

CANNON
HOUSE
ANTIQUES



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243

ANTIQUE ARMS, ORIENTALIA, GLASS, FURNITURE AND OTHER DECORATIVE ITEMS

15 May 1989

Dear Mr Rosenden:

Your Sharps Model 1855 carbine, British contract, is completely original. It is probably the finest example of one of these carbines in existence. Most of this model were issued to British troops in India and saw extremely hard service and I only know of a few that survived with any finish at all, let alone the amount that yours has.

The number on the right side of the fore arm indicates that the gun was in the collection [exhibited by the U.S. Cartridge Co at the 1903(4) World's Fair] Catalogs of this exhibition are available, but the numbers in the catalog do not agree with the numbers on the guns (the gun numbers are from the Brooks collection which USCC bought to make the exhibit).

The value of your gun is about \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars). It is difficult to establish an exact value of an item that cannot be replaced, such as yours, but I think that this would be a fair valuation for it on the current market.

Yours
Frank Siller

Sharps Carbine with Forearm Inventory Number... Rock Island Auction, December 3, 2011

Lot #: 1185

Estimated Price: \$18,000 - \$35,000

Bid: [Add](#)

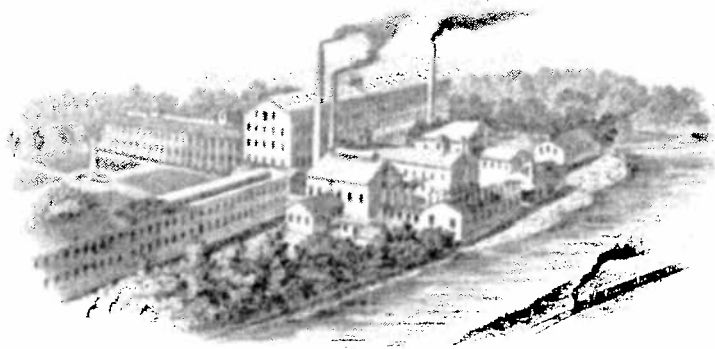
Wishlist: [Add](#)

The Finest Known Sharps Model 1855 British Contract Carbine Exhibited at the 1904 St. Louis Worlds

Serial No.	23517	Manufacturer:	Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company
Model:	1855-Carbine	Type:	Carbine
Gauge:	577	Catalog Page:	216
Barrel Length:	19 inch round	Finish:	blue/casehardened
Grip:	N/A	Stock:	walnut
Class:	Antique		
Condition Rating:			

Description: This is an extraordinary example of 1 of the 6,000 British Contract Sharps Model 1855 Carbines. This carbine is accompanied by a hand written evaluation and appraisal by the worlds foremost expert on the Sharps Manufacturing Company and Author of the of the book "Sharps Firearms", Mr. Frank Sellers, dated May 15, 1989, on his letter head and signed by Frank. In his letter Mr. Sellers states, "It is probably the finest example of one of these carbines in existence" and further "I only know of a few that survived with any finish at all, let alone the amount that yours has." Most of these Model 1855 carbine were purchased by the British Government and issued to troops in India where they saw extremely hard service. The upper tang is marked "SHARPS / PATENT / 1848" followed by the serial number and the primer door is marked "EDWARD MAYNARD / PATENTEE 1845." The British contract called for no maker's markings or country of origin be put on the various parts of the carbines, but some of them managed to get through. The left rear of the barrel is marked with a "Crown / TP / board arrow" and "Crown / A / 2" proofmarks. This carbine is equipped with a brass buttplate and patch box, but an iron barrel band, indicating that it was part of the second half of the contract. The first half had brass barrel bands. The barrel is fitted with a blade front sight and a four leaf rear sight, which was a British design and was specified in this contract. It was not used on any other Sharps. The carbine is mounted with a smooth walnut forearm stamped with collection inventory number"1567" on the right rear, and straight grip stock with a bright saddle ring bar and ring on the left wrist. In his letter Mr. Sellers states, "The number on the right side of the forearm indicates that the gun was in the collection exhibited by the U.S. Cartridge Co. at the 1903(4) Worlds Fair." The numbers are from the Brooks Collection which U.S.C.C. bought to make the exhibit.

Condition: Near new. The barrel retains 99% plus of the original plum blue finish, with only a few minor dings. The receiver assembly retains at least 99% plus original bright vivid case colors. The brass is bright. The buttstock and forearm are both excellent plus with only a few minor handling marks caused by saddle ring. The proofmarks and markings are crisp and clear. The mechanics are excellent. Rock Island Auction is proud and excited to offer this marvelous carbine.



ARMORY AND OFFICE,

Hartford, Conn.

July 30, 2016
1174

M To Whom It May Concern

Bought of

THE SHARPS RIFLE COMPANY.

Dear Sir:

Sharps shotgun serial #9324 has been located in the original records of the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company, predecessor to the Sharps Rifle Company. It is listed in their Order Book as a Model 1853 Shotgun and was invoiced at the Hartford factory on January 11, 1855.

The shotgun is further described in the record as being 26 Bore with a 28 inch barrel. It was stocked with "fancy wood." It was noted to be "extra fancy engraved." The weight and price were not listed.

A large number of Model 1853 Shotguns are found in the serial number range 9300-9375, and several of these were engraved in three grades, extra fancy being the highest.

The recipients of Sharps Model 1853 production, unfortunately, are not known. This data, along with information on price, ammunition and accessories, were likely kept in a separate Ledger or Cash Book which has not survived.

Trusting this information to be of value, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Rich Labowskie

Richard J. Labowskie, MD