

**ROCK ISLAND
Moline, Illinois
6-8 December**

It is staggering to hear, but the tough economy had no bearing on Rock Island's December Premiere Auction of over 2,700 lots, as sales reached nearly \$8 million, the buyers confirming the belief that gun collections are 'tangible assets' that seem to be a solid investment in this unstable economy. While the stock market can vary by six to 10% in a single day, collectable firearms are proving to maintain value. This is a trend Rock Island has apparently noticed all year – the very successful December sale put the company to over \$31 million in annual sales. The top seller of this auction was a rare Colt Texas Paterson revolver with seven German silver bands and ivory grips. One of the eight Patersons offered

at no reserve, it sold for \$103,500. Lot 3516, a rare Hotchkiss revolving naval cannon with carriage mount and accessories [see Richard Garrett's feature on Hotchkiss in CAAM XV 5 and 6], brought \$92,000. Lot 140, a cased pair of consecutively serial-numbered Winchester-built Model 21 three-barrel set shotguns, was brought within its estimate price of \$80,500. There was a fine selection of sporting arms including rifles, shotguns and pistols. Sporting enthusiasts bid a total of over \$819,000 on shotguns and over \$405,000 on sporting rifles and pistols. A set of three Browning Renaissance semi-automatic pistols in a wood case sold for \$7,475 while the top seller for sporting rifles was a master-engraved B Ludwig Merkel model K2 Vintagers series single-shot stalking rifle with scope (\$12,650). An exceptional quality engraved and gold

inlaid Hoffman Arms English proofed side-by-side box lock shotgun with ejectors brought an above-estimate price of \$23,000 (from \$12,000 - \$18,000). Bidders also pushed a L Ernst engraved gold inlaid Belgium Browning P2Q-grade water fowl edition superposed shotgun with box to twice the high estimate, selling for \$20,700. For further details of this auction and the next Rock Island sale, see www.rockislandauction.com.



Cased pair of consecutively serial-numbered Winchester-built Model 21 three barrel set shotguns: \$80,000



Rare Colt Texas Paterson Revolver with seven silver bands and ivory grip: \$103,500

Rare Hotchkiss revolving Naval cannon with carriage mount and accessories: \$92,000