



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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President
Show/Reservations Manager
Membership

Bernie Breighner
Rick Nahas
Bill Chronister

Phone: 703-200-0470
Cell: 571-215-8761
Phone: 703-204-0138

BFBKAC@gmail.com
jet53sw@aol.com
Vgca_membership@cox.net

Website: www.vgca.net
Facebook: @VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc

Twitter: @VAGunCollectrs
Instagram: @vaguncollectors

November-December 2021 VGCA Newsletter



President's Comments

Fellow VGCA Members,

I would like to thank the membership for your vote of confidence in selecting me as your next VGCA President. I will strive to live up to your high expectations and to provide the leadership for the great organization that we represent. But first, we must recognize and thank my predecessor, Bernie Breighner, for his many years of guidance and

leadership. He leaves the club on strong financial footing with a growing membership and an active and responsive Board of Directors. Bernie has guided us through difficult times, punctuated by the COVID crisis and ever-growing treats to our Second Amendment rights. From all our members, we extend our heartfelt thanks for a good job, well done.

As your new President, my agenda will include continuing to sponsor, promote and support well attended and high-quality Gun Shows; to grow our membership with emphasis on active younger members – both men and women; to provide interesting and high-quality presentations at our monthly meetings; and to promote and enhance gun collecting and firearms research. Above all, I wish to work with your Board of Directors and the membership to make the Virginia Gun Collectors Association a premier and respected membership organization. In these lofty endeavors I seek the assistance and support from each of you. Thank you!

—*Ed Costello*, VGCA President



→→→ Special Notice for Annual Members ←←←

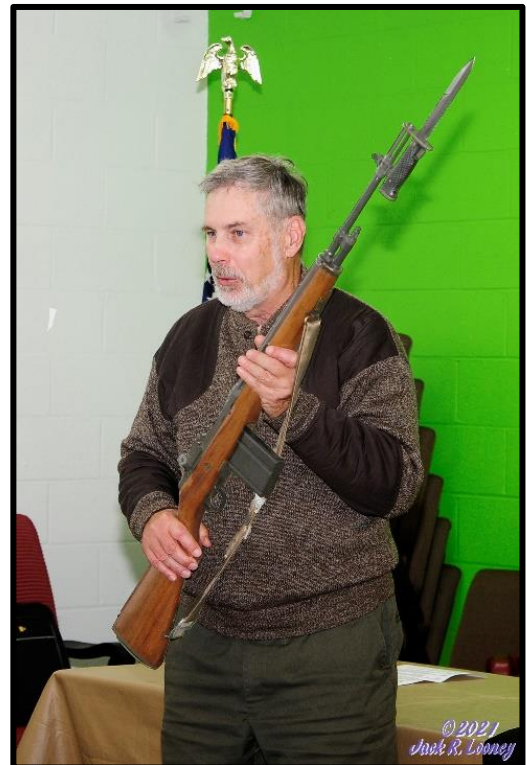
Annual Dues must be paid by December 31, 2021. Please see details on pages 9-10.

★ October Presentation

Our October membership meeting featured a theme rather than a formal presentation. That theme was “Pre-1989 Assault Rifle Import Ban.” Several members brought and presented their favorite semi-automatic rifles that some have attempted to define as “assault weapons.” Those items shared that were not either imported or domestic semi-automatic rifles of the period are presented in the Show-n-Tell section of this newsletter.

In 1989, in response to a schoolyard shooting in Stockton, California, the George H.W. Bush administration banned the importation of foreign-made semi-automatic rifles that were determined to not have "a legitimate sporting use." The “sporting use” criteria is contained in the language of the 1968 Gun Control Act, which allows the Attorney General of the United States to choose whether to “authorize a firearm or ammunition to be imported or brought into the United States,” under what is known as "the sporting purposes test." The import ban started as a temporary measure in the spring of 1989 and was made permanent against 43 specifically-named guns on July 8th of the same year. While the Assault Weapon Import Ban was estimated to have stopped the importation of 700,000 to 1 million foreign rifles in its first year, it did not impact domestic production of similar guns. Generally, the ban applied to foreign-made semi-automatic centerfire rifles that featured a detachable magazine.

The first rifle presented by one of members actually represents one of those domestic guns that was not negatively impacted by the Import Ban – the Springfield Armory M1A (*at right*). A semi-automatic civilian version of the U.S. Army’s select-fire M14, this particular rifle is the National Match grade. It features a National Match barrel, NM sights, and is glass-bedded for enhanced accuracy. It is one of the early M1As manufactured by the commercial Springfield Armory Company in Texas (not to be confused with the national armory in Springfield, MA), and has mostly GI surplus parts on a new receiver. Chambered in 7.62 NATO, this example was purchased in 1976.



The next rifle shared is one for which the ban did apply – the Swiss SIG PE57 (*at right*). Chambered in 7.5x55 Swiss, this Delayed Roller Lock semi-automatic is the first Swiss self-loading rifle and is based on the select-fire Stgw57. Like the Stgw57, it features a fold-down winter trigger (*see below – with the winter trigger deployed on the left and stowed on the right*) for use while wearing gloves or mittens.



Only about 4000 of the PE57 were made compared to approximately 800,000 Stgw57s for the Swiss military. That is one of the reasons this theme was selected for our meeting – many of these rifles were only imported in small numbers before the ban and because no more can be brought in, they have become VERY collectible and typically command high prices. For example, only about 3000 PE57s were imported into the United States. Never inexpensive, their cost even in 1984 was \$3000.





Our next member shared two banned rifles and a third that represented a pre-ban Colt. The first was a Beretta AR70 (*at left*). Chambered in 5.56x45 NATO, the AR70 was introduced in 1972 and as a select-fire weapon was adopted by various Italian military and police units. Small numbers of a semi-automatic version were brought in before the ban.

