

FIREARM INFORMATION SHEET

COLLECTION NUMBER: 9231

TYPE: Kentucky rifle - buck & ball gun

IGNITION SYSTEM: Original flint

DATE OF MANUFACTURE: 1746

PLACE OF MANUFACTURE: Lehigh Valley, PA.

MAKER:

LENGTH OVERALL: 63 1/2"

BARREL LENGTH: 47 1/2"

CALIBER: .68 smooth

WOOD TYPE: Walnut

MOUNTINGS: Brass

BARREL MARKINGS/DECORATIONS: —

STOCK MARKINGS/DECORATION: Relief carved behind cheek piece and at tang. Relief carving in front of trigger guard and at rear of rear ramrod thumb worm. Large high cheek piece constant & knobby gun as well as wide heavy butt.

REPAIRS/RESTORATIONS: —

HISTORICAL/ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE: Rifle #59 on p. 250 of Shumway has the same horn hardware and architecture. This rifle however, is relief carved in an early conservation fashion and in a condition no better than #59 which is most authoritive date from the 3rd 1/4 of the 18th C (it has been or occasion been dated to the 2nd 1/4 but that was based on poor judgment and misinformation). These guns appear to be ancestral to those by Benson Rapp and Pete Rehert.

PROVENANCE:

PUBLICATIONS:

COST:

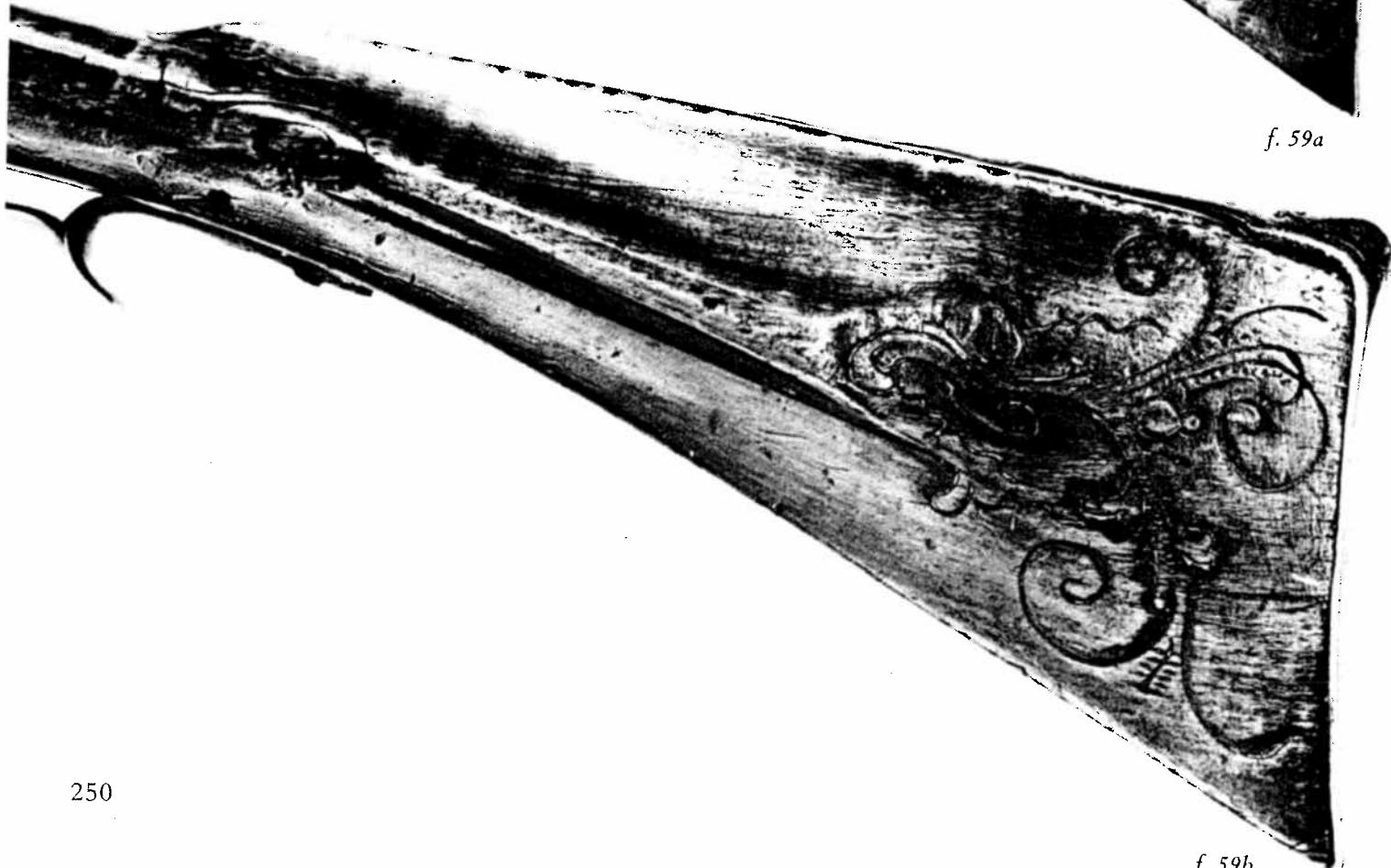
ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE AND DATE:

