

The Marlin Firearms Co.

Makers of Fine Rifles and Shotguns Since 1870

January 2, 1990

ny, Inc.

8

Your Marlin Model 38 rifle, serial number 2605, is without a doubt the finest Model 38 extant. The fine Alden "George" Ulrich engraving and gold inlay borders and special order checkering make it a one-of-a-kind Marlin.

The Model 38 was designed and patented by C.G. "Gus" Sweibilius, Marlin's chief engineer. He was also the foremost aircraft machine gun designer during WWI, and in 1926 formed the High Standard Manufacturing Company, the maker of fine pistols for many years.

It is interesting to note that the engraved Model 20 pump action .22 rifle illustrated on page 444 of my Marlin book, has the same animal design as on your Model 38. There are only two of the Model 20's, so embellished, known.

Yours very truly,



William S. Brophy
Senior Technical Mgr.

WSB:mc
Enclosure



Remington.



REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

SPORTING ARMS · AMMUNITION · TARGETS · TRAPS

BRANDYWINE BUILDING
1007 MARKET STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

National Accounts
(312) 310-3707

Address Replies To:
GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE
2500 WEST HIGGINS ROAD • SUITE 135
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS 60195
(312) 310-3706

8-Gauge Industrial
(312) 310-3708

October 2, 1989

MARLIN FIREARMS COMPANY

Attn: Bill Brophy
100 Kenna Drive
North Haven, CT 06473

Dear Bill:

Please find enclosed the photos of my grandmother's Model 38 that we discussed recently.

As the story goes, my grandmother claims that she had won this firearm at an exhibition shoot. When she won this, she was told that each year Marlin would make a like rifle as an example of the fine quality custom work available at that time from Marlin.

Unfortunately, that's about all I know, other than the serial number is 2605 (this appears on the inside of the receiver and on the stock).

I have shown this rifle to many but with no information available other than they felt it was very rare since they had not seen anything like it before. Art Wheaton saw it recently, whom I am currently working for and stated that if anyone could produce any history it would be you.

Bill, I hope this is not any trouble. I can tell you that my grandmother who is now in her mid-eighties and the rest of our family would be grateful for any information that you could come up with. Please let me know if I can supply you with anything additional.

Thank you very much in advance for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. D. Bedore", written in a cursive style.

