



## Welcome

As a little kid, I remember my family's garage filled to the ceiling with baskets. I had no idea why — I understood it was just part of my father's job. My sister and I often made tunnels and forts in the twisted wicker jungle. Baskets & Blades, Ltd., was a subsidiary of Forschner Knives, the company where my father got his introduction to the knife world. He worked his way to the position of Vice President of Sales & Marketing, before retiring from the position in 1986 and eventually opening our current shop, Freeport Knife Co., Inc., in 1991.

Baskets & Blades, Ltd., was long dissolved before Victorinox took over the Forschner brand entirely and changed their name to Swiss Army Brands, Inc., in 1996, and later Victorinox Swiss Army in 2011. Our shop remains, now known as Casco Bay Cutlery & Kitchenware; this year we celebrated our 30th anniversary in June. A special knife was requested to commemorate this anniversary: a red alox Solo model bearing our original company name, dates of operation and a celebratory message. Acquiring anything from overseas this year has been a testament to patience, and Victorinox has not been immune to these delays. Our anniversary knife is expected to arrive in January.

We have just received our special VSAKCS 2021 knives as we enter the busiest shopping week of the year. I am quite impressed with this year's design, as I'm sure all of you will be as well. We have chosen to incorporate a texturized printing method representing an artist's swatch palette on a Super Tinker to commemorate the new Victorinox Classic Colors collection. Ordering details can be found further into this newsletter.

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**Photo:** A knife with some interesting history.

Many of the original baskets are still scattered around our shop today, made of the highest quality full willow. Similar to our beloved Swiss Army Knives, they have proven their worth in the test of time.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and New Year!

- VSAKCS Director  
Jason Dillman

## Call for Newsletter Contributions...Continues!

We want to hear from our members, and we are still offering bribes for newsletter worthy submissions! Do you have something fun, or particularly interesting to say about your Swiss Army knives? Perhaps a specific niche focus within your collection you want to talk about? Or a really good story you wish to share?

We are looking for quality submissions — if we choose to publish your work, we will send you a brand-new, old stock, VSAKCS Red Classic Swiss Army Knife. A big thank you to our club's founding president, Dan Jacquart, for digging these out of a forgotten cache, untouched for many years.

Send electronic submissions to: [VSAKCS.USA@gmail.com](mailto:VSAKCS.USA@gmail.com) — please title your email "Newsletter Submission 2022" — Or mail us at the postal address found at the end of this newsletter. Accepted submissions will be subject to alterations by our copy editor. Pictures are accepted, but may be cropped or resized depending on available space.

The offer to receive an original VSAKCS Club Classic pocket knife is limited and can be revoked at any time (once stock runs out).

## Club 2020 Knife Charity Auction

VSAKCS has an eBay address!

[www.ebay.com/usr/vsakcs](http://www.ebay.com/usr/vsakcs)

Beginning December 25th, VSAKCS will be hosting a charity auction for a 2020 Black Alox VSAKCS Harvester X, including Certificate of Authenticity #1/350!

This auction will end Jan. 1, 2022. 100% of proceeds will go directly to the organization Truckers Against Trafficking. The donation will be managed through the PayPal Giving Fund.

This is our 2nd annual December charity auction! We hope to continue this tradition for many years to come.





## Swiss China

Collecting Swiss Army Knives can be a simple endeavor... or not. Over the years it has been my great pleasure to have developed acquaintances across the globe. One such individual has had some long standing grand plans come to fruition this year.

On June 18th, 2021, Mr. Haoran Yang hosted the grand-opening of his very own private Swiss Army Museum. Dubbed the Collection of Sharpness – his display is open to the public in Chongqing, China. Over 100 people attended the opening ceremony, including many formal members of both the Swiss and local Chinese chambers of Commerce and Commission of Culture and Tourism.

Mr. Yang is the Director of the VSAKC China club. The collector's market in China has exploded in popularity in

recent history; many new models and prints have been released exclusively for the local mainland China market. It can be quite an endeavor for completionists to acquire some of these pieces, as production quantity often runs small, and shipping knives outside of the country is no simple task.

The Chinese Swiss Army collector's Club has undergone many changes over the years. Originally starting in 2007 as the China Swiss Saber Forum, many interesting knives have found their origins through development by this group.

The Collection of Sharpness does not showcase every Swiss Army Knife in existence, but instead has a strong focus on interest and history. Each model on display represents something different. Mr. Yang's first club knife (The Cutter - produced in 2019) was designed with a meticulous consideration for detail, function, and uniqueness. Our VSAKCS club was honored to receive one for our private display, which can be viewed in our Freeport, Maine, shop.

On behalf of VSAKCS USA, we wholeheartedly congratulate Mr. Haoran Yang on his accomplishment, and wish his museum great and continued popularity for many years to come!

