



MLAGB

eBulletin

An electronic news bulletin
Issue 5, January 2004

Newsletter Editor



From 2004 the MLAGB 'Blackpowder Newsletter' has a new editor. Kim Minshall has succeeded Ken Hocking to whom she offers her thanks for

his assistance during the transitional 'handover period', and looks forward to receiving Ken's newsletter contributions now he has so much time on his hands!

Readers are reminded that from 2004 the Newsletter becomes a quarterly publication. There will be improvements to the quality of the paper used and more use of colour to enhance presentation. The usual high standard of articles of interest to collectors and shooters alike will continue and Kim will be pleased to receive contributions and suggestions for content. She can be contacted at newsletter@mlagb.com. A PO box number will be established shortly, details of which will be found on the MLAGB web site at www.mlagb.com and will be published here in due course.

MLAIC Email Discussion List



A new email discussion list has been established for discussion of topics that reflect the aims of the Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee (MLAIC), ie.

- To develop a wider interest in antique firearms, through shooting them as close as reasonably possible under the original conditions and style.
- To discourage any alteration which would affect the historical value of antique firearms; to promote their correct cleaning and repair; and to save them from destruction or irreparable damage.
- To encourage historical research into antique firearms and their use.
- To organise matches; establish shooting rules; publish results; award trophies and championship titles; arbitrate on rule disputes, etc.

For details of the MLAIC discussion list and joining visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mlaic/>

For those seeking to discuss wider aspects of muzzle loading 'life style' including hunting, trekking, re-enactment, modern in-line guns, etc, then reference should be made to the Muzzle Loader Mailing List at <http://members.aol.com/illinewek/> or the discussion lists associated with Schuetzen.net at www.schuetzen.net, where such topics may be valid.

Readers are also reminded that the MLAGB web site hosts a 'forum' area where questions on all aspects of collecting and shooting muzzle loading arms may be posted.

Diversifying a little but still within MLAIC disciplines, should the topic of long range muzzle-loading interest you, then readers are also directed to the Long Range Muzzle Loader web site at www.lrml.org which has an associated internet discussion list.

The Henry Stewart Antique Firearm Collection

In September 2003 the Great Britain Long Range Muzzle Loading Rifle Team travelled to the United States to compete in the 4th MLAIC Long Range World Championships at Camp Butner, North Carolina. During their tour, opportunity was taken to visit the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), Lexington. The VMI museum has a stunning display of multi-chambered arms, which is part of the Henry Stewart collection.

Over a fifty year period, Henry M. Stewart, Jr assembled one of the world's great antique firearm collections. Many of the pieces in the collection are one-of-a-kind or the only known surviving example of its type.

The museum at present does not have facilities to display the whole collection, although it plans to in the future. Those displayed at present offer a glimpse into the fascinating world of the 19th century small arms inventor's quest for the development of a multi-shot arm. The breadth of the collection is stunning with successful arms such as Colt's alongside obscure items such as

Porter's revolving vertical turret rifle and Allen and Cochran turret guns. The display gave a fascinating view of American ingenuity, and a glimpse of what may be hidden away in the main collection.



Porter's revolving vertical turret rifle

Having discussed the museum display with Colonel Keith Gibson, Director of VMI Museum Operations, the party headed to the store room where the bulk of the collection is held. Colonel Gibson had taken time to prepare for the visit and had selected a number of British cased revolvers to display such as Adams, Kerr and Tranter. All were fine examples of the type with what appeared to be complete sets of accoutrements in their cases.

During the introductory talk, it became evident that Stewart was not only a gun collector but a research student in the field. Besides many books and papers on the subject he had collected over 350 US government patent office models relating to firearms. The total collection numbers over 800 pieces and is available to serious researches by appointment.

For more information visit the 'collecting' section of the MLAGB web site. The Virginia Military Institute also have a web site at www.vmi.edu.

Wedgcock

Shooters are reminded that during the Winter months (1 November-31 March) the MLAGB ranges at Wedgcock are closed on the 1st and 2nd Saturdays of the month.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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