Length overall 30 5/16 inches. Octagon-to-round smoothbore barrel 47 11/16 inches long, .58 caliber. Lock-plate length 5 1/4. C 13 11/16; D 15 1/32; E 2; F 4 7/8; G 2 3/16; H 1 1/2; I 1 9/32; J 1 7/8.

The graceful curves of the butt-stock profile suggest that this gun was made in the Lehigh Valley. Relief mouldings at the tail of the lock and side-plate flats terminate in fleur-de-lis or tri-lobate figures of the type so commonly found on Lehigh Valley arms. At the front end of the comb the fleur-de-lis figure appears also, as it does on other arms of the region. But exactly where this was made, and by whom, is unknown. The pattern of carving behind the cheek-piece bears attention because it does not conform well with the stylized patterns more commonly found on Lehigh Valley pieces, yet it really is a somewhat contorted version of the pattern. The brass furniture calls for special note also. The trigger-guard, butt-plate, and side-plate each are engraved with simple floral patterns that bear little resemblance to the carved designs on the stock, and doubtless were done by a different hand. Gun furniture of this general type, with more or less similar engraving, apparently was imported from continental Europe in the 18th and early 19th centuries and sold to gunsmiths in eastern Pennsylvania. This kind of furniture typically is engraved with rococo elements. The front end of the butt-plate extension is engraved somewhat in the rococo style.



