

To our sword community friends and supporters,

Important notice:

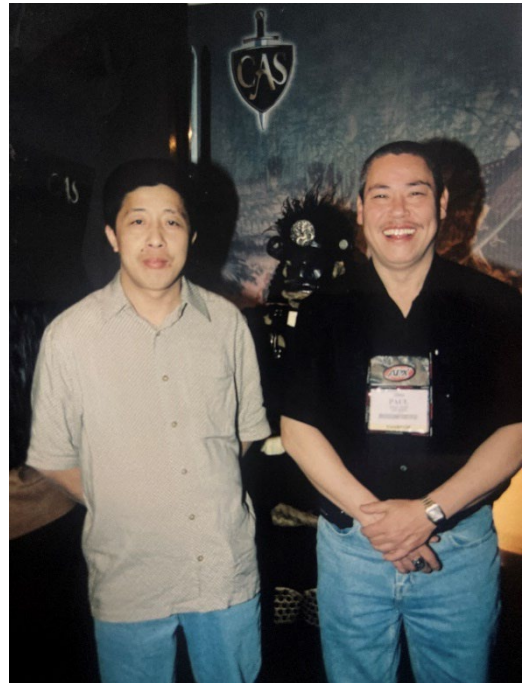
CAS Iberia is sad to announce that the original CAS Hanwei factory has closed. We want to maintain a posture of clarity and openness about this issue and process. We have expected this to happen for some time, and we have taken steps to minimize its impact. We would like to take some time to clarify exactly what is happening, and what our plans are for the future.

What happened and why?

We will try to make a very long story short. The factory producing our CAS Hanwei products was facing many challenges and, unfortunately, was unable to remain open. Since the well-deserved retirement of Paul Chen well over a decade ago and the factory fire of 2011, the facility never fully recovered. Then as with a lot of businesses, the financial instability from COVID-19 hit the factory very hard. Additional complications, such as government regulations, the war in Ukraine impacting steel supplies, and global supply chain disruptions have further compounded an already bad situation. Many factors aligned to create the perfect storm, leaving the factory with no reasonable path forward. In December, the factory sent us their final shipment and officially closed their doors.

What happens next?

We are moving forward with manufacturing the CAS Hanwei brand of products. Fortunately, the CAS Iberia family has Frenchie Jin with the Dragon King forge in Dalian China to continue manufacturing the brand. Frenchie was the original engineer behind the designing and manufacturing of most of the CAS Hanwei products. He worked alongside Paul Chen from the inception of the factory three decades ago, until his departure from the company shortly after Paul retired. Frenchie was Paul's right-hand man. If Paul dreamed it up Frenchie made it happen all the while honing in and crafting his own sword expertise. It was no surprise that when Frenchie started the Dragon King forge several years later, a good portion of the original CAS Hanwei team would soon follow him. This group of skilled artisans included forgers, smiths, designers, artists, machinists, wood craftsmen, and polishers as well as the majority of the R & D Team. In essence, our new products for the brand are going to be made by the original CAS Hanwei sword smiths once again. The products that the Dragon King Forge have been producing in this past decade is the evidence that proves they are ready to pick up the mantle once held at our Factory. Their commitment to quality control processes and to developing superior manufacturing systems has allowed them to increase production and further solidifies our partnership with them. This is the most logical path for CAS Iberia and the CAS Hanwei brand to follow and we are quite excited about the future and what we have planned.



Left - Frenchie Jin. Right - Paul Chen.

What can you expect from the new CAS Hanwei production versions?

The first thing you can expect is that there will be immediate improvements and some minor changes that need to be made. As sad as it makes us that the original factory has closed, CAS Hanwei and Paul Chen's legacy will live on, continuing its pursuit of constant refinement and pristine quality that the brand is renowned for. We will be able to introduce new products (swords we have been developing that never come to fruition) in the future once we've retooled the primary products. Our plans are to make minor improvements with select models in this process that have needed to be fixed for the last several years. The original factory set the bar for what our products should be, we are now granted the chance to raise that bar even higher.

This transition will be very similar to what we did with the Legacy Arms brand last year when we switched factories. Like the situation with the factory fire of 2011, CAS will start with the primary cornerstone products in their respective categories that are not currently in stock, and we will expand from there once they are retooled.

When can we expect these new CAS Hanwei products?

If everything goes according to schedule, we hope to have the first of these products by late Summer. We will keep you updated as we add new products back to the line. We will publish such information in our newsletters.

What happens in the meantime?

We have a good amount of CAS Hanwei products currently in stock, and the last container is on its way arriving mid to late February, which will afford us a window of time to work on the transition to the new forge. We do anticipate the more intricately made items will take some time to retool like the rapiers and basket hilt swords. But similar sword designs should progress quickly. Sadly, there will be some discontinued products which have not been determined at this time. This is an evolving situation as we implement our production plans.

2025 and beyond

The year 2025 marks the 40th anniversary for CAS Iberia and we are very blessed and thankful to be able to celebrate this momentous achievement. As with any milestone, it is natural to pause and reflect on all that we have accomplished, all that we have overcome, all the wins, as well as all the losses. We take stock in the fact that we find ourselves still standing when we look around and see many cutlery giants from when we first began no longer there. Although the news about our CAS Hanwei factory closing is not how we would have preferred to start out 2025, we believe faithfully that "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven..."

As we step into this new year, this new season, we want to approach it with excitement and anticipation of what is yet to come. Our team will remain steadfast in our commitment to our customers, the quality of our products and the integrity of our brands. We have more new products coming out this year from Legacy Arms, Kingston Arms, APOC and more. Our shifting of the CAS Hanwei brands production should not affect our plans for growth in 2025 and beyond. Regardless, CAS Hanwei swords will continue to be made in Dalian, China, and we will be here to provide you with the best we have to offer.

If you have any questions that were not answered in this message, please feel free to reach out to us and ask. We will do our best to answer them with the information we have. Thank you for your time and attention.

-Team CAS

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