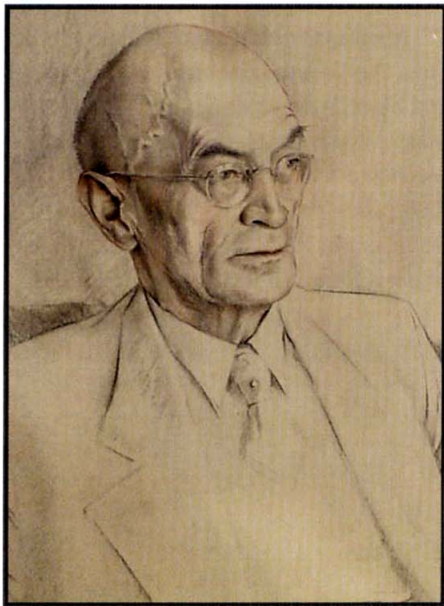


The Immann Meffert Gewehrfabrik in Suhl

Four Generations of Gunmakers with the Trade Mark "Hubertus."

Researched and written by Dietrich Apel

When I visited the Nuernberg Trade Show known as IWA in March of 2002, I had a conversation with Mr. Kind, head of the well-known wholesale distributor and manufacturer Albrecht King (Trade Mark AKAH). He told me that the last member of the Meffert family, now quite old, lived near their business. I phoned Mr. Meffert, who certainly sounded much younger than he is. He agreed that I could visit him and talk about the Meffert Company. Although I had scheduled the last day in Germany for the visit, I ran out of steam and did not feel up to the long ride and the rush to the airport. But I promised myself to make the visit the next time I was in Germany.



Bruno Meffert

A few weeks before my November trip to Germany, I received an e-mail from Steve Helsley whom I had met at



Doppelflinte.

Die Dekoration dieser, der Gewehrfabrik von Imman. Meffert (Suhl) entnommenen Waffe entworfen und ausgeführt vom Graveur Hugo Kolb (Suhl).

Zeitschrift des bayr. Kunstgewerbevereins
in München.

Jahrgang 1887. Tafel 52.

Sichtbald von der Hoflichkeitsdruckerei Jos. Albert, München.

A superb early Immann Meffert hammer gun engraved by Hugo Kolb

the Vintagers. He asked for information about Meffert and the gun he had acquired. I suggested to him to send me photos of the gun. They arrived quickly and were of outstanding quality.

Although I had seen a gun of this type before, I knew very little about it or the Meffert Company. But the amateur

journalist in me saw a great opportunity to combine a story about this unusual gun with the history I hoped to get from Mr. Meffert. Steve Helsley readily agreed to write about his gun, how he acquired it and how he used it the first time. Half the job was done without any effort on my part and I set to work on the second half.

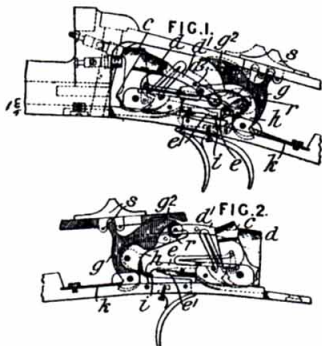
Meffert, continued

On my way to Gummersbach, a small town near Koeln, I visited a former high school classmate. When I mentioned to Helga that I was on my way to visit Mr. Meffert she immediately told me that she had seen the name in her mother's old appointment calendar. She and her mother had come to Suhl as refugees from East Prussia. Her mother, a professional artist, painted portraits to earn a living. Mr. and Mrs. Meffert had been clients of hers.

22,867. Meffert, I. Oct. 24.

Breech actions, drop-down barrel; single-trigger double and triple barrelled guns.—A triple-barrelled gun has two triggers, one of which discharges one of the side barrels in the usual manner, while the other discharges at will the middle and third barrels. Figs. 1 and 2 are left and right hand side elevations with the single-action lock removed. The hammer *d* of the middle lock has a rearward extension *d'* carrying a roller *r* which bears against the face *g'* of a cocking-lever *g* actuated by the slide *s* and controlled by one arm of a forked spring *k*. The tumbler *i* is pivoted to a swinging arm *h* controlled by the other fork of the spring *k*. When the lever *g* is swung forward by the


slide *s*, the hammer *d* is cocked by the action of the face *g'* against the roller *r*, the arm *h* being at the same time swung forward into the position



shown in Fig. 1, so that the tumbler is located under the sear *e'* of the middle lock. A pin *d''* on

the extension *d'* retains the arm *h* in this position until the discharge of the middle barrel, when the arm is returned to its normal position by the spring *k*, the tumbler being then located under the sear *e* of the hammer *c*, the latter being cocked in the usual manner.

