

**R.L. WILSON**

1730 Kearny St., G-1  
 Telegraph Hill Tower  
 San Francisco CA 94133  
 Facs: (415) 835-5998  
[wilsonbook@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonbook@gmail.com)  
 website: wilsonbooks.com

**Historical Consultant**

Colt's Manufacturing Co., Hartford  
 and to  
 'The Art of American Arms'  
 and  
 'Silk and Steel Women at Arms'  
 Museum Loan Exhibitions  
 'Son of a Gun' - BBC-TV  
 'Colt Firearms Legends' - SONY  
 'The Guns That Earned the West' - A & E  
 'The Story of the Gun' - A & E  
 'The Gun Industry in America' - BBC-TV/Open University  
 'Annie Oakley' - Riva Productions for PBS American Experience  
 Chairman, Antique Arms Committee (1990-2005)  
 U.S. Society of Arms and Armour/America Remembers  
 Fine Colts The Dr. Joseph A. Murphy Collection  
 The Arms of Tiffany (with Janet Zapata) (2014)  
 The Art of the Gun, Mini-Series, 5 Vols. (with RM Lee)  
 The Art of the Gun, Maxi-Series, 5 Vols. (with RM Lee)  
 A Life's Epesstry of a Collector - with George E. Gamble  
 Great Colt Treasures, with William L. Berg  
 Colt Dates of Manufacture, Blue Book Publications

Samuel Colt Presents  
 The Arms Collection of Colonel Colt  
 L.D. Nimschke Firearms Engraver  
 The Evolution of the Colt  
 Colt  
 Commemorative Firearms  
 Theodore Roosevelt Outdoorsman  
 The Book of Colt Firearms  
 The Book of Winchester Engraving  
 Antique Arms Annual  
 Colt Pistols (with R.E. Hable)  
 Paterson Colt Pistol Variations (with P.R. Phillips)  
 The Colt Heritage  
 The "Russian" Colts  
 Colt Engraving  
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 Winchester 1 of 1000  
 Colt's Dates of Manufacture  
 The Deringer in America, 2 Volumes (with L.D. Eberhart)  
 Colt An American Legend  
 Rare Firearms - A Benefit Auction (Christie's)  
 Winchester An American Legend  
 The Peacemakers  
 Steel Canvas  
 Ruger & His Guns  
 The Colt Engraving Book (two volumes)  
 The Official Price Guide to Gun Collecting  
 The World of Beretta  
 The Paterson Colt Book, Dennis LeVett Colln.  
 The Guns of Manhattan (2014)  
 American Arms Collectors The Al Cali Collection  
 Things I Love The William L. Koch Collection  
 Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist,  
 Boone & Crockett Club Publications

March 20th 2013

IS

I am very familiar with the Winchester Model 1895 Deluxe, Gold Inlaid and Engraved Lever Action Sporting Rifle, **Serial Number 88418**, which you are offering in your June 22nd, 2013 auction.

I first encountered this rifle in the late 1960s, when it was part of the fabulous Winchester Collection of James S. Fowler. A large color photograph of **No. 88418** is featured in my 1971 *Antique Arms Annual*, where it was identified as having been presented by Theodore Roosevelt to a friend. This information came directly from Fowler himself, who told me he had purchased the Winchester from a rancher who had obtained it from another rancher - to whom Roosevelt had made the presentation.

The importance of the James S. Fowler Collection is evident by the fact that it was given pride of placement in the *Antique Arms Annual* - with by far the largest section, of twenty pages. This huge presentation (from page 126 through and including page 143) was a selection of Jim Fowler's best Winchester. The dramatic photographs were taken by S.P. Stevens.

The exact text on page 142 of my caption for **Serial No. 88418** is as follows:

**Center:**

**Ulrich-engraved deluxe Model 1895 Winchester Rifle, presented by Theodore Roosevelt to a friend. Relief carved stock and gold inlaid game, scroll, and border motifs.**

S.P. Stevens and I were in such a rush with deadlines for the book, that we were unable to devote the extra amount of time that I normally do with my detailed book projects. In fact, I stayed at Steve's home in San Antonio, Texas, and set type at the printers (for which I was paid Union wages), in order to have the 5,000 copy print run completed in time for a forthcoming spring Texas Gun Collectors Association meeting and show. Herb Glass' wife Viola called this the "Texas Paper Back," and collectors were having their copies signed, while the printer's ink was still wet.

My copy has signatures from our publisher/business manager Leo H. Bradshaw, Jr., and just about everybody else - even William M.

Locke, whose profile occupies eight pages, and Joe Kindig's profile is six pages. These signatures are generally on the page where the collector's advertisement or picture, or whatever, was placed.

Jim Fowler's Winchesters thus not only comprised the longest profile in the book, but these arms were situated in the most important location.

We wanted to do the *Annual* again - but it was a monumental task. And I was quickly sidetracked with projects like Bob Hable's *Colt Pistols* and Phil Phillips' *Paterson Colt Pistol Variations*.

When the James S. Fowler Collection was auctioned in the early 1970s, the Roosevelt Rifle was purchased by Greg Martin, who shortly thereafter resold it to another collector. Until **No. 88418** resurfaced in your auction I had lost track of its whereabouts, and am happy to again be aware of its existence.

My first edition of *Theodore Roosevelt Outdoorsman* - published by Winchester Press - had just been released (1971), but I was so busy that year (*The Book of Colt Firearms* also appeared in 1971), that I didn't put two and two together to include this piece. And by the time of the 1993 second edition (limited to 1,000 copies, by Trophy Room Books), I had lost track of where the rifle was, and did not have access to any photographs.

