Crimean war.

In 1870, he took on an apprentice named Henry Thorn and when he passed away in 1878, Mr. Thorn continued to produce firearms under the Charles Lancaster name.

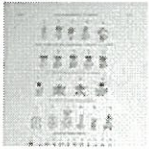
The Colindian gun was produced in the late 1800s for hunters in the British empire, using the same oval-bore principle. The name is an abbreviation of the words, "Colonies" and "India". These could be loaded with either a shotshell loaded with buckshot, or a shell with a single .65 bore slug. In emergencies, it could also be loaded with a heavy 750 grain hardened conical bullet, to take on elephants and rhinoceros. The sights were of the folding type and could be adjusted for 50 or 100 yard ranges, or folded down so that it could be used as a short-ranged shotgun. The Colindian guns were rated to use both black powder and the newer cordite propellants.



Vintage advertisement for the Colindian gun. Click on image to enlarge. Public domain image.



During that time, the flintlock firing ...



Testing Firearms: Proof Test

The first type of testing we will study is the Proof Test . The idea behind such a test

is to verify the strength of the barrel, breech and ...



Actions: Lever Action

In the last post , we studied a popular mechanism called the bolt-action . Now we will study another

mechanism that is also still being used...



Revolver: Walker Colt & Colt Dragoon Revolvers

In our last post, we discussed the Paterson Colt , which was the

first weapon to bear the term "revolver". As we noted in our pre...

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CHARLES LANCASTER'S
WORLD-RENOWNED
NON-FOULING, SMOOTH OVAL BORE
Ball and Shot Gun,
"THE COLINDIAN"
(Registered Trade Mark).

FOR "CORDITE" OR BLACK POWDER.

Kills clean, does not wound, and suitable for all sporting distances for which such Guns were intended, absorbing a special "Cordite" and up-to-date solid or expanding bullets, having the HIGHEST POSSIBLE VELOCITY, great smashing power, combined with accuracy and general handiness; also, with suitable loads of shot, will kill grouse up to 50 to 100 yards, and all ordinary feathered game.

Read what "SPORTSMEN" say of their Lancaster "COLINDIAN."

"I have shot a bear and a buffalo with the 'Colindian', and am now using it for quail, and it kills at a very long range."—A. J. C.

"It is a most effective rifle up to 300 yards, with great smashing power, and, with shot, it performs as good as a modified choke."—E. H. J.

"I have just returned from shooting in the Upper Himalayas, and am pleased to say the 'Colindian' was most useful as a secondary weapon to my Express, and as a shot gun I found it invaluable."—Capt. A. T. P.

"I have sent a bullet through the skull into the brain of a large elephant, with a gun giving much less penetration. Capt. H. has just killed his first tiger, and was much pleased with your 'Colindian'."—H. N. B. G.

"I shot at 90-in. bull-brown, as well as a fair size mule-deer (the 'Colindian' bullet broke the deer's shoulder and passed through the lungs)."—H. K. T. Travancore, E. I.

"For the last two years I have shot with your 'Colindian', and have found it most satisfactory in thick bush country for buck, bantam, and bush guinea fowl."—A. C. R. A. Buchananland.

"I write to tell you that I am more than pleased with the 'Colindian', and shall recommend it strongly to those of my friends who may not have heard of it. I have just returned from ten days' leave, and although I did not meet a tiger I managed to bring over three big bears—two with single shots and one with two. One of these was at a range of 100 yards full—my abject says more—and this performance I think most satisfactory."—E. M. K. W.

"The 'Colindian' I had of you shoots very well."—A. J.

"The 'Colindian' performed very well at 100 yards."—E. J.

"I have shot two bears with the 'Colindian' in Kashmir. It strikes a very powerful blow."—Major G.

"I recently purchased one of your 14-bore 'Colindian' Guns, and am greatly pleased with same, having killed 1,100 couple of snipe during the season, and so far, with ball, have killed five bears."—W. H. H.

"Having used a 'Colindian' in British Columbia and the Yukon last winter, I write to tell you that it has proved most satisfactory in every way as to feather, far, and kill. The results at snipe, chukar, grouse, and partridges were very good."—H. H. C.

Hammerless, £36, £45 & £50; Hammerless Ejectors, £44 & £55

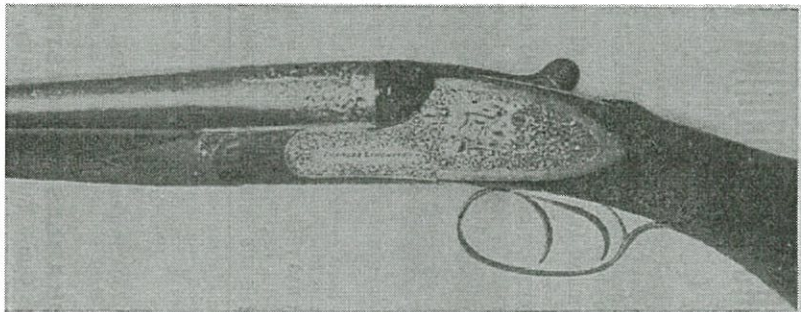
Prices are slightly increased for above Gains proved, shot and regulated with suitable charges of "Cordite."

N.B.—Single Trippers not recommended for Guns which are constructed for rough usage on Exploring and Hunting Expeditions.

May be shot and tested before purchase at the Target and Clay Pigeons at Lancaster's Shooting Grounds near Willesden Junction, N.W. Full particulars—

11, Pantons Street, Haymarket, London, S.W.
(Opposite Comedy Theatre.)

Vintage advertisement for the Colindian gun. Click on image to enlarge. Public domain image.



Click on image to enlarge. Public domain image.

These guns were made in several bores and with multiple barrels as well.



Four-barreled Charles Lancaster gun. Click on image to enlarge.

The above magnificent gun is a four-barreled hammerless breech-loading rifle that was once owned by the Maharaja of Rewa in India. The four barrels are all oval-bore. The rear trigger is actually a cocking lever. Pulling the cocking lever for the first time makes the upper right barrel ready for firing. Each pull of the trigger and cocking lever fires each of the barrels in turn. The oval nature of the barrels is almost impossible to see, as the oval is only 0.006 inches out of round.

The Charles Lancaster company continued to produce oval bore rifles from the late 1800s to the early 1920s or so.

Posted by The Editor at 10:35 PM

Labels: Ball and Shot Gun, Colindian, Oval Bore, rifle, Shotgun

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