The second rifle shared by this member was a Finnish “tube stock” Valmet M-71/S (*at right*). The M62/S was originally chambered in 7.62x39 Russian, but as ammunition in this round was extremely scarce in the U.S. in the early/mid-1980s, this version in .223/5.56 was quickly adopted. These Valmet rifles are considered by many as the best AK variant ever made.



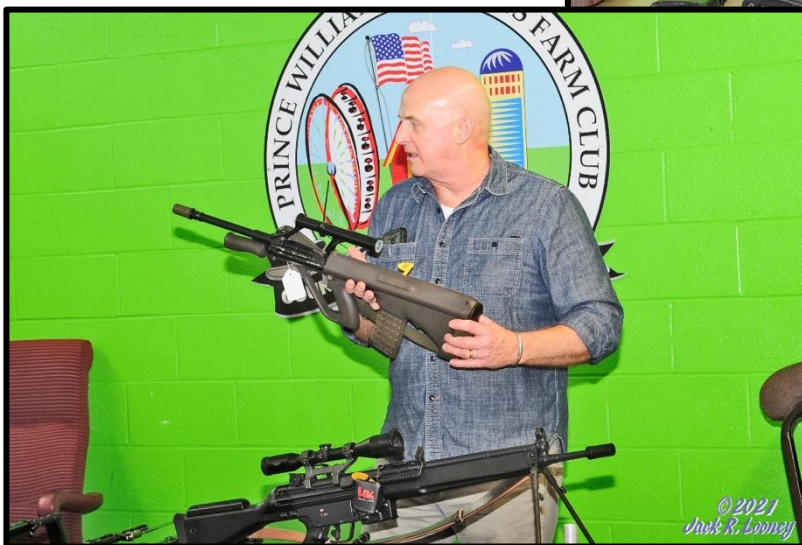
This member also brought a pre-ban era (though as a domestically produced gun it was never banned) Colt “Dissipator.” The Dissipator (*at right*) is a fairly compact AR15 due to its 16-inch carbine length barrel. It utilizes a carbine length gas block but has the same sight radius of an AR with a 20-inch barrel (the front sight post is not the gas block in this case). Most often associated with the California Highway Patrol, only 200 were made by Colt with Bushmaster producing many more.





Another pre-ban rifle presented was an IMI Model 392 imported by Action Arms (*at left*). Chambered in 5.56x45 NATO, this rifle is a copy of the Israeli Galil ARM that features a 16 inch barrel and bipod. Some were imported after the ban, but those have a fixed thumbhole stock and no bipod, bayonet lug, or flash hider.

Our next member shared the first “assault rifle” that he ever bought – a Heckler & Koch HK91 (*at right*). The HK91 is the civilian version of the West German Army’s G3 and is chambered in 7.62x51 NATO. Per West Coast Armory data, 48,817 HK91s were imported to the U.S. prior to 1989. Purchased in 1993 for \$1200, this rifle sports a Kahles ZF84 scope.



Next, this member presented a Steyr AUG, a short bullpup rifle in 5.56x45 NATO and featuring a 20-inch barrel (*at left*). Originally adopted by the Austrian Army in 1977, the Steyr AUG is one of the most recognizable military arms in the world. This example includes a built-in 1.5X Swarovski optic. No longer imported, the popular Steyr AUG has been produced in the U.S. since 2014.

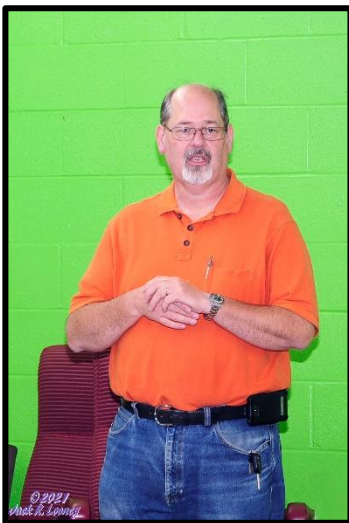


Finally, we have another rare pre-ban, albeit domestic, black rifle – this one a 1966-manufactured Colt SP1 (*at right*). This very early version of the SP1 is noteworthy for not have the forward assist as well as no forward assist notches on the bolt carrier. This particular example even included the original sling!

As with most gun control measures, the 1989 assault weapons import ban did not impact crime. It did, however, create a collecting niche. A special thanks goes out to all of the members who brought in and shared their pre-ban rifles. Every example is scarce and seldom seen collectible.



★ October Membership Business Meeting



The meeting was called to order by VGCA Vice President Wes Chappell (*at left*) at 7:02 p.m. with 27 people present at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Member Andrew Woodard led those assembled through the Pledge of Allegiance. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties (lack of WIFI password) we were unable to broadcast this meeting via “Webinar” but truly hope to be able to simulcast starting in January 2022.

