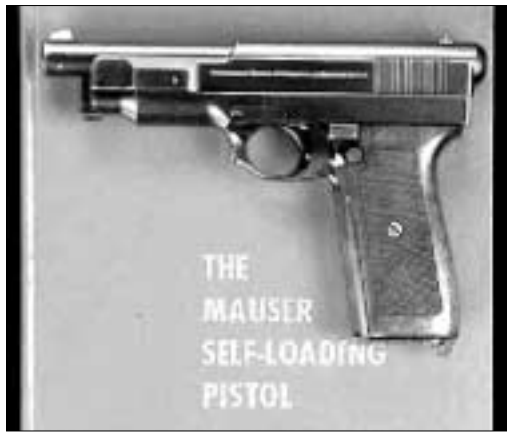


Auction Roundup

THE
AUCTION
GALLERY



Above: The top gun of the sale was this Mauser prototype, Model 1909-1912/1914, serial number 4, which hit \$86,250.

Rock Island Auction squeezes milestone

... in Illinois

The opportunity to see a handgun valued at more than \$80,000, especially one made in the 20th century, rarely happens. This chance of a lifetime occurred at the April 17-19 sale conducted by Rock Island Auction Co. at their 15,000-square-foot facility in Moline. The semiautomatic pistol was part of the Putnam Green collection, probably the finest collection of U.S. and European semiautomatic and sniper weapons ever to come to public auction.

The 2,800-lot inventory amassed a three-day sale total of \$5.3 million. The sale attracted 1,300 registered bidders and occupied 25 phone lines.

"It was unparalleled. We are extremely pleased with our results," said Patrick Hogan, president of Rock Island Auction Co.

The sale was a milestone for Rock Island in several categories. It was the first sale in which the company issued a two-volume, full-color catalog that ran more than 500 pages combined. It included the largest inventory of nonfirearm items in the saloon collection, and auction manager Judy Voss said the price for the top handgun was probably the highest they had ever achieved for other than a long gun.

That handgun was a prototype Mauser, Model 1909-1912/1914, in .45 caliber, bearing serial number 4. It is the only known example in existence. Wafenfabrik Mauser made the experimental pistol before World War I in response to the adoption of the .45 caliber as the weapon of choice for the U.S. Army. In overall excellent condition for a prototype subjected to extensive handling, this unique weapon commanded a winning bid from an anonymous buyer of \$86,250, including the buyer's premium of 15 percent on the first \$50,000 and 10 percent above that.

Despite staggering prices realized on rare and unique weapons, the biggest surprise of the sale was reserved for a lowly fountain pen from the Dale Anderson Collection. The pen was one of several used by Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the other Allied dignitaries at the Japanese surrender ceremony in 1945. After the proceedings the pen was given to Master of Arms Horace V. Bird for his efforts in organizing the surrender event. The pen was included in a matted frame with seven photographs of the event, one inscribed to Bird by Chief of Naval Personnel Adm. Clifton Sprague. This unique historical group was estimated to bring \$2,500-4,000, but collector William McDunagh of San Francisco was victorious with his winning phone bid of \$21,850.

The addition of the contents of the Victorian saloon produced an unusual crossover audience. While many gun collectors and dealers are interested in other artifacts of the Old West, this collection of saloon material also attracted a different group of collectors, making for excellent results. A Mills Upright slot machine from the period rang up \$12,650 and an eagle claw cigar lighter made \$5,463.

The sale had a 97 percent sell through rate and nearly 150 items sold for more than \$5,000 with the top 10 lots accounting for a total of \$517,500.

Contact: (800) 238-8022, www.rockislandauction.com

Music box had all the bells – and an organ, too

... in Ohio

"It's the first one I've ever seen with an organ," said Terry Agin. The veteran auctioneer was speaking of the remarkable music box that sold for \$4,500 at Lincoln Way Auction's April 25 sale in Bucyrus. Prices do not include a 10 percent buyer's premium. A veritable one-man-band, the machine was in mint condition with inlaid walnut case, and contained bells, castanets and a drum – everything, except a mark to indicate the maker.

