

Auction Views

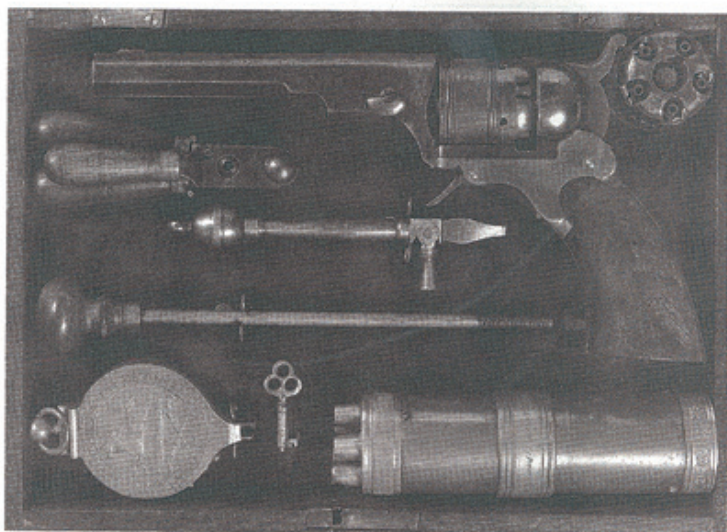
\$299K Pistol Tops Rock Island December '06 Sale Gun Aficionados Spend More Than \$8.5M on Important Firearms

Noah Fleisher

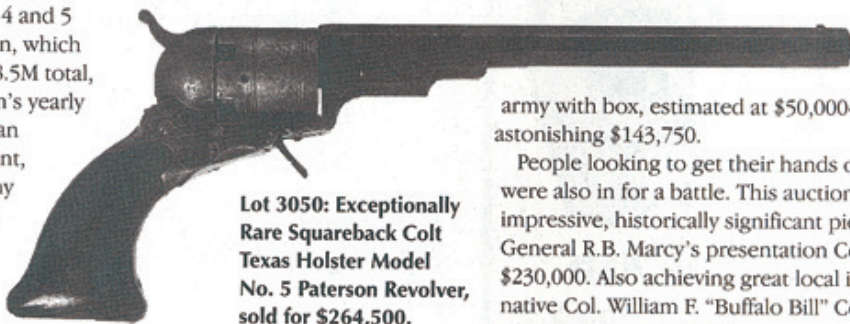
Love it or hate it, Americans always have and always will love their guns. While the context of that previous phrase can be taken in many ways, in this instance I'm talking about antique guns, fantastic examples of them, and one of the nation's premiere firearms auction houses: Rock Island Auction Company in Molina, Illinois.

An early December snowstorm in the Midwest couldn't dim the enthusiasm of American gun collectors when Rock Island offered its December 3, 4 and 5 Premiere Auction, which brought in an \$8.5M total, bringing the firm's yearly total to more than \$19M. The amount, impressive by any standards, set a the record for yearly sales at a gun auction, exceeding the industry record established by Rock Island in 2005 of nearly \$16 million. This sale makes it the third consecutive year that the company is the world's leader in yearly sales by firearms auction houses, and pushes Rock Island's total sales since its inception to more than \$100M.

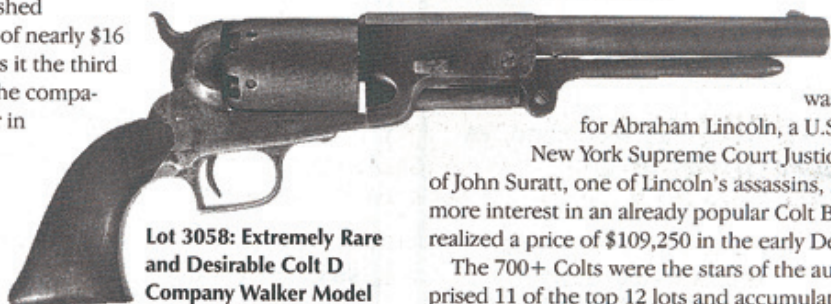
The auction hall was full when the first lot went up



Lot 1073: Magnificent Factory Cased Colt No. 2 Belt Model Paterson Revolver with Accessories, sold for \$299,000.



Lot 3050: Exceptionally Rare Squareback Colt Texas Holster Model No. 5 Paterson Revolver, sold for \$264,500.



