



Queen Cutlery Guide


Queen Cutlery "Archer's Axe" 1956-1965, Variations

Fred Fisher and Dan Lago

Queen cutlery probably used Collins Company to produce their early axes or "hatchet" (please see **Queen History of Axes and Combination Axes and Knife Sets, on this site**), but as the market changed in the mid-1950's, Queen introduced a smaller, and chrome plated single bit axe, called the "archer's axe. " This axe was very modern, with a weight of less than 12 ounces compared to the traditional axes that weighed 1 or 1.25 pounds and had a 15" handle compared to the Archer's 8" handle – a hunter's axe rather than camp axe. This axe carried the same "leather perma-gloss handle as the #84 4" hunting knife that was added for a combo set. The axe and knife set, and the axe as a single item, were offered from 1956 till 1965. Figure 1 shows a 1965 catalog page with the axe.

This axe was NOT produced in the Queen factory according to Fred Sampson, Master Cutler at that time, with chrome plating that the factory did not have available. The specific company contracted to produce the axe is not known at this time. Robeson Cutlery Company had a very similar axe/knife combo the #24, shown on page 14 of their 1962 catalog, but that is just speculation at this time. Although it is interesting that as Robeson ceased production in 1966, it might have made finding another contractor difficult.

The most interesting thing about the Archer axe is it provides another example of how Queen Cutlery produced small runs of the axe with surprising variations. The three axes in figure 2 show noticeable differences in overall length, in the width of the cutting edge, and in the pommels used. This seems very odd, since the axe did not have a long run and could not have sold heavily – this axe is very hard to find for collectors today – so, it does not seem that the market would have demanded all these changes. It might be reasonable that the larger axe, on the right in figure 2, might have been the last, improved version, increasing leverage and length of the cutting edge, but even the last catalog shows the same short handle for the axe. Certainly, the longer version is the hardest to find.



Queen Steel



No. 98 Skinning Knife — Genuine *Frontier* bone stag handle with 4 inch scimitar shaped flat blade. Made of Queen Steel. Will not rust or stain and because of our secret tempering process, will stay sharp far longer than other knives. Complete in leather sheath made of top grain cowhide, saddle stitched with handsomely embossed design. Sportsman's favorite.



SBA80 — Single bit 11½ ounce Archer's Axe. Finest quality steel. Chromium plated. Solid one-piece construction—8-inch handle. Complete with leather sheath, saddle stitched. Slot in sheath for carrying on the belt.

Figure 1, page 11, 1965 Queen Cutlery Catalog, with SBA80 "Archer's Axe"



Figure 2. Three variations of Archer's Axe, with overall length, edge width, and pommel variations