



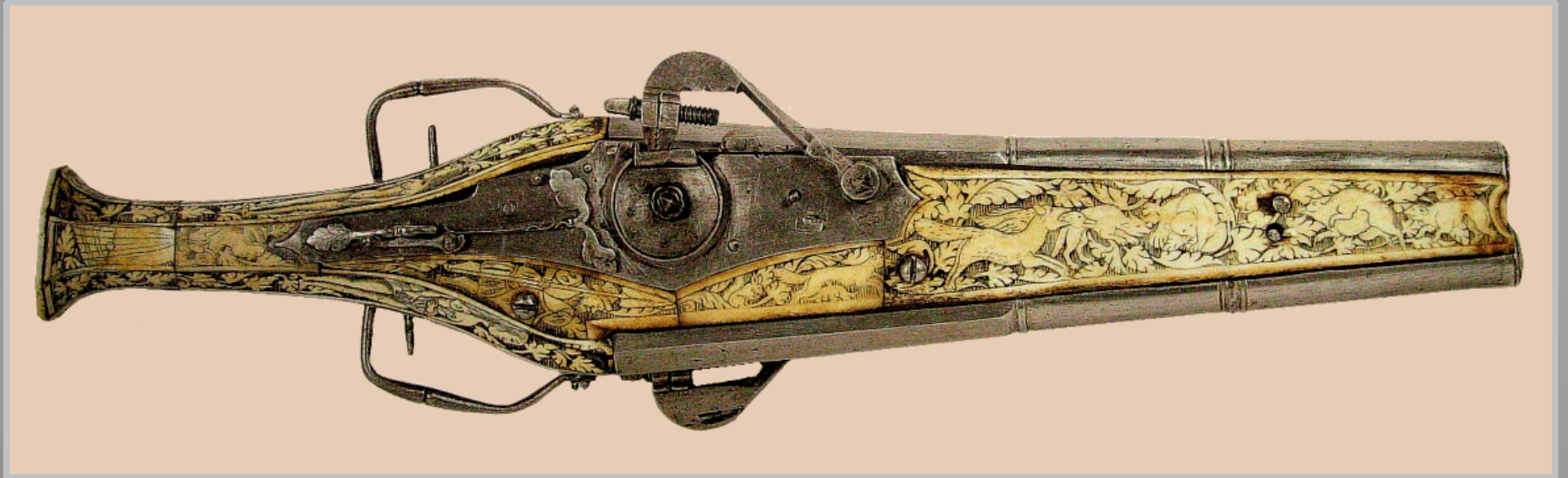
Use of Hand Guns

1480 - 1900

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What is a Hand Gun?

Hand guns are firearms that can be held at a target and fired with only one hand.