I found my way to Mr. and Mrs. Meffert's in Gummersbach and was given a warm welcome. I enquired whether they knew an artist named Grete Jahr-Queizer. The words were hardly out of my mouth when they pointed to pictures of Mr. Meffert's father and mother in



„Hubertus“-Leichtmetall-Drillinge

mit 3 Schrotläufen werden auf Wunsch angefertigt.

Als Kaliber kommt 16 oder 20 in Betracht. Ausführung mit Hornabzugsbügel.

Der Preis ist der gleiche wie der normaler Drillinge.

Das Gewicht beträgt in Kaliber 20 etwa 2,800 kg und in Kaliber 16 etwa 2,900 kg.

Anschuß von Schrotläufen mit Brennecke-Geschossen

wird auf Bestellung vorgenommen und kostet je Einzellauf RM. 6.—, beim Vierling je Einzellauf RM. 15.—

Patronenauswerfer für Schrotläufe bei Drillingen.

Die „Hubertus“-Leichtmetall-Drillinge werden auf Wunsch auch mit selbsttätigem Patronenauswerfer (Ejektor) für die oberen Schrotläufe geliefert. Nur die abgeschossene Patronenhülse wird ausgeworfen. Für einwandfreie Funktion leiste ich Garantie. Für den Kugellauf wird in diesem Falle geteilter Patronenauszieher angebracht, welcher die abgeschossene Kugelhülse besonders weit herauschiebt. Mehrgewicht 150 g.

Mehrpreis für beide Einrichtungen RM. 165.—


Doppelbüchs-Drillinge

werden auf Bestellung angefertigt.

Ihr Mehrpreis gegenüber den vorstehend angeführten Arten beträgt:

a) RM. 130.— wenn ein Kugellauf unten, der zweite links oben, der Schrotlauf rechts oben liegt.

b) RM. 240.— wenn beide Kugelläufe oben, der Schrotlauf unten liegen. In diesem Falle wird der bekannte Kersterverschluß (Doppelquerriegel) verwendet.



their dining room. The portraits were done in charcoal because oil paint and canvas was not available. This opened the door to the family history.

Immann (Immanuel) Meffert founded the Meffert company in Suhl in 1839. He had two sons who followed him into the company as partners, Justin as a gunsmith, Richard as a business administrator. Justin's son Bruno took over the



The Meffert business at Steinweg.

company and was joined by his son, Gerhard, in 1934 as an employee. He later became his father's partner and is the last Meffert to uphold the gun making tradition.

Gerhard Meffert seemed detached from the company history and, when you

hear his story, you will understand why. During the Second World War he served in the German army and was taken prisoner in Austria in 1945 by American troops. He was sent home after a few months, but home was by then occupied by Russian troops. They promptly arrested him again and sent him to various prison camps in Russia. He was fortunate to have survived and was released in 1950, five years later. For a while they tried to put the old company back together but were soon taken over by the Communist *Volkseigenen Betriebe* (owned by the people).

After continuing harassment by the *Stasi*, the Communist secret police, he and his wife decided that they had to leave. They had to keep this decision secret and told only one close friend of their plans. The evening before their departure in 1959, they cut the drawings of his parents out of their frames, rolled them up and gave them to the friend. In the morning they turned the key in their front door and left for Berlin, never to



The former courtyard is now a bank lobby.



The former shops in the back of the courtyard.

return. They came to West Germany over the *Luftbruecke* from the western sector of Berlin. The friends sent the two drawings to them much later, and they remain all they have left of the history and the efforts of four generations.

The gun Mr. Meffert has in his lap was acquired in West Germany. It is one of the Dural Drillings but not in original condition. Since the Meffert Company had done a lot of business with the Albrecht Kind Company over a long period of time, Mr. Kind offered Gerhard

Meffert a job as their shop manager. The Kind Company produces quality scope mounts and other accessories and does a lot of gunsmithing for the dealers who buy from them. The Mefferts were able to first purchase a piece of land and eventually to build a house. They live in pleasant surroundings and seem to be content with their life.

Then I questioned them about their former business. Here is what I remember:

One of the inventions he was proud of is the Hubertus-Lebrecht Sicherung which was linked to the buttplate through the stock. Lebrecht was a Forstmeister who offered the idea to Meffert. We have to do some detective work on this one.

In the 1930s the company made over 1000 hunting guns a year. Mr. Meffert's father was of the opinion that they could make three functional quality guns in the time it took to make one fancy one. In thinking about the many Meffert guns that have passed through my hands in the last 50 years, I can confirm that very



Gerhard Meffert, the last of a famous gunmaking family

few of these guns had a lot of engraving. Before the war, Meffert had two properties in Suhl. The one on the *Steinweg* had the offices, show rooms and storerooms in the building that faced the street and the gun shops in the rear behind the courtyard. The Steinweg was Suhl's main street and the location of the most prominent businesses. As the word *Steinweg* (stone way) indicates, it was most likely the first street paved with cobblestones. All out-of-town traffic came through this street. Today it is a pedestrian zone and the Meffert house is occupied by a bank. The courtyard is covered by a glass roof and serves as the main bank lobby. Both Bruno and Gerhard Meffert worked in these buildings. In our last Journal we showed the historic marker that was recently installed.

