

Frederick T Baker, 88 Fleet St & 21c Cockspur St, Pall Mall, London
 12 bore Back action, Sidelock Ejector
 no. 6778

Date of manufacture: 1874-88

This lovely Needham patent sidelock ejector has come to us on consignment and as such has not received the full Heritage Guns restoration treatment. That said, we have stripped, cleaned, re-lubricated and rebuilt the whole gun and checked it for any problems. It appears to be in fantastic condition for its age and almost totally original. In fact we would classify it as the best 'sleeper' we have ever had through our workshops and considering its unfashionable style and mechanism, that it truly saying something.

FT Baker were renowned for their very finely finished guns that featured 'wall to wall' engraving of very Best quality and this is no exception. The wood has a fantastic figure, the Whitworth steel barrels measure up well and are totally devoid of pitting and the gun's internals are mirror bright.

All in all, this is a very important gun for any enthusiast of the very best and most interesting products of the London gun trade and represents a very rare opportunity.

It comes complete with its contemporary, and possibly original, Leg of Mutton guncase.

The action is of Needham's design and features: Double triggers bolted by an automatic top tang safety slide, Back action 'Leg of Mutton' locks, Gold lined cocking indicators, Westley Richards style top lever opening with a 'dolls head' rib extension giving a single bite, Needham's patent ejector and split extractors and a 'Grip' forend lever catch. **Gun weight** 6lb 10oz **Engraving style** Best Foliate Scroll, FTB trade mark engraved on base of action, Gold SAFE plate, Stylised 'Percussion' fences, Top rib engraved 'SIR JOSEPH WHITWORTH'S FLUID PRESSED STEEL'.

Trigger pulls measure approximately: Front trigger 4 lbs Rear trigger 4 lbs

The Whitworth Steel barrels are 30" in length, chambered for 2 1/2" (65mm) cartridges and are of brazed 'dovetail' lump construction with soft soldered ribs. Top rib is of the smooth, concave type.

London reproof for 65mm nitro powder cartridges in 1982.

Approximate barrel measurements at date of publication:

	Nominal Proof Size	Bore Diameter 9" from Breech	Minimum Wall Thickness	Choke Constriction
Right Barrel	0.729"	0.734"	0.026" Minimum	Cyl
Left Barrel	0.729"	0.735"	0.025" Minimum	0.013" (IC)

Straight Hand Stock and Splinter Forend are crafted from highly figured walnut. We suspect that the stock and forend wood is the original. The stock is cast off for a right-handed shot, features a yellow metal oval engraved 'WW' and is fitted with a leather covered recoil pad.

The 24 lines per inch chequering is to normal sidelock pattern. The stock is apparently finished with a traditional linseed oil based preparation.

Approximate stock measurements at date of publication:

Pull to Heel 15"	Pull to Bump 15 1/8"	Pull to Centre 15 1/8"	Pull to Toe 15 1/2"
Drop at Comb 1 1/8"	Drop at Face 1 3/8"	Drop at Heel 2"	
Cast at Comb Negligible	Cast at Heel 1/4" (approximate)		

For the purposes of these measurements, 'Drop at Face' is the 'drop' measurement taken on a line perpendicular to the line joining the trigger and centre of the butt at approximately 8" from the trigger (front trigger on a double trigger gun).

Patents Exhibited include:

Joseph Needham's ejector & extractor patent no. 1204 of 1874, Westley Richards's bolting patent no. 1572 of 1871, Harvey's forend catch patent no 1793 of 1866.