



Exhibit of the Month

OILER

Museologist Simona Gustaitytė

- Used for cleaning the lock of the 1891-model rifle Mosin-Nagant;
- Height with a screw cap - 65 mm, width - 59 mm; thickness - 33 mm;
- 4 parts, soldered together: 2 base parts, thread and screw cap;
- Iron alloy with zinc coating;
- Russian Empire, the second half of the 19th century.

In the photo one can see a round bottle of an oiler with a screw cap. The coat of arms of the Russian Empire, a double-headed eagle, is embossed on the one side of the exhibit. An arrow and the manufacturer's mark above, i.e. the letters S.O.Z. (in Russian, Сестрорецкий оружейный завод - Sestroretsk weapon factory) are embossed on the other side. Weapons were manufactured here in 1724–1922, and the factory was established in Sestroretsk, Russia (currently, a part of Saint Petersburg). Sergei Mosin, the creator of the Mosin-Nagant rifle, was working as the head of the Sestroretsk weapon factory for 8 years.

Oilers were one of the most distinctive elements of Mosin-Nagant rifle cleaning equipment, with three main types being the most common. A round oiler with one screw cap was the original and oldest model. The production of these oilers

started in the Russian Empire. The coat of arms was embossed on the one side and the letters in the Cyrillic alphabet above the arrow - on the other side of the oiler. Meanwhile, during the USSR period, the earliest examples of oilers had the symbols of a sickle and a hammer, and later - an embossed large circle or an arrow in the middle of a triangle (the symbol of the Izhevsk weapon factory) on one side of the bottle. The second common type of oilers was similar to the first one, but the round bottle had two parts, two screw caps. It was a product of a later period, produced in the middle of the 20th century and marked in Russian and other languages. The Cyrillic letters Н (Russian: нефть - oil) and Щ (Russian: щелочной состав - alkaline solution) were embossed on the bottle. The third type of oilers was a rectangular two-piece bottle with two screw caps, used from the middle of the 20th century and also marked with embossed letters.



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