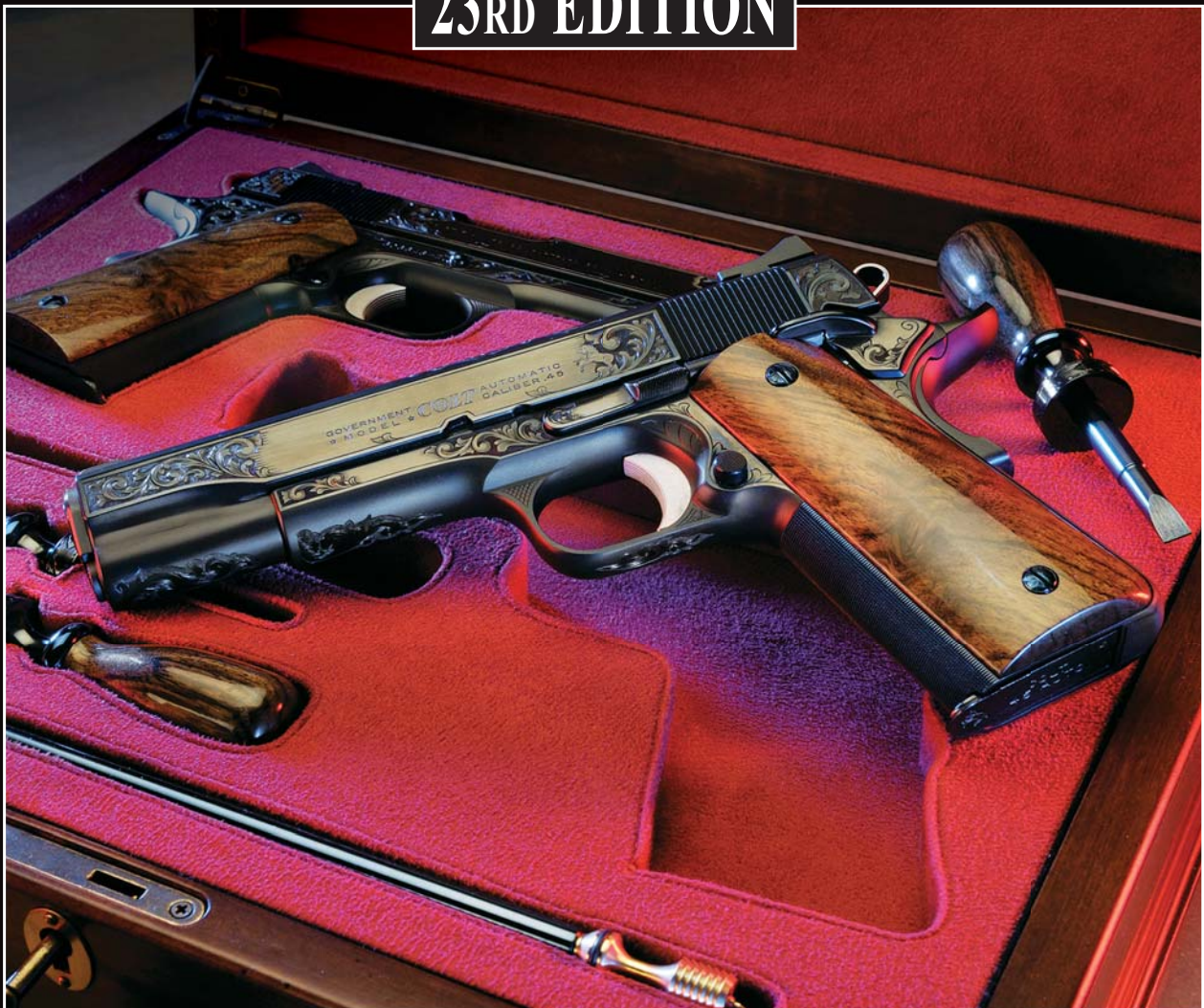


2013 Standard Catalog of[®]

FIREARMS

THE COLLECTOR'S PRICE & REFERENCE GUIDE

23RD EDITION



EDITED BY

JERRY LEE

7,500 IMAGES | 110,000 PRICES | 6 CONDITION GRADES

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GRADING SYSTEM

In most cases, the condition of a firearm determines its value. As with all collectible items, a grading system is necessary to give buyers and sellers a measurement that most closely reflects a general consensus on condition. While all grading systems are subjective, the system presented in this publication attempts to describe a firearm in universal terms. It is strongly recommended that the reader be closely acquainted with this grading system before attempting to determine the correct value of a particular firearm.

NIB (NEW IN BOX)

This category can sometimes be misleading. It means that the firearm is in its original factory carton with all of the appropriate papers. It also means the firearm is new, that it has not been fired, and has no wear. This classification brings a substantial premium for both the collector and shooter. It should be noted that NIB values are not the same as MSRP (manufacturer's suggested retail price), but rather are "street prices" that can be considerably lower than the MSRP. A NIB value should closely represent the selling price for a new, unfired gun in the box.