Winchester Model 1895 **No. 88418** is a beautiful example, engraved and gold-inlaid, with richly relief-carved select walnut stocks. While it is unsigned, the style and quality of the workmanship leaves no doubt in my mind that this is Ulrich engraving, as stated in the 1971 *Annual*. The master engraver of **No. 88418** from that distinguished family is John Ulrich.

I regret that I do not have any further information on the Roosevelt connection. TR was very keen on the Model 1895 - as proven by

the records of his safari to Africa, 1909/10, and by my Roosevelt books.

All three of these titles published in the Appendix "Theodore Roosevelt and the Winchester Arms Company," the most highly detailed and profusely illustrated chronicle of the famous correspondence between the President and Winchester - in particular for the most historic safari in history: TR and son Kermit to Africa, 1909-1910. Two of the Model 1895 Winchesters chosen by TR and Kermit for the expedition, are pictured; these as well as others of that model are detailed in the text of the books.

Records on firearms TR owned are rather haphazard. The President did have an appreciation for the fancy. At the same time, he was extremely generous, and I am aware of at least a dozen firearms which he presented to friends - among them to his valet, and a deluxe Winchester Model 1876 Carbine to his pastor at the Oyster Bay, New York, Episcopal Church (now in the Autry National Center of the American West collections, Los Angeles).

Furthermore, TR also owned firearms which were not engraved with his name, monogram, or any other identification. Evidence for that appears in my books, *Theodore Roosevelt Outdoorsman* (1971 and 1993 editions), and the more recent, Boone & Crockett Club publication, *Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist* (2009).

I knew Jim Fowler well, and when I last saw this rifle, it was while a guest at his home in Nashville, Tennessee. His security for that fabled collection was to hide these treasures under the bed in the master bedroom of the family's Nashville mansion. There was yet another TR Winchester in Jim's collection, a deluxe engraved Model 1892 Saddle Ring Carbine, No. 53614, which is pictured on pages 188-189 of the *Antique Arms Annual*. That TR treasure was featured on the cover of a Winchester Press printing of Roosevelt's classic, *Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail*.

Jim was thrilled with the *Annual*, and our featuring his collection. He bought at least 250 copies of the print run, which was only 5,000.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to view his collection, still intact. It was truly dazzling. Only Robert M. Lee has been able to equal Jim's achievements as a collector of deluxe Winchesters.

James Fowler was a dedicated, substantial and upright collector, and his having provided that TR provenance there is in my mind no reason to question it. And thus it is so stated in our text - for both the Model 1895 **No. 88418**, and the Model 1892, No. 53614.

Accordingly, if you can supply high-resolution digital images of **No. 88418**, I look forward to publishing this important and historic rifle in future editions of *Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist*.

Bear in mind that I am continuing my research on TR and his firearms - and recently discovered two firearms which I am confident were TR's, even though there is no specific record of either piece in Roosevelt archives.

In regard to **No. 88418** Model 1895, there is every possibility that some photograph, letter or other information will be discovered, which verifies every word of James S. Fowler's statements as documented in the *Antique Arms Annual*, 1971, on page 142.

Yours sincerely,

## R.L. WILSON

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Telegraph Hill Tower  
San Francisco CA 94133  
Facs: (415) 835-5998  
[wilsonbook@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonbook@gmail.com)  
website: [wilsonbooks.com](http://wilsonbooks.com)

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Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist,  
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July 3, 2013

Dear John:

Enclosed *Antique Arms Annual*. It's a bit frayed, but the best I can do at the moment. These sold out quite quickly. Your historic and unique Winchester Theodore Roosevelt Model 1895 rifle Serial No. 88418 is on page 142 center

Will be seeing Greg Martin again soon (perhaps on 4th of July in NV) - and will ask him to check out his files on this piece. Alas, he is notorious for misplacing paperwork, but will surely remember this M1895 - Greg would not have purchased this if it wasn't precisely what it is known for, both as a work of Winchester art, and as a TR personal sporting rifle. As my TR books prove, he loved embellished guns, in particular - Winchesters. The M1895 became a favorite.

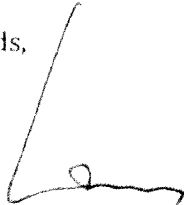
As you may know, Greg and I owned for several years the TR Holland & Holland

double rifle cased set; we took it to Africa c. 1985, for the film by George Butler ("In the Blood"), and later sold it to former US Treasury Secretary, Wm. E. Simon and still later I sold the set to the Frazier Museum in Louisville KY.

You have acquired a very rare and important Theodore Roosevelt and Winchester treasure - and I look forward to featuring it in color in future editions of *Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist*.

Best regards,  
Sincerely,

rlw

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right and a small loop at the end.

PS On Chris Root - the Lees are already planning a trip back to NY to see the "Robert M. Lee Collections" exhibition yet again, and I expect to accompany them. That being the case, I'll keep you posted, and will keep after Chris Root to come through with Grandma. Will know in time to give you at least a few days advance notice.



*Deluxe 1895 Winchester Rifle Owned by Teddy Roosevelt*

*This black-onyx and silver Metal 1895 Winchester rifle was presented to a friend by President Theodore Roosevelt.*

*It is .25 W. E. F., with safety carved stock and gold inlaid game, scroll, and birds motifs. Serial No. 119115.*

*V. E. Knight Collection*