



# Notes from the Sale Room

by Graham Lay

## Auction Review Summer 2010

Looking back through a number of editions of *Black Powder* I see in the Winter 2008 issue that I mentioned how the market was reacting to the terrible financial events that had taken place that year. Prices of antique firearms were rising fairly rapidly, primarily due to investors removing their money from the more traditional form of savings and buying objects that they could hold and see instead. I would imagine that the view of most readers of this column would be the same as mine, considerable dismay. It means that our collecting pastime is getting more and more expensive and is possibly becoming too far out of reach of many novice collectors or those just starting out on our fascinating and absorbing hobby.

I suppose you cannot blame people for wanting to do something better with their money and I guess that if I was in the position of selling my meagre collection then I would be extremely happy. I think we will just have to bide our time. These things generally go in cycles and if we wait (those of us who are still collecting that is) I am sure prices will become more realistic as fiscal investors dispose of their assets and move back into their traditional money markets.

As can be seen from the huge number of arms and armour auctions happening all over the world, there is no shortage of wonderful objects to whet our appetites. Be patient, and in the meantime, good shooting, good hunting and contact me on [g.l@virgin.net](mailto:g.l@virgin.net) if you would like to share any stories about buying at auction.

Oh! And just one more thing. Keep an eye out for original Colt Pocket 1849 revolvers. They seem to have really increased in price over the last few months. You may find you are looking at one belonging to a vendor who hasn't realised this and is selling at a modest sum. Have a look at the one (uncased) below that sold for £925 (plus buyer's premium making it nearly £1090) and let me know if you find a bargain. As usual, however, check the condition, this one was quite good.

Graham Lay

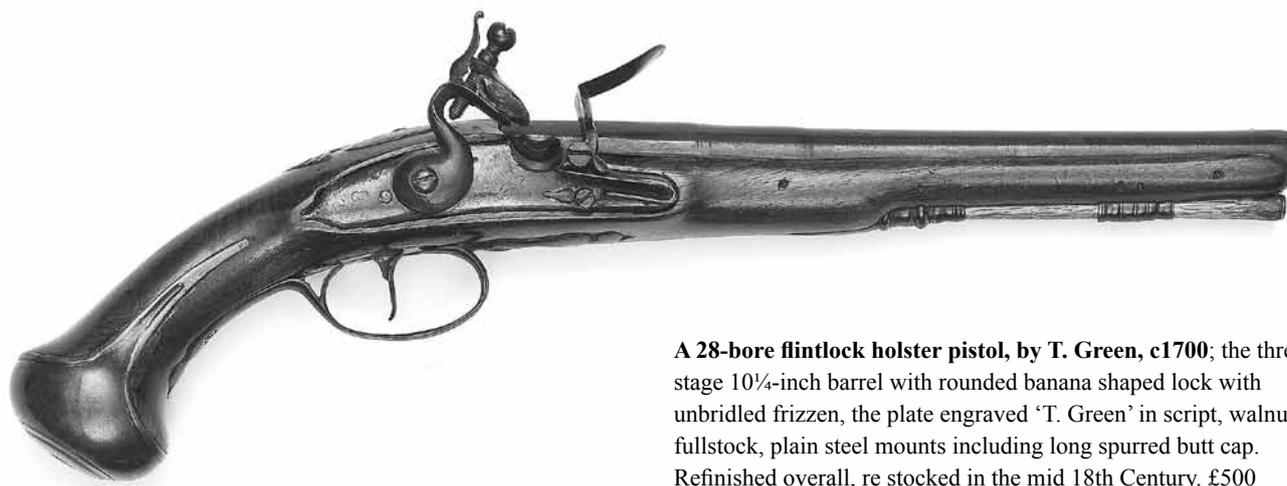
Add 15% plus VAT to the prices here to get the final auction price.



