
A Sam Smith Gun

by Robin Storey



With this brief article are some photographs of an unusual percussion shotgun, saved from obscurity and the possible future of being a “wall hanger”.

I was in an antique shop that occasionally gets antique guns, and there were three pieces: an Arab jezail, a single barrel percussion shotgun and this one, a double barrel percussion shotgun.

Noticing the unusual hammers it seemed worth a look, and the name on the locks being Saml and C Smith, it was even more interesting.

The hammers both have plugs screwed into the nose from above, which end inside the hammer nose and strike on the cap in the normal way. These can be unscrewed with a square key and replaced with an alternative plug with an elongated tip, presumably to fire the larger Imperial cap that was invented by the Smith concern. A change of nipples would be necessary also.

It currently has conventional nipples in place and it was probably last used this way.

For those unfamiliar with the Patent Imperial cap, it is of much larger diameter and thus uses a correspondingly larger nipple, some cased guns by Smith include normal nipples and the relevant tools, so that both systems could be used alternately as desired.

The future for this piece is a tidy up and repairs to the woodwork where necessary, it will never be mint but is something a bit different that has been saved for posterity.

Barrel length 30 inches, overall length 46 inches, calibre 12 gauge. Makers no. 3636.

A nice little write up of a new acquisition.

Do members have similar stories they can share? Editor.

