

## PRESS RELEASE

### **WONDERFUL SELECTION OF MODERN & VINTAGE SPORTING GUNS, IN TIME FOR THE BOXING DAY SHOOT!**



Gavin Gardiner Limited's December sale of **Modern & Vintage Sporting Guns** on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 – just in time for the Boxing day Shoot - will include a good selection of fine English and European sporting guns by makers such as London makers Purdey, Holland & Holland and Boss & Co. The auction, the only Sporting Gun Auction to take place in Mayfair – the heart of London's world-famous gun-making district will commence at 2pm and takes place at *Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA*.

Among the highlights of the auction is a magnificent pair of Keith Thomas engraved Exhibition-quality 28-bore self-opening sidelock ejector guns by Watson Bros is estimated at £70,000–£90,000 [see image above]. The breeches are carved and inlaid with gold with respective rose and thistle motifs; while the rounded frames, locks and top levers engraved with game scenes and the Royal residences and castles of England and Scotland such as a scene of Windsor castle with scenes of partridges in flight; Sandringham House with woodcock among trees; the Tower of London with a shield and crossed swords bearing the flag of St George; while the No.2 gun (Scotland) engraved with a scene of Edinburgh Castle with grouse in flight; Balmoral Castle with pheasants against landscapes and Holyrood House

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with a shield and crossed swords bearing the flag of St Andrew. The maker confirms that the guns were completed in 2004. They appear little used and retain virtually all of their original finish [see illustration on page 1].



Also included is a Fine 12-Bore Single Trigger sidelock ejector over and under gun by the gunmaker's gunmaker Boss & Co, which is expected to fetch £70,000 – £90,000. The maker confirms that the gun was delivered in 1995, however it remained in store with

its maker for a number of years and remains virtually as new and unused [see illustration].

A magnificent pair of 12-bore Royal De Luxe model self-opening sidelock ejector guns by Holland & Holland. Delivered in 1990 and remaining little used, they are estimated at £50,000-£70,000. The current list price for a pair of guns of similar specification is in excess of £250,000 [see illustration to the right].



Also by Holland and Holland is a .303 Royal Model sidelock non-ejector rifle, which was built in 1897. The gunmaker's records show that it was ordered for his wife by Sir Sigismund Neumann Bt, a "Randlord" and Banker with South African Mining interests and finished at the factory (estimate: £7,000-£9,000).

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Another interesting Rifle and one of several pieces with a connection to Indian Royalty is a 9.3x74r sidelock ejector rifle that was built for His Highness Sir Jai Singh Prabhakar, Maharaja of Alwar by German maker H. Barella. Sir Jai Singh became Maharajah of Alwar at the age of ten in 1892 and is recorded as being erudite and quite charming, although he also had a cruel nature. He spent extravagantly and had many guns and rifles built for him by Barella of Berlin. He owned numerous Rolls Royces, often buying two at a time, many with open cabs with spotlights for shooting tigers at night. He was eventually exiled without power in 1933 and spent the remaining four years of his life in Paris where he died in 1937. Inlaid in gold with the Maharaja's crest, it is estimated at £10,000 – £15,000 [see illustration to the left].

A fine 28-Bore top lever hammer gun, reputedly built for the Maharajah of Jodhpore by Manton & Co carries an estimate of £3,500 – £5,000 and a pair of 16-Bore boxlock ejector guns by Army & Navy, built for his Highness Darbar Saheb of Jasdan is estimated at £4,000-£6,000. The maker's records confirm that the guns were delivered in 1925 to the Bombay branch and delivered to His Highness Darbar Saheb of Jasdan, Darbar Shri Ala Vajsur Khachar, 9th Darbar Saheb of Jasdan (1919-1973) [see illustration to the right].



Other interesting items in the Auction include a 12-Bore “G Royal Grade” faulx princeps ejector gun by W. W. Greener that as one of a batch of six guns for the Paris

# GAVIN GARDINER LIMITED

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

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Exhibition of 1900 which is expected to fetch £6,000 – £8,000, while a 12-Bore over and under sidelock ejector Pigeon Gun by G. & S. Holloway, that was built in 1934 for Thomas Hughes, the captain of the Welsh Clay Pigeon team is estimated at £9,000-£12,000. It is believed to have been used by him when he won the King George V trophy at White City in the 1930s.

The sale will include a strong section of accessories and more curious items – which could make wonderful Christmas gifts.

### **VIEWING:**

Tuesday, December 13 – 9am – 4.30pm

Wednesday, December 14 – 9am – 1pm

### **NEXT AUCTIONS:**

April 12, 2017 - Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London

August 28, 2017 – Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, Scotland

### **FORTHCOMING 2017 VALUATION DAYS:**

February 8, 2017 – Harrogate

February 10, 2017 – London

February 14, 2017 – Edinburgh

February 15, 2017 – Glasgow

February 17, 2017 – Tiverton

February 27, 2017 - Sussex

**For further information, please visit**

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### **NOTES TO EDITORS: GAVIN GARDINER LTD**

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.

November 2016