

Rock Island Auction Company's Spectacular Regional Sale Proves Gun Prices are on the Rise

After setting a new industry record for yearly sales in 2008, Rock Island Auction starts the 2009 year with the February 6 & 7 Regional Sale reaching an astounding \$2.2 million - doubling any other previous regional sale. The huge success of this sale shows that not only are gun prices going up, but people are investing in what they



know. Over 2100 lots were offered that contained over 4300 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 (people with in a 5 hour radius). However, distance was not an issue 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 pre-auction bids for a regional sale, over 14,000 sealed bids- a staggering minimum average of 7 bids per item! Some lots had up to 25 pre-auction bids! Saturday started with standing room only 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 and also drew a large crowd while Rock Island proved once again that firearms that come to Rock Island Auction SELL, as only two lots from the massive auction did not sell!

The top sellers include a frame of bullet molds from the prominent Will Hoffeld estate which sold for \$3,450, over four times the high estimate! M1 Grands and M1 Carbines were in high demand from the bidders, an

excellent late production Winchester M1 carbine brought \$4,025. Nearly all Smith and Wessons sold at or above the low estimate including a Smith & Wesson number three second model American revolver which realized \$2,300 - nearly twice the low estimate! Other notable items are two

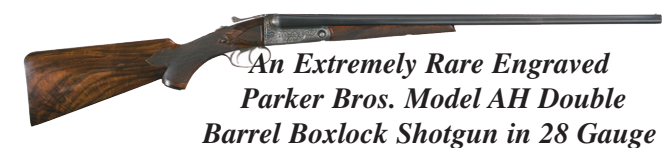
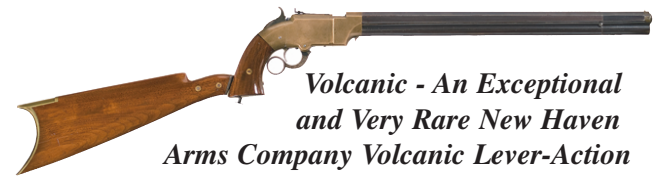
German hunting swords with sheaths that reached \$5,462 and a lot of two lever action carbines (a Colt burgess lever action saddle ring carbine and a Whitney-Kennedy lever action saddle ring carbine) brought \$7,475.

Rock Island expects to build upon the success of the regional sale with a fantastic Spring Premiere Auction to be held April 25, 26 & 27. This auction will offer firearms for every level of collecting including Colts, Winchesters, European military, over 100 1911's, Class III and hundreds of fine sporting arms. The sale will feature the second part of the Will Hoffeld estate and firearms collection - a massive old time collection that is rarely seen today. Also included is the final installment of the Frank Sellers collection, Frank Sellers is the author of Sharps Rifles and over 20 other books. Military firearms from the Scott Meadows collection, author of U.S. Military Automatic Pistols Volume 1 & 2. One of the finest Derringer collections to come to auction including large group of high condition Philadelphia Derringers, Henry Derringers and a rare Butterfield Derringer. Outstanding collection from the Indian Wars including fine trapdoors, Smith & Wessons, Colts, Remingtons and documented Custer

battlefield relics. Another highlight of this auction will be the quality sporting rifles and shotguns in many rare calibers and small gauges, the largest grouping of small bore shotguns ever offered - over 100 .410 gauge, over 100 20 gauge, over 50 28 gauge and over 30 16 gauge! There are also many pre-64 Winchester Model 70's in rare calibers.

Visit www.rockislandauction.com for more information or to join our mailing list to stay updated on this and other outstanding events. You can also call Rock Island at **1-800-238-8022**.

The following 3 Firearms will be in our Upcoming April 25th, 26th, & 27th Auction.



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