



Tom Steingraeber  
2060 Wilderness Trail  
Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

*Springfield Mass* January 18, 1996

Dear Mr. Steingraeber:

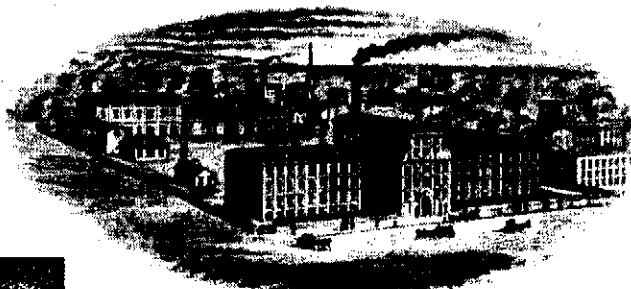
We received your letter of recent date in reference to your .44 caliber revolver. This revolver is a Model 3 Russian Third Model, also referred to as the New Model Russian.

This model was designed at the request of the Russian government in 1874, and referred to by them as the Model of 1874 or Cavalry Model. It was manufactured under contract for the Russians and other governments from 1874 until 1878 with a total production of 41,138.

The handgun was also produced for the Turkish government in .44 Henry Rim Fire with a total of 5,000 guns shipped to them and an additional 1,000 of the .44 Smith & Wesson Russian caliber being sold to Japan.

The Russian contract guns are marked in Cyrillic, the classic Russian language. The Turkish and Japanese revolvers had a barrel stamping which did not state "Russian Model". The revolvers carrying this barrel stamping were produced for domestic sales distribution with a total production of 13,500. All of these were serial numbered between 39001 and 52500 of the Model 3 serial number series.

Smith & Wesson produced a special group of this model which were serial numbered within a separate serial number series from that which had been established for the Russians. This serial number series ranged from 1 to 9,000 and the barrel marking is as described above without the words "Russian Model", and in its place carries the wording "reissue July 25, 1871".



SMITH & WESSON.

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Model 3 Russian Third Model  
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This particular variation is referred to by the collectors as the Model 3 Russian with a reissue barrel stamping. Approximately 3,000 of this type were sold through commercial channels, and the remaining were produced for Japanese and Turkish orders as these countries were at war with Russia and objected to the words "Russian Model".

We have researched your Smith & Wesson Model 3 Russian Third Model in company records which indicate that your handgun, with serial number 39900, was shipped from our factory in 1876, and delivered Schyler, Hartley & Graham, New York City as part of a large order. It originally sold with wood grips and a nickel finish.

We trust that the information furnished will be helpful and of interest to you.

Sincerely,

SMITH & WESSON

Roy G. Jinks  
Historian

