

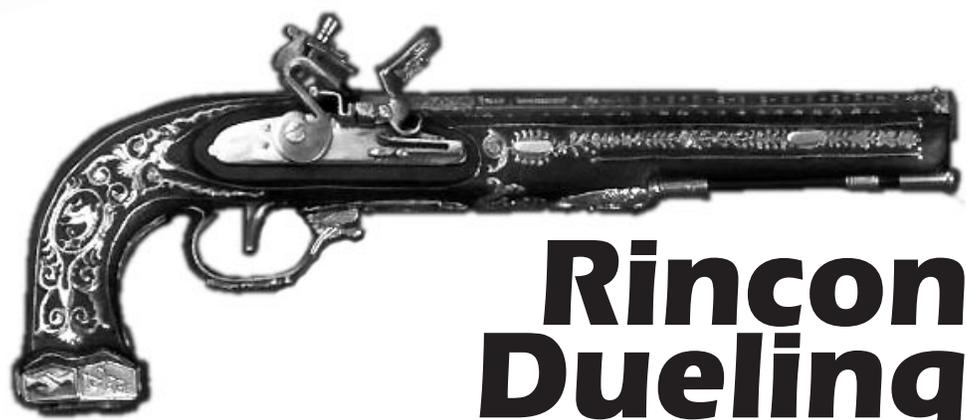
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Miniature Arms

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Miniature Arms
Collectors/Makers
Society



DeWalt AirGuns



Rincon Duelling Pistols



3mm SingleShot Kolibri

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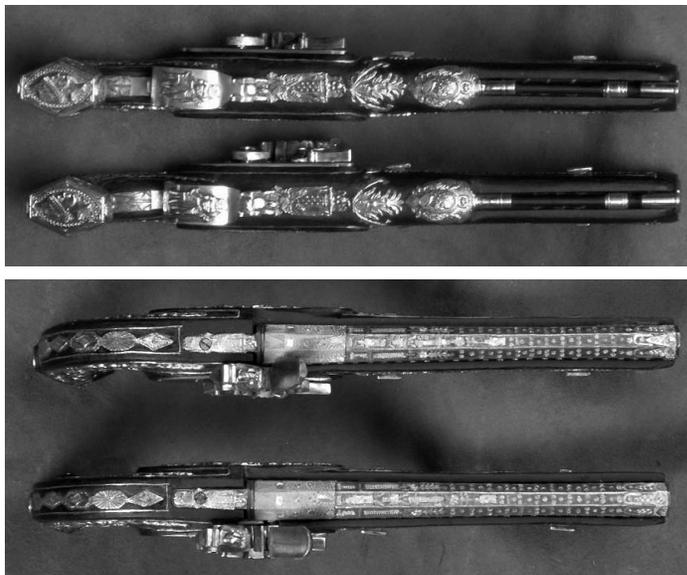
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TWO RINCON DUELLING PISTOLS

From Bogota, Colombia, Antonio Rincon presents, A 1/3 Scale Gold Mounted pair of Holster Pistols, Boated Design. The 4 inch octagonal barrels of over. 18 caliber, struck three times with the maker's hall marks: NB BOUTET BC Are embellished en suite with Nio gold-worked-panel-sections at muzzles and breeches depicting floral swags, geometric patterns and classical symbols, over each barrel flat are spread an orderly array (semee) of 134 five-pointed gold stars, each pistol barrel numbered 216 on the left-most flat, gold-line touch-hole, and set with polished-steel fore and rear sights; rounded lock-plates each engraved with hunting scenes containing dogs and boars, and inscribed around beveled borders, boater a' Versailles, each lock with concealed safeties and roller frizzes springs, the rounded bodied swan-necked cocks engraved with mythological beasts, the frizzans with eagles (one with is head rearing, the other with is head downward), the pan elegantly engraved with minute scrolls and drapery. The ebony full-stocks entirely encased in profuse inlays of gold-wire and large gold-panels depicting foliate meander and arabesques, each side of the grips inlaid with a sea-serpent with a small oval surround (or frame) of gold inlaid scrolls, solid gold counter-plate depicting a bas-relief mannered interpretation of a classical scene, in the centre, the figure of Samson holding, in his right hand, a lute signifying the lyrical. In his left hand, he is holding a baton, and his elbow is resting on a small pedestal decorated with the eye of Horus, the protecting power of ancient Egypt. Behind are some books representing literature, while above is the earth, as the centre of the universe over parchment scroll relating the art of war, with a halberd inserted in it. There is a cannon barrel and other weapons in front of houses and a market. Above the Earth the Acropolis



