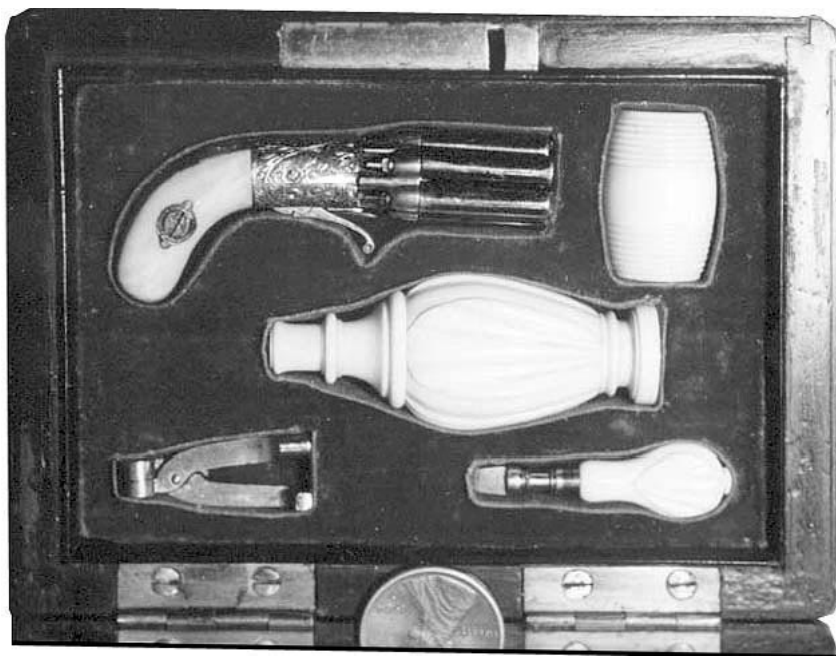


**T**he seed for this article was planted nearly a year ago at the annual meeting in Houston. Robin Armstrong showed me a pepperbox he was making that was about half finished. It was a marvel to see. You could tell it was a pepperbox, the barrel was finished, but the side plate was still a square hunk of metal, and the trigger and hammer were held in place by straight pins. It was only after work on the action was completed that Robin shaped the side plate and finished the gun.

Robin explained that miniature Pepperbox pistols have always been few and far between. In looking for guns for this article, I'd have to agree. In all the article reprints that I scoured, only two pepperboxes were illustrated. Of the 80 miniatures in



*Above... This highly engraved, antique, Mariette style pepperbox is only 2 1/8" long. It is a single action, six shot, pistol with screw off barrels. Each pull of the trigger rotates the barrels and lifts and releases the hammer. This gun can be fired just like the full sized gun it is modeled after. Accessories include; a combination bullet mold, barrel wrench and nipple wrench, an ivory powder flask, an ivory percussion cap container, and a screwdriver.*

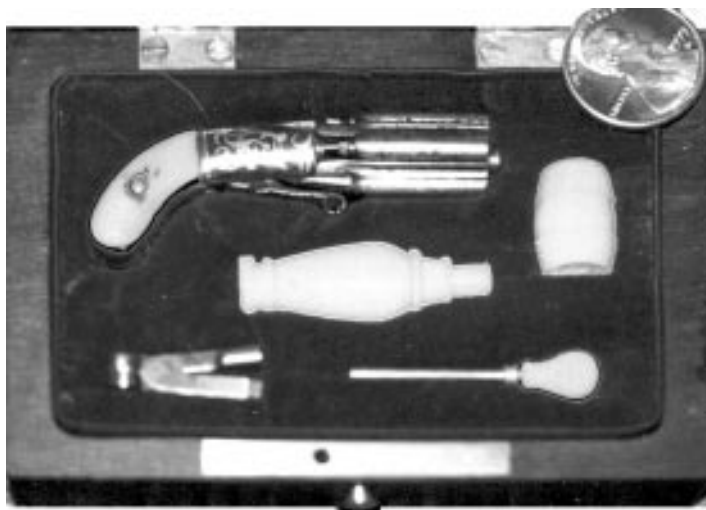
# A Pride of Pepperboxes

the Smithsonian collection only one - catalog item 68 - is a pepperbox.

