

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: .69 smooth.
WOOD TYPE: Walnut
MOUNTINGS: Iron

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 thimble worn. Large high cheek piece consistent & evenly gun as well as wide heavy butt.

REPAIRS/RESTORATIONS: —

HISTORICAL/ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE: Rifle #59 on p. 250 of Shumway has the same iron hardware and architecture. This rifle however, is relief carved in an early conservation fashion and is certainly no later than #59 which the most authoritative date from the 3rd 1/4 of the 18th C (it has been on 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 Blanton Rapp and Peter Neibert.

PROVENANCE:

PUBLICATIONS:

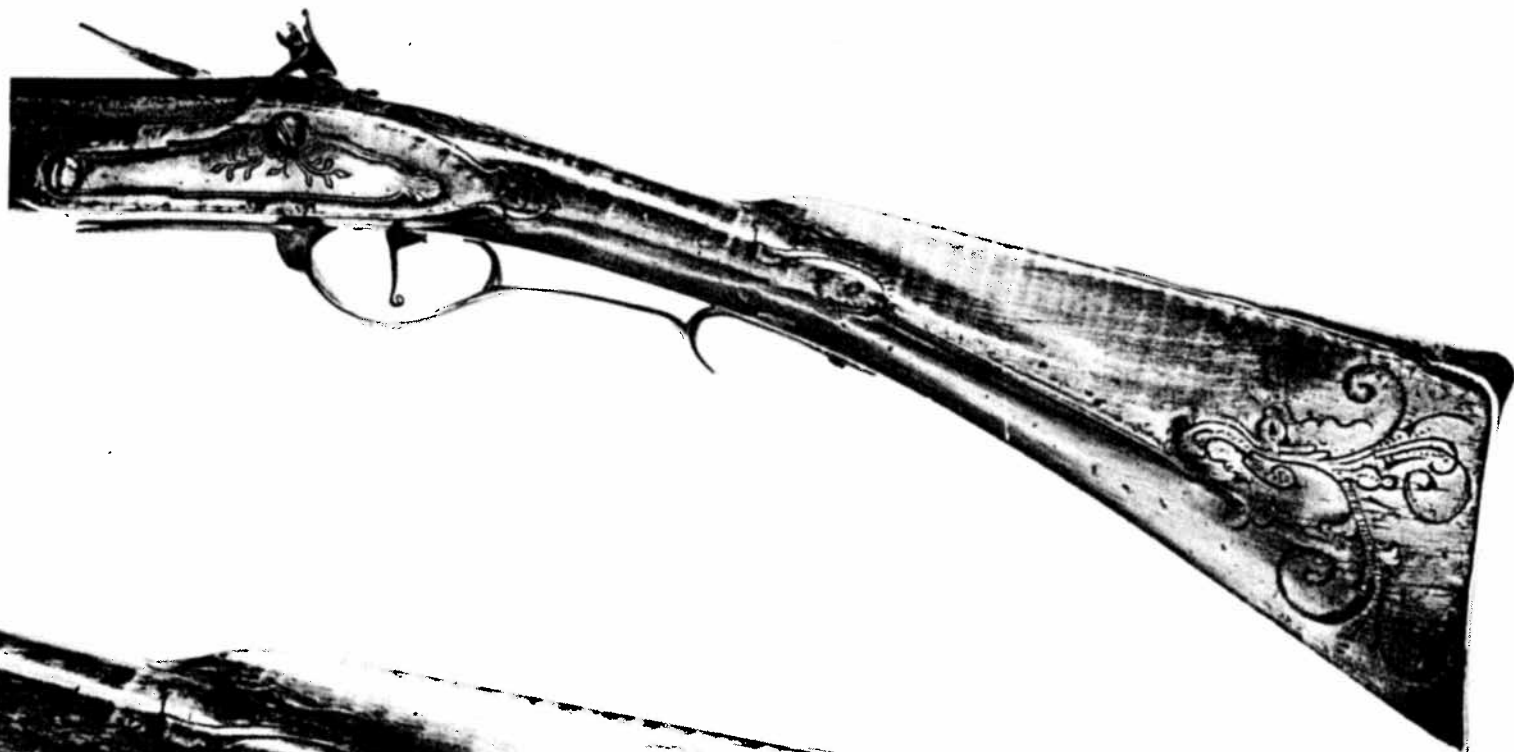
COST:

ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE AND DATE:

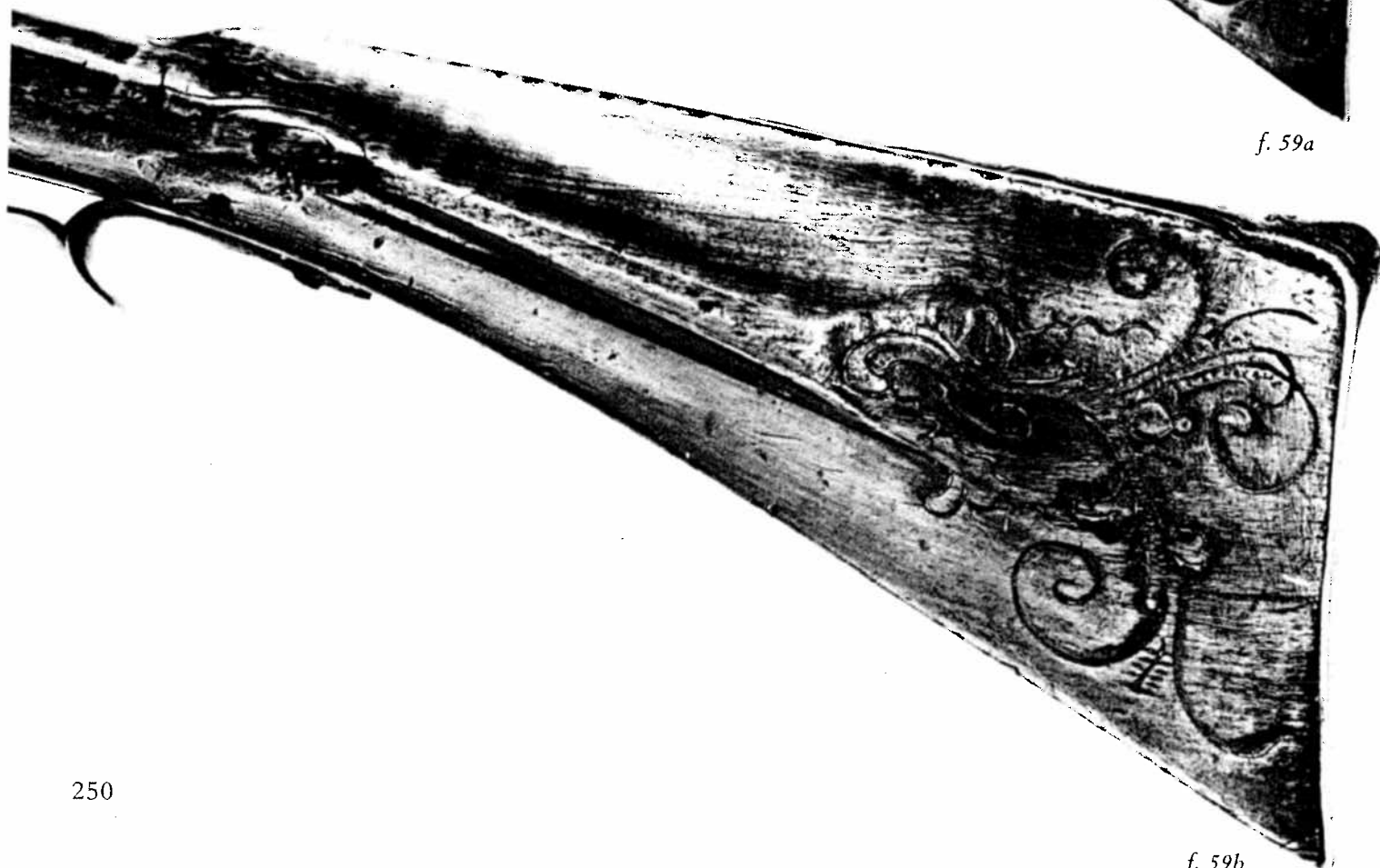
#57

Length overall 65 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 15/32; 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.