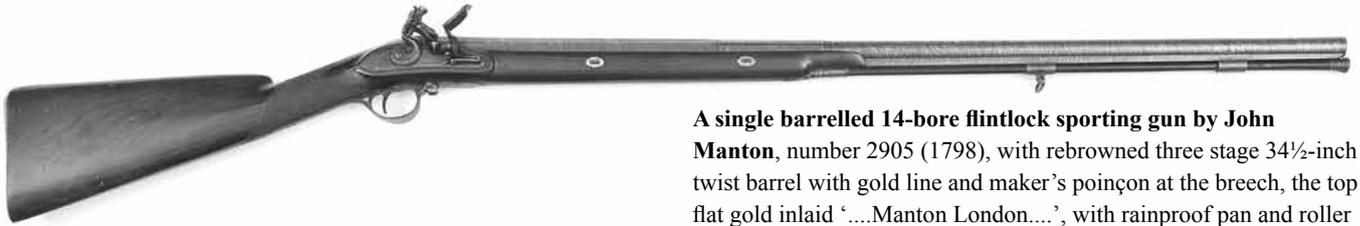
**A mid Victorian scrimshaw engraved powder horn of The 51st Regiment.** Engraved HM over 51 within crossed flags of St George, J Wright bugle with 51/ KOLI within crowned wreath, palm tree/ Bangalore/ India/ 1849 in wreath, palm tree and hut, with rings and cord, 14½-inches long. £140



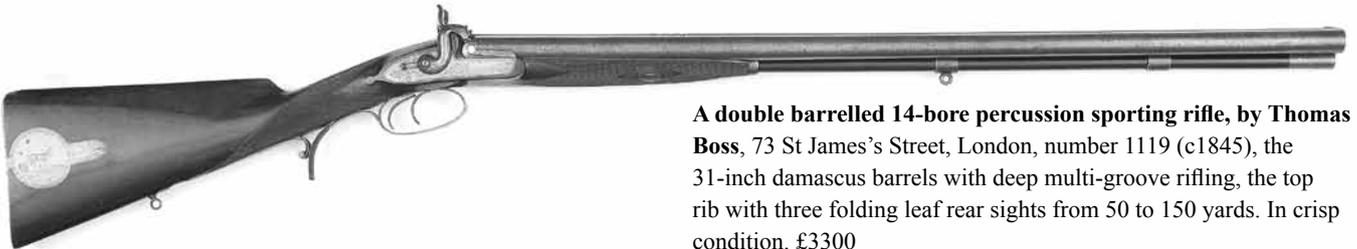
**A charming plain bag shaped copper powder flask** for a pocket or muff pistol, 2¾-inches long, with screw off top and tapered charger, the body stamped 'JD & S' (John Dixon & Sons). £230



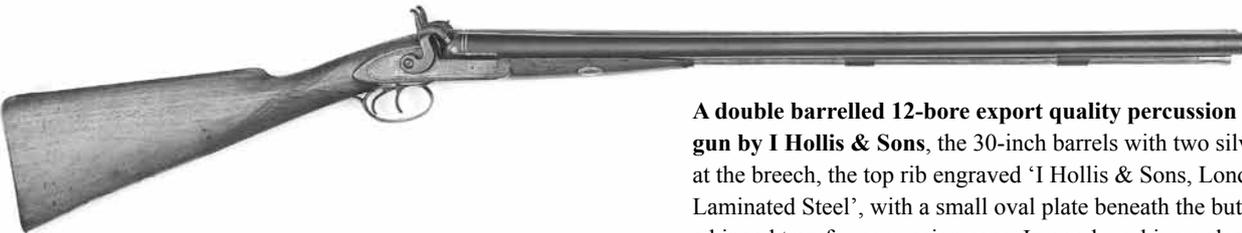
**A 28-bore flintlock holster pistol, by T. Green, c1700;** the three stage 10¼-inch barrel with rounded banana shaped lock with unbridled frizzen, the plate engraved 'T. Green' in script, walnut fullstock, plain steel mounts including long spurred butt cap. Refinished overall, re stocked in the mid 18th Century. £500



