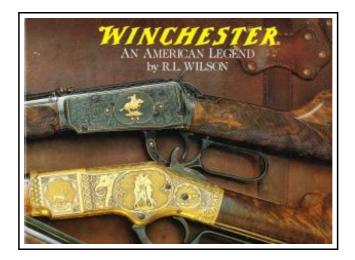
Winchester: An American Legend The Official History of Winchester Firearms and Ammunition from 1849 to the Present



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WINCHESTER: AN AMERICAN LEGEND THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF WINCHESTER FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM 1849 TO THE PRESENT

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Chartwell Books, Edison, New Jersey, U.S.A., 2005. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. 4to - over 93/4 - 12" tall. This volume is an extraordinarily handsome celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Winchester rifle, Model 1866, which inaugurated the fabulous series of longarms that changed the course of American history. The Winchester 73 was immortal long before it was the hero of the famous movie (released in 1950) starring Jimmy Stewart. The repeating mechanisms that were developed from 1873 to 1876 established the Winchester family as the most prestigious gunmakers of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Wilson not only traces the history of the famous Winchester series of longarms; he also provides the background of a great range of shotguns and firearms and supplies important details on the design creations of John Browning. There is a useful chapter on 'Collecting the Winchester Heritage' and an unusual appendix that lists serial numbers and years for all models. The founder of the Winchester firm, Oliver Fisher Winchester, was born in 1810 on a remote New England farm. This world-renowned industrialist and entrepreneur was a generous patron of Yale University. His son, William Wirt, invented a reloading tool in 1874 which greatly boosted the usefulness of the already popular 1873 rifle. The tool removed the exploded primer, inserted the new primer, and fastened the ball in the shel at the same time swaging the entire cartridge to the exact form, and with absolute safety. Oliver's son-in-law, Thomas Fray Bennett, a Winchester vice-president, realized that the genius of the great Mormon gunmaker, John Moses Browning, represented the greatest threat to the ascendancy of the Winchester firm in the world of gun production. Bennett forged an association with Browning that brought all his inventions and ideas to the firm. Browning,...

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