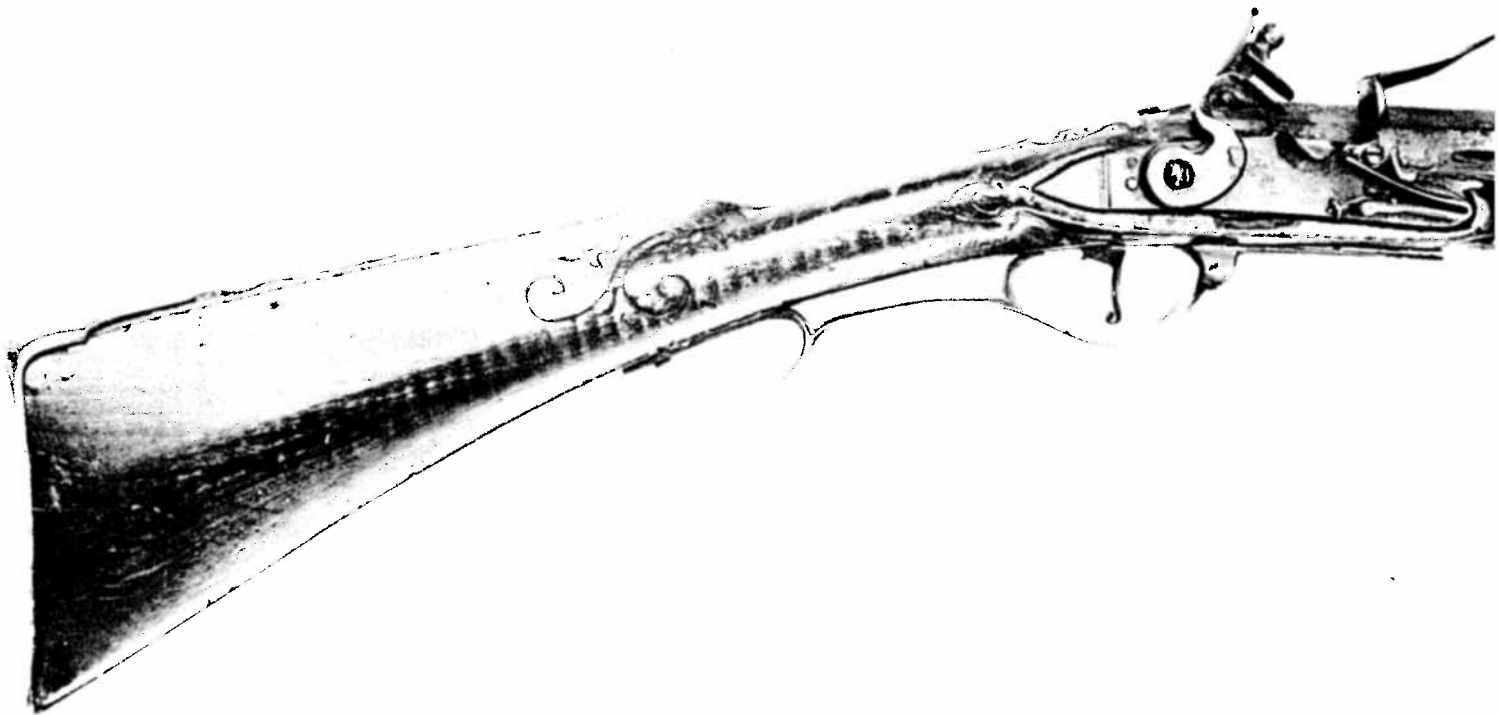
f. 59a