The buildings that held the machine shops were located on the *Amtmannsweg* and have survived mostly in their original condition, especially the front building which has slate siding. They are again used as a machine shop. Here Meffert produced practically all of their own gun components, one of the few smaller companies to do so.

The Meffert factory at Amtmannsweg.



Meffert, continued



It is possible that the company in these buildings was under separate management but it worked exclusively for the company at the Steinweg location.

In 1930 Meffert offered a very light side-by-side shotgun using only steel parts.. This was achieved by skeletonizing the steel parts wherever possible. In 1931 three blocks of aluminum were obtained from a company that made "Dural" which was tougher than regular aluminum. Three prototype Drillings were produced using Dural for the action and trigger plate. The guns turned out to be much lighter and easier to carry and to handle. They gave these prototypes to their traveling salesman to expose them in three of the most important German provinces. When no word came, they started to worry that the guns had not appealed to the public. But all of a sudden over 80 orders for these guns arrived while not a single gun had been started. Thus the Meffert Dural Drillings, after some improvements and re-enforcement of critical wear surfaces with steel inserts, became the "flag ship" of the company and were later copied by the other gun companies. On the first actions the inscription *Hubertus Dural* was inlaid in gold but they were coated with black lac-



Above: A typical Meffert Dural Drilling owned by our president, Dick Hummell, and destined to go to the Hunting Museum in Tambach.

quer until hard anodizing became available,

Because of the great demand for these Drillings, even during the difficult depression years, Meffert did not participate in the initial war material production that Hitler started in defiance of the Versailles treaty. Only in 1941 did they start producing parts for the Krieghoff company.

The Meffert catalog we hope to offer as a reprint in the near future shows a great variety of guns made or sold by the company, from side-by-side and over and

under shotguns to Drillings in various configurations, Vierlings, Schuetzenrifles, air rifles and many more.

In conclusion, I express the hope that I can convince Mr. Meffert to write down the story of his life and the history of the Meffert family. And if Steve Helsey ends up buying the Meffert pin fire gun he mentioned on the phone to me, the Meffert story will be continued in another Journal.

And please, send us all additional information about Meffert you might have.

A Meffert for an Anglophile by Steven C. Helsley



For the first forty or so years of my gun-collecting career, I never bonded with German guns; particularly those of sporting configuration. My interest in shotguns of any kind was equally tepid. The few shotguns that had found their way into my collection were nontraditional—examples being a Model 1881 Springfield Trapdoor “forager” in 20-gauge and a 12-gauge Burgess folding riot-gun c.1895. But times change. For reasons that are unclear, three years ago I became involved with the California Side by Side Society (www.casidebysidesociety.com). Founded in 1995 by Roger Sanger, the Society is “dedicated to the collection, preservation, heritage and enjoyment of the side-by-side shotgun and rifle.” As the Society sponsors a variety of shooting and hunting events, it would have been unseemly for me to show up for a chukar hunt with a riot gun. Thus I felt obligated to acquire additional hardware. (Note: any excuse to buy more guns will do.)

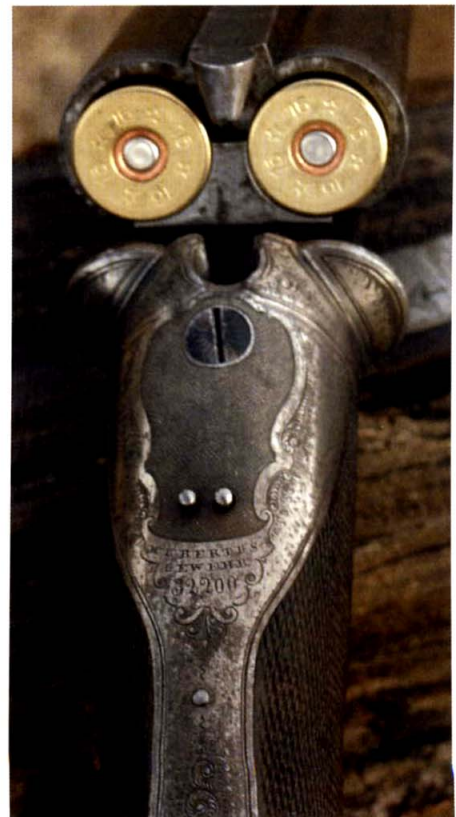
Soon I had a 12-bore Powell bar-in-wood hammer gun and a Westley Richards 12-bore percussion muzzle-loader, as well as the appropriate Edwardian garb. I also found myself poring through the pages of the *Double Gun Journal* and *Shooting Sportsman Magazine*. Therein I developed an attraction to the rounded-action design of the Scottish Dickson and the French Darne guns. This attraction would later cause further expansion of my collection.