EXCELLENT

Collector quality firearms in this condition are highly desirable. The firearm must be in at least 98 percent condition with respect to blue wear, stock or grip finish, and bore. The firearm must also be in 100 percent original factory condition without refinishing, repair, alterations, or additions of any kind. Sights must be factory original, as well. This grading classification includes both modern and antique (manufactured prior to 1898) firearms.

VERY GOOD

Firearms in this category are also sought after both by the collector and shooter. Modern firearms must be in working order and retain approximately 92 percent original metal and wood finish. It must be 100 percent factory original, but may have some small repairs, alterations, or non-factory additions. No refinishing is

permitted in this category. Antique firearms must have 80 percent original finish with no repairs.

GOOD

Modern firearms in this category may not be considered to be as collectible as the previous grades, but antique firearms are considered desirable. Modern firearms must retain at least 80 percent metal and wood finish, but may display evidence of old refinishing. Small repairs, alterations, or non-factory additions are sometimes encountered in this class. Factory replacement parts are permitted. The overall working condition of the firearm must be good, as well as safe. The bore may exhibit wear or some corrosion, especially in antique arms. Antique firearms may be included in this category if the metal and wood finish is at least 50 percent of the factory original.

FAIR

Firearms in this category should be in satisfactory working order and safe to shoot. The overall metal and wood finish on the modern firearm must be at least 30 percent and antique firearms must have at least some original finish or old re-finish remaining. Repairs, alterations, non-factory additions, and recent refinishing would all place a firearm in this classification. However, the modern firearm must be in working condition, while the antique firearm may not function. In either case the firearm must be considered safe to fire if in a working state.

POOR

Neither collectors nor shooters are likely to exhibit much interest in firearms in this condition. Modern firearms are likely to retain little metal or wood finish. Pitting and rust will be seen in firearms in this category. Modern firearms may not be in working order and may not be safe to shoot. Repairs and refinishing would be necessary to restore the firearm to safe working order. Antique firearms in this category will have no finish and will not function. In the case of modern firearms their principal value lies in spare parts. On the

other hand, antique firearms in this condition can be used as “wall hangers,” or might be an example of an extremely rare variation or have some kind of historical significance.

Example prices are shown for the conditions described above in this format:

NIB	Exc.	V.G.	Good	Fair	Poor
2250	1800	1500	1250	1000	700

PRICING

Prices given in this book are designed as a guide, not as a quote, and the prices given reflect retail values. This is very important to remember. You will seldom realize full retail value if you trade in a gun or sell it to a dealer. In this situation, your gun will be valued at its wholesale price, which is generally substantially below retail value to allow for the seller’s profit margin.

It should also be remembered that prices for firearms can vary with the time of the year, geographical location, and the general economy. As might be expected, guns used for hunting are more likely to sell in late summer or early fall as hunting season approaches. Likewise, big-game rifles chambered for powerful magnum cartridges will likely have more appeal in western states than in the Deep South, while semi-automatic rifles or shotguns will not sell well in

states where their use for hunting is prohibited, such as is the case in Pennsylvania.

It is not practical to list prices in this book with regard to time of year or location. What is given here is a reasonable price based on sales at gun shows, auction houses, and information obtained from knowledgeable collectors and dealers. In certain cases there will be no price indicated under a particular condition, but rather the notation “N/A” or the symbol “—.” This indicates that there is no known price available for that gun in that condition or the sales for that particular model are so few that a reliable price cannot be ascertained. This will usually be encountered only with very rare guns, with newly introduced firearms, or more likely with antique firearms in those conditions most likely to be encountered. Most antique firearms will be seen in the Good, Fair and Poor categories.

Standard Catalog of Firearms can be used as an identification guide and as a source of starting prices for a planned firearms transaction. If you begin by valuing a given firearm according to the values shown in this book, you will not be too far off the mark.

In the final analysis, a firearm is worth only what someone is willing to pay for it. New trends arise quickly, and there are many excellent bargains to be found in today’s market. With patience and good judgment—and with this book under your arm—you, too, can find them.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Firearms have long been admired and coveted not only for their usefulness, but also for their grace and beauty. Since the beginning of the nineteenth century, firearms makers have adorned their guns with engraving, fine woods, or special-order features that set their products apart from the rest. There is no feasible way to give the collector every possible variation of the firearms presented in this book. However, in a general way, certain special factors will significantly influence the price of a firearm.

Perhaps the most recognizable special feature collectors agree that affects the price of a firearm is engraving. The artistry, beauty, and intricate nature of engraving draw all collectors toward it. But firearms engraving is a field unto itself, one that requires years of experience on the part of qualified evaluators to determine proper chronological methods and the ability to identify the engraver in question.