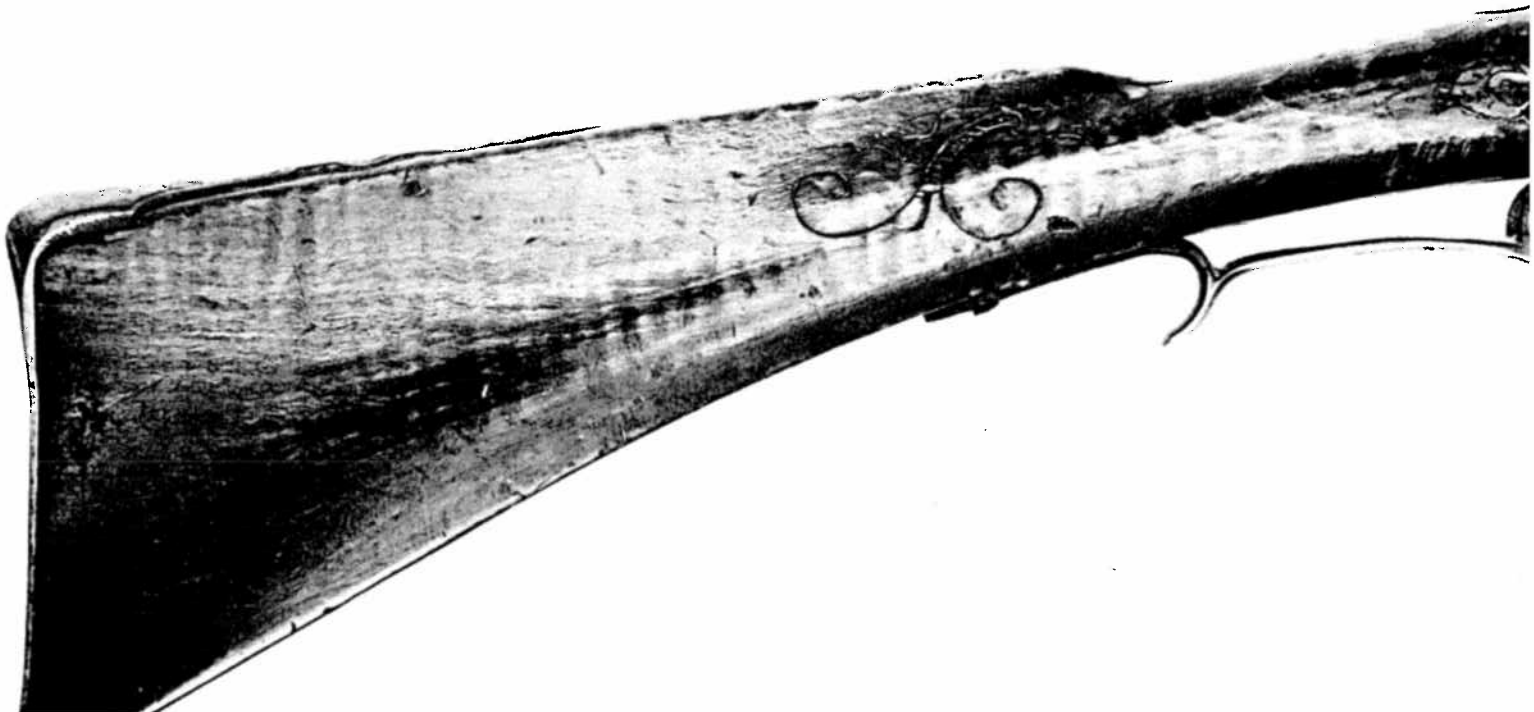
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