As you can see, the range of guns in the article is varied, and includes antique guns, contemporary guns, pinfires, oddballs such as the Reid Knuckleduster, and even a multi barrel rifle.

So... to those that made these guns, and to the collectors who shared their pepperboxes with us. Thank you. You should be proud of these fine pieces. **ED.**

*Right; Another nice antique Mariette Brevette style pepperbox, just over two inches long. A similar gun in the Smithsonian collection is listed as of Belgian origin.*





*To the left is a cased 1/2 scale, six shot, pepperbox made by John Maycock. It has a blued barrel with Silver plated frame, and ivory grips. The case is loaded with every possible accessory including; a bullet mold, ivory powder flask, barrel wrench, screwdrivers, and percussion cap container.*

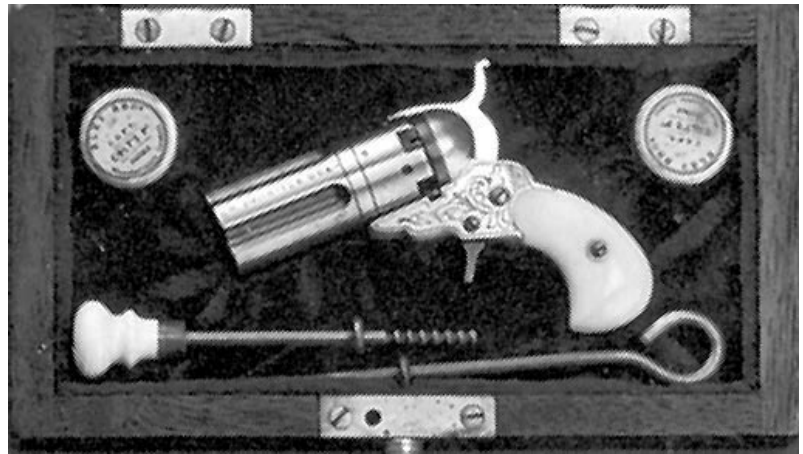
*Below: Another fine, cased, engraved, (four barrel?) pepperbox of the Mariette design, with ring trigger, under-striker and wood grips.*



*Photos by in this article by Art Brown, Robin Armstrong, Al Izuka, Ken Whichard, and Anon.*

*Continued.....*

Right, top and bottom; Not modeled on any known pepperbox models, these two guns are Larry Smith designs, created to make use of the 2mm pinfire cartridge. He crafted them in limited quantities in the 1970's in a variety of finishes and grip materials. The top example is hand engraved and nickel plated, with ivory grips. The bottom gun has a brass frame with blued barrel and action, and ivory grips. Accessories include two labeled pinfire cartridge containers, Pic and cleanout tool, one with an ivory handle, the other with a wood handle.



One of the few contemporary makers to tackle the Pepperbox, Robin Armstrong, sent me the following notes on the two pistols to the left. An interesting construction tip that he did not mention was how he cut the grooves in the barrel. According to Robin they were first chiseled with engravers tools, then filed rounds. Clever. **ED.**

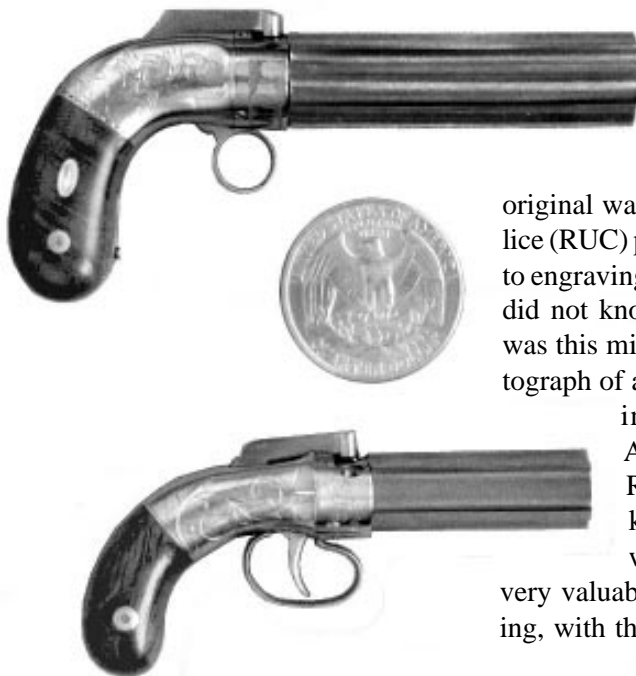
Of the two pepperboxes shown, the smaller is an Allen & Thurber Pocket Size Pepperbox made at

