

Send your inquiries about old muzzleloading guns to Sarah Rittgers PO Box 67, Friendship, IN 47021. Transcribe all visible markings, and include clear photos if possible. Please remember that it is not possible to give long-distance monetary appraisals, which require physical inspection.



by Sarah Rittgers

Sighting In

Dear Sarah,

I would like what information you can find on this double barrel muzzleloading rifle. I think it may be from the early to mid 1800s, but I don't know. It has been handed down through many families. On the metal over the two barrels reads – Fine London Twist and the name William Carpenter. I looked closely and couldn't find any more markings to ID the gun. I really do appreciate you taking time to search for this information.

The pistol I think is a flint muzzleloader antique gun. Any information on it would be greatly appreciated. London is stamped on barrel.

Thanks,
Jesse Shivers

Dear Mr. Shivers,

Thank you for sending the photos of a shotgun marked LONDON/Wm. Carpenter and a pistol. I was not able to find any information on a William Carpenter, but the shotgun appears to be of the type manufactured circa 1850-1870. The pistol appears to be an English pistol possibly made in the late 1700s to early 1800s. I wish I could've found out more information for you.

Sincerely,
Sarah

Dear Sarah:

I have attached photos of a barrel I have. It is .45 caliber; 42" long breeched barrel; .83 at muzzle and .87 at breech. The maker's mark stamped on barrel is "W.M. Large." I am interested in what the barrel might be worth.

Regards,
Erwin

Dear Erwin,

Thank you for your inquiry requesting information on a barrel marked W.M. Large.

William Large lived from 1907 to 1985. Large made barrels in his



Shivers shotgun



Shivers pistol

shop in Ironton, Ohio, from the 1920s until his death. He is known as the top barrel maker in the

1970s and early 1980s. William Large was one of the founding fathers of the modern muzzleloading



movement and one of the first members of the NMLRA.

As far as determining its value, I suggest you have someone knowledgeable in the field physically examine the piece. There is a Bruce M. Shakelford listed in San Antonio, Texas, who is an appraiser and may be able to assist you. His address is P.O. Box 15707, San Antonio, TX 78212 and his email is bruce@bshack.com. Also, our informed readers might be able to help you concerning its worth. We will contact you if we hear from our readers about its value.

Sincerely,
Sarah

Dear Sarah,

I would like to see if you can ID this firearm. I have found out it is a .69 or 10 gauge. The barrel is 45 1/4" long and stamped LONDON. The side plate is engraved J&W Aston and has some kind of fowl on the plate also. There is a small plate on the underside of the stock. Any info will really be appreciated!

Sincerely,
Hal Transou

Dear Mr. Transou,

Thank you for your email requesting information on a firearm marked J&W Aston and LONDON.

I have not been able to find definite names to go with the J & W marked on the side plate, but there



Transou rifle

were many Aston's working in the gun industry in England in the 19th century. Before 1854 the firearms manufactured in Britain were manufactured by a collection of handicraft firms, many of which were located in Bir-

mingham. Each firm would concentrate on certain aspects of the manufacturing process, combining with other firms to make a finished product. This firearm was probably manufactured jointly by the Aston family. Nigel Brown's book, *British Gunmakers*, Vol. II, lists many possibilities:

- William Aston, London, 1801
- John Aston, Barrel maker, Litchfield St., Birmingham, 1818-22.
- John Aston, Prospect Row, Birmingham 1807-25
- John Aston, St. James St., Liverpool, 1817
- Joseph Aston, Lockmaker, 8 Upper Prioory, Birmingham, 1841
- J. Aston, Gmkr, tottenham, 1816-24
- James Aston, gunlock maker, Edmonton, 1800, iron monger & gunsmith, Edmonton, 1822-24

I suggest you contact the Royal Armouries in Leeds, England to assist you further. They will have a more complete listing of the Aston family. Their address is as follows: Royal Armouries Museum, Armouries Drive, Leeds, LS10 1LT. Their general museum email is: enquiries@armouries.org.uk. I hope this information will assist you with your research.

Sincerely,
Sarah

Dear Sarah,
Could you please help me ID this gun and if possible let me know the approximate value?



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Wilson shotgun



It has 32" barrels in overall good condition. The only marking I can find is one side plate's bumble bee with letters "D L". The gun is in working good order. Thanks for your time.

Grayson Wilson

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Thank you for your email and photos requesting information on a firearm marked with a bumble bee and the letters "DL".

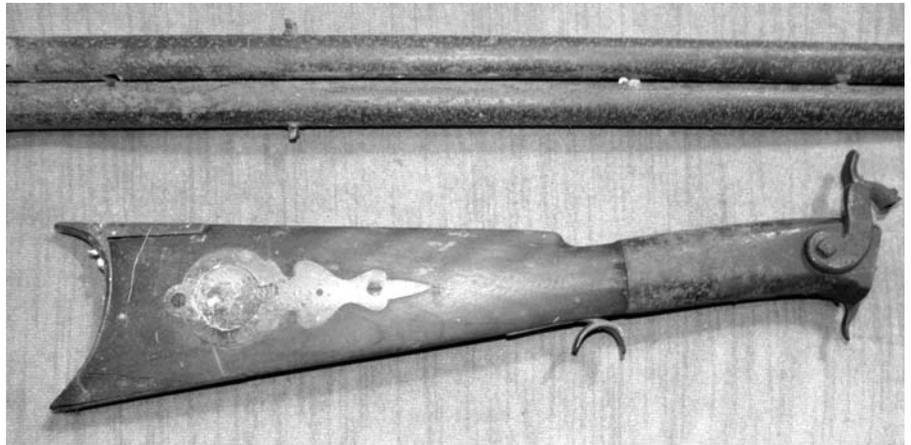
Heer Der Neue Stockel has a drawing of the bumble bee and the letters "DL" and attributes this marking to Georges Laloux who worked in Liege, Belgium, from 1881-1972. On the internet is a site that lists the Imperial Arms Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which imported shotguns from Georges LaLoux, a Belgium gun maker c. 1920-1940.

I hope this information helps you with your research.

Sincerely,
Sarah

Hello Sarah,

I was wondering if could help me out with any information on this swivel gun. It was found in a cottage in Michigan at least 75 years ago. The rifled barrel has a heart on it that can be seen in one of the photos. The smoothbore barrel has none that I can see. The barrels are about 25 1/4" long. End of the barrels also look like they have possibly been



Godby swivel gun

peened. I am unsure on the caliber, but looks to be close to .45. There is also something engraved on the side plate cover, but I can't make it out. I have a lot more photos if you would like to see them. I am just hoping someone did not ruin a nice piece of history. The drum is busted off of the smoothbore barrel and there are trigger parts missing. I have no idea if this is why they destroyed it.

Thank you,
Bill Godby

Dear Mr. Godby,

The swivel gun depicted in the photographs you sent are typical of those manufactured circa the 1850s. I am not able to provide you more information on the piece. If you are able to carefully clean it and find any maker's marks, please send them on to us and we will research it further.

Wish I could have been of further help.

Sincerely,
Sarah

MB

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