

Rejected Martial Weapons Appeal to Few Collectors

If a pistol, revolver or rifle of American manufacture has the word Army or Navy on it, does that entitle it to be classified what gun collectors call martial weapons?

It certainly shouldn't. Unless the weapon was one actually issued to the armed forces, it is stretching the word martial too far to count it as such. In that case, any weapon submitted to the armed forces and which failed to pass the tests could be counted along with those that were in actual use.

Those that failed to pass the tests are far more numerous than those that did. In fact, there are so many of them that every once in a while a new one pops up. The latest to come to my attention is a James & Forge, .50 calibre, center-fire, double action, six-shooter with a two-and-a-half inch rifled barrel, marked "Pat. Pending," and "Army Pocket Revolver."

The piece had no sights, but did have a bird's head butt with hard rubber grips and a lanyard ring.

The steel frame was marked with the name of the manu-

facturer on one side. On the other were the words "Hartford, Conn., U.S.A." There was no date on the piece, but from its appearance it seemed to have been produced in the 1870s.

Since neither the owner nor I have been able to find any trace of the manufacturing firm, the probability is that the weapon was produced by some inventor with the sole thought of selling it to the government. Quite likely he was one of the crank type who spent his savings and persuaded a friend to do likewise on a venture that had merit only for the maker.

The gun works well enough but except for its having no sights—which actually are of no value in such a short-barreled weapon—it has no significant feature to distinguish it from other revolvers.

Nonetheless, the owner had bought it as a martial weapon paying \$35 for it and feeling that he had made a good buy.

The piece certainly has a curiosity value which may be unique, but it seems doubtful that many collectors would be willing to pay much more for it.

1863 WILL VALUABLE BY ADDITION OF STAMPS

Can an old will be valuable long after the estate has been settled and all the heirs are completely satisfied? It can be if it has the right kind of internal revenue stamps on it. In some cases, the value may be as high as \$2,000.

One that I saw recently had been entered for probate in a Massachusetts court early in 1863. Except for the stamps it would have been worthless—other than for any sentimental value it might have for the descendants of the man who made it.

However, it was stamped with a block of four internal revenue stamps of the type the government had begun issuing the year before to help finance the Civil War.

The stamps were of a faded red color, \$1 denomination, bearing a portrait of Washington after one of those made by Gilbert Stuart. They were imprinted for probate use and

had been cancelled by pen and ink.

The type of paper used was a thin, hard stock such as is found in many of the stamps of the period.

Their value, according to Scott's specialized catalogue, was \$400—but the owner got \$500 by selling the entire document.

Such values in internal revenue stamps, however, are by no means restricted to those used for probate purposes. Beginning with the fall of 1862, the government compelled the purchase of tax stamps for a great variety of transactions and issued special stamps for each one.

Anyone finding any of these old stamps—especially in pairs or blocks—should pay close attention to the method of cancellation. If cancellation is by handstamp, the value is sometimes increased by as much as one-half. A printed cancellation boosts it further still.

ENAMEL-LIKE QUALITY IDENTIFIES MILLET'S WORKS

One of the most famous names in painting is Millet. One reason is that Jean Francois Millet's great work, "The Man With the Hoe," is among the most widely reproduced paintings in the world.

However, there are at least 15 other painters named Millet, all of whom have painted valuable canvases, and one of them is an American, Francis David Millet.

The fact is a good one to remember. As with any other artist who painted extensively, examples of his work are occasionally found in second-hand stores and salvage shops. And when one is, it represents a real value to the discerning finder.

Francis David Millet, a native of Mattapoiset, Mass., died in 1912 at the age of 66. Though best remembered today for his painting, he was equally known during his life as a writer, critic, war correspondent and illustrator.

he chose were American and English scenes, usually of the 17th or 18th Century life—a choice that seems peculiar since he served as a drummer-boy in the Civil War and covered battlefronts for London papers in both the Russo-Turkish and the Spanish American wars.

Probably the outstanding characteristic of his painting is a slick, almost enamel-like quality that seems rather photographic, an adjective that also describes his meticulous attention to detail.

But while those attributes would not endear him to admirers of the various modern schools of art, they do not detract from the monetary value of his pieces.

The latest sale I have found of one of his paintings was for \$200. One of the most famous of his works has hung for years in the Tate Gallery, London.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Stockmen Slate Meeting Dec. 11

The annual meeting of the Jackson County Stockmen's association will be held Dec. 11 in the Central Point Grange hall, an association official has announced.

A feeder sale sponsored by the association and the midway auction yard will be held Dec. 3.

A film on range fertilization will be shown at the annual meeting with the speaker provided by the Shell Chemical company. Bill Bray, owner and operator of the Midway auction yard, will report on the feeder sale, bureau of land management and the forest service will report on range programs and the Jackson County Cowbelles will

give a report on their activities.

Kent Magruder, Clatskanie, and Ed Coles, Prineville, president and secretary respectively of the Oregon Cattlemen's association, will attend the meeting.

Committee in charge of the meeting arrangements are Don Nichols, Ashland, chairman; Armin Richter, Applegate; Jim Miller, Medford; and Leon Offenbacher, Applegate.

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