E. D. Bedore
National Accounts Manager

EDB:rl
Enclosure



THE MARLIN COLLECTOR



Organized 1973

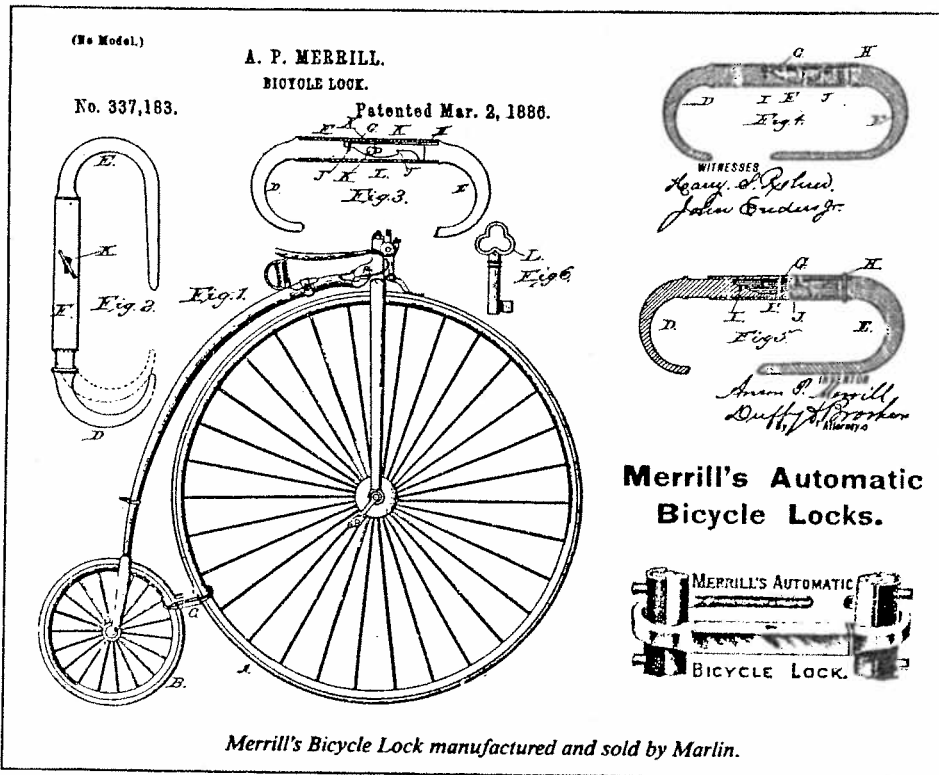
Vol. 12

April 1990

No. 3

MERRILL'S BICYCLE LOCK

Manufactured by The Marlin Fire Arms Co.



cause he located Patent No. 337,183 dated March 2, 1886 for a lock that was issued to Mr. Anson Parker Merrill.

Comparing the Marlin catalog illustration and the patent illustration that are shown here, it can be seen that the Marlin bicycle lock is the same as the one shown in the patent.

The question to be answered is this: Does any Marlin collector have a Merrill bicycle lock in his collection? Marlin does not have an example, and I have never seen one. Hopefully, one will surface to complete this story.

W.S.B.



During the period 1887 to 1891, Marlin advertised and sold the Merrill Automatic Bicycle Lock. The advertisements described it as follows:

"We desire to bring this lock to the attention of all wheelmen. It is just as indispensable an adjunct to a bicycle as a wrench or oil can, and is in every respect far ahead of the chain which has been generally used for locking bicycles.

It can be applied instantly and locks automatically, is neat, compact and cheap. This lock weighs only 2 1/2 ounces, and is four inches long, so that it may con-

veniently be carried in the book bag or in any clothes pocket. It is full nickel plated.

The Merrill Lock is composed of but five pieces, while an ordinary lock and chain has almost 35 pieces. It is evident from this that there is very little chance to have it get out of order. Price, by mail, postpaid, \$1.00. Can be had of any dealer in bicycles or bicycle sundries."

In the interest of trying to learn more about Marlin's Merrill lock, I asked a patent attorney friend to check the patent files for any lock patents issued to a Merrill. His search was rewarding, be-

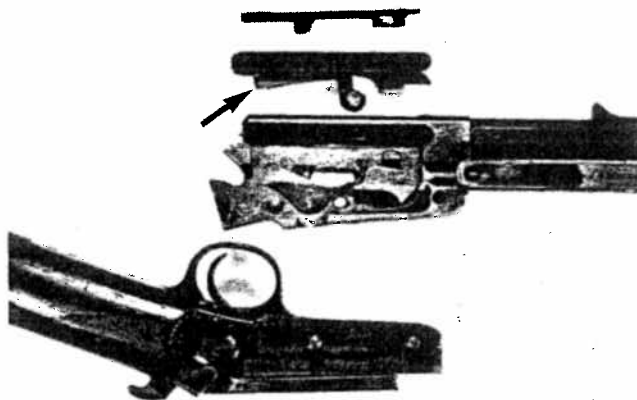
M.F.A. Co., to most of you reading this, are the initials for the Marlin Fire Arms Company. But, there was another M.F.A. Co. of which little is known. This article will shed some light on the other M.F.A. Co.

It all started several years ago when I answered an ad for a "Marlin pistol" that was for sale. The owner sent me a drawing of the gun in question, having the above signet on the hard rubber grips, and, except for the grips, the gun was unmarked. The gun was very similar in size and shape to the Marlin Double Action Revolver of 1887, but something

Continued next page



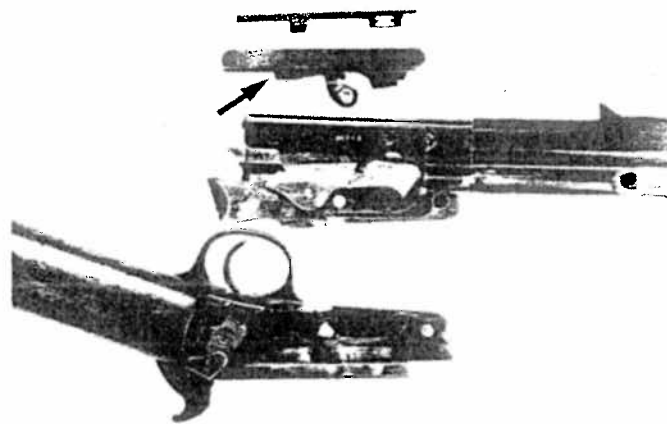
Top: Right side of one of the two finest pump action .22 rifles produced by Marlin. Gold and platinum inlays, pristine engraving with No. F-checked deluxe wood are exceptionally rare. (RP) Bottom: Left side of same rifle.



