

Marlin Model 1893 #10 Engraved

This is an unusual engraving for several reasons. Marlin vignettes typically are animal scenes depicting an animal in it's entirety, the scene on the loading port side is only of a bust of a grizzly bear. Very unique and is rarely encountered on model 1893's. This rifle is also relief engraved in a leaf and berry design and the gold inlay on the left side of frame is designed to be a rope or a chain not simply a flat inlay.

The platinum inlay on the hammer is very rare and if an inlay was designed it would normally be seen in gold in these high art rifles. The gold wire inlays on the front and rear of the frame and also the bolt are extremely rare and are considered the highest form of decoration ever embellished on an American manufactured firearm.

The case color on the frame doesn't show as bright as it would have, had it not been so deeply engraved in relief. This antique artifact rifle is attributed to the master engraver Conrad Ulrich.

This rifle is pictured on page 347 of Steel Canvas by R.L. Wilson.

to potential markets. Important tools on his travels were the elaborate exhibition-grade and presentation arms that served to open many doors abroad to the renowned Connecticut entrepreneur.)

The development of the Colt factory site and the potential of a Royal Armouries U.S.A. may well be tied in with the long-standing quest for an international traveling loan exhibition, to be titled "The Art of American Arms." A joint concept of Paul Rovetti (director, William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut), art expert and collector Peter Tillou, collector-antiquarian-author Norm Flayderman, and this author, the project has already garnered pledges of support from the Royal Armouries, as well as from the Hermitage Museum, the latter agreeing to the loan of their Colt treasures and requesting that the exhibition schedule include their historic institution in St. Petersburg, Russia. A site in Japan is also under discussion, as are sites within the United States. An accompanying video is also a consideration, in addition to a detailed illustrated catalogue.

Winchester's Finest

The author's *Winchester: An American Legend* devoted one chapter (XII) to the subject of collecting these fine guns. Since the book appeared, in 1991, some spectacularly successful auctions have been held that offered major pieces of both Colt and Winchester super-guns, the blue chips of American arms collecting. The John R. Woods Collection, offered by San Francisco's Butterfield & Butterfield auction house in October 1991, set new records for Winchesters. The top price realized was \$517,000 for the Colonel Gzowski cased Model 1876 presentation rifle. Made up of less than 170 lots, with forewords by Greg Martin and actor-collector James Stewart, the sale totaled over \$2.9 million and set a raft of price records.

Next, Butterfield's offered the Warren Anderson Col-



Marlins from the Ulrich workshop, each attributed to C.F.; *at top*, three takedown models, in varying patterns of gold inlay, scroll placement, and stockwork; *at bottom*, .22, rare specimen of half-gold finish, with select wood.

