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Model 1873 Special Shot Rifle Number 646054
I have made a thorough inspection
of this rare Winchester, inside and out, and
feel it is all original as made by
Winchester.

Records show this serial number
was assigned to the 1873 model in 1910.

For an 1873 model rifle, twenty-four
inch round barrels were standard.

This rifle has a special order
twenty-inch octagon barrel. In a count made
in the 1930's when all of the records were
intact, it was found that only one of each
four hundred and fifty rifles made had special
shot barrels.

Because of the very low production
and the low survival rate of these rifles,
there is a large collector demand for them.

Most special shot rifles were
exported and have seen a great deal of use,
abuse and neglect. It is very unusual to
see one of these rifles in good condition.

All of the markings on this gun
are original and unaltered. Production of the
1873 model was relatively low after Winchester
proof marks were used, and these proofs are
not often found on 1873 models. This rifle
has the proof marks on the top rear of the

panel and on the top front of the receiver.

Full magazines were standard for all 1873 models, and in the case of this gun, had a capacity of twelve cartridges.

The front sight of this rifle is the correct style with an integral nickel-silver sight blade and a retaining screw on the right side.

Model 1873 Carbine sights, as seen here, were usually provided on special short rifles, and it is graduated from two to nine.

This rifle chamber the .44 W.E.F. Cartridge, more popularly called the "44-40".

On this high serial series the cobble marking is found on the side of the barrel and on the bottom of the elevator.

A small "step" on the top front of the receiver was provided on smaller caliber guns of the '73, but special short rifles and carbines usually have this "step", as seen here.

Select straight grain walnut was used for stocking this rifle, and the stocks and forend have virtually all of the original varnished finish.

Steel and iron parts which were blued on this rifle have most of this original finish remaining, and the core coloring of the hammer and lever have all of the color remaining.

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The case-coloring of the buttplate has most of this finish. Topdown buttplates were standard for .44 caliber guns, and on high issues such as this the top on the top is shorter than on earlier issues.

If one almost one hundred years old, it is unusual to find a Winchester of this age with so much of the original finishes.

With the age, rarity and outstanding condition, number 646054 will be a fine addition to any collection or museum.

George W. ...

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Additional information on 1873 Number 646054

Further research has located additional records on this Winchester and it is presented here.

Records show this rifle was received in the Winchester warehouse on August 2, 1905. This would indicate a "block" of serial numbers were assigned to the special order shops, and that these numbers were much higher than the numbers assigned to production guns. Apparently no models T873 were serially numbered in 1907 and 1908, since the records for those years show no production. Serial number 613780 was made in 1906, and in 1909 serial number 613781 is recorded as being made.

This rifle is described in the record as a rifle in caliber .44 with an octagon twenty inch barrel. It was shipped out on September 20, 1909 to "ticket number"

223075". A further note states it was shipped to "Morris Levy and Schuler, Elquitos, Peru" and billed to Morris Levy of Paris, France.

Very few records of Winchester dealers have survived, but remaining records list "Enrique Levy, La Paz".

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Bolivia", "B. Levy & Co. P.O. Box 43, Manaus, Brazil" and "Marin Levy and Co. Remate de Maes, Rio Jovary, Amazonas, Brazil". These records date from 1912 to 1916.

Whether these other Levy dealers were related to Marin Levy & Co. is not known or noted in the records, now in this writer's possession.

Very few of our collectors' Warrants are noted in the records as to where they were shipped.

Exported guns such as this one rarely found in the excellent condition of number 646054.

George Wood