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Lot 1217: HOLLAND & HOLLAND A RARE AND MAGNIFICENT .600 NITRO EXPRESS 'ROYAL' HAND-DETACHABLE SIDELOCK EJECTOR DOUBLE RIFLE, serial no. 30374,

Est: £80,000 GBP - £100,000 GBP
Sold: £95,000 GBP

Holts Auctioneers
 December 11, 2008
 London, United Kingdom

[View lot details](#)

Item Overview

Description

**HOLLAND & HOLLAND
 A RARE AND MAGNIFICENT .600 NITRO EXPRESS 'ROYAL' HAND-DETACHABLE
 SIDELOCK EJECTOR DOUBLE RIFLE, serial no. 30374,**

26in. nitro chopperlump barrels with matt sight rib, open sights and leaf sights for 100, 150 and 200 yards, ramp-mounted bead foresight with flip-up moonsight, the moonsight a gold-encased diamond, the sunken rib gold-inlaid 'H.H. MAHARAJA GULAB SINGH JI. BAHADUR OF REWA. 1921.', giant treble-grip action with removable striker discs, carved shell fences, automatic safety with gold-inlaid 'SAFE' detail, Holland & Holland patent hand-detachable lockplates, patent no. 11319 of 25th May, 1908, gold-inlaid cocking-indicators, chequered articulated front trigger, the action, lockplates and furniture deeply carved with best bold Royal scroll engraving, interspersed with floral bouquets and with beaded and feathered borders, the underside engraved 'ROYAL HAMMERLESS EJECTOR' within an elaborate ribbon cartouche, retaining traces of original colour-hardening and finish, 15 1/8in. highly-figured pistolgrip stock with cheekpiece, engraved and colour-hardened pistolgrip-cap (with trap), sling swivels and including 7/8in. leather covered recoil pad, weight 16lb. 2oz., in its brass-cornered oak and leather case with accessories, the lid exterior with 'H.H. MAHARAJA of REWA', '600 H&H.', 'No. 30374'. and with some Hindu script. The makers have kindly confirmed that the rifle was completed in 1921 for the Maharaja of Rewa.

Provenance : H.H. Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji became ruler of the Princely State of Rewa in 1911 and remained in power until 1936. He was the first to open an English medium school in the state in 1924 with five teachers.

He was a keen hunter and was responsible for introducing a policy of making extensive swathes of the local forest exclusive to him and his hunting parties. Special areas of forest were designated suitable for 'normal' people and entry to any areas other than these was strictly forbidden. He is recorded as having shot 91 tigers, 7 panthers and 5 elephants. His passion for hunting was such that he was instrumental in the development of his own proprietry cartridge, the .577 Rewa (Hollands .600 / .577).

The state of Rewa came under British paramountcy in 1812 and remained a princely state within the Raj, commanding a 19 gun salute, until India's independence in 1947.

Other Notes: Holland & Holland have made just fourteen .600 Nitro Express rifles, and the final example was sold with the promise that it would be the last ever to be made.

Condition Report

THE ABOVE LOT WILL REQUIRE THE BUYER TO PRODUCE A RELEVANT BRITISH FIREARMS CERTIFICATE OR REGISTERED FIREARMS DEALER LICENCE BEFORE IT MAY BE RELEASED.

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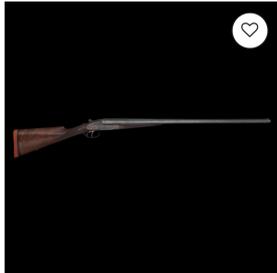
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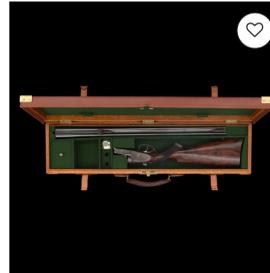
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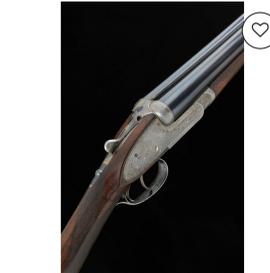
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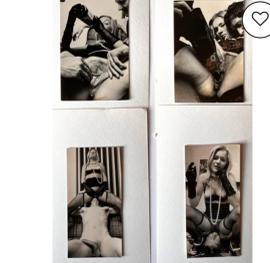
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