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TRIFON BASCARAN'S "BADET" REVOLVER

Six shot, 44 caliber, single action, Badet revolver; Barrel length 170 mm, marked "REVOLVERS BADET – PRIVILEGIADO".

Trifon Bascaran Arambarri was Mayor of Eibar during 1867-68; From 1881-1896 he appeared in the Eibar Industrial Register as owner of a firearms workshop employing an average of four workers, dropping to only one in 1897-99, and then ceasing to appear in the Register.



In 1884 Trifon Bascaran applied for a patent for what he called a "Badet revolver" with which he hoped to attract Chiefs and Officers of the Army; Made in both, single and double action variants, it combines details taken from the American Merwin-Hulbert and the English Thomas revolvers, resulting in a contraption that was produced in only the few numbers needed as samples; Their only interest, in my opinion, is that it demonstrated the daring of an entrepreneur with scarce resources who hoped to compete with the bigger companies for the market created by the Royal Order of October, 6, 1884, authorizing the Chiefs and Officers of the Army to use any handgun of their preference as long as it used the regulation Md.1884 cartridge, with no other limitations than weight and size.



Six shot, double action, 44 caliber, Badet revolver; Barrel length 150 mm, marked “REVOLVERS BADET – PRIVILEGIADO”; Item number 24557 of the Army Museum’s Collection.

A few months after requesting the patent for the Badet revolvers, Trifon Bascaran applied for another patent for a “pocket revolver” of the “Trifon Bascaran system”, which was a revolver with an upward swinging barrel similar to those of the so called “Spirlet system”, made in both center- and pinfire variants; This patent was followed by another one in 1886 for what he called a “revolver named Trifon Bascaran”.

I have never had the opportunity to examine one of these pocket revolvers patented by Trifon Bascaran, although they may have enjoyed a more numerous production than the Badet, since improvements to their 1886 patent were added in 1889 and 1890; Of the Badet revolver there are two specimens in Madrid, one in the Army Museum and another one in the Guardia Civil Museum; There is a third one in the Eibar School Museum of Gunsmithing.



Revolving pistol for 44 “central” caliber centerfire cartridges; Length of barrels 73 mm, marked “TRIFON BASCARAN – EIBAR”.

The trademark “TRIFON BASCARAN – EIBAR” is also seen in pin and centerfire “Bull-Dog” revolvers, and in a centerfire variant of the vest pocket “revolving pistol” patented by Juan Jose Larrañaga in 1883, with two barrels which had to be “revolved” manually in order to fire two successive shots; I will address them further in Part One of this work in the Chapter titled “One and two barrel “Eibar” breech loaders”; They were made by “Larrañaga, Garate y C^a” from 1885-91 although soon they renounced to continue maintaining its twenty year patent; After 1891 Juan José Larrañaga kept producing them for pinfire cartridges, but without reference to any “privilege”.



Shotgun-cane marked “TRIFON / BASCARAN / PRIVILEGIADO / EIBAR”; It had a detachable shoulder stock in order to use it as a shotgun.

However, Trifon Bascaran’s “star products” were his shotgun canes, where he competed with Victor Sarasqueta who owned a much larger workshop; However, Bascaran started producing shotgun canes five years before Sarasqueta, who did not request a patent until 1890 for what he called “Shotgun cane EGOKIA system”; Bascaran’s twenty year patent, had been obtained in 1885, for a “mechanism called Trifon Bascaran, applicable to a pistol-shotgun-cane” and in 1887 he obtained another one for a “Pistol-shotgun-cane named ESPECIAL” to which he added improvements in 1888 and 1895, when he also requested a twenty year patent for a “new shotgun-cane”.



Shotgun cane marked “VICTOR SARASQUETA, CORTABERRIA Y CIA. – EIBAR”, and “FA. DE VICTOR SARASQUETA – EIBAR, CAL 28 mm”, showing open chamber for cartridge insertion

Trifon Bascaran had four sons named, Narciso, Justo, Bonifacio, and Julian, Bascaran – Larrañaga; Perhaps Juan Jose Larrañaga was Trifon’s brother in law; Narciso Bascaran, registered as “Hijo de Trifon Bascaran” had his own workshop from 1914-23 and used the “BASCARAN” trademark for his products; Justo Bascaran worked with another maker, Martin Antonio Bascaran but they were not related.