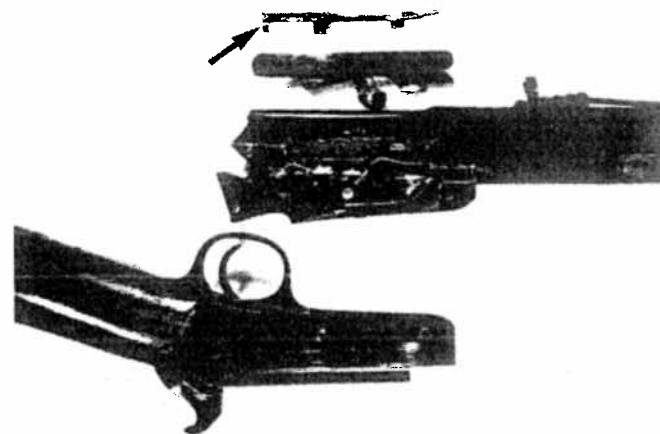
First variation of Model 20 rifle. Arrow indicates the long bolt lock.

without tools, and the barrel may be cleaned by inserting the wiping rod at the breech and drawing it entirely through the barrel, using a wiping rag twice as large as in any barrel where it is necessary to clean from the muzzle, doubling up the rag in the chamber. This is important to all shooters of .22 caliber ammunition, and especially to the gallery men who appreciate the saving in time and labor, the better results secured and the longer life of the barrel.

To take down the rifle with the action closed, cock the hammer and unscrew the thumbscrew, move the buttstock portion to the right and the barrel portion to the left. The parts are all locked in place when the gun is taken down so that they cannot drop out accidentally, but all of the parts may be removed in an instant, without tools.



Second variation of Model 20 rifle receiver. The arrow indicates the short bolt lock.



Third variation of Model 20 receiver. The arrow indicates the third type of firing pin.

To remove the action parts: With the gun taken down press forward the firing pin to release the locking bolt; raise the rear end of the locking bolt and draw back the forearm as far as it will go; draw forward the magazine tube as in loading—this allows a side play to the forearm; disconnect the forearm and handle slide from the locking bolt and draw them forward. The breech bolt and parts contained in same can then be taken out sideways and the carrier lifted out, giving access to everything. If desired, the locking bolt and firing pin may be removed from the breech bolt.

To re-assemble the action replace the carrier on its stud; replace the firing pin and locking bolt in the breech bolt; lay the breech bolt and contained parts in the frame at its rear-most position and then slide the breech bolt forward about half way, being sure that the firing pin on top of the rear end of the breech bolt engages in the groove on the under side of the top of the frame. With the breech bolt half open connect the handle slide with its stud on the locking bolt. Close the magazine. Then close and lock the action, pushing forward the forearm with the left hand, pressing breech bolt and handle slide against the frame with the thumb of right hand to guide breech bolt and insure that the slide will ride on the cartridge cutoff.

To put together the two portions of the frame, have the

**1989 Fall Hartford
Gun Show
October 28, 29, 1989**



Display Theme
"MARLIN FIREARMS"
 in recognition of my good friend
William S. Brophy
 Author of the new book
MARLIN FIREARMS
 For his long-time dedication to and
 support of Ye Connecticut Gun Guild,
 Marlin firearms collectors,
 and gun collecting generally.

Awards in the Following Categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Best of Show Award | Best New Marlin Display |
| Best Single Marlin Firearm | Best Display of Civil War Arms |
| Best Engraved Marlin Firearm | Best Display of Guns of the West |
| Best Educational Display of Given Model | Best Display of Edged Weapons |
| Best Accessories / Accessories | Additional Judges Choice Awards for Other Categories |

1989 Fall Hartford Gun Show
 The fall Connecticut Gun Guild Show (one of the finest display shows in the East) was held in October 1989, and was dedicated to The Marlin Firearms Company and Bill Brophy.