can be seen and at the right side of it is the Parthenon. To the left side of the design, Samson's feet rest on a submissive lion, behind which there is a table supporting a marble plaque with the 5 bases of Greek mythology written on it. The four points of the table are decorated with four caryatids, and upon it there is a lamp representing human intelligence. To the left, a sinister creature, which has landed from above on all four, crouches. The creature has the breasts of a woman, wings, and a wreath as used by Catholic Saints. It is vomiting into a basin, and emptying the contents into the River Tiber. To add to the pollution, a cloud of poisonous gas explodes from its rear end, harming the atmosphere, while the now polluted river surrounds the city of Rome with the Vatican, the Forum, the balustrade of the river bank, the Catacombs and the ancient Market. The octagonal solid gold butt caps, each bearing a classical female portrait bust in high relief surrounded by classical motifs of hands and mirrors, scale of justice, and others along each of the eight sides; the trigger guard begins with an eagle, much like the imperial Eagle used by Bonaparte, surmounting a pedestal (or column) surrounded by a stand of flags and featuring a putti at the juncture of the bow which is in turn decorated with a mythic figure (likely Zeus and a Child) and finishing with a trap embellished with palm fronds and likewise struck with a tiny panel (frieze) of a classic figure, the rear-most pipe spreading out to incorporate a large oval portrait bust of a classical male bust surrounded by trophies of arms and flags. 6 inches overall length. Acknowledgements. I am grateful to Dr. Joseph A. Murphy, without whom the miniature garniture set, the subject of this article, would not exist, as it was he who commissioned its making. I have pleasure also in acknowledging the courteous assistance which I received from Catherine Gendre Conservateur of the musee Lambinet, Ville de Versailles for sending



me the Catalogue de la manufacture d'armes de Versailles et Nicolas Noel Boutet, Roselyne Hurel, conservateur en chef of the Musée Carnavalet Histoire de Paris for sending me list of arms from Boutet Manufactory from Versailles which belong to musee, Jacqueline Megel, of Musée National de la Legion D' Honneur des ordres de chaverie for her congratulations on my work. I have to thank Mr. Stuart W. Pyhrr – Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Curator Department Arms and Armor of the Metropolitan Museum of Art of the New York City, whose support at all times has been of inestimable value. I thank Miss Jennifer Black, Assistant Registrar for exhibitions of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, for her kind help sending me the measures and some color plates taken of the origi-

nal garniture set, which was exhibited in the Museum. All components of the magnificent set solid gold 24 k 18 k, ivory from Tanzania, Colombian mahogany, ebony from Zaire, tortoise shell from Galapagos Islands, velvet silk filament imported from France for the lining of the case was produce on a hand loom, the binding of the interior of the case was made of straps of gold thread imported from Germany, sculptures and damascan, were made handmade by Antonio Rincon.

Antonio Rincon

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TWO 1/2 Scale Rigby Pistols

By Antonio Rincon,
Bogota, Colombia

These two miniatures were exhibited in the NRA show held in Louisville, Kentucky, May 16-18-2008. Weapons, Beautiful and Bizarre. Mans ingenuity has created armament of beautiful design and strange combinations, all deadly.

Recently, while doing some research, I came across an article, about two of my miniatures, which appeared in the Feb. 1995 issue of GUNS REVIEW magazine, of London.

The first was a 1/2 scale, three barrel, all steel pistol with a rotating hammer nose, originally made by W. and J. Rigby of DUBLIN.

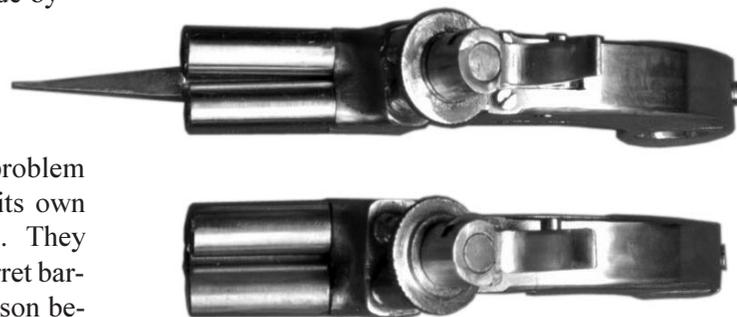
The second was a copy of a four barrel with bayonet, all steel pistol, with a rotating hammer nose, also by W. and J. Rigby.

It has a simple but ingenious solution to the problem of providing repetitive fire. Each barrel has its own percussion nipple, and is detachable for loading. They are numbered consecutively to ensure that the correct barrel are refitted to the appropriate breech. The reason being that these pistols were made long before the days of unified screw threads, and not all the threads would mate. The most unusual feature of the pistol is that the striker was offset and attached to a circular plate which could be manually rotated so that the striker would hit each of the capped nipples and fire the loaded barrels in turn.

