

Colts ran wild at December Rock Island sale

... in Illinois

The Colts ran wild at Rock Island Auction's final sale of the year on Dec. 2-4 at the Rock Island facility in Moline. More than 700 Colts in the 3,803-lot sale comprised 11 of the top 12 lots and accounted for more than \$4 million of the \$8.5 three-day auction total.

The top pony in the herd was a factory cased Colt no. 2 belt model Paterson revolver in excellent condition. The .34-caliber sidearm with a 4½ barrel retained 95 percent of the original blue finish and exhibited minimal wear. Estimated at \$175,000-250,000, the revolver netted \$299,000, including the 15 percent buyer's premium.

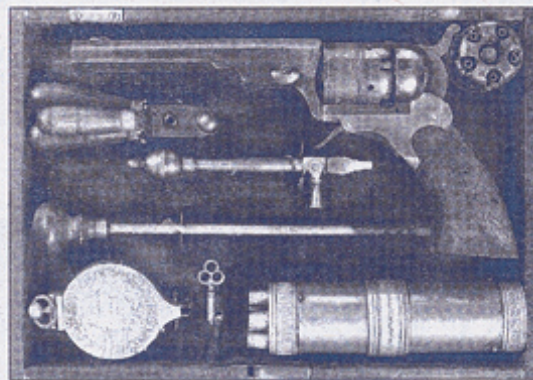
Another Colt Paterson was close on the heels of the leader. A square-back Texas Holster Paterson model no. 5 is one of the most sought after Paterson models. Only 1,000 were made between 1838 and 1840 and only 150 are known to exist today. This revolver, serial number 408 in .36-caliber, exceeded the high estimate selling for \$264,500.

Several historically important pieces

crossed the block including the "National Treasure" Savage Model 1907 presented to William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody by the factory in 1911. The special edition semi-automatic .32-caliber pistol was inscribed *COL W.F.CODY* on the backstrap. The treasure brought a winner of \$126,500.

A pair of boxed Colts, an 1862 police percussion .36-caliber revolver and an 1861 .36-caliber Navy, were presented personally by Col. Colt to Gen. R.B. Marcy. This rare double casing in a rosewood case sold well above the high estimate at \$230,000. A Colt .380 model M semi-auto pistol issued to Gen. Curtis LeMay in 1944 accompanied him on active duty for many years. With the original general officer's belt and holster, the pistol brought \$37,375.

Other significant Colt lots included a cased Gustave Young factory engraved model 1849 pocket revolver with panel scenes, \$207,000; a Colt D Company Walker model, \$184,000; a prewar factory engraved first-generation single-action army in original box, \$143,750; and a Belt Paterson no. 2 for \$109,250.



Above: This cased Colt Paterson no. 2 with accessories was top lot of the Colts and the entire sale bringing a winning bid of \$299,000.

Thirty-five lots exceeded the high estimate by more than 172½ percent. The highest premium above estimate came late in the sale on a Colt Combat Commander .45 semi-automatic in nearly new in-the-box condition, which closed at \$3,737.50.

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