



Rock Island's Sale Nears \$5 Million

GROSS SALES AT ROCK ISLAND AUCTION'S MASSIVE 3,073-LOT FIREARMS SALE APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 1 APPROACHED THE \$5 MILLION MARK.

Rock Island Auction's first Premiere Auction of 2006 was held April 29 to May 1, and action picked up where it stopped in 2004 and 2005, with gross receipts totaling almost \$5 million. That figure includes the 15 percent buyer's premium, as do all other prices in this report.

"The market for collectible firearms continues to be very strong," Rock Island Auction Co. President Patrick Hogan said.

The sale was particularly strong considering the highest lot was a Henry rifle at \$86,250.

A Rare Henry Leads the Way

A rare engraved U.S.-contract Henry Rifle was the highest selling item of the auction, garnering \$86,250 — well more than the auctioneer's estimate of \$40,000 to \$60,000. One of about 800 Henrys with Ordnance inspection marks issued to the 1st District of Columbia Cavalry in 1864, the receiver engraving features a spread eagle, "MAINE" and a "DEATH TO TRAITORS" scroll on the right side, and an American flag, shield and "SGT. R.L. SCHICK/1st DIST. OF COLUMBIA/CAVALRY" on its left.

Another professionally engraved Henry, inscribed to "Chr. Winterhoff" — apparently a veteran of Antietam who served with the 4th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and later with the 3rd Veteran Volunteer

Infantry Regiment in 1865 — also attracted considerable bidding. Estimated at \$22,000 to \$27,000, it sold for \$37,375. The third Henry, an early production version with an original sling — in the same serial number range as several Henry rifles identified with the 66th Illinois Infantry (Western Sharpshooters) — was estimated at \$16,000 to \$25,000 but sold for \$31,625.

The Roar of the '20s

According to the auctioneers, the surprise of the weekend was an original, unaltered Colt M1921AC Thompson submachine gun, complete with Cutts compensator and a 50-round drum magazine. It sold for an astounding \$80,500, the second-highest result at the sale. Bidding swiftly skyrocketed past the \$25,000 to \$45,000 catalog estimates, and the hall broke into applause as the hammer fell on this fully automatic Class III firearm. Proceeds from its sale will go to benefit a local animal shelter in Rock Island, Ill.



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Breathtaking Model 21s

The sale featured an outstanding showing of 10 lots of Winchester Model 21s. The most impressive — and the third-highest realization — was a magnificent custom-cased set

of two gold-inlaid Model 21 side-by-side shotguns, each action with a 28-inch improved-cylinder- and modified-choked 20-gauge, 28-gauge and .410-bore vent-rib barrel. In like-new condition, the set sold within its presale estimates at \$74,750.

Another Model 21 highlight was a cased, consecutively numbered set of two engraved special-order shotguns in 28 gauge and .410 bore, built in 1970. Elaborately gold-inlaid and engraved but never used, they sold for \$46,000, as did a cased custom Nick Kusmit-engraved, gold-inlaid Royal Grand American

Grade Model 21 double rifle in .45-70, estimated at \$35,000 to \$60,000.

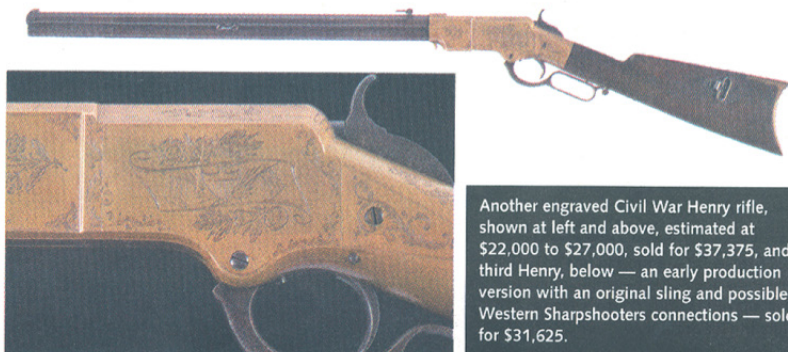
A very handsome 20-gauge Model 21, with "excellent plus" metal and wood, "Showing only the very slightest handling marks," brought \$10,350, within its \$8,000 to \$12,000 estimate. Still, some astute bidders occasionally found exceptional bargains, including a like-new condition, special order, custom gold-inlaid 28-gauge Model 21. Estimated at \$20,000 to \$30,000, it sold for \$11,500.

