



£1,100. We ended the section with a lightly-used .450 BPE hammer rifle by Reilly (Lot 845) that had been commissioned by King Alfonso XIII. It sold for £3,000.

Following a typically healthy foray in to Section 5 items we moved to Curious and Whimsies, which was certainly true to its name! A 2 ½ in. gauge 'Dyak' coal-fired steam loco' (Lot 1077) sold for £850 quickly followed by a good service of cutlery in a Garrard's canteen (Lot 1086) with interesting provenance that was secured by a Russian bidder for £4,000. We then saw a hip-flask/decanter of generous proportions made in the form of a 1930s Bentley radiator cowl (Lot 1091) that reached £800 before ending the section, naturally enough, with a fine model of the tea clipper 'Cutty Sark' (Lot 1099) that sailed away for £1,900.

The afternoon session continued with some excellent bolt and break rifles, my first mention being an unusual Kepplinger patent bolt-rifle in .300WM (Lot 1105) that sold for £5,000, followed by one of Sauer's trusted 'Mod 202' rifles in .308 and for a left-hander (Lot 1108) that fetched a deserved £3,000. The left-handed market often springs a surprise; one might think that bidding would be slow, but since buyers have fewer opportunities to secure these guns, the reverse is often true. Later in the section £15,000 was achieved for a .22LR! This was no 'plinker' or rabbit rifle though; it was a fine Funk-engraved take-down by Schiller (Lot 1125) with superb attention to detail and employing a Blaser-type rotary magazine. Moving into break-action rifles we were fortunate in bringing to sale an excellent .470NE double by Purdey (Lot 1215) that achieved a whopping £60,000 +VAT.

Section 2 shotguns kicked-off with a very rare (possibly unique) garniture of Churchill boxlocks in .410, 28-bore and 20-bore (Lot 1300), all housed in a behemoth case. This presents a potential investment for the buyer who secured the Lot for £15,000. Also an uncommon sight was a pair of Holloway & Naughton over/under sidelocks (Lot 1315) that sold for £21,000. These were built on Boss-type actions and were completed in 2005. A pair of 12-bore self-openers by Purdey (Lot 1337) attracted much interest in spite of their rather distressed order, and sold well at £11,000. They had 'frog-eye' type tumbler pivots and so, on that basis, were quite unusual.

The oft-mentioned triumvirate of condition, originality and presentation came to the fore for an excellent Purdey (Lot 1403) that was quickly bid up to £10,500, followed by one of Westley Richards fine detachable lock models (Lot 1413) that reached £3,400. Next came one of my favourites; a superbly balanced self-opener by A.A. Brown & Sons (Lot 1415) that fetched a richly deserved £8,500. A wonderfully original 'Dominion' by Holland & Holland (Lot 1425) sold for £5,800 and I was pleased to see a beautifully elegant Woodward (Lot 1445) reach its zenith at £11,000.

The ever-popular small bores began with a fine 20-bore bar-in-wood hammergegun by Purdey (Lot 1500) that was hammered down at £6,500. This was closely followed by a rare single-barrelled .410 self-opener by Westley Richards (Lot 1504) that fetched £900 and then my favourite shotgun of the sale; a really sweet little 28-bore BLE by Beesley (Lot 1522). A typical family gun in its original case, pleasantly worn but allowed to age gracefully that sold for £3,600.

Of note in the over/under section was the opening Lot 1600, a fine Pasolini-engraved 12-bore by the famed Italian maker Ivo Fabbri that reached £22,000. We saw some firm prices in the boxlocks with good examples attracting much attention before heading in to hammergeguns, the final section of the sale. Of these, a presentation 12-bore by Schilling (Lot 1805) saw a flurry of bids thanks to its fine quality and intricate carving to the stock and action, and this sold for £8,000.

So that rounds-off a busy March sale. I now have two weeks to work on aftersales, move a boat and move house before setting-off on the next round of valuation days ahead of the 18<sup>th</sup> June sale. As always, a big thank-you to our vendors and buyers alike for your continued patronage.

Roland Elworthy