

Rock Island Event Nets \$12.4 Million

IT'S A SIGN OF THE TIMES. COLLECTIBLE GUNS CONTINUE TO FETCH HIGH PRICES AT AUCTIONS. INVESTORS ARE STARTING TO REALIZE GUN COLLECTING CAN OUTPACE WALL STREET.

Collectible firearms continue to bring big money at auctions. During a three-day sale Sept. 6, 7 and 8 in Moline, Ill., Rock Island Auction Co. again surpassed its previous sales record. The premier sale featured more than 2,700 lots of quality firearms, edged weapons, military artifacts and more. Total sales reached \$12.4 million, which represents another record in the world of collectible firearms sales.

Top Sellers

The September auction proved strong for all types of firearms and every level of collector.

The top-selling item, setting a world record for a Winchester Model 1876, was a magnificent 1-of-1000 Winchester 1876 lever-action rifle with deluxe gold trim. It brought a round of applause for the world-record price of \$494,500 (Lot 3215).

Others on the roll of honor at the auction included an exceptionally rare Colt Model 1874 Camel Gatling Gun complete with its original carriage crate, cover and accessories. It sold at

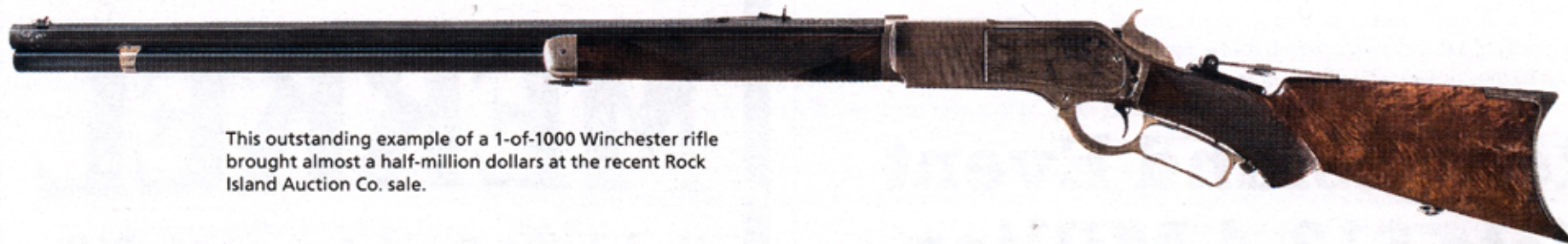
\$230,000 (Lot 1314). An exceptional deluxe factory-engraved, gold-plated Henry lever-action rifle — one of the finest known examples — brought \$241,500 (Lot 3233).

This auction also featured more than 600 Colts, including more than 60 factory-cased Colts, starting with a spectacular cased, engraved Colt Third Model Dragoon that sold for \$253,000 (Lot 3110).

Another highlight was a rare factory-cased Colt Texas Paterson revolver with an extra matching numbered cylinder and accessories, which sold for \$172,500 (Lot 3106).

Bidding interest was keen for an exceptional pre-war William Gough engraved Colt SAA with steer-head ivory grips. Estimated at \$30,000 to \$45,000, the Colt commanded \$63,250 (Lot 3315). Another rifle bringing big money was an exceptional Civil War Era Henry

This fabulous engraved, cased Third Model Dragoon sold for \$253,000. It was one of some 600 Colts sold at the recent Rock Island Auction Co. sale that netted \$12.4 million.



This outstanding example of a 1-of-1000 Winchester rifle brought almost a half-million dollars at the recent Rock Island Auction Co. sale.

lever-action rifle. With a low estimate at \$75,000, the rifle sold for \$149,500 (Lot 3007).

Other Notables

Whenever an item with Old West history comes to the block the bidders bring their cash. A historic engraved Colt Thunderer Model 1877 double-action revolver presented to lawman Pat Garrett, killer of Billy The Kid, by his El Paso friends was no different, bringing an impressive \$138,000 (Lot 1311).

With the outstanding military collection of Barry Garthofner being offered, military collectors had much on which to bid, including more than 75 quality Lugers; 50 sniper rifles; hundreds of American, German and Japanese military long arms; and many rare, scarce or top-quality military pistols. Of interest to

many was the Model 1902 DWM Luger Carbine with its stock, leather case and extra barrel. The lot exceeded estimates selling for \$37,375 (Lot 1709).

The Spanish-American War collection had excellent results. The rarity of a captured Spanish unit battle flag created much interest, and the flag sold for \$4,312 (Lot 252) — more than seven times the low estimated value.

Every gun collector collects more than just firearms, so when an exceptional Union Metallic Cartridge Board (Lot 3242) came on the block, bidders knew what they had before them and stepped up, pushing the price to \$28,750. However it didn't stop there. Other non-gun items included the large unmarked Strong signal cannon with a carriage, which brought \$6,325 (Lot 326); a rare Case V-42 Stiletto,

which sold for an impressive \$6,325 (Lot 3477); and an extremely rare U.S. Springfield Amory Experimental Model 1909 bolo bayonet with a sheath, which almost doubled the low estimate at \$9,775 (Lot 3478).

"The goal of our company is to service all levels of collecting," said Patrick Hogan, owner of RIAC. "We set world records as well as offering firearms for the beginning-level collector. This auction achieved this goal. We set a world record for an 1876 at \$494,500 yet we sold many \$1,000 to \$5,000 firearms, as well. With the stock market in turmoil, I believe collectors realize the overall strength of collecting, and I believe we will continue to be the world leader in firearms sales at auction."