

A MAN, A COWBOY, A PASSION

Interview to a friend: Frederick Holster Maker by Alchimista

Howdy Cowboy,

with this article, I would like to tell you about a meeting that I had several years ago, going to Rome for work. I was closed to the down town, around the Pantheon and I noticed a really strange shop with certain stuff exposed through the windows: extraordinary leather stuff.

I open the door and I saw a cowboy that was working with ancient devices that attracted me so much that I came in for more than a while.

I want to introduce Federico, a real artisan, and his leather.

The shop where you will find him is located in the down town, close to the Pantheon: he got it in the 1979. Before, it was located in a hovel of an old roman palace: a noble got the fancy to rent this room to him.

It's one of the rare laboratory where it's possible seen a man while he's creating with the help of his hands. What he produce it's not only exclusively western style. The customers that come in his shop ask for suitcases, badges, bags, belts and so on.

His customers are not the ones that like bags that can be used for only one season. He realizes things for the lifetime . Often he received visits from his works sold several years ago but still loved from their owners.

He was quoted in several American tourist guides: thanks to these, foreign customers came, and still coming, to meet him.

Who desires things realize for his own requirements, who want only the “ custom made”, comes and looks for Federico! In the world wide period, the idea that some of his handmade items are walking in some strange place, make him really proud and happy.

Listening his tale, it's easy to understand that the leather is in his blood. His grand-father and, like him, his father was a Saddle Maker of a countryside village near Rome. They worked for local cowboy. Federico, listening their stories of an ancient passed time, was definitively signed. The family wish was that he became someone, but that life, those people catch him with any way to escape. This passion became his style, his way of life: the cowboy way!!

The love for the Old West was so strong that his father made for him a belt with holsters to play when he was just a kid. These holsters, for Federico,

were really strange because they have an Hollywood style, but the guy was so happy that he used for many years.

The first western movies, the ones in black and white of the 40's, and the first books arrived here, satisfied his curiosity and he discovered a fantastic world called America and its Golden Era.

Even the bag was his predominant way to survive, in the past he had the opportunity to satisfy several other lovers of Single Action revolvers: he believe that in the History there's no other pistol linked to its holster and belt that can better represent an era.

In 2000, he made the subscription to SASS, choosing the alias: Frederick Holster Maker. With the foundation of the Old West Shooting Society in Italy, he lived the spread of the West in our country.

This association, burned with the spirit to promote the West and its guns, arrived a couple of years in advance of what, now, is a real fashion.

From 2004, thanks to the, now called, SASS ITALY, he had always more opportunity to realize stuff for who has his same passion: the leather of the West.

Some friends, and I'm one of their, assert that he is the best artisan available in Italy for this "custom made" : in front of these compliments he usually answers that it's not true but, we know that he is really proud of this recognition.

Really helpful for him was to know the book " Packing Iron". He believe that this literature should be place near the bad our children. It will help them so much giving strong idea for their future.

The leather that he uses it's natural with a minimum of fat. The thickness is 9/10oz. In his model Suede Lined, he adds inside some leather coming from England; his holsters are completed hand made: this is not the faster system available on the market... but this is what he prefers and offers to his customers.

His wire is 100% flax from Ireland. The buckles come from United States with a classic style: California Clip, Corner Buckle o Cart Buckle, always nickel plated. Also the copper rivets come from US.

He loves to decorate his holsters with Nickel Spots, or basket weave or border stamping: these are used to personalized all his products. He also able to realize draw at request. I have a fantastic picture of a cowboy with his rifle while he raids his horse, always stamped on a flat leather surface and hand stamped.

All these stuff, when finished, are placed inside his showcase so that the sun can give a better colour .

These are some of the aspects of Frederick Holster Marker: the one that use his hands to create our loved holsters and belts. I want to invite you to come to meet him if you will be in Rome. You will love this city also for something else.

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