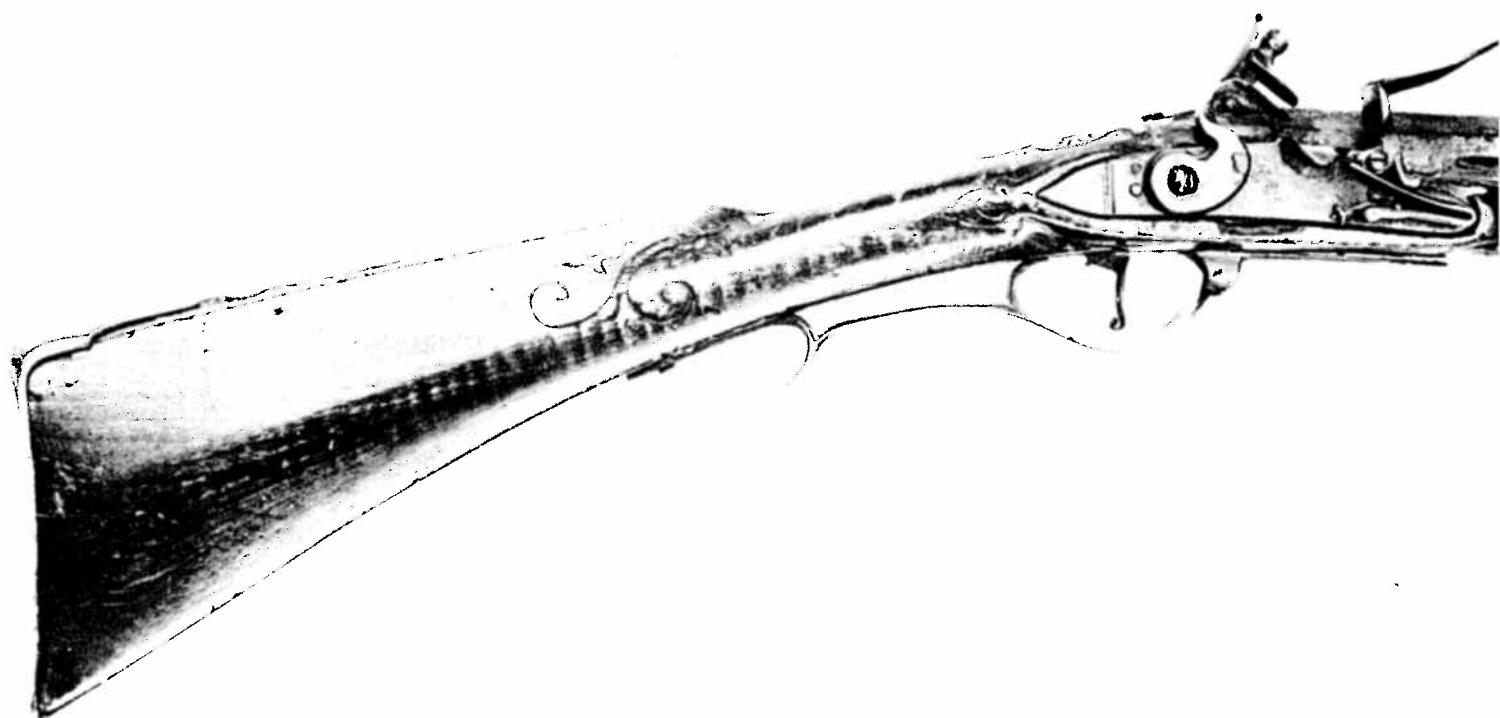
f. 59a



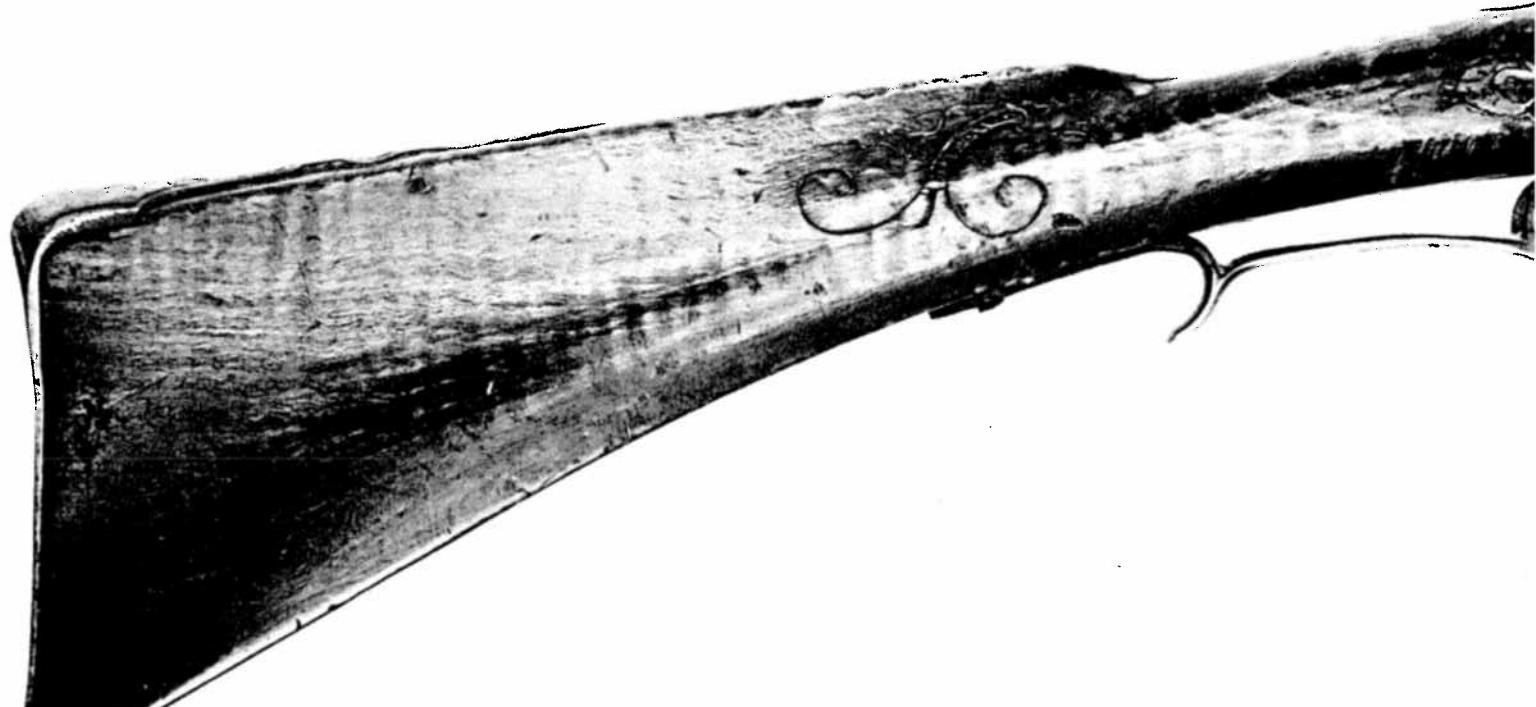