Rick Nahas (*at right*) provided an update on the November Gun Show:

- Our Fall Gun Show will have a new floor plan featuring 144 tables. This represents 20 more tables than he had during the height of the COVID requirements for social distancing





George Dungan (*at left*), as the acting Membership Chairman, reminded everyone that annual dues will be due by the end of December

- Annual membership costs \$30
- Upgrading to a lifetime membership only costs \$150
- Contact George if interested in renewing and upgrading your annual membership. NOTE: we are still looking for a volunteer to be the long-term Membership Chairman. Please contact George or any officer if interested

Frank Cambria passed around a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer for show security

- Everyone working a 4 hour shift will receive a gift certificate good for \$25 from any vender at the show

George Dungan, as head of the Nomination Committee, asked for nominations from the floor for any of the four officer or three director positions

- No nominations from the floor were received and since there was only one person running for each of the open positions, per VGCA By Laws, all were elected “by acclamation” without any need for ballots. The new officers and directors are:
- Officers
 - o President: Ed Costello
 - o Vice President: Rick Nahas
 - o Treasurer: Shannon Zeigler (incumbent)
 - o Secretary: Rob Becker (incumbent)
- Directors
 - o Marc Gorelick (incumbent)
 - o Ian Wulf (incumbent)
 - o Matthew G (last name withheld on request)

Shannon Zeigler provided a summary of the VGCA financials

Those present were reminded to complete the Constant Contact survey on where to have a Holiday Get Together

- UPDATE – the Christmas Party will be at the NRA HQ Conference Room on December 4th – see the notice on the next page

The VGCA has supported numerous organizations (primarily those involving youth shooting sports)

- We are now accepting requests for donations
- Applicable Donation Request Form must be submitted to the VGCA Vice President between now and the end of March 2022

Marc Gorelick made a pitch for the VGCA Member of the Year Award

- See details on page 22

Secretary Rob Becker is always looking for members to contribute firearm-related articles, reviews of gun shows, books, or museums, and especially show-n-tell items for the newsletter

- Please send any articles or photos to rpebecker@verizon.net





★ **Next Membership Meeting: December 4th.**



Topic: Pot Luck Christmas Dinner and Swap Meet. Location: the NRA Headquarters Conference Room. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the VGCA is returning to the NRA headquarters building just in time for our annual Christmas Pot Luck meal and Swap Meet! Please bring a side dish or dessert and the VGCA will provide a ham. I know this is a hectic time of

year, but the December meeting has always been a enjoyable time. Room opens at 6 p.m. - please bring your food in time to start eating by 6:30 p.m. Our annual swap meet will also be that night, so bring any extras from your collection to sell or trade. See you then!



★ **Congratulations to our New Officers**

After postponing elections for almost two years due to the COVID restriction on meeting in-person, the VGCA now has new officers and directors! Per the VGCA By-Laws, Article VII, paragraph E, "in the event that all positions open for election are either uncontested or have only one candidate at the conclusion of the nomination process, the positions will be deemed to be reelected by a vote of acclimation and formal ballots will not be prepared for distribution." Such was the case following the October Membership Meeting when there were no new nominations from the floor.

Congratulations to:

President	Ed Costello
Vice President	Rick Nahas
Treasurer	Shannon Zeigler
Secretary	Rob Becker
Director	Marc Gorelick
Director	Ian Wulf
Director	Matthew G (name withheld by request)

The four newly elected officers will serve from December 2021 until May 2024. The three newly elected directors will serve from December 2021 until May 2023. This will get us back on our By-Laws directed cycle of officer elections in even-numbered years and director elections in odd years.

We will have biographies of your officers and directors in future issues of the newsletter.



★ Membership Chairman's Report

Membership Chairman's Report November 2021 – There is one new member for November.

- **Gregory Hylinski** of Haymarket, VA was sponsored by **George Dungan**

New Applications for Membership: Since the last Newsletter, there have been 11 new applicants for membership from the November VGCA show, Chantilly show, and via mail.

- **John Drake** of Celina TX, *sponsored by* **Greg Thompson**
- **William Wilcox** of Woodbridge *sponsored by* **Charlie Tamez**
- **Richard S. Hanson** of Fairfax Station *sponsored by* **Rick Nahas**
- **Dave Herbek** of Manassas *sponsored by* **Dave Litchfield**
- **William Kenan Torrans** of Alexandria *sponsored by* **Bruce Buchner**
- **Robert A. Benson Sr.** of Fredericksburg *sponsored by* **J. Craig Peters**
- **John "Tacker" Vordemberge** of Culpeper *sponsored by* **John Drake**
- **Gregory Malakoff** of Oak Hill *sponsored by* **Dave Litchfield**
- **Forrest Lindsey** of Dumfries *sponsored by* **Dave Litchfield**
- **Chris De Francisci** of Purcellville *sponsored by* **Jim Burgess**
- **Robert Tufts** of Washington DC *sponsored by* **Al Reid**

Thanks to the applicants for their interest in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association and to their sponsors for promoting the Association and keeping the membership growing.

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before December 15, 2021. For questions, please email **George Dungan, Membership Chair** at george@eccominv.com or call me at 571-243-6387.

Notice to New Member Sponsors: VGCA will be discontinuing hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters at a future date. *Please make sure your prospective applicants include a legible email address and telephone contact number* if at all possible. Without an email address new members will NOT receive any newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 415 Life members, and 122 Annual Members, for a total of 537 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Recruiting: Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and pass what they know on to others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To help facilitate new membership we have a recruiting table at every Chantilly gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows. If you would like to volunteer to work a shift at one of these events please let George Dungan or Marc Gorelick know.

Annual Membership renewals: All membership renewals are due by the end of December. You can pay George in person at the annual pot luck dinner or at the December 31 Chantilly Gun Show. Cash is accepted in person but exact change is appreciated. Checks are fine as well. If you prefer, you can pay by mail using the form below.

George Dungan, Acting Membership Chairman

THE ARTISTRY OF NICOLAS-NOEL BOUTET

By Marc Gorelick

Although he is not as well-known on this side of the Atlantic as he is in Europe, Nicolas-Noël Boutet (1761-1833), is regarded as one of the greatest gunmakers of all time. He worked for successive French royal, republican, and imperial governments and was active during the monarchy, Directory, Consulate, Empire and Restoration (of Louis XVIII) periods. Although much of Boutet's work was for the military, he also created a large amount of fabulous luxury arms that he sold directly to the elite of the military and society.



