



2007 Reno, Nevada

# CCA Auction Firearm

**By Mike Dubber**

The 2007 Colt Collectors Association Auction Firearm follows a long tradition of exceptional engraving and unique Colt firearms configurations. The show gun committee is proud to present CCA2007, a Single Action Army Black Powder Frame, Etched Panel “Colt Frontier Six-Shooter” in .44-40 caliber. This presentation, as always, is complemented with accessories, accoutrement and other special additions that make CCA2007 a very desirable piece of collectible Colt history. The entire work represents the talents of a select group of outstanding American craftsmen.

It is a tradition to create CCA auction firearms of historical significance with the various engraving themes, accessories and accoutrement dedicated to the host state. This is the first CCA auction firearm dedicated to Nevada, which is named “The Silver State.” Nevada has a rich Western history and the committee enjoyed watching its ideas develop into a finished piece that recalls Nevada’s silver mining boom of the late 1800s. The host city of Reno is only a short drive from Virginia City, site of the historic “Comstock Lode.” That vein of silver is recognized as the greatest single mineral strike in history. Inclusion of the silver-clad capitol dome in Carson City further identifies the state’s focus on silver mining and the Comstock Lode as one of the most important and formative icons of its history.



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# The Artisans

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## Tim George, Master Engraver

Master Engraver Tim George of Altavista, Virginia was selected for the engraving work just before the 2006 CCA Show in Louisville, Kentucky. Tim is no stranger to the CCA or to contemporary American engraving art. He has been producing fine work since 1980 and, with Christie George, created CCA1999, the “San Francisco” firearm. Tim was proactive in assisting the committee and developing the Nevada and silver mining themes. Major inlays include the Nevada state capitol dome in high relief silver, the pick, shovel and pan of the gold miner, and the state slogan: “The Silver State.” Tim also created a high relief gold inlay of a Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep on the loading gate. His interpretation of Nevada’s state animal is striking. The engraving work and inlays are further enhanced by placement of Tim’s exquisite arabesque gold inlay. These interwoven 24 karat floral sprays and finials help define his equally distinctive scroll patterns. The committee is delighted to showcase this fine auction piece at Reno.

## Dan Chesiak, Custom Grip Maker

## Dennis Holland, Master Ivory Carver

The Colt is fitted with African ivory high relief, one-piece grips created by Dan Chesiak and carved by Dennis Holland. On the right panel Dennis has carved a scene showing a miner entering the Comstock Mine. On the left are two fighting mustangs. These beautiful wild horses are regularly seen during the drive between Reno and Virginia City.

## Les Yoder, Exhibition Display Case

The auction package includes a custom-built display case that features a hand-carved lid by Jose Valencia of a mining scene and a Michael Dubber hand-engraved Argentium Silver description plate. Les Yoder of Brookfield, Inc. in Coopersville, Michigan donated another of his signature display cases for CCA#2007. The addition of a Les Yoder case makes the overall presentation very special. Following the Western theme, Les constructed this case to resemble a Wells Fargo wagon trunk case in cherry wood. The case is secured with leather straps with antiqued buckles. The inside is French fitted for the gun and accessories in period green felt. Les Yoder presentation cases have become an integral part of the CCA auction firearms and add considerably to the overall presentation.

## Bob Greene, Turquoise

## Dan Barkalow, Turquoise Polisher

Included in the fitted section of the case is a polished cabochon of Bisbee turquoise with silver matrix. The cabochon was donated by Bob Greene of Humboldt, Arizona and polished by Dan Barkalow of Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Turquoise is historically described as the “Flower of the Desert.” The silver matrix in this piece fits perfectly into the silver mining theme and adds exciting color and intrigue to the overall presentation.



*Handcarved case lid by Jose Valencia of Phoenix, Arizona.*

## Jose Valencia, Gunstock and Grip Carver

Jose Valencia of Valencia Studio in Phoenix, Arizona hand carved a miner's scene "The Rampant Colt Mine" on the case lid. Jose specializes in gunstock and grip carving. Jose invites client inputs to create personalized firearms carvings as treasured heirlooms in wood and ivory.

## Mike Dubber, Master Engraver

Mike produced the engraving on both the 2003 and 2006 CCA auction firearms. He maintains a close association with the CCA as the Auction Firearm Artistic Director. In 2007 he engraved the Lozito accessory set and the silver nameplate for the Les Yoder Exhibition Case. The 2007 case plate is a hand cut and hand engraved Argentium silver 3-inch by 5-inch oval completed in 1800s antique style lettering.