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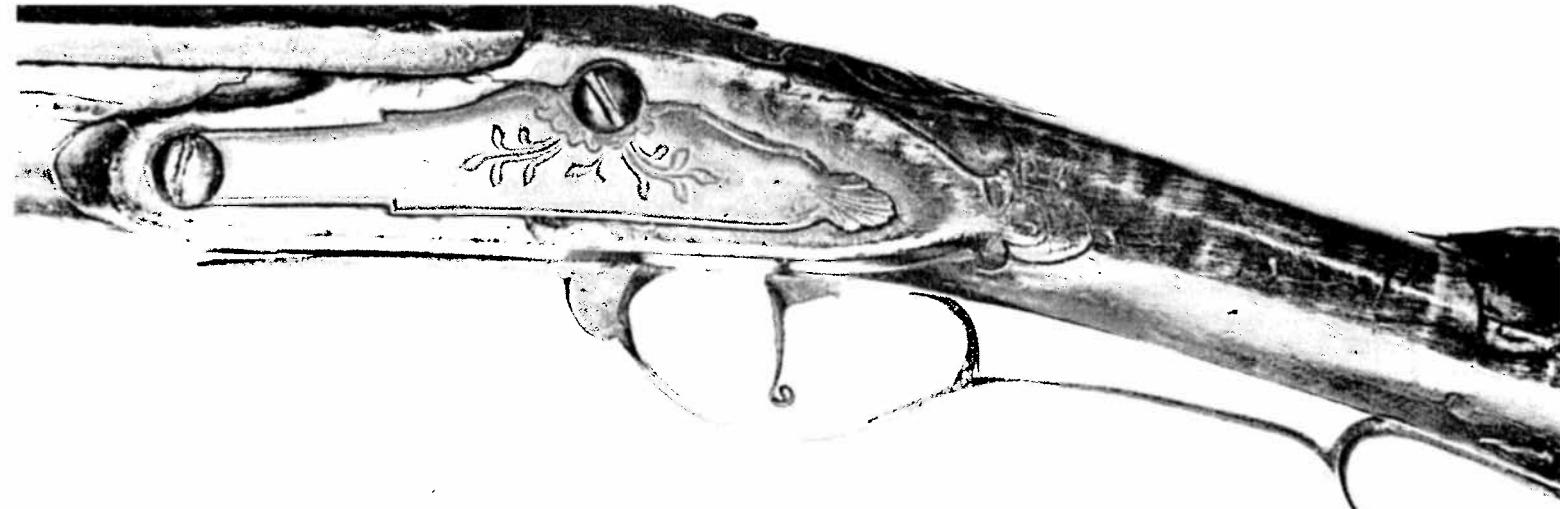


