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## **SPANISH HANDGUNS**

**1875s - 1950s**

### **PART TWO**



### **REVOLVERS**

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2013

## PART TWO – REVOLVERS

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## 1

**REVOLVER PRODUCTION PRIOR TO 1875**

During the 1850s the only workshop in Spain capable of producing revolvers was the Trubia Artillery Foundry which had been modernized in 1844 once the Artillery Officer Don Antonio de Elorza (1798-1873) became its Director; It was at the Trubia Revolver shop that the first two models of revolvers made completely in Spain were manufactured: the “*Adams-Deans*” (Beaumont-Adams) from 1856 on and the Model 1854 Lefauchaux from 1858 on.



**Beaumont-Adams revolver, “*Adams-Deans*” in Spain; 5 shot, 10.5 mm caliber, barrel length 153 mm, marked “TRUBIA”, dated 1859, serial number 425.**

The Beaumont-Adams was produced at the Trubia Foundry from 1856 – 1859 in a total production of less than 500 units, and the Lefauchaux M.1854 was made from 1858-1863 with a total number of 3,000 units; None of these two models required a license in order to be made in Spain as no one had applied for a “privilege of invention” or of “introduction”.



**1854 Lefauchaux revolver, 12 mm caliber, barrel length 158 mm, marked “TRUBIA”, dated 1861, and with SN 1612.**

In 1863 the revolver workshop was transferred from Trubia to the Oviedo Factory, where production of the first revolver of national design, the Lefauchaux Model 1863, was started.



**Mod. 1863 Lefauchaux revolver, 6 shots, 12 mm caliber, barrel length 155 mm, marked "OVIEDO", dated 1868 and with SN 3849**



**1851 Adams revolver, 5 shots, 9.5 mm caliber, barrel length 160 mm, with silver inscription "POR MANUEL GARATE EN EIBAR", and serial number 36.**

The arms manufacturer Manuel Garate, reputed to have been the first one to make revolvers in his Eibar shop, probably only finished pepperboxes and revolvers acquired in Belgium, which he then marketed under his name, and probably many others did the same; The only two firms which were classified as "factories" in Eibar, prior to 1875, those of Ignacio Ibarzabal and the Orbea brothers (Juan-Manuel, Mateo and Casimiro) also marketed revolvers obtained in France or Belgium under their names.



**1854 Lefauchaux revolver, 6 shots, 12 mm caliber, barrel length 160 mm, marked "ORBEA HERMANOS-EIBAR" and SN 3820**

Of similar quality to the Trubia produced M.1854 Lefauchaux revolvers were those marked "ORBEA HERMANOS" which, according to the serial numbers observed, were made in much larger numbers; These ORBEA marked Md. 1854 revolvers, plus the ones marked "RIERA, LOPEZ Y C<sup>a</sup>", and those marked "FABRICA DE DURANGO", are suspected of having been made in Belgium; Those marketed by other Eibar shops were either also Belgian made or actually made in the above named factories.



**Navy Model of 1862 Kerr revolver; 5 shots; 11 mm caliber; Barrel length 146 mm bearing the Placencia Factory proof; SN 1481.**

The Royal Placencia Factory, acting as a "*Montador*", assembled the Model of 1862 Navy Kerr revolver from parts obtained from several shops which may themselves have acquired them in Belgium; We may wonder if the same happened with the M.1864 Kerr revolver contracted by the Navy to "Orbea Hermanos" (4,000 units) and to the "Fábrica de Durango" (1,500 units); In 1869 the Navy admitted that the adoption of the Kerr revolver had been a mistake and described its defects as "its very expensive and difficult manufacturing have made it impossible to generalize it to the entire country".



**Model 1864 Navy Kerr revolver, 5 shots, 11 mm caliber, barrel length 146 mm, marked "ORBEA HERMs. / EIBAR", SN 3165**



**Model 1864 Navy Kerr revolver, transformed to metallic cartridge use, as the Model 1870 (Photo H. J. Meruelo)**



**Model 1862 Navy Kerr revolver, transformed to metallic cartridge use, as the Model 1872**

The Civil War of 1872-1875 was a disaster for the Basque arms makers; The Durango Factory went bankrupt, as also happened to the "La Azpeitiana" factory, owned by the firm of "Ibarra, Gurruchaga, Vea-Murguia y C<sup>a</sup>" in Azpeitia; In Placencia the "Euscalduna" factory, owned by "Zuazubizcar, Isla y C<sup>a</sup>" barely survived until it was acquired by the "Maxim & Nordenfeldt" society; "Orbea Hermanos" did survive and made its fortune introducing the so called "Smith" revolvers, inspired on the Smith & Wesson No. 3 and other model revolvers.