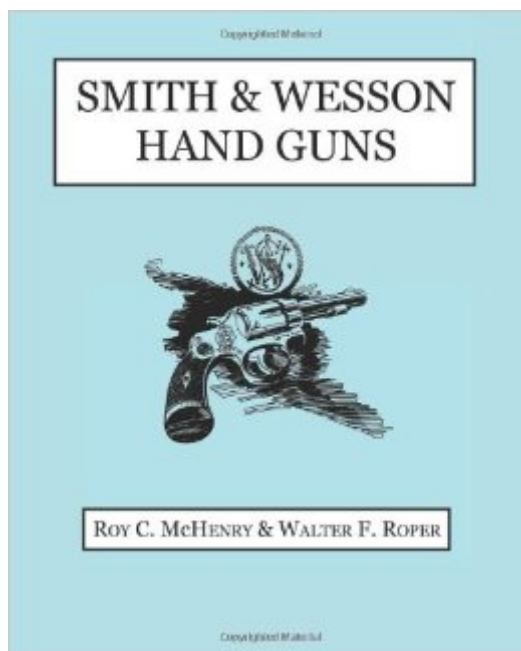


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# Smith & Wesson Hand Guns



## Synopsis

For more books like this, please visit [www.SportsmansVintagePress.com](http://www.SportsmansVintagePress.com) This is a facsimile of the book originally published in 1945. For years this was the standard reference work for the Smith & Wesson aficionado, and it is easy to see why. This book contains a comprehensive treatment of Smith & Wesson firearms from founding of the company all the way through World War II. The book is divided into three distinct sections; the story of Smith & Wesson, illustrations of Smith & Wesson firearms, and detailed descriptions of Smith & Wesson firearms. The story of Smith & Wesson spans over 130 pages and contains the complete history of the company and its developments up to WWII. The illustration section contains over 40 pages of photographs of various models of Smith & Wesson firearms and the description section contains written details of every Smith & Wesson firearm developed through 1945, including notes about frames, barrels, bolts, hammers, etc. for each model. Whether you are an avid Smith & Wesson collector or just looking to learn more about one of America's greatest manufacturing companies, this book will be a valuable addition to your library.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a reprint of a book first published in 1944. All the information is about S&W firearms up to that point (no post war models) and has some nuggets of information every S&W collector and accumulator will enjoy.

Written in 1944, therefore, language is a bit archaic but the conversational style narrative is a

refreshing break from dry technical volumes. Although the title says. "Smith & Wesson" there are numerous mentions of and comparisons with other brands. Plenty of tech info and illustrations for technophiles..

A very informative history of Smith & Wesson firearms from the origins of the company in the 1850's until 1945. I was particularly pleased by the information about Smith & Wesson firearms (and imitations made by other companies) during the Civil War period and the subsequent period of Western expansion. I had assumed that few metallic cartridge handguns were used in the Civil War. The book indicates that, while they were not military issue weapons, they were widely purchased by officers and soldiers as personal weapons. I was also interested in learning that Smith & Wesson brought out a large caliber metallic cartridge revolver, the 1870 American model, three years before the famous 1873 Colt Single Action Army, and that this and other Smith & Wessons were used by gunfighters like Jesse James. (Replicas of period S&W's are finally showing up in Western movies, something which was overdue.) The book is a real bargain on Kindle.

Just finished reading this! It's a great book on the subject, especially for novice collectors, such as me. It was first published in 1945, so real recent guns are not discussed and the reader must bear it's age in mind as many references to 70 - 80 year old guns are in the present tense, so seem odd. Great read and reference, though!!

Absolutely a great history of not only the work, but also the mindset of these great men. It also gives a good overall view of the firearms industry in that time period. Once I started it I just did not want to put it down, and was maybe a little sad when I did finish. So I read it again, and picked up even more. A great..great..great read.

This book discusses the company and its offerings from the firm's beginnings up to World War II. The text is very informative, but I think interspersing the pictures throughout the book to illustrate what models were under discussion (instead of saving them all for the end) would have made everything even easier to understand as well as break up all that text.

Originally published in 1945 "Smith & Wesson Hand Guns" is a classic in the world of firearm publications. For many decades after it's publication it was the reference book for Smith & Wesson collectors. In the past twenty-five years that situation has changed and this book is now a historical

artifact, but still of real usefulness if one collects Smith & Wesson handguns made before and during World War II. In addition to covering the many different models made by Smith & Wesson the book also covers the history of the company and an overview of firearms technology as it related to Smith & Wesson. For me this book was a necessary addition to my firearms library. As a collector of double-action revolvers (Smith & Wesson and Colt) I have learned that it's essential to have an extensive library to go with one's collection. I have been told that for every handgun I buy I should strive to buy at least one or two books. Even in the age of the Internet books can be very useful to a collector. An easy read with a down to Earth homey style and illustrated with sixty-three photographs and diagrams. Recommended.

Warning: The Kindle version doesn't have plate 63. I only bought the Kindle version to have that handy illustrated description of the lockwork available everywhere on my tablet. Oops.

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