

History

1837 - H. Boker & Co. was founded in New York City, by Hermann Boeker, as a cutlery import firm.

1865 - Arbolito, Casa Roberto Boker, established an office in Mexico City.

1867 - Boker built a factory in Solingen, Germany.

1868 - Knives marked for the Manhattan Cutlery Co. were imported from Sheffield, England, until 1916.

1869 - The Tree Brand logo was adopted and has since been applied to every Boker product.

c 1884 - Hardy Bros. brand was in use.

c 1890 - Boker made knives for the Baker & Hamilton Hardware Co. marked New Haven Cutlery Co. "Damascus".

1892 - Boker produced advertising knives marked The W. & H Co. (Whitehead & Hoag) for this Newark, N.J. firm until the 1940's.

c 1894 - The Bicycle brand was used.

1899 - Motivated by the increased tariffs of the 1890 Tariff Act, Boker purchased the Valley Forge Cutlery Co. (founded in 1892 in Newark, N.J.)

c 1903 - Eclipse, Edelweiss and Red InJun (straight razors) were each active.

1905 - Boker purchased the R.J. Roberts Razor Co. (a wholesale importer founded in 1870)

c 1906 - Knives marked for John Newton, Regal and the Trenton Cutlery Co. were imported from Sheffield, England.

c 1910 - H. Boker & Co. made knives marked New West, R+C for the Richard & Connover Hardware Co.

1917 - H. Boker & Co. began using the Boker U.S.A. trademark on cutlery made in America.

1918 - Knives marked Riverside Cutlery Co. N. Y. were made by Boker for Dunham, Harrigan & Hayden, a hardware wholesale firm in San Francisco.

1921 - Boker sold the Valley Forge plant and moved it's U.S. operations to Maplewood, N.J. where both the VF and Boker U.S.A. trademarks were used.

1925 - The chestnut tree which inspired the TREE BRAND, was struck by lightning and burned.

c 1927 - The Wright & Wilhelmy Co. brand was in use.

c 1932 - The Hilton brand was used.

1933 - Rainbow knives were made for Boker in Providence, R.I. (until 1954).

c 1945 - The Heinr. Boker GmbH & Co. factory in Germany was destroyed in WW2. The Tree Brand logo and Boker brands were confiscated.

John Boeker Jr. arranged their return so he could distribute products made in the U.S.

c 1947 - John Prindle knives were made on contract by Boker, Camillus, Utica, and Schrade for the Belknap Hardware Co. until sometime in 1985.

c 1950 - Henry Boker, Solingen, Ger. Knives were made for export to Australia - trademark HB/2 bird heads.

1952 - J.A. Henkels contracted with Boker to make some of their knives, they contracted with Obertz as well.

To the best of my knowledge this is still in effect, since Henkels quit manufacturing folding knives in 1960.

1956 - Boker bought the George Schrade Knife Co. and continued producing Presto and Commando, switchblade knives until they were banned by Congress in 1958.

1969 - Boker was acquired by Wiss (the Newark, N.J. scissor manufacturer, which was part of Cooper Industries.)

1986 - Cooper Industries sold the U.S. rights to the Boker name to Heinr. Boker GMBH & Co. of Solingen, Ger. This is the same factory that Hermann Boker built in 1867.