f. 59c

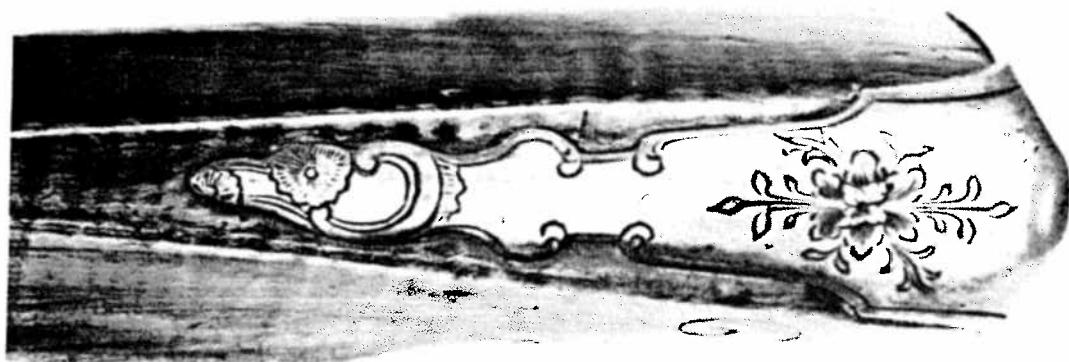


f. 59d

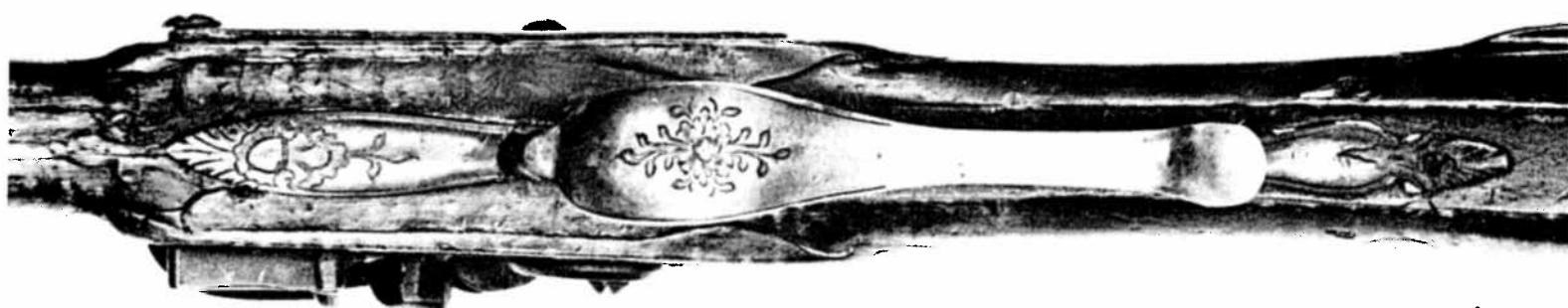




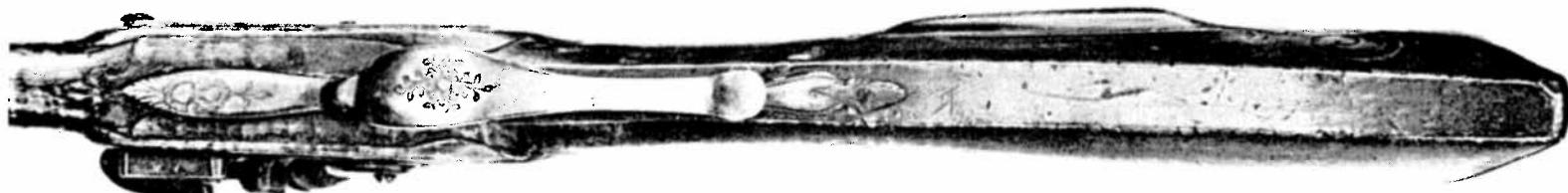
f. 59f