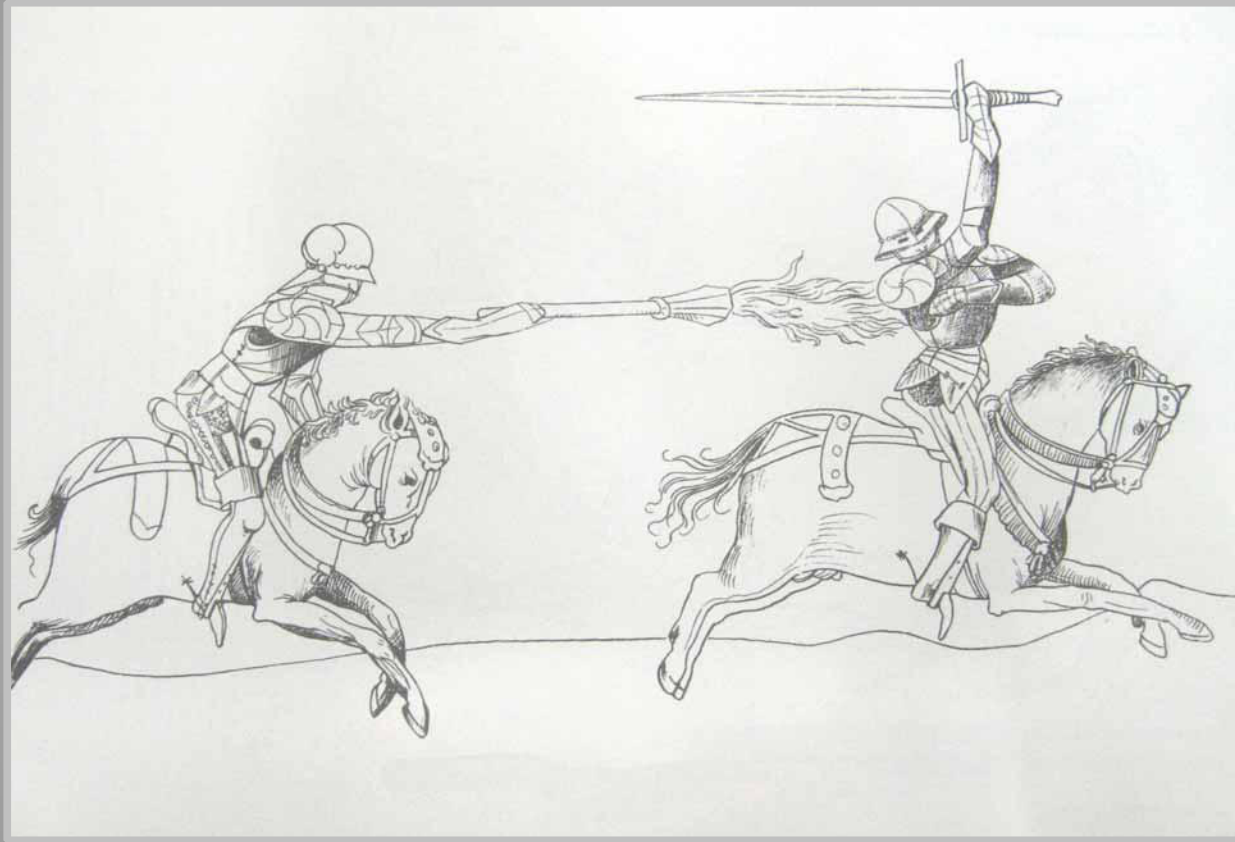
Ca. 1375: Shooter with Fist Barrel



The barrel part between muzzle and powder chamber works ideally as a handle. Shooting trials with a fist barrel reconstructed to scale, have shown that the fist barrel is held with the left hand, so that it is supported by the horizontal lower arm. The shooter ignited the fist barrel with a glowing ignition rod held in the right hand. To aim, it was helpful to have a second person controlling the vertical alignment and to give instructions to the shooter.

Hypothetical figure by th author

Ca 1460: Horseman with long Hand Gun



A. Essenwein, Quelle zur Geschichte der Feuerwaffen, 1872

This picture gives the impression, that it was fairly easy to shoot with a hand gun at an enemy.

Ca. 1580: Horseman with Wheel Lock Pistol



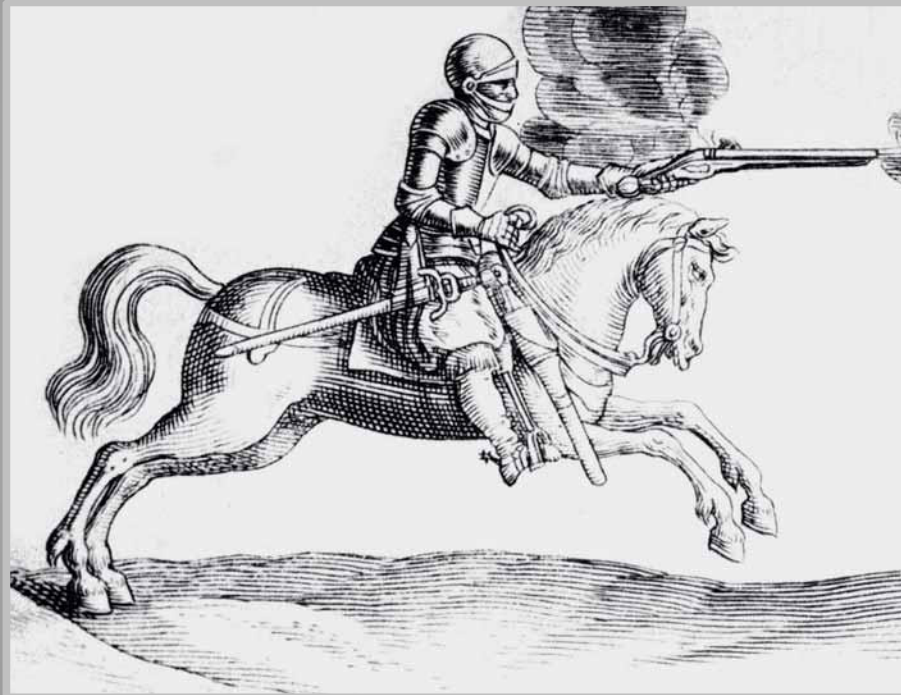
With his right hand this horseman hold a wheel lock pistol with a ball-shaped pistol handle.