Nicolas-Noël BOUTET (1761-1833)

Boutet is one of the great names in the history of gun-making. He was born in Paris in 1761, the son of the royal gunsmith Noël Boutet, and became his father's assistant. In 1788, he married Leonie-Emilie Desainte, the daughter of his father's colleague, which gave him an even better position at court and the title "gunmaker-in-ordinary" to King Louis XVI of France. He was also something of a swordsmith. In 1792 he was named *directeur-artiste* of the newly formed Versailles Arms Manufactory. In 1795 he was appointed head of the newly created *Arms de luxe* department, responsible for richly decorated presentation arms suitable for military heroes and foreign heads of state. The Versailles factory was one of the principal producers of regulation weapons for the French Royal, Revolutionary and later Napoleonic Imperial armies, and from 1800 to 1818 it

produced about 145,659 firearms and 484,450 swords and other edged weapons for the French armies under his leadership. Many of the issue firearms were for elite units, such as Napoleon's Guards. At the same time that he worked at the Versailles Manufactory, and afterwards, he maintained his own retail business, both out of Versailles (Napoleon had given him an 18-year concession in 1800) and at an address in Paris, where he retailed an impressive variety of high end guns to the elite of France. Boutet was a gunmaker and artist of the highest caliber who combined technical perfection and precision of workmanship with the finest decoration.



Fig 1. Cased Boutet presentation set of rifle & 2 pistols. Photo Metropolitan Museum of Art

The French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte brought about a dramatic change in the design and decoration of French firearms and Boutet was one of the foremost innovators. The delicate rococo or rocaille style of the royal or “*ancien régime*”, characterized by swooping, asymmetric designs and silver wire inlay, was gradually replaced by the more masculine Empire style with Greco-Roman and Egyptian motifs. Gunstocks were inlaid with engraved sheet silver and gold, and the mounts were often of heavy silver cast in bold relief. The decoration included trophies of arms and scenes of classical battles and victories that suggested France's military glory. Although Boutet’s earlier works reflect the rococo style, he embraced the design change to the empire style and even led the way. And while his name will forever be linked to the Versailles Arms Manufactory, he created some of the best luxury and honor arms offered to the dignitaries and notables of France, and leaders of other countries of his day, many of which are artistic masterpieces. This was important since the presentation of richly decorated arms was an critical component of diplomacy during this era.

Boutet’s high-end deluxe guns are characterized ornate decoration; finely engraved and inlaid gold and silver, engraving in bright steel, relief chiseling, and imaginative and exquisite ornamentation. His silver and gold castings were done by the lost wax method and chased afterwards. Gold and silver castings were detail finished with punches. Bright steel lockplates were engraved and carved, silver sheet was cut and engraved with floral designs, scrolls and trophies of arms. The bottoms of the stocks of long arms were carved with Empire style carytids, realistic animals and mythological beasts in ebony and ivory. Barrels of presentation guns often had blued or browned barrels with imaginative tooling patterns that were gilded.

While he was not a great administrator, his organizational skills were put to the test in standing up the Versailles Arms Manufactory in the then desolate former royal palace. He laid out the machinery of production with drills, screw cutters, boring machines, and forges. The clock repair facilities of the late King Louis XVI were put to use making locks. Boutet recruited skilled workers from the Liege, Belgium gunmaking trade. He also hired many jewelers, locksmiths, sculptors, clock and watch makers, and wood carvers, who were put to good use making luxury arms. Between 1800 and 1818 he had over 800 craftsmen under his artistic direction.

The cased set of several guns (See Figs. 1, 2 3) is among the highest grade of presentation pieces to come out of Boutet’s factory. This set includes a lavishly decorated flintlock rifle, two matching pistols, and a full array of tools and accessories for loading and cleaning. Dating from around 1800, the guns are decorated with gold, silver and horn. The .64 caliber rifle is 43 ½ inches long, with a 27 5/8 inch long barrel, weighs 6 lbs., 7 oz. The .52 caliber matching pistols are 17 inches long with 11 5/8 inch long barrels and weigh 2 lbs. 2 oz. each.



Fig. 2 – Cased set rifle stock. Note the ornate silver inlaying and carved wood. Photo Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Fig. 3 – Cased set. Silver trigger guard. Note the heavy Greco-Roman motifs of the designs that lend a martial theme to the decoration. Photo Metropolitan Museum of Art

The .60 caliber double barreled shotgun in Figures 4-8 has been described as one of the most restrained but sophisticated examples of Boutet's work. The classical ornamentation on the barrels and silver mounts are in the Empire style, while the bright steel locks, chiseled in relief with a gilt background, recall an earlier eighteenth-century tradition of firearms decoration. The walnut stock is inlaid with ebony and gilt mounts. It is sparingly decorated compared to some of his other work. The wood is walnut and ebony and the decoration is gold and silver. The gun is 48 3/8 inches long with 33 inch long barrels and weighs 7 lbs., 6 oz.



Fig. 4&5 – Left and right sides of shotgun. Photos Metropolitan Museum of Art



Fig. 6 – Top view. Note the heavy gold decoration on the barrels. Photo Metropolitan Museum of Art



Fig. 7 – Bottom view. Note the profuse carved silver decoration on the buttplate, trigger guard and other furniture. Photo Metropolitan Museum of Art.