My first exposure to German sporting arms came at the Gold Medal Concours d’Elegance of Fine Guns (www.goldmedalconcours.com). A creation of Roger Sanger and Silvio Calabi (former editor-in-chief of *Shooting Sportsman*), the Concours is a twice-yearly juried “show and tell” for some of the finest firearms extant. The first Concours was held in early 2001 at Rock Springs Ranch, in Paicines, California (www.rockspringsranch.com).

At the second Concours, the German

Gun Collectors Association and many superb examples of their collecting focus were on hand. The GGCA has become a regular participant. Aficionados of fine guns will usually cite Boss, Holland & Holland or Purdey as the benchmark of quality; visitors to the Concours (including me) quickly learned that those grand British marques have nothing on the likes of Springer, Mattis and Sauer. The Concours rotates between Rock Springs Ranch and The Vintage Cup (www.vintagers.org), at the Orvis Sandanona facility in Millbrook, New York.

Both venues also feature shotgun and rifle (including Drillings) competitions. These competitions have further enhanced my appreciation for the quality—and performance—of German, Prussian and Austrian guns. Additionally, I’ve had the opportunity to hunt with folks who were using Sempert-Krieghoff



and Imman-Meffert Drillings. I don't need a Drilling, but I certainly want one.

I had the good fortune to attend Concours IV in September 2002, at The Vintage Cup. There I was in search of a solid, side-by-side pinfire shotgun. Since my garage is full of partially completed projects (firearm and otherwise) it made complete sense to me that I should



devote countless hours learning how to make and load pinfire cartridges. Such has been the influence of the Side by Side Society on my previously semi-sound judgment.

It was almost closing time on the last day (arguably the most dangerous time for gun buyers); Roger Sanger and I were making a final tour of the grounds in search of a pinfire, or other treasures, when I spotted a round-action gun with an odd looking protrusion in front of the pistol grip. I picked it up, shouldered it and was smitten immediately. After a quick inspection and removal of the barrels, I knew only that it was a nicely made 16-bore with moderate engraving and an odd safety, and was probably of German manufacture.

The gun was marked HUBERTUS GEWEHR 32200 on the top strap. Its condition indicated moderate use and good maintenance. The seller could add nothing in the way of background information on the gun. All self-control van-

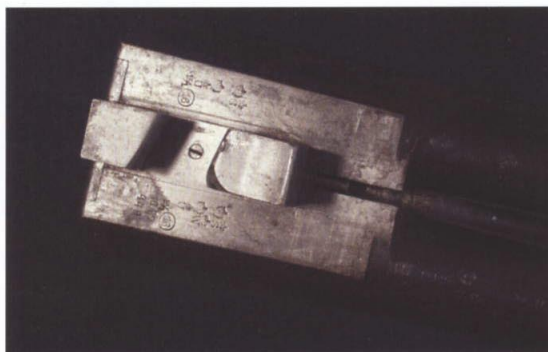
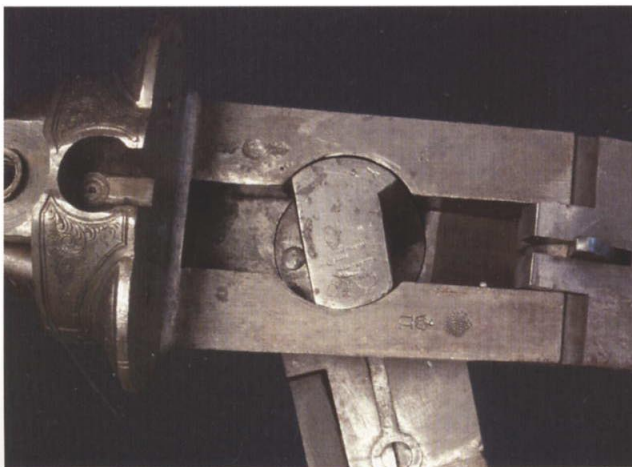
ished and I bought my first German shotgun.

When the gun was finally in my hands, I launched a research effort.

My awareness of things "Hubertus" was extremely limited. I had heard of the hunting society --The International Order of Saint Hubertus -- and had handled Krieghoff's Hubertus model single-shot rifle. Beyond those, in the

Bibliography of Small-arms and Machine-guns, by Journal - Verlag Schwend, I located one Hubertus reference for the 1907/ 08 edition of *Schuss und Waffe*.

