

Applaud ^{win}
please call
9/25/69 also 9/26/69

9/23/69

Dear Sylvia,

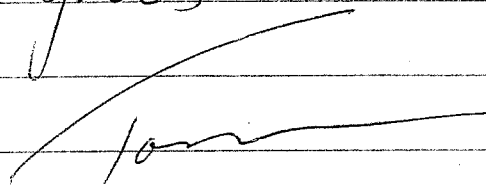
long ago E. Voynich, English-born novelist, married to a Pole,
wrote a novel about an Italian revolutionist caught up in the
struggle for independence from Austria. The narrative covered
a span of years, during which he fled to South America. The
account of his life in South America constituted the subject matter
of a sequential novel. The first was entitled *The Gaffly*, the
second, *An Interrupted Friendship*. The lapse in our
friendship could be designated with that title. Voynich's
ending was tragic. Hope ours will be happy.

Before we meet to exchange summer experiences and

news about our common interest can you lay hands on
a copy of George Thayer's The War Business.

Chapter Two, "Samuel Cummings of Detmold," has material of
interest for those who are concerned with the discrepancy between
the rifle advertised by Klein and the rifle Oswald was
supposed to have received. I would like to have
your opinion of that.

Yours

A handwritten signature, likely "Tom", written in cursive script.

The War Business by George Thayer

p. 61-62

The rifle that L.H.O. used to assass. Pres. K left Italy on Sept. 30, '60, aboard the Italian steamer Elettra Farnese. It arrived in Jersey City seventeen days later and was consigned to a bonded warehouse, Harborside Terminal, near Lockside. It remained here for 28 months & then, along with a batch of Mannlicher-Caccagnos, was shipped by Crescent Firearms to Klein's Sporting Goods, Inc., of Chicago. Klein's is a large ... a regular advertiser in ... organ of the National Rifle Association.

In the Feb 1963 issue of the Rifleman, Klein's ran a full page illustrated ad in which they offered a '6.5 Italian Carbine. Only 36" overall, weighs only 5 1/2 lbs. Shows only slight use ... specially priced ... 12.88. Carbine with brand new good

quality 4X scope - 3/4" diam - us, / us... 19⁹⁵'

'On March 13, 1963 Klein's ad... One week later rifle No. C 2766

was shipped to the customer without demur... The name A. Hedell,

of course, was later determined to be an alias used by L.H.O.

'While the ad offered for sale a Mannlicher Carcano carbine

(emp. in book), the actual weapon illustrated in the ad was what

is known as a 'short rifle' which is not the same thing. Mannlicher-

Carcanos underwent many modifications during Mussolini's

dictatorship and to the uninitiated the results may seem confusing.

But any standard weapons manual will show that the ordinary

Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, in its various modifications, has an

overall length of 47 inches or 50.7 inches; that the carbine

has an overall length of approximately 36 inches, and that the short rifle, model 91/38 (in both 7.35 mm. and 6.5 mm) has an overall length of 40.2 inches. Oswald received the brand-named weapon in 6.5 mm. Klein's which should have known better, did not notice the difference. (!!!) Nor did L.H.O., who, in all probability, was primarily interested in the price and not the make or model. The 'carbine' advertised was the cheapest item Klein's was offering that month in rifles* "

Footnote, p. 62

* The Klein's ads in the Amer. Rifleman, as a rule, make interesting reading. For instance M-Cs were first advertised in the March 1962 issue ... and continued to appear

in subsequent issues until Oct. 1963. Klein's has never since
run an ad for M-C's.

"The specific manner in which K's advertised these rifles is
also noteworthy. For instance, in the April 1963 issue of
Rifleman, K's advertised its 'carbine' as 40 inches overall
and weighing 7 pounds, thus adding 4 inches to its length and $1\frac{1}{2}$
pounds to its weight. The price, photograph and stock number
remained unchanged. Three mos. later, in the July 1963 issue,
the 'carbine' price was reduced by ten cents. In the Aug. issue,
everything - stock number, weight, length and new price - remained
the same except that the photographic illustration of the M-C
now showed, for some reason, an Enfield .303 Jungle

Carbine. Finally, in the Sept. 1963 issue, the previous illustration - of a short rifle - was reinserted; the stock number, price and description (a 'carbine') remained unchanged."

Confusing isn't it? If it has any significance, it is augmented or diminished by the realization this data constitutes an interruption in the account of the doings of Samuel Cummings of Interarms.

84-5044

Tom
① Am America
Melbourne

"Kellers in one of room
LHO (if indeed, it
was he who shot JFK) was
said to be present

Print by psy division
resent us
the summer of

② Photo LHO = Negro
Newcomer - handwritten
they had shot