



# Winchester Model 1895

## Last of the Classic Lever Actions

### Book Review

by Rick Hill #3517LB

The most important thing for a collector is to know what he is buying. The most efficient way for a collector to know what he is buying is to have excellent reference material and the finest arms reference book that I have ever read is the recently published *Winchester Model 1895—Last of the Classic Lever Actions*.

The breadth and depth of information encapsulated in the 432 pages is truly mind boggling. Starting with the opening chapter, *Genesis of the Model 1895*, and continuing to the final chapter, *Pricing, Costs and the End of Production*, authors Rob Kassab and Brad Dunbar have diligently pursued factory records, auction archives, collector inventories and museum depositories to uncover and present information, much of which has never been seen before. Additional chapters entitled *Production and Factory Records; Receiver, Magazine and Action; Barrels, Bores and Proving; Stocks, Sling Provisions and Bayonets; Highly Finished Arms; Sights; Winchester's Model 1895 Cartridges; The US Contract; The Model 1895's of Theodore Roosevelt; Lawmen; The Model 1895 in Mexico; The Russian Contract; and Historical Media—Photos, Ads, Art and Books* ensure that all conceivable collector interests have been addressed in great detail. Noted authorities such as Bruce Canfield, Michael Carrick, Mark Jones and Tom Quigley, Philip Schreier, Dan Shuey and Ray Giles have generously lent their expertise and knowledge to round out the history of the Model 1895.

The quality, quantity and level of detail of the color photographs is without equal in any other arms book. Many of the photos come from the Winchester records held by the Cody Firearms Museum and McCracken Research Library, as well as the Library of Congress, National Archives and the National History Museum of Latvia. Individual collectors have also provided photos from their collections that, together, provide a pictorial panorama of the gun and its history which alone is worth the purchase price!

A welcome and unusual feature of the book is the inclusion of *The Model 1895 Gallery* that showcases 94 examples of the Model 1895 each with a different option or feature. Additionally, there is a serial number index included that shows every gun photographed and the page number(s) on which the gun is presented.

You don't have to be a Model 1895 collector to thoroughly enjoy this book as I was especially pleased to see the inclusion of many topics that crossover into other Winchester models—topics such as the general history of the WRACo, factory records and their interpretation, barrel making and proving, stocks, factory engraving and sights.

I can heartily recommend you add it to your firearms and history reference library! The book is available at [1895Book.com](http://1895Book.com) for \$79.99 plus shipping—also see the advertisement on Page 30 for more information.

