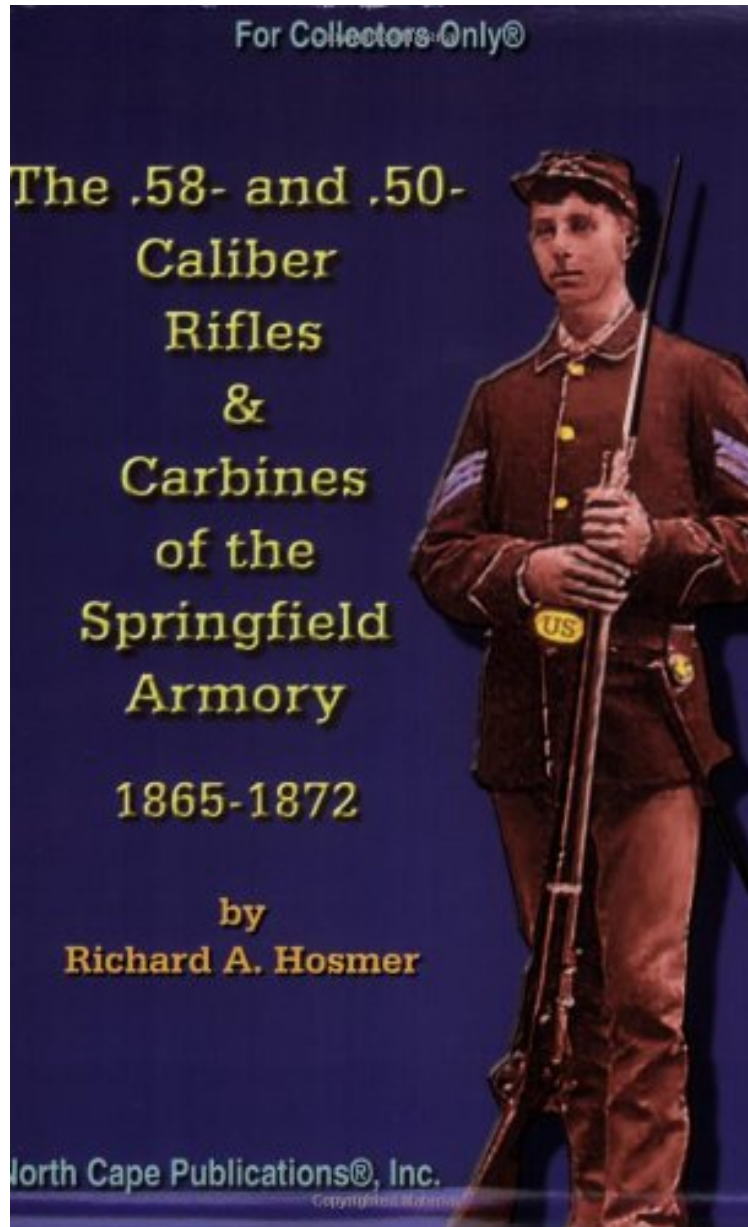


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The .58- and .50 Caliber Rifles and Carbines of the Springfield Armory, 1865-1872

Richard A. Hosmer

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Richard A. Hosmer : The .58- and .50 Caliber Rifles and Carbines of the Springfield Armory, 1865-1872 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The .58- and .50 Caliber Rifles and Carbines of the Springfield Armory, 1865-1872:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Springfield-Joslyn GoldmineBy KarlWSThis book has been an invaluable resource for researching my 1865 Springfield-Joslyn breech load rifle. There are over 10 pages, on this rare and unique model, alone. Well worth the investment.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Nice overview of a key period of US arms developmentBy J. SmithThis is a thoroughly researched, well illustrated book on the first metallic cartridge firearms to see service by the United States following the Civil War. This is a period when the US not only tested those arms that saw extensive service during the Civil War (like the Sharps and the Spencer), but developed a design that the US Army would stick with for the next three decades. In addition, author Richard Hosmer examines a variety of equipment that was issued with these firearms, including cartridge boxes, tools, bayonets, and the cartridge designs as well.I appreciated the fact that Hosmer included lots of info and photos on the designs that were tested but not officially adopted, such as the Remington Rolling Block, the Sharps rifle, and the Spencer. Also included are the US Navy Rolling Blocks, the Springfield-Joslyn rifle of 1865, and the Ward-Burton. In fact, the section on the standard US Army 50-70 Allin design firearms only comprises a third of the book -- out of nearly 270 pages, section on Allin designs stops at page 96, and the rest of the book covers all the other rifles etc. (Honestly, I'm not sure what the previous reviewer was referring to when he said the book really only covered Allin style rifles.)Even if you have some great references already, this is a handy volume to have. It thoroughly examines each rifle, all of its markings, and shows individual parts removed from the firearm. If you want a crash course of US military firearms in the key years after the Civil War and prior to the adoption of the classic 45-70 cartridge, this is your book. North Cape Productions has produced a lot of excellent, affordable books that are a nice handy size too -- easy to carry for reference purposes on the road as needed.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The .58- and .50 Caliber Rifles and Carbines of the Springfield Armory,...By DANA W. VAN VALINAbout the only reference book that targets the Allin conversion 50-70 post Civil War rifles. Luckily, these rifles are very common and not particularly expensive so they have not been messed with or hi graded by gun dealers; yet. A good extensive reference book that covers the history and development of the military center fire cartridge.

In the post-Civil War years, the U.S. Army found it imperative to change from muzzle-loading percussion rifle muskets firing paper cartridges to breech-loading rifles firing self-contained metallic cartridges. Between 1865 and 1872 when the U.S. Model 1873 .45-70 Springfield rifle and carbine were adopted, the Ordnance Department developed and tested twenty arms, five rifles which were adopted by the U.S. Army and served for only one or two years, one by the U.S. Navy, four which were issued to military cadets at Annapolis. Seven more rifles and three carbines were subjected to intense field testing during years that saw some of the most intense fighting in the West. Mr. Hosmer's book provides a detailed description of each rifle and carbine, including markings, finishes, and dimensions of all pertinent parts. Each firearm is summarized in a separate table to make identification and comparison easier. Additional tables list all markings, finishes, bayonets and accoutrements that were issued. The book is heavily illustrated with photos of the firearms and their accoutrements with emphasis on details. The social and military considerations that led to the development and adoption of these arms are discussed. The pertinent individuals are identified and the parts they played are woven in the context of the times.

About the AuthorRichard A. Hosmer is a longtime scholar and collector of the U.S. military firearms of the post-Civil War era. His has been a frequent contributor to the Trapdoor Springfield Newsletter and other publications that specialize in the study of this period in American history. At least one of his ancestors was employed at the U.S. Army's National Arsenal at Springfield, MA in every year from 1798 through the beginning of World War II, which has lent him a unique perspective on its operations.