

## Mementos with History, 75

### A “LOOKING-GLASS” WITH EXTERNAL HAMMER

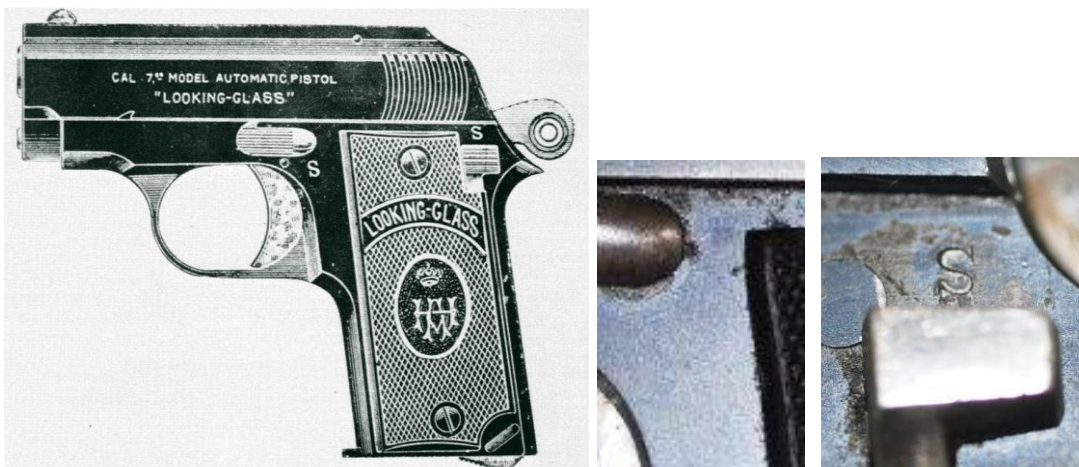
Translation for Hector J. Meruelo



**7.65 mm caliber, six shot , external hammer, semiautomatic pistol marketed under the name “LOOKING-GLASS” by the Ermua firm of “Domingo Acha y Comp<sup>añ</sup>”**

It was in 1914 when the English term “Looking-Glass” was registered by the concern of “Pedro Maria Acha hermanos”, no doubt due to its catchy sound in Spanish, for use in “firearms in general, parlor dart guns, and other uses”; That same year they obtained a “patent of invention” under the heading “an automatic pistol”, which perhaps described the specimen illustrated here, an “Eibar-type” where the latch above the trigger is

simply a slide lock open device and the actual safety lever is located below the hammer.



**Left: Factory illustration clearly showing an “S” next to both “safety” levers; Right: Detail of the “S” on the rear and only actual safety and lack of it on the slide hold-open device above the trigger, as observed on the actual photographed specimen.**



**Left: The slide hold-open device, engaged; Right: The safety, below the hammer, in the downward “safe” position.**

The firm of “Acha Hermanos” was established in the city of Ermua in the early 1910s and its trademark, as registered in the Eibar Proof House, consisted of an anagram formed by the initials AH under a crown, all inside an oval; Their trade name was changed in the 1920s to “Domingo Acha y Comp<sup>a</sup>” at which time the ownership of the “Looking-Glass” trademark was renewed. In 1929 they registered the “Longines” trademark for shotguns; to their production of semiautomatic pistols and

of pneumatic (dart) carbines they added that of a 1932 patented blank firing pistol exhibiting a trademark consisting of an image of two men, one holding the pistol and the other one recoiling in fright. Around this time their ID in the Eibar Proof House were the initials "D.A.C".

According to Ian V. Hogg and John Weeks, their first product was an Eibar type 7.65mm semiautomatic pistol marketed under the name "LOOKING-GLASS" also marked "Model 1916"; Later on, under the "Domingo Acha y Comp<sup>a</sup>" name, they produced a number of similar pistols in both, 6.35 and 7.65mm calibers; The "LONGINES" trademark was also used in marketing their blank firing pistol and a 7.65mm semiautomatic which externally resembled a M1910 Browning, although internally was a typical Eibar type; These same authors also describe a 6.35mm "Looking-Glass" pistol bearing the name of the enigmatic "Fabrique d'Armes de Grand Precision", also some marketed under the Beistegui Hermanos's brand, and still others sold by "Thieme & Edeler" and "El Trust Eibarres"; Other trademarks attributed to Domingo Acha y Cia by Hogg and Weeks included ATLAS, TRIPLEX and DOMACO, although I have not been able to locate these in the official register.

The LOOKING-GLASS pistol illustrated in this article, from the collection of my friend Hector j. Meruelo, exhibits a fit and finish comparable to that of the best quality "Eibars".

**Juan L. Calvo**  
**March, 2015**

### **Bibliography**

Ian V.Hogg & John Weeks,"Pistols of the World"-London 1978

Juan L. Calvó-"La Industria Armera Nacional, 1830-1940"-Eibar, 1997