



# Discovering surprising Norfolk treasures

*One of the most famous specialist auction houses in the world, **Holts Auctioneers** uncovers treasures with international interest from its base in Wolferton on the Sandringham Estate*

Visiting a live auction at Holts Auctioneers can be an exciting affair. At their recent November sale that was certainly the case. “Auctions can be very unpredictable” says Founder Nicholas Holt, “The rare and unusual items we present to the market can often generate an atmosphere of both tension and excitement – and that can lead to some extraordinary results”.

The November auction was a record breaker for Holts Auctioneers with a 94% sold percentage in their live auction and a combined auction hammer price of £2.28 million. Buyers from around the world bid on a wide range of high-quality firearms and accessories, some of which were uncovered from homes throughout Norfolk.

One extremely popular Lot came from a very local source. The four vintage powder advertisements shown above (Lot 307) would have originally

been supplied as shop displays and formed part of a large Norfolk collection. They feature coloured illustrations of sportsmen in the field and advertise various powders including ‘Smokeless Diamond’, ‘Empire’, ‘E.C.’ and ‘Schultze’. They date to the first half of the twentieth century and remain in remarkably unfaded condition. Despite being of fairly diminutive size, each measuring just 12x8 inches a piece, the set sold for a great deal more than the estimate of £200-300, confounding all expectations.

“There are times in the auction world when two collectors decide they absolutely must have something for their collection”, explains Nicholas. “When individuals go head-to-head the price can soar far above the estimate as this Lot did. They eventually sold for ten times their estimate, at £2,600.”

Research and proven provenance are often key to the value of the items that feature at Holts auctions, as the

history attached to an object can be as valuable as the object itself. If you have a family heirloom with an interesting tale, the expert team at Holts welcomes you to arrange a valuation by appointment, under no obligation and in total confidence.

“There is a rich military history in Norfolk and a proud tradition of field sports”, Nicholas says, “We are passionate about preserving this heritage and the unique personal stories attached to many of the items we sell for future generations. We are selling so much more than just firearms and accessories, we are celebrating unforgettable stories from our history”.

Perhaps the next auction-day surprise will come from your attic!

**NEXT AUCTIONS**  
**Monday 20th March and**  
**Tuesday 21st March 2023**