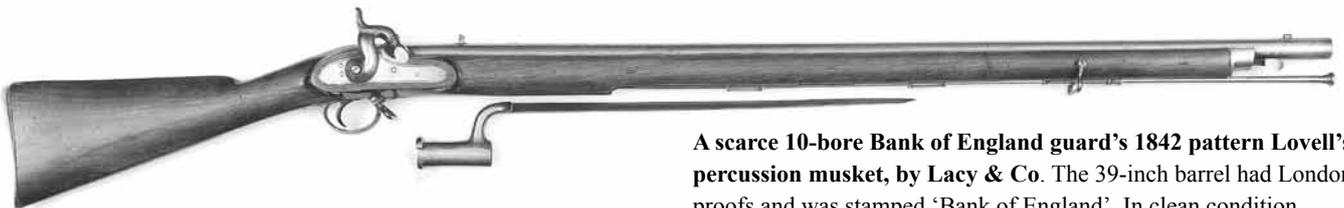
**A single barrelled 14-bore flintlock sporting gun by John Manton**, number 2905 (1798), with rebrowned three stage 34½-inch twist barrel with gold line and maker's poinçon at the breech, the top flat gold inlaid '....Manton London....', with rainproof pan and roller on frizzen spring, Sound condition. £1100



**A double barrelled 14-bore percussion sporting rifle, by Thomas Boss**, 73 St James's Street, London, number 1119 (c1845), the 31-inch damascus barrels with deep multi-groove rifling, the top rib with three folding leaf rear sights from 50 to 150 yards. In crisp condition. £3300



**A double barrelled 12-bore export quality percussion sporting gun by I Hollis & Sons**, the 30-inch barrels with two silver lines at the breech, the top rib engraved 'I Hollis & Sons, London, Laminated Steel', with a small oval plate beneath the butt containing a hinged trap for percussion caps. In good working order. £370



**A scarce 10-bore Bank of England guard's 1842 pattern Lovell's percussion musket, by Lacy & Co.** The 39-inch barrel had London proofs and was stamped 'Bank of England'. In clean condition. £1400



**A double barrelled 10-bore percussion coaching carbine with spring bayonet, by John Blissett**, 322 High Holborn, London, number 3389, the 19¼-inch twist barrels with top rib with two gold lines and engraved with maker's name and address, with 15¼-inch spring bayonet beneath released by thumb catch. Good working order. £1850



**A double barrelled 12-bore flintlock coaching carbine, by Westley Richards**, c1820, the 17½-inch well rebrowned twist barrels engraved on top rib 'Westley Richards' in script, raised pans and rollers on frizzen springs, the plates engraved 'Westley Richards' in old English script. Good working order. £2700

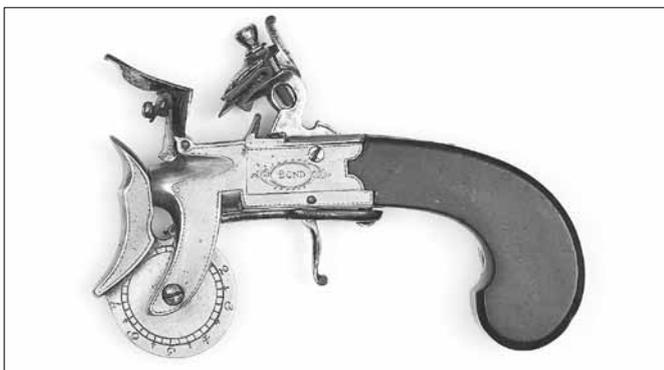
**A five-shot 54-bore Beaumont Adams double action percussion revolver**, the 6-inch barrel engraved on the top strap 'London Armoury Compy', the frame engraved 'B4281 Adams' Patent No 19,753R', (frame and barrel moderately pitted and worn overall, cylinder refinished, patched repair to butt), in its partly refitted baize lined oak case with reproduction accessories. £875



**A 16-bore flintlock holster pistol**, c1820, made in an earlier style, two stage 9-inch barrel, the octagonal breech stamped 'London' and with Birmingham proofs, the plate stamped 'H Nock', walnut stock with brass mounts including trigger guard with acorn finial, brass tipped wooden ramrod. Clean condition. £400