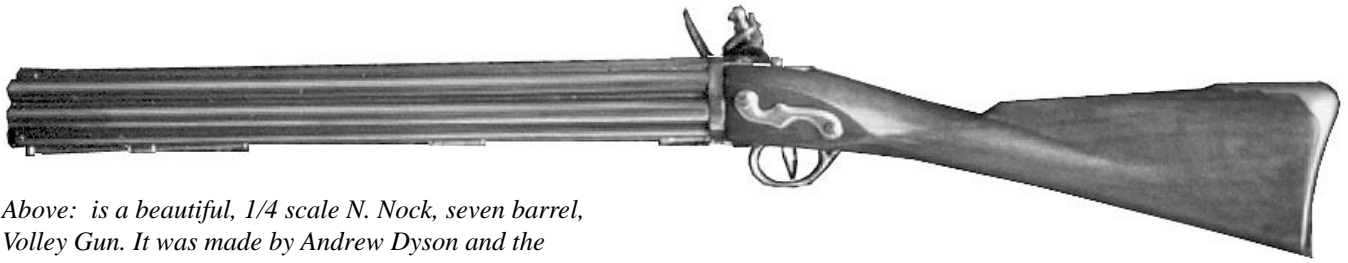
Worcester. It is probably the most common pepperbox around. I made the miniature in the early '70s, the bulk of it whilst I was on emergency tour in Northern Ireland using scraps of metal I could scrounge from the unit vehicle workshops. The original was borrowed from the police (RUC) pound. I never got around to engraving it, or more to the point I did not know how to engrave it. It was this miniature I sent you a photograph of and which you published in an earlier Miniature Arms. In, I think, 1995 Roger Sampson very kindly took me under his wing and gave me some very valuable instruction in engraving, with this pepperbox very much

in mind. I finally got around to it last year and, though I say it myself, I am quite pleased with the results. I hope it shows up well enough in the photograph.

The larger miniature is an Allen's 1837 Patent Dragoon size Norwich Pepperbox with ring trigger. The marking on the hammer 'AW Spies' is, I believe, the agent's name. The photographs show it engraved in the white. The nipple shield has been engraved to simulate a rolled pattern. The final version was blued, and case hardened where appropriate. Unfortunately those photographs didn't come out.

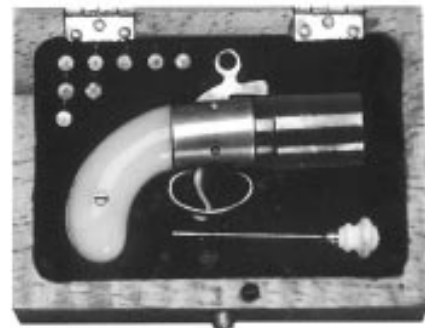
With Best Wishes,  
Robin Armstrong





Above: is a beautiful, 1/4 scale N. Nock, seven barrel, Volley Gun. It was made by Andrew Dyson and the overall length of this gun is only 9 1/2".

To the Right are two good examples of the fun pistols that Al Izuka likes to make. Although based on recognizable guns, the designs are modified to fire the 2mm pinfire cartridge. The top gun is based on a Lefauchaux, "Coup de Pong" fist pistol. It has a fully functional action, except for the barrel which must be turned by hand, and fires the 2mm cartridge. Below it is a Blunt and Syms style pepperbox with ivory grips. It also fires, but the barrel is rotated by hand.



Below: is our mystery gun. If the member who sent this photo to me has some information on the style or maker, let us know and we'll set the record straight in the next issue.



Below: This seems to be a miniature, Nicholson of London, 7-barrel, Flintlock pepperbox. It has a, center hammer and pan, safety catch, and engraved steel frame with ivory grips.

Below is a miniature Reid, "My Friend" Knuckle Duster, with blued cylinder and engraved brass frame. Whether this is a true pepperbox is arguable, but they, along with fist pistols such as the Dolne Apache, are interesting inclusions in any discussion of pepperboxes.

