

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Harrington & Richardson Arms  
Company Collection

2000.69

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.  
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## Collection Information

Abstract : Harrington & Richardson manufactured pistols and shotguns in Worcester from 1871 to the early 1970s. Catalogs (1906-1970s) and clippings document the company's products and activities during its century in Worcester.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Purchased in part of Kenneth Schneringer, Woodstock, Ga., June 2000; in part FIA.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Firearms industry and trade – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Shotguns – Massachusetts – Worcester – Catalogs.

Revolvers – Massachusetts – Worcester – Catalogs.

Police – Equipment and supplies.

Industries – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Worcester (Mass.) – Manufactures.

Harrington & Richardson Arms Company (Worcester, Mass.) – Catalogs.

Catalogs. aat

Fliers (Printed matter). aat

Firearms – Patents.

Patents. lcsh

Sullivan, James T. – The history of American arms & ammunition.

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

In 1871 Franklin Wesson and G. H. Harrington began the manufacture of a shell-ejecting revolver, patented by Harrington. Harrington purchased Wesson's interest in 1874 and began a partnership with William A. Richardson under the name Harrington & Richardson. In 1888 the partnership was dissolved, and the company incorporated under the name Harrington & Richardson Arms Company. The company was granted several patents for improvements to revolvers during the latter 1800s. Beginning in 1899 the company also manufactured shotguns, handcuffs, and related products. The company was also a major producer of military weapons, notably the Garand rifle of World War II. The company relocated to Gardner in 1973.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection is comprised of catalogs of company products, 1906-1970s; a brief history of the development of firearms; and clippings, photocopies, and other documents highlighting the company's history and activities from ca. 1907 to 1970s.

### **Series Description**

Series 1: Catalogs, 1906-1973. (13 items)

Series 2: Histories. Includes descriptive material and early patents. (14 items)

Series 3: Clippings.

Harrington & Richardson Arms Company Collection  
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<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2000.69.1.1	Revolvers and shot guns, Catalogue No. 9 : 31 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., 1906.
1	1	2000.69.1.2	Revolvers and shotguns (Catalogue No. 18) : 38 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., 1930.
1	1	2000.69.1.3	Revolvers and shotguns (Catalogue No. 19) : 32 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., 1931.
1	1	2000.63.1.4	Price list of parts for revolvers, shot guns, and handy guns, April 1931 : 19 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., 1931.
		.4a	Insert, ordering information.
		.4b	Envelope.
1	1	2000.69.1.5	Revolvers and shotguns (Catalog No. 21) : 28 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., 1933.
1	2	2000.69.1.6	Harrington & Richardson revolvers : flier / Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., 1940.
1	2	2000.69.1.7	Instructions for loading and firing the Model 922 & 923 revolver line, with parts and price list : flier / Harrington & Richardson Inc., ca. 1940.
1	2	2000.69.1.8	H & R guns, revolvers, and police goods, Catalog No. 44 : 15 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., 1944.
1	2	2000.69.1.9	H & R sporting arms - rifles, shotguns, revolvers : 15 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., 1952.
1	2	2000.69.1.10	H & R Happy choice in hand guns! : flier / Harrington & Richardson, Inc., 1953.

Series 1, continued

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|---|---|------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 2000.69.1.11     | Gun pointers – catalog of rifles and revolvers, gun safety pointers : flier / Harrington & Richardson, Inc., 1957. [Accessioned as 1997.7.3]                   |
| 1 | 3 | 2000.69.1.12     | 95 <sup>th</sup> anniversary catalog : 34 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson, Inc., 1966.  |
| 1 | 3 | 2000.69.1.13     | Harrington & Richardson sporting arms : 31 p., col. ill. / Harrington & Richardson, Inc., Gardner, Mass., ca. 1973. [Accessioned as 1982.53.2]                 |
| 1 | 3 | 2000.69.1.14     | Revolvers and shotguns : 38 p., ill. / Harrington & Richardson Arms Company, 1929. [Originally accessioned as 2000.23]   |
| 1 | 8 | 2000.69.1.15-.21 | Advertisements for Harrington & Richardson Arms Co. firearms (mostly revolvers) from serial publications, 1906-1910. (7 items)<br>Accessioned as 2000.74.1.1-7 |

Harrington & Richardson Arms Company Collection  
2000.69  
Series 2, Histories

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2000.69.2.1	<i>The history of American arms &amp; ammunition</i> / by James T. Sullivan, edited by S. D. Barnes. Harrington & Richardson, Inc., ca. 1973. [6 l.]
1	5	2000.69.2.2	List of items and quantities produced by Harrington & Richardson for various branches of the armed forces, 1942-no date. aqp
1	5	2000.69.2.3-.4	Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., Worcester, Mass. : aqp of photograph of building exterior.
1	5	2000.69.2.5-.6	Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., Worcester, Mass. : aqp of photograph of interior views.
1	6	2000.69.2.7-.14	Patents issued to William H. Gates, Norwich, Conn., 1901-1910, for various firearms and improvements. aqp of 8 patents.

Harrington & Richardson Arms Company Collection  
2000.69  
Series 3, Clippings

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2000.69.3.1	Photograph and item relating to prevention of flood damage at Harrington & Richardson Arms Company, in <i>Gun Flash</i> (company newsletter), n.d. aqp
1	7	2000.69.3.2a-b	Photograph and article relating to presentation of M-14 rifle to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, in <i>Gun Flash</i> , March 1963. 2 c. aqp
1	7	2000.69.3.3a-b	Photograph and article relating to harrington & Richardson Arms Company M-6 Survival Weapon, in <i>Gun Flash</i> , March 1963. 2 c. aqp