

# FRONTLINE AUCTION NEWS



## ROCK ISLAND TOPS \$5.7 MILLION

Rock Island Auction Company sold \$5.7 million in firearms and related ephemera—a company record—during their Premiere Auction April 30-May 2, 2005. More than 2,700 lots were hammered down at their facility in Moline, Illinois. More than 1,100 bidders participated with 400+ in attendance at the Moline auction house. Over 10,500 absentee bids were placed with a 97% sell through rate. President Patrick Hogan stated: “The last several years have shown an unusually



This DWM 1904 Navy Luger realized \$63,250.



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strong market for firearms and the sales this year show no indication of the market slowing down.”

Highlights included:

\*The “Liberty” SAA, a master engraved Colt by Leonard Francolini, brought \$97,750.

\*An extraordinary Glahn engraved gold-inlaid 1st

Generation Colt SAA reached \$69,000.

\*Colt Alvin White engraved gold inlaid SAA presented to the Metropolitan Museum of Art benefit auction sold for \$69,000.

\*DWM 1904 Navy Luger realized \$63,250.

The auction also featured the single shot collection of Warren Greatbatch, led by an engraved custom Pope Ballard scoped single shot Schuetzen rifle at \$34,500. Mr. Greatbatch’s focus and true desire was to collect historically significant rifles that reflected the passion of the American Target rifle shooter and the character of the artisans who hand crafted the custom rifles. He

also understood the appeal of factory target rifles and his collection has some mint examples. This collection is one of the largest collections of high



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quality custom and factory target/match grade single shot rifles to ever come to auction.

The April/May sale was also the last chance to own an item from the final selection of the famous Peter and Patty Murray Winchester Collection, including an extremely rare Nick Kusmit engraved Winchester Model 21, 410 double barrel shotgun, which brought \$28,750 and the historic General Curtis LeMay Colt Model 1908 hammerless .380 Model M automatic pistol, which realized \$34,500.



An extraordinary Glahn engraved gold-inlaid 1st Generation Colt SAA reached \$69,000.

## TOP 15 LOTS, APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2005

All figures include a 15% buyer’s premium.

**Lot 265.1.** The Magnificent Twenty as a set—\$494,500 (The rifles were sold in the “continental” style first offered individually. The individual amount established the opening bid amount as \$260,000. There were numerous bidders at the \$260,000 level, driving the price to the eventual winning bid of \$494,500.). It is a one-of-a-kind collection of Browning Exhibition Grade Engraved Olympic Rifles all consecutively serial numbered and all signed by at least two Browning master engravers. The series includes every caliber manufactured by Browning in their catalog of 1966. The set is unfired, immaculate, and took 3½ years to build. There are 85 animal scenes engraved into the set.

**Lot 3322.** Cased Leonard Francolini Statue of Liberty Colt Single Action—\$97,750. This engraved Colt by Leonard Francolini celebrates the 100th anniversary of Lady Liberty. steel, copper, and wood were used to create the case, and tools. The engraved copper inlays used on the piece document the statue and were taken directly from the restoration work done on the statue for its 100th birthday.

**Lot 3059.** Extraordinary Glahn-engraved, gold-inlaid 1st generation Colt Single Action Army Revolver—\$69,000.

**Lot 3337.** Colt Alvin White engraved, gold-inlaid Single Action Army presented to the Metropolitan Museum of Art Benefit Auction Revolver—\$69,000.

**Lot 2065.** Extremely rare DWM 1904 Navy Luger Automatic Pistol—\$63,250.

**Lot 2066.** Exceptional cased Loewe & Company Model 1893 Borchardt Automatic Pistol with accessories—\$40,250.

**Lot 3212.** Engraved custom Pope Ballard Scoped Single Shot Schuetzen Rifle—\$34,500.

**Lot 3119.** Rare U.S. Inspected Henry Lever Action Rifle—\$34,500.

**Lot 3127.** Exceptional Winchester Model 1873 Lever Action Rifle—\$31,625.

**Lot 3214.** Mint rare Special Order Winchester Model 1885 Takedown Scoped High Wall Laudensack Style Schuetzen Rifle—\$31,625.

**Lot 3211.** Rare mint factory Winchester Model 1885 High Wall Helm Model Schuetzen Rifle with shooting kit—\$31,625.

**Lot 3207.** Extremely rare Engraved Sharp’s Borchardt/Zischang Schuetzen Rifle—\$31,625.

**Lot 3209.** Engraved custom Pope Ballard scoped single shot Schuetzen Rifle—\$ 25,875.

## ABOUT ROCK ISLAND AUCTION

Rock Island Auction Company’s next auction will be held August 27-29, 2005. It will feature a huge selection of American historical firearms from the Revolution through WWII. This selection includes one of the finest groupings of mint and outstanding condition Civil War and Indian War long arms to ever come to auction. Most certainly it will feature the finest Mississippi rifle collection ever offered for sale. The collection includes Confederate as well as Union arms. The August sale will also continue the engraved Colt collection.

For more information on upcoming auctions, contact Rock Island Auction Co., 4507 49th Ave., Moline, IL 61265; phone: 800.238.8022; Web site: [www.rockislandauction.com](http://www.rockislandauction.com)