

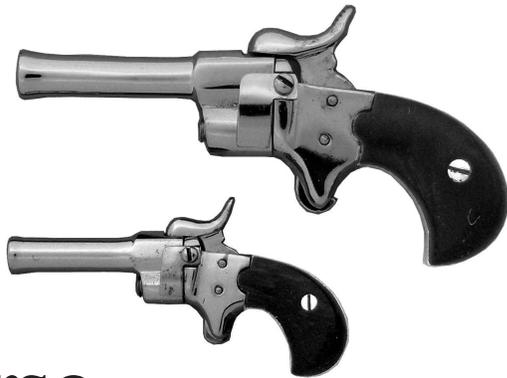
Miniature Arms

April, 2007

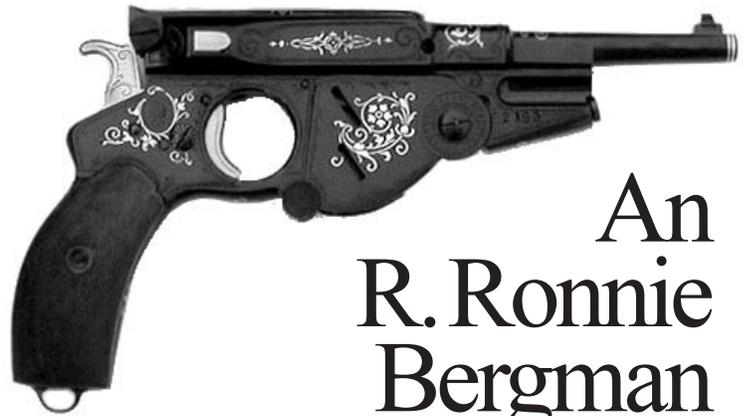
The Journal of the
Miniature Arms
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The Worlds Biggest Miniature Arms Publication

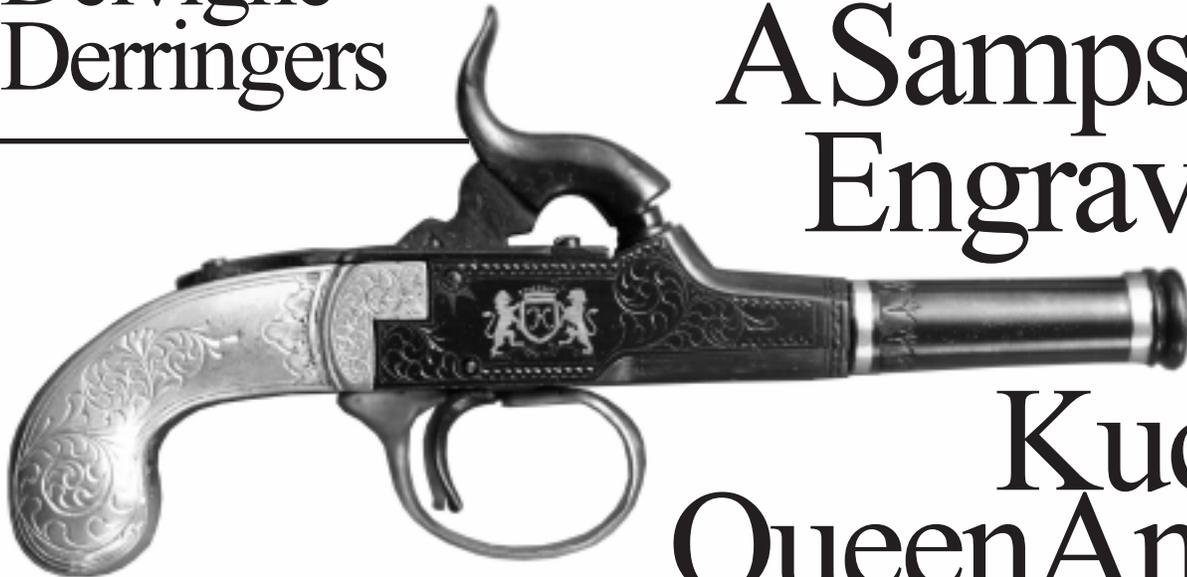


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An
R. Ronnie
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A Sampson
Engraved