Exceptional Pistols, Exceptional Prices

An array of varied handguns also posted notewor-

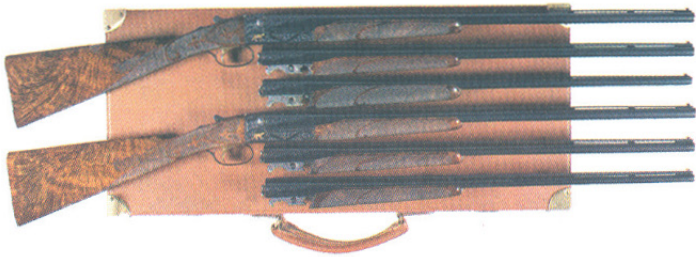


The top performer at the April 29 through May 1 Rock Island Auction Co. sale was the rare, engraved U.S.-contract Henry Rifle below, issued to and engraved — as shown above — for a sergeant in the 1st District of Columbia Cavalry in 1864. It sold for \$86,250 — well more than the presale expectation of \$40,000 to \$60,000.



Another engraved Civil War Henry rifle, shown at left and above, estimated at \$22,000 to \$27,000, sold for \$37,375, and a third Henry, below — an early production version with an original sling and possible Western Sharpshooters connections — sold for \$31,625.





The top price among 10 exceptional lots of Winchester Model 21s was this custom-cased set of two gold-inlaid Model 21 side-by-side shotguns, each action with a 28-inch 20-gauge, 28-gauge and .410-bore vent-rib barrels and forearms. In like-new condition, estimated at \$65,000 to \$80,000, this magnificent set sold for \$74,750.

thy prices, led by an outstanding factory-cased, relief-engraved, SA Presentation Walther Model PP pistol with carved ivory grips and more than 95 percent of its original gold-plated finish. It sold to a collector for \$57,500.

An unaltered pre-World War II 20-shot Cone Hammer Broomhandle Mauser Pistol also found favor with bidders. Estimated at \$20,000 to \$35,000, it soared to \$40,250.



The top handgun at the sale was this outstanding Nazi-era factory-cased, relief-engraved SA Presentation Walther Model PP 7.65 mm pistol with carved ivory grips and more than 95 percent of its original factory gold-plated finish. This Third Reich rarity was sold to a collector for \$57,500.

Another early German semiautomatic that topped its estimate was a rare, original, unaltered, turn-of-the-century DWM Borchardt 7.65 mm Luger pistol with original shoulder stock and leather holster. It sold for \$23,000.

A rare nickel-plated Colt open-top Model 1871-'72 .44 revolver, the predecessor to the historic Colt Single Action Army, was produced in a limited run of only 7,000. Estimated at \$9,000 to \$14,000, rated excellent with about 90 percent of the original nickel remaining overall, it sold for \$25,875.

The sale featured a very elusive example in exceptional condition of the Keen, Walker & Co. "Perry" carbine, fewer than 300 of which were produced for the Confederate government in mid-1862. It sold for a relatively modest \$25,875.

Another rarity was a martially marked James Warner breech-loading .50-caliber Civil War carbine in excellent condition, made by the Massachusetts Arms Co. circa 1864 and used by cavalry units from the Bay State and Wisconsin. It sold for \$18,400 against an estimate of \$15,000 to \$22,500.

Major Sales Ahead

Rock Island Auction Co. will hold its next major sale Sept. 9 through 11, followed by a third Dec. 2 through 4. Contact the company at 4507 49th Ave., Moline, IL 61265-7578. Or, call (800) 238-8022, send an e-mail to info@rockislandauction.com, or view the RIA Web site at www.rockislandauction.com. ■



A rare, unaltered prewar 20-shot Cone Hammer Broomhandle Mauser Pistol, fewer than 100 of which were built to compete with other large-capacity pistols, was estimated at \$20,000 to \$35,000. It soared to a surprising \$40,250.