Ca. 1590: Young Nobleman firing a Pistol



Wheel lock pistols represented a status conscious firearm for nobleman and well-off persons.

Ca. 1600: Cavalryman with a Wheel Lock Pistol



A charging soldier with drawn pistol on a foaming horse was probably a very intimidating sight. Considering that aiming was almost impossible, the rider could only shoot once unless he had a second loaded pistol with him.

A. Essenwein, Quelle zur Geschichte der Feuerwaffen 1872

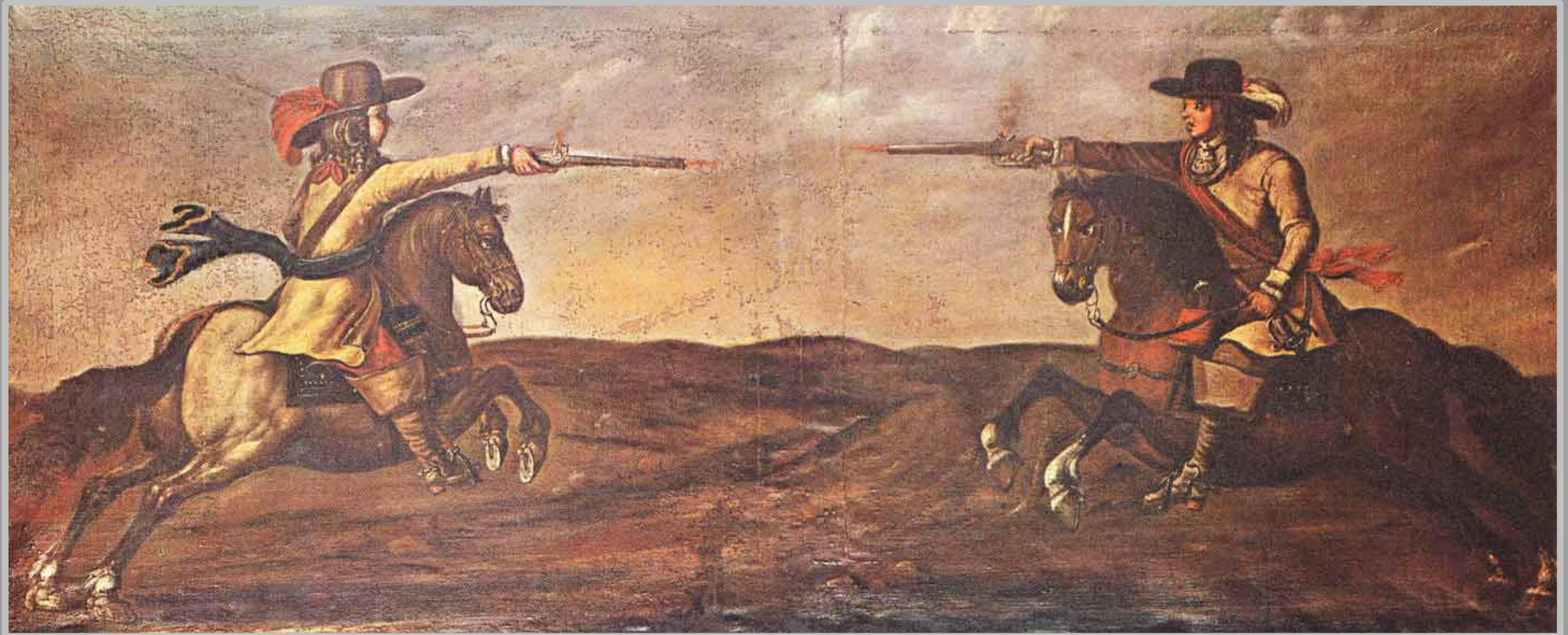
Ca. 1630: King Gustav Adolph of Sweden



During the thirty-year war most military leaders carried one or two wheel lock pistols.

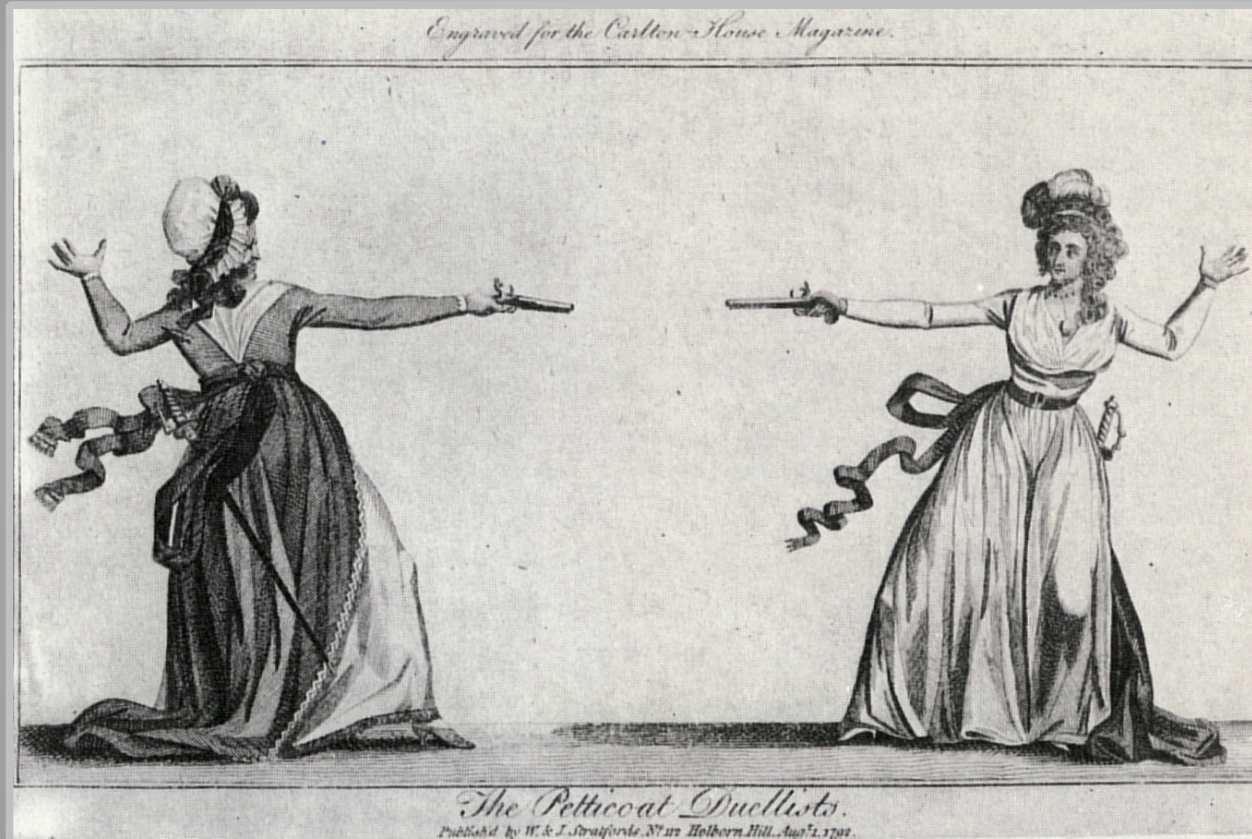
They mainly represented a symbol of masculinity.