*Fig. 8 – Note the exquisitely engraved lock plate, cock and frizzen in gold and silver. Note the gold decoration on the barrel, the carved stock and the engraved triggerguard and furniture.
Photo Metropolitan Museum of Art*

The flintlock musket illustrated in Figures 9-14 is a representative example of Boutet's work. Held in the UK Royal Armouries, it is one of a set of 11 guns that Napoleon Bonaparte, then 1st Consul of France, gave as a gift to King Carlos IV of Spain in 1802. This gift in 1802 greased the wheels for the 3rd Treaty of San Ildefonso, in which Louisiana was returned to France and territories in Tuscany were given to Spain. (The United States subsequently purchased the Louisiana Territory from France.) The original 11-gun gift set consisted of two rifles, two pistols, a double-barreled shotgun, and six single-barreled smoothbores.



Fig. 9 – Musket given to King Carlos IV of Spain by Napoleon. Photo Royal Armouries

The gun is decorated in the French 'Directoire' style. It is silver mounted and decorated with engraved and carved hunting and classical scenes. These include the relief figure (silver on a gold background) of the goddess Diana on the finial. The side plate is decorated with a boar hunt in Greco-Roman style and the lock plate has a gold fox attacking a gold hound. A Medusa's head and trophy of the Liberal Arts is on the trigger guard, and a trophy of Roman arms is on the butt-plate. There is an Egyptian-style ebony

figure depicted on the underside of the stock. King Carlos IV is personally acknowledged on the gun by his framed portrait at the ramrod socket and a silver plate with a crowned “C.” The overall length of this gun is 53 ½ inches and the barrel is 38 ¼ inches long. The gun weighs a little over 5 lbs.



Fig. 10 – Note the gold decoration on the lockplate, including a scene of a gold fox attacking a gold dog. Note the gold decoration on the cock and frizzen, as well as the inlaid gold on the barrel, and the carved stock. Photo Royal Armouries



Fig. 11 – Side plate decorated with an engraving of a boar hunt. Photo Royal Armouries



Fig. 12 – The lock and barrel with engraved and inlaid gold decoration. Even the flashpan is gold plated. Photo Royal Armouries.



Fig. 13 – Top of gun. Note gold engraving on the cock and gold inlay on the flats of the barrel. The tang is also engraved. Photo Royal Armouries.



Fig. 14 – Carlos IV musket. Note the Medusa's head on the triggerguard and the goddess Diana on the finial. Photo Royal Armouries

As might be expected, Boutet's pistols are also masterpieces of opulent decoration. His handguns included both sidelock and boxlock pocket or muff pistols, tap action pistols, belt pistols, horse pistols,

duck-bill or blunderbuss naval pistols, and of course, *Arms de Recompense* or Pistols of Reward, which were given to officers as rewards for military valor, as well as other presentation arms. Besides introducing a number of technical innovations, Boutet was also in the forefront in changing the style of pistols. Stocks were reshaped, the butts were lowered, sometimes at right angles to the axis of the barrel, the pommel was cut off at a right angle and the cast silver or chiseled steel buttcaps were decorated with classical heads or grotesque faces.

This matched pair of rifled flintlock pistols in the Wallace Collection (Fig. 15), made about 1810, are a prime example of his work and reflect the ornate Empire style. The .67 caliber matte blue octagonal barrels are lightly chiseled and overlaid in gold with a formal Empire design of vases, garlands and drapery. The lockplates are encrusted in gold with a design of thunder-clouds and lightning, and the upper jaw of the cocks with a caduceus. The pans are gold plated. The walnut stocks have delicately-carved borders, and the grips are inlaid with panels of ebony on either side and these in their turn are inlaid with gold plaques engraved with a pair of griffins supporting a wreath. There are lozenge-shaped engraved gold plaques inlaid in front of the triggerguards and two oval plaques of gold are inlaid on either side of the fore-ends. The mounts are of oxidized silver chiseled in relief; the butt-cap with a classical helmet, the trigger-guard with the lion's skin and club of Hercules, and on the finial a trophy of arms, the ramrod socket with a Roman sword and shield, and a garland of flowers.



Fig. 15 – Matched set of Boutet pistols. Photo The Wallace Collection

These pistols were made of steel, gold, walnut, ebony, silver, and ivory. They are 16 inches long, with 10 ½ inch long barrels and weigh a little over 2 pounds each.

Guns and swords made by Boutet are artistic masterpieces that are prized by the most discriminating collectors. As court gunsmith to Napoleon Bonaparte he brought gun-making in France to its artistic zenith. His creations were made using the finest materials worked by the most skilled specialist workmen. Today he is regarded as the last and greatest of the early modern artist-gunsmiths. However, although he stands out today, he was not alone. He was one among several other famous French gunsmiths of that era who were his associates at Versailles and/or commercial competitors and many of their products show his influence in ornament and form. For instance, Boutet's equal in producing guns of fine quality was Jean Le Page of the famous gunmaking family, who made personal guns for Napoleon I. Louis Martin Gosset worked at the Versailles factory with Boutet and afterwards opened his own business, competing with Boutet for the elite trade. And Pirmet, who was Royal arquebusier (gunmaker) to King Louis XVIII had his own shop on the same street as Boutet. Although they were commercial competitors, they did collaborate on projects and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has a pair of percussion pistols created in collaboration between Pirmet and Boutet.



Fig. 16 – One of a pair of Boutet pistols given by Swedish King Karl XIV Johan (French Marshal Jean Baptiste Bernadotte) to Count Gustaf Fredrik Morner as a token of gratitude for helping make him King of Sweden. Originally made 1805-1809 by the Versailles Arms Manufactory under Boutet and subsequently converted from flintlock to percussion. Photo Royal Swedish Armory

In 1815 Wellington and Blucher defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. When the allies entered Paris the Versailles Arms Manufactory was looted by the Prussians who took 40 wagon loads of equipment, guns, and models to Berlin. Boutet continued to work there until the manufactory closed in 1818. He retired to private gunmaking in Paris where he competed with many of his former colleagues. He made some technical innovations on the pill lock system, took out some patents, and continued to produce percussion pistols, fowlers, coach guns and dueling pistols until the end of the 1820s. He was in debt when he died on October 12, 1833.