Additional photos of the opening ceremony, as well as detailed pictures taken within the museum itself, can be viewed here:

[www.pailixiang.com/album\\_ja1429100975.html](http://www.pailixiang.com/album_ja1429100975.html)

**Photo:**  
Mr. Haoran Yang presiding over his opening ceremonies.



## Production Numbers

A lot of folks are constantly on the search for production details on their favorite pieces. Whenever someone receives an affirmative from a reliable source, we like to make sure that information can easily be referenced. The following is a rarely detailed response one of our club members received when inquiring about the yearly limited edition Alox production quantities – some of you may find this quite interesting!

“Thank you for your mail and interest in our pocket knives. We are happy to answer your question.

The Alox Limited Editions are knives that were limited to each year. We would be happy to give you approximate quantities of the models below.

Alox Limited Edition 2015

0.6221. L15, 0.2601. L15, 0.8201. L15ca. 9'000-9'500 pcs per item

Alox Limited Edition 2016

0.6221. L16, 0.2601. L16, 0.8201. L16ca. 15'000 pcs. per item

Alox Limited Edition 2017

0.6221. L17, 0.2601. L17, 0.8201. L17ca. 12'000-14'000 pcs per item

Alox Limited Edition 2018

0.6221. L18, 0.2601. L18, 0.8201. L18ca. 15'000 pcs. per item

Alox Limited Edition 2019

0.6221. L19, 0.2601. L19, 0.8201. L19ca. 15'000 pcs. per item

Alox Limited Edition 2020

0.6221. L20, 0.2601. L20, 0.8201. L20ca. 15'000 pcs. per item

We hope to have helped you with this information and hope you have a great day.  
Kind regards from “Swiss Knife Valley”

Victorinox AG”

On a similar note, another interesting correspondence came from an old email in the archives of our club’s original president, Dan Jacquart. In the email, it is stated by Mr. Robert Elsener some insightful production and quantity numbers for some of the more popular 108mm knives. It reads as follows:

“Mauser knife: was produced between 1984 and 2001. About 240,000 pcs were made.  
Walther knife: was produced in 1996/97. Only 4972 pcs where made.  
Real stag hunter (0.8780.66): was produced between 1975 and 1995. About 500 pcs were made.”

## A Collectors Guide to Vintage Wenger Knives

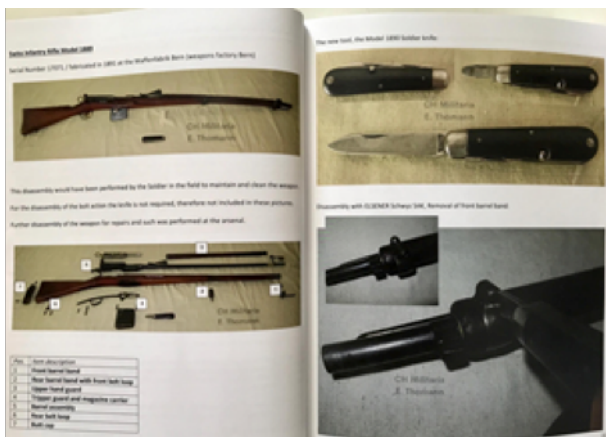
– A Book Review by Julius T. Verd, of Israel

The undoubted highlight of this year for collectors of Swiss knives was the book [A Collectors Guide to Vintage Wenger Knives](#) by Dave Arnold.

This wonderful book was written by the renowned collector of vintage Swiss knives, Dave Arnold from Canada. We all know him from nice videos on his friend Hobbie's YouTube channel. Many of the rarest Swiss knives from Dave's collection have been featured on the Hobbie channel, but the book is something else!

The book is devoted to the history primarily of Wenger knives and shows the evolution of Wenger knives using the example of a huge number of photographs of the rarest Wenger knives. A unique feature of the book - it shows knives from not only the author's extensive collection, but also from collectors of Swiss knives from all over the world kindly provided for this book (Uriel Omlin, John Reece, Will Jones, Ernst Thomann, Emmanuel Petit, Errol Knight and others). In addition to a detailed description of the history and evolution of Wenger knives, the book also presents rare vintage knives from other Swiss (Victorinox, Rothlisberger, Buhler, Forge L&C and others) and German (Wester Co, D.Peres, Puma, Kaufman and others) knife makers.

From the very beginning, the book is full of surprises. Dave starts his story from 1890 and he doesn't just show pictures of the first SAK, but we can see a demonstration of how to actually take apart a Schmidt-Rubin mod. 1889 rifle using the Elsener mod. 1890 (process photos courtesy of Ernst Thomann).



**Photo:** Disassembly of Swiss Infantry Rifle mod. 1889 with Soldier knife mod. 1890.



The book presents the entire line of soldier's knives from Wenger, starting with the extremely rare model 1890 made by Coutellerie Suisse in 1900 under the direction of Theo Wenger.



**Photo:** Swiss Army Soldier knives made by Coutellerie Suisse/Wenger in 1900-2007.

Dave's particular affection is Wenger officer knives and the book traces their detailed evolution of 82/93mm from 1905 to the modern 85mm range from 1963. A lot of information about construction, technology, blade stamps and scale emblems was presented in detailed images.