Ca. 1659: Fighting a Duel on Horseback



Harald Peterson, Arms à Feu, 1962

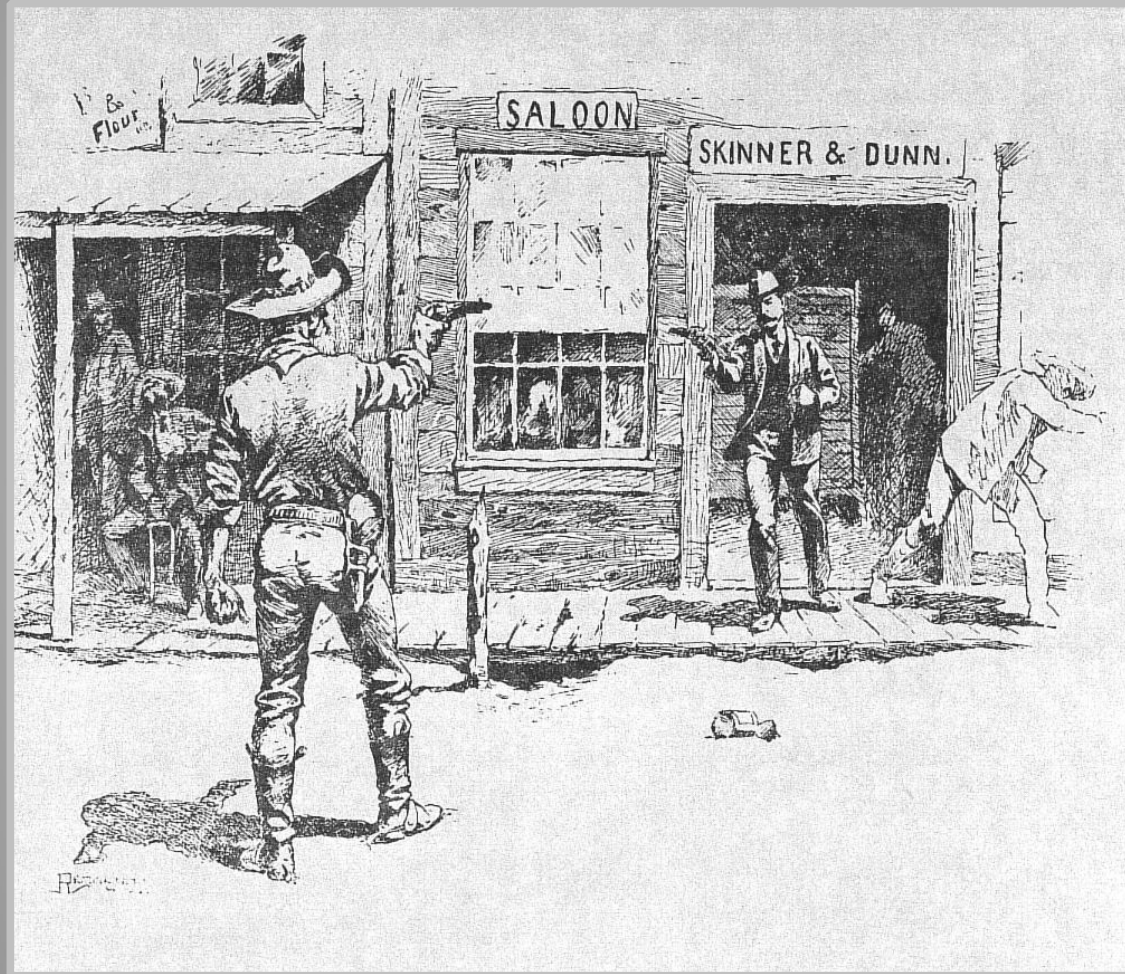
Ca. 1792: Petticoat Duelists



Frederic Wilkinson, Alles über Feuerwaffen, 1977

This satirical picture was in a news paper of the London Carlton House Magazine in the year 1792.

Ca. 1870: American Wild West



Harald Peterson, Arms à Feu, 1962

End