As that journal is not currently part of my collection, I decided to follow an easier path and contact Dietrich Apel, whom I had met at the Concours. He was very gracious and suggested that I send some photographs along with a

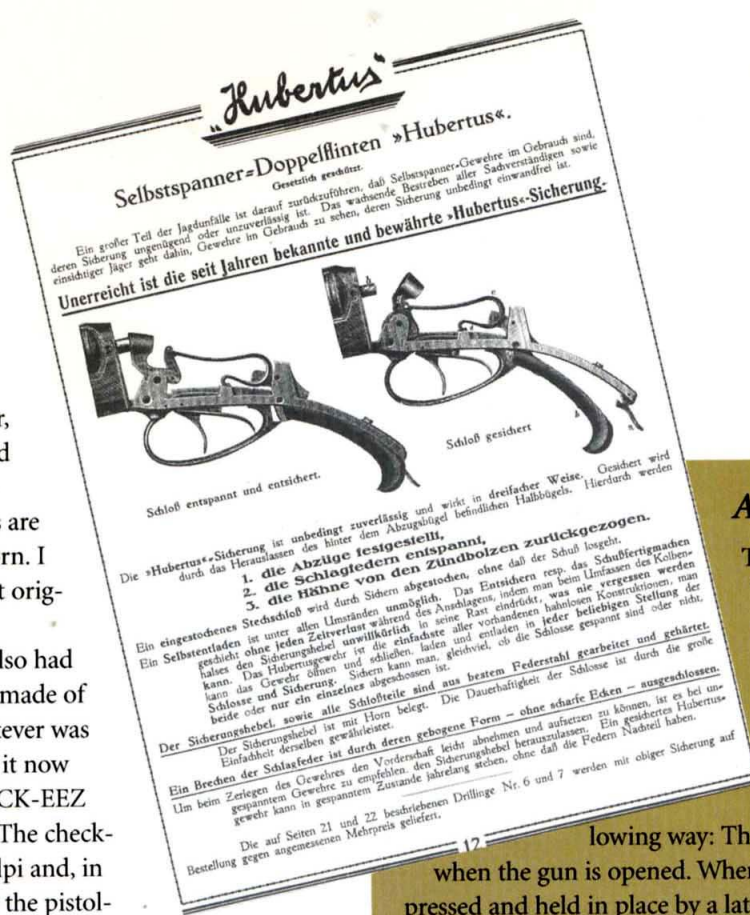


description of the gun and how I came to own it. The Hubertus has 30 7/16 - inch barrels (FLUSSSTAHL-KRUPP-ESSEN) with a full rib and weighs 6 lb 4 oz. The right barrel measures .661 and the left .648. The action is of Lefauchaux under-

lever design and there is a dolls-head barrel extension. When rotated 90 degrees, the lever opens the gun and cocks both hammers, which in turn cause cocking indicators to protrude from the top strap.

The forend is secured to the barrels with a Greener-style fastener. As I've come to learn is common on German guns, the forend remains attached to the receiver when the barrels are removed. The gun has a grip safety which, when unlatched, blocks the triggers. To fire the gun, the safety lever, which runs below the pistol grip, must be compressed until it locks via a separate catch near the end of the pistol grip. The safety can be quickly activated with the little finger of the shooting hand.

The gun can be de-cocked by manipulating the action lever and trig-



gers. The action-lever, triggerguard and safety-lever covers are made of horn. I suspect that originally the Hubertus also had a buttplate made of horn. Whatever was once there, it now sports a KICK-EEZ recoil pad. The checking is 24 lpi and, in addition to the pistol-grip-style stock, it also has a cheek piece and an oil finish. The serial number is on the back of the receiver, so the gun must be disassembled to see it. The last three digits of the serial number appear on the underside of the action lever. The proof marks seem unremarkable and can be seen in the accom-



A unique Meffert design

This is the introduction in the Meffert catalog: "Many hunting accidents are caused by cock-on-opening guns with unreliable safeties. The increasing awareness of experts as well as informed hunters lets them ask for guns with absolutely reliable safeties. Unsurpassed for years is the "Hubertus" safety!"

This unique safety device works in the following way: The hammers are cocked in the conventional way when the gun is opened. When the safety lever under the pistol grip is compressed and held in place by a latch near the knob of the grip, the set-trigger for the rifle barrel can be set and the gun can be fired. When the safety lever under the grip is released, the hammer springs are relaxed, the triggers are blocked, the hammers are retracted and, if set, the set-trigger is decocked. This is a remarkable combination of safety features with only one drawback: it takes a strong hand to compress the safety lever quickly because the hammer springs must be moved to a stressed position.

panying photographs. The gun appears to be c.1927.

