

RIA's next auction may put yearly sales over \$30M

MOLINE, Ill. — Rock Island Auction Company announces the next Premiere Firearms auction to be held Dec. 4-6 at their facility in Moline, IL. Rock Island is on track for another banner year as a successful December auction could put yearly sales over \$30 million. With most items unreserved this sale is expected to maintain the 97 percent sell-through rate Rock Island has established over the last five years. This sale will be the most diverse auction of RIAC's history with antique historic pieces to modern sporting and military arms, this auction offers firearms for every level of collecting.

Colt manufactured firearms take center stage at this auction with a staggering 700+ items being offered. Spotting this section is a seldom-offered, possibly finest known Colt U.S. Walker replacement dragoon revolver estimated to bring \$100,000-\$185,000, as well as more than 200 Colt single actions and Bisleys, including several extraordinary factory engraved prewar Colt single action

army revolvers. Another stand out Colt is William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's black powder Colt single action army "Frontier Six Shooter" revolver with factory case expected to reach \$50,000-\$70,000. There are over 100 Colt percussion revolvers led by an exceptional and historic, deluxe, cased Gustave Young factory engraved model 1849 pocket revolver (\$55,000-\$85,000) and a scarce high conditioned Colt third model dragoon revolver with four-screw frame (\$32,500-\$40,000).

The December sale boasts one of the largest selections of Colt long arms to come to auction. Many Colt sporting rifles will be offered including a cased Colt 1855 first model sporting rifle (\$20,000-\$30,000). An early production Colt Model 1839 Paterson carbine with two-digit serial number is estimated \$16,000-\$25,000 and is one of six Colt Patersons in this sale.

The Civil War arms in this auction are impressive. This collection includes many high condition pieces including more than 30 Confederate arms, an opportunity rarely seen at auction. Two of the many exceptional pieces are an extremely rare documented Confederate Augusta Machine Works percussion 12-notch style revolver and a Second Model Civil War Le Mat and Girard's

Patent London marked percussion Grape-



Very Rare, Possibly Finest Known
Colt U.S. Walker Replacement
Dragoon Revolver. Estimate: \$100,000-
\$185,000.

Shot revolver valued at \$25,000-\$35,000 each. Several historical and presentation pieces can be found including a Confederate presentation revolving rifle inscribed to ordnance officer Caleb Huse, an outstanding Colt model 1851 percussion Navy revolver belonging to Confederate Colonel James Gregory Hodges who was killed at Pickett's Charge, and a Confederate Augusta Machine Works percussion revolver inscribed to H. Canning, a crew member of the C.S.S. Shenandoah. Other Confederate manufacturers include Spiller & Burr, Rigdon & Ansley, Griswold & Gunnison, Richmond Armory and many more.

The impressive offering of Civil War era firearms continue with a rare prototype Savage revolving firearms co. navy model revolver with attachable shoulder stock (\$17,000-\$22,500) and a scarce LeMat Pinfire carbine serial number 7 with gold inlay (\$7,500-\$15,000). A scarce Civil War era Manson Sheffield fighting knife with patriotic etching and silver fittings is one of more than 60 Bowie type knives in this auction.

There is a special grouping of Sharps long arms in this auction. The rifles, muskets and carbines comparable to those RIAC sold from the famous Sharps collector and author Frank Sellers. Two examples include a Sharps ultra heavy barrel special order Model 1874 bench rest target rifle with factory letter (\$25,000-\$37,500) and a Berdan Sharpshooters Sharps New Model 1859 rifle (\$10,000-\$16,000).