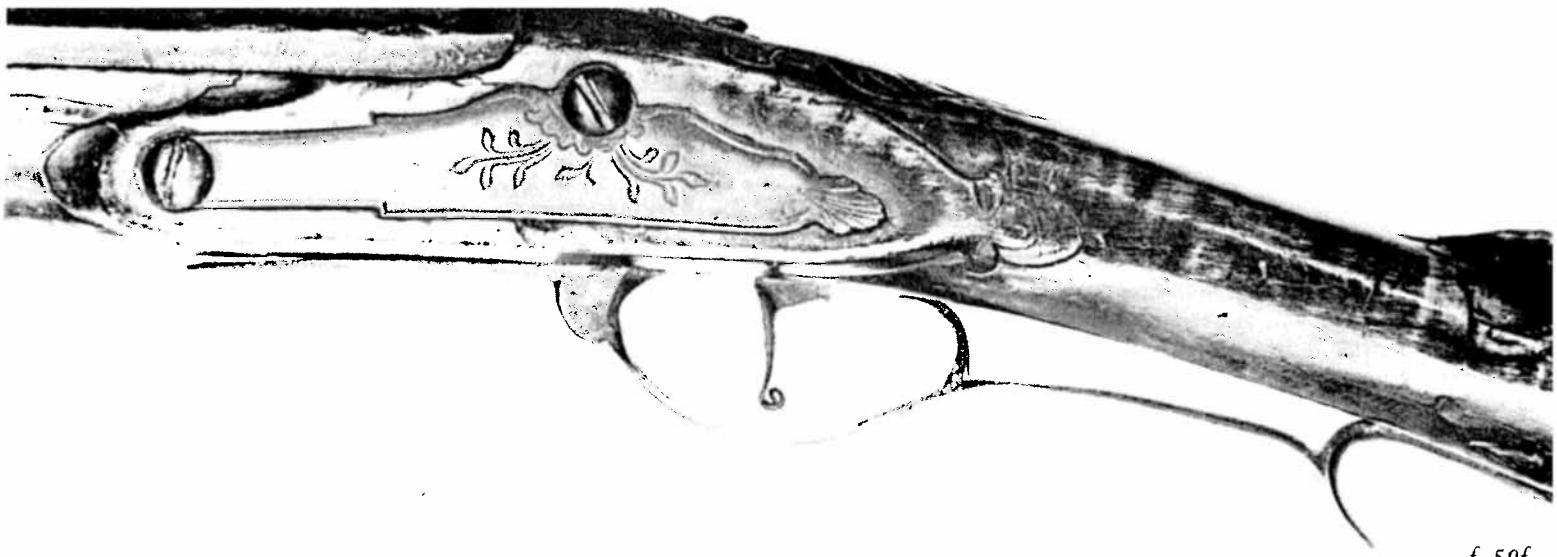


