



Springfield News August 6, 2013



The revolver you inquired about recently is a New Model No. 3. It was introduced by the factory in 1878 and manufactured until 1898, but continued to be sold until 1912. A total of 35,796 revolvers were produced in either blue or nickel finish with barrel lengths of 3 1/2", 4", 5", 6", 6 1/2", 7", 7 1/2" and 8". The original grips on the gun were checkered walnut or checkered hard rubber. This revolver was generally chambered for the .44 S&W Russian ammunition.

During the thirty-four years the revolver was produced, it was manufactured in both target and fixed-sight variations in the following calibers: .32 S&W, .32-44 S&W, .320 S&W Revolving Rifle, .38 S&W, .38-44 S&W, .41 S&W, .44 Henry Rim Fire, .44 S&W American, .44 S&W Russian, .45 S&W Schofield, .450 Revolver, .45 Webley, .455 Mark I, and .455 Mark II.

Many other countries purchased the New Model No. 3, but significant orders were received from Japan and Turkey. The Japanese government through their agent, Takata & Company, purchased approximately one third of the total production, and the revolver was so popular with the Japanese that in 1902 Smith & Wesson featured an advertisement showing the New Model No. 3 as the choice of the Japanese Navy.



SMITH & WESSON



New Model No. 3 .44 Single Action
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We have researched your Smith & Wesson New Model No. 3, Target Variation, Special Individual Order Variation, caliber .32-44 S&W Gallery, revolver in company records which indicate that your handgun, with serial number 32005 was shipped from our factory on December 17, 1903, and delivered to H. K. Stillwell no address listed. There were no details on this revolver except it was a special order.

We hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,
SMITH & WESSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy G. Jinks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy G. Jinks
Historian