Each exhibitor received an autographed copy of the new Marlin book along with any show award their display received. The Marlin Firearms Company presented three Marlin rifles to be used as awards to the best Marlin displays, of which there were seven.

UP CLOSE



Every now and then a very special Marlin firearm will be discovered. The one featured here is an exceptional Model No. 38. Engraved and gold inlaid, it is only one of three Marlin gold inlaid and engraved pump action 22 rifles known.



A comparison of an engraved and inlaid Model No. 20 rifle, illustrated on page 444 of the Marlin Firearms book, in comparison with this gun, reveals great similarity between the two. Without a doubt, both were engraved by Alden George Ulrich (1888-1949).



The rifle illustrated is not for sale and the owner desires to remain anonymous.

W.S.B.

**New Marlin
MODEL 81**

now II-60

25-SHOT .22 CALIBER REPEATER
 Accurate, trustworthy tubular magazine repeater. NEW improved feeding system; NEW thumb-controlled safety; NEW quick-release trigger. Famous Ballard rifling. Short, long, long rifle cartridges.

"Straight Shooting"
 Interesting new booklet on handling and care of firearms. FREE AT DEALERS, or sent postpaid for 6¢ stamps. Get your copy now!

The Marlin Firearms Co.
 72 WILLOW ST. NEW HAVEN, CONN.

AR, June, 1939

Gets Small Game

NEW A1 MARLIN AUTOMATIC .22
 Re-designed and improved, the popular A1 features: NEW man-size, military type pistol grip, oil finish stock . . . NEW "non-slip" flexible rubber buttplate . . . NEW positive thumb-controlled safety . . . NEW flush take-down screw and . . . famous Marlin accuracy, with deep Ballard rifling. SEE THIS MARLIN BEAUTY AT YOUR DEALER'S TODAY!

\$12.60

Ask your dealer for Marlin booklet "Straight Shooting"

Marlin FIREARMS CO. NEW HAVEN CONN.

AR, May, 1939

HANDLOADING

Inquiries are frequently received for handloading information. The Marlin Firearms Collectors Association, The Marlin Firearms Company and I do not furnish reloading information. We, in fact, caution that all old Marlin firearms should be retained as collector's items and shooting them should be by only those who have good references, sound firearms and the technical know-how to do the job correctly.

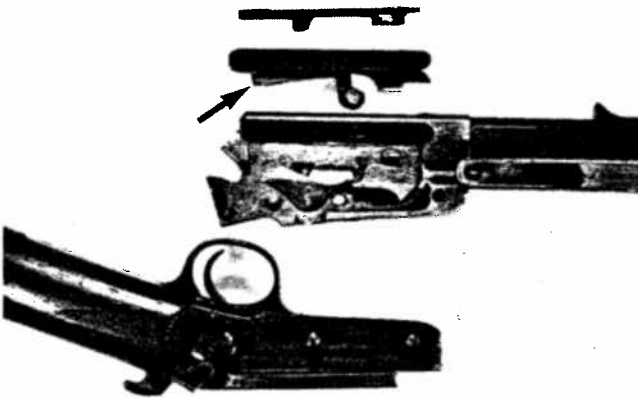
An article recommended by some

of the shooters of early Marlin and Winchester rifles is "Loading the 'Old Ones'", by Ken Waters. It was published in the Nov/Dec 1989 issue of the Handloader magazine. A comment at the end of the article states that the publisher and the writer can not accept any responsibility for handloaded ammunition prepared by others and that extreme caution be exercised at all times, and that only good sound cases of modern manufacture be used. (All that goes for me too!)

Bill Brophy



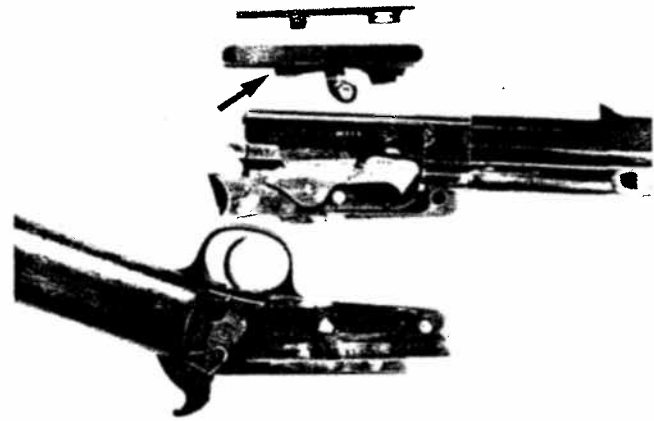
Top: Right side of one of the two finest pump action .22 rifles produced by Marlin. Gold and platinum inlays, pristine engraving with No. F-checked deluxe wood are exceptionally rare. (RP) Bottom: Left side of same rifle.