## Joe Lozito, Custom Crafted Accoutrement

The cherry trunk case includes a three-piece all-metal accessory tool set including two turn screws and one cleaning rod, all made and donated by Joseph Lozito of Bay City, New York. Following the silver mining theme, Joe turned the handles from brass and silver-plated them after they were engraved. Mike Dubber engraved the handles with a Rampant Colt framed in scrolls on one side and lettered on the opposite side: "Reno, Nevada, 2007."

## Michael Shelhart, Cowboy Gun Leather

CCA2007 is offered with an 1880 period holster rig donated by Michael Shelhart of Murrieta, CA. The Shelhart Company is dedicated to building the absolute best gun leather, chaps and custom saddles available. Much of the company's business is directed to the movie industry for authentic western leather and for Old West re-enactors. The rig is finished in antique carved leather, 40-inch belt size with 24 bullet loops. It is pigskin lined and fitted with an engraved silver buckle. Burned inside the belt is "Colt Collectors Association 2007 Reno, NV."

## Dr. Tom Covault, CCA Firearm Committee

The rig includes .44-40 dummy shells donated by Dr. Tom Covault.

## Doug Turnbull Restoration.

Turnbull Restoration, of Bloomfield, New York started this project off by preparing the metal of this Colt auction firearm for the engraver.

## Paul Goodwin, Photographer

The 2007 Reno auction firearm would not be complete without the photo artistry of Paul Goodwin. The cover of this issue of *The Rampant Colt* displays the auction firearm along with a wonderful grouping of turn-of-the-century items from the collection of CCA life members George and Beverly Lewis of Kansas City. The 1880 period gold nugget, 1880 prospector's motif pin, 1880 gold nugget ring, 1870-1880 Patek Philippe gold pocket watch with a gold quartz chain circa 1860 and a Nevada Silver Co. 4.9 oz. .999 fine silver ingot showcase the historical background of our host city/state Reno, Nevada. The antique Nevada map is courtesy of Earl Whitney. It was through the creative endeavors of Carol Wilkerson that many elements of Nevada history were brought together to create the 2007 auction firearm photo shoot. Carol was also responsible for the shipment of the firearm between each of the artisans. A special CCA thanks goes to Carol.



1. Right panel grip panel scene: "Comstock Mine."
2. CCA2007 Serial Number
3. Left panel grip scene: "Fighting Nevada Mustangs"
4. Butt plate engraving



*Argentium silver case plate,  
engraved by Mike Dubber*



*3-piece all-metal  
tool set*



*1880 period holster rig*



*Front sight with skeletonized cutaway*

### Special Recognition

The production of a CCA auction firearm is a major undertaking. The committee sincerely appreciates the assistance and generous support of Lt. General Wm. M. Keys, President and CEO of Colt Manufacturing Co. LLC; Joe Canali, Colt Custom Shop; and Kathleen J. Hoyt, Colt Historical Department. The process starts and ends with the folks at Colt Firearms. A special thanks to the Colt Firearms family for their participation in the creation and historical documentation of the Reno 2007 Frontier Six Shooter .44-40 Caliber Single Action Army.



## 2007 Auction Firearm Specifications

The 2007 Reno Show Gun is an authentic .44-40 Caliber Frontier Six-Shooter. This black powder frame, 7 ½ inch barrel has extra long cylinder flutes and includes the etched panel barrel designation of “Colt Frontier Six Shooter.”

Carved African Ivory one-piece grips: The left side has fighting mustangs – on the right is a miner’s scene at the entry to “The Comstock Lode.”

Serial number CCA2007 is inlaid in 24K gold at the traditional frame location. The State Capitol Dome is inlaid in raised silver on the recoil shield. A miner’s pick, shovel and pan are inlaid in raised gold and silver on the shovelhead.

The State Slogan “The Silver State” is lettered in flush inlaid silver down the backstrap. A Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep is inlaid in raised gold on the loading gate.

A 24K raised gold ribbon is inlaid on the ejector rod housing and lettered “CCA Reno, 2007.”

Museum Grade Exhibition Case: Wells Fargo trunk in cherry with hand carved scene on lid. Leather straps with silver buckles. French fitted inside for the accessories

A Master Engraved Name Plate: An Argentium Silver oval nameplate is attached to the case.

Accessories: Three piece silver plated accessory set of two screwdrivers and one cleaning rod, hand engraved with a Rampant Colt surrounded on scrolls on the front and Reno, Nevada 2007 on back.

Leather Holster Rig: 1800s style hand tooled holster and belt with engraved buckle, bullet loops and dummy .44-40 shells

### The 2007 Reno Showgun Committee

Earl L. Whitney, Project Manager

Dave Grunberg, Technical Advisor

Michael W. Dubber, Artistic Director

Dr. Tom Covault, Design Coordinator

Joe Canali, Firearms Coordinator

Carol Wilkerson, Photography/Firearms Wrangler

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