As quail season had opened, it seemed that the Hubertus should be given a field trial. My shooting partner, Mike Ball, and I traveled to Siskiyou County in Northern California in search of the elusive scaled quail. The terrain is quite steep so I was very glad that the gun was designed for a sling. Until recently I didn't understand why British shotguns aren't set up for slings. The explanation I was given is that "no self respecting Brit carries his own gun." The grip safety worked well, but since 15 to 20 pounds of pressure is required to squeeze it to the firing position, unless the shooter has very large and strong hands, it is best to do this before the gun is brought to the shoulder. In use, the Hubertus pointed quickly and felt more like a 5 1/2-lb gun.

The gun's design does have one serious flaw: The top tang and trigger assembly are extremely easy to remove. Thus, virtually all key parts can be accessed for cleaning or repair. However, I found that after about 10 rounds, the two screws that mate the front and rear portions of the gun had worked loose. The Hubertus was field-stripping itself. It needs the type of lock screws that were used on M98 military pattern Mausers. Our hunt was successful and I was quite pleased with the handling of the gun. In the near future I will try it on a patterning board.

Preliminary information from Dietrich indicates that "Hubertus" was a name applied to guns made by Meffert. I'm hopeful that his upcoming trip to Germany will result in additional information. I have a feeling that more German sporting arms will find their way into my gun safe.



“Hubertus”

Patron Saint of the hunter, trademark of the gunmaker. See story page 17.

We get letters!

Excerpts from a letter from Georg Meffert:

The catalog you sent was from the 1920s and the last one of its kind because in the 30s we published only small special catalogs or flyers. Could you find a beige-colored catalog with the title: *Hubertus-Leichtmetall-Gewehre*?

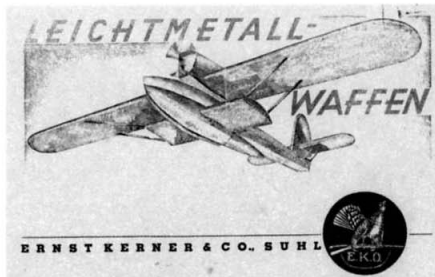
I worked with 15 gunsmiths through the end of 1959, some of whom worked at their homes, but I was categorized by the (Communist) government as an administrator. Factory owners or manufacturers did not exist under Communism.

The extensive gravesite of the Mefferts was recently recognized by the town of Suhl as a historic site. That's how the times have changed.

We started making light metal guns in 1934, including Vierlings whose complete actions weighed 3 kg. (6.6 lbs.). It was Burgmueller in Kreiensen/Harz who started making Vierlings with the small caliber rifle barrel in the rib just before World War II. This made an automatic rear sight impossible and scope mounting very difficult. We made 100 Vierlings and about 1000 Drillings and Combination Guns a year up to the beginning of the war.

Aluminium · Leichtmetall · Aluminum

Three names for the same metal, also used on guns. by Dietrich Apel



In Germany it is called *Aluminium* or *Leichtmetall* which means light metal. Why do we spell it *aluminum* without the second “i”? The story goes that in an annual report of a major American aluminum company the proofreaders did not discover that an “i” was missing until thousands of these reports were printed. Due to the lack of time and funds for re-printing, the annual report without the “i” was mailed and the different spelling stuck.

The first time that aluminum was in the news was when the German inventor Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin built air ships and used aluminum because of its light weight and relative strength. This effort came to a tragic end when one of his airships landed near New York and burst into flames. Although this was the end of airships, aluminum was used for airplanes, and as a page out of Kerner catalog shows, gunmakers also took note and started using aluminum for Drillings and Vierlings.

A letter found in Jim Cate's very

interesting book on Sauer pistols and Sauer history answers an inquiry from the Communist Russian government in 1932 and advises that they are waiting for test reports from the Zeppelin Company before considering the use of aluminum on their automatic pistols.

Because multi-barrel guns are much heavier, and although the reduction in weight due to an aluminum receiver was relatively small, it became a selling point in the very competitive gun industry. The first company that brought out Drillings and Vierlings with aluminum (Dural) actions was the Meffert

Company, and they were quite successful with them (See Journal #16, page 17). Many other makers jumped on board and brought out guns with aluminum actions. Not so the Sauer Company, that explained in one of their catalogs that they, due to their know-how, were able to produce guns with all-steel actions

that matched the weight of the so-called lightweight guns.

But, the opinions about aluminum actions are divided. When I received an inquiry about a side-by-side shotgun with the two photos that showed an aluminum action, I was stumped who might have made it and why in the world would somebody want such an action that can be made so very light even when steel is used. You might



remember the time when everybody wanted a superlight shotgun with 25” barrels. Many a hunter and shooter found out that he was missing targets because he stopped the swing when leading a moving target, and these very same gun owners now favor 28” or even 30” barrels.