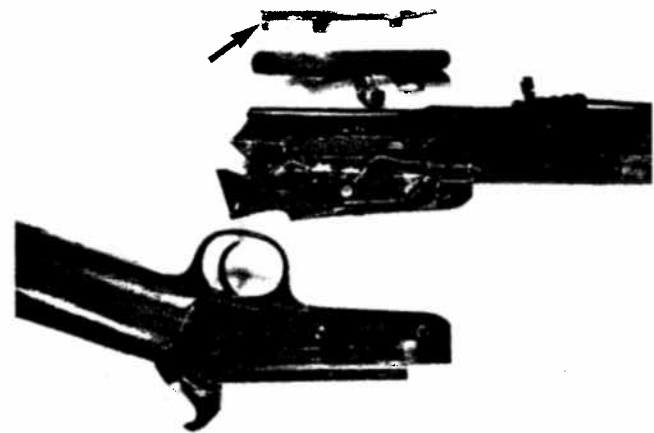
First variation of Model 20 rifle. Arrow indicates the long bolt lock.

without tools, and the barrel may be cleaned by inserting the wiping rod at the breech and drawing it entirely through the barrel, using a wiping rag twice as large as in any barrel where it is necessary to clean from the muzzle, doubling up the rag in the chamber. This is important to all shooters of .22 caliber ammunition, and especially to the gallery men who appreciate the saving in time and labor, the better results secured and the longer life of the barrel.

To take down the rifle with the action closed, cock the hammer and unscrew the thumbscrew, move the buttstock portion to the right and the barrel portion to the left. The parts are all locked in place when the gun is taken down so that they cannot drop out accidentally, but all of the parts may be removed in an instant, without tools.



Second variation of Model 20 rifle receiver. The arrow indicates the short bolt lock.



Third variation of Model 20 receiver. The arrow indicates the third type of firing pin.

To remove the action parts: With the gun taken down press forward the firing pin to release the locking bolt; raise the rear end of the locking bolt and draw back the forearm as far as it will go; draw forward the magazine tube as in loading — this allows a side play to the forearm; disconnect the forearm and handle slide from the locking bolt and draw them forward. The breech bolt and parts contained in same can then be taken out sideways and the carrier lifted out, giving access to everything. If desired, the locking bolt and firing pin may be removed from the breech bolt.

To re-assemble the action replace the carrier on its stud; replace the firing pin and locking bolt in the breech bolt; lay the breech bolt and contained parts in the frame at its rear-most position and then slide the breech bolt forward about half way, being sure that the firing pin on top of the rear end of the breech bolt engages in the groove on the under side of the top of the frame. With the breech bolt half open connect the handle slide with its stud on the locking bolt. Close the magazine. Then close and lock the action, pushing forward the forearm with the left hand, pressing breech bolt and handle slide against the frame with the thumb of right hand to guide breech bolt and insure that the slide will ride on the cartridge cutoff.