Besides Soldiers and Officers knives we see a lot of rare models of farm knives, fixed hunting knives and even different versions of Hobo set made by Wenger.



**Photo:** Officer knives by Wenger, 1905-1914.



**Photo:** Hobo knife by Wenger (picture by Uriel Omlin).

A rare example of a Wenger knife with a clock (only one is known to be in its complete state):



**Photo:** Tahara MOP clock knife.

Other knife manufacturers from Switzerland and Germany are also featured in the book. Here's a great set of vintage Victorinox knives including extra rare aluminum mod. 240 from 1903 Elsener Catalog.



**Photo:** Victorinox knives.

Let's give the floor to the author:

“Having said that, this book is meant to be an invitation to join the search for answers, not a lecture on what has already been found.

In fact, it could be said that the best part of this hobby is the collector community itself. Like most things, there are good and bad people in this pastime, but, thanks to my knives, I have made real friends all over the world. We correspond weekly, if not daily. We share our knives, their stories, and together try to solve the many mysteries buried within the long history of the

Swiss Army knife. We rely on each others knowledge and experience in our never ending hunt for the rarest gems of SAK collecting.

Another point worth making, is that in this hobby, there is always something new to learn. On a regular basis, we will see something that is either new to us, or flies in face of what we previously thought was true. With such a long history, so many models, endless variations from multiple manufacturers, combined with the lack of information from the early years, I have no doubt that there are still more things still to be discovered..

One of the most important decisions we face in this adventure is "What will you collect?"

It is nearly impossible to collect them all. If you are just starting out, I would say collect a little bit of everything and see what you like the most. Certainly, for myself, my preferences changed as I dove deeper into the hobby. Somewhere along that road, the focus of my collection shifted towards Delemont, and then back in time, but I also still search for the rarest knives from Victorinox and other Swiss knife makers. You will find your own favorites. In my opinion, there is a quality, of materials and craftsmanship, used in the earlier knives, things like brass rivets and liners, nickel silver tipped tweezers, or even just the patina of a well cared for carbon steel knife, that the modern knives simply can't compete with.

I also love the history of an old knife. Where has it been? Who has owned it? How many bottles of wine has the cork screw opened? How many blocks of cheese or bread has the knife cut into? Where was it through one, or both of the world wars that surrounded Switzerland? If it was a soldier's knife was it in the pocket of a soldier standing guard in those times? Where else has this knife gone in its life? Has it left Europe before? Or traveled around the world? So many questions.

...Finally, the focus of this book is vintage WENGER knives, but of course like most collectors I have an interest in all things SAK. I also have knives that are from Victorinox and other Swiss makers like Rothlisberger, and I will show some of these, along with a few of my favorite German knives.

So let's get started, and thank you. I hope you will enjoy reading this as much as we have enjoyed compiling it. ...I hope the world is in a better place when you are reading this, wherever you are."

**Photo:** Dave's favorite knife "Black Beauty" from Stefan Schober.



## 2021 VSAKCS Special Edition

This year's club knife has incorporated the company's latest printing technology, a raised texture layering technique that gives the scale an embossed feel. In honor of the company's Classic Colors collection, the design we have chosen represents an artist's digital swatch palette. We have dubbed this knife the 'Colorist'.

Members are more than welcome to utilize group shipping; all grouped orders MUST be placed personally by each individual requesting a knife and indicating who will be the designated receiver. Group shipments will NOT be mailed until all collaborating parties are paid in full. We are trying our best to combat rising shipping costs.

**USA and Non-EU Member countries** - To pre-order this knife via email, please address VSAKCS.USA@gmail.com - Title your order "VSAKCS 2021 Pre-Order" - You MUST include the following information:

- Your PayPal email address
- Your full shipping address, including country AND phone number (required for international customs).

### **Only one knife per person.**

Cost is \$100.00 USD + tax and shipping. Customs fees and import taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.

Members in Switzerland and Norway may choose to place orders through Mr. Schiesswald. (see details below), as the shipping costs will be lower, but the base price will be higher due to import taxes.

You will receive a PayPal invoice from VSAKCS.USA@gmail.com when your package is ready to ship. Shipping options are all follows:

Quotes are for a single knife. Package requests containing additional items are subject to additional shipping charges based on size and weight.

#### USA Address –

- USPS Priority Mail Small Flat Rate Package - \$9.00

#### Non-EU Member Country Address –

- USPS Priority Mail International Small Box - \$30-45 depending on destination.
- UPS International Saver Small Box - \$40-\$55 depending on location.

EU Member Country Address – Please contact **Jan Schiesswald** at **Office@knives-shop.at** for details on ordering. Note that the retail price and shipping options will be different for club members in this region. Members in Switzerland and Norway may also choose to place orders through Mr. Schiesswald.

**All parcels will receive a tracking number. We no longer offer or support USPS First Class domestic or international shipping due to the overwhelming number of packages lost and/or stolen over the previous years. Sorry for the inconvenience.**




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