When I forwarded the photos of this shotgun to Axel Eichendorff, now our technical editor, he could not identify the maker but he voiced his strong objections to aluminum actions as a very bad idea. I quote from his answer:

“The use of aluminium frames (which I regard as one of the worst ideas that ever came into gunmaking) was pioneered by I. Meffert (shame on them!) in the 1930s.”

When I meekly explained to Axel that Mr. Meffert has pointed out to me when I visited him, shortly before he passed away, that all the foresters liked their guns and that they had sold over 900 in one year, Axel grudgingly modified his strong feelings and admitted to the following:

“For a gunmaker claiming to having sold guns to foresters simply was a sort of advertising, as foresters were and still are regarded as the real experts on bigger



den 30. September 1932.

HS/Mg.
An die
Handelsvertretung der U.d.S.S.R.
in Deutschland
Abt. Technopromisport 56/63

Berlin SW 68
Lindenstrasse 20 - 25.

Automatische Pistolen Fabrikat
SAUER & SOHN aus Duralumin.

In höflicher Beantwortung Ihrer geschätzten Zeilen vom 22.d.M. bitten wir, davon Kenntnis zu nehmen, dass wir bezüglich der Fabrication von automatischen Pistolen, deren Griffteil und Verschlusshülse aus Duralumin bestehen, erst neuerdings mit den Zeppelinwerken in Friedrichshafen in Verbindung getreten sind, um eingehende Versuche bezüglich der Oberflächenhärtung und der Schwarzfärbung der Duralumin-Teile (Zloxiorverfahren) durchzuführen.

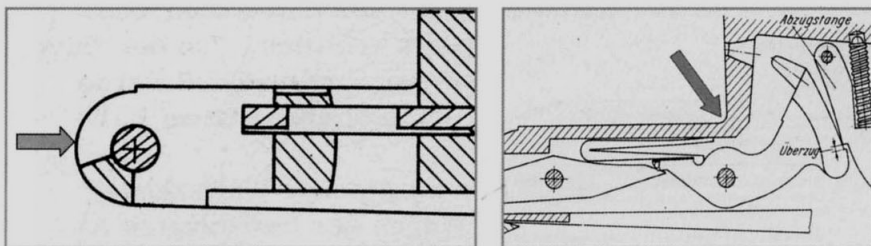
Da diese Versuche sich vermutlich noch einige Wochen hinziehen, so bitten wir, sich freundlichst bezüglich der Überlassung von einigen Musterpistolen noch bis Ende Oktober, bezw. Mitte November gedulden zu wollen.

Den Versand dieser Musterpistolen nebst Anlagen werden wir seiner Zeit wunschgemäß an die
Handelsvertretung der UMSER in Deutschland
Ingenieur-Abteilung / Berlin
Zimmer Nr. 456 zu Händen des Herrn
Ingenieur Rafaleki

bewirken und empfehlen uns mit der Versicherung
vorsüchtiger Hochachtung

by

aluminum, continued



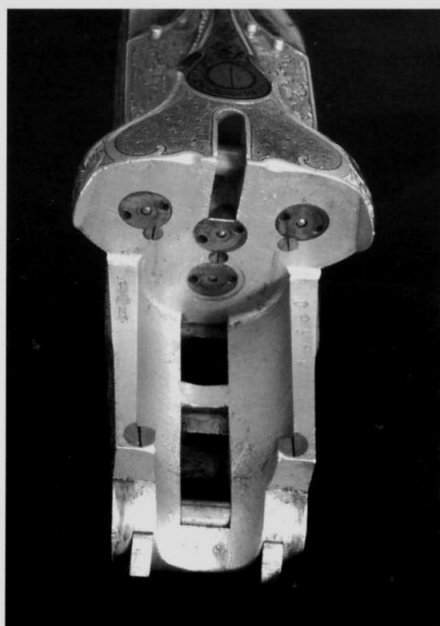
game hunting. Being a German forester myself, I will not openly dispute this, but it isn't so in every case. The average forester will mostly see roe deer, perhaps more than the average hunter, but not in vast numbers. As most foresters did their job on foot or bicycle in those days, they usually carried a gun with them all day, partly for self protection since they also had policing duties, and partly for hunting opportunities.

"A popular story told among hunters and foresters goes like this: 'An old forester comes to the cemetery for his



wife's burial with a Drilling slung over his shoulder. When asked why he is coming with his gun his answer was, 'Well, a fox can come my way anytime!' Hence the popularity of very light combination guns."

Axel goes on to point out the weak areas of an action and, like the arrows in the two schematics, points to the support of the hinge pin and the corner between the water table and the standing breech. Being somewhat more tolerant as a gun-



smith who really has never seen any failures in these areas, I still admire Drillings and more so Vierlings with aluminum actions, but I have never owned one.