Lot 3058: Extremely Rare and Desirable Colt D Company Walker Model Percussion Revolver, sold for \$184,000.

for sale at 10 a.m. on December 3 and, as would be expected at any auction, there were items that achieved lofty prices and some that were relative bargains. The weekend consisted of many surprises and several world records, including nine lots that each sold for more than \$100,000 with eight of the nine lots selling for more than their high estimate.

The star of the auction ended up being a magnificent factory cased Colt Paterson with accessories, which sold for \$299,000. A pleasantly surprising lot was the factory engraved, first generation Colt single action

army with box, estimated at \$50,000-\$70,000, which sold for an astonishing \$143,750.

People looking to get their hands on other pieces of history were also in for a battle. This auction featured some very impressive, historically significant pieces, including Civil War General R.B. Marcy's presentation Colt revolvers which sold for \$230,000. Also achieving great local interest was LeClaire, Iowa native Col. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's 1907 Savage pistol, which sold for \$126,500.

Providing a little history on Edwards Pierrepont, who was a campaign manager for Abraham Lincoln, a U.S. Attorney General, a New York Supreme Court Justice, and the prosecutor of John Suratt, one of Lincoln's assassins, helped gain even more interest in an already popular Colt Belt Paterson, which realized a price of \$109,250 in the early December sale.

The 700+ Colts were the stars of the auction as they comprised 11 of the top 12 lots and accumulated more than \$4M million in sales. There were some big surprises including a Colt 1860 Army revolver with a pre-sale high estimate of \$42,500,

that sold for \$97,750. The Winchesters made a strong showing during the sale with two outstanding Henry rifles leading the way. A Winchester 1886 Lever Action achieved \$34,500 and an early production four digit serial number, first number 1873 Deluxe passed its high estimate of \$9,000 and sold for \$12,650.

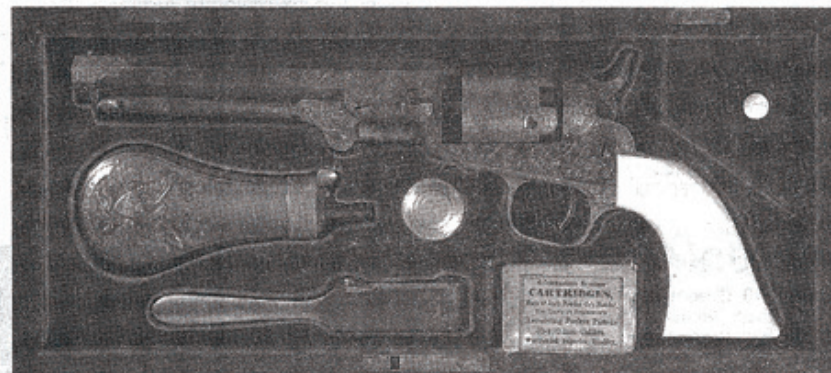
More than 500 items classified as European, Japanese and Third Reich military items were sold, including a high number of scarce military items, such as the Luger, Mondragons and Broomhandles. Topping the list of guns was the historical, early Mauser 1896 cone hammer "Porfirio Diaz" presentation pistol with matching stock and leather case which sold for \$69,000, exceeding the estimated prices. Also a rare, serial number 1 Mondragon was auctioned off for \$57,500.

U.S. Military pieces figured prominently in the auction, with an ultra-rare WWI Pederson Device, sold with a 1903 Mark I Springfield Rifle. The bolt was complete and fit the rifle perfectly and sold for \$40,250. A collection of General Curtis E. LeMay's pieces went to auction, with the highlight being his U.S. Contract Colt, which brought \$37,375.

All sale prices quoted here include a 15 percent Buyer's Premium

Rock Island Auction Company's next Premiere Auction is scheduled for April, 2007. The next regional auction will be held this month on February.

For more information, call (800) 238-8022, or go online to www.rockislandauctions.com.



Lot 3070: Magnificent Cased and Deluxe Gustave Young Factory Engraved Colt Model 1849 Pocket Revolver with Panel Scenes, sold for \$207,000.



Lot 3079: Magnificent Colonel Colt Factory Presentation Rare Double Cased Pair of Colt Revolvers to Civil War General R. B. Marcy, sold for \$230,000.

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