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# Great British craftsmanship under the hammer

*Based on the Sandringham Estate, globally renowned auction house **Holts Auctioneers** facilitate the sale of beautifully crafted modern and antique firearms, often with very British roots*

**H**olts hold three main auctions each year from their converted barn complex tucked away in historic Wolferton. As the next sale approaches in late November, Holts' expert team have been researching the provenance of each lot that will appear. "As well as adding a general depth of interest to an item, good provenance can also significantly impact on its commercial value too," says Founder Nicholas Holt.

Lot 1353 is a pair of 12-bore single trigger guns manufactured by top British maker Boss & Co. They boast both an engaging history and interesting more recent ownership too.

"This fine pair were originally ordered by Major R H Sheepshanks in 1913," Nicholas says, "shortly before he found himself on active service in Southern Persia during the Mesopotamian

Campaign in 1915. He was mentioned in despatches for conspicuous gallantry and skilful handling of a small body of cavalry against a Turkish force that heavily outnumbered the British".

The pair of guns currently belong to the Major's grandson, Mr David Sheepshanks CBE DL, who will be a name known to football fans in this region. He was former Chairman of Ipswich Town Football Club, and the Football League, and was the founding Chairman of the National Football Centre.

Notable for its aesthetic beauty is a fine sporting gun from another revered British maker, Holland & Holland. This attractively engraved shotgun, Lot 1450, features lockplates with game scenes of ducks alighting in a wetland setting to the left, a brace of pheasant within a woodland setting to the right and the underside displays a spaniel

retrieving a woodcock. "There is no question that the continuing tradition of fine engraving elevates these guns from simple working tools into the realm of works of art in their own right" says Nicholas.

Holts next auction will take place on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th November and the very impressive array of both modern and antique firearms can be viewed by appointment or via their online catalogue at [www.holtsauctioneers.com](http://www.holtsauctioneers.com)

## NEXT AUCTIONS

**27th November** - Antique & vintage guns & accessories, taxidermy, edged weapons & militaria

**28th November** - Modern sporting guns and accessories

**HOLTS**  
FINE MODERN & ANTIQUE GUNS

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