Another mystery piece was an ornate five-section oak bookcase with paneled sides and a shaped gallery top – unmarked, but probably one of the early examples of the form. It brought \$1,500. A Victorian walnut and burl walnut davenport desk with cylinder top rolled to \$3,700 while an oak rolltop desk with raised panels on its sides, marked Tobey Furniture, Chicago, came in at \$1,850. A Victorian rosewood fire screen with rope-twist sides, openwork crest and skirt and a beaded needlepoint inset was a hot seller at \$2,100, as was an outstanding mirrored walnut hat rack adorned with three carved owls, which flew to \$1,750.



A Victorian walnut blackjack table, in excellent condition, was a lucky find for one bidder at \$1,250, while a mid-20th century 10-cent slot machine earned a \$1,000 payout. A 60in diameter plastic illuminated Marathon Oil sign, in working condition, sold at \$900 and a brass National Cash Register, model no. 350, rang up \$850. It had been professionally repolished.

A pair of Old Paris vases with double handles and ornate floral decorations brought \$375 each, and a pair of Roseville ewers in the Foxglove pattern sold for two times the money at \$275.

Contact: (419) 562-4363

Left: Outfitted with all the bells and an organ, this music box sold for \$4,500.

American furniture fireworks light up New Orleans Auction

... in Louisiana

New Orleans Auction Galleries started the summer early with some fireworks May 22-23.

An American Rococo Revival rosewood bedstead, most likely from the New Orleans shops of Prudent Mallard, attracted many of the oohs and aahs. Dating to the third quarter of the 19th century, the finials on the high back reached 84½in while the outside width measured 69½in wide and the length was 87in. Once a fixture from a plantation near Houma, La., the graceful but and sturdy bed sold for \$19,550. Prices include a 15 percent buyer's premium.

The surprise of the auction was an important and rare pair of late Regency cast-iron and marble-top gueridons having 24in diameter tabletops on tripod bases. Of a design attributed to Thomas Hope and probably manufactured by Falkirk Iron Co., Glasgow, Scotland, the low tables sold for \$52,900, far surpassing their \$4,000 high estimate. The gueridons may be related to a Rhode Island example bearing the inscription *Phyfe and Sons*. It was the subject of an article in the May 2000 issue of *The Magazine Antiques*.

A Napoleon III rosewood lady's secretary from the third quarter of the 19th century featured an étagère top with a pierced carved crest over stepped shelves and a band of three shallow drawers. The face of



Above: Probably the work of Prudent Mallard, this American Rococo bedstead sold for \$19,550 at New Orleans Auction Galleries.

the frieze drawer folded down to create a writing surface. Carved tracery highlighted the two glazed doors below. Standing 68in high, the stylish secretary sold for \$11,500.

Antique lighting included an American Rococo Revival six-arm gasolier in gilt-lacquered spelter, bronze and brass, 62in tall and 78in in diameter. A trio of figural cupid adorned this ornate fixture that held six etched glass bowl-form shades. Each of the figural mounts was labeled *Cornelius and Baker*. The gasolier sold for \$16,675.

Still Life With Roses, a 21½ by 29¾in oil on canvas painting by Eugene-Henri Cauchois (French, 1850-1911), topped \$13,800.

Contact: (800) 501-0277, www.neworleansauction.com

Left: A pair of Regency gueridons represents one of the earliest uses of cast-iron for furniture. Made in Scotland or England during the second quarter of the 19th century, the low tables sold for \$52,900 at New Orleans Auction Galleries Inc.

Highlights of Terry Agin's Lincoln Way Auction, Bucyrus, Ohio, April 25. Prices do not include 10 percent buyer's premium.



1860s rosewood fire screen with beaded needlepoint insert, \$2,100



19th century walnut blackjack table, excellent condition, \$1,250



Oak rolltop desk, 50in wide, raised panel sides, nice interior, Tobey Furniture, Chicago, \$1,850



Five-section oak bookcase, paneled sides, topped by shaped gallery, unmarked, \$1,500



Walnut hat rack decorated with three carved owls, \$1,750



Reverse-painted table lamp, 21in diameter eight-panel shade, \$2,100