Because the recipients of his guns were known and important personages, many of Boutet's arms are historically documented, which adds to their value. For example, a cased set of Boutet presentation rifled flintlock pistols that was given as a gift by the Marquis de Lafayette to Simon Bolivar in 1825 fetched

\$1,805,000 at a Christie's auction in 2016. Quite a few of his creations can be seen in museums, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Wallace Collection, The Royal Armouries, Windsor Castle, the Victoria & Albert Museum, as well as museums in France and Russia (Moscow and The Hermitage in St. Petersburg). Or, Pedersoli of Italy makes a plain undecorated reproduction Boutet pistol.

★ VGCA Recruiting Continues at Chantilly!

The latest "Nation's Gun Show" was held at Dulles Expo Center on 19-21 November 2021. And once again, our largest local gun show featured members manning the VGCA recruiting table!

Led by member George Dungan (filling in for Marc Gorelick), VGCA volunteers were there all three days and shared the news of the VGCA with show patrons. We would like to thank the following members who volunteered their time at the recruiting table and helped to make it a successful weekend for our organization.

Alan Ruppard, Sydney Rodda, Bruce Buchner, Al Reid, Joe Roberts, Jack Looney, and Jim Burgess.

The next Chantilly Gun Show is scheduled for December 31st 2021 – January 2nd 2022 and we are soliciting volunteers for the VGCA Membership Table. This is an opportunity to spend a few hours with fellow gun collecting enthusiasts, meet new people, help the club, get into a big show *for free* and possibly find something to fill that hole in your collection. Volunteers are need for all three days – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. If interested in helping, please contact George Dungan to volunteer at george@eccominv.com or call (571) 243-6387.

★ ATTENTION MEMBERS: Have you the authored a book/magazine article, or published research on Firearms, Gun Collecting, History, or related subjects?

The VGCA is fortunate to have a diverse membership with a large amount of expertise, experience, and knowledge! If you are - or know any member who is - a published author or researcher, please know that the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc. wants to feature your works on the VGCA website, at gun shows, in the VGCA newsletters (see the FOR SALE section of this newsletter), and/or at VGCA meetings. We also invite you to consider giving a presentation on your works at one of our meetings. If you have any questions or wish to be included, please direct any information, including titles, publishing information, or contact information to: Bill Chronister, Membership Chairman at vgca_membership@cox.net or at home on 703-204-0138.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT SMITH & WESSON MOVE

By Marc Gorelick



In the last issue of the VGCA Newsletter we discussed the move of Smith & Wesson from Springfield, Massachusetts to Maryville, in Blount County, Tennessee, which is largely scheduled for 2023. Since then, additional details have been provided by VGCA member Jim Frigiola, who now lives near Maryville.

Smith & Wesson will also close facilities in Connecticut and Missouri as part of consolidating in Tennessee. This will result in the company reducing the number of locations it maintains from four to three and will significantly streamline its manufacturing and distribution operations. Approximately 750 jobs will be created in Tennessee. According to S&W President & CEO, Mark Smith, “We will assist any affected employee who is willing and able to move with financial and logistical relocation assistance. For any affected employee who cannot move with us, we will offer enhanced severance and job placement services.”

The facility in Springfield, Massachusetts will be reconfigured but will remain operational. S&W will keep some of its manufacturing operations in there, including all forging, machining, metal finishing, and assembly of revolvers, and will continue to have over 1,000 employees in the state.



The new facility (see artist’s rendition to left) will be built in Maryville, Tennessee and will house the company's headquarters, plastic injection molding, pistol and long gun assembly, and distribution. Total investment in the project is estimated at \$125 million, will be funded from cash on hand. Construction started in early November on a 240 acre site and is expected to be substantially complete by the summer of 2023.

The company's plastic injection molding facility in Deep River, Connecticut, which services both Smith & Wesson as well as a significant number of external customers, will be sold. The Smith & Wesson portion of the operations will be moved to Tennessee, however, the external customer business will remain in Connecticut and will be divested.

The company's distribution operations in Columbia, Missouri will move to the new Tennessee facility, and the Missouri facility will be marketed for sublease. The relocation will have no impact on the company's operations in Houlton, Maine.

S&W joins more than 20 small arms and ammunition manufacturers located in Tennessee, which is currently the leading state in the country for employment in the small arms and ammunition sector, with employment increasing by 54% over the last five years.



GUNS OF DISTINCTION

PRESENTATION LUGER PISTOL

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springer's Erben, Vienna, Austria

This beautiful .30 caliber (7.62mm) Luger pistol Model 06/73, was manufactured by Mauserwerke in 1973 as a luxurious presentation piece that was given as gift.



The custom gun is extensively decorated with bold yet delicate thistle leaf foliate scroll engraving with gold inlaid ribbons and outlines, gold washed levers, controls and trigger, gold inlaid company emblem and serial number, and finely checkered ivory grips. It has a gold inlaid dedication and the initials "EP" on the right side. The 5 ½ inch barrel and front sight band also have gold inlay decoration.



It was offered at auction by Joh. Springer's Erben in Vienna, Austria (starting at 2,500 Euros) and came with the original wooden case, covered in synthetic leather, and lined with burgundy velvet. In the case are a spare magazine, tool, and cleaning rod.



