



# Queen Cutlery Guide

## Queen History of Axes and Combination Axe and Knife Sets

### Fred Fisher and Dan Lago

There has been some speculation over the years about the sources of Queen Cutlery Hatchet and Hatchet sets. The Collins company catalog attached to the end of this article (#111, 1954, with price list {1955} and Jobber's policy {for both years}) was found in an old file cabinet, kept over the past 58 years in Queen's main office in Titusville, PA. While ownership threw out literally tons of paper records in the 1970s-1990s, this catalog was retained - We wonder why? It was given to Fred by Ken Daniels once Daniels Family took over operations at Queen Cutlery, and we suggest it might be a potential source for Queen's axes.

The Collins company, based in the town built on their success was located in Collinsville, Ct., and eventually became the largest axe and machete company in the world, based in large part on their production of top-quality edged tools (see references). The company grew from 1825 till they closed in 1966. This date is surprisingly linked to Queen's possible use of their products – developing new axe products in 1956 and ending in offering traditional axes, such as Collins produced in 1964 (when they might have been hard to procure).

The Queen #DBA 79 shows considerable similarity to the Collins Lightweight double bit axe cruiser pattern, "old faithful brand (page 3), with a one-inch shorter hickory handle. The Queen SBA78 also seems to match up quite well with the Warren special camp axe, "Old Faithful brand" again with a slightly shorter hickory handle (page 4). Both these small axes were finished with a "Black anti-rust" that also seems similar to the Queen axes, without the polished bits.

It is also probable that Collins Company might have used the Factory of Warren Axe and Tool Company, in Warren PA, to produce Queen's contract. Collins bought Warren Axes in 1950 and used it through 1958 (see reference section). The attached Collins 1954 catalog uses Warren Axe

logo on its back cover and it would keep shipping costs to Titusville to a minimum (Thanks to Brian Guth for directing to the Warren factory). Of course, small axes tend to look similar and with no chemical analyses of steel, or detailed comparisons of products, this is only speculation. But it is interesting. We would like to hear if anyone has additional correspondence or evidence as to the source of Queen's axes and sets.

Small axes and axe/knife combos were offered by Queen as early as 1951 and continued through 1965, with the "leather perma gloss" being the most frequently sold, and the hickory/stag bone double bit set being the most desired by collectors. Three pages of axe and combo knife sets are displayed below (Figures 1, 2 , & 3).

Figure 4, (Courtesy of Ashly and Joe Mick) shows that Queen City also carried axes that arrived un-helved – Queen City (and probably the same management as Queen Cutlery later) put their own handles on. The name "Michigan" on the box refers to the style of double axe head – see p. 5 of the attached Collins 1954 catalog which shows that name as the same as the "cruiser" pattern we assign for the Queen Cutlery product.

While discussing the hatchet sets, we would also like to suggest two items. First, while Queen called their product "Axes," most would say they were one-handed and therefore "hatchet" would be the most correct name. We use "axe" since that is what Queen called them in every catalog.

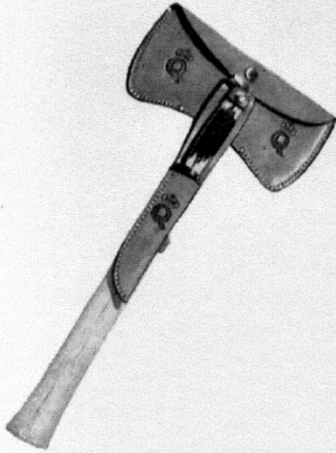
Second, to our knowledge, Queen never cataloged axe sets with dissimilar handle treatments. While some collectors have put knives into the sheaths of sets, to "complete a set," and increase their value, they were never marketed in that way. Look for stag bone with the double bit axe and matching leather perma-gloss in the single bit axes. Look for tang stamps on the knives which match the period of time when the sets were produced.

<https://queencutleryguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/AxesKnife-Axe-Combo-as-Series-10-2019.pdf>

SYMBOL OF



QUALITY . . .



**No. KA79 Knife and Axe Combination** — One pound double bit Utility Axe. 15 inch hickory handle. Finest quality steel. Handsome leather Axe sheath made of top grain cowhide, saddle stitched with embossed design. Sheath slotted for carrying on the belt. 4 inch saber ground blade Hunting Knife with genuine *Frontier* bone stag handle in leather sheath made of top grain cowhide, saddle stitched with handsomely embossed design. Hunting knife and sheath attach to axe sheath and axe handle which makes a fine Knife and Axe combination.

**No. DBA 79** — Double bit one pound Utility Axe. 15 inch hickory handle. Finest quality steel. Complete with fine leather sheath made of top grain cowhide, saddle stitched with handsomely embossed design. Slot in sheath for carrying on the belt.



**No. SBA78** — Single bit 1 3/4 pound Camp Axe. 16 inch hickory handle. Finest quality steel. Complete with leather sheath, saddle stitched and riveted. Slot in sheath for carrying on the belt.

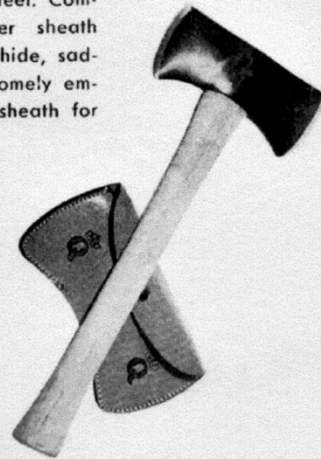


Figure 1. Catalog pages from 1952-1955. The same photograph was used in all the four catalogs, but the logo at the top of the page did change.