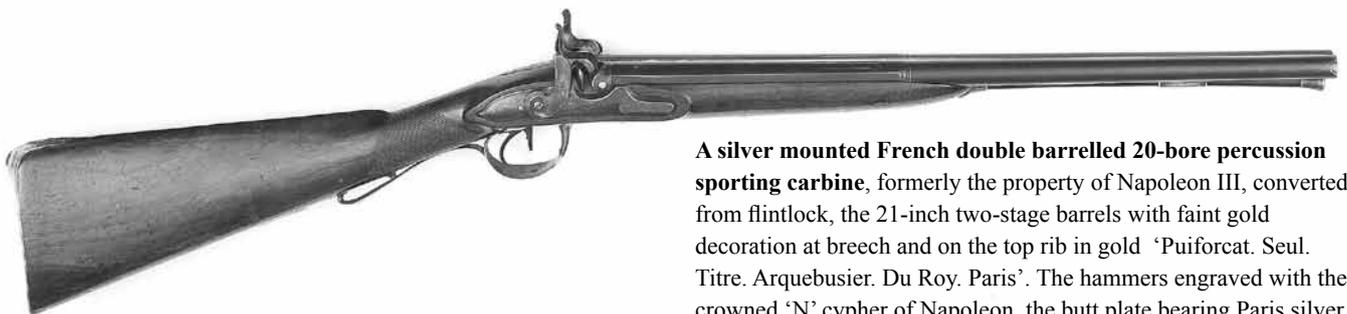
**A slender 36-bore flintlock duelling pistol**, by Wogdon, London, c1785, the flat topped round 10-inch barrel with gold touch hole, London proofs, and front and rear sights, plain flat stepped lock with maker's name in script. Partly refinished. £1200



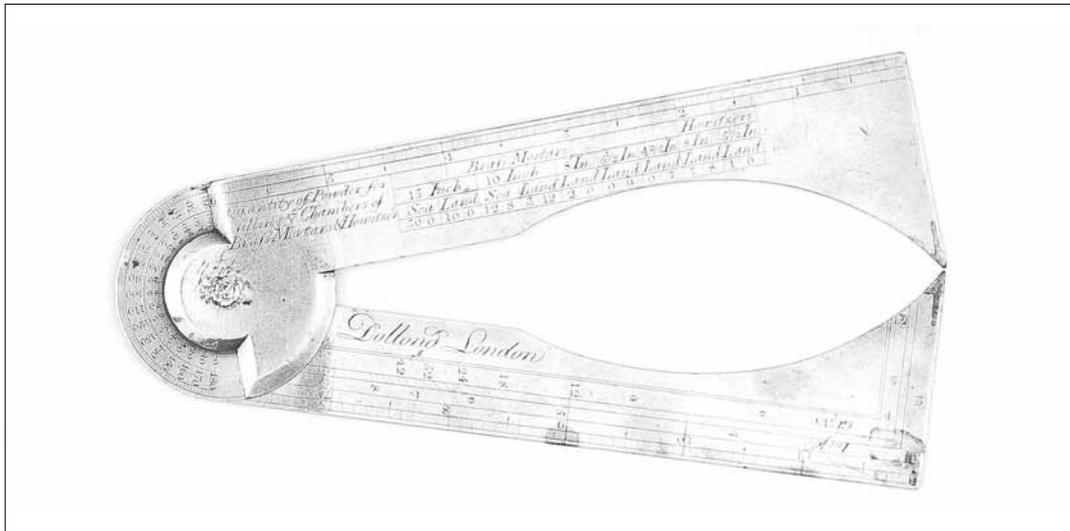
**A brass framed flintlock eprouvette**, 5½-inches long, the frame engraved 'Bond' in foliate panel, the brass wheel calibrated from 1 to 7, plain walnut slab butt. In good working order. £650



**A charming little naval officer's 44-bore bronze framed flintlock pocket pistol** by Nock of London. With a tiny 1½-inch barrel it measured 6-inches overall. With Birmingham proof marks, engraved with an anchor, initials 'JR' and 'Viper'. HMS Viper was a naval cutter and accompanying the pistol was a copy of an article describing an action by her in August 1800. £1850



