

PRESS RELEASE

WORK BY TOP ENGRAVERS HIGHLIGHTS GAVIN GARDINER LTD'S AUCTION OF MODERN & VINTAGE SPORTING GUNS & RIFLES



Lot 156

Work by Ken Hunt and Harry Kell – names synonymous with great gun engraving – will be included in Gavin Gardiner's first sale of 2019 on **Wednesday, May 1** at Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA.

Gavin Gardiner explains: "I am extremely pleased with this auction which showcases the phenomenal engraving talent that has been part of the British gun trade for more than 100 years and continues to do so today. Harry Kell, whose work for Purdey, among others, has become especially sought after in recent years is seen as the father of modern gun engraving and the sale includes a number of his works, notably two pairs by Purdey. A further pair by Joseph Lang is almost without

doubt engraved by Kell and displays all of his characteristic hallmarks.

He continues: "I am also delighted to be offering a gun engraved by Ken Hunt for John Wilkes. The gun was completed in 1992 at a final cost of £12,102.50 (the original invoice is included with the gun), however it was ordered in April 1987 but took over five years to complete, such was the demand and subsequent delay in having the gun completed by Ken Hunt!"

Dating from the mid 1930s is a fine pair of Kell-engraved 12 bore-self opening sidelock ejector guns by James Purdey & Sons with fine bouquet and scroll engraving, which is estimated at £35,000 – 45,000 [lot 156], while another pair by Purdey, described in their records as "*Best fine engraving by Kell*" is estimated at £30,000-40,000 [lot 159], and a pair made by Joseph Lang, that were completed in the 1920s and engraved with fine scrollwork surrounding highly detailed

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PRESS RELEASE



scenes of game birds and waterfowl in realistic landscapes are expected to fetch £25,000-30,000 [lot 157].

Among the examples of engraving by Ken Hunt in the auction is a 12-bore self-opening sidelock ejector gun by John Wilkes. Featuring bold foliate scrollwork surrounding highly detailed game scene engraving, the left lock with pheasants in flight, the right lock with a covey of grouse and the action base with a duck, it is signed by the engraver "K. C. Hunt 90". It is estimated at £20,000 – 25,000 [lot 167 – see left].

More contemporary examples in the sale include a magnificent presentation-quality 12-bore self-opening sidelock by F Beesley, which is engraved with finely detailed prehistoric scenes within bold foliate scrollwork, the left lock engraved with a mammoth against a wooded landscape, the action base with a flying pteradactyl above a smoking volcano, the right lock engraved with a running deinonychus. The gun, which was completed in 2006 and appears virtually unused was engraved by Bill Sinclair, and is estimated at £20,000 – 30,000 [lot 164].



While an example by Symes and Wright, which was completed in 1990, engraved in bold relief with scrolling foliage and mythical creatures, the locks and action base engraved with scenes of birds of prey in flight, is signed by the engraver Rashid L. Hadi, who has gone on to complete much exceptional work for Westley Richards among others. It is expected to fetch £32,000 – 38,000 [lot 265].

PRESS RELEASE

Another fascinating example is a fine engraved 12-bore sidelock ejector gun profusely engraved with bold foliate scrolls surrounding highly detailed scenes of the city of Chichester and the surrounding area. Scenes include Chichester Cathedral, the Market Cross, Goodwood House and the Bishop's Palace Gate, the fences carved with a Roman centurion and the Emperor Vespasian, the lock plates signed "K. Preater" which is estimated at £30,000-40,000. The gun was made by John D. Sells, who is well-known outworker to the Trade and the gun was completed as his own personal gun, the engraving reflecting his love of his home city. The gun was proofed in 1984 and completed at a relaxed pace over a number of years as other work allowed. The gun was engraved by Ken Preater and finished to the very highest standards [lot 171].



The auction also includes several guns with an interesting provenance. Built in 1902 for Hugh Cecil Lowther, 5th Earl of Lonsdale, KG, GCVO, DL (1857-1944), an ejector rifle by Holland & Holland is estimated at £12,000 – 18,000. An avid sportsman and bon vivant, Lord Lonsdale was known as England's greatest sporting gentleman. He was a founding member and first president of the National Sporting Club, and he donated the original Lonsdale belts in 1909 for the Boxing Championship trophy. He was also the founder and first president of the Automobile Association, a master of the Quorn Hunt and a chairman of Arsenal Football Club. As a sportsman he entertained the Kings of Italy and Portugal and well as the German Kaiser at Lowther Castle. He was a senior steward of the Jockey Club and the first president of the International Horse Show at Olympia [lot 81].

PRESS RELEASE

Also with an interesting provenance is a fine pair of German 16-bore sidelock ejector guns that were formerly the property of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Brunswick (1887-1953), the last reigning monarch of the House of Hanover. He was a first cousin of King George V, Czar Nicholas II of Russia, Christian X of Denmark and Constantine I of Greece. According to the London Protocol of 1944, the Free State of Brunswick was supposed to become part of the British Zone of Occupation in Germany. US forces conquered the region in April 1945. However, on 22nd July the British effected a territorial redeployment to shorten the zonal border that



allowed Blankenburg Castle, the Brunswick seat to fall in to the Russian Zone. The British army helped the ducal family to evacuate the castle by sending troops and thirty trucks to allow them to remove their chattels. The guns were presented to Colonel Paul McConnell of the Cheshire Regiment who was responsible for rescuing the Duke before the arrival of the Russians is estimated at £6,000 – 9,000 [lot 242].

PLEASE NOTE: A viewing pass will be required to attend the view and auction at Sotheby's. Please email alexis@gavingardiner.com or telephone 01798 875300 to apply before Friday 26 April.

Gavin Gardiner LTD will require a copy of your firearm or shotgun certificate or driving licence to issue a pass. Entry may be refused to those without a pass. Security checks and searches may be made.

MORE FOR 2019 – GAVIN GARDINER ON YOUTUBE!

For the first time in 2018, Gavin Gardiner produced a series of short films on his forthcoming auction discussing auction highlights and tips on buying at auction. He continues to build on his library of useful and insightful films with more for his forthcoming sale. Have a look on YouTube <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCn2CX9pZMZ4EvuYaY4FwgVA>

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VIEWING:

Tuesday 30 April 2019 9am to 4.30pm

Wednesday 1 May 2019 9am to 1pm

FORTHCOMING 2019 VALUATION DAYS:

Geneva	23 May
Paris	5 June
Brussels	6 June
Harrogate	19 June
Sussex	24 June
London	25 June
Tiverton	28 June
Edinburgh	3 July
Glasgow	4 July
Scone Palace	5 July

NEXT AUCTION: August 26, 2019 – Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, Scotland

For further information, please visit www.gavingardiner.com or call 01798 875300

You can follow Gavin Gardiner on Twitter @GavinGardiner and on Facebook @Gunauctioneer

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.

April 2019