It must also be pointed out that the gunmakers who made guns with aluminum actions reinforced all the critical

areas like the firing pin bushings and the surfaces that pushed out the extractors with steel components. All parts of the firing mechanism were made from steel, and so was the trigger plate, the triggers, the safety and the top lever. In one of the photos you can see a hammerless gun with an aluminum action and a steel side plate for the locks. The steel parts can easily be detected through the contrast between the shiny aluminum action and the bluing on the steel parts. On later guns the aluminum actions were black anodized, but some makers stayed with the shiny look that was easily recognized as a gun with much more prestige.

Why were these Drillings and Vierlings so much more expensive? I believe that the reason for this is that fewer guns with these actions were made, and like in all production, the fewer pieces you produce, the more costly they are. On Vierlings the regulation of four barrels was a challenge and took much more time and ammunition.

23.



Meffert Titan Model Pre-W.W.II Drilling with Dural Receiver

Serial# 65237, 16 gauge x 16 gauge over 8 x 57JR caliber. 23 1/2" "(crown) U", "(crown) G", "(crown) N" and Nitro proofed barrels, excellent bores. This scarce drilling retains approximately 95% barrel blue and about 98% natural Dural finish with black enamel highlights inside the full coverage oak leaf receiver engraving. It features a flip-up articulated rear and selectable two-position front sights, cocking indicators for all three barrels, Greener style safety, Lyman All-American 2 1/2X Perma center scope mounted in removable factory claw mounts, a scalloped receiver with side clips, horn triggerguard, double triggers, extractors, fine checkered walnut stock with pistol grip and cheek rest, fine checkered forend, a horn buttplate and pistol grip cap, and European sling swivels. All in great condition. The length of pull measure 13". This weighs only 7 lbs. Two 16 gauge snap caps are included. This is a high end collector and investment quality drilling. F-21

(08-137-005-M)

(4000/6000)



1297. *IMMANUEL MEFFERT HUBERTUS DURAL FRAME VERLING. SN 62161. Cal. .22 Hornet/ 8x57 JR/ 16ga. 2-1/2" Chambers. 23-1/2" Barrels are engraved "Imman. Meffert," on the right bbl, and "Suhl." on the left.

Top rib/ hornet bbl is finely matted w/ flip-up rear sight and longitudinally dove-tailed silver bead front. There is a rib extension for single Kersten (3rd fastener). Bottom rifle bbl has a sling loop, is stamped "Krupp - Laufstahl", no. "62161" and has German nitro proofs for 7.9mm and a proof date of 7/34. Shotgun bbls are marked "Krupp - Laufstahl" w/ nitro proofs. The Hornet bbl/ rib is marked on the left side "Krupp - Laufstahl" w/ German nitro (BUG) proofs for 5.4mm. The Dural action is anodized black but has golden highlights, and features double under lugs, single Kersten bolt, bushed strikers, and 4 cocking indicators. Both triggers are set. It has a Greener type side safety. The action is engraved w/ light scroll and line borders and is marked on trigger plate "Hubertus" "Suhl" and "Dural". The line border engraved trigger guard is stamped w/ SN. Two position bbl selector on the top tang has letters "S" (shot) and "K" (ball) engraved in front and behind it. The plain but dense European walnut pistol grip buttstock measures 14-1/4" over a serrated horn butt plate. Stock has a cheek piece for right hand shooter, sling loop, sun burst horn grip cap, and 24 LPI checkering w/ line borders. Splinter forend has a Deeley fastener and has wood and checkering to match buttstock. Bore diameter: left -.672, right -.672. Bore restrictions: left -.032, right -.035. Wall thickness: left -.022, right -.021. Drop at heel: 2-3/8", drop at comb: 1-1/4". Weight: 6 lbs 11.5oz. CONDITION: Extremely fine. Bbls retain 97% orig blue w/ few light scratches. Bores are excellent, bright and shiny. Minor light frosting toward the breech of the 8mm bbl. Few scattered light pits in the throat of the Hornet bbl. Action retains 90-95% of anodized finish w/ few light scratches and handling marks on the top, and a fairly deep ding about 3/16" x 1/16" on the trigger plate. Trigger guard and top lever retain 90% blue, thinning at edges. Stocks retain virtually all of their oil finish w/ few nicks and dings from handling. There is a small chip and crack on front of the horn grip cap. Forend checkering is compressed along the bottom left hand side w/ some areas where diamonds are missing on the left. Original butt plate has some moth damage and shrinkage cracks. Action is tight. Bbls are on face. Screws are excellent, have all their blue, and appear to be unturned. This is a fantastic example of this rare form, especially considering the Dural frame. 4-37205 MGM58 (12,500-18,500)