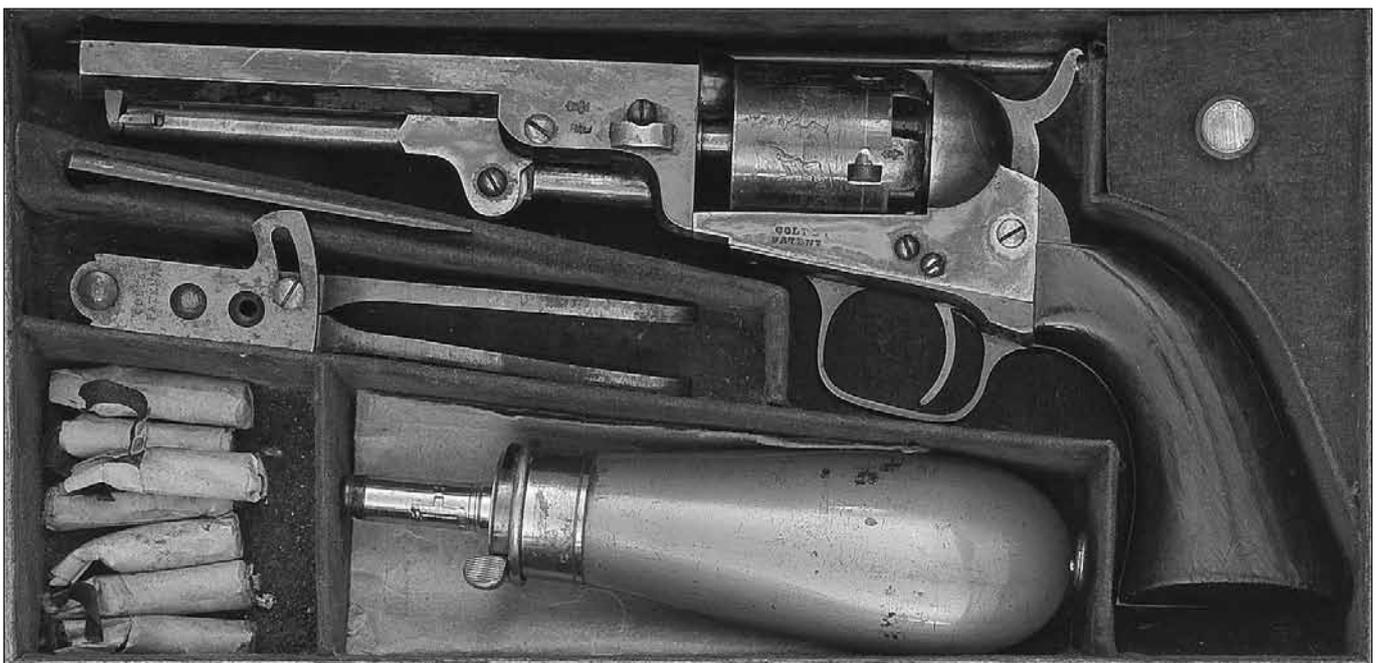
**A silver mounted French double barreled 20-bore percussion sporting carbine**, formerly the property of Napoleon III, converted from flintlock, the 21-inch two-stage barrels with faint gold decoration at breech and on the top rib in gold 'Puiforcat. Seul. Titre. Arquebusier. Du Roy. Paris'. The hammers engraved with the crowned 'N' cypher of Napoleon, the butt plate bearing Paris silver mark for 1771. In good working order. £1200



**Gunner's calipers by Dollond of London** incorporated a one-foot rule divided into inches and tenths of an inch. It was calibrated from 0° to 180° in each direction and was inscribed with calculations of the quantity of powder required for different sizes of brass mortars and howitzers, proof and service charges for brass and iron guns, weight of iron shot etc. In good condition. £775



**A six-shot .44" Colt 3rd Model Dragoon percussion revolver**, the 7½-inch barrel with New York City address. It was numbered 367 on most parts and was in fairly good condition. £2600



**A superb cased 5-shot .31" Colt Model 1849 pocket percussion revolver.** The 5-inch barrel was London proved and had a London address and there was a stagecoach scene on the cylinder. Each part was numbered 5374 and it was in very good condition retaining approximately 60% of original blued and colour hardened finish. £4100