f. 59c

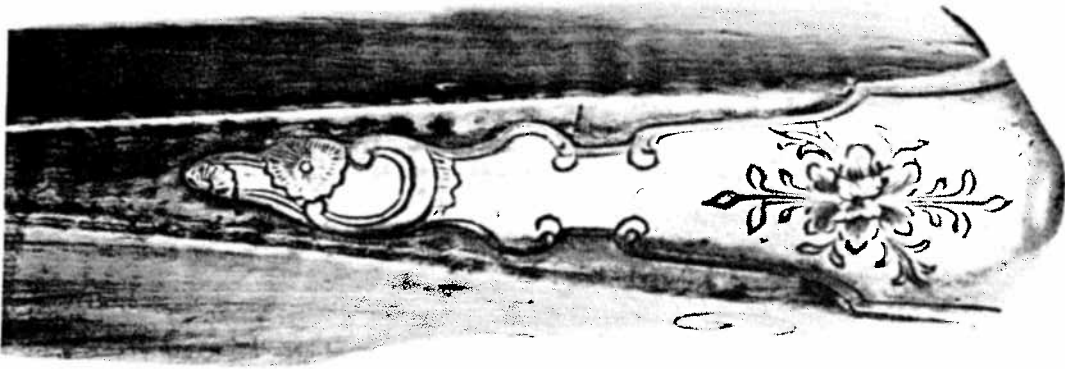


f. 59d

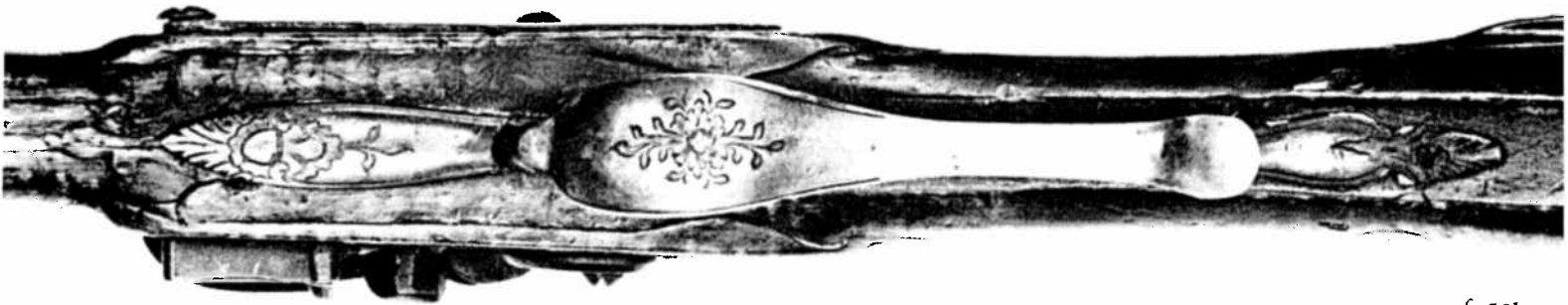




f. 59f



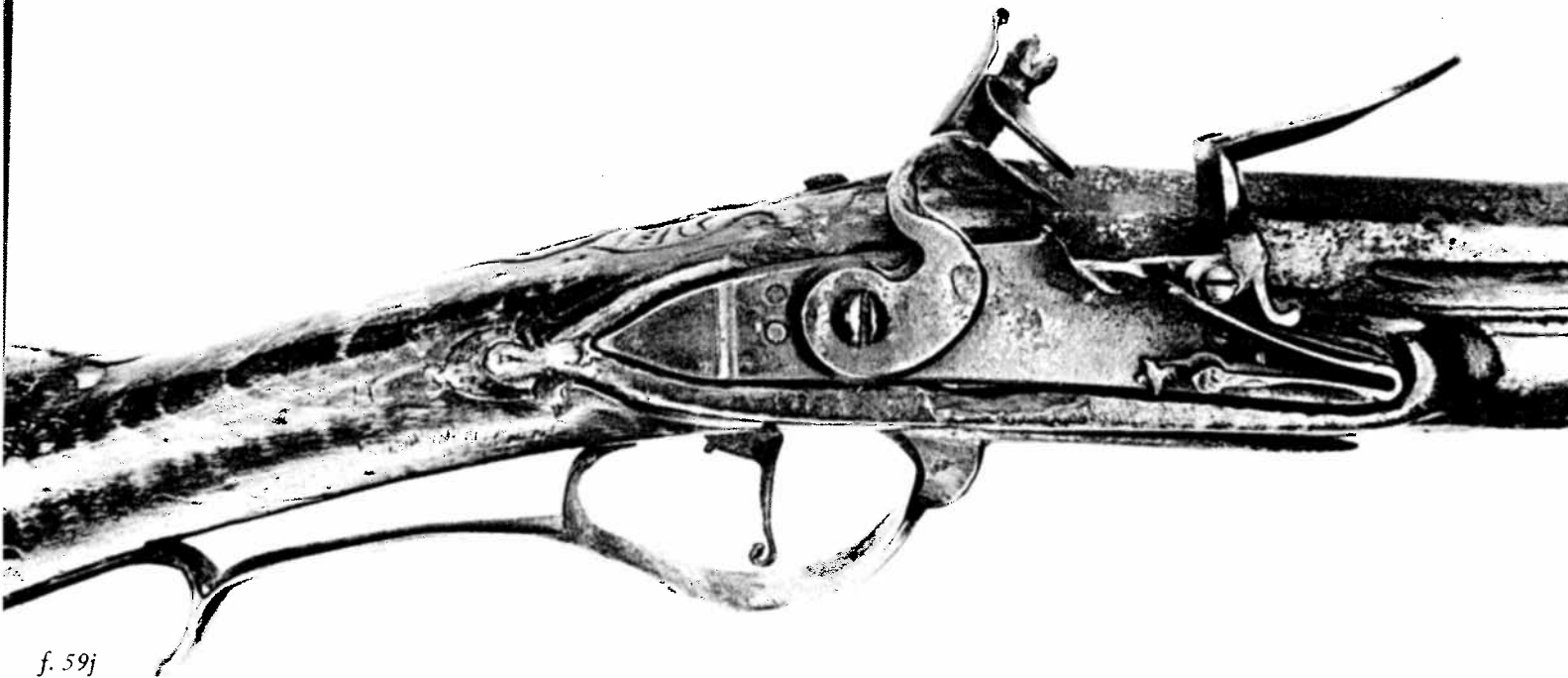
f. 59g



f. 59h



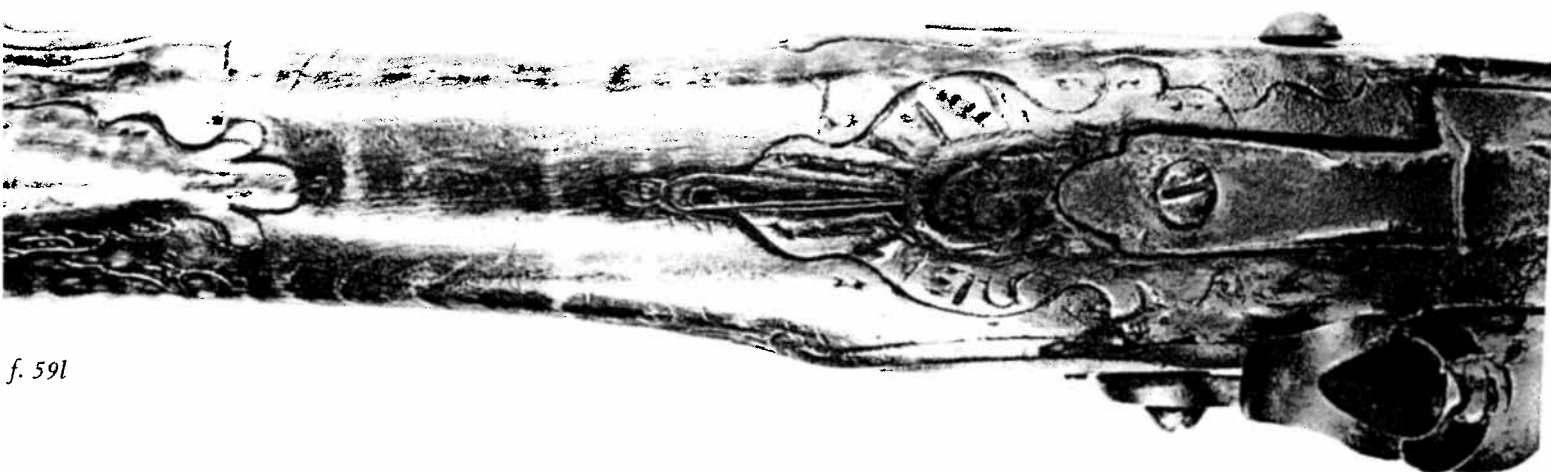
f. 59i



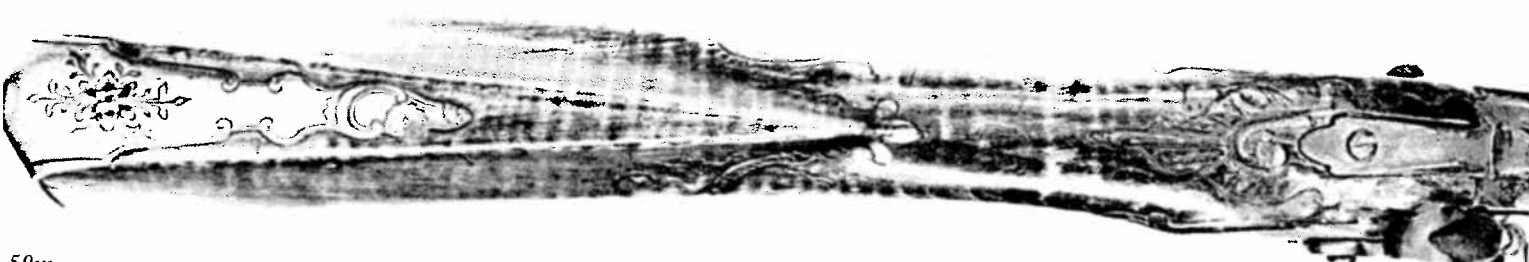
f. 59j



f. 59k



f. 59l





