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March 17, 2000

In reference to Purdey serial number 21830. The gun is definitely Ken Hunt gold enlaid and has been signed by him. Mr. Hunt charges a minimum of \$16,000 to engrave anything on a firearm if you can even get a contract with him to do so. The gold dog on the left sidelock of the Purdey 21830 is a trademark figure as a particular dog is one that has made him famous and made him worth the 5 year wait it takes to get a job done by him.

A new Purdey side x side now is \$52,400 with standard engraving without gold. The excise tax is \$5764, with a total of \$58,164, plus shipping and 4% duty. Used English guns in good condition bring from one half to two thirds of a new firearm.

If I can be of any further help please let me know.

Best Regards,



Don L. Shrum



**PURDEY**

*Gun & Rifle Makers*

**BY FAX AND POST: 00 1 225 927 5146**

15 May 2000

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rd

We are enclosing herewith on Purdey letterhead the details of the 12 bore gun of our make no. 21380.

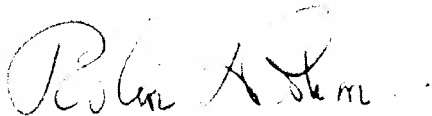
We have given all the details that we have available for this gun.

As far as we are aware Mr Knapton was not involved with our Royal Family.

We have noted that Mr Hunt has advised you that he engraved the gun for a Mr McCoy in the 1960's.

We do hope that the information enclosed herewith is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



**ROBIN NATHAN**

Enc





# PURDEY

*Gun & Rifle Makers*

## 12 BORE PURDEY GUN NO. 21380

This 12 Bore Double Barrelled Hammerless Ejector Gun was the no. 2 gun of a pair completed in November 1916 for P H Knapton Esq.

The 30" barrels were made of Sir Joseph Whitworth Fluid Pressed Steel.

The barrels were shortened to 28" on behalf of R. Cust Esq in 1937.

After shortening the barrels the gun weighed 6 lbs 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  ozs.

Originally the boring for the barrels was right: cylinder, left: good tight cylinder.

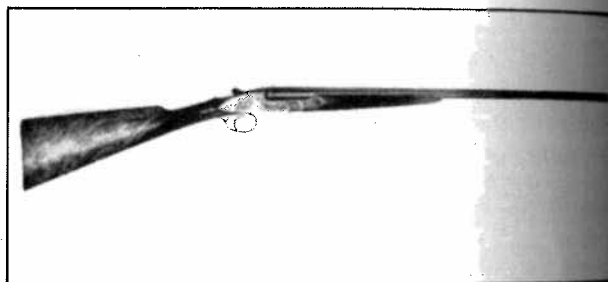
The original stock measurements were:

Stock length:  $14 \frac{3}{4} \frac{1}{32}$   
Bend:  $1 \frac{3}{4} \frac{3}{32}$  -  $1 \frac{3}{8}$  Face

The stocker's name was Horsley and the finisher's name was Warren.

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1969  
ANNUAL

By  
the Editors of  
GUNS & AMMO  
MAGAZINE



(Top left) Opened doubles indicate unloaded condition. (Bottom left) Proper way of carrying empty double in field. (Top right) Big bores can be reduced by use of insert tubes. (Middle right) Westley Richards .410 double. (Bottom right) Purdey double

esthetically and for other reasons. I think they clutter up any arm. Their trestlework offers fine nooks and crannies for dirt and moisture to collect. They have been known to shoot loose.

**HOW DOES IT HANDLE?**

It is beyond the intent of this article to try to influence a person as to whether he should crack for a slide-action, autoloader, side-by-side double or over-under shotgun. All have their advantages disadvantages, and purposes. There are no better values in the world than American single-barrel repeaters. They have reached a stage of uniform excellence. I do think

they could be improved in one small detail. Regardless of what the ads say, a crossbolt safety at the front or rear of the trigger guard is not as convenient as one located on top of the grip. Then the thumb, which hasn't anything else to do, can so easily slide it on and off, as with double guns. Mosberg's pump has a tang safety, and I wish the others would follow suit. After eye-balling a gun, the next step leading toward possessing it is to handle it. Both trap and skeet shooters prefer specialty shotguns with plenty of weight, for comfort in continuous firing, and with the weight forward, for smooth, grooved swinging.

But the field or game gunner fares better with a lighter, livelier tool that has most of its weight concentrated between the hands. It's faster to point and easier to carry. There's a danger, though, in getting too light a shotgun.

Not long ago, I saw an ad for a fairly feathery Magnum smoothbore which began with the rhetorical question, "Why must a Magnum be heavy?" That's easy. If it isn't it'll belt the hell out of both gun and gunner. It always will, so long as Newton's Third Law of Motion covering action and reaction is effecting the sportsman.

Heavy loads need heavy guns, although weight can be comfortably shaved off if a firearm is equipped with a scientifically-sound kick-softener like the Hydro-Coil shock-absorbing unit or its imitator, the Winchester Recoil Reduction System, both of which ease the punishment dealt to the shooter and his arm.

**GALLERY OF GAUGES**

The average healthy American male adult wanting an all-around scattergun will undoubtedly be best armed with a 12-gauge having 2¾-inch chambers. If I had to cut down to one gun that's what I'd keep.

Strong cases are occasionally made purporting to prove that a particular bore, say a 20, is almost as effective ballistically as a bigger gauge, say a 12, especially if it's stuffed with Magnum loads in its three-inch chamber. And many men are willing to trade a loss in killing power for such gains as reduced blast, recoil and gun weight. But it's easy to get the worst of the bargain.

One 20-gauge 3-inch Magnum shell contains 3¼ drams of powder and 1¼ ounces of shot, the equivalent of a popular 12-gauge field load. It will be just as hard on the ears, and harder on the shoulder if fired in a 20 that isn't properly beefed up, made stronger and heavier. Many are not, and those that are may weigh as much as a 12-gauge. They aren't therefore, any faster-handling or more portable.

Skeet shooters prefer to compete in the several events, from 12 down to .410, with guns that have approximately the same weight and feel. They don't want lightness or liveliness. Combination outfits — 12-gauges with smaller barrels that fit the frame of the 12 — are popular. And the smaller the barrels, the greater the weight of the gun. That doesn't matter to the skeeter.

But it does to the field or game gunner, who usually drops down in bore size to get a firearm that's lighter, quicker, easier to tote, and gentler to shoot. He can end up with just what he's after, if he proceeds carefully. In doing so, he must not expect a decrease in weight proportional to reduction in gauge. As gauges go down in size, breech pressures rise, and barrels are consequently made thicker and stronger.

The proof marks on one of my 12-gauges, for loads up to and including 1¼ ounces of shot in its 2¾-inch chambers, show that the barrels were proved to take 28 tons of breech pressure per square inch. But a .410 of mine has barrels proved for 5 tons.

For another reason, most smaller bores aren't as light as they could or should be. They have 28 or 410 barrels, but attached to 20-gauge frames and action bodies, and in order to fit the barrels properly to the face of the action they are thickened and



(Top) McCoy with Browning Superposed. (Middle) Business end of a Purdy. (Bottom) Westley Richards 20 gauge double.

**CHARTER**

ENTERTAINMENT

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