

GAVIN GARDINER LIMITED

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

PRESS RELEASE

GAVIN GARDINER LTD'S AUCTION TO INCLUDE RIFLES FROM COLLECTION OF SPORTING ARTIST, AUTHOR & BIG GAME HUNTER H. FRANK WALLACE



Portrait of H. Frank Wallace entitled "The Roe Stalker" by Lionel Edwards, painted in 1928.

Gavin Gardiner's first sale of 2017 will include 9 sporting and big game rifles from the H. Frank Wallace Collection. The auction will take place at Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, with viewing the day before and on the morning of the sale. For those who cannot attend the sale, online bidding will be available too.

H. Frank Wallace of Corrimony (21st March 1881 to 16th September 1962) was an Artist, Author and Naturalist. A widely admired and successful sporting artist, he was also remembered as a writer, illustrator and authority on all aspects of hunting, from the stalking of British native deer to the shooting of the more exotic big game species found in many different parts of the World. At well



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over six feet tall, and of an extrovert appearance he was as comfortable with his easel painting as he was on the hill with his rifle [See biography below].

The collection comprises several examples by John Rigby & Co including .275 HV bolt action sporting rifle, built Sept 1st 1903 and the first Rigby .275 regulated for the High Velocity ammunition, which is expected to fetch £2,000-£3,000; while a .350 Magnum bolt action sporting rifle, built in 1911 for H. Frank Wallace is estimated at £3,500-£5,000, and a .450 Cordite Express double barrel hammer rifle, built in 1905 is estimated at £3,000-£5,000. Elsewhere, a 450/.400 double barrel boxlock ejector rifle by Charles Osbourne is expected to fetch £4,000-£6,000 and a .318 accelerated Express bolt action rifle by Westley Richard carries an estimate of £1,000-£1,500.

Elsewhere in the sale there are fine guns a plenty from leading London makers such as Purdey, Boss & Co and Holland & Holland. A pair of 12-bore “Royal” model sidelock ejector guns by Holland & Holland, with replacement barrels by the makers are estimated at £10,000-£15,000 while a scarce wildfowling gun by the same maker with 32-inch barrels is estimated at £1,000-£1,500. There are several vintage hammer guns that will interest the collector, including a rare 16-bore by York maker Thomas Horsley (estimate £700-£1,000) and a sidelever hammer gun by London maker Stephen Grant that is estimated at £1,400-£1,800.

Collectors ammunition and vintage airguns are also included in the auction which includes over 200 lots.



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NOTES TO EDITORS: Born in 1882 the son of a London medical practitioner H. Frank Wallace was educated at Eton and Christchurch college, Cambridge. While he was reading for the bar he was offered the chance to travel round the world, and worked like never before to pass his exams so that he could depart with his fathers blessing. He was abroad for two years and upon his return published his first book "Stalks abroad", an account of the sport obtained during his travels with particular reference to his travels in East Africa, India, Japan, New Zealand and Canada. The text was illustrated with nine full page, and eighteen half page illustrations by Wallace himself and although he was called to the bar on his return in 1908, it was his skill with pen and brush, as well as with a rifle that was to allow him to forge his way in the world.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1911 and almost immediately set of on a hunting trip to China which was chronicled in his next book "Big Game of Central and Western China". They arrived in China during a period of turmoil and revolution and following their hunting adventures had to escape overland to Russia, a 2000 mile journey eventually ending in St Petersburg in April 1912. While there he stayed with Count Dimitr Pavlovich, a first cousin of the Czar, who was later linked to the murder of Rasputin and was one of the few members of the Russian Royal family to escape the Revolution.

As an artist, it was his friendship with Lionel Edwards that led to them collaborating on two further books "Hunting and Stalking the Deer" in 1927 and "A Stuart Sketchbook" in 1933. He produced a considerable range of sporting paintings, often spending time as the guest of a sporting proprietor who has commissioned the works. He completed many stalking paintings for Lord Brocket as well as the Duke of Portland. He contributed numerous articles and illustrations to publications like "The Field" and "Country Life" as well as contributing to such books as "The Big Game of Asia and North America", "The Gun at Home and Abroad" and "African Big Game".

In 1937 he was asked, as Hon Sec of the Shikir Club, to organise the British section of the International Hunting Exhibition which was held in Berlin. This brought him in to contact with Hermann Goering, who as well as being a leading Nazi politician, was a keen sportsman and the "Game Warden of the Reich". In the course of the exhibition he was invited to lunch with Goering at his home, Karinhall, and Wallace leaves a telling description of his hosts elaborate hunting garb in one of his later volumes of memoirs "On his fingers were many rings, it was very much the sort of costume a boy would imagine playing at Robin Hood".

He was appointed "Deer Control Officer for Scotland" for the course of the Second World War, an important position as Venison was off ration, and the Government were keen to maintain and develop this important resource. As he grew older, he continued to stalk and maintain an output of sporting paintings, and produced further volumes "Happier Years", "Hunting Winds" and "Please Ring the Bell".

In 1954 he was asked to organise a hunting exhibition in Dusseldorf, this time as the honorary Vice President of the Conseil International de la Chasse. He died at his English home in 1962 and was buried on his beloved Corrimony moor in Scotland.

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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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