

Winchester Model 1895 - Last of The Classic Lever Actions

By Rob Kassab & Brad Dunbar

The title of this excellent new book by Kassab and Dunbar says it all; the Model 1895 Winchester was really the last of the classic lever-action rifles. The 1895 was indeed a “transition” firearm that saw big changes in the firearms world and had a successful career not only in America but all over the world. Chamberings in the Model '95 ran the gamut from black-powder cartridges to smokeless, high-velocity rounds. If I've piqued your interest in learning more about the Winchester Model 1895, then you are in luck. This new book by Rob Kassab and Brad Dunbar will answer every question you could have about the rifle. I thought I was pretty well-versed on 1895s but found out that I merely knew enough to be dangerous. There is much more to the '95 Winchester story than I would have imagined.

Fortunately, Kassab and Dunbar have done an excellent job in telling that story. From the genius of John Browning and William Mason to standardized and custom production at Winchester, reloading tools, military contracts, accoutrements such as slings and bayonets, and of course, the Theodore Roosevelt connection . . . all are covered in this comprehensive book.

My own interest in Model 1895s has always centered around the musket contract that was done with Russia for the first World War. The '95 was one of the very few lever-action rifles to serve in a major conflict when the world had almost universally gone to bolt-action rifles for their armies. The authors have also included much information on the Winchester's role in the various revolutionary conflicts south of our border along some really great vintage photos. In fact, one of the biggest things that I enjoyed about this book was all the peripheral information and excellent historical photographs connected with the Model 1895. Of course, the information presented about the Roosevelt expedition and its firearms is extremely interesting. All this makes for an exceptional and informative reference book that really needs to be in your gun library.

Published in the United States (which I consider to be another plus) and bound in leather, Winchester Model 1895 is more than worth the price of \$79.99 plus shipping and handling. Available from Buffalo Cove Publishing, you can purchase your copy by contacting them at 1895Book.com. It is also available at Wet Dog Publications, 5603-B West Friendly Ave., Suite 166, Greensboro, NC 27410. Check out their web site at wetdogstore.com or phone: 336-394-4138. It's a decision you won't regret. However, make sure that when it arrives you've got a fresh pot of coffee on the stove; you won't be able to put this book down!

- Steve Garbe

