

SMITH & WESSON

● A BANGOR PUNTA COMPANY

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01101

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY

February 12, 1979



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.

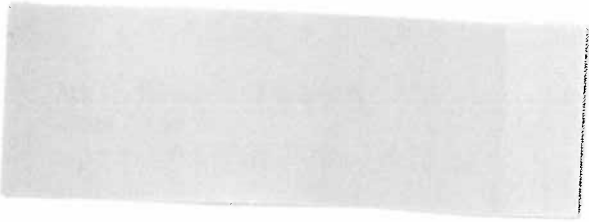
The handgun was also produced for the Turkish government in .44 Henry Rim Fire with a total of 5,000 guns shipped to them and an additional 1,000 of the .44 S&W Russian caliber being sold to Japan.

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 9000 and the barrel marking is as described above without the words "Russian Model", and in its place carries the wording "reissue July 25, 1871". 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".

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Your revolver, Serial Number 46⁸165, was manufactured in 1876.

From the foregoing information you will note that this model was chambered for the .44 S&W Russian ammunition.

We hope the historical information we have provided will be of interest.

Very truly yours,

SMITH & WESSON



R. G. Jinks
Product Manager-Handguns
Historian

RGJ/gmc