

# Griffin & Howe

*Finest in Firearms Since 1923*



## **CERTIFICATE OF INVENTORY & DISPOSITION ABERCROMBIE & FITCH RECORDS**

Purdey Side by Side Shotguns  
Serial Numbers 25411 & 25412

Purdey shotguns, serial numbers 25411 and 25412, were entered in inventory by Abercrombie & Fitch on December 14, 1937. The guns constituted a pair and were one of two pairs of Purdey shotguns entered on that date. Both pairs of shotguns were special order guns for the same customer, ordered on May 11, 1937. For each of the guns of pair 25411 & 25412, the following specifications are recorded:

Gauge:	410 bore
Barrels:	26 inch barrel, with ejectors and 3 inch chambers
Weight	4 lbs, 8 oz
Choke:	Modified & Full (25411); Full & Full (25412)
Dimensions:	2 3/4 in. Drop @ Heel x 1 5/8 in. Drop @ Comb x 14 3/8 in. LOP
Stock:	Half Pistol Grip

All four Purdey shotguns, including numbers 25411 & 25412, were shipped directly to the customer, "Walker P. Inman" and the sale was recorded as of December 14, 1937. The price of the pair to the customer was \$1,711.75. The cost of the pair of Purdey shotguns to A&F is recorded as \$1,390.85.

Griffin & Howe confirms that this information was extracted from the original Abercrombie & Fitch Inventory Records, Book No. 7, section 2, page 127 on December 21, 2015.

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## Parkey Shotguns

Received	Number	Geese	Length	Weight	Gender	Chicks	Drop	$\frac{g}{g}$	L. F. H. No.	Comingled	Shed	Age in Weeks	N A M E	Age	Cort	Form of Sale	Number of Sale	Credit Number and Date	Selling Price
1-2-37 1-3-37																			

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## NOTES ON

### Purdey Side by Side Shotguns Serial Numbers 25411 & 25412

Purdey shotguns with serial numbers 25411 & 25412 were entered in the Abercrombie & Fitch inventory and sales records on December 14, 1937. The entry appears in inventory book No. 7, section 2, page 127, as the ninth and tenth entries on that page. The date of acquisition is in the leftmost column and is followed by the serial numbers, gauge, barrel length, weight, ejectors, chokes, stock dimensions, type of grip, and chamber length. Although there is an entry for the date of acquisition, the shotguns were never actually received at A&F but rather they were shipped directly to the customer. The date of disposition is the same as the date of acquisition which is common for special order guns. The date "5-11-37" written above the date of disposition is believed to be the date that the order was placed by the customer.

The cost and price of the consigned Purdey shotguns are given in code. This code is based upon the word H-Y-D-R-O-P-L-A-N-E, where H=1, Y=2, D=3, etc. The number '0' is indicated by the letter 'E', however, the letter 'X' is alternately used to indicate an additional '0'. Using this code it can be seen that the cost of the pair in 1937 was 'HDNE.AO' which would be the equivalent of \$1,390.85. Similarly, the price of the pair, recorded as HLHH.LO, was \$1,711.75.

The 410 bore pair was ordered with a second pair of Purdey shotguns with identical specifications except in 28 gauge with 2 ¾ inch chambers. The serial numbers of the 28 gauge pair were 25413 and 25414. Both pairs were shipped directly to Mr. Inman and the entry of "No Tax" indicates that, since the guns were shipped directly to the customer, the Pittman-Robertson excise tax did not apply.

Purdey shotguns 25411 and 25412 constituted a pair of shotguns ordered for "Walker P. Inman". The shotguns were ordered from James Purdey & Son on May 11, 1937. The purchaser was Walker Patterson Inman, born in Atlanta, Georgia on August 21, 1894. Mr. Inman resided at Duke Farms in Somerville, New Jersey and passed away at his estate, Greenfield Plantation in Georgetown, South Carolina on September 19, 1954.

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I hope that this information adds to the appreciation of your firearm. If we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Beach". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Robert C. Beach

Archives Research

Griffin & Howe, Inc

## Interpreting the VL&D and A&F Records

The VL&D Record Books begin in 1901 and cover the period through 1929. There are 3 volumes: Book 1 covers 1901 to 1909, Book 2 covers 1910 to 1922, and Book 3 covers 1923 to 1929. Most pages are limited to one make and model and each list for a given year begins on February 1st, probably following a January inventory of the firearms. The books include both new and used firearms. Used guns owned by VL&D are called "Second Hand Guns" while consigned guns are called "Guns Left for Sale".

Although there are exceptions to each of the following, generally the firearms in Book 1 describe only the gauge, barrel length, weight and D@H. The name of the purchaser is recorded if other than a 'cash sale'.

The firearms in Book 2 list the dates of acquisition and sale, most gun specifications and the purchasers but not the cost or price. The firearms in Book 3 list all of the above plus the price at which the gun was sold, in code.

Book 4 is a Von Lengerke & Antoine stock list of for 1913-1914 and includes many gun and non-gun items. The guns in Book 4 show only make, model and serial number. VL&A was purchased along with VL&D in 1929.

Beginning in 1929 the record books are labeled A&F and there are 28 volumes up through 1977. The A&F volumes cover a period of 1, 2 or 3 years. From this point the records show all of the above information in the VL&D books plus the cost to A&F and the retail price of the firearm. These costs and prices are shown in code until Book 16 in 1960 when they began to be recorded in dollars.

A line drawn through a serial number simply means that the gun had been sold. Unsold guns were transferred to the next year's inventory pages as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. Those transferred are often indicated by a red check mark. A large 'X' drawn across a page indicates that the inventory page had been completed. Serial numbers are almost never written in sequential order; rather they are by date of acquisition.

The name of the purchaser is often shown with an initial instead of the first name. The clients of A&F include some recognizable names and occasionally one will see entries for: WR Hearst, K. Roosevelt, (Kermit, son of TR), or JP Sousa, Jr (son of the conductor) among many others of note.

Stock dimensions, when listed, are in the order: Drop @ Heel, Drop @ Comb, LOP. Grip styles are listed as: "Str" (straight grip), "½" (semi-pistol grip) or "F" (full pistol grip).

Occasionally new gun sales were cancelled or the guns were returned by the buyer and resold. These were re-entered in the new gun listings with the name of the former owner written above the date of acquisition.

All of the records were handwritten by human beings. As such, there is always the possibility of human error. Occasional serial number and date errors have been noted therefore it is quite reasonable to assume that there will be some mistakes in measurements as well. You own a piece of firearms history. Please accept the documents for the historical perspective that they add to your firearm and do not be too disappointed if they fail to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century standards for mechanical precision or computer accuracy.

Bob Beach