Factory engraving generally brings more of a premium than aftermarket engraving. To be able to determine factory work is a difficult task, one full of pitfalls. In some cases, factories like Colt and Winchester may have records to verify original factory engraving work, whereas other manufacturers such as Parker, Remington, and Savage may not. Whenever a firearm purchase is to be made with respect to an engraved gun, it is in the collector's best interest to secure an expert opinion and/or a factory letter prior to the purchase. Engraved firearms are expensive. A mistake could cost the collector thousands of dollars—proceed with caution.

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries were times when guns were purchased by or given to historically important individuals. Firearms have also been an important part of significant historical events such as the Battle of the Little Bighorn or the Battle of Bull Run. Many of these firearms are in museums where the public can enjoy, see, and appreciate them. Others are in private collections that seldom, if ever, are offered for sale. If the collector should ever encounter one of these

historically important firearms, it cannot be stressed strongly enough the necessity of securing an expert determination as to authenticity. Museum curators are perhaps the best source of information for these types of firearms. As with engraved guns, historical firearms are usually expensive, and without documentation their value is questionable.

Special features and variations are also a desirable part of firearms collecting. As with engraving, special-order guns can bring a considerable premium. The Colt factory has excellent records regarding its firearms and will provide the collector with a letter of authenticity. Winchester records are not as comprehensive, but rifles made prior to 1908 may have documentation. Other firearms manufacturers either do not have records or do not provide collectors with documentation. This leaves the collector in a difficult position. Special order sights, stocks, barrel lengths, calibers, and so forth must be judged on their own merits. As with other factors, an expert should be consulted prior to purchase. Experienced collectors, researchers, and museums will generally provide the kind of information a collector needs before purchasing a special order or unique firearm.

Perhaps the best advice is for the collector to take his time. Do not be in a hurry and do not allow yourself to be rushed into making a decision. Learn as much as possible about the firearms you are interested in collecting or shooting. Try to keep current with prices through this publication and the auction houses listed here. Go to gun shows, not just to buy or sell, but to observe and learn. It is also helpful to join a firearms club or association. These groups have experienced collectors who are glad to help the beginner or veteran.

Firearms collecting is a rewarding hobby. Our guns are part of our nation's history and represent an opportunity to learn more about their role in the American experience. If done skillfully, firearms collecting can be a profitable hobby, as well.

GUN VALUES IN TODAY'S ECONOMY

As this edition goes to press, the U.S. economy is still in recovery and the outlook for a turnaround remains uncertain. By the time many of you will be reading this, the latest election cycle will be over and, it is hoped, no longer will distract political leaders from doing what needs to be done. (This may not last very long. Political pundits are already making predictions about the 2014 and 2016 elections.) No matter who is in the White House or in control of Congress, we are probably still a long way from getting over the uncertainties in regard to jobs, the housing market, 401K and IRA values, tax reform (or the lack thereof), and other aspects of the economy. These factors obviously can have a bearing on the values of collectible items such as firearms.

The trends today are sometimes difficult to get a handle on. One common thread in many conversations I have recently had with experts in the field is that prices being paid in the upper end of the market are strong and, in some cases, on the rise. Much of the middle range in gun values could be described as generally flat, while in the lower-priced category, some prices are down as much as 10 to 20 percent. There are many exceptions, but those with money can afford the rare and exceptional, and in auction situations when two or more aficionados of a particular gun are bidding against each other, the sky can be the limit.

Not all "high-end" guns are escalating in value. Collectors of fine guns are not unlike those who like to own fine art, furniture, jewelry, or automobiles. They are subject to the same "what's hot and what's not" syndrome that affects prices of many items. Trends come and go, and the Browning shotgun or Winchester rifle everyone wanted 10 years ago may not be as popular today. Certain items reach their level of value and may stay there.

At the middle and lower price levels, not all values are flat or down. The Winchester Model 67 single-shot .22 rifle, in production from 1934 to 1963, was a \$150 to \$200 gun for years. Four of five years ago, for some reason, interest in the rifle began to increase. We show a value of \$450 in this edition of *Standard Catalog* for one in excellent condition or better.

The soft economy's affect on gun values is complex. As in real estate, location is important, not just due to differences in the popularity of various models, but because the economy is better in some parts of the country, worse in others.

It is important to give some thought as to why we purchase firearms. The answer can be helpful in determining whether or not this is a good time to sell or buy that gun. Some of us are collectors who want to own certain guns because we like them. We enjoy the workmanship, the particular design, the history, and other factors that draw us to certain models and their possession. Others in our ilk are hunters or target shooters who want to use the best in the category. Some want to have a gun or guns primarily for self-protection. And then there are investors or speculators who buy guns like those who buy gold, diamonds or other tangibles. They may not hunt or ever shoot a gun.

My guess is that most buyers of this book tend to be a cross section of these categories and can relate to several if not all of the reasons to buy a gun. And those reasons change from time to time. Perhaps you've always wanted a Model X, but your life has changed, you're older and wiser now, and—wait, what you really should have is a Model Y! All of which makes it more important, and more fun, to spend some time going through the pages of *Standard Catalog of Firearms*.