The lock has an extra notch, which permits the hammer to be drawn to a safe position clear of the nipple, but sufficiently close to prevent the loss of a loosely fitting cap.



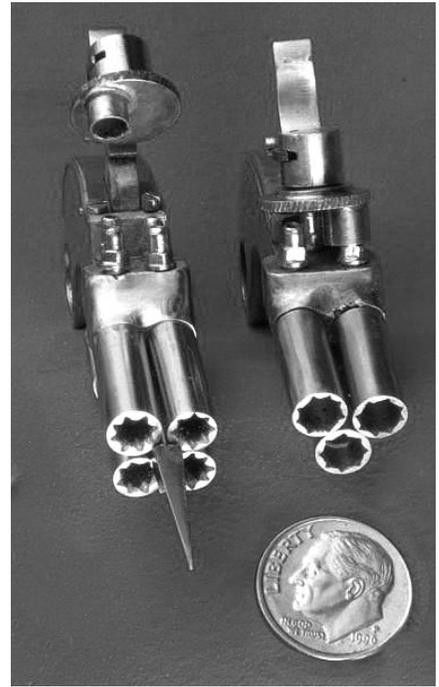
Above: several stages in the making of the Rigby pistols.



It has a folding trigger, which only protruded when the pistol is fully cocked. This pistol is extremely well made.

Being all metal, and having a hole in the stock it could be also be used as a knucleduster should the multiplicity of shots fail, or the number of assailants be greater then the number of shot available. A few were made in six shot.

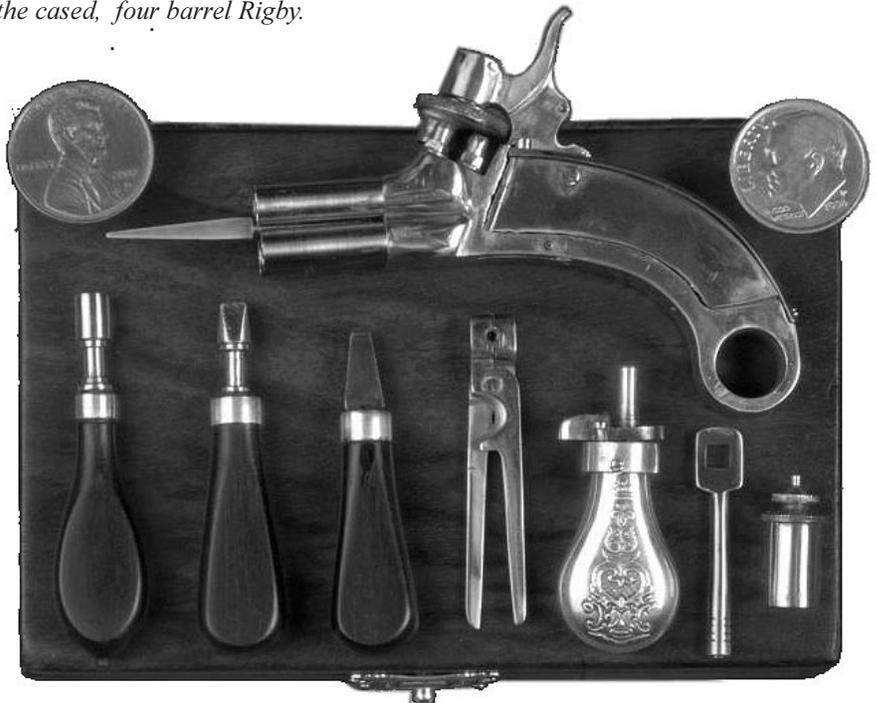
In Dubin, William and John Rigby took over the firm at No. 24 Suffolk Street on the death of their father, John



Above: Finished, except for the engraving is the cased, four barrel Rigby.

senior, in 1819. He had rounded off his career as Ireland's premier gunmaker by introducing in the penultimate year of his life the damascus barrels of mingled iron and steel which his sons were to mount on the finest percussion firearms which their firm, and country, produced. On page 89 of his book *Firearms Curiosa*, Lewis Winant shows two Rigby pistols, a three barrel and a four barrel without bayonet, both from the collection of Keith Neal of London.

The autor is engraving the body and hammers of the guns, shown in this article, with foliation and scrolls and inscribed on reverse in a ribbon W.& J RIGBY and on obverse DUBLIN, with very deep engraving typical of the Rigby workmanship.



Above: Shown actual size is the four barrel Rigby with accessories

Sincerely, Antonio Rincon.