

## Another Lucky Find

by

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I just acquired another gold plated Derringer. This one is a series one eagle logo 22 Mag in a beautiful walnut presentation case. This case is a little different than most of the other wooden presentation cases. This one has a contoured front panel and the lid has a brass plate on the lid for engraving purposes. *See Figure 1* The interior is a lime green cloth covering a Derringer shaped depression in the case structure. These gold plated Derringers are getting harder to find all the time because there were not a lot of them manufactured (see John and Bill's entries on the HSCA website). This particular gun is also a little more unusual because it is serial #1,459,778 in the general production gun serial numbers for 1965. *See Figure 2*



Derringer presentation case for gold derringer s/n: 1,459,778 01

Figure 1



Derringer s/n: 1,459,778 in presentation case for gold derringer 22 Mag, with design series DM-101 and eagle logo markings

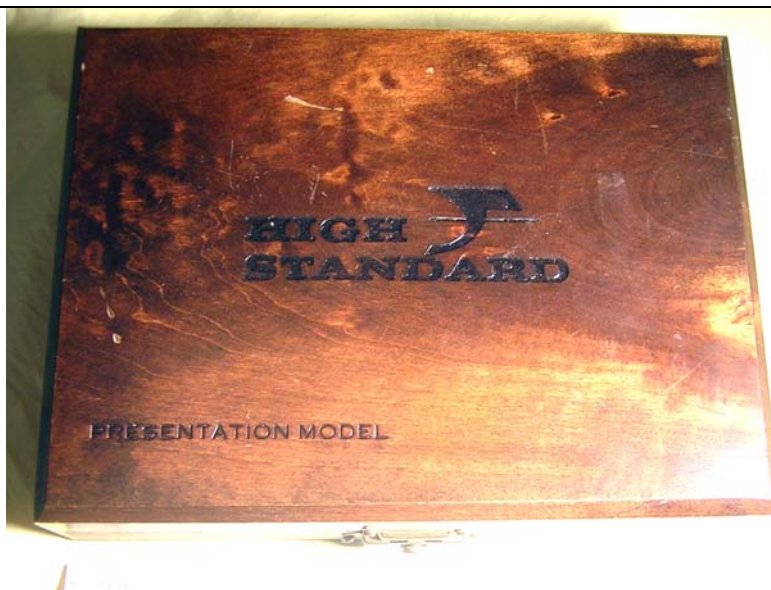
Figure 2

These gold derringers were built in .22LR and .22 Mag calibers. The earliest gold derringers found to date were shipped in December 1963, before the gold derringers first appeared in the 1964 catalog. These earliest gold derringers were in the regular serial number series. The earliest group of derringers in a special serial number series were produced in serial number range of 1 - 123 with less than 100 actual guns being produced. This serial number range included but was not exclusively gold derringers. Then in the 70s they produced a group of gold derringers in presentation cases marked Presidential Model. This was the second special serial number series and was exclusively for gold plated derringers which had a GP prefixed serial numbers and less than 450 were produced. *See Figure 3* There were ten gold derringers in this mid 1970s group that had custom serial numbers and seven more had a HDM prefix. In 1980 another group of gold derringers was produced with a GP prefixed serial number. Fewer than 1000 of the GP prefix derringers were shipped. These guns were in wood presentation cases marked Presentation Model. *See Figure 4* The gold derringer, serial number D 81,122 is the derringer with the latest ship date and was shipped in 1982. Several derringers were produced using the regular handgun serial numbers and the D prefix serial number series. For this group of guns production is unknown but it is suspected that it is relatively few and that is the group that the gun in figure 2 is from. Consecutive serial numbered pairs of derringers were listed in the catalogs and price lists but to date actual production has not been confirmed.



Derringer presentation case marked PREIDENTIAL MODEL for gold derringer s/n: DM-121. 22 Mag Model The derringer has no design series number or logo markings

Figure 3



Derringer presentation case marked PRESENTATION MODEL for gold derringer s/n: GP-0311 22 Mag. The derringer has no design series number or logo markings

Figure 4

It is fun collecting these Derringers and the more common blue guns are still relatively easy to collect because some dealers have held the price on them well above the published gun book values. See *Figures 5 & 6*



Derringers in cases - left to right - Gold derringer S/N 1,459,778, Presidential Model gold derringer s/n: DM-121 Silver derringer S/N SP-, Presentation Model gold derringer S/N GP-311, Blue derringer S/N 1,311,501 22 Mag in case with Eagle Logo and Model DM-101 markings

Figure 5



Top row from left - left to right gold derringer S/N 1,459,778 22 Mag in case, Presidential Model gold derringer s/n: DM-121 22 Mag in case, Silver derringer S/N SP-491 22 Mag in case, Presentation Model gold derringer S/N GP-311 22 Mag in case, blue derringer S/N ,1311,501 Model DM-101 22 Mag in case, Bottom row from left - nickel plated derringer S/N D76,197 22 Mag , gold derringer s/n GP-939 22 Mag, Blue derringer , S/N D-23472 22 Mag (Safariland holster) , Electroless nickel derringer, S/N D-87134 22 LR ( Jackass Holster)

Figure 6

These small easy to conceal Derringers were originally introduced for civilian use but when High Standard began having catalogs for police guns they were offered as concealed 2nd guns. They are a fun gun to shoot and are more accurate than most of use would be led to believe. Then of course there are the stories of the frontier ladies of the night carrying them in thick bras and thigh length stockings (but I don't know how you can tell when you run into one of them). There are also wallet type holsters for them, boot top holsters, belt holsters or you can just carry them in the palm of your hand.

Derringers are a great gun to collect and fun to shoot. President Bill Bryant can vouch for that. He has taken several awards with his outstanding collection of Derringers and is a great source of information on them.