

PRESS RELEASE

GAVIN GARDINER SELLS RARE PURDEY RIFLE, BUILT FOR THE PRINCE OF WALES' INDIAN TOUR OF 1875/6 FOR £10,000



A rare James Purdey & Sons .360 double barrel hammer rifle, built in 1875 for the Prince of Wales' Indian tour of 1875/6 sold for £10,000 in Gavin Gardiner Limited's online/ live auction of **Modern & Vintage Sporting Guns** on Wednesday, April 22, 2020. It had been estimated to fetch £8,000 – 12,000 and was purchased by an UK Private Buyer [lot 137].

The rifle was presented to the Nizam of the Decan, the ruler of the state of Hyderabad, in South Central India, by the Prince of Wales on the tour, and is engraved on the rib "*H.H. The Nizam of the Decan from H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, KG, GCSI 1876*". It carries a gold oval engraved with the Royal crest and the Order of the Star of India. It was in its

original makers case with the Nizam's name on the lid.

As Gavin Gardiner explained: "In October 1875, Albert Edward Prince of Wales, the eldest son of Queen Victoria, embarked on an extensive tour of the Indian subcontinent. Here the Prince visited more than 21 towns and cities before returning to England in May 1876."

He continues: "British monarchs and members of the Royal Family undertook lengthy tours to strengthen ties with other countries, and also to learn more about the culture and history of those regions. The Prince of Wales' tour of India was envisaged as a way of forging diplomatic links between the Indian rulers and the British Crown. The Prince exchanged gifts with each ruler he met and a number of rifles were ordered from Purdey as well as Alexander Henry to be given as gifts during the tour. Purdey's records indicate that two rifles were presented to the Nizam, the other is now in the collection of the Royal Armouries."

GAVIN GARDINER LIMITED

Auctioneers of Fine Modern and Vintage Sporting Guns, Rifles and Accessories

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Elsewhere in the sale was a pair of 12-bore single trigger sidelock ejector guns by Boss & Co, which the maker confirms were built in 1921, which sold for £7,500 against an estimate of £5,000-7,000. They were bought by a European Private Buyer [lot 219].

Also of note was a scarce 16-bore side lever hammer gun by Stephen Grant sold for £6,875 against an estimate of £3,000-3,500. The gun had a 30-inch damascus barrel and the maker confirms that the gun was built as the No. 2 gun of a pair, it was bought by a USA Private [lot 297]. Selling for the same price of £6,875 was a pair of 12-bore sidelock ejector guns by F. Beesley that had been presented to Richard W.G Welby on his coming of age in 1909. They were estimated to fetch £5,000-7,000 and were bought by an overseas private buyer [lot 211].

Among the Continental guns was a 12-bore S3 EELL model single trigger sidelock ejector over and under gun, a three barrel set, which sold for £6,250 to an Australian Private Buyer against an estimate of £5,000-7,000 [lot 325].

***** PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PRICES INCLUDE 25% BUYERS PREMIUM*****

**For further information, please visit
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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Gavin Gardiner is the only specialist firearms auctioneer holding his auctions in the heart of London's West End, where he holds two sales each year as well as his prestigious sale at the Gleneagles Hotel, Scotland in August. Gavin has over 20 years experience in this field. Coming from a traditional background, he was brought up with guns and shooting and has been involved with the Gun Trade from an early age. He first worked for Sotheby's in 1982 helping with weekend viewing of a Sporting Gun auction, while still at School. From that moment he was hooked and has been involved in almost every Sotheby's Sporting Gun auction since. His passion became a full time job in 1987 when he joined Sotheby's initially as a porter on a one day a week assignment to the Gun Department, this soon became five days and he never looked back. He has been involved with many memorable auctions over the years, including Sotheby's sales in New York and Geneva as well as the renowned Gleneagles auction that has remained the market leader in this sector for over twenty years. He has also worked for one of the leading London Gunmakers which gives him a unique perspective in this field. Returning to Head Sotheby's Sporting Gun Department Worldwide in 2001 he doubled turnover in his first year, and has continued to develop and refine the auctions since. He left Sotheby's at the beginning of 2006 to establish his own company.

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