The grouping of revolving rifles, shotguns and curio type pistols is amazing. This is one of the largest offerings to come to auction with a rarity and quality never before

Above left: This factory engraved Kreighoff presentation Luger pistol with leather case and two matching magazines is estimated to bring \$100,000-\$200,000 at the December RIA auction.
Left: This cased engraved, consecutively serial numbered pair of Holland & Holland Royal Exhibition Grade hammerless double barrel game bird set of shotguns with gold inlays and factory weapon history letter is expected to bring \$35,000-\$65,000.

offered. The most notable of the group is a unique cased Bunge revolving rifle estimated at \$19,000-\$25,000. Other examples include a Collier revolving percussion shotgun (\$10,000-\$15,000), an elaborate engraved and gold inlaid Cogswell percussion revolving rifle (\$6,500-\$9,500) and a second type, C.B. Allen Cochran patent revolving Turret rifle (\$12,000-\$15,000). This unique grouping also holds several harmonica pistols, belt model revolvers and turret pistols including an engraved four shot percussion Turret pistol marked JLC Brevette (\$11,000-\$16,000) and a documented French Jarre 10-shot double action pinfire harmonica pistol (\$7,500-\$15,000).

The large selection of diverse derringers contains quality featuring several experimental/ prototype and one-of-a-kind pieces. Leading with an experimental/ prototype J. Rider marked double action pocket revolver with trigger guard loading lever estimated at \$16,000-\$25,000. Another fine example is a one-of-a-kind documented inventors prototype model Remington vest pocket pistol awarded NRA best display medal carrying a presale estimate of \$14,000-\$20,000. The Remington derringers in this sale are some of the finest ever offered.

In excess of 200 Winchesters are offered in the auction. There are several fine lever actions starting with a magnificent Winchester Model 1873 saddle ring carbine (\$37,500-\$50,000) and an excellent special order Winchester Model 1886 semi-deluxe lever action rifle with factory letter (\$18,000-\$27,500). Collectors will enjoy the quality in a historical, inscribed Henry patent barrel marked Winchester Model 1866 rifle (\$9,500-\$15,000) and a special order nickel plated Winchester Model 1892 saddle ring carbine with factory letter (\$7,000-\$9,000).

The 400 plus sporting arms in this auction will impress both sportsmen and collectors. More than 200 shotguns will be of-

(Continued on page 15)



Photos courtesy Rock Island Auction Co.

AUCTION PREVIEWS

(Continued from page 14)

ffered including several top notch European shotguns from Holland & Holland, Purdey, Westley Richards and others. A magnificent cased engraved gold inlaid consecutively serial numbered pair of Holland & Holland royal exhibition grade hammerless double barrel game bird set shotguns with factory weapon history letter is estimated at \$35,000-\$65,000.

An outstanding selection of U.S. military arms will be offered with rare variations and several prototype weapons. A "Snabb" developmental Springfield Model 1903 semi-automatic experimental rifle and a WWII Standard Products presentation grade M1 carbine with special stand, display case and accessories are just two examples. An exceptional original Colt Model 1921/1928 U.S. Navy over stamp Thompson submachine gun is one of the 6 class III weapons in this sale.

More than 100 1911's and early autos will be in this sale including a Singer Manufacturing Company Model 1911A1 semi-automatic pistol estimated at \$37,500-\$55,000. An auction favorite is a documented, presentation cased early production Colt Government Model

semi-automatic pistol with historical inscription and gold inlay. This spectacular example of a "highly factory optioned" Colt Government Model Semi-Automatic pistol carries a presale estimate of \$20,000-\$40,000. A prototype, Colt Model 1910 semi-automatic pistol is one of several experimental or prototype Colts in this auction and is expected to bring \$60,000-\$95,000.

In its entirety, more than 2,700 lots will be sold Dec. 4-6 by Rock Island Auction Company. With its diversity and most items unreserved, this is the auction that will help to fill a hole in your collection. The December auction

is cataloged in two full-color volumes, which can be ordered through the mail (\$60) or viewed online at www.rockisland-auction.com. Rock Island Auction Company is currently seeking consignments for their upcoming auctions.

For more information, visit <http://rockislandauction.com>, e-mail info@rockislandauction.com, or call 800-238-8022.