VGCA ANNUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **VGCA Member of the Year Award** recognizes the member who the membership believes has done the most during the past year for the club and/or gun collecting. The annual **Member of the Year Award** is a way for you, the membership, to publically recognizing a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2021. (*There was no Member of the Year Award for 2020 because of the Covid pandemic.*) All VGCA members except sitting Board members are eligible to receive the award.

All members who attend the December meeting will have an opportunity to vote for the person of their choice. A ballot box and slips of paper will be available. Just write in the name of the member you think should get the award and the reason you think he or she should get it (what he or she has done in 2021). No preselected list of names will be presented for voting – this is your choice from start to finish.

After the votes have been counted the person being recognized will be announced at the January 2022 meeting and presented with his/her award.

Reasons for being selected include, but are not limited to:

- Volunteering for set-up or security, or other duties before or during the shows
- Volunteering other services to the VGCA, such as setting up trips or administering club programs
- Giving presentations at meetings
- Promoting the VGCA or gun collecting as a whole, (such as at the VGCA table at Chantilly)
- Putting on displays not just at our shows but other shows to enhance collecting
- Writing articles to further collecting
- Recruiting new members to the VGCA

Remember – Only those members in good standing who attend the October and December meetings will have the opportunity to nominate and vote for the **Member of the Year Award** for 2021. So come and vote for your choice!

★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE – NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it clearly in the newsletter. Thank you!

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

Where acquired (optional): _____ When acquired (optional): _____





Our first show-n-tell piece (not related to the Assault Weapons Import Ban theme) was this outstanding Swiss K31 rifle (*above*). The straight pull Karabiner Modell 31 (K31) is chambered in 7.5x55 and features a 6-round detachable magazine. It was initially produced in 1931, entered service with Swiss forces in 1933, and was the primary Swiss military rifle until replaced by the Stgw 57 starting in 1958. The K31 was produced by Waffenfabrik Bern, with a total production was 528,230 rifles. The K31 had an excellent reputation – together with the standard issue GP11 7.5x55 ammunition – for accuracy. This specific example was made in 1956 and has been optimized with a military diopter rear sight for use in 300 meter matches. As a late production K31, it has a “blond” beech wood stock (stocks were made from walnut until the mid-1940s). It also had a “troop tag” under the butt stock with the name and unit of a Swiss soldier to whom it was issued. At the time of issue, this soldier was the head cook at Thune Army Barracks.

Our next show-n-tell item was actually a pair of SKS carbines. The first was a Yugoslav M59/66a1 (*at right*). Unique among the eight countries that produced the SKS, Yugoslavia made between 633,000 and 709,000 M59/66 carbines with permanently attached 22mm grenade launcher (interestingly enough, the Yugo grenade launcher was for the standard 22mm NATO rifle-launched grenade – not the eastern bloc standard). Though M59/66s were imported in large numbers, this particular example was chrome plated and fitted with a rubber recoil pad for use as an Honor Guard weapon, which makes it a much more scarce collectible. It also has a log book, serial numbered to the carbine, which documents the service history of this SKS (*insert – upper left*).



The second SKS (which translates as an abbreviation from the original Russian as “Self-loading Carbine of the Simonov system”) was a Soviet SKS-45 (*not pictured*). The Soviet Union produced approximately 2,685,900 SKSs from 1949 to 1958 in two factories – Tula and Izhevsk (the latter only during 1953-1954). This example was manufactured at the Tula arsenal in 1953 and was recently purchased to replace one that the member had stolen years ago.



This member shared a Cold War era tear gas launcher from Czechoslovakia. Designated the RV-85 (*above*), it is a single shot, break top, smooth bore in 26.5mm (equivalent to a 4 Gauge shotgun bore). The RV-85 was designed for Czech Special Forces to shoot rocket-propelled tear gas rounds through barricades. Approximately 2,500 RV-85s were produced by the BRNO factory in the late 1980s, with about 1,000 being imported into the United States. The original tear gas rounds are not available, but it will fire standard 26.5mm or 1” flares and smoke rounds. The RV-85s were imported with a cleaning kit, manual, simple tools, spare parts, sling, scabbard, and a test target (*see insert at upper left*). These are considered signaling devices – not firearms – and as such are treated like flare guns (i.e. no paperwork/background check and can be mailed straight to your house).



The next item presented was a “Halo” Charging Ring sold by Tandemkross (*at left*). This well-made aluminum accessory is designed to make it easier to manipulate the bolt on .22 rimfire pistols (an important consideration for shooters with arthritis or reduced hand strength). This example is made for the Ruger Mk II, but other versions are available for Browning Buck Mark, SW22 Victory, the Taurus TX22, and the Ruger Mk III, Mk IV, and 22/45 pistols,.

An interesting revolver was shared during show-n-tell – this one was a Smith & Wesson Model 1905 - specifically, it is what collectors refer to as the 4th Change (*at right*). The Model 1905 predates the S&W Victory model, with this example made in ~1939. What sets this six-shooter apart are the markings – the top left of the frame is stamped “U.S.C.G.” while the left frame is also stamped with the Cuban crest and the right side of barrel is stamped with “POLICIA NACIONAL.” This pistol was apparently made for the Cuban Police, but may have ended up in U.S. Coast Guard service. If only it could talk!



Finally, we have a High Power pistol (*at left*), the last design of John Moses Browning (probably the greatest firearms designer in history). The High Power chambered in 9x19 is historically noteworthy for many reasons, not the least of which is that it was produced by both the Allies (under license by Inglis in Canada) and the Axis (at FN in Belgium while under German occupation) during WWII. This particular example was an Argentine military contract. Issued to both the Argentine Army and Navy, the green holster indicates use by the former.