To put together the two portions of the frame, have the



THE MARLIN COLLECTOR



Organized 1973

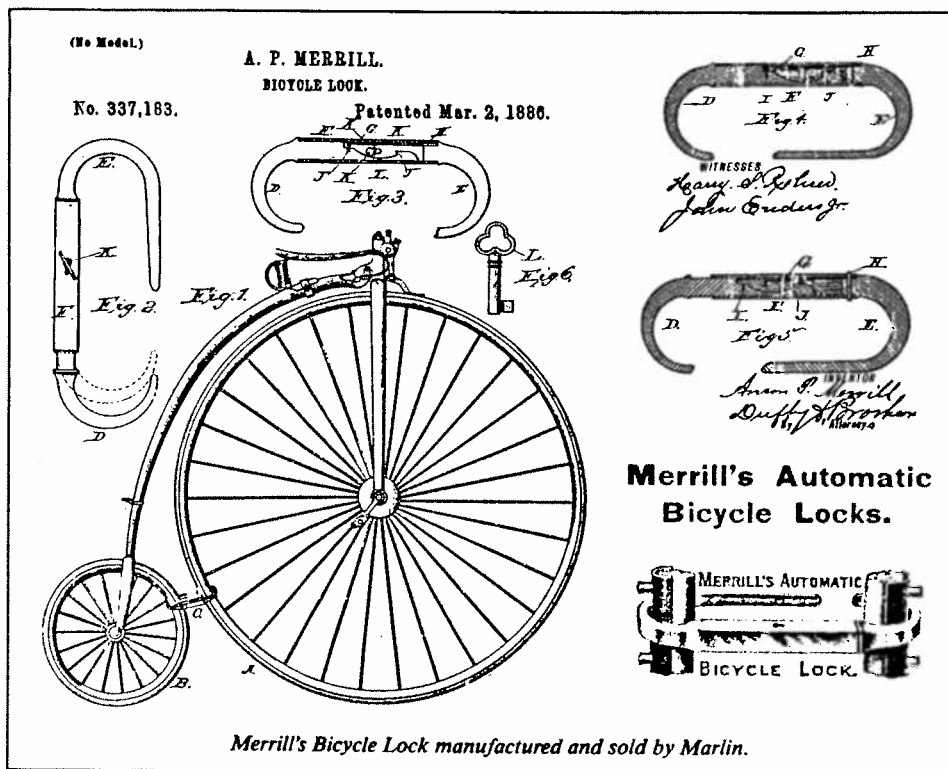
Vol. 12

April 1990

No. 3

MERRILL'S BICYCLE LOCK

Manufactured by The Marlin Fire Arms Co.



During the period 1887 to 1891, Marlin advertised and sold the Merrill Automatic Bicycle Lock. The advertisements described it as follows:

"We desire to bring this lock to the attention of all wheelmen. It is just as indispensable an adjunct to a bicycle as a wrench or oil can, and is in every respect far ahead of the chain which has been generally used for locking bicycles.

It can be applied instantly and locks automatically, is neat, compact and cheap. This lock weighs only 2 1/2 ounces, and is four inches long, so that it may con-

veniently be carried in the book bag or in any clothes pocket. It is full nickel plated.

The Merrill Lock is composed of but five pieces, while an ordinary lock and chain has almost 35 pieces. It is evident from this that there is very little chance to have it get out of order. Price, by mail, postpaid, \$1.00. Can be had of any dealer in bicycles or bicycle sundries."

In the interest of trying to learn more about Marlin's Merrill lock, I asked a patent attorney friend to check the patent files for any lock patents issued to a Merrill. His search was rewarding, be-

cause he located Patent No. 337,183 dated March 2, 1886 for a lock that was issued to Mr. Anson Parker Merrill.

Comparing the Marlin catalog illustration and the patent illustration that are shown here, it can be seen that the Marlin bicycle lock is the same as the one shown in the patent.

The question to be answered is this: Does any Marlin collector have a Merrill bicycle lock in his collection? Marlin does not have an example, and I have never seen one. Hopefully, one will surface to complete this story.

W.S.B.

.....



M.F.A. Co., to most of you reading this, are the initials for the Marlin Fire Arms Company. But, there was another M.F.A. Co. of which little is known. This article will shed some light on the other M.F.A. Co.

It all started several years ago when I answered an ad for a "Marlin pistol" that was for sale. The owner sent me a drawing of the gun in question, having the above signet on the hard rubber grips, and, except for the grips, the gun was unmarked. The gun was very similar in size and shape to the Marlin Double Action Revolver of 1887, but something

Continued next page

50425-3

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

ANNUAL MEETINGS EXHIBIT ARMS AWARD

Silver Certificate of Recognition

a Model 38, .22 cal. # 10 engraved w/ gold, sn # 2605.

Only known engraved Model 38

Arm

Displayed by the Martin Collectors Association

Affiliate



This Certificate is one of a maximum of ten certificates awarded each year to arms of outstanding historical value, or beauty, or rarity, selected from displays of the NRA's Affiliated Gun Collector Organizations.

Awarded during the 137th Annual Meetings
of the NRA on May 16 - 18, 2008

at Louisville, Kentucky

TEN BEST ARMS
AWARD



2008

