

# Your Arms Library



conducted by Frank Graves

In addition to reviewing recently issued books, we also take a retro look at some of the old classics from time to time. Although most are out of print, copies are not hard to find at gun shows or from the book search sites noted in the Clubs, Organizations and Resources section of this magazine. If all else fails, please contact us, we have access to a substantial source of used arms books.

Next to the arms themselves, books are the best investment a collector can make. During the “golden age” of collecting in the 1930’s and 40’s, when great finds could still be made, the adage “buy a book for every gun” was coined. At the time only a small fraction of today’s books were available. Today’s offerings plus the internet allow us all to become expert in our areas of interest.

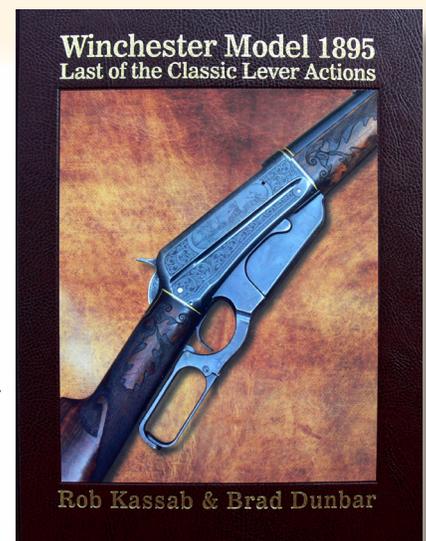
## **WINCHESTER MODEL 1895, Last of the Classic Lever Actions**

by Rob Kassab and Brad Dunbar, Published by Buffalo Cove Publishing LLC, Boca Raton, Florida. ISBN 978-0-578-46655-2.

432 pages, 9” x 12”, numerous color and black & white photographs, hardcover.

Well known Winchester collectors and researchers, Rob Kassab and Brad Dunbar, have collaborated on the first, and presumably the last, definitive book on the Winchester Model 1895 lever action rifles, muskets and carbines. It is amazing to this reviewer that despite the many years of books on the various models of Winchester lever action rifles, that it took this long for a book devoted specifically to the Model 1895 to be written.

The book begins, as it should, with a brief discussion about the genesis of the Winchester Company beginning with the influences of B. Tyler Henry, Oliver Winchester and John M. Browning. Browning of course being the preeminent



designer of firearms and numerous patents of which were used in the design of the Model 1895 Winchester Lever Actions.

There is a good discussion of the prototypes that lead to the production of the Model 1895s illustrated with very clear photographs of these long guns in this development. This superb photography carries throughout the entire book. There are many catalog pages and correspondence documents relative to this model that are shown. Several pages from the warehouse ledgers are shown which are interesting in that they show handwritten details of many rifles in the hand of workers at the time. Particularly interesting are vintage photographs of workers in production in the Winchester factory during the time of production of the Model 1895.

There are chapters devoted to showing the actions and components of the rifles and evolution through production, all illustrated with clear and detailed photography that helps the reader to understand how the rifle was conceptualized, produced and refined throughout production along with a chapter about loading tools and the various calibers used in these guns. As the Winchester Model 1895 was such a popular gun, it was used by the U. S. Army and the trials to get it adopted are detailed. The Model 1895 was also popular with law enforcement and the Texas Rangers, for example, used many of them and there are some wonderful pictures in the book of various Ranger companies using the Model 1895. Many other law enforcement agencies used them and they are pictured with these rifles and many of the circumstances of their use are recounted in the book. The Model 1895 Winchester was a particular favorite of Teddy Roosevelt and there is an entire chapter devoted to his use of the rifles by him and in his safaris.

The Winchester Model 1895 was extremely popular in Mexico and mention of their use is in an entire chapter discussed with many photographs and descriptions. Likewise, there was a significant Russian contract for their use there which was very important to be included here.

Fittingly, the book concludes with a tribute to early Winchester researcher and writer, George Madis who was a mentor to the authors of this book.

All in all, the authors have done a very good job of researching the Winchester Model 1895 and have presented it in a very organized and informative book on the subject, likely to be the last word on the history of the Model 1895 Winchester.

This high quality book is hardbound with a vivid 3D image of an engraved and gold inlaid Model 1895 rifle on the genuine bonded leather cover. This book presents well and would make for a wonderful addition to the library of the arms collector, especially that of the Winchester but would also be a valuable addition to the library of any serious gun collector.

This book is available for \$80.00 from the publisher at [www.1895book.com](http://www.1895book.com) or [from Amazon books.](#)

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