★ 2021-2022 Presentation List ★

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
4 December 2021	Christmas Pot Luck and Swap Meet	In-Person at NRA HQ Conference Rm!
27 January 2022	TBD	TBD
24 February 2022	TBD	TBD
March	No Meeting due to our Spring Gun Show	
28 April 2022	TBD	TBD
26 May 2022	TBD	TBD

We are currently putting together the presentation schedule for 2022. If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact one of the VGCA officers or directors.



★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: Members are strongly encouraged to *verify shows before driving to an event.* These dates were verified when this newsletter was written, but are not guaranteed.

VIRGINIA – 2021-2022

- ⇒ Dec 4-5, 2021 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo - *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Dec 11-12, 2021 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center - *SGK*
- ⇒ Dec 18-19, 2021 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park - *SGK*
- ⇒ Dec 18-19, 2021 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ⇒ Dec 31, 2021-Jan 2, 2022 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Jan 8-9, 2022 – Richmond, VA - Richmond International Raceway – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Jan 15-16, 2022 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center - *SGK*
- ⇒ Jan 22-23, 2022 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ⇒ Jan 29-30, 2022 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center - *SGK*
- ⇒ Feb 4-6, 2022 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Feb 19-20, 2022 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *SGK*
- ⇒ Feb 19-20, 2022 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND – 2021

- ⇒ Dec 11-12, 2021 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ Mar 19-20, 2022 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collector Association*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2021

- Dec 4-5, 2021 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society, Inc.*
- Dec 4-5, 2021 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 4-5, 2021 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Dec 4-5, 2021 – Muncy, PA – Lycoming Mall – *Bear Arms Promotions*
- Dec 11-12, 2021 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Dec 17-19, 2021 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Dec 18-19, 2021 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall & Club - *Jaeger Arms*
- Jan 15, 2022 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman’s Association – *Izaak Walton League*
- Jan 15-16, 2022 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt’s Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc*
- Jan 29-30, 2022 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Lancaster Muzzle Loading Rifle Assoc.*
- Feb 5, 2022 – Hummelstown, PA – Hummelstown Field & Stream Assoc. – *Hummelstown F & S*
- Feb 5-6, 2022 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2021-2022

- Jan 8-9, 2022 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Assoc*
- Feb 5-13, 2022 – Harrisburg, PA – Farm Show Complex–Great America Outdoor Show - *NRA*
- Apr 2-3, 2022 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Fairgrounds - *Wanenmacher’s Tulsa Arms Show*

FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month’s newsletter. Unless other arrangements are made, items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

- “U.S. Handguns of World War II” - \$45.00
- “The Smith & Wesson American Model” - \$55.00
- “U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks” - \$45.00
- “The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver” - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at usarmsresearch@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

✪ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently published his book **Guns of the FBI**. This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

FOR SALE:

✪ VGCA member Larry Babcock recently published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at larrybab@comcast.net / 703-856-2561.

FOR SALE:

✪ French wooden cased copy of 4th Model Colt 22 Rimfire Short Lord Derringer made by Butler. Side pivoting Thuer action, single shot, 2.5" black chromed bbl., gold plating, walnut grips, unfired. EC. \$295

✪ Classic Winchester Model 12 20-gauge pump action shotgun. Rare 30" full choked barrel, tight action, safe queen, excellent bore, bluing and wood, 1946 production. \$1195

✪ Smith and Wesson: The original centerfire 38 caliber (.38 S&W) handgun from 1876-1877. BABY RUSSIAN 5-shot, spur trigger w/ excellent bore and rare 4 inch barrel and block letter grips. All matching numbers, nicely nickel plated, with authenticating S&W letter. \$1795

✪ 2-50 round boxes of S&W 44 Special Federal HiPower 200 grain semi-wadcutter hollow points. \$120 per box.

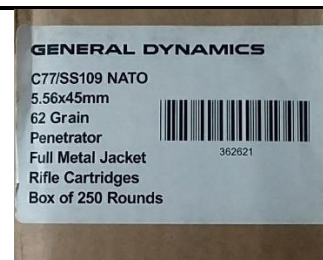
✪ 20 round box 44 Remington Magnum 210 grain semi-jacketed hollow points. \$45.

✪ 20 round box of 7.62x39 FMJ military surplus \$18.

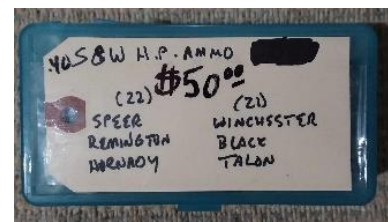
If interested, contact John at 571-308-4978

FOR SALE:

✪ **5.56x45 NATO SS109 Ammo.** General Dynamics 62grain FMJ. Box of 250 rounds for \$160.00



★ **.40 S&W:** Winchester Black Talon (21 rounds), peer/Remington/Hornady (22 rounds), mixed 43 rounds total, in an MTM plastic box. \$50.00



★ **7.62x25 Tokarev Ammo.** Eastern Bloc surplus (dated 1984) in 72 round boxes. \$45 per box (14 available).

★ **Hornady .450 Nitro Express Ammo.** 3 ¼" 450 grain DGX, 20 round box, very limited production. \$125.00

Prices firm. Contact Jack for details at looney.house@verizon.net



For Sale: A.E.G. M-14

Bought for photo shoot, never fired. With Charger, Battery. Magazine, Mag Loader, & Assorted pellets

\$150.00

Text name & phone number to 703-999-9458
with message "AEG M14" & I will call you back.

FOR SALE:

★ Russian, German, and U.S. surplus rifle ammunition – various calibers and amounts available. For details, contact Dave at 703-634-8696.

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at rpebecker@verizon.net. Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or Bill Chronister.