

Colt's 100th anniversary 1911 collectables

by Roy Cassidy

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, Colt has produced two special editions of its Government Model 1911 self-loading pistols - the 1911ANVII and 1911ANVIII. The Colt 1911, of course, is possibly the most enduring and copied firearm design in the world and the platform for nearly all modern centrefire self-loading pistols. Designed by John Moses Browning and adopted by the United States Army on March 29, 1911, the model has seen action in nearly all of the world's wars and campaigns and is equally popular with sporting shooters.

An ANVIII was supplied to me by Colt's Australian distributor, Frontier Arms, with the strict instructions that it was for inspection and photography only and was not to be test fired, as all of the ANVIIIs allocated to Frontier Arms had already been presold.

Colt has put the ANVIII together as in its original WWI form, which is in .45 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol) calibre and with its mechanism being identical to the original model. It most closely resembles the 1918 version of the 1911. This means that it lacks the firing pin safety system that has been incorporated in the Colt Series 80 1911 pistols. A caution on that modification is clearly marked on the packaging.

The interesting thing about this firearm is that it really is a bog-standard military-style 1911 single-action self-loading pistol, without any attempt to scrub it up with a higher level of polish or finish. Its main



Current and historical literature comes with the Colt ANVIII. The manual is a reproduction of an original WWI US Army 1911 manual.

claim to fame is in its identifying marks, which are roll-stamped into the frame and slide, identifying it as 'United States Property', stating its heritage and incorporating a special serial number format with a 1911 prefix.

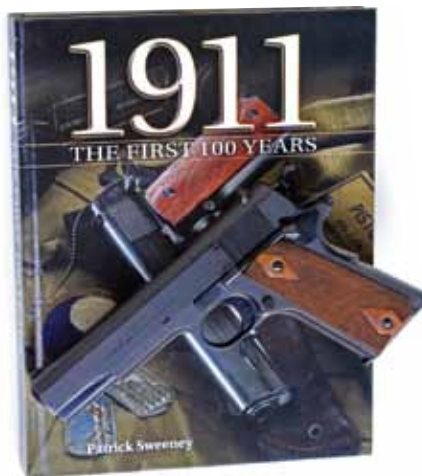
The ANVIII comes in special packaging, albeit a cardboard box, with the gold Colt logo on the lid. Included is an information sheet with a synopsis of the history of the 1911, and of most interest to collectors is a reproduction of an original Colt Government Model US Army manual on the pistol. Also included in the outfit are a lock, a take-down tool, a plastic chamber indicator and a conventional Colt 1911 instruction manual. Two magazines come with the



There's nothing fancy about the ANVIII's finish, other than the chequered walnut grips.

pistol and each has a seven-shot capacity as is standard for .45 ACP magazines for these types of pistols.

Although I didn't see it first-hand, the ANVII is the presentation-grade pistol in this anniversary series. It is highly polished and 'Royal Blued' and has fancy cocobolo (tropical hardwood) wooden grips. It also has gold inlays for the Colt logo on the



The 100th anniversary of the famous 1911 pistol has produced a number of very good publications that are good companions for the Colts.



The Colt ANVII pistol.

The Colt ANVII presentation-grade pistol in its glass-topped walnut case.

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rear of the slide and the 100th anniversary symbol on the centre of the slide.

The ANVII comes in a glass-topped fitted walnut presentation case, and production of the pistols is limited to just 750 units. There is also a limit on the ANVIII's production, in that, orders for the pistol will be taken until November 30 this year, which will determine how many ANVIII's will eventually be manufactured, and no further production will be allocated after that date.

The ANVII is expected to leave you little, if any, change out of \$6000 - on the slim chance you might be able to acquire one of these pistols from the very limited and exclusive Australian allocation. The

recommended retail price of the ANVIII is expected to be around \$2500.

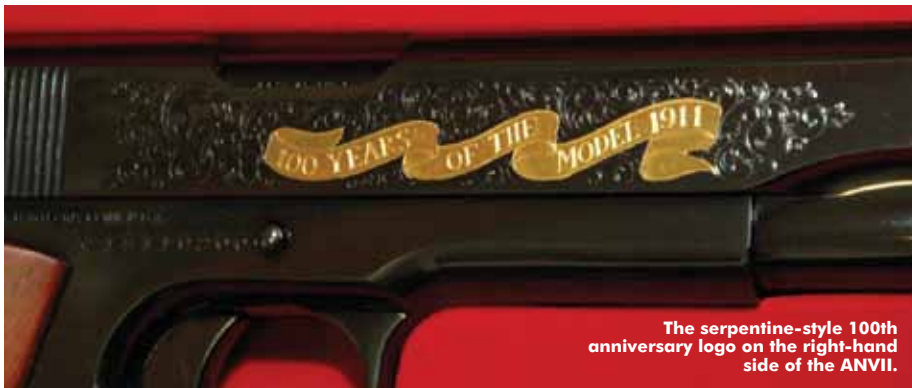
For more information on pricing and availability on these commemorative Colt 1911 self-loading pistols, contact Frontier Arms on 08 8373 2855 or visit www.frontierarms.com.au ●



The gold inlay in the right grip of the ANVII.



The ANVII looks and feels good in the hand.



The serpentine-style 100th anniversary logo on the right-hand side of the ANVII.



The gold logo on the left-hand side of the ANVII.