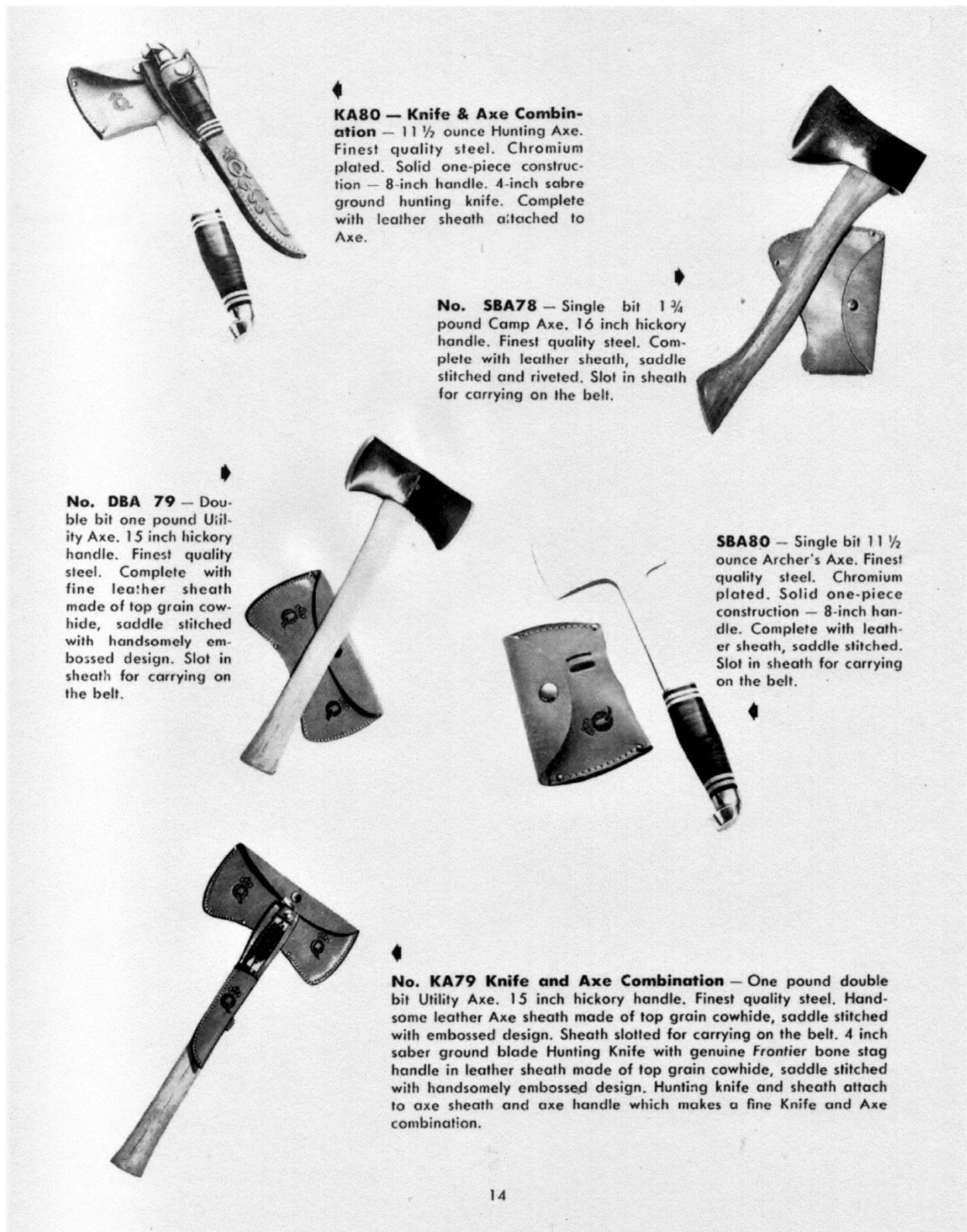
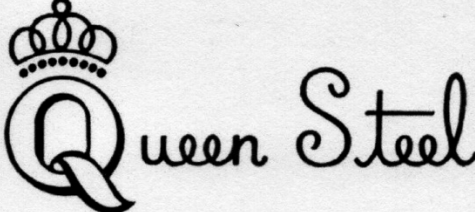


Figure 2 is from Queen Catalogs for 1956-1963, again, the same photo was used each time. The more modern, chrome plated single bit knife axe

combo set in leather perma gloss, as well as the just the single bit alone itself.

Figure 3, from the 1965 Queen Catalog shows only the single bit "Archer's Axe" remained in the companies offerings.



## 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 4. A shipping box sent to Queen City Cutlery showing their involvement in selling axes arriving without handles. Helps explain the 15"

handle with Collins usual 16" handle. Note the same name as the Michigan/Cruiser model, with same anti-rust finish, as Queen Cutlery later sold. (Thank you for Photo provided by Ashley and Joe Mick)

## **References**

<https://connecticuthistory.org/world-renowned-maker-of-axes-the-collins-company-of-canton/>

<https://www.bnctools.com/blogs/news/the-legacy-of-the-collins-company>

<http://yesteryearstools.com/Yesteryears%20Tools/Warren%20Axe%20%26%20Tool%20Co..html>