

GAVIN GARDINER LIMITED

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

PRESS RELEASE

TWO IMPORTANT GUNS BY PURDEY TO BE SOLD IN AID OF GUNMAKERS' CHARITABLE TRUST IN GAVIN GARDINER LTD'S AUCTION



Gavin Gardiner Ltd's auction of Modern & Vintage Sporting Guns, which is now going to be a Live/Online Auction (via www.gavingardiner.com) on **Wednesday, September 2, 2020** at **2pm** will include two important guns by prestigious London-gunmaker James Purdey & Son, which is being sold in aid of the Gunmakers' Charitable Trust. The Gunmakers' Charitable Trust exists to promote the skills, both ancient and modern, required for the future of the guntrade. This includes a bursary scheme for educating those entering the trade, as well as allying modern skills with those possessed by bench-trained gunmakers, and craftsmen and women in associated trades.

Viewing for this auction will take place strictly by appointment only. Viewing will be limited to one-hour time slots, and to one person at a time. Social distancing rules will apply: a facemask is required for entry to view. The auction will be a live auction, behind closed doors, and condition reports and remote bidding options will be available. Absentee bids will continue to be provided free of charge and online bidding with invaluable.com is also available.

The first of two Purdey's is an exceptional 12-bore self-opening sidelock ejector gun, built in 1922 – the heyday of British gunmaking, which retains much of its original finish and is estimated to fetch £12,000-18,000. Purdey confirm that the gun was completed in 1923 for Abercrombie & Fitch with 2 5/8-inch chambers for the American market. It was stocked by Deane and the barrels were filed by Charlie Aston, two of Purdey's best men at this time. The gun was owned

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by Mark Barty-King, the dynamic publisher who nurtured the careers of Frederick Forsyth, Jilly Cooper and Catherine Cookson as well as being responsible for the UK publication of Stephen Hawking's "A Brief History of Time". The additional barrels were fitted by the maker in 1974 and were filed by Jack Aldous who was Purdey's highest paid barrel maker at this time.

The second which is being sold on behalf of the Gunmakers' Charitable Trust is a scarce 12-bore top lever bar-in-wood hammer live pigeon gun, also by J. Purdey & Sons, built in 1884 for the Compte de Casserta who won the Grand Prix du Casino, Monte Carlo in 1884, most likely with this gun. It is expected to fetch £12,000 – 15,000.



Elsewhere, a superb and unique 12-bore "The Paragon Pinless" round-body single/double trigger self-opening ejector gun by London-gunmaker Giles Whittome, is estimated to fetch £18,000-24,000. The 28-inch damascus barrels are decorated with gold foresight bead in the form of a Labrador's head with inset diamond eyes, vine leaf gold inlaid breeches and the rib is inlaid in gold. The gun was built in 1982 as a presentation piece. It was engraved by the Italian master, Sabatti and finished to the very highest possible standard. The damascus barrels were sourced from original unfinished tubes from the workshop of Thomas Bland and it was actioned by Brian Gibbs, formerly of Holland & Holland.

Another example by J. Purdey & Sons is a fine pair of 12-bore self-opening sidelock ejector guns,

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that were built in 1980 and have recently been inspected and overhauled by them (est: £30,000 – 35,000), while a pair of 12-bore single trigger sidelock ejector guns by Boss & Co that were built circa 1928 and were rebarreled and restocked by Boss & Co carry an estimate of £18,000-24,000.

Also of note is an exceptional and massive new 4-bore single trigger sidelock ejector gun by London maker Watson Bros, is estimated at £45,000-55,000. The gun remains unused and was recently completed. It is one of only a handful of guns of this calibre that have been made in recent years and features 42-inch barrels, a highly figured 15 1/5-inch stock with pistol grip and weighs in at a monster 17lb. 10oz. It is engraved with acorns and oak leaves against a stippled ground while the action base is engraved with flying geese.



A fine pair of 12-bore self-opening sidelock ejector guns by Symes & Wright, that were completed in 1992 and appear very little used, are estimated at £25,000 – 35,000.

For Further information on the auction, please visit www.gavingardiner.com or call 0044 (0)1798 875300 or follow on Twitter [@gavingardiner](https://twitter.com/gavingardiner)

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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 35 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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