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**Premiere Firearms Auction - April 24, 25, & 26, 2015**

April 24, 25, & 26, 2015

Premiere Firearms Auction

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**Lot #: 1365      Estimated Price: \$11,000 - \$16,000**

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Cased Engraved John Rigby Sidelever and Back Action Lock Double Barrel Rifle in 450 Bore



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Serial #:	16120	Manufacturer:	Rigby John & Co Ltd
Model:	SxS	Type:	Rifle
Gauge:	450	Catalog Page:	135
Barrel Length:	26 inch solid rib	Finish:	blue/casehardened
Grip:	N/A	Stock:	walnut
Class:	Antique		
Condition Rating:			

The John Rigby & Co. was established in the early 19th century and has produced a variety of fine custom made shotguns and rifles from bird guns to big game rifle such as this. This double rifle was manufactured circa 1891. The raised solid barrel rib features a fine white bead front sight and a two leaf rear sight (one folding for 250 yards, the other fixed for 150 yards) and is marked "Jn Rigby & Co. 72 St James's Street. London AND Dublin." The barrel flats have the serial number, crown/V/GP proofs, "400," "S" and the Rigby trademark. The top of the left barrel is marked "ELEY No.1 CASE 450 BORE 110 GRS No. 6 POWDER" and the top of the right barrel is marked "CANNELURED BULLET 350 GRS." The barrels are released by a lever on the right side of the frame. The breech face is marked with the Rigby patent 1141 of 3-21-1879 ("vertical/horizontal for drop down guns"). The frame, side plates, hammers, side lever and trigger guard feature fine engraved

**Description:** scrollwork with the side plates engraved "J. Rigby & Co." The highly figured walnut pistol grip stock and splinter forearm feature fine multi-point checkering. The grain pattern shows contrasting lines some vertical stripe figure. The pistol grip has a plain hard rubber cap. The buttstock is fitted with finely checkered flat steel buttplate. The forearm and forearm hardware are numbered to the gun. Measurements - 14 5/8 inches, Overall Weight: 8 pounds 14 ounces. The partitioned takedown case has the John Rigby Co. paper label on the inside of the lid. The lid is neatly hand marked "R.D. Gard'ner/Seaforth Highlanders" (pervious owner's name and military organization) on the outside. (Battle honours for the Seaforth Highlanders include Tel El Kebir, Egypt 1882, Chitral Expedition 1895, Atbara, Khartoum, and Paardeberg, South Africa 1899 - 1902.) The case is lined in red felt. The included accessories are, single cavity bullet mold, pull through cleaner in a leather pouch, brush, two-piece wood cleaning rod featuring brass hardware and screw in hollow point plug. The bullet mold is marked "E.M. REILLY & Co./LONDON/450."

**Condition:** Very fine as partially refinished (barrels and wood). The barrels retain 99% plus of the blue factory quality refurbished finish showing a few light handling marks. A couple of patches of finished over pitting are present near the muzzle but do not detract from the overall highly attractive blue. The frame, side plates and hammers retain 60% of the vivid original case colors. The engraving is crisp. The reoiled wood is also very fine showing a few very minor handling marks with crisp checkering. A very fine example of a 450 bore double barrel hammer rifle manufactured by a world renowned London gunmaker. The case is good with one leather strap remaining and showing exterior wear typical for its age. The interior has some tears in the wear spots and is slightly loose. The label remains very fine.

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