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



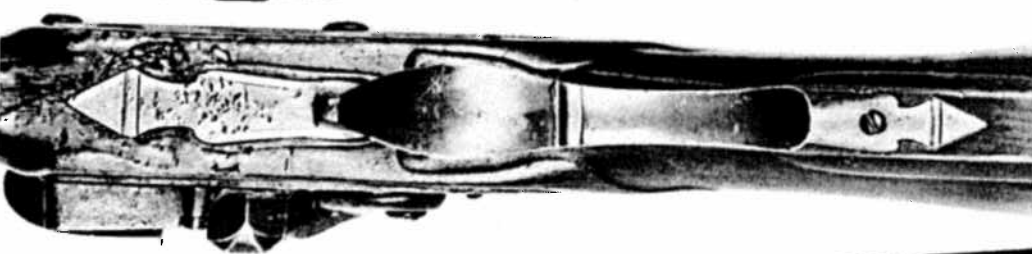
f. 175 Germanic rifle, No. 4.



f. 176 Germanic gun, No. 8.



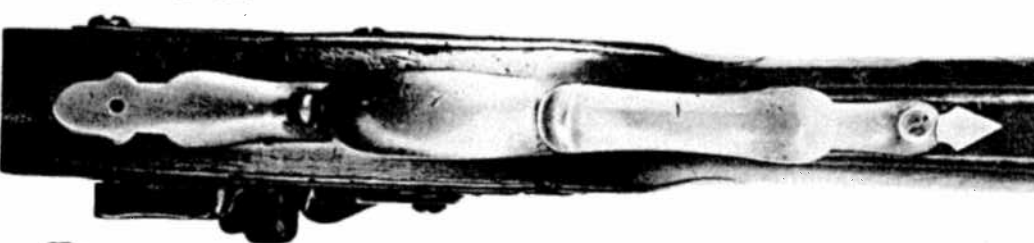
f. 177 Vestiges of acanthus finials, early longrifle of unknown origins, No. 104.



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



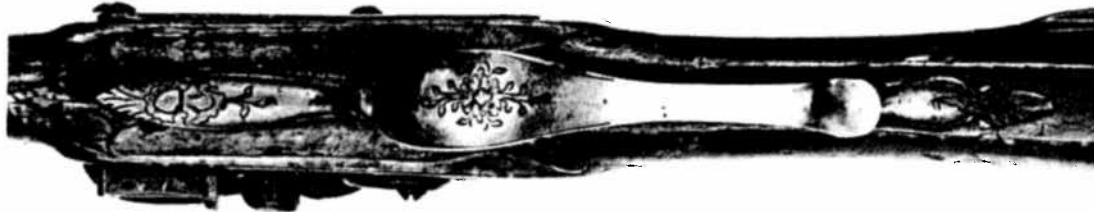
f. 179 Pointed rear finial on early Berks Co., Pa. rifle, No. 19.



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



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



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.