

Considering that the Chinese were, as I have said elsewhere, the first to invent gun powder, I consider it strange that, while I have quite an extensive library on cannons, I could find nothing in print about this cannon or any other Chinese cannons. I have a very small Chinese hand cannon as well as this model in my collection, but nothing in my books. All the information that I have on this beautiful little cannon was given to me by its maker, member Larry Critchlow.

This is what Larry had to say about the miniature. "At the end of

the 19th Century, China was at the mercy of the expanding commercialism of the Western World. In 1900, after years of resentment and growing nationalism, the anti-foreign society of "Boxers" attacked foreigners who represented foreign nationalism in the Chinese capital city of Peking. With their embassies under siege and the deaths of many "foreign devils" as the Boxers called them, the French, English, Germany, United States, Italy, Russia and Japan sent a relief expedition to defeat the Boxers and free their legations.

This cannon was used by the Chinese and was mounted on top of the wall at the Hata Gate - one of the

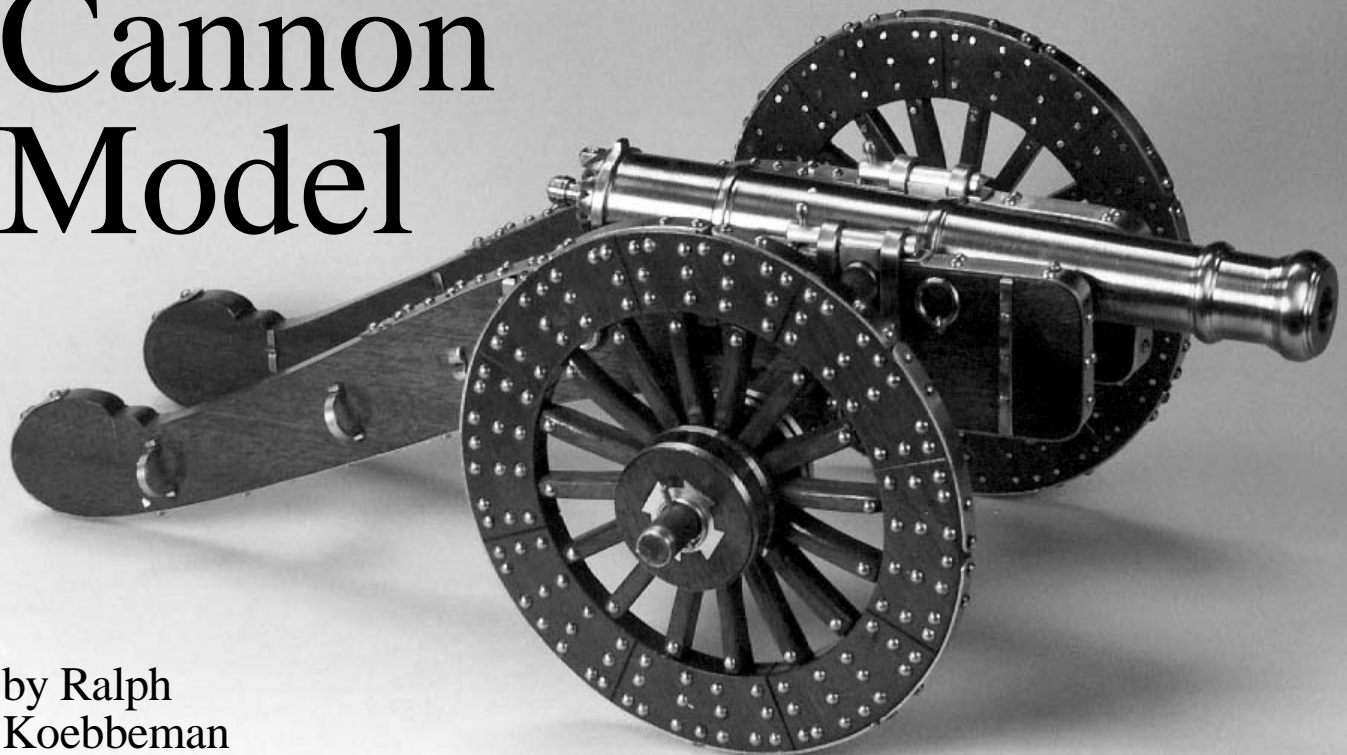
many gateways into the walled city of Peking. Upon cessation of hostilities, the Russian forces holding the Hata Gate presented it to Lt. Webb C. Hayes of the U. S. Army in recognition of the efforts of the American forces in that sector. Lt. Hayes, in turn, presented to the U. S. Military Academy." The canon is labeled,

"Chinese Cannon, The General Subduer, Imperial Ordnance Works Peking, Chinese Dynasty, 1695"

The miniature cannon that Larry made is a beautiful bit of work. It is in one eighth scale with a brass barrel. All I can think about when I look at the photo is that Larry must have gone nuts placing all those brass nails in their patterns!

Ralph

An Interesting Cannon Model



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