

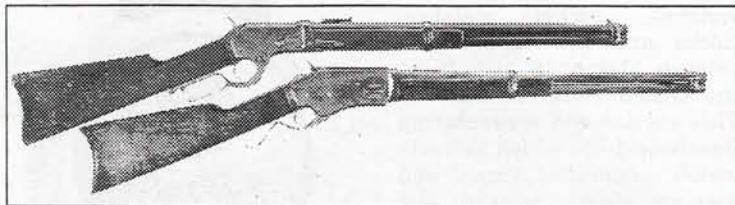


This set of 22 Colt bullet molds set off a bidding war that ended at \$3,450

Rock Island's Regional Sale Sees Vibrant Gun Market

MOLINE, ILL. — After setting a new industry record for yearly sales in 2008, Rock Island Auction Co. (RIAC) started off the new year with its February 6 and 7 regional sale reaching a record-setting \$2.2 million — doubling any other previous regional sale in Rock Island history.

The huge success of this sale

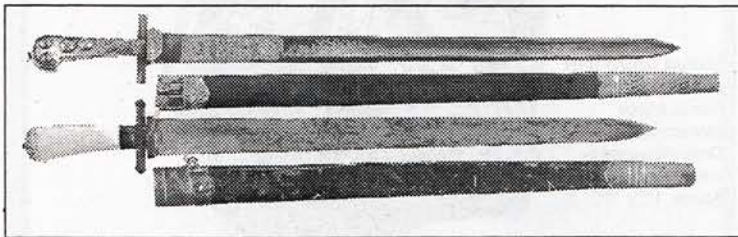


Two lever action carbines were sold together: a Colt Burgess lever action saddle ring carbine and a Whitney-Kennedy lever action saddle ring carbine brought \$7,475.

Auction Action In Moline, Ill.



Custom engraved Colt Hartford English dragoon percussion revolver sold at \$6,900.



Two German hunting swords with sheaths realized \$5,463.

shows that not only are gun prices going up, but people are investing in what they know. More than 2,100 lots were offered that contained 4,300-plus firearms and lodge-type furnishings from the Will Hoffeld estate.

Regional sales at RIAC contain more affordable antiques and beginning collector's items that normally attract "regional" bidders (usually people with in a five-hour radius). Distance was not an issue at this sale, however, as bids came in from all over the country; the number of bidders almost equaled the number of lots in the auction.

The gun market proved to be vibrant, as Rock Island experienced a record number of sealed preauction bids for a regional



An excellent late production Winchester M1 carbine hit \$4,025.

sale, more than 14,000, with a minimum average of seven bids per item — some lots had as many as 25 preauction bids.

Saturday started with a standing-room-only crowd at the 4507 49th Avenue gallery, and lasted throughout a good part of the day as bidding interest drove up the prices on many lots. Sunday continued the success of Saturday, also drawing a large crowd.

The top sellers include a frame of bullet molds from the Hoffeld estate, which sold for \$3,450, more than four times the high estimate. M1 Garands and carbines were in high demand from the bidders; an excellent late

production Winchester M1 carbine brought \$4,025.

Nearly all the Smith & Wesson offerings were sold at or above their low estimate, including a Smith & Wesson #3 second model American revolver, which realized \$2,300.

Other notable items were two German hunting swords with sheaths that reached \$5,462, and a lot of two lever action carbines — a Colt Burgess lever action saddle ring carbine and a Whitney-Kennedy lever action saddle ring carbine — brought \$7,475.

For more information, 800-238-8022 or www.rockislandauction.com