

PRESS RELEASE**GAVIN GARDINER LTD TO SELL HIGHLY IMPORTANT "RUSSIAN"
PURDEY PRESENTED TO BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
HAROLD MACMILLAN BY RUSSIAN PRESIDENT KRUSHCHEV**

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Gavin Gardiner Ltd's first auction of 2013 of **Fine Modern and Vintage Sporting Guns and Rifles** will include a historically and internationally significant rare "Russian" Purdey, that was presented to British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan by Russian President Nikita Krushchev on the occasion of MacMillan's Historic 1959 State Visit to Russia - one of the key points in the Cold War. The auction will take place on

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London. Remaining in a new unfired condition and with presentation inscription in a gold plaque, the 12-bore gun that was made to Purdey specifications by the Tula State Armoury is expected to sell for between £20,000 and £30,000.

As Gavin Gardiner explained: "The gun was presented to Prime Minister Harold Macmillan by Nikita Krushchev during the historic 1959 visit to Moscow at the height of the Cold War. It is of superb quality and is exquisitely finished with a presentation gold plaque set in to the stock, and it remains unused in its original presentation case. It has remained in the family ever since.

"During a period of extreme tension between the East and the West, the visit was remarkable as it was the first visit of a major Western leader to the USSR since the Second World War. Harold Macmillan was committed to curbing the arms race and played a major role in negotiating the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963, the first important treaty signed between the US, USSR and Britain since the end of the war.

"We are delighted to be offering this rare and historic piece in our forthcoming auction at Sotheby's in London, and anticipate a great deal of interest from all around the world."

Also included in Gavin Gardiner's April sale will be a good selection of fine English and European sporting guns by makers such as Purdey, Holland & Holland and Boss & Co.

An exceptional pair of recently completed English over and under guns by London-maker Charles Lancaster, carry an estimate of £35,000-£45,000, while a fine pair of Boss 12-bore assisted opening sidelock ejector guns also carry an estimate of £35,000 - £45,000 and a fine pair of 12-bore self-opening sidelock ejector guns by J. Purdey & Sons estimated at £18,000 - £24,000.

The European Guns include a scarce 12-bore single trigger sidelock ejector over and under gun by the renowned Italian master, Ivo Fabbri. Estimated at £25,000-£35,000, the gun is exceptionally well-finished and engraved, and also comprises two further pairs of barrels in its original case.

**For further information please contact 01798 875300 or 07831 645551
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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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