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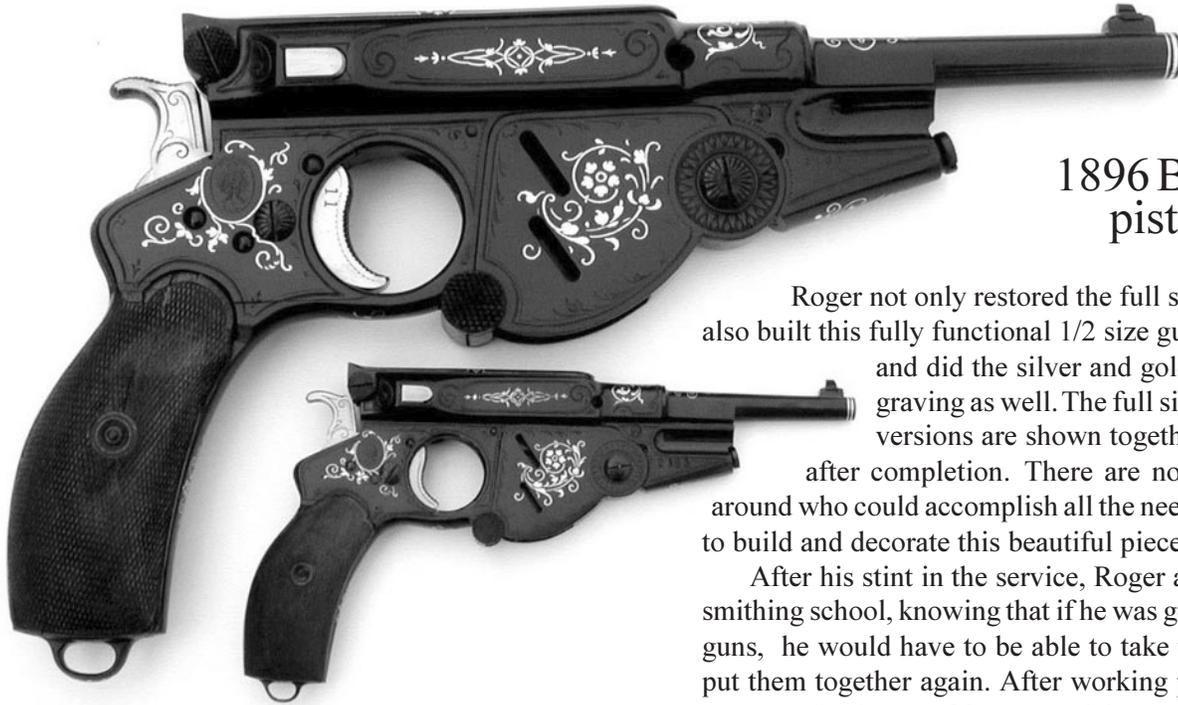
Stan
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Roger Ronnie Builds a Half Scale Bergman

cially when you are so used to working on much larger projects.

Roger learned about engraving under two, different master engravers, but when it comes down to doing nice scrolls, it was practice, practice, practice! Roger adds that although the tools of the trade have changed little over the past centuries, because of better optics and lighting, engravers today are able to do better work than at any time in the past,

Half size 1896 Bergmann pistol project



Roger not only restored the full size original, he also built this fully functional 1/2 size gun from scratch and did the silver and gold inlay and engraving as well. The full size and half size versions are shown together (on the left) after completion. There are not many people around who could accomplish all the needed disciplines to build and decorate this beautiful piece.

After his stint in the service, Roger attended a gunsmithing school, knowing that if he was going to engrave guns, he would have to be able to take them apart and put them together again. After working primarily as an engraver for the past 30 years and decorating and restoring the finish of many fine guns, Roger finally used his gunsmith training to full advantage making a gun of his own entirely from scratch.

The accompanying photos detail the construction of his 1/2 size miniature version of a rare 1896 Bergmann 6.5 mm pistol. Roger had the opportunity to restore the full size version to its original condition. Corrosion had eaten into much of the metalwork, almost completely erasing the fine engraving and silver inlay work. Refinishing involved filing down the corroded parts and rescribing the engraving, until all the surfaces were again smooth. The original engraved and silver inlaid patterns were then restored.



ED. The newest member of the MAS to be inducted into the Internet Craftsman Museum is Roger Ronnie. On the next few pages are some images, and information taken from the website.

Roger Ronnie grew up in rural North Dakota, where he started drawing at an early age, but it was in college, where he took every art course he could, that he got his real start in art.

After college he went into the service. Here he was introduced to guns and gun engraving. At this time he also saw his first miniatures, and couldn't believe how beautiful they were. He remembers how impressed he was with the workmanship. The engraved animals were so small and yet so lifelike and the scrolls so perfect. He wanted to buy the gun; however, when he saw the price it was quite a shock. He had no concept of the work that went into these guns, but since he had a degree in art he figured he should be able to pick up this new art form quickly. Not surprisingly, the road was longer and harder than he had expected. Learning how to use all the tools and how to draw everything so small was difficult, espe-

Roger has always had several projects going at the same time. He also builds ship models, is building a running V-12 miniature engine and a working model of a Cushman scooter engine and builds and engraves vintage watchmaking tools. It's not "if", but "when" he runs into a problem or two, he can go to another project until he solves the problem on the first one. Being an engraver has really helped in developing an "eye" for detail. This has helped, not only his own projects but has also given him more appreciation of work done by others. He better understands all the blood, sweat and tears that they have shed over their projects.

In 2003, Roger Ronnie received the Joe Martin Foundation's top award, receiving a plaque and a check for \$1000.00 for being selected as the winner of the foundation's "Metalworking Craftsman of the Year."

Except for the rifling and checkering, which were done by hand, the gun was the first project Roger made entirely using miniature machine tools. Even the special end mills and chamber reaming tool were made using Sherline tabletop machine tools.

Due to its low serial number and the high amount of decoration on the full size version it is believed to be either an early prototype or a special presentation model.

Roger says that the full size model was more difficult to engrave because the gun was in such bad shape to start with. Years of storage in a damp environment had caused a lot of rust. Much of the gun's surface had to be filed down below the rust and then re-engraved. On the miniature, Roger was engraving on new, flat metal.

Although Roger is featured here for his miniature gunsmithing abilities, he is primarily known for his work in engraving. To learn more about Roger's engraving of guns visit the Craftsmanship Museum website at <http://craftsmanshipmuseum.com/Ronnie.htm> or at <http://>

www.craftsmanshipmuseum.com/Ronnie2.htm



Left: Roger with some of his miniature machines



Above: the parts of the 1/2 size model including the wooden grips. Note the size of the grips in comparison to the quarter used for size reference.