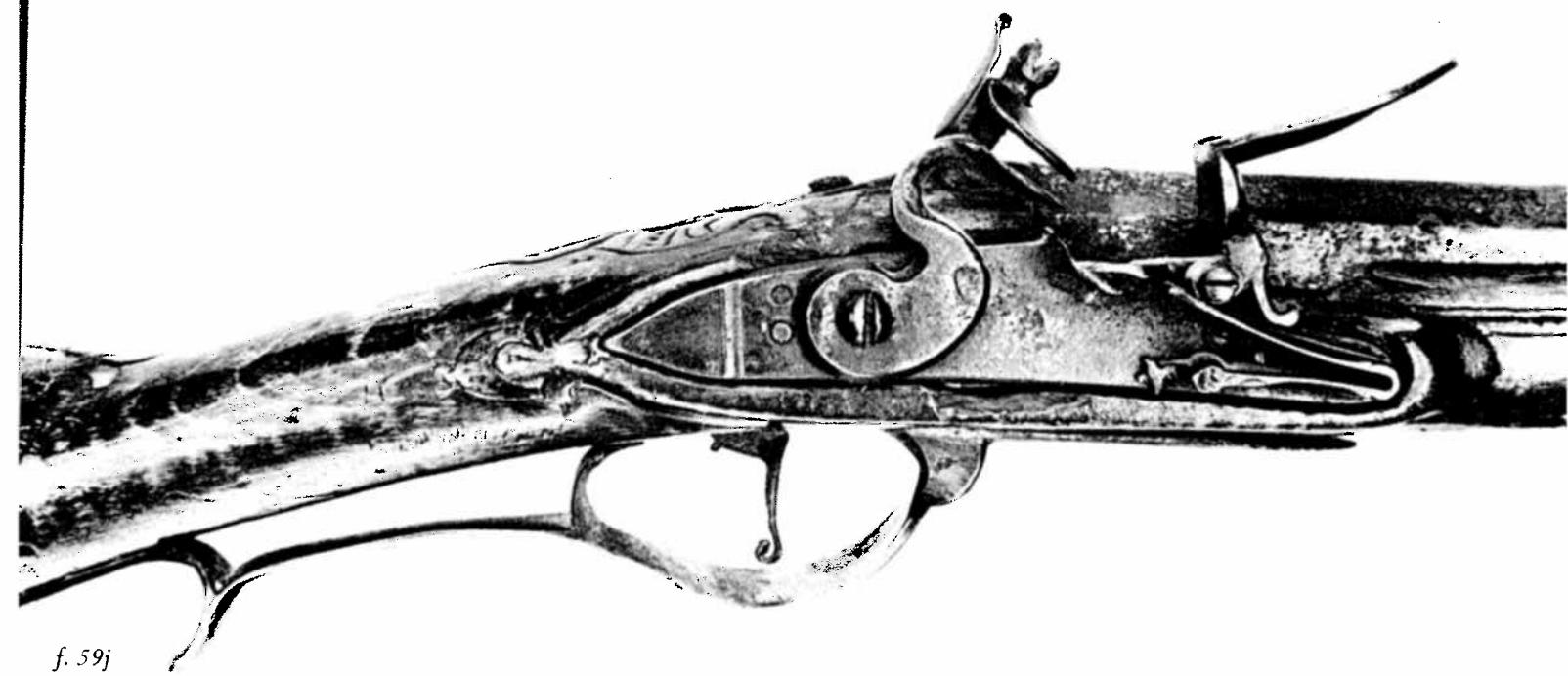
f. 59g



f. 59h



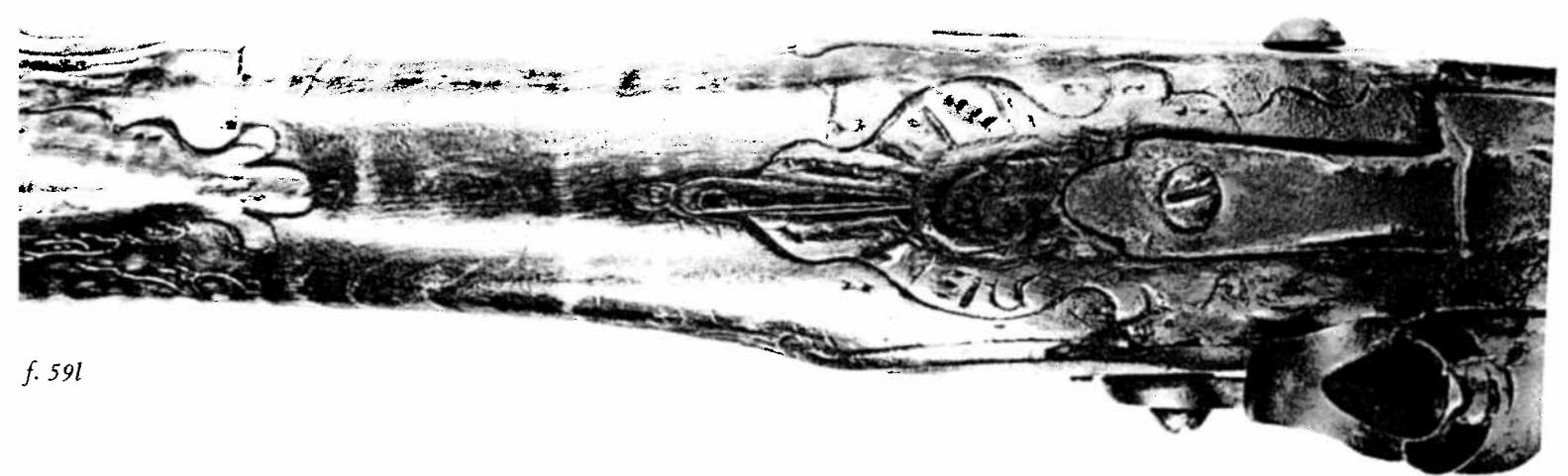
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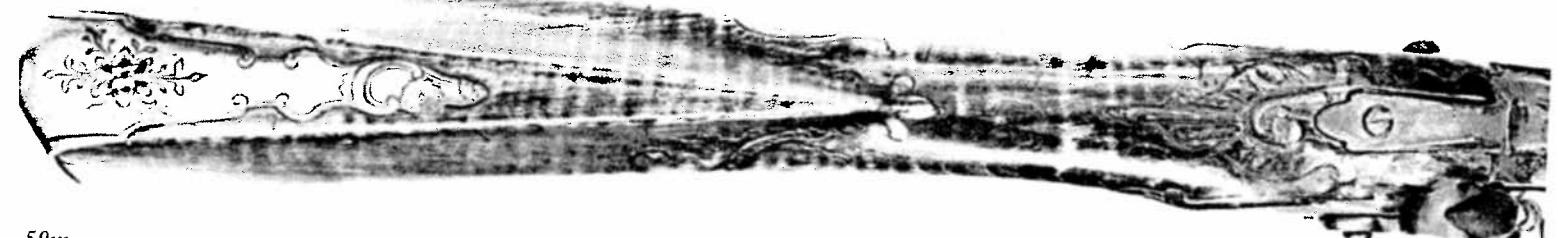
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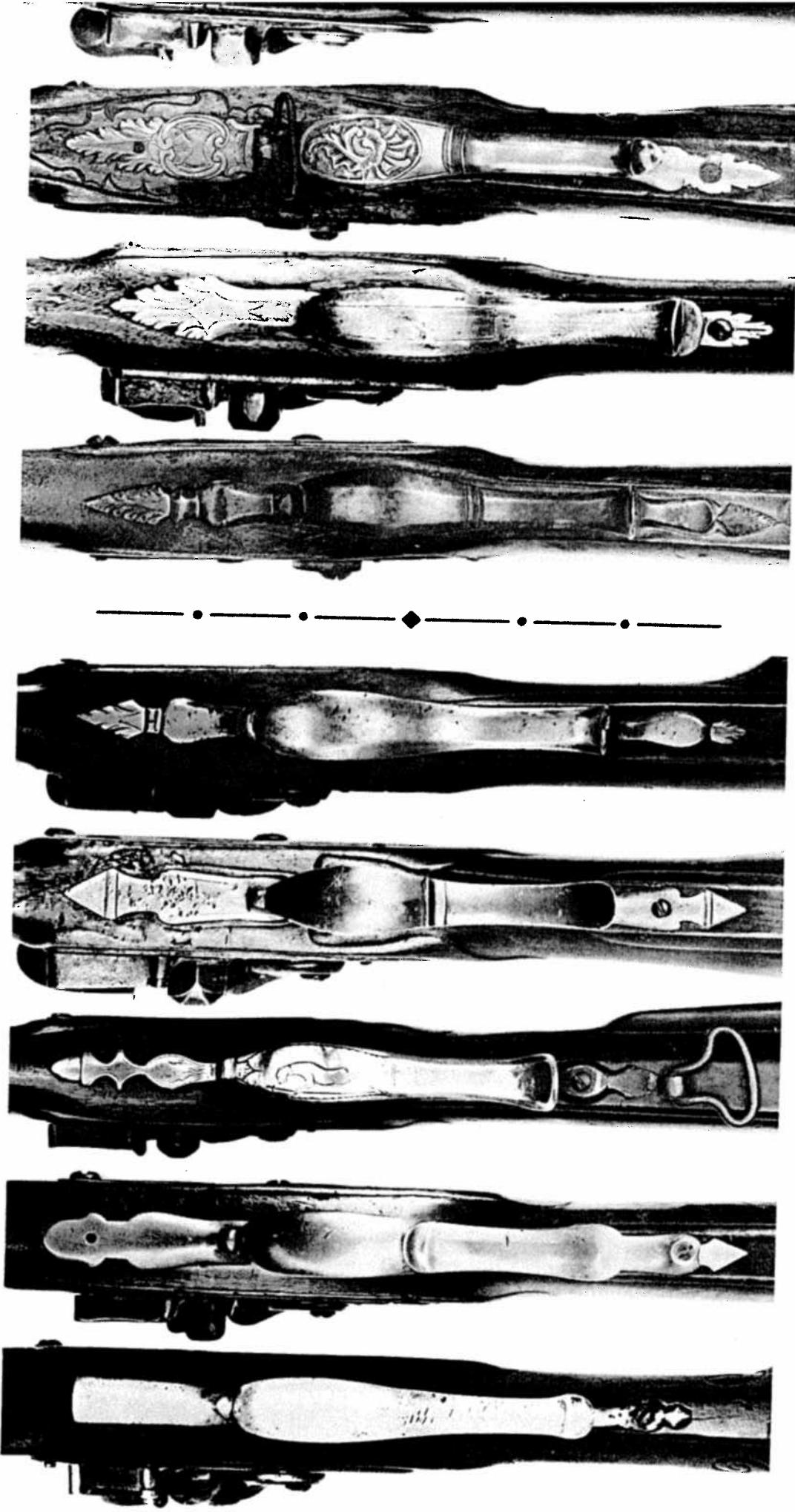
f. 59k



f. 59l



ACANTHUS - FINIAL TRIGGER - GUARDS



f. 173 *Germanic target rifle of large size, No. 3.*

f. 175 *Germanic rifle, No. 4.*

f. 176 *Germanic gun, No. 8.*

f. 177 *Vestiges of acanthus finials, early longrifle of unknown origins, No. 104.*

f. 178 *Acanthus finial vestiges, as mere pointed ends, birch-stocked rifle, No. 110.*

f. 179 *Pointed rear finial on early Berks Co., Pa. rifle, No. 19.*

f. 180 *Pointed rear finial, rifle No. 87.*

f. 181 *Very small vestige on rear finial, rifle No. 52.*

ROCOCO TRIGGER - GUARDS

No. 11.



f. 183 Rococo trigger-guard, probably of German origin, on a gun from the Lehigh Valley, No. 79.

No. 59



f. 184 Rococo trigger-guard, probably of German origin, on a gun by Isaac Haines of Lancaster Co., Pa., No. 79.



f. 185 Rococo trigger-guard on a gun from the Lehigh Valley, No. 58.



f. 186 Rococo trigger-guard on a rifle by J. P. Beck of Lebanon Co., Pa., No. 100.



f. 187 A gun probably from Lancaster Co., Pa., has this rococo trigger-guard and a matching butt-plate, No. 71.



f. 188 The earliest gun attributed to George Shroyer has this rococo trigger-guard and a matching butt-plate, No. 90.