



The Antique Arms Gazette

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The Christmas Edition

Yes, it's that time of year again – Christmas is upon us once more. Another year gone, a year of changes, memories and stories to tell. I won't get into the details much, though we all know it was a momentous year for international politics, the environment and human evolution. Makes me glad I concentrate my interests on the past, on history and on antiques... seems more predictable and less scary. But, philosophical mush aside, Christmas doesn't seem an appropriate time to talk about guns and stuff – or is it? Certainly in the past gun makers of all sorts have tried to capitalize on Christmas as the *perfect* occasion to give guns. Just look at some of the vintage Christmas gun ads below:

Christmas lasts a lifetime
when it's a
AK 47

Don't forget extra mags and ammo

with the line "...and pistols that shoot...". So, you see, the notion that guns and Christmas go hand-in-hand like cookies and milk is not that far fetched...

Original MAUSER for Christmas
Perfect Gift for the Man Who Has Everything!

FREE For Christmas
Gifts in Appreciation

FREE
Accessories worth Over \$100 with a Mauser purchase (shown here - free while supplies last)

Buy Now, before Prices Go Up!
Call Direct: 800-274-4124

Mitchell's Munitions
P.O. Box 3070, Delta, British Columbia V9C 2T2
Tel: 604-921-1444 Fax: 604-921-1444

This one is as recent as 2012!

ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE IMPOSSIBLE

At Christmas Time

IVER JOHNSON
Safety Automatic Revolver

I'd rather find one of these in my stocking than a lump of coal...

Of Guns and Knives

Many of you know that beside collecting and purveying antique pistols, I am also a knife maker and all-round "tinkerer". I have been making knives and daggers for about eight years, and as my gun collecting habit became more pronounced I invariably developed a taste for gun-knife combinations. The two are also a natural, like cookies and milk, and the combinations alone would make a suitable subject for collection. There are boxed sets with matching pairs, and then there are the knife-and-gun combinations. Both are very rare, and both tend to be extremely expensive. I have never purchased a boxed set, but I have made plenty of my own. When I find a particularly nice gun, I will sometimes make a companion knife for it and house it in a custom made wooden case. Many of you have seen these before:

OWN THIS SADDLE GUN!

Shoot THE FAMOUS 1000-SHOT RED RYDER COWBOY CARBINE

DAISY AIR RIFLES

The New GOLDEN BANNED RED RYDER SADDLE CARBINE

help You get a DAISY for CHRISTMAS

DAISY AIR RIFLES

Yes, there be those who will scoff at me for even mentioning the "Tools of Death" at a time such as this, but we all know it's not the tool which makes the craftsman... 'Nuf said. Let's get on with the more interesting stuff. Just one more ad for a "stocking stuffer" (I like this one best!)

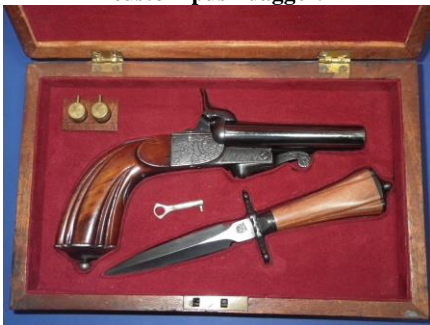
There is even a well-known Christmas carol which describes the presents under the tree



A 5mm pin fire revolver and a 2mm single shot pistol with a miniature Damascus hunter.



This is how it all started: my first pin fire I brought back from England, with a custom push dagger.



One of my finest: a mint condition double-barrel pistol with a custom boot dagger.



Another mint condition revolver with a matching boot knife

On the other hand, there are the knife and gun combinations. There are many variations, from simple blades and bayonets added to the gun barrel, to intricate pocket knives, daggers and swords with integral guns. If you are lucky enough to find one of these, hold on to it, because they are extremely hard to find!



German made pocket knife with a 5mm single-shot pistol. It was in "fair" condition with damage to the scales, and sold recently for US\$915 at auction...



A rare, English made percussion pistol with spring-loaded bayonet I had for only a short while. It sold in a snap (pardon the pun...)



Mint condition Joseph Chaineux revolver with mounted bayonet / knife. I forged the knife to fit the gun's knife-mount based on historical examples..



A big revolver with a folding knife. Mid-19th century



Double-barrel pin fire pistol with top-mounted, folding bayonet

Combining guns with a cutting / stabbing weapon goes back to the very beginning of firearms manufacture. There are many examples of match lock, wheel lock, flint lock and percussion pistols attached or incorporated into the design of knives, daggers, swords and cutlasses. Some were ingenious, others rather silly, and many of questionable effectiveness. Their intent was more to act as a deterrent to would-be attackers than a genuine defensive alternative. Even today there are manufacturers who produce gun-knives (or knife-guns?) but those, too, are more of a novelty than a viable means of defense.

Customs Woes

Lately, the RCMP Technical Division must have been swamped with requests because my shipments are not clearing customs. I have a back-log of fine pistols waiting at the border, but until they are cleared, I cannot import them and offer them for sale. I hope the new year will see their work load decrease, and my import requests processed. As always, stay tuned and check my website often. There are a few real beauties on their way!

