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A Call to Small Arms

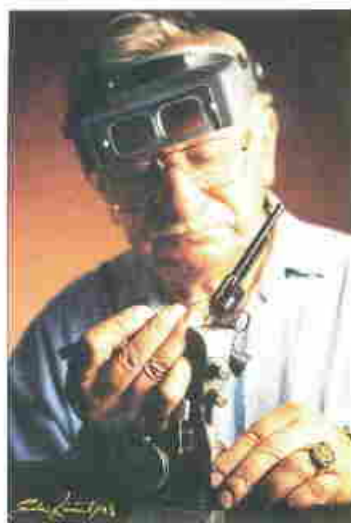
Collectible Miniature Weapons Creations by David Kucer

David Kucer left his native Poland in 1930 at age seven and arrived with his parents in Montreal, Canada. Like his father and grandfather before him, David practiced the metal worker's arts he was educated at Montreal Technical School as an Apprentice Toolmaker. In 1935, young David visited New York City, where he was fascinated by "Dr. Sibbald's Smallest Show on Earth," an exhibit of miniatures that literally changed his life.

At the outbreak of World War II, Kucer worked in a Montreal armament plant and, in 1942, joined the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and served as armaments officer. After the war ended, he returned from Europe and joined Armetwork Inc., his family firm. There he and his employees crafted metal products, including subway turnstiles for the Boston and Montreal systems.

After a 1969 fire destroyed the Armetwork building, Kucer opened a small shop in Montreal, where he engraved signet rings with tiny coats of arms that are used to leave unique impressions in sealing wax. In his spare time, Kucer worked on his passion—miniature arms.

In 1946, there were very few miniature makers in the world but today, The Miniature Arms Society has an international membership, produces a journal, and sets criteria to define miniatures. "True miniatures," including miniature arms, are considered works of fine art, not toys or replicas; they are classified as one-of-a-kind items even when issued in




limited quantities; and are hand-made by artisans, not "manufactured."

Kucer's techniques and tools have evolved over the years, but he still makes his miniature guns in one-third scale, the same scale as his first, a Colt Model 1911 semi-automatic pistol. His arms have been displayed in Montreal at the Place des Arts, The Visual Arts Centre, and The David Stewart Museum; in Toronto at The Royal Ontario Museum; in Connecticut at The Eli Whitney Museum; and in the United Kingdom at The Royal Armouries at the Tower of London. He also has displayed his miniature weapons at the National Rifle Association annual meetings since 1989 and has won four silver medals for "Best in Class."

Kucer's research has taken him to the Brescia region of Northern Italy, where fine guns have been made since the 15th century; to the Pietro Sarti bronze foundries in Florence; and more recently, to Japan, where he is one of only 12 non-Asian members of the Japanese Carvers Association. In tribute to his skill in the ancient Japanese art, His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado of Japan acquired a pair of Kucer sterling silver netsuke for his personal collection.

Individual pieces are priced from \$2,500.00 to \$10,500.00 or more. Recently a boxed set of three Lugers

sold for \$22,500.00. — *Rob Sandler*

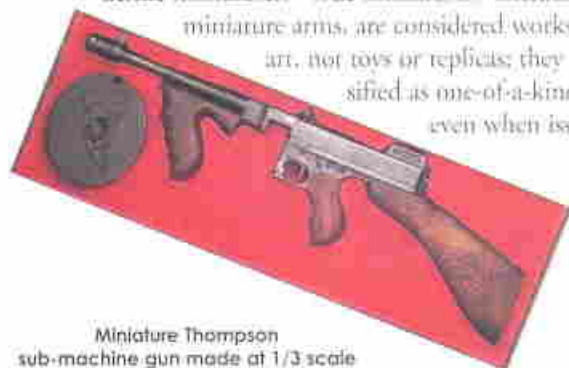
For more information about David Kucer's miniatures, please call (514) 935-9530 or visit www.kucer.com. 



Miniature Luger civilian model semi-automatic pistol with ivory grips.



Miniature .44 cal. Remington Army revolver.



Miniature Thompson sub-machine gun made at 1/3 scale



Miniature late 18th century hunting sword